



THE DOGGY DIGEST

TRAINING TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MUTTS WITH MANNERS

How To Help The Texas Animal Shelter Crisis Situation When Your Inn is Full, Or You Can't Have An Animal

We are all getting bombarded by social media posts putting out pleas to the community to adopt and rescue dogs due to the crisis the state of Texas is facing in overpopulated animal shelters. Don't worry, this is not EXACTLY another one of those posts. It may seem that way at first, but I really wrote it to encourage our community that there are actually many other ways to help besides adopting another dog or cat, especially if you already are maxed out or cannot afford another animal financially or in time.

The truth is we ARE facing a crisis situation in our Texas shelters, and the problem is NOT going away anytime soon.

The ONLY way this is going to get better is if we CONTINUE talking about it and EDUCATING the community and public abroad on how to STOP the problem.

The obvious (and perhaps to some not-so-obvious) ways are to:

SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

No Birth Really is the real no-kill. If people continue irresponsibly and even responsibly breeding their dogs and cats, we will NEVER catch up. We literally do not have enough humans on the planet to give every animal a home right now. That is the sad truth.

So please, even if you purchased your dog, spay or neuter them. If you really can't afford it, there are many programs out there to assist you. If you need help finding them, private message me, or call your local shelter.

It took us all to create this problem, and it will take us all working together to get out of it.

ADOPT OR RESCUE YOUR ANIMAL FRIEND< RATHER THAN SHOP OR PURCHASE THEM

The above statement makes me cringe just a little because I am not trying to be judgy at all. I bought a dog, after all, but after A LOT of homework, and with lots of recommendations. I was also looking for a specific temperament and personality set that would make him an excellent service dog candidate.

Outside of that, I am a shelter girl at heart; and with the current crisis, I am committed to adopting or rescuing, even if that means using a cane for the rest of my life.

I currently have two rescues and one Labrador retriever (retired service dog).

The statistics of animals going in to shelters in the United States is astounding. These are estimates, but in 2021 there were 3.1 million dogs alone, entering shelters just in the United States.

Gems and treasures are waiting for you to give them a chance. Puppies all the way up to adults and seniors.

Feel overwhelmed and want some help picking out a dog to fit your personality and lifestyle? Hit me up, I would love to help match make.

BUT IF YOUR INN IS FULL, THERE ARE SOME OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

If you are like me, and many others, your Inn is probably full, or maybe you have a special needs dog like a senior or behaviorally challenged Fido. Pick one or two of the below ideas to help the cause!

SHARE SHARE SHARE

Sharing the posts is one of the most important things you can do.

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Why?

Because many of the other states in the USA are NOT facing the same problem Texas is. They have stricter spay and neuter laws, and shelters actually have wait lists for adoptions. They are slowly learning about THE SHELTER CRISIS IN TEXAS and want to help.

It is easy to think of your immediate circle and say, "I don't know anybody who needs or wants another dog". But your friend in New York might, or their friend in Canada could be looking.

We never know where Fido's forever home will end up, and social media is giving a lot of these dogs a new leash on life through sharing posts and transportation companies solely formed to transport Fido to his new forever home.

So, if you have a social media account, SHARE, SHARE, SHARE! Unapologetically share the posts you see, especially if they are with reputable shelters, and are legitimate posts.

VOLUNTEER

Shelters are chronically understaffed. It is a stressful job that sucks your emotions dry and breaks your heart over and over.

While volunteering can also be emotionally stressful, taking a walk with a dog isn't, and that is something the staff can't always (if ever) do. The dogs need it though, and it can change their entire day.

Just think about it, a 30-minute walk, or a half a day out of the shelter, can help them show better in the kennel, which leads to a potential adopter to take that dog in to a yard for a meet and greet, and hopefully fall in love and go to Fido's forever home.

The requirements are minimal, and volunteers are extremely appreciated.

DONATE

Maybe you don't have the time to volunteer, but you want to help monetarily. Donations help with overall operations, but they can also be specific donations. Maybe you want to sponsor a dog's adoption, or heart worm treatment. Facebook will even allow you to create a fundraiser for your shelter for specific purposes. I raised over \$700 a couple of years ago for my birthday to get enrichment for the dogs.

Got extra dog beds, kennels, or toys lying around your house? Donate them. Shelters always need donations. If you aren't sure, call and ask what their current needs are. They will be so thankful.

FOSTER

This is a fantastic option for anybody who wishes they could have a dog, but may not feel like they can afford it yet. It is also a great option for those who don't have a lot of time. Some foster situations are brief and have a clear end point. For dogs eligible for transport, they need 14 days out of the shelter, and they also have a departure date. This makes it easier to not foster fail, knowing that this dog already belongs to someone.

These more brief foster situations are the most important, and with animal transport being more of an option for dogs in Texas getting adopted in to other states like CO or WA, can make or break the ability to adopt out to other states.

Foster dogs also have their food, vet bills, crates and other items the dog will need provided to the foster parent, so it doesn't cost anything, just some extra space in your heart and home.

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MYTH

Afraid of getting too attached? While foster fails do happen, more so than not, dogs DO end up finding their forever homes. Just because you foster, doesn't mean you will foster fail. There are plenty of people who have fostered over 50 dogs, and never foster failed. They remain committed to the cause. If they fail, they know they can't continue to keep that space open for a dog who really needs it.

And, is it really a fail if a shelter dog finds their forever home? We don't think so. That is a win in our book.

Shelters and rescues all over Texas are at critical capacity. Dogs are in crates, lining the hallways. Humans created this problem, and humans will have to solve the problem. The staff and volunteers at shelters can't do it alone. They are relying on community support and creative ideas, but we can all start by preventing unwanted pregnancies in our companion animals by spaying and neutering them.

How will you help? FOSTER? ADOPT? SHARE this post? BECOME A VOLUNTEER? DONATE?

#NoBirthIsTheRealNoKill #AdoptDontShop #Share #Volunteer #Donate #Adopt #Rescue #Foster #LearnTrainEmpower
#KeepItPawsitive #PositiveReinforcement #DogTraining #PlayTogetherStayTogether #TrainForLife @GalvestonHumane
@Trellecvc @MuttsWithMannersTX

Until next time, keep it pawsitive!