

Highfalls Elementary Students Excel in Pet Responsibility Program!

On Monday, October 30, 2023 the culmination to the six-week cycle of Pet Responsibility closed out another successful year at Highfalls Elementary School. About 23 students learned about Moore County's big problem of too many abused, neglected, and unwanted dogs and cats



Star Artist winners with their certificates, Speuter and Fleece Russell

and the best ways to solve this problem. Attending this closing ceremony with the kids were numerous parents, Mrs. Williams, the classroom teacher, the PRC mascot, Speuter (Philippa Davidson), and the PRC teacher, Bill Russell. Angela Zumwalt not only took pictures, but also helped the winning parents with redemption of their child's free spay / neuter prize.

The winners of the prizes won their award by writing a story explaining how they could be more responsible pet owners by having their pets spayed or

neutered. These procedures will be done at the Sandhills Spay and Neuter Veterinary Clinic and costs are covered by the Moore County Kennel Club. Five Highfalls students won these awards and they were Leah, Brooklyn, Patsy, Haylee, and Brandon. Speuter helped Bill present the awards.

During this six-week curriculum, the students are given white lunch bags to decorate in Art class. These bags are presented to the Spay and Neuter Clinic for dispensing post-procedure medications for the dogs and cats. Four students were selected to receive this "Star Artist Award" for outstanding art on their bags and they were Kamryn, Ella, Madalyn, and Sierra.

Speuter not only helped present all the awards, but also read her heartwarming poem about how she was rescued and given a much better life.

The guest speaker for the celebration was Dr. Tim Boyte, recently retired owner of Car-



Winners of the Speuter Story Contest with Fleece Russell and the PRC Mascot Speuter

thage Animal Hospital. Although retired, he continues to work as needed and maintains his medical license. He did a brief examination of Fleece, the Russell's therapy dog, and described to the kids what he was checking and why it's important.

To culminate the event, Speuter read "The Promise Poster" and after each section, the students said "I will." They promised to

help stop the overpopulation of dogs and cats in Moore County and to share the information that they learned. All of the students signed this poster and it is to be displayed in the Media Center along with all the posters from previous years.

Thanks to Principal Matt Moore, we are proud to announce that we have 23 new pet advocates at Highfalls Elementary School.

Article by Bill Russell, a PRC volunteer and coordinator

Photos by Angela Zumwalt, President of the PRC



Dr. Tim Boyte discussing how vets examine pets, aided by Fleece Russell with Bill Russell