

LAKE CITY HUMANE SOCIETY'S 'CLEAR THE SHELTERS'



Photos by MICHAEL PHILIPS/Lake City Reporter

Did Savannah Morrison, 13, choose Harper, or did Harper choose Savannah? It doesn't matter. All that does is that Harper and Savannah went home together.

Big turnout for adoption drive at Humane Society

By MICHAEL PHILIPS
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While it was drizzling outside yesterday, it was raining cat and dog adoptions inside the Lake City Humane Society, as homeless pets sheltered at its facility were being scooped up and taken home by families looking for furry critters to enrich their lives.

LCHS and chapters across the country were participating in the fifth annual Clear the Shelters, a pet adoption drive sponsored by local NBC and Telemundo affiliates. In its first four years, Clear the Shelters found homes for more than 150,000 cats and dogs. During the event, fees were waived for kittens and cats and cut 75% for dogs over the age of one.

LCHS board member Laura Hunter was delighted with the early turnout.

"It's nice, it's very nice," she said. "With the weather, I didn't think we'd get this many people to come out."

Fellow board member Robin Tobak Ward shared the sentiment.

"It's wonderful to see so many people come out for this event," she said. "It's special to be part of such a worthy cause."

Each year across the U.S., millions of cats and dogs end up in shelters, such as the Lake City Humane Society. While it's heartwarming that families are turning toward shelter adoptions at higher rates each year, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, still about 1.5 million would-be pets are euthanized each year due to the heavy numbers overwhelming shelters.

Ward reassured those who couldn't make it out on Saturday that there are two

more events coming up this month.

Next Saturday, the LCHS will be participating at Tractor Supplies' Paws Event, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tractor Supplies Co. is located at 5359 West U.S. Highway 90. And on August 31, LCHS will be at OfficeMax from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for its Doggie Dayz Adoption Event. OfficeMax is located at 2434 West U.S. Highway 90.

It was a joyous day for LCHS Animal Kennel Technician Tina Sheldon, as she got to bid farewell to one dog who was finding it hard to find a home.

"I'm so happy that Simone is going to a forever home. It's time. She had been here quite a while," she said as she was providing affection to Hoover, one of her favorite dogs at the shelter.

According to LCHS spokeswoman Ashley Gerondale, a total of 27 cats and nine dogs were taken home yesterday.

One adopter was Savannah Morrison, 13, who bonded with a black-and-tan cat named Harper.

When asked why she chose Harper, she said, "She came up to me and put her paws on the cage as if she came to say 'hi,' and 'Take me out, take me home!'"

For the Givenses — father Richard, mother Kelsey and young daughters Lydia, 5, and about-to-be-two Evilynn — they adopted an older black-and-white cat named, appropriately, Tux.

Richard Givens had a good idea what he and his family wanted.

"It's always nice to breathe new life in our home by bringing in an animal," he said. "And by choosing an older cat, I think we're also saving a life, because the older ones often get overlooked."



Milie was ready for her close-up. To check on her availability or the availability of her feline and canine friends, learn more about the adoption process or view the dates of upcoming LCHS events, go to www.lakecityhumane.org.



LCHS's Tina Sheldon shares a moment with Hoover.



Is it a match? . . .



. . . It appears so! Lake City Humane Society volunteer Linda Fleming (from left) brings Simone outside so that two-year-old Westyn, Kaya and Dustin Harrell can be formally introduced.



Carlin Coleman was going to surprise her grandma when she brought home Oliver.



It was love at first sight when Lola Samson, 9, met Rosy. Her mother wanted Lola to choose an older cat, but Lola wore her down. Besides, who could say no to such a cute pairing?



A true French connection: Nicole Jacques prepares to take Paris to her new forever home.