

# Thankfully, strays often find their way

In the three years Community Animal Rescue and Adoption has been in existence, we have received animals in many ways: found at dumpsters, in ditches, along interstates or given up by their owners for various reasons. One freezing and almost dead litter of puppies recently was left outside the shelter in a box of wet leaves and water.

But Feb. 16 marked the first time dogs walked to CARA on their own and presented themselves for rescue. One of our volunteers saw a reddish-tan mother dog and a chocolate puppy on Northside Drive, just past Cascades where the road becomes four-lane.

They were close to residences and one of them was wearing a collar, so the volunteer came to the shelter at 960 N. Flag Chapel without picking them up.

It wasn't long after he arrived that he called me to the front of the shelter and said the two dogs he had seen on Northside Drive were here. Although the shelter was full, we knew we had to find room for them, since they were all alone, completely without human help.

These dogs either walked on Northside in a 50-mph zone and made a left-hand turn on Flag Chapel to get here, or they cut through the woods. In any event, they miraculously found CARA.

We celebrated the opening of our shelter facility with an open house Feb. 14. At that time, many people, upon learning we now are caring for approximately 180 dogs and puppies, as well as about 30 cats and kittens, asked what they can do to help.

We need volunteers to help clean kennels and dog yards, feed, water and exercise animals. We have two washing machines and dryers in operation all day, seven days a week, and need people to do laundry each day.

Of course, we realize many caring people are unable to help physically with the day-to-day care of the animals, due to age, health or work schedules. In addition to volunteers, CARA's other desperate need is cash. Operating expenses

## PAT SELLERS



Guest  
columnist

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are approximately \$8,000 per month.

Our Mississippi Valley Gas bill alone for two months was \$4,400. Other expenses include insurance, water and sewer service, electricity, garbage pickup, telephone, alarm system, veterinary bills, medical and other supplies and part-time employees.

We also need funds to retire the debt on the building.

CARA is open from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, so you can come by anytime during those hours.

Donations of bleach, 55-gallon garbage bags, disposable gloves and paper towels are always needed and can be brought during those hours. We can be reached by phone at 922-7575.

As for our two new residents, named Saturn and Venus, we hope to find their owners. But if not, they're safe with us. They're CARA dogs now.

Pat Sellers of Clinton is first vice president of CARA.