

County animal shelter provides loving pets nationwide

by Mike McCormick

WEDOWEE - Many people in Randolph County think mostly mostly people from the immediate area adopt animals taken in at Randolph County Animal Shelter. A large number do make their new home local, but as many or more take a long trip to a new home in the northern part of the United States, New York or New Jersey.

According to animal shelter director of operations April Richardson, the shelter works with several rescues up North and in Alabama. She said, "Some of the rescues that help with adoptions are Adirondack Save A Stray, Ruff Rehab, East Coast Adoption, Logan's Heroes, Happy Life, Fur-Ever Paws, Paw-safe and Shoals Animal Advocates, just to name a few. These rescue organizations are located in the states of Alabama, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware."

She went on to say each of the rescues listed are 501c3 non-profit organizations through the government and are solely dedicated to the animals they are helping. The volunteer rescue coordinator is Elizabeth Czarniak, and she has the responsibility of setting up the rescues getting the animals. Richardson said, "We must be available at any time to speak with rescues about the animals they are receiving. When we get animals in, after their stray hold is up, we will photograph each ani-



Dogs taken in at Randolph County Animal Shelter are ready for their trip to meet their new families up North.

see if a rescue is interested in them."

Richardson said the rescues have really strict adoption procedures, and all applicants have to be preapproved before adoption. So when an animal is chosen to be adopted, what happens then? "Each animal that travels must have at least two parvo/distemper shots, wormed, rabies shot and spayed or neutered if old enough. They also must receive a Health Certificate from a vet, that states they have no disease that could pass to other animals." The rescue does reimburse the local shelter for all vetting that is done. There is an adoption fee from the rescue. The rescue is the one paying for and arranging transports, not the local shelter. Richardson said they have one cat rescue out of the Valley area. "The rescue just received their 501c3 status and started pulling kitties from us - Katnip Paradise and Friend."

A rescue vehicle picked up a load of cats last Friday

transport that picks up the animals is exceptionally clean and reliable. They are all about the animals being cared for while being transported. Richardson described a typical trip up North. "They stop every two hours for food, water and cleanings of crates. They will pull over any time they feel a problem with the animals. The drivers make sure the animals always arrive safely to the rescues."

She continued, "Once they get to their destination, the animals will go into a foster home till adopted. Most already have appointments for someone to adopt them." The rescue posts pictures on their Facebook, or they con-

tact an approved adopter for the animals they rescue. The local shelter will send anywhere from 20 to 80 animals a month. It all depends on foster home availability for the rescues. They send all ages as long as the rescue has accepted them. April said, "We work hard at RCAS to care for the unwanted animals we take in. The staff works day and night talking to rescues about the animals we receive. RCAS staff is dedicated to helping place Randolph County unwanted animals and for RCAS to have kennels available for more animals to come in. Our rescues help to make us a no-kill for space shelter."



April Richardson and Randolph County Animal Shelter volunteers prepare the van with everything that will be needed for the pets' journey. They will stop every two hours to check food and water and clean crates.

April invites anyone to visit the shelter and see the kind of care the dogs and cats receive there. The shelter is open Tuesday-Saturday. You can see the animals they have available for adoption on the Randolph County Shelter Facebook page.

As always Randolph County Animal Shelter staff and board members thank

everyone for the public's continued support. The shelter could not be successful without them. If you would like more information about volunteering at the shelter or making some type of donation, visit them on Highway 48, west of Wedowee, or give them a call at (256) 357-0101.

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