



How much is that puppy in the window?

Laura Denton
Copy Editor

Around Christmas time many people decide to bring a pet into their lives. Before heading to a pet store or a breeder, first consider the animal shelter. Hundreds of cats and dogs are waiting for their forever homes. Rescuing an animal is an opportunity to have a life-long

friend. No Christmas present is better than love shared with a pet.

The Putnam County Animal Shelter has a wide selection of cats, dogs, puppies and kittens of all sizes and colors. Most are mixed breeds, but one in five animals is purebred. Many are already spayed or neutered and housebroken. Others, such as puppies and kittens, are blank slates.

Those who cannot find the perfect pet at the animal shelter but still wish to pursue a rescue should check out www.petfinders.com. This site features thousands of rescued animals across the country in need of homes. Search engines allow people to search by species, breed, size, age and gender. This site also lists local and nearby shelters.

The internet also abounds with many breed-specific rescues for those that are interested in a specific breed of animal.

Anyone who is not in the position to take in a new family member but would like to help animals in need are encouraged to donate various items to their local animal shelter. The Putnam County Animal Shelter is in need of cat litter, bleach, liquid

laundry soap, small dog collars, dog and cat toys, blankets, towels, canned cat food and newspapers. Donations of money are also helpful.

The Animal Shelter offers several other ways to help. People can donate aluminum cans to "Paws to Recycle." The cans are then traded in for cash which is used to assist people with the costs of spaying and neutering their animals.

The "Guardian Angel" program gives people the opportunity to sponsor any cat or dog at the Putnam County Animal Shelter. This allows people to cover sterilization costs and initial veterinary fees for an animal to give it a better chance for adoption.

Most importantly, all pet owners are reminded that they can help all animals by following a few simple rules.

By state law, all pets are required to be confined to their owner's

property and wear a rabies and ID tag. Also, one should spay or neuter all pets in order to prevent unwanted litters and cut down on the overpopulation crisis.

Why consider the shelter before a breeder or a pet store? The answer is simple: cats and dogs in this country and worldwide are horribly overpopulated.

There just are not enough homes for them. Only dedicated, experienced breeders should pursue breeding.

Please help animals in the community this holiday season. Many people find that by opening their heart, they can make Christmas the best ever for themselves and an animal friend.

*****Warning: anyone considering giving a pet as a gift must include the recipient in this decision, as it is a personal, lifelong commitment.**



PETS WITHOUT OWNERS -- Animals at the Cookeville Animal Shelter wait for someone to adopt them. Photo by Laura Denton.

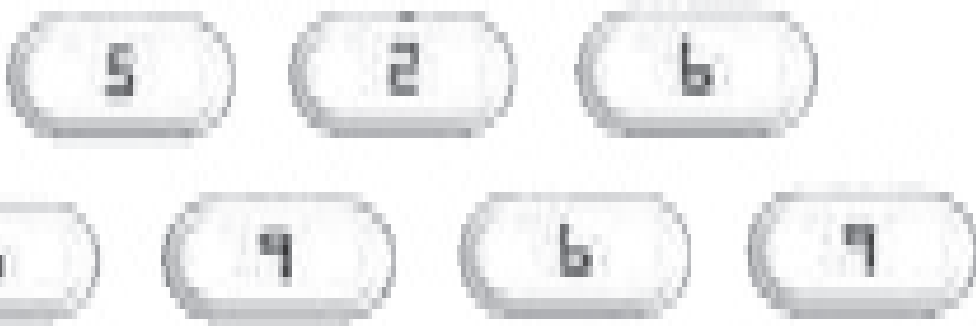


The River
Community Church

Wednesday at 6 p.m.
Meeting at White Baptist Church
Call 528-3660
or visit
www.therivercc.com

Wisho Charlie's Shindig

Weekdays 7 pm to Midnight



ALL REQUEST
ALL DEDICATION
ALL NIGHT LONG



YOU
make the call!



Congratulations

Young Republicans for starting an awesome new club at CHS. Thanks to all the students who worked to get the club started. You are all leaders, and you have a great club year ahead.

