

The PRC SPCA has a lot of exciting things going on this month, read on to find out more....

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## foster care heroes wanted

Become a foster care parent and help save the lives of more than 1,200 vulnerable kittens, puppies, cats and dogs this year.

### Adoption Ambassador Program

The shelter is looking for volunteers for our adoption ambassador program. Ambassadors foster a shelter animal and are responsible for finding them a home. Helpful materials and guidelines are available at the shelter and fostering is **NO CHARGE** to the ambassadors. Animals may also be "virtually" fostered, promoted by the ambassador on social media while staying at the shelter until adopted. Cats are great candidates for "virtual" adoption and the shelter had the first cat adoption through this program this month!



Volunteers are needed for the PRC SPCA's wellness clinic in April. Volunteers would be responsible for filling out needed paperwork and directing patrons to the proper lines for services they are interested in purchasing. The date is to be determined but anyone interested in volunteering should call the shelter at 601-798-8000 and ask for Judy.



Volunteers are needed to help with the PRC SPCA's low cost spay/neuter program, specifically to be available for the drop-off and pickup of animals meeting the transports in route to the Hattiesburg or Gulfport clinics. Volunteer is responsible for checking animal in and gathering all required paperwork. Transports occur one to two times a month.



**Beat the Heat Special**

Our low cost spay/neuter program is running a special on spay/neuter coupons through February 20. The special is for **FEMALES** only and cost is **\$30 for cats, \$40 for dogs**. Coupons are valid for 6 months after purchase date and are available at the PRC SPCA on Palestine Road in Picayune or at the Longleaf Feed Store in Poplarville. The low cost spay/neuter program has aided in reducing the shelter's intake numbers, this along with other shelter programs have significantly increased our live release percentages.

The PRC SPCA has been making some changes and look forward to seeing more innovative programs in the future as a result. Our new Public Relations Officer position has been filled by Maria Diamond and Carla Gerrard, the low cost spay/neuter program and wellness clinic program developer, has been elected as president. Remaining positions will be filled by the incumbents, the public is invited to attend the SPCA meeting held at **1700 Palestine Road at 7PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.**



1. Keep pets inside if possible.
2. Never leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, cars can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold making it possible for pets to freeze to death.
3. Short-haired dog breeds, need a warm coat or sweater. Choose one with a high collar or turtleneck that covers dog from base to tail on top and to the belly underneath.
4. Dogs that are sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, should only be taken outdoors long enough to relieve himself.
  5. Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs and may be difficult to houstrain during the winter. If necessary, paper train your puppy inside.
6. If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities, increase food supply, particularly protein, to keep fur thick and healthy.
7. Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats because of its sweet taste, animals are attracted to it. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle. Look for animal friendly brands which are much safer.
8. Never shave your dog down to the skin in the winter, leave the coat long providing more warmth and insulation from the cold. When bathing your dog, make sure he is completely dry before taking on walk.
9. Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, away from all drafts and off the floor. A dog bed, cat bed or basket with a warm blanket are ideal choices.
10. If dog or cat must remain outside, provide them with a warm, insulated pet house or shelter. House should be elevated enough so moisture cannot accumulate inside, insulate with blankets or straw. If possible, provide a door (i.e. canvas) to keep out winter winds. Alley Cat Allies provides instructions for providing shelter for feral cats.
11. Always have fresh, clean water available for your pet. If your pet is kept outdoors, check water frequently since it may freeze.
12. Cats and other critters often climb into vehicle engines for warmth. Before starting your vehicle, knock on the hood and honk the horn, even if you may not own a cat a neighbor's cat might have taken shelter there.

We are excited to announce that the PRC SPCA received a grant to build a separate building for grooming, bathing and all Canine Behavior Assessments. Grooming currently takes place in the shelter's kitchen where all the intake shots and medicines for dogs are completed as they are brought to the shelter. A separate place for grooming will be much more beneficial. Currently the Canine Behavior Assessments are done in a room used for many activities and is in the middle of all the dog housing, assessments will be much easier with a dedicated room away from all the barking dogs. The shelter is gladly taking donations to help furnish both the grooming and assessment rooms, air conditioners and space heaters need to be purchased as well as a water heater for the grooming room and a storage cabinet for assessment tools and grooming supplies. PayPal buttons can be found on our web pages.

[Click here to donate.](#)



**HOURS:**  
Tuesday-Saturday  
10:00 AM-4:00 PM

**VISIT US:**  
1700 Palestine Road  
Picayune MS 39466

**ADOPTION APPOINTMENTS MAY BE SCHEDULED ON WEEKENDS OR AFTER HOURS BY CALLING:**  
(601)798-8000

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**  
[www.facebook.com/prcpsca](http://www.facebook.com/prcpsca)