

Highfalls Fourth Graders Celebrate Being Advocates for Pets

Earlier this year, the 4th grade students at Highfalls Elementary School celebrated becoming “Animal Advocates” at their Pet Responsibility Program Assembly. Several parents attended, as well as the 4th grade teacher, Amelia Caviness, and Principal, Matt Moore. Therapy dog team, Suzie Wall and Beanie, were also present. As advocates, the students promise to speak up for and defend



those who cannot do it for themselves – namely, pets. Speuter (Mary Smith), the Moore County Citizens’ Pet Responsibility Committee (PRC) mascot, read a poem about her life from being abandoned to being adopted into a wonderful home and asked the students to do their part in saving pets.

Students observing Dr. Boyte with Beanie.

Dr. Tim Boyte, a veterinarian from Carthage Animal Hospital, spoke to the

students about paying attention to symptoms their pet might have that would indicate sickness, and also emphasized loving our pets. Dr. Boyte made the decision to become a vet when he was just about their age. He showed students how he looks for various signs and symptoms during a pet’s wellness exam. Therapy dog Beanie was a most cooperative “patient”.

PRC volunteer Tammy Foster told the students about fostering Snowball and her twelve puppies. The students had followed Snowball’s



Speuter Story Contest and Star Artist Award winners.

story throughout the program. Tammy shared that it took up to two years to place all 13 dogs!

During the program, the students illustrated what they were learn-

ing by creating “clinic bags” to be given to the Sandhills Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic. They are used to hold the medications given to pet owners for their pets after surgery. The students that best illustrated an advocacy message received Star Artist Awards: Madison



Bill Russell and Fleece being greeted correctly by a student.

advised pet owners to spay or neuter so pets would stay healthy and happy, Audrey's tips were to give your pet love and get your pet fixed, Keenan's message was to love your pets and don't neglect or abuse them.

Winners of the Speuter Story Contest, illustrating why spay and neutering is so important to control pet overpopulation, were given a free spay or neuter procedure to be used for their pet or donated to someone they know.

The winners were: Stacie N. for her Yorkie puppy, Daisy, Jadon E. for his puppy, Fuzzie, Caden N. donated to Allison L. for dog, Rusty, Aubrey N. for her dog, Alyssa, Laura C. for a kitten that she'll adopt later in the spring, Gavin M. for his dog, Ruger. Tammy Foster worked with the winners and their families to arrange to pick up the pets at the school early one morning and drive them to and back from the clinic. All five were spayed or neutered!

The students recited the PRC Promise and signed the Promise poster. The signed Promise poster will be displayed in the Highfalls Elementary Media Center, along with the others from past years. The PRC congratulates the Highfalls 4th grade of 2022 and are excited to have them on our team that makes Moore County a better place for pets!

PRC volunteer Bill Russell presented the entire program to the fourth graders. He shared with them his journey to have his dog, Fleece, certified as a therapy dog. Fleece was certified after the program ended and Bill brought her back to the school to meet the students who were thrilled!

For more information about the PRC, go to mcprc.org

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Maddie's “clinic” bag.