

Cockerkid Kismet

Home for the Holidays — 231 Adopted in 2007

Over the course of 2007 CSR has dealt with about 373 dogs:

Adopted	231
Available	90
Forever Foster	14
Deceased/PTS	29
Transferred	9

Compared to 2006 (which was a stellar year), adoptions are down about 13%. We aren't sure why because the number of dogs needing rescue has done nothing but increase.

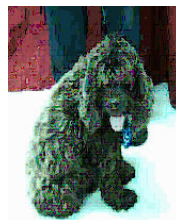
The number of deceased/PTS (put to sleep) was exceptionally high in 2007. This year we put down 9 of our forever fosters for medical reasons as well as 13 others including 7 puppies lost to distemper contracted before we got them. Seven dogs were put down for aggression. Last year we lost a dozen dogs due to health issues and 5 for aggression.

One of the main questions people ask us is "Where do you get the dogs?" There are several primary sources—animal shelters, owner turn-ins and Good Samaritan finds.

Shelters	54%
Owner turn-ins	16%
Good Samaritan	16%
Other	12%

Shelter dogs are our #1 priority because these dogs are on death row.

Our #2 priority is Good Samaritan finds. If someone is kind enough to save a cocker spaniel's life, we want to help them by taking the dog.



Lee — a shelter dog.

We also try to help other rescue groups, veterinarians and groomers who have dogs dumped on them.

Lastly, we accept as many owner turn-ins as possible. People give up dogs for a lot of "good" reasons—a divorce, a new baby, a new home, change in life style (retiring to travel, kids going off to college, etc.), death of owner, owner going into a nursing home, etc.

In 2007 we had to turn away any number of dogs because of lack of foster space and for financial reasons. Recently we have restricted intake to young females although we consider young males on a case by case basis. It saddens us to decline middle-aged and elderly dogs but with our limited resources we have no choice.

Kismet is fate, fortune, luck or destiny.

... and the dogs keep rolling in

The number of cocker spaniels needing rescue has not declined. Daily we are contacted by shelters, Good Samaritans, veterinarians, groomers and owners. In a bad week we hear about 20 dogs needing rescue; in a good week only 5-10. Do the math. That is easily 250 dogs a year.

For a third year we are averaging 110 dogs in our care at any given time. Just five years ago we had perhaps 35 dogs.

There are several reasons for this increase. First and foremost, we are more accessible

and well-known. Our website puts us in contact with thousands of people and shelters. Many shelters prefer turning a dog over to a rescue group rather than euthanize. Some prefer to turn dogs over to us because we can screen applicants and educate adopters on the breed.

Second, the area we serve (greater Houston) is huge — 5,400 square miles and 5.3 million people. Some states aren't this big! Lots of dogs to be had.

Third, irresponsible owners who either don't look for

their missing dog or decide to dispose of their dog for convenience.

Fourth, puppy mill and backyard breeders who indiscriminately breed only to dump "bred out" dogs and puppies that don't sell.

Sadly, due to lack of foster space and funds, we are by necessity turning away older dogs, some as young as five or six years old. We look forward to the day when we can once again take almost any cocker in need.

