



Metro East Humane Society

FEATURE STORY

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Save a stray day Help save a life with Metro East Humane Society

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill- If there was a way to save just one life...would you? Imagine 11-thousand innocent murders, 7 -days- a -week. This is the sad reality for approximately 4 million dogs and cats that are euthanized annually in the U.S.

Many people believe that pets from the Humane Society are old and misbehaved and are only mixed breeds. This could not be further from the truth. Approxiamtely 25-40 percent of all animals at the Metro East Humane Society are pure breeds.

According Kathy Turner, Metro East Humane Society's executive director, many of the animals that are taken in by the shelter were pets that were already trained. In the recent years, since the economic downturn many families had no other option than to give their beloved pet away.

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“The majority of the animals we have are already potty trained and many have had experience with children. They are looking for another family to love them and it is unfortunate that we do not have the funding to keep all the animals until they find a family, so many have to be put down,” Turner said.

Community members who want to help save lives are invited to come to MEHS’s Save a Stray Day at the Route 66 Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 6. There will be raffles and drawings, along with donations from over 130 vendors. All of the MEHS’s adoptable pets will be there waiting to be rescued by their new family.

Saving a stray goes well beyond charity-- Saving a stray is adding a member to your family. Saving a stray is being reliable for another life. Saving a stray is expensive, but extremely rewarding. Saving a stray is an enormous commitment, which comes with many unexpected expenses and time.

According to Turner, many animals that are adopted are quickly brought back to the shelter because their new owners were not ready for the commitment. It is important to fully understand the commitment of adopting a pet. It is hard on the animals to go from family to family.

So, are you ready to save a life? To find out, answer these three questions.

Why do you want a pet? Many people only see the cute factor when looking at animals. The decision to add a member to your family should not be an easy one.

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Can you afford the pet? When people see the initial price of purchasing the animal, they think they can afford it. There are many unexpected expenses: trips to the vet, toys, food, things they may destroy, grooming and making arrangements for boarding.

Will you be a responsible owner? Will you be willing to come home at lunch and feed your pet? Will you be willing to walk them? Can you be a good companion for them? Are you ready to accommodate a pet?

If you answered yes to all of these questions you are ready to adopt. With adoption comes responsibility but, also many years of companionship.

Kayla Hoffman, junior at SIUE, has recently adopted a terrier from MEHS and believes it was the best decision she has made.

“My new dog, Bailey, is always there to greet me when I get home, she is always right by my side watching movies, and best of all, snuggles with me at night,” Hoffman said.

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