

Bone Voyage Offers Fun New Way to Give Back



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Editor

There are many ways to give back during the holiday season, but one local business would certainly qualify for one of the most unique ideas. Bone Voyage, a local kennel and dog training center, has set up an Angel Tree in a pretty common occurrence this time of year but this one is for pets.

Bone Voyage is collecting pet food and supplies, all of which will be donated to the Johnston County Animal Shelter. There is a tree set up in the facility's lobby, where people can stop by, pull a paper angel off a branch and bring in the item designated on that slip of paper.

This is the second year Bone Voyage has held this event, and the response to the first collection was astounding to mother and daughter owners Kaye and Katie Speer.

Last year's donations included over 1,600 pounds of cat litter, over 900 pounds of dry dog food, 12 gallons of bleach and assorted treats, chew toys, blankets and more. It took four fully loaded down SUVs to transport the donated items to the shelter.

"The response we got was definitely surprising," said Katie. "We didn't really know what to expect, but we knew it was something we wanted to do. The pound is always in great need. They receive funding from the state, but animal services are often pushed to the bottom."

According to Katie, with the money the pound saved by not having to purchase the supplies that were donated through the Angel Tree drive, the shelter was able to hire a much-needed employee.

"You may rest assured that we will use all of these gifts for the animals we care for and do our very best to make a difference in the lives of those, both human and critters, we touch," said shelter director Ernie Wilkinson in a heartfelt thank you letter to Bone Voyage and all of those involved in last year's drive.

Katie is hoping the response this year will be just as great for a cause that many people can relate to.

"Lots of people have gotten their dogs from a pound, or lost a pet and had it taken care of by staff members of a pound," she said. "And who knows, they may have a dog that needs a home that might end up being one of your family members. This is a way for us to give back to the animals waiting to

find their homes and the people who care for them in the meantime.”

Everyone is welcome to donate items to Bone Voyage. See the sidebar for the complete list of items needed. Donations can be dropped off during office hours, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., as well as Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. There is also a second drop-off location at participating veterinarian’s office Plantation Animal Hospital in Clayton. Items will be collected through noon on Dec. 20.

Bone Voyage is a state-of-the-art facility offering boarding, daycare and training for dogs of all sizes and breeds. Designed by the Speers and situated on an acre and a half in a quiet cul-de-sac, the kennel and the yards measure over 10,000 square feet. The amenities include an indoor playroom, a quiet private room for smaller dogs, two large play yards with toys and wading pools, three separate heating and cooling systems and a fully monitored security system. Bone Voyage also has other fun events throughout the year, including a Howl-o-ween party, March Madness event and birthday parties for the dogs.

To learn more about the Angel Tree or the services Bone Voyage has to offer, call 329-9892, or visit www.bonevoyageinc.com. Bone Voyage is located at 339 Shipwash Drive in the Cleveland community.

Shelter Wish List

Rawhides

Cat treats

Kitty litter

Dry kitten food

Dry cat food

Canned cat food

Towels

Bleach

Cotton balls

Paper towels

Heating pads

Sanitary wipes

Dog treats

Rubber chew toys

Dry puppy food

Dry dog food

Canned dog food

Small blankets

Peroxide

Rubbing alcohol

Laundry detergent

Baby food (meat flavors)

Monetary donations

PHOTO CUTLINE:

Bone Voyage is holding their second Angel Tree event, where they collect pet supplies to donate to the Johnston County Animal Shelter. Last year's drive, pictured above, yielded over 1,600 pounds of cat litter and over 900 pounds of dry dog food. Items will be collected until December 20.