



**BOONE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER TO PARTNER WITH BROWN
MACKIE COLLEGE**

New Partnership will allow students to gain hands-on experience at County shelter

BOONE COUNTY, KY — The Boone County Fiscal Court approved at its meeting on June 24th an educational affiliation agreement with Brown Mackie College and the Boone County Animal shelter. This new partnership will allow students to gain hands-on experience at the County's shelter located in Burlington.

Becky Reiter, director of Boone County Animal Care and Control, said "This will prove to be a positive relationship for everyone. The students will receive the practical hands-on experiences they need to enter the work force. The County will be able to increase its care for all of our animals, while at the same time saving time and money for those who use our services."

Currently, Brown Mackie's vet tech program has about 50 students enrolled in only their second year of offering this program. The college has already applied for full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

This program will allow the college to utilize the shelter as a teaching and clinical site for students. The licensed veterinarian instructing the students will provide for the animals housed in the county shelter. Those involved with this program will provide a variety of services from basic health examinations to spay and neutering procedures.

The County currently requires adopters to spay or neuter their new cat or dog within 30 days of adoption. Staff members had to track the adoptions to verify compliance, by following up with reminders, warning letters and phone calls. But now with this program the County can have these services provided at a savings to the residents.

Under the newly approved policy a pet can be adopted, with the spay/neuter procedure completed, for \$89 (cats) or \$119 (dogs). Whereas before a resident would pay about \$50 to adopt a pet from the shelter, and about an additional \$115-\$194 to have the animal spayed or neutered at another facility.

As part of the agreement and accreditation, the school also will purchase medical equipment for use at the shelter. This includes surgery and exam tables, anesthesia machines, blood pressure monitors, lab equipment, surgical instruments, drapes and more.

Over the last year the Boone County Animal Shelter has expanded in both size and capacity for care. Currently, the shelter will on average care for 90 animals a day and have more than 13,000 visitors annually.

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If you would like more information about this topic please contact Blair G. Schroeder, Boone County Public Information Officer, at (859) 334-2282 or email him at BSchroeder@BooneCountyKY.org.