

My Opinion: Through the Freedom of Information Act I requested all intake and disposition forms from April 1st till June 30 2009 from the Wythe County Animal Shelter. I had to pay for the copies and the Animal Control Officer's time. I'll reference the same numbers from last year again to compare to. For the year 2008 the Shelter reached a 17.4% euthanasia rate, down from 74.5% in 2005 mostly due to the Wythe County Humane Society and their efforts. Every quarter of the year can vary but if we break this down and average it by the 4 quarters of the year that gives us around a 17.9% euthanasia rate for each quarter. Last year 96 dogs were adopted straight from the shelter, or 24 per quarter on average. That would be 14.8% adoption rate. The total dogs taken in were 647 or 162 average per quarter. I mention these stats to illustrate the following. Stats for the second quarter of 2009 are as follows. The Wythe Co. Animal Shelter has taken in around 134 dogs, euthanized 49 or 36.5% up from 29.9% in the first quarter, adopted out 11 or 8% which was up from 4.5% in the first quarter. The euthanasia rate is way up and the adoption rate is way down from last year. I believe this has a lot to do with the lack of pictures and the large amount of time between new pictures and pictures being sent with the due date being within a day or 2. The due date is the adoption date or the date the animal could be euthanized. People stop looking or look less often at the website since no new pictures are added. You have to get the pictures on there as soon as possible. I have never put limitations on how many pictures I would accept or how often. The email dates for pictures in the second quarter are 4/17/09, 4/27/09, 5/7/09, 5/18/09, 5/22/09, 6/1/09, 6/11/09, 6/26/09, 6/30/09, 7/1/09, 7/2/09, 7/3/09, 7/9/09, 7/17/09, 7/22/09, 8/5/09. As of 8/18/09 I had not received any more pictures or updates. I'm still only getting one or two pictures at a time. If the dates are close together then I may have only got one picture of one dog. It only takes a few seconds to take a picture. I offer the County a free service. They are more than welcome to pay someone else to host their pictures. Everyone in Wythe County should contact their Board of Supervisor member and complain! The Wythe Co. Humane Society was taking as many dogs as they can but rely on adoptions at the shelter to help find homes for some of the animals. It's hard to say how many dogs the Humane Society has taken in and prevented from going to the shelter. The shelter GETS a \$20.00 adoption fee for every dog they adopt out. Seems like they would be trying to find GOOD homes for these animals instead of spending money to euthanize and dispose of them. The Board of Supervisors should look at requiring the ACO's to have to have so many adoptions per month. This is income for the County and is the right thing to do. These dogs did not ask to be here, they did not ask to be dumped at the shelter or be abandoned on the street. The Animal Control Officer's determine which animals will be put out for adoption why not take pictures of all of the friendly ones and let people decide what is adoptable. Spay and neuter your pet! Find low cost spay and neuter options on my website.

www.je923.com.

"Would you want to be treated the same way you treat your dog if your positions were reversed?"~John Witt 8/17/09