

VETS & PETS

The Washington Area Humane Society (WAHS) is recruiting everyone they can to help with a program geared towards pairing pets with vets.

“Pets for United States Vets” is a donation-sponsored program at WAHS that supports free adoption of a dog or cat for war veterans. Shelter officials said that as long as the special “Veteran’s Fund” stays funded, the program will continue; however, based on the success of their fundraising events, that fund may not be used up anytime soon. In October, the WAHS Furry Fall Festival, sponsored by 84 Fitness Center, raised more than \$6,500 for the fund. Donations continue to be accepted, and those interested in helping the program can by send a check to: WAHS/PETS FOR VETS, P.O. Box 66, Eighty-Four, PA 15330 (write “Veteran’s Fund” on the memo line).

Veterans need only present their military IDs at the time of adoption to take part in the program. As part of the deal, veterans will also be granted a free shelter clinic membership. The first pet adopted through the program was Taz, who was adopted by the Brown family. But all shelter pets are eligible for the program.

Shelter officials said the program is just one of the many ways the shelter helps homeless animals. Because of its no-kill status, the WAHS has some pets that have been waiting more than a year for a home.

In addition to companionship, pets have proven benefits to the health of their owners, according to WAHS officials, some of which include improvement in mood, lower stress and blood pressure, social support and fending off loneliness, and incentive for exercising.

All pets adopted from the WAHS are spayed or neutered, are up-to-date on vaccinations, and are micro-chipped in case they get lost. Volunteers are always on hand at the shelter to answer questions and give suggestions to people trying to find the perfect pet for their particular home and lifestyle.

The WAHS is funded solely by private contributions. Annually, it takes in more than 4,000 animals and investigates 700 abuse cases. To see their available adoptable pets, go to www.washingtonpashelter.org/petlist.htm and click on the profile of any dog or cat you may be interested in. Adoption fees for puppies are \$150; \$75 for adult dogs. For kittens, adoption fees are \$80; \$50 for adult cats. Even better, those interested in adoption should visit the shelter directly at 1527 Route 136, Eighty Four, Pa. (15330), to see the most current pets available. WAHS only has 36 kennels for dogs and room for 75 cats in their cat adoption area, so overcrowding can occur overnight, which is why it’s imperative for interested families to adopt today.

