

Indigo Ranch: Where Caring for Dogs is a Passion *continued from front page*

shelter environment. Using a network of foster homes they have developed, Indigo Rescue helps rehabilitate animals before helping them find permanent placement. In addition, through sheer determination and persistence, Indigo Rescue has helped develop spay and neuter programs in local animal shelters.

Heather Hines is the Founder and Director of Indigo Rescue. Hines says Indigo Rescue, through their foster and adoption programs, has probably saved the lives of almost 2,000 cats and 2,000 dogs. These were animals who had run out of time at the shelter and were scheduled to be euthanized.

These days Indigo Rescue mostly focuses on saving dogs. Rescuing dogs scheduled to be killed is hard and

often heartbreaking work, says Hines. "I am often pounding the pavement looking for foster homes, because it's really the only way out for some of these dogs," says Hines, who has made animal rescue her life's work. "The truth of the matter is that managing a network of foster homes and finding new fosters is hard work. It's hard on the foster families, it's hard on our volunteers and it's hard on me."

Hines notes that Indigo Rescue often ends up with the most challenging cases, including dogs with disabilities or behavioral or health issues. Through their foster program they have helped dogs that are blind, deaf, missing limbs, and elderly, along with dogs that are scared, aggressive or have other issues.

"As a result, sometimes the adoptions are slow, some of them take years," says Hines. "Nobody else will give those dogs a chance."

In 2007, Hines and Indigo Rescue purchased sixteen acres outside of Vernonia and converted the small farm on the site into Indigo Ranch with the idea that it would help fund the rescue. The boarding and day care facility provides dogs with a fun, safe and loving place to stay while their family is away.

The conversion of the property into a dog boarding facility happened slowly. Just after they moved in, the property, the house and a barn, were flooded in December 2007. Following the flood cleanup they constructed a planned building that now serves as two

dormitory rooms.

Hines says that Indigo Ranch is just now beginning to show a profit.

Indigo Ranch offers day camp services for people who don't want to leave their dogs alone during the day. They also provide boarding for dogs that need a place to stay overnight. All profits go towards funding the work of the Indigo Rescue non-profit.

Currently Indigo Ranch employs four local Vernonia residents. Laura Wright has been working at Indigo Ranch for over two years and is the resident, on-site manager. Wright lives in the home on the property and is with the animals overnight. Wright says she gets the animals up in the morning, lets them out and feeds them and also takes them out at night before getting them situated to sleep—seven days a week.

"There is always someone here with the dogs, every day," says Wright.

Angela Bettencourt works with the dogs during the day on weekdays and has been employed at Indigo Ranch for four months. Two other employees, Bree Eckertson and Alexis LaBelle are at the ranch on weekends.

Wright and Bettencourt say they pride themselves on the attention the dogs at Indigo Ranch receive and consider themselves 'den mothers' to their

continued on page 21

Vernonia Weather November 2014			
DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	54	39	.50
2	52	40	.25
3	54	50	.41
4	57	47	.20
5	60	49	.15
6	59	44	.90
7	57	35	T
8	61	33	0
9	54	41	.15
10	55	29	0
11	46	27	0
12	41	26	T
13	37	27	.05
14	43	15	0
15	42	14	0
16	49	14	0
17	50	18	0
18	45	18	0
19	50	30	.02
20	48	35	T
21	50	36	.50
22	50	32	.29
23	51	32	.32
24	51	41	.07
25	58	50	.17
26	56	47	T
27	54	49	.13
28	54	37	.98
29	37	19	.11
30	38	17	0
Ave/Tot	50.4	33.0	5.20

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



Meet Pumpkin Spice. On November 28th she was hit by a car in a rain storm. She however wasn't found until 2 days after that. She was found laying beside the road with a hurt paw but not a hurt spirit. This girl was brought to the Humane Society, where she was taken to the vet, it was found she had a dislocated wrist and a laceration on her front paw. Her wrist was put back into place, and the laceration was sewn back together. She is currently awaiting her new forever home at the Shelter. Her adopter will need to understand there is going to be a little rehab work for the next couple of weeks, but she is expected to make a full recovery. We think she is about 4-5 years old. Seems to love cats and other dogs. She also has an eye condition that requires she has medicine in her eyes two times a day. This little girl is bound to make someone very happy for the holidays, perhaps that someone is you. Her adoption fee is \$165.00, that will include her spay and all her vaccines as well as her microchip. Please note we currently have over \$500.00 in medical bills for her. Donations for her care can be made in person at the shelter or online at www.columbiahumane.org or mailed to Box 845, St. Helens, Oregon, 97051

2084 Oregon Street Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org
St. Helens, OR 97051 Phone: 503-397-4353
Web: www.columbiahumane.org

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Need Help?

Call for meeting times and locations

Columbia Community Mental Health
Call 503-397-5211 -or- 1-800-294-5211
For after hours Crisis call: 1-866-866-1426
<http://www.ccmh1.com/crisis.html>

Narcotics Anonymous NW Region
503-345-9839
<http://portlandna.com/>

Alcohol Anonymous NW Region
503-366-0667
<http://www.pdxaa.com/>

Wishing You Safe and Happy Holidays!



Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District