
Rescue groups take dogs from Memphis Animal Shelter

By Jody Callahan

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Several rescue groups came to the Memphis Animal Shelter Tuesday, taking away as many as 14 dogs to save them from being euthanized as part of the continued efforts to stem an outbreak of distemper.

More groups are expected to come today, Memphis Animal Services Director Matt Pepper said. Some came in to adopt cats Tuesday as well, even though they weren't facing any distemper illnesses.

Pepper said at least three more dogs are expected to be taken by rescue groups today, and is hopeful that number will grow.

Jeanne Chancellor, head of the Friends of Memphis Animal Services volunteer group, helped spread the word.

"We had a lot of rescue groups come in and get a lot of dogs," she said. "They'll quarantine them for two to three weeks. Some will put them at vet offices and just monitor their health."

The rescue groups sprang to action after reports surfaced that more dogs were facing death, following the 40-50 that were euthanized Saturday to try and stem the outbreak.

Edie Fuller with Labs 4 Rescue came in and got three dogs Tuesday.

"I got a call from Jeanne, that they were trying to reach out to rescues to save what dogs could be saved," said Fuller, who's keeping those dogs in isolation at a vet's office. "They're going to be vetted. We're going to hold them about two weeks, then we'll look at their condition."

The shelter is still on track to start adopting out dogs again by this weekend, after continued efforts to disinfect the facility and kill the distemper virus.

-- Jody Callahan: 529-6531

