

# The Daily Sentinel

Middleport • Pomeroy, Ohio

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

## Columbus group giving dog pound a face lift, volunteers needed

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**ROCK SPRINGS** — Humans have "Habitat for Humanity" while dogs have "Habitat for Dogmanity" including the dogs at the Meigs County Dog Pound who will receive a visit from the Columbus Dog Connection (CDC) this Saturday to make upgrades at the pound.

Volunteers from the CDC will be at the pound beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday to perform a variety of free upgrades to make the building more "user-friendly."

According to Meigs County Dog Warden Tom Proffitt, making the pound's shelter house more "user-friendly" will include the addition of more

kennels, rewiring, installation of a restroom, installation of fluorescent lighting in the main kennel area and insulation work.

Proffitt said the shelter is also in need of two outside industrial heaters to provide heating in the kennel area though those have not materialized yet.

The CDC is a registered 501c3 organization which formed in 1998. The group describes themselves as a network of dog enthusiasts who rescue all breeds of dogs and puppies. These animals are rescued from abandonment and abuse situations and the group also assists shelters and humane societies by taking dogs from

**Please see Dogs, A5**

## Dogs from Page A1

death row.

Kellie DiFrischia of the CDC said Meigs County was chosen because the need was so great compared to other shelters in the state.

"In bigger cities they have more donors and volunteers, some smaller counties aren't as lucky to have those numbers," DiFrischia said.

Proffitt said he became acquainted with the CDC during rescue efforts to save local dogs from euthanasia.

"I would much rather rescue a dog than euthanize it," Proffitt said.

In fact Proffitt said 15 local dogs had been saved from "death row" and sent to rescues outside the county this

day of this interview.

The CDC's mission is the "dogged pursuit of saving every adoptable dog until we don't euthanize for lack of space."

Another reason why the CDC chose the Meigs County Dog Pound for upgrades was Proffitt's efforts to improve the shelter and work with rescues.

"We're trying to help him make his job easier," DiFrischia said of the reason for the CDC's visit.

The CDC gives back to rural shelters, like the Meigs County Dog Pound, through its "Habitat for Dogmanity" campaigns. Just as "Habitat for Humanity" consists of volunteers who build houses for humans, volunteers for "Habitat for Dogmanity" build adequate housing for dogs.

Proffitt's wish list for sup-

plies for the pound include wiring and supplies (outlets, switches, tape), light fixtures (eight-foot fluorescent lights or anything that will light up a pole barn), insulation, PVC piping, fittings (for installation of a washer, dryer and toilet, possibly hot water heater), concrete, hot water heater, toilet, exhaust fan (currently an old one is present, but it is nearly dead), eight penny nails, chain link fence, fencing sections, gates, plywood, two by fours, towels, bleach, blankets, crates, toys, collars, leashes, newspaper.

The CDC have been collecting these donated supplies which will be at no charge to the pound. DiFrischia said if anyone locally wishes to donate any of the items, partially insulation, plywood and two by fours they can contact her by phone at 1-614-888-2208, or by e-mail at [kdifrischia@yahoo.com](mailto:kdifrischia@yahoo.com).

Proffitt said locally there

will also be a need for volunteers and ladders at the pound Saturday morning.

Despite her organization's mission, DiFrischia wants the public to know that the CDC cannot possibly save all dogs and when they rescue a dog from one shelter, that means another dog in another shelter did not get taken. She made this statement to stress the importance of spaying and neutering.

"The people who don't spay or neuter their animals are relying on the taxpayers of Meigs County to euthanize, house and take care of these dogs," she said. "It might not cost the people who are not taking care of their animals, who are turning in litters of puppies month after month, but it costs the taxpayer."

DiFrischia said a shelter that spays and neuters its adopted animals will decrease its intake by 70 percent in three years.