



Wellington Humane Society Newsletter

COMING EVENTS

- Microchip Clinics—
Argonia, July 31
Oxford, September 11
- Bingo—August 12
- Doggy Dive—Sept. 7

JULY IS NATIONAL LOST PET PREVENTION MONTH

STAFF

- Director—Jodie Hearlson
- Assistant Director—
Katie Reichenberger
- Kennel Managers—
Nikki Peninger
Victoria Sandoval
Sara Stowers
Betrai Taylor
Janean Whitmire
Jeromy Whitmire

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Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2021

Meet the Director

Our Director, Jodie Hearlson, wanted more of a challenge, so when she became aware of the new WHS facility needing a director, she promptly applied for and was selected for the position.

Jodie left a seven-and-a-half-year position at Sedgwick County Zoo to take on the challenge of running the Wellington Humane Society. When she became the Director of WHS in January, 2020, neither Jodie nor those who hired her could have foreseen that her first year would be to make it through a challenge with which the entire world would be struggling to survive. That pandemic notwithstanding, Jodie successfully oversaw keeping the facility thriving through one of the worst years imaginable.

A brand-new facility had procedures to work out, regulations to follow, volunteers to recruit, fundraisers to schedule, and many dogs and cats that were looking for good homes. In normal times, all of that would present a challenge, but all those challenges make matters tougher during a pandemic. With daily cleaning, feeding, and wellness of our animals an everyday task, it was a challenge, but Jodie kept on task. She picked up the slack when volunteers could not make it in, continuing to schedule wellness surgeries, meet the emotional needs of the animals, and serve the community, making a success out of a daunting situation.

When Jodie applied for the position of director, she was already familiar with the down-home friendliness of Wellington, as she is a Crusader graduate and has many family members living in Wellington. That knowledge of Wellington and her education and experience prepared her to serve as director of a facility dealing with animals.

A lifelong love of animals led Jodie to embark on obtaining an education that would qualify her to work doing what she loves most. She attended Friends University, where she earned a degree in Field Biology. After graduation, she



found employment in Florida at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium working with sea turtles.

Wanting to continue her education, Jodie returned to Kansas and Emporia State University, where, after two and a half years, she earned her graduate degree in Environmental Native Wildlife. That degree led to employment at the Hutchinson Zoo, the Oklahoma Aquarium in Tulsa, and the Sedgwick County Zoo.

Besides continuing proven practices and procedures, Jodie is looking forward to many future goals for the facility and the community, including a trap-and-release program for the county, educational visits with schools and community businesses, and communicating spay/neuter and adopt information to the public. One of her goals to open a pantry to the public was realized in March of this year.

In her "spare" time, Jodie is an avid runner and has been incorporating her running enthusiasm with her job by scouting out and scheduling fundraiser events involving the public.

Adoption Success: Bonnie and Clyde



In January local news reported about 19 dogs & puppies living in filth and feces in a home in Medicine Lodge. The Kingman County Humane Society, with assistance from the Medicine Lodge Police Department, pulled the dogs from this horrible situation. We offered our assistance and received two of those dogs: a sweet 8-month-old brother and sister bonded pair.

While we worked with these pups on getting them healthy and ready for adoption, we asked our followers to help us pick out names. The vote tally resulted in their being named Bonnie and Clyde.

When examining the two, our vet found that they were full of parasites and, sadly, that Bonnie was mostly blind and had a deformed foot. More

“We love our wonderful Klondike and Snow, and we know they love us too!”

tests were completed for their full exam, and they determined that Bonnie is 85% blind and relies on Clyde as her support. That relationship required that this bonded pair must be adopted together. (We believed them to be Great Pyrenees and Labrador.)

The two did well in transition. While with us, they worked on potty training, manners, and leash training. They did well with most dogs but demonstrated too much energy for cats. Our



observations told us that Bonnie will need a little patience to learn her new surroundings, but Clyde will help her.

After three months with us, their special people came along. A wonderful couple, Bob and Denise, drove eight hours from Colorado just to adopt Bonnie and Clyde. It was love at first sight when they met this pair.

After returning to Colorado, they reported that they could not be happier with the new members to their family, which they



renamed Snow and Klondike. They shared with us that the two dogs were excellent passengers on the long trip home, taking turns resting their heads between Bob and Denise. Snow (formerly Bonnie) confidently explores her new home with ease. Klondike (Clyde) is more cautious, making sure his sister is safe. He enjoys playing fetch, while Snow sneaks in to get some pats.

Denise ended her report: “We love our wonderful Klondike and Snow, and we know they love us too!”



496	371	396
Number of animals taken in since opening	Number of spay/neuter surgeries performed	Number of animals with forever homes