

# Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter

November 2011

505 Saint Francis Street, Gonzales, TX 78629

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## Happy Anniversary to us ALL !!



It's hard to believe that this is FOGAS' 7th anniversary. Sometimes it feels like we started just a few months ago and other times it's more like several lifetimes! But what really matters is what we've accomplished together since FOGAS was formed in late 2004.

### Some Highlights:

- Over 2800 pets of low income owners spay/neutered at no cost to the owners, the city or the county
- Over 2750 shelter orphans spay/neutered so they could be adopted out
- Over 4300 shelter dogs and cats re-homed through our own adoption efforts and those of our adoption partners
- Equine efforts begun in 2008 have rescued and saved 21 horses
- Managed the City dog and cat shelters for the last 3 years and HELPED TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY NO-KILL !!!



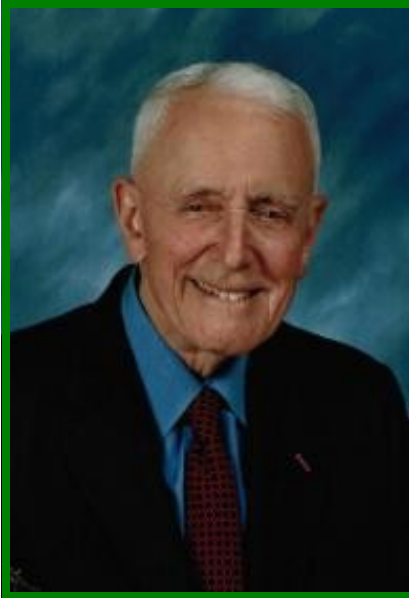
It's achieving this "no-kill" status that has made all of our hard, often dirty, work worthwhile. Communities of all sizes are striving to get there, and we ARE there. It means that healthy, adoptable pets who happen to be homeless will be safely sheltered until they are re-homed.



We achieved "no-kill" status by using two primary tools. First we have provided free spay/neuter services for the pets of qualifying owners for seven straight years. This was done by winning grants and executing them through local veterinary clinics. Over the 7 years this has brought \$270,000 into our local economy as well as lowered our shelter intake.

The second major effort was to increase our shelter adoptions from fewer than 100 per year in 2004 to just over 600 in 2010. This was done through our direct efforts and those of our rescue group teammates.

**OVER**



We salute the memory of FOGAS co-founder and Board member Bim Miller (1916-2011), a strong voice and constant supporter of animal welfare. We will miss his wit and wisdom.

### **Dog Foster Care Network**

During the next several months FOGAS will be establishing a foster care network for dogs. We plan to unite dog lovers in the community so that we can care for homeless dogs in a home environment rather than a shelter. If we each take in just a few fosters we can make a huge difference in the quality of their lives. If you want to be a foster parent, just email or call us. Please help us help them!

We expect to have newly formed Gonzales Dog Adoptions take over operating the City's dog shelter when our current agreement expires.

### **ASPCA Hay Bale Out Program**

FOGAS was selected to participate in a free hay distribution to "at risk" equines (horses, mules, donkeys, etc.) ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) provided us a \$5000 grant to be used for hay, which we expect to support and sustain about 50 equines. The City of Gonzales is providing storage and distribution of hay for the horses residing inside the City limits and we gratefully acknowledge their efforts! Outside the City distribution is on a case by case basis, as hay is available and equines identified.



### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Money: We expect to take in about 400 cats/dogs this coming year and it costs us on average \$120 to spay/neuter, vaccinate, worm, treat minor skin issues, etc. Our adoption fees cover about 1/3 of that cost. Please help if you can, and thanks if you already have! (Return envelope enclosed.) **We're a 501c3 charity, so it's deductible!**
- Pet taxis, carriers, etc. We're always transporting somebody somewhere. If you aren't using them, our little orphans surely would.
- Adopt a new best friend. All they need is love and a place to be.
- Foster! Socialize kittens or puppies in your home for two weeks.
- Join foster network for dogs or for horses and other equines.

**Thanks for your support and friendship!**

**FOGAS Board of Directors**