

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Keeping the friends of the Shelter informed & engaged!



Gardenia E Janssen
Animal Shelter

Serving Fayette County, Texas
240 Svoboda Lane
La Grange, Texas 78945



Our 2020 Success:

An Unprecedented 96% Live Release Rate!

	Cat	Dog	Total
Intake	757	624	1,381
Adopt	613	309	922
Reclaim	14	97	111
Transfer/Rescue	40	198	238

Our 2021 Initiative:

'Sponsor a Kennel' Program



This year, Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter (GJAS) offers the opportunity for individual and corporate sponsors to fully fund the 'care and feeding' of animals housed in a specific kennel at the Shelter.

We're putting the finishing touches on the program, but hope to begin July 1.

We envision the opportunity to choose which kennel(s) to sponsor. A plaque with the donor's name (or dedication) will remain in place for a duration of either one month, one quarter, six months, one year, or in perpetuity.

In memoriam donors are especially welcome.

We invite you to share in our success by supporting this shelter initiative as we care for animals in need in Fayette County.

Our 2021 Goals

- 🐾 Establish a New Isolation Unit – Grant & Donation-funded
- 🐾 Increase Impactful Community Outreach
- 🐾 Enhance Youth Education
- 🐾 Leverage our Public Presence to Save Lives
- 🐾 Build our Volunteer & Foster Programs
- 🐾 Build our Donor Base – You can donate in SO many ways, including volunteering, fostering, and transport!

Hi, friends! I'm Howard!



The nice people here at the Shelter estimate that I am about five years old and am a Sharpei-Lab mix.

I am not a fan of cats, but like most other dogs, male and female. I

am an eager learner and love to please. I would be ideal for a family with teens, an active senior household, or as a companion to an active single person. A fenced yard is a must.

I am heartworm positive and am being treated. While positive, I require a low energy lifestyle. With a continued bi-monthly pill (<\$20/month), I should test negative within three years. Although the cost is nominal, it makes me less attractive to adopt although, as you can see, I am a handsome guy.

If you come looking for me and I've been adopted into a forever home, please consider taking home one of my friends. We're all looking for a love everlasting.

The GJAS proudly announces its Paw-tnership with Lockhart Correctional Facility's 'Paws in Prison'!

Source: Dog Program Continues to Help Women at Lockhart Despite COVID Restrictions - MTC (mtctrains.com)



The Program Since December 2007, 'Paws in Prison' is thriving at the Lockhart, Texas, Women's Correctional Facility, and the Janssen Shelter is very excited to become a part of this amazing program.

Most of the women in prison have experienced trauma from physical and/or sexual abuse. Most are mothers. They come into the prison broken, lost,

and hopeless. We see much the same history in the animals received at the Shelter.

All Paws in Prison dogs are placed with inmates to love and train them, getting them ready for adoption into forever homes! Throughout the training process, the inmate trainer models kindness, respect, and patience to both the inmates and the dogs.

The Process The inmates not only learn to train the dogs, but they learn life skills that help them when they are released from prison. They know they are preparing their dog for a better life because of their love and attention. The process, though, is reciprocal – the dogs are training *them* too!

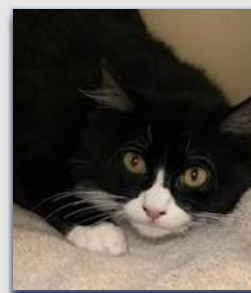
The dogs benefit from the training and personalized attention they receive from the inmates after being in a shelter.

The Results Upon completion of the ~8-week program, inmate participants secure the OJT certificate for the animal caretaker job title. Many take this job assignment very seriously. The OJT certificate means not only a favorable view for parole, but also a major step in the right direction toward future gainful employment. Because of the OJT certificate, dog handlers are recognized as diligent, hardworking, and responsible citizens.

The Promise Our mission is to secure the best possible permanent homes for animals who are temporarily in our care.

Our senior girl, Scout, came to us as a stray. We estimated her age at 8 – 10 years old. And, while reasonably healthy, she had very few teeth. She was chosen because her age rendered her less adoptable to our target community. She recently transferred to Lockhart.

We will follow Scout's progress, so please stay tuned!



My name's Lily Mae and I'm just a kitten. I'm quite timid about leaving my crate and being with the other cats. I prefer my world predictable and calm. As I mature and acclimate to a new home, I may become more tolerant.

So, if you come to see me, just take a little time with me in my chosen space, please. I am a sweet, soft cuddler and after a few minutes of gentle petting, I'll be purring. Please come visit me and my friends. We're just waiting for you for our much-deserved happily ever after!

The rest of Lily Mae's story: GJAS scheduled Lily Mae, as a healthy teenage kitten, to be spayed. As soon as starting the procedure, the veterinarian recognized this sweet little girl was pregnant. Let that sink in. Yes, pregnant at 5-6 mos old. At this point in the procedure there is no chance to save the babies.

It's Kitten Season!

From: [What Is Kitten Season?](#) | Best Friends Animal Society

"Kitten season" sounds like a magical time when tiny purring fur-balls sprout like blossoms beneath rainbows in dew-kissed meadows. While big-eyed baby cats are irresistibly cute, thousands of them can roll into shelters all at once, making kitten season a most challenging, often heart-breaking, time of the year.

In most of the U.S., animals mate and give birth in spring. This phenomenon results from a variety of factors like longer days, better weather, and more access to food, which means higher survival rates for offspring. Unlike other animals, though, cats can keep on reproducing, having litter after litter, right up until the weather turns cold again. This is particularly troublesome in Texas.

If you find what appears to be a litter of stray kittens, before you move them, please contact the superhero staff at GJAS. Let's work together to save little lives this year!

Not ready yet for a fur-ever commitment?

No problem! Try **FOSTERING**.

Fostering is an extremely important service provided by Friends of the Shelter:

1. It allows us to learn how an animal reacts in a home environment; this helps us match the right animal to the right permanent home;
2. It allows a Shelter animal to recover from medical situations/procedures with ALL medical bills paid by GJAS;
3. You can enjoy a companion at a variety of life-stages without the lifetime commitment;
4. An animal can live in a non-stressful environment while awaiting transport to his/her fur-ever home; and
5. You save TWO lives by freeing up food, water, and love in the Shelter for one while providing your loving home for another.



GJAS provides all food and supplies while the foster animal is in your care!

Fostering Expectations

-  Provide a home that is clean, safe and loving.
-  Provide food, water, shelter and toys for playing.
-  Exercise your foster pet (if applicable) and provide socialization opportunities.
-  Monitor your foster pet for physical and mental wellbeing.
-  Be available for a meet-and-greet and transport your foster pet for any vet visits needed.

It's Spring – Time to Treat for Fleas & Ticks!

Summer is approaching and it's time for pet owners to prepare for flea and tick season. Optimal conditions for fleas are between 70-85°F and 70 percent humidity. The little menaces thrive in warm, moist environments like Fayette County.

Treating pets for fleas is important for human as well as animal health. Professionals at Texas A&M AgriLife warn that flea bites can cause infections or allergic reactions in some people. Children as well as pets can get tapeworms by ingesting an infected flea. Ticks carry and transmit Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and other nasty diseases. Yikes!

Fleas lay their eggs on an animal, as well as feed on its blood. Adult fleas and eggs can be controlled with medication from a veterinarian in the form of a pill or a chemical treatment applied to the back of the animal.

It's critical, however, to begin flea and tick treatment as early as possible *before* an infestation occurs. A good place to start is with a good bath and combing or brushing for your pet. Soap acts as a light insecticide and reduces the need for stronger chemicals. Winter bedding such as blankets should be cleaned with hot water and detergent and hay or straw should be disposed of.

A fenced yard prevents pets from being exposed to new flea and tick populations and can be treated with granulated insecticides. For those who desire a more eco-friendly option, try diatomaceous earth first. Be sure to always treat places where pets tend to 'hang out.'

Keep grass trimmed! Short grass in lawns and lots does not provide as much shade and moisture for small insects like fleas and ticks. Rodents, which can spread fleas and ticks, are also less likely to inhabit a yard with short grass.

Liquid sprays and a thorough cleaning can be used to control fleas indoors. Mop, vacuum, and dust floors and furniture to remove flea eggs from your home. Always remember to dispose of vacuum bags after use.

Always remember: Children and all pets should be removed from the area before ANY chemical treatment.