



Town of Little Elm
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Shelter to participate in Clear the Shelter event *Aug. 15 event will highlight mass adoption push*

LITTLE ELM (August 7, 2015) With a virtual “under new management” sign out front, the Little Elm Animal Shelter plans to participate in the upcoming Clear the Shelter campaign, says Therese Hoofnagle, Animal Services Supervisor.

“Clear the Shelter is a national campaign to find loving, permanent homes for the animals in our shelter,” she said. “It’s the first major push for us since the shelter came under our responsibility.”

Little Elm’s Animal Shelter, like most municipal accommodations for stray or lost animals, has traditionally been part of the Police Department. Recently, however, Town Manager Matt Mueller reconfigured the reporting structure to place the animal shelter under the Community Integrity Department.

Similarities and parallels between the missions of the shelter and Community Integrity, along with the recent addition of Hoofnagle, who brought significant shelter experience to the Community Integrity staff, precipitated the move. Among the new administrators’ efforts is participation in the facilitated adoption program.

“Our hope in participating in Clear the Shelter is to ensure animals are placed in good homes where we know they’ll be treated humanely,” said Hoofnagle. “There are many ways that pets bring us fulfillment; they can offer companionship, provide unconditional love, and can even help teach responsibility to children.”

Set for Saturday, Aug. 15, Clear the Shelter is a one-day effort by over 40 shelters in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to encourage pet adoptions. Adoptions occurring that day will not incur an adoption fee.

Usual Saturday hours for the Animal Shelter will be altered to accommodate the Aug. 15 event. On that day, the shelter will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Normally, it is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

“The Clear the Shelter effort began in 2014 and was co-sponsored by NBC5 and Telemundo 39,” she said. “During last year’s event, called Empty the Shelter, over 2,200 animals found homes in the local area. Adopting out that many animals in one day is highly unusual. It’s a credit to the success of the program that this is even possible.”

The effort will include municipal shelters, county shelters and non-profit shelters working in cooperation to place the animals. The two television stations will again serve as sponsors for the event this year.

The Little Elm Animal Shelter is located at 1605 Mark Tree Lane, within the Little Elm Public Works Service Center one block south of West Eldorado Parkway off Preston on the Lakes.

For more information on the Clear the Shelter campaign or the Little Elm Animal Shelter, contact the staff at (972) 377-1898.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.