



# FOCUS ON FRIENDS

Friend in Need,  
Friend in Deed

Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.

Volume 11, #2

Summer/Fall 2012

## What's New at the Shelter

A warm welcome to new Bell County Animal Shelter director Shelly Henson! Shelly has big shoes to fill following director Jennifer Nagle, but has jumped in with gusto. Shelly originally hails from Russell, Kentucky, but has lived in Bell County since 2000, when she married her husband Dean; the couple has one son. She worked with animal care at two veterinary clinics in Bell, and cites the "desire to continue the important work of the shelter in the ongoing effort to help animals in need," as her motivation in applying for the job of shelter director. "The greatest challenge is managing available space for the kenneling of animals," Shelly notes, while her biggest reward is "seeing down-on-their-luck animals being adopted by loving families." There are currently three full-time employees and six part-timers at the shelter.

Outgoing director Nagle leaves the shelter with numerous accomplishments under her belt. Dinah Presnell, president of FOS, gives voice to the many people (and animals) that Jennifer has helped over the years.

"We wish to thank former Animal Shelter Director Jennifer Nagle as she leaves the Shelter to return to her law practice. She helped move the shelter from a pound to a true shelter for homeless animals. We would not see the progress that has been made at the Shelter today without her tireless advocacy for the animals in our county."

Nagle also had a few thoughts about her time at the shelter.

"It is hard to believe that almost five years has passed since I became Director of the Bell County Animal Shelter in October, 2006. I am very proud of what has been accomplished at the Shelter with the support of the Bell County Fiscal Court, Friends of the Shelter, and the Bell County community."

"The Bell County Animal Shelter provides care for approximately 4,000 dogs and cats each year. I was always tremendously gratified to hear from one of our many visitors, "Yours is the cleanest shelter I've ever seen!" What a dedicated staff works at our shelter. Of course, the main duty of the Bell County Animal Shelter is to provide animal control service for all the citizens of Bell County. The Shelter makes it a number one priority that every call for animal control service is responded to in a professional manner. I am also happy to report that the Shelter has made huge



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Bell County Animal Shelter  
715 Highway 1534  
Pineville, KY 40977  
(606) 337-6331

Hours:  
M-F 9 am-3 pm  
Th Open until 6 pm  
Sat 11 am to 1pm

Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2534  
Middlesboro, KY 40965  
(606) 337-2005  
[www.shelter-friends.org](http://www.shelter-friends.org)

"Like" us on Facebook to keep up with events and other news.



## Coming up this fall and winter

Everyone is looking forward to the cooler weather of autumn and all the community activities that happen this time of year. This is the most active time of year for the FOS as well, as we get out in the community to raise awareness, funds, and have some fun in the process!

Our biggest event of the year is the annual **Beastie Bash**. This popular event has become one of the “must attend” events of the county. This year we will again be holding it at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, on **November 12**. We need your donations!! If you can help, please contact a member of FOS—popular

items include men’s items, hand-made crafts, and personal services.

You can also find the FOS at the annual **Blessing of the Animals** on



**October 2nd**, 2 p.m., at the Methodist Church in Middlesboro. And mark your calendars for the first **FOS Dog Walk, October 16th**, beginning at 3 p.m. at the Middlesboro Community Center on 30th Street.

You’ll find us again at the Middlesboro Mall on **December 3rd** from 9 a.m. until noon for **Photos with Santa Paws!**

Call us at **606-337-2005** if you have any questions about this season’s events. They’re all great ways to celebrate the seasons and help a good cause with the Friends of the Shelter this year!

## FOS getting support from young people!

We’ve been fortunate to have many youth interested and helping us this year. In June, long-time FOS member Emma Wiley and a group of her friends (*below, right*) got together and held a fundraiser dog wash for us. First Baptist Church of Middlesboro helped out by letting the kids use their parking lot and water. After several hours of getting wet and furry, the group had raised \$165.00 for the FOS and made many area dogs much cleaner.

Ten year old Rose Mountain of Tazewell, TN learned to make beaded earrings from her grandmother. Rose decided



that she could sell the earrings that she made to help organizations that needed funds. She made \$350.00 from the sales and donated \$100.00 to the FOS. Rose loves animals and felt the donation would help in caring for animals in need. She is also volunteering at the shelter, washing dishes, playing with the animals, and doing whatever she can to help. Pictured are Rose and Dinah Presnell, FOS president.



## Happy Endings: Jasmine . . .

Jasmine first came to the Wiley family from the shelter as a foster cat in November of 2010. A beautiful older and deaf Himalayan, Jasmine needed extra care to heal from some bad wounds she had received from a dog. For the first weeks, all Jaz did was sleep and eat; she was suspicious of everyone. After some time, we learned that she liked being held over one shoulder, and she rewarded us with a loud purr.

When Jasmine was finally well enough to be put on Petfinder, she attracted a lot of attention because of her striking coloring and luxurious coat. Time after time, the Wileys would set up adoption dates with people on the Internet, only to be stood up each time! It began to seem that no one would adopt Jasmine, and the Wileys' five other cats were not adjusting well, so with great reluctance her foster family put her back in the shelter. There she became unhappy and withdrawn, and within a couple of weeks had developed a severe eye infection.

Enter the Furgals! Carol Fungal and her family fell in

love with Jasmine on Petfinder, but initially could not adopt her because they were dealing with a very sick cat. Unfortunately, their cat passed away, and when Carol learned that Jasmine was still up for adoption, she contacted Martha. By this time, Jasmine's eye was so infected that the vet had to remove it, but this did not deter the Furgals, who have several special needs pets in their loving home. Transport was arranged and it wasn't long before Jasmine was welcomed to her new home in Florida.

Today Jasmine is in fragile health, but thanks to her wonderful adopted family, is pampered and well-loved.



## . . . and Doby

**By Bonnie Conner**

My husband and I are retired with five grown children and eight grandchildren. Nine years ago we adopted a sibling group of four, ages 12, 11, 10, and 9. Their fifth sibling, David, arrived a year later. His disabilities were numerous; beginning life at 6 months, David weighed a mere two pounds. However, he has been able to overcome the majority of his disabilities and will soon tackle the latest challenge, Asberger's Syndrome, a form of Autism.



Having found out about therapy dogs for autistic children strictly by accident, we knew our prayers had been answered. Just the day before, we had discussed how we would be able to handle David when he is older. While attending a soccer game for our other children, a dog and its owner sat in front of us. The dog had on a sweater with lettering, pertaining to a dog in training.

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## FOS members visit area classrooms

FOS has an education committee that is becoming more active in area schools. Besides sponsoring subscriptions to *KIND News* for all 4th graders in the county, some members are visiting schools to teach students about proper animal care.

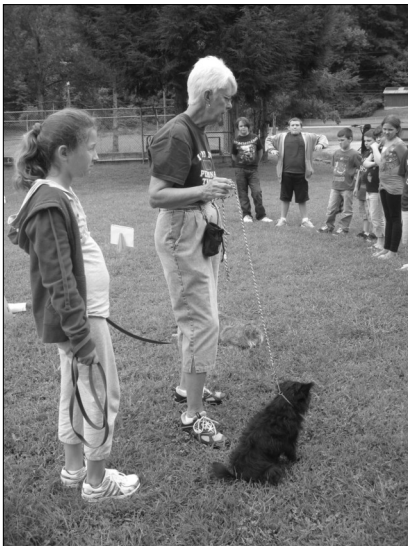
Betty Nagle traveled to Red Bird Mission School earlier this month and spoke to 4th and 5th graders about responsible dog ownership. She took her trusty helpers



Trampas and Bree, who helped illustrate the fun of pet ownership by doing a demonstration of dog sports; they showed off their

agility, obedience, and rally skills and even performed a search of the classroom!

To schedule a visit from an FOS member to your classroom or civic group, please call Education Chair Martha Wiley at 248-6986.



**Donate on-line! We have added PayPal as an easy way to donate to FOS. Visit our website at [www.shelter-friends.org](http://www.shelter-friends.org), and go to *About FOS, Membership & Donations*. Thank you for your support!!**

## What's New at the Shelter

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improvements in adoptions of shelter pets. The adoption rate of dogs has gone from 3% to 30%! I believe the Bell County Animal Shelter has come a long way.”

Nagle continues, “I put so much of my heart and soul into the Bell County Animal Shelter, that I could not leave my position as Director without feeling that the shelter was in good hands. Shelly Henson has the experience and love of animals to do the job. Shelly has worked in the animal field for over ten years at Russell Veterinary Services and Pineville Animal Hospital. A love for animals is an essential quality for our new Director, and Shelly's love for our four-footed friends is unquestionable. Shelly has the maturity necessary and the desire to do the work. It is a tough job, and she will need our support. With continued support from the County, Friends of the Shelter, and the community, I believe Shelly has what it takes to do a great job as Director of the Bell County Animal Shelter.”

Presnell also looks forward to working with Henson. “FOS members wish to welcome Shelly Henson as the new Animal Shelter Director. We look forward to working with Shelly as we continue to improve the outcome for homeless animals in our county.” A heartfelt “thanks” to Jennifer and a hearty “welcome” to Shelly!

## Meet our Members—Ron Day

Though his family had dogs as long as he can remember, Ron Day is a cat person. Every cat in his history was a rescue—either from a shelter, from the streets, or from someone who was required to find new homes for their own cats. The first—Nicole—had been set down outside Bell Co. High School in the late 60s. After no one else elected to give her a home, Ron found a box and carried Nicole from classroom to classroom that day. One teacher—also an ailurophile—even encouraged him to let the black and white cat wander around her classroom. (No work was accomplished that day.)



There followed a variety of beloved pets (favorites among the an odd-eyed white named Beijing and a ragdoll named Bailey's Irish Crème), most of them indoor cats. The two most recent—Fiona and Nelda—were adopted from the Bell Co. Shelter. Ron can no longer care for pets and had to find new homes for those two. The love of cats doesn't go away, however, when they have been adopted by new owners. That's why Ron's computer is so frequently —TOO frequently—showing Petfinder's photos of available cats at the shelter. It's like the "wish books" he remembers from his youth (though J. C. Penny's didn't carry cats).

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## ... Doby

*(Continued from page 3)*

"In training for what," I asked. "Autism," she responded. I nearly fell off the bleachers. Long story short, finding a therapy dog was my new mission.

I knew we needed an intelligent dog under the age of two for this special task. I looked for several months at shelters, humane societies, and breeders, although not finding what I was looking for. Then, I found "Doby" on the internet. The description stated he was found wandering the streets and the owner had not claimed him. Our entire family made the trip to the Bell County Animal Shelter to see if this dog would be a match.

At first sight, I knew he was for us. A bit rowdier and rambunctious than I remember a very large pup to be, but he was going to be ours. Our prayers were answered, again. He will be going to a training facility in North Carolina to be tested for adequacy and if accepted, he will be trained for four months, culminating in a registered therapy dog trained to meet David's special needs. In addition to keeping him safe, he will be his unconditional friend, companion, and teacher.

# Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter, Inc.

P.O. Box 2534  
Middlesboro, KY 40965

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



**Friend in Need, Friend in Deed.**



The FOS celebrated our 10th birthday earlier this year and held a party for all of our members and their pets. Pictured are just a few of the partygoers. Here's to many more successful years!

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## Want to join FOS or make a donation?

- Individual Membership (\$10)
- Family Membership (\$25)
- Supporting Member (\$50)
- Sustaining Member (\$100)
- Patron (\$500)
- Other

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Middlesboro, KY 40965