



# CockerKid Kismet

## State of the Union 274 Adopted in 2008

Over the course of 2008 CSR dealt with 368 dogs:

Adopted	274
Available	68
Forever Foster	16
Deceased/PTS	15
Transferred	3

Compared to the previous year, adoptions were up almost 19%.

The number of deceased/PTS (put to sleep) was much lower than in 2007. This year we put down eleven dogs for medical reasons. Only two dogs were put down for aggression compared to seven last year.

60% of the dogs in rescue in 2008 were males; 40% were females.

We had 18 puppies born in rescue in 2008 and additionally placed 7 who had been

born in late 2007.

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	57%
Good Samaritan	18%
Owner turn-ins	13%
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.

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.



*Pebbles, abandoned in a barn, found a home in 2008.*

*Kismet is fate, fortune, luck or destiny.*

### ... and the dogs keep coming

Toward the end of 2008 a miracle occurred. For the previous three years we generally had 100+ dogs in rescue. At the end of 2008 we had less than 85 dogs. A combination of higher adoption rates and a slightly slower pace of incoming dogs created this situation.

Our volunteers needed this respite. We fear the recession will escalate the numbers of cocker spaniels needing help. We continue to be contacted by shelters, Good Samaritans, veterinarians, groomers and owners. In a bad week we hear about ten instead of twenty dogs need-

ing rescue; in a good week only five.

A trend we are seeing is that there are more "older" dogs needing rescue. A dog seven years old is considered to be a "senior" even though they have five to seven good years left, nearly half their life. We regularly come across five-, six- and seven-year old dogs needing our help. Currently we are able to accept some of these dogs whereas a year ago we would have turned them away.

Older dogs tend to stay in foster care longer than younger dogs so we continue

to seek foster homes for these more settled fellows that may need months or in a worst case scenario, years, of fostering.

We are in dire need of volunteers who can pull dogs from the shelters located in Houston—BARC, Harris County, Houston SPCA and CAP. This is a time consuming job which encompasses travel on Houston freeways, waiting take custody of the dog and complete paperwork, grooming the dog and getting it to our vet.

If you want to help call 713-208-1314 or e-mail cockerinfo@swbell.net.