

Frostburg Lions pet food drive successful

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FOR THE FROSTBURG EXPRESS

FROSTBURG — The Frostburg Lions Pet Food Drive was a total success, thanks to huge support from the community. The drive, held during the month of August, collected pet food and donations every Friday at the Frostburg Farmers Market, for the Ark of Hope Animal Rescue.

"We were so surprised," said Linda Baker, chair of the drive. "Donations started coming in two weeks before we officially started collecting." The drive

officially ended on August 31, but donations have continued.

Lions collected more than 560 pounds of dry pet food, six cases of canned food, and more than \$617 in donations. Donations also included: pet toys, bowls, pet beds and blankets.

Lions business partner, First United Bank, also collected pet food. Mary Lyn Longley, branch manager, said: "Our collection here at the bank was very successful. We collected right around 300 pounds of food, and other pet supplies, for this Lions community service project."

Another 75 pounds was collected at the Hotel Gunter, the balance was collected at the Farmers Market.

The Lonaconing Lions Club contributed nearly a pickup truck full of pet comfort items including blankets and towels.

The Ark of Hope Animal Rescue has determined that it costs an average of \$45 a month to feed and house an animal, excluding medical care. Currently there are 33 residents at the shelter, for a daily average cost of \$1.36 per animal, monthly that equals: \$1,485.

The cost of medical care is another story. Spaying and neutering of dogs can average anywhere from \$195 to \$350, depending on the animal. De-worming and de-fleaing, \$80. Cats: spaying and neutering average \$165 to \$195 de-worming and de-fleaing, \$80. All animals must also have their respective shots and vaccinations. Staff at the shelter receive no pay for their work.

Dogs and cats with other medical issues are of course not included in the above figures. Surgery and vet care can run

into the hundreds of dollars for a sick or injured animal.

"We had no idea," said Baker, after visiting the shelter, "that shelter care was so much. This has been an eye opening experience for us."

Dianne Care, operator of "The Ark" also noted that: "we have a continual need for blankets, towels, laundry soap, bleach, dish soap, paper towels, and pet toys. Whatever you use at home, for your pet, we also use, and multiply that

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by the number of residents

who rely solely on donations for our operating expenses. The support by the Frostburg Lions, and the community has been amazing"

The Ark of Hope Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit organization that rescues animals that have been abused, abandoned, and neglected. Once at "The Ark" the animals get the necessary medical treatments, they are provided with nutritious food, bathed, a warm room and a comfortable bed. They

are cared for until they are ready to be placed up for adoption.

"The Ark" is a "no-kill rescue," which means there is no time limit that an animal has while it is there. Animals are not put to sleep because:

- They are sick — all necessary vet care is provided.

- They are old — even the elderly need love and compassion.

- They are not house trained — we teach them proper "potty rules."

- They have been here too long — there is never be a "too long."

- No one else wants them — the pet will find love here where they have not found it anywhere else.

The only time The Ark of Hope will euthanize an animal is when an animal is in pain and it has been determined its illness is terminal. In other words, when an animal has no quality of life! The Ark of Hope has the IRS's 501(c)3 status which allows donations to be tax deductible.

For more information about The Ark of Hope, visit <http://www.arkofhoperescue.org>.

For additional information on how to help, call the Frostburg Lions at: 301-687-0212. Monetary contributions can still be mailed to: Pet Food Drive, P. O. Box 371, Frostburg, MD 21532.