



Sumter Humane Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OUR ORPHANS NEED YOUR HELP!

Americus November 7, 2011 The canine and feline orphans at the Sumter Humane Society (SHS) urgently need the help of city and county residents as well as anyone who cares about the health and well-being of our four legged friends. Because of the recent giardia outbreak, some wonderful changes are being made to make their stay at the shelter healthier and happier. Unfortunately, these changes are very expensive and the SHS is struggling to make them a reality.

Firstly, with the assistance of local veterinarians Dr. Crawford, Dr. Harper and Dr. Sawyer, the shelter has instituted an intensive intake process for all new animals. Each dog or cat has its temperature taken and a complete exam including checking its eyes, ears, coat and nails. We check for parasites, de-worm, and in many cases give a distemper and kennel cough vaccine, or test and vaccinate for feline leukemia. They receive a bath, food and water, and a clean, dry place to stay. Each animal spends five days in quarantine and gets an exam each day while we attempt to find its owner. During the five days, we determine if the animal should be made available for adoption, sent to a rescue or; in case of sickness or injury, the animals suffering is put to an end. This is a very extensive process and requires two individuals just to clean the quarantine area daily and another staff member to do evaluations and intakes. During the 10 days between October 27th and November 5th, the SHS



A very malnourished mama and her adorable puppy.

took in 25 cats and 65 dogs for a shocking total of 90 animals! Each and every one of these orphans went through this quarantine process.

In addition to the staggering number of man hours required to manage just this one section of the shelter, we also have our adoptable animals which are housed in two dog kennels, a cat room and two cat colonies, the puppy and small dog kennel as well as a treatment room; all of which must be cleaned multiple times daily, watered and fed one to two times a day. Other expenses include vaccines, de-wormer, disinfecting cleaners, sprays and wipes, latex gloves and plastic aprons, dog food, cat food, cat litter, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, the list goes on and on. In addition, any animal that needs veterinary care must be looked at and prescribed medications given. This all costs money.

Another huge project that has recently been undertaken is the construction of individual concrete exercise runs adjacent to the dog kennels. Because the former dirt runs were impossible to clean and disinfect, the Board of Directors took a huge leap of faith and authorized the expenditure of over \$20,000 to ensure that all of our dogs are able to spend multiple times per day outside breathing fresh air and getting the exercise they need to remain as mentally and physically fit as possible while they await moving to a loving family home. Once the fencing is completed, as many as seven dogs at a time can be released to safely run, play, bark and soak in the sunshine. There will also be areas for the puppies and some of the cats to run free and get in some serious play time.



Construction is underway on the new kennel runs.



Please help us! Because of these recent large expenditures, the SHS has seriously depleted its operating funds. Without the financial support of all of our animal loving friends, there will not be enough money to give every adoptable orphan the opportunity to find

a home with a caring man, women, or child. The SHS is a non-profit organization and is managed by an all volunteer Board of Directors, but we can't do it all. As 2011 comes to a close, please consider helping to save the life of just one of these babies. Donations of \$1 and up can be mailed to: 108 Industrial Blvd, Americus GA 31719, or call with a credit card to 229-924-0268. What better gift can there be during the holiday season than to save the life of an orphan. With your help, we can continue to save lives, one animal at a time.

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