Dog Shelter Receives Extreme Makeover

ROCKSPRINGS - Now there are no excuses not to adopt your new best friend in a more user friendly environment at the Meigs County Dog Shelter.

After a recent marathon day at the Meigs County Dog Shelter, volunteers from the Columbus Dog Connection (CDC) and from Meigs County succeeded in making the shelter both a more dog and people friendly environment during what was called Habitat for Dogmanity, Three.

Just as people need Habitat for Humanity, dogs require Habitat for Dogmanity to provide some of the basics of living, such as adequate shelter.

None of these basics or improvements cost the taxpayers of Meigs County a dime, though unfortunately the same cannot be said for each dog that is euthanized at the shelter.

According to Kellie DiFrischia of the CDC volunteers added more kennel space, including installation of wall mounted kennels for puppies and small dogs that were donated by the Union County Humane Society.

"We are pleased that more kennel space has been created to ease the stress on the dogs," DiFrischia said. "Imagine if you had to share an eight hour car ride with ten people verses three people? You can see how less dogs in each kennel is so less stressful."

At the end of the work day which began at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 10 pm, DiFrischia said she walked around the kennels and instead of seeing 10 dogs per kennel, there were three dogs.

Also accomplished in the extreme makeover was the addition of more lighting and the installation of a laundry room which included a washer and dryer to wash bedding for the dogs, a hot water tank, a restroom and sinks for shelter volunteers. A much needed heater was also added at the shelter as was insulation to all walls of the building.

DiFrischia said thanks to Pomeroy volunteers Tom and Theresa Spencer who just showed up during the extreme makeover, the shelter now has framed windows that run across the front of the building. Luckily Mr. Spencer just happens to be a cabinet maker and thanks to his window frames fiberglass sheeting was attached so the windows could be opened and closed. This means the building will be able to hold heat and those gigantic openings in front have now been closed.

"We have been asked by many people why we choose to assist Meigs County," DiFrischia said. "The reason was simple. We had heard the building needed some better lighting, plumbing and kennel work and we knew the new dog warden and his volunteers were working hard to save the dogs in their county."

DiFrischia said one of the only difficult parts of the day at the shelter was seeing all those healthy dogs and puppies and not being able to find them a home.

"That was difficult," she said. "This is also why every single person in Meigs County needs to spay or neuter their dogs. Someone has to euthanize the dogs and puppies that don't get a home. Can you imagine the stress of killing healthy dogs and pups? Your tax funded animal control has to take on that task. As a community, we all need to take responsibility for the problem of dog overpopulation. The decision to spay/neuter before adoption is wise fiscal management of county tax money. And, we have been spaying/neutering the puppies in Columbus for nine years now. It is safe and effective. If you are having puppies, you are adding to the tax burden of your neighbors in Meigs County. Call your vet, call the commissioners, call the humane society to ask for financial assistance, but you must be part of the solution, or you are part of the problem."

More information about spaying/neutering puppies as well as information on the non-profit CDC can be found on its website columbusdogconnection.com.

DiFrischia said thanks to her fellow volunteers (the Dogmanians) she felt every project completed at the shelter that day will directly and immediately impact the lives of dogs at the shelter.