Meeting Notes – Apr. 8, 2025

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, for its weekly meeting. Rotarian Dantz Frazer invited Amber Mingin, executive director of marketing and branding for the Chattahoochee Humane Society (CHS), to be our speaker. She has been in that position with the CHS since late May of 2023.

One of Amber's first goals when coming to CHS was to change the public's perception of the facility and offer the public more transparency. She began by rebranding all aspects of the humane society and rebuilding its image through storytelling. Contracts were renegotiated with the cities of Valley and Lanett. In 2022, there were a total of 16 kennels and 54 adoptions.

In 2023 16 additional kennels were added and the center achieved no-kill status (less than 10% of animals euthanized). There were 281 adoptions. The facility expanded again in 2024, adding 16 more kennels, for a total of 48, including some additional temporary kennels to house new dogs who might be sick. They maintained their no-kill status, which is currently at a 4% euthanasia rate (down from 85%). There were 367 adoptions. They began setting up spaying and neutering programs in the communities.

Looking forward to the future, the goals are to continue educating the public on spaying and neutering, working on getting grants, going into the schools to educate children since they are the future pet owners, developing steps and procedures for handling strays and for surrendering unwanted pets/animals, fundraising, and making the adoption center more welcoming. Amber expressed her appreciation for all the donors and volunteers whose support is so invaluable. She also spoke of wanting to increase wages and offer benefits for the shelter employees.

The Chattahoochee Humane Society serves the cities of Lanett and Valley, and Chambers County (which includes the LaFayette area). They have an established partnership with Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Southern Union State Community College has also partnered with the humane society and has opened a vet-tech program, and animals can be taken to them for some routine procedures and care. CHS also has a good working relationship with the Auburn School of Veterinary Medicine.

Diane Sherriff