

## Adopted Pet Inspires Foundation

Henry Wrinkles Foundation educates kids about animal issues

By Chad Miller/Daily Press

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When Susan Boyd adopted a mixed Shar-Pei from the Paragould Animal Welfare Society (P.A.W.S.) named Henry, the dog inspired her to make the world a better place, she said. So, Boyd founded the Henry Wrinkles Foundation to help educate people about issues that are important to all animal lovers.

“He (Henry) informed me he wanted to help humans make the world better since we have trouble doing that,” she said.

Boyd said she started a program called “Spay it Forward” to help pet owners who cannot afford to spay or neuter their pets. She said the program loans people money to have the procedure done and the loan is paid back with no interest. As the money is paid back, it will be loaned to another pet owner in need to sterilize their pet, Boyd said.

Boyd said Henry also participates in humane educational programs where he will visit classrooms and educate students how to take care of their pets. She said she will also bring Henry to classrooms as part of an animal therapy program for young children. Robin Jurczyk, who also works with the foundation, said Henry once inspired a special needs student to speak.

“No one (at the school) had ever heard her speak,” Jurczyk said. “When she got off the bus the first day of school, she had her name, address and phone number pinned to her.”

Jurczyk said when the girl met Henry, she began to speak to him and since then has started talking and participating better in class. Boyd and Jurczyk are both retired school teachers, so they said helping students holds a special place in their hearts.

Boyd said all of the dogs in the program are adopted from animal shelters. She said the dogs have been featured in various parades and at halftime during games at Arkansas State University.

Boyd said the money raised for the foundation goes toward the various programs the foundation has. She said students from Greene County Tech Intermediate once raised more than \$270 for the foundation and P.A.W.S. Laura Wood with P.A.W.S. said the shelter constantly receives requests for Henry to come to various schools and other organizations.

“They (organizations) want to bring the kids to the shelter or they want someone to come and talk from the shelter to explain why the shelter exists,” she said. “But it’s hard to explain to kids why you have to spay and neuter your dogs.”

Wood said using Henry helps explain to children why it’s important to sterilize pets without really having to say unwanted dogs must be euthanized.

“It’s hard for them to understand that that’s what happens to unwanted pets,” she said.

Boyd said the idea for the foundation is starting to reach other countries. She said there is a lady in Guatemala who is working similar programs.

“We’re wanting to eventually have an exchange between the kids down there (in Guatemala) and the kids up here,” Boyd said. “Eventually, Henry may have to make a trip to Guatemala.”