For the last several months, FCAR has had a serious battle to face. After being in operation 10 years, a neighbor started complaining about FCAR’s legal right to operate our shelter at its current location. The neighbor first complained last fall to the Fayette County Commission. FCAR attended the meeting and explained to the Commission the inaccuracies in his complaints, many of which we felt were completely unfounded. The same neighbor then was able to escalate his complaint where it ultimately went to the Zoning Board of Appeals to question whether or not FCAR is operating legally under the rural residential code.

In May the Zoning Board of Appeals ruled that FCAR was operating illegally in an R-1 area. Fayette County Animal Rescue has been ordered to shut down by September 30, 2008 by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

We have retained an attorney and appealed this decision and are waiting for the next step in the appeal process. We have also submitted an application to rezone our facility to “Special Activities”. This past week we presented our proposal to the Planning Commission that voted to deny the request with a vote of 5-3. We then presented to the Development Committee which denied the request with a vote of 4-0. Our last and final vote will be on September 23rd by the Fayette County Commission. They will determine whether our shelter will be forced to close on September 30.

We have provided additional information on our situation in this newsletter along with details on what you can do to help. Our Board and volunteers have worked tirelessly to fight this decision and will continue to do so but we need your help! Please contact your local government officials and come to the September 23rd meeting. We need your support now more than ever.

Although the zoning issue has been a major concern and distraction over the past few months, it hasn’t stopped the important work that we do every day. I encourage you to read through this newsletter for more information about FCAR and our rescues. Thank you for all you do for the animals of Fayette County Animal Rescue.

-Gina Thweatt, President
As you read in our Letter from the President, Fayette County Animal Rescue has been ordered to shut down by the Zoning Board of Appeals by September 30, 2008.

FCAR has operated, very publicly, from our facility in Rossville for the past 10 years. We have saved thousands of animals and just this past year received a grant from the County for $5,000. We work very closely with Animal Control, the Sheriff’s department and the District Attorney to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty in Fayette County.

FCAR is pursuing all available options to stay open. First of all, we have hired an attorney and have appealed the ruling. This was a very difficult decision for our Board as we had confidence that our county government would never actually shut down the only humane organization in Fayette County.

When the deadline to file the appeal approached however, we felt we had to pursue every avenue we had so that we could stay open and help the animals of Fayette County. We submitted our appeal on the very last day possible and are awaiting the next step of the process.

At the same time we are continuing to hope that we will be able to gain the support of our county government and that they will see fit to allow us to continue to operate and serve the animals and citizens of Fayette County.

We have submitted an application to rezone the property that our facility resides on to “Special Activities”. We have made significant improvements to the shelter over the past few months to ensure that we have addressed all of the real or perceived issues with our shelter that have been brought up by our critics. We planted over $1,500 in landscaping, erected additional privacy fences and a 12’ sound barrier.

Unfortunately, even with this huge additional effort, our request was denied by the Planning Commission as well as the Development Committee on September 8th and 9th. Their decisions, however are not final, they are simply recommendations that they make to the County Commission. The final decision will be made by the County Commission on September 23rd.

Please support FCAR and come to the September 23rd County Commission meeting at 7pm at the Bill Kelly Justice Center.

We need to show our local commissioners that animals DO matter in Fayette County and that their constituents need FCAR! At each of the previous meetings people in opposition of our shelter have been very vocal, although the majority of the people are bringing up situations that are completely unrelated to FCAR. We need people who believe in FCAR to attend and speak out as well.

Please also continue to call and write the Fayette County Commissioners. You will find a list of the commissioners on our website.

Note: Please contact the Commissioners to show your support for FCAR. They are NOT the ones responsible for the current decision to shut FCAR down; that decision was made by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The County Commission WILL be making a decision on our future at the September 23rd meeting.

For more information, please visit our website or call us at (901) 854-2565.

A HUGE thank you to businesses that have made significant contributions to FCAR recently:

- Print Solutions
- The Printery
- Fayette Falcon
- Q107.5
- First Citizens Bank
- Quikrete
- Kellogg’s
- Pepsi
- Office Max
- UCA
- Lil John’s Animal

We appreciate your support!
On August 2nd FCAR held its 1st Annual Dog Days of Summer 5K run/walk. The title sponsors for the event were Petco and Q107.5.

We had over 140 participants and the event was a HUGE success! Thank you to all of the runners, walkers, volunteers and sponsors.

**Top Times** (in minutes):
1. Felipe Varga 19:45
2. Aaron Martham 21:04
3. Robert Risher 21:54
4. Lacy Anderson 22:12
5. Karoline Shott 22:33
6. Paul Stackpole 23:04
7. Matt Bryant 23:08
8. Scott Irwin 23:29
9. Walter Dunn 23:46
10. Ben Chandler 23:59

Complete race results can be found at: [http://dogdays5k.com/](http://dogdays5k.com/).

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**Fayette County Animal Rescue**

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**Madeline’s Legacy**
~Cheryl Whitt

I have adopted three dogs from FCAR and fostered several others. I have a tendency to fall in love with every dog that I foster and want to keep them.

It all began on July 6, 2002. My son Jacob and I visited the Petco at Poplar and Highland to “look only” for a dog to go with the house that we had just bought.

As we looked at all the dogs, Jacob was attracted to a fifteen month old black lab mix, Maddie (affectionately known as “Mad Maddie”), which I was not impressed with at all. I kept trying to get him to look at her next door neighbor, but his mind was set on Maddie.

I walked out of the store and when I returned, Jacob was walking her around the store on a leash with a big smile on his face. I knew then we were taking her home. Jacob decided to call her Madeline, which was her true name.

Sadly for us, Madeline didn’t have a long life like many dogs do. In 2005 she developed lymphoma and we decided the best thing for her was to put her down. She was much loved by Jacob, myself, the volunteers at FCAR, and the staff at Animal Care Hospital. Besides her family, those who were with her on her last day were Delores, Yvette, Gina, Dr. Melanie Galloway, and Allison.

It seemed fitting that the place and people that rescued her and prepared her for us would be the place she would take her last breath. She always loved going to the vet, I think she knew all that they had done for her and was forever grateful.

Madeline’s final resting place is at FCAR under a tree, similar to the one she used to lay under at home. From this spot she could look through the cracks in the fence and was always the first to know when Jacob was home to play with her.

Very soon after, we brought Sky, a beautiful brindle and white Pit Bull with blue eyes, home to “foster.” Several months later we finalized her adoption.

Last year, when Jacob joined the Army and left Sky alone with me I soon realized she needed a four legged playmate; I was unable to meet her need to rough-house like Jacob could. I had been fostering Simon, an Australian Shepherd mix and decided he would complete our family.

I went many years without a dog at all, but now I cannot see myself without at least one. I will most likely always have an FCAR dog because I know they are loved and cared for by the volunteers and staff as if they were their own.

And to think this all started with a little black lab mix named “Mad Maddie.”

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**In Memory of Faith**
~Yvette Gilbert

Yvette Gilbert is one of the founders of FCAR and sent the following email to us recently. It touched us so much that we wanted to share it with all of you.

Six years ago somebody dumped a box of puppies on my driveway, on Mothers Day. They were little bitty and pretty sick. There was only one girl, and she was very weak. I just looked at her and said I have faith you are going to be okay, and that is how she got her name. I ended up keeping four of the pups, Ice (his one blue eye reminded me of an ice cube), Herman (he had a hernia, so it turned into Herman with a hernia), and Huey (he was so large, I said he was huge and baby talk turned into Huey), and my little Faith.

One evening, everything was normal; the dogs all know what to do. I have to close the doggie door at night in their doghouse (which is a shed), because they would bark all night if I didn’t. They all ate and then came to me for loving and curled up in a ball and went to sleep. We have it down pat, it’s strange how they pick up on things so quick and just do everything the same way night after night.

The next morning I went to open the doggie door and Faith wouldn’t move, I knew she was gone, but I freaked out and tried to wake her up, do whatever I could to get her to move and she wouldn’t. I had lost my Faith. She died in her sleep. She was still curled in a ball, just like I left her. I don’t know why I am writing this, I just felt like I had to tell everyone about her. She made my life better & I will never forget her.
In October 2007, FCAR received the first complaint about horses in Williston that appeared to be underfed, as well as in need of medical care. For the next 3 months we worked with the owner, attempting to remedy the situation through education of TN law and basic needs of horses.

In January, when we reached the point where changes by the owner did not seem possible, we attempted to compromise with him by allowing him a set amount of time to find new homes for his 30+ horses rather than prosecuting him for animal cruelty. We thought that progress was being made when we believed he had gotten down to 6 horses, however in March the owner informed us that he was keeping his remaining horses and would be purchasing more. At that time we filed charges against him for animal cruelty.

While awaiting the court date we were once again notified by concerned citizens that the situation for the horses had become even direr, so we moved forward with seizing the horses so that we could provide adequate food and veterinary care while we awaited the court date. We also found out that he actually had 17 horses, not 6 as we were originally told.

The animals were all very underweight, had significant hair loss and various other medical issues as the pictures to the left show. We immediately began feeding them multiple times a day and providing the veterinary care that they desperately needed.

The first court date was on April 29th where the judge recused himself due to previous dealings with the owner. For the third time he informed the owner that he was not to touch the horses or interfere with Animal Control or FCAR as we cared for the animals.

The horses were even worse shape than when they left due to dehydration and being stuffed into that trailer and it is with great sadness that we found out that the horse that was down had to be euthanized.

The case against George Blackburn was concluded on July 29th and he was sentenced to a maximum of 11 months, 29 days probation and ordered to pay a $1,700 fine and restitution to FCAR. Although we are not happy with the lack of jail time, we are relieved that we now have legal custody of the animals and can find new, loving homes for them.

UPDATE: George Blackburn has appealed the verdict in this case. The District Attorney has reached an agreement with him and the decision will be finalized next week in court.

(continued on next page)
Horses for Pre-Adoption

Applejacks
Grade
10 year old mare

Tippy
Grade
3 year old mare

Sonoma
Paint/Pinto
4 year old mare

In Loving Memory
Please pray for our rescues that have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge:

Trinity, Belle, Wyatt, Delilah, Faith, Ice, Posty, LW, Beezus, Makenna and Jacob.

Horses (continued)

During this entire ordeal, ARTEX Animal Welfare League cared for the 11 horses that had been seized in AR. After much review and discussion, FCAR decided to turn over custody of the horses to ARTEX pending the outcome of the appeal. They have done an outstanding job caring for these animals and already lined up permanent homes for most if not all of them once the court case is complete.

Again, pending the outcome of the appeal, FCAR has 3 horses that will be available for adoption. Please see the box to the left for pictures and descriptions of the horses. You can see additional pictures on our website at: http://fayetefcar.com.

If you are interested in pre-adopting or know someone that is please contact us! And thank you all again for your support during this effort to save these horses.

Happy Tails – Appa & Momo

In March 2007, the Hannah family adopted Cinderella, now renamed Appa from FCAR. If you could ask for the perfect new family for a dog, the Hannah’s are it. Appa has been spoiled rotten! She has a beautiful yard to play in, goes on walks frequently and plays with the 3 boys in the family when she isn’t being spoiled by mom. They had originally wanted two dogs and for the next few months thought a lot about getting Appa a friend. They frequently email or visit us (which we appreciate a LOT) so when Heath came around we let them know that he might be a good match for Appa. That is, if a goofy and incredibly sweet boy is what they were looking for.

After thinking about it for a short time, they decided to come to an adoption day and see Heath and ended up taking him home to be Appa’s best pal. Heath is now renamed MoMo, and spends hours wrestling and playing with Appa and his new family. His mom describes them as this: “MoMo should have been named Jethro, like on the Beverly Hillbillies. He is a big, awkward, lovable, eater. Appa will forever be a princess.” A FABULOUS Happy Tale for 2 of our rescues!!

A Rescue Dog

I was born homeless, I’ve never had a ball, toy, bed or someone to play with.
I have been kicked, beaten and abused.
I have survived without sufficient food and water.
I have roamed the streets and fields looking for a home but never finding it.
I pray that a special person will find me, take me home and love me the rest of my life.
I pray it is soon.
I pray that special person is you.

Even though life has not been fair to our rescues, they are full of love and deserving of a good life. Adopting is a commitment to love, spend time with and care for a needy animal. If this is you, then you are that special person and you will be rewarded ten-fold.

~M. Willis, FCAR Volunteer
Memorials

My Dog Marc, from M.J. Acree McClain

Sam A. Yanta, from Mary Yanta

Sam, “A Wonderful Dog” of Butch, Kathy Williams & Sons, from Charlotte Johnson

Prissy & Sue, from Bo & Brunnell Boshers

Prince, Janet Gray’s Beautiful Companion, from Pat Rush

Miss Maddie, a puppy mill rescue, from Pamela & Louis Patron

Trevor, from Mrs. Mark Ward

Solomon, beloved pet of Marilyn Holt, from Shirley & Bob Harris

Meg, beloved cocker spaniel of Becky & Stack Patterson, from Kay & Bruce Miller

Tyler Thomas, beloved son of Marilyn Thomas, from Kay & Bruce Miller

Sylvester, cat of Donna Oliver Hale, from Don Oliver

Anna, “Our Beloved Protector”, from J.S. Smith, DDS

Kele and CoCo, “My Loving Shih Tzu’s”, from Debbie Earles

“All the wonderful pets I have had”, from Beverly Doring

James H. Jackson, from Sara Jackson

Sadie, beloved dog of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Taylor, from Alan & Donna Mullen

Mrs. Roberta Lilly, from Richard and Sheryl Doyle

Buster B. Brown, dog of Renown, Mom & Dad’s Second Son, from A. Lee Lawson

James P. Aylor, from Jeanne Rose

Harriet & Tsunami & Cordial, from Vicky Rimstidt

Maddie, from Pam Letendre

Pickles, from Debra Hanna

Phyllis Little, from Cindy Rhines

Beloved Pet Elmo, from Dana Horner

Oliver, “Our precious Shih Tzu”, from Jo Ann & Del E. Mercer

“My beloved cats, Teddy & Chester”, from Leigh MacQueen

Glenn & Forrest Olson, from Jerry Stringer

“My husband, Forrest Lee Milligan”, from Connie Milligan

Bama Dowdy, from Jerry & Lana Dowdy

“Antoine, a most precious tiny white poodle belonging to Roman Berzowski”, from James & Elizabeth Gibbs

Mr. Marx Katz, from Ms. Velma Mobley

Mr. Marx Katz, from Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bettison

Dr. Chuck Gallina, from Dinetia Pryor

Blaze, beloved pet of Michelle Weatherford, from St. Jude ACT Friends

“Knox, beloved cat and Harmony, beloved dog, of David Wichlan”, from Kimberly Wichlan

Joey, from Robert & Elaine Coupe

Sport, “beloved dog of Jim Bennett”, from Karen Keywood

“Katy, our 13 year old sheltie who passed August 2007 of Lymphoma”, from Lindsay West

“Ishmire, beloved 16 year old cat of Michael & Delores Provow. She is greatly missed. She would lay out in the horse pasture with our ponies Tribble & Sadie.”

Pumpkin, from M.J. Acree McClain

Jacob, beloved dog of Leslie Gattuso, from Cheryl Whitt

Jacob, from Leslie Gattuso

“Sandy”, from Susan & Lee Bachman

Delilah, from Cheryl Whitt

Wyatt, from foster mom & dad, Gina & Keith Thweatt

“Faith, beloved dog of Yvette Gilbert”, from Delores Provow

“Faith, beloved dog of Yvette Gilbert”, from Cheryl Whitt

Pappy, from Pam & Bobby Levy

“Cindi, beloved Golden Retriever of Ms. Lisa Thorsvik, Erika & Sarah”, from Janet Parrish

“Savannah, beloved dog of Laura & Fred Lewis”, from Donna & Alan Mullen

“Petie, our beloved border collie”, from Tallie Hodges

“Elmo, a beloved pet of Dana Horner”

“Garfield, beloved pet of Jennifer Lyons”, from Bert Linnea

“LC, beloved pet of Joanne Traicoff”, from Bert Linnea

“Lizzie, beloved pet of Paula Turner”, from Bert Linnea

Charlie Brunner, from Ed Brunner

Charlie Brunner, from Mark & Jennifer Fidler

Keeper, beloved dog of Connie Shaw, from Kathy Watts

“Keeper, beloved pet of Connie Shaw”, from Delores Provow

Teena Spencer, from Faith Barcroft

Lindy, beloved boxer of Anne & Ken Keefe, from Marilynn Weedon

Gretta, beloved pet of Donna Jenkins, from Garry Parrish

David Eddins, from Fayette County Animal Rescue

Mick Caughron, from Kenneth Walker & Judy Andreoli

Sammy & Max, “Our Bassett Boys”, from Mr. & Mrs. Jere Krallinger

“Prince”, from Janet Gray
Memorials

“Ladybird, beloved dog of Robin Salant”, from Renee Salant & Sam Weiss

“In loving memory of Cowboy, beloved dog of Jimmy Grisham”, from Michael & Delores Provow

“The good people who maintain the (FCAR) facility, Good Job!”, from Bill & Becks Kitchens

“In memory of Madelyn Earles”,
  • From Steve & Cindy Earles Gilmore
  • Teresa Price
  • Dehoney Bishop Int., Inc.
  • Betty Powell

“In loving memory of Trinity”, from Delores Provow

Tenbrooks, beloved horse of Lisa Carter”, from Candy Perry

“The fine work you (FCAR) do”, from Margaret Losch

“All of you wonderful people who are so dedicated to helping these poor animals”, from Mary Keywood

“Adopting our new black lab Duke and our other dog, Liddie Girl”, from Amy Allgood

“Mr. & Mrs. James Slocum, who found our lost dog Ceasar and helped reunite us”, from April & Jeff Hurdle

“Mr. & Mrs. Jim Slocum, for taking such good care of my son’s dog Caesar”, from Bette A. Hurdle

Amos, Oscar, Callie, LuLu, Flossie, Brodie & Bailey, from Barbara Seay

Bubbles & Zoegirl (Jingles), from Sherry & David Howard

Liddie Girl, from Amy Allgood

The volunteers at FCAR, “just because you all do such a good job”, from Glenn & Gail Elder

Memphis Velo Bicycling Team, from Scott Burton

Cheyenne, from Donna Short

Tyler & Mary Beth Epps, from Donna Short

Animal Care Hospital Vets & Staff, from Roger & Carole Scruggs

Bob & Kathie Lee at Christmas, from Ginger Sayle

Joyce Lacy at Christmas, from Sue & Joan Domek

Lana Yoshii at Christmas, from Stephanie Gustafson

Mike & Donna Smith, from Stan & Sylvia Young

Donna Oliver Hale, from Don Oliver

Melissa Peterson, from Lisa Peterson (Mom & Dad)

Jan Reed, from James & Janice Reed

Susan & Lamar, from Judy Andreoli & Kenneth Walker

Melissa Peterson, from Lisa Peterson

“The work you do (at FCAR)”, from Ann Brown

“Nineteen cocker spaniels rescued from the breeder”, from John Phillips

Lucy Patterson, pet of Pat Patterson, from Susan Grizzard

Michael Provow, from Susan & Barry Chase

Zeus and Ozzie, from Karen Jackson

Keith & Gina Thweatt, from Grady & Virginia Hurley

Ms. E. Joyce Owen & Mr. & Mrs. S.F. Owen III, from Sarah Jackson

“My 2 dogs Marcie & Keela and 2 rescued cats Prissy & Tuxey”, from Cindy Rhines

“Stu & Spanky, our beloved shih tzu’s”, from Jo Ann & Del E. Mercer

Amie & Little Bit McAfee, from Julia McAfee

Luke, from Amy Shumate

Petey, from Cyndi Carl

Mr. Larry McCalla, from Germantown United Methodist Church

Granger & Laverne, from June Curry

“My daughter, Kirsten Burns”, from Michelle Burns

Fleta, from Hillary Brewer

“Stu & Spanky, our beloved shih tzu’s”, from Jo Ann & Del E. Mercer

“Adopting our new black lab Duke and our other dog, Liddie Girl”, from Amy Allgood

“Oh my, to us she is baby and we love her”, from Glenn & Gail Elder

“Our precious Jacey Horton”, from Kristin and Frank Horton

“Mr. & Mrs. James Slocum, who found our lost dog Caesar and helped reunite us”, from April & Jeff Hurdle

“Mr. & Mrs. Jim Slocum, for taking such good care of my son’s dog Caesar”, from Bette A. Hurdle

Dr. Glenn Weatherly, from Coconut’s mom and dad, Kevin & Rainey Wilcox

Jimmy Finger, from Bro, Jim, Jenny, Ross and Stone McKinney

“Kim & Leo Cantu, in celebration of the renewal of their wedding vows”, from Sherry Powell

“Whitney Wilder, in celebration of her 23rd Birthday”,
  • From Anna & M.D. Hellman
  • From Patti Wilder
  • From Marcia & Corky Hora

“Laurie Turner, in celebration of her birthday”, from her FedEx team

“Elizabeth Porter, for all the wonderful things you do for us”, love Patricia & Audrey

Honorariums

Amos, Oscar, Callie, LuLu, Flossie, Brodie & Bailey, from Barbara Seay

Bubbles & Zoegirl (Jingles), from Sherry & David Howard

Liddie Girl, from Amy Allgood

The volunteers at FCAR, “just because you all do such a good job”, from Glenn & Gail Elder

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Cheyenne, from Donna Short

Tyler & Mary Beth Epps, from Donna Short

Animal Care Hospital Vets & Staff, from Roger & Carole Scruggs

Bob & Kathie Lee at Christmas, from Ginger Sayle
Donations

We can now accept donations via Paypal and via Credit Card!

To make a donation using your Paypal account or credit card, please go to: http://fayetefcar.com and click on the Donate button.

When making a credit card donation you can now choose between making a One Time Donation or setting up a Monthly Recurring Donation. You can also mail in the information on the enclosed preprinted envelope that is included with your newsletter.

Thank you for your support!

Directions to the FCAR Shelter

Open 7:00 a.m. – Noon 7 days a week (other hours by appt.)

Did you know…
That large, black dogs are often the last to be adopted?
THINK BIG! ADOPT BIG!

Fayette County Animal Rescue
595 Clement Drive
Rossville, TN
854-2565

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