

To the Raymie Zella, Connie Hawes, Jay Lewis, Jennifer Zufelt

At the late May meeting someone requested improvements and expansion be made to the present city animal shelter on 766. Rather than incur any additional expenses – I want to offer the city full ownership of Pet Adoptions of Cuero’s facility on Highway 183.

This is a ready to go fully equipped facility and best of all – as I have listed in the following pages – the location has built up an outstanding reputation for taking in pets and successfully adopting them out.

It would be a shame to not see this facility continue to be a major way to help control the pet population in our city and county. And as has been mentioned, the facility could help other local communities with their animal issues. This could become another income source for the future operation of the facility.

Please give it some serious consideration and review.


Linda Anzaldua

713-828-9815

PET ADOPTIONS OF CUERO MILESTONES

Here are some of the things I have personally developed to benefit the shelter and the 100's of pets we are able to rehome each year:

- *PAOC Appears on Channel 25 twice each month for Pet of the Week*
- *Sam's Club donates "tons" of shelter supplies and pet food each month*
- *The Food Bank of the Golden Crescent donates 1000's of pounds of pet food and we are able to share this food with low income families – otherwise they would be turning their pets into our shelter and the cities shelter because they could not afford to keep them. Lawrence and I personally have to go to Victoria to pickup up these truckloads*
- *Schools, churches and 4-H clubs in Cuero, Yorktown, Yoakum, Victoria and beyond regularly do food and donation drives for us*
- *Schools have "penny" competitions to raise funds to donate for vet bills*
- *I have a wonderful developed working relationship with a retired vet to help with discounted vet services*
- *I post PAOC facebook posts daily promoting a pet, an event or complimenting some group or person who assists PAOC*
- *Miss Cuero Court, The Gobbler Football Team, Trust Texas Bank, Cuero National Bank and Stewart Title have all done fund raisers for PAOC and many are repeated*
- *The Bissell Corp has twice done a \$1000 grant and a 1000 pound food donation for PAOC*
- *The community and individual citizens regularly bring us food donations, piddle pad donations and leftovers from their pets*

** Children host lemonade stands, candy sales and “instead of” birthday parties to benefit PAOC*

**PAOC is posted every Sunday in the Victoria Advocate as a pet adoption center open to the public which I personally worked to have us included with the “big guys”*

**We are proud that PAOC has become a “destination” for out of towners to visit. Facebook posts are bringing more adopters from San Antonio and all the small towns in our part of the state. We have even adopted to folks in Colorado and Tennessee.*

**We are proud of the appearance of our facilities and get high rated compliments about our friendliness, clean as possible facilities and the non complicated manner we have to get our pets adopted and in loving homes*

**We get praise for every hardship case, injured or sick pet we take in and our ability to help because of our strong supported roster of donors*

**We make every effort to encourage out of town adopters to visit our fellow local businesses. Many times when an out of town adopter adopts a dog, we offer to freshly bathe the pet, clip the nails etc. so they can dine at one of our restaurants, shop our stores or visit our museums in the meantime.*

**We regularly send newsworthy items and photos to the Cuero Record, Yorktown News and Yoakum and Victoria newspapers.*

**I acknowledge all donations with a personal hand written note and this includes the many memorials given to PAOC when someone passes*

**We participate when possible with sufficient staff at many Markets on Main Street events and other school Career Day events in both Cuero and Yorktown. Visibility and one on one promotions is always my goal.*

**We have an 8 year relationship with Austin Humane Society to take about 6 pets a month to their shelter which I personally do on my own nickel and travel including personally paying the surrender fees.*

Amazingly, everything we take gets adopted in Austin in a day or two

**We have a new group that will be sponsoring adoption fees on any dogs adopted July 16 up to \$1000 – so we can offer free adoptions.*

**I have ceased doing “group party type” fundraisers because of the multitude of extreme expenses (advertising, catering, hall rental etc.) and instead rely on my personal “plea” solicitation letter sent once a year to potential donors and supporters. This has proven to be 3 times more successful and beneficial to raise operating funds*

**We are proud of our 10 years in helping the community have less pets roaming unwanted in the streets and also helping take in pets of people who have passed as well as our first option – pull as many pets as possible from the Cuero city shelter.*

**We are also proud that despite the enormous vet bills we incur each month, all adoptable pets are vetted and up to date on shots and spayed or neutered when they are adopted. For puppies and tiny kittens – we do release them but schedule them for spay/neuter at 5-6 months for dogs and when the kitten weighs 4 pounds – 90% of these spays and neuters are done by my close relationship with a retired vet and paid by PAOC*

**I average 60+ hours of free service to the shelter every week – both in person physically laboring at the shelter -mornings from 7:30 to 12:30 then competing a “ton” of shelter paperwork done in the afternoons and then heading back each day – 7 days a week to feed and monitor the shelter pets from 4:30 to 6:30. I am the only 100% volunteer.*

** Shelter “shopping” is another chore and many of the purchases I gift to PAOC as my way of continuing to help out these sweet homeless pets.*

**I impose on my husband to be the shelter's all around handy man. Lawrence does his best to handle plumping problems, cage construction issues, damaged gates or fences, minor electrical hiccups, landscape improvements as well as transporting shelter needed "stuff" to save on additional expenses with misc. service companies.*

**We have one senior couple who also is gratis but they only walk the dogs 3 mornings a week and another senior gentlemen walks them 2 mornings a week. All other staff is paid contract labor – there is no such thing as "volunteers" when it comes to the type of work that needs to be done in a pet shelter of our volume.*

In conclusion -even though I hate to toot my own horn - I feel the shelter has had the most success these last 3 years as we no longer have a board of directors insisting on spending shelter donated funds on party equipment, unneeded additional cages, tablecloths, unused computer equipment and systems etc. I am running it as a very tight full scale professional business as I did with both of my businesses in Houston. All expenses and costs are analyzed as part of the game plan for potential and sustaining profits. And it is a working! I feel PET ADOPTIONS OF CUERO has become a very important asset, visitor destination and a very big pet population solver/reliever of Cuero's animal control system. Please seriously consider taking over the shelter full time while I will continue to assist in every way I possibly can. I want to do this for the city, the city's citizens and the homeless pets who deserve a second chance. Who and when can I get you a set of KEYS?