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This Collie mix is another one of the many animals looking for a new family and home. The Liberal Animal Shelter is located at 1985 N. Country Estates Road and can be reached at 626-0576. L&T photos/Elly Grimm

## **Liberal Animal Shelter currently seeking homes for 25 dogs, six cats**

By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

There are many shelters and humane societies in America with an abundance of animals for people to adopt. The Liberal Animal Shelter is no exception.

The shelter is currently home to 25 dogs and six cats, all of whom need adopting into good homes and families.

Officials at the shelter are vigilant about getting the word out about these animals, including the use of Facebook (by posting photos of the animals) along with local radio stations and other media outlets.



“The biggest thing is the lack of care,” Jim Crosier, Animal Control Supervisor for the Liberal Police Department, explained. “People don’t tie them up, they don’t have an adequately fenced yard. A lot of times, people instead of taking their animal out and placing them on a leash and taking them in the backyard, they’ll a lot of times just open the door and the dog will just go. Then you have the circumstances when you have the wind blowing like it does here in Kansas, it’ll knock the fence down and then the animals will get out like that.”

The procedure for adopting one of the shelter’s animals is simple. A person will come to the shelter and will be directed to the back (where all the kennels are) and then they’ll walk through and if they find a particular dog or cat they like and then they’ll pay an \$80 fee. The fee includes \$12 for the animal, \$8 towards the rabies vaccination (by law, the animals must vaccinated for rabies) and then a \$60 fee that goes towards spaying and neutering. The customer will then receive a claims voucher which they’ll take to the vet of their choice and then get the procedures done.

Jon Antrim, administrative captain for the Liberal Police Department, stressed how important it is for pets to be spayed and neutered, as it can cause serious overpopulation.

“Backyard breeding is a problem within the city, which has increased our stray population,” Antrim admitted.

While Facebook is considered the biggest resource for the animal shelter, it has also conducted adopt-a-thons with Great Plains Angels for Animals and other partners along with some off-site adoptions such as National Night Out and similar drives but the shelter is limited as to how and when those can be done by the Kansas Pet Act.

Crosier also addressed the ‘put down immediately’ stigma associated with shelters, saying the Liberal Animal Shelter works with other area pet shelters to adopt out and rescue animals.

“They’ll come in, I’ll give them a list of animals we have available and they’ll find homes for them in the Denver area and so as far as the stigma of ‘oh everything gets put down out there’ – it doesn’t, they help a lot,” Crosier emphasized. “This year we’ve rescued 195 dogs and that’s the thing we need the public to know is we don’t put them down – the only way we put the dogs down is if it’s a court order, if it’s a sick dog or if it’s just too mean...those are the only ones we really need to have put down. Everyone else is either rescued, adopted out or returned to the owner.”

For those with questions or interest in adopting an animal, call 620-626-0576 or ‘like’ them on Facebook at

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liberal-Animal-Shelter/427427647298572?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liberal-Animal-Shelter/427427647298572?ref=br_tf)

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