

Paragould Animal Welfare Society presents:

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“PAWS Up For Learning” K-9 Educator Henry Wrinkles

Take a friendly Shar-pei mix named “Henry Wrinkles” and a group of GCT Primary students from Pam Lackey’s first grade class, and what do you get? “PAWS UP FOR LEARNING”! Susan Boyd, who adopted “Henry Wrinkles” from PAWS three years ago, starting bringing the dog to Greene County Tech Primary about two months ago. Each week he enters the classroom, walks around greeting each child, and then sits on his quilt. This action signals the children that he is ready to start listening to the children read. Each child then selects a book from his or her collection and reads to him and shows him pictures. After lunch, Henry returns and they work on math equations.

The project originally started to help encourage children to read, but it has become so successful that Ms. Lackey asked if they could work on math concepts as well. And to further expand the project, photos of “Henry Wrinkles” have become story starters, for a creative writing project the students are working on. The goal is to take that one step further into “self-publishing”. Ms. Lackey says “Henry’s presence had such an impact on the students, for the first time some students were able to focus on their work and listen

to instruction, not only has Henry helped students to focus and listen, he has become a loving listener when a child needs to talk about a problem”.

“PAWS UP FOR LEARNING” is hoping to continue these humane education projects and is raising money to do so under the “Henry Wrinkles Foundation”, which is a savings account under PAWS to raise money for educational programs and spay neuter projects in the community. Donations to this project are tax-deductible and can be mailed to the shelter noted “Henry Wrinkles Foundation” in the memo.