

Wendy Blount, DVM

From: SpayNeuterNac@yahoo.com on behalf of Nancy Hinds <nants@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 10:34 AM
To: Spay Neuter Nac
Subject: [SpayNeuterNac] article in paper today

New shelter manager wants to put fewer animals down

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Gabrielle Rambo/ The Daily Sentinel

Teresa Jordan

Theresa Jordan, the new manager at Nacogdoches Animal Services and Adoption Center, poses with Scout on Wednesday. Jordan was promoted in March after working as an animal-control officer for the previous six months. Before joining the shelter, she worked at the Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin for eight years.



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Just The Facts
In 2013

3,091 » The number of animals euthanised at the shelter.
61 » The number of animals that

died at the facility.

191 » The number of animals sent to rescue groups.

341 » The number of dogs adopted.

210 » The number of cats adopted.

Posted: Monday, April 14, 2014 11:30 pm

By Paul Bryant pbryant@dailysentinel.com | [0 comments](#)

As new manager of the Nacogdoches Adoption Center and Animal Services, Theresa Jordan wants to reduce euthanasia and increase awareness of the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

"I want to get our adoption numbers up," she said. "Shelter animals are good animals. They just got a bad start." After about six months as an animal-control officer for the shelter, Jordan was promoted to manager after Jamie Shelton transferred to the Nacogdoches Police Department. "I started here on Aug. 24," she said. "I was at the Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin, where I started off as a zookeeper. I worked with primates and Asian animals, and then I was promoted to assistant collections manager a year and a half later." During her years at the zoo Jordan lived in Nacogdoches and commuted.

"I had been going back and forth to Lufkin for eight years," she said. "When Jamie left, I went ahead and applied for the manager's position. This puts me closer to home and still allows me to work with animals."

In Lufkin, Jordan was responsible for exhibit maintenance and construction, grounds keeping, [dietdiet](#) preparation, participation in and observation of animal physicals and procedures and records keeping. "Theresa is very knowledgeable about animal welfare," said Chief Keith Kiplinger of the Nacogdoches Fire Department. "I think the staff tries really hard to make a difference, and they all care about animals. We've changed a lot about the way we do business."

The shelter houses between 70 and 100 animals each day, and is operated by a staff of six. It relies on volunteers and those sentenced to community service to help advance its work. At 120 animals, the facility is at capacity. "But we have more cages than that," Kiplinger said. "We have to move the animals from one cage to another when we're cleaning. To keep everything clean, we can't have the shelter full. We do a thorough cleaning every morning and a spot cleaning in the afternoon. Sometimes, we do a third cleaning."

On Thursday, Jordan said the shelter had 120 animals. "As cute as puppies and kittens are, we don't have enough people to go around for all the animals we have," she said. "People need to spay and neuter their pets. We have programs to help people pay for spay and neutering. We did 228 dogs and cats last year." But substantially more animals were euthanised in 2013 — 3,091. "It's about 8.5 a day," Kiplinger said.

"Now, they aren't done every day, and those are not just overcrowding euthanasias. The vast majority come in injured or with an illness that would very quickly spread among the population out there." Last year, 61 animals died at the facility, and 191 were transferred to rescues. Animals are also euthanised if they are aggressive and cannot be adopted. They are buried in a designated area at the city's landfill.

"People don't realize a dog will have six to eight puppies, and then those dogs aren't spayed or

neutered and you get another 36 dogs," Jordan said. "The pet population is increasing, and it explodes in the spring. We get a lot of puppies in the spring, and a lot of those are strays." The shelter holds animals for three days before making them available for adoption. Last year, 341 dogs and 210 cats were adopted. Twenty-nine animals of other species also were adopted.

"Probably the biggest message I could put out there is that you need to spay or neuter your animals and keep them vaccinated," Jordan said. "Preventative medicine is a lot cheaper, and rabies vaccination is a state-law requirement." Jordan said that in 2013, six confirmed cases of rabies were reported in Nacogdoches County. "If it's not treated, it is fatal. That's why the state regulates it. So far this year, we have seen two raccoons with distemper, and several cases of Parvo. And vets are seeing the same thing." Parvo and distemper are common killers of shelter animals. "If they come in with those diseases, to put them in the general population would compromise the other animals," Kiplinger said. "We keep as many as we can without compromising safety." Canine distemper is a virus that affects a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems, as well as the conjunctival membranes of the eye," according to the ASPCA. Canine parvovirus attacks rapidly dividing cells in a dog's body, most severely affecting the intestinal tract. It also attacks the white blood cells, and when young animals are infected, the virus can damage the heart muscle and cause lifelong cardiac problems.

"Nothing is more sad than to have eight healthy puppies one day and then the next day they all have Parvo," Kiplinger said. "We take the humane treatment of those animals very seriously." In the shelter's 2013-14 [budgetbudget](#), the city projected conducting 1,500 surgeries. The budget is \$423,720.

"Every animal adopted from the shelter has to be altered by state law," Kiplinger said. He assumed oversight of the shelter after Tommy Wheeler retired to take a job with Nacogdoches County in December 2013. In the same month, Shelton took the NPD job after more than four years as shelter manager. Jordan graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2004 with a master's [degreedegree](#) in biology. She received a bachelor's degree three years earlier in wildlife management. The manager's position at the shelter pays \$16.43 to \$17.26 an hour.

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