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For Immediate Release
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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11th, 2017 MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS
“FRIENDS OF MISSOURI CITY ANIMAL SHELTER PETS” RECEIVES AWARD OF \$500 FROM
FBPA! FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE AT FBPA! ADOPTION EVENTS.

The word compassion holds love and it holds care. In the case of “Friends of Missouri City Animals Shelter Pets”, compassion also holds hard work, persistence and innovation. Sometimes being good is not enough in the fight to save lives of pets in shelters. Being instrumental and disruptively innovative is what leads to a steady climb of save rate of both cats and dogs in the last two years at this small city shelter.

With less than 1,500 intake of dogs and cats per year, some people would say it is not possible to do better due to its size. That is not the belief of Valerie Tolman and her team. When the volunteer program was started in May of 2014, there was an immediate impact on the number of dogs and cats that were saved at the shelter. The euthanasia rate for dogs was decreased close to 50% and 30% for cats in the second quarter of 2014. The group then formed a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status to expand much needed services for impounded animals to keep them healthy, alive and adoptable. Their efforts gradually and surely help fill gaps in the city sheltering system.

As life saving programs were implemented step by step, the volunteers became more and more valued by the shelter staff. Henceforth, the following impactful differences were made in the last two years.

- 1) No dog or cat has been placed without either being spayed or neutered, or leaving with a pre-paid voucher to cover the surgery when the animal is old enough.
- 2) All sheltered animals receive vaccines, medicine, worm and flea treatment on intake and monthly heartworm prevention for dogs.
- 3) Animals with treatable sicknesses or injury do not need to be euthanized.
- 4) Off site adoption events became a regular activity.
- 5) Marketing for the shelter and the animals started and thrived to lead to great publicity.
- 6) Implementation of play groups ensures more socialization and exercise for large breed dogs to become more adoptable.
- 6) City Officials have started to take pride and interest in progress made in the city shelter.

With a first goal of reaching 80% save rate, the volunteers of Missouri City Animal Shelter works very hard to collaborate with Fort Bend Pets Alive! and the rescue community. At every adoption event they have attended, they are well prepared with kennel cards, supplies, equipment and precious volunteers who give great assistance and customer service to all prospective adopters.

The citizens and city officials of Missouri City recognized the great work by naming Valerie Tolman, head of the group as their Volunteer of the Year on January 3rd this year . It was a wonderful reminder that being persistently conducive to positive change yields desired results.

There are still ways to go. Fort Bend Pets Alive! strongly encourages the city officials of Missouri City to support this group of dedicated volunteers by providing resources to sustain and protect the numerous great improvements that have been made. With the exponential growth that Fort Bend County is experiencing, it is only the right and wise thing to do. The most immediate need is to put in some fresh air intake to service the entire shelter. The volunteers already paid for UV lights in the air ducts to help kill viruses, but shelter recommendations are that a ventilation system have between 8 and 15 air exchanges as hour. (according to vet recommendations and as noted in "Maddie's Infection Control Manual for Animal Shelters") A ventilation system is completely lacking. Missouri City Animal Shelter has no fresh air intake.

Missouri City is fortunate to have such a great group of citizens by its side to be in the forefront of humane treatment of animals in our county. We are hopeful to see more great things happening in Missouri City Animal Shelter.

About Fort Bend County Pets Alive! FORT BEND PETS ALIVE! is a non-profit, 501(C)3 organization, dedicated to help make Fort Bend a no kill community through promoting programs such as adoptions, education and community outreach, low cost spay and neuter surgeries, fostering, Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender (PASS), and rescuing from euthanasia list.

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