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Adoption Waggin' makes a difference

BY PATRICIA A. SCHEYER • COMMUNITY RECORDER CONTRIBUTOR • DECEMBER 13, 2010

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The new Adoption Waggin' purchased by the Boone County Animal Shelter last summer is boosting the number of animals adopted from the shelter.

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Although the amount of dogs and cats fluctuates from month to month and year to year, director Beckey Reiter said she has seen a positive difference.

"We are seeing adoptions up from last year," said Reiter. "Adoptions of dogs went up 21 to 31, puppies from 36 to 49, cats from four to nine and kittens from 23 to 45.

Reiter attributes a lot of the increase to the Adoption Waggin,' because she feels more people are able to see the animals that are

available for adoption.

"We are off the beaten path, and many times people don't think about us in their everyday life," said Reiter. "Also, a lot of people just can't stand to see the dogs and cats in cages, and because they can't adopt them all, they just don't want to come. The Waggin' goes out to events in the community, and brings the animals to the people."

Reiter said their goal for the first year is to have the unit scheduled for 26 community events the first year, and since its debut in July, the Waggin' will have completed 14, slightly ahead of schedule.

"We are hooked up to the computers in the office, so right now there is now a way to separate the adoptions that happen through the Adoption Waggin' from all the other adoptions," said Reiter. "We have 20 cages in the unit, and we try to take the same amount of dogs and cats. We have dividers that are removable, so that gives the animals room to roll around and bounce. One thing we have to do is make sure we have enough volunteers to walk the dogs during these events."

The top number they have adopted at any of the events is nine, and that was at Hebron Kroger, where there seems to be more interest.

Adoption Waggin's success has not escaped the notice of Boone County Fiscal Court.

"Our new mobile unit makes the adoption process easier for our constituents, and reduces the number of animals being euthanized," said Judge-executive Gary Moore. "I'm also pleased that the unit was purchased with private funds, not taxpayers dollars."

The cost was just under \$125,000, and money was raised through donations and fundraisers in 10



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Patricia A. Scheyer/Contributor

Despite the snowstorm, people gather around the Adoption Waggin which came to the Burlington Christmas celebration Dec. 4.

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