Bend shelter inundated with stray dogs

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

The Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO) is asking every person who has lost a dog to reclaim their pet, and for anyone who may be interested in adopting, be aware that now is a great time to do so.

The shelter has received 111 dogs in the past two weeks, which includes 65 strays and 46 owner-relinquished dogs that have filled the kennels beyond their capacity.

These animals, and others like them, have flooded the shelter to exceed capacity. Visit www.hsco.org for more info. Currently there are 48 dogs on site (31 having arrived as strays), and 33 are available for immediate adoption. For anyone who has lost a dog, 15 of the animals are still on a â€œstray holding periodâ€• waiting to be reclaimed.

Staff members were forced to transfer five dogs to a shelter in Portland on Monday to open up a few kennels, and the Oregon Humane Societyâ€™s Second Chance Program pitched in to alleviate overcrowding by opening a few kennels.

The good news is there is a wonderful selection of canines anxiously waiting for a new loving home. Reuniting an animal with their family is the ideal outcome. â€œCurrent identification tags, microchips and dog licenses are essential to quickly reuniting you with your companion,â€• said Troy Kerstetter, HSCO animal welfare director.

HSCO is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. They are located at 61170 SE 27th Street, just south of Reed Market Road in Bend. Pet owners, or those interested in adopting a pet may phone 541.382.3537 or visit www.hsco.org where photos of stray animals are posted.

As an added note, the shelter will be holding a low-cost microchip identification clinic on Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. An implant to identify your pet will be available for $10, and includes registration.

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