

Lots Of Pets Are In Need Of A Home

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

If "Be Kind to Animals Week" has started you thinking about taking in an animal, two good places to explore are the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Control Shelter and the Humane Society of Charlotte.

Animal Control, located at 2700 Toomey Avenue, took in 5,337 stray and donated cats last year, and 10,616 stray and donated dogs. Only about 15-20 percent of these were either reclaimed by their owners or adopted. The remainder had to be euthanized.

Superintendent Diane Quisenberry explained that the holding time varies for each animal. When strays are picked up and the owner is unknown, the animals are kept for three days before Animal Control personnel decide whether to euthanize or put up for adoption. Factors considered include the animal's health, temperament, and the adoption record for that type of animal in the past. When an animal is donated, that decision is made immediately. Once an animal is put up for adoption, there is no set length of time it is kept.

Although such a large percentage of animals brought to the shelter are euthanized, Quisenberry noted that there are worse fates for an animal, such as being drowned or dropped off in the country to fend for itself, only to starve or be hit by a car.

Costs to adopt an animal from Animal Control range from \$13.50 for a male kitten to \$37 for an adult dog. The fees include mandatory spaying or neutering, most shots (except rabies), and city license. Kittens and puppies too young for spaying-neutering are given appointments; if the owner fails to keep the appointment, the animal is reclaimed by Animal Control.

The Humane Society of Charlotte (537 Rountree Rd.) has a year-long waiting list of approximately 400 dogs and 800 cats whose owners want to get them into the shelter. On a recent day the shelter had 60 requests to take animals. The reason is that the Humane Society holds all its animals for adoption and accepts only healthy animals. The shelter is able to house 25-30 dogs and 20-25 cats at any one time.

In 1984, 657 dogs and cats found new homes through the shelter. This past March, the Humane Society placed a record 121 animals (dogs, cats, and one rabbit). The average, though, is about two adoptions per day. In addition, for the past three months, with the help of a new computer system, shelter personnel are able to match requests for pets with animals on the waiting list, so that some adoptions take place without the animal having to first be at the shelter. There were 43 of these placements in April, as compared to only 13 in January, thanks to the computer.

Patti Lewis, director, pointed out that no set fee is charged for adoptions but donations of at least \$10 are asked and gratefully accepted. All animals leaving the shelter are spayed or neutered. At the same time, the pet is tattooed to provide easy identification in the event it is lost or stolen.

Of particular concern, explained Lewis, is the adoption of older pets rather than kittens or puppies. "A lot of people seem to think an animal won't love them if they haven't had it since it was young, but that's not true," she declared. "The capacity to love is as great for an older animal as it is for a kitten or puppy."

Besides knowing that "what you see is what you get," some of the advantages of adopting a grown animal are that cats are already litter-trained and less likely to scratch furniture; adult dogs are usually housebroken and don't chew everything as a teething puppy would.

The Humane Society of Charlotte receives no government funding. Much of its income is derived from a thrift shop on the premises and donations. Some pet-related items are also sold, one of them being a T-shirt with the saying, "Animals are little people in fur coats." For more information, dial 523-PETS.

Linda Clark, volunteer coordinator for the Humane Society of Charlotte, holds one of the cats presently in "foster care" at the Humane Society's shelter on Rountree Rd. The shelter has lots of cats waiting to adopt new owners, as well as plenty of dogs anxious to be taken into loving homes. (Photo By Audrey Lodato)



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The entire public is cordially invited to witness and share in this affair.

Post Office Deliveries Reflect City's Growth

Charlotte's city letter carriers began deliveries to 5,302 new residences and businesses during the past 12 months, bringing the April 15, 1985 total to 160,227 (3.4 percent increase).

That figure does not reflect growth experienced on the 19 rural routes served by the Charlotte Post Office.

In addition to the 19 rural routes, there are 289 city delivery routes in Charlotte, as well as 13,000 post office boxes at its stations.

The largest growth areas continue to be those served out of the Idlewild (28212 - 15), Randolph (28211 - 26) and Starmount (28210) stations.

Sugar Creek Road School Sets Graduation

The Sugar Creek Road School of Religion began classes in Religious Education and Theology in the second semester of the 1982-83 school year. With approximately 30 students enrolled, the school began operations on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. The following semester, the days of meeting were changed to Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. The school year 1984-1985 found the school operating on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

On Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m., three persons who have matriculated and completed 60 hours of classwork and written a thesis will receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Religious Education. Persons who are to graduate are Mrs. Carol Odessa Bridges, Mrs. Nellie Elizabeth Hayes, and Warren Clifton.

Commencement speaker for the planned exercises will be Rev. Dr. William P. Diggs of Florence, S.C. Dr. Diggs is a graduate of Morehouse College of Atlanta, Ga., where he received a B.A. degree in history. He received the M.A. degree in sociology from Atlanta University (Atlanta). Enrolling in Colgate-Rochester Divinity School of Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Diggs received the B.D. and M.Div. degrees.

Further study at McCormack Theological Seminary yielded Dr. Diggs the Doctor of Ministry degree. Dr. Diggs received the Doctor of Divinity degree (D.D.) from Friendship College of Rock Hill, S.C., and the Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) from Morris College of Sumter, S.C. Dr. Diggs taught at Friendship College of Rock Hill, S.C., where he served as instructor of Bible, Sociology, and as College Minister. After a period of time, he became Professor Homiletics and Church History at J.J. Starks School of Theology at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. At the closing of Starks School of Theology, Dr. Diggs taught Sociology at Benedict College. After 13 years at Benedict, he accepted a position as Associate Professor at Morris College. Dr. Diggs has also served as Visiting Professor at Francis Marion College of Florence, S.C. At present, and for the past 24 years, Dr. Diggs has successfully served as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Florence, S.C. Dr. Diggs is Moderator of the Pee Dee Association of S.C., Instructor in S.C. State Congress of Christian Education, and Vice President of the Congress of Christian Education of the Progressive National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.



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