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August 20, 2014

Dog and puppy tails were wagging, kitten and cat tails were swishing, and “Adopted by the Burleson Animal Shelter” bandanas were abundant as 53 pets found their forever homes Saturday, Aug. 16, during Empty the Shelter Day.

The Burleson Animal Shelter was one of more than three dozen animal shelters and rescues across the Metroplex that participated in Empty the Shelter Day in an effort to find homes for hundreds of pets.

First out the Burleson Animal Shelter’s door Saturday was Dixie, the 5-year-old Puggle that was Pet of the Week Aug. 13. She had been at the shelter since early July. Second out was Bruno, an 18-month-old Chihuahua mix that was Pet of the Week June 30.

As of 5 p.m. on Aug. 16, The City of Irving, which spearheaded this effort, reported 2,360 pet adoptions for Empty the Shelter Day. In Burleson, approximately 421 visitors came through the Burleson Animal Shelter door on John Jones Drive on Aug. 16. Of the 53 adoptions, 28 were kittens and cats and 25 were puppies and dogs.

At the end of the day Aug. 16, only three dogs and two cats were still waiting for forever homes. Milly and Puppy Cat were the only cats not adopted Aug. 16. Hershey, the Dachshund/Great Dane was later taken in by a rescue group; Jack the Border Collie is headed to his new home in Virginia (his new owner is paying for the transport); and Daisy, the heartworm positive Pit Bull Terrier was adopted and will receive her heartworm treatment.

Charlie, a Chihuahua that had been in a house fire a few months ago was adopted after the fire, then returned to the shelter. The family that adopted Charlie on Aug. 16 knew his story and that he has a permanent cough due to the smoke damage. They adopted him anyway.

New pet parents began posting pictures of their Empty the Shelter Day pets on the Burleson Animal Shelter Facebook page over the weekend. BillyJean Weyman, who adopted Bocephus the Basset Hound mix, said, “We had been to a lot of shelters that day. Burleson was by far the best shelter to visit. Everyone

was extremely nice, everything was perfectly organized. My children and I had the best experience adopting Bocephus. Thank you all for what you do.”

Special thanks go out to the Burleson Small Animal Clinic and Alsbury Animal Hospital for donating the rabies vaccination for every adoptable pet Saturday. Every animal that is adopted from the Burleson Animal Shelter has the basic vaccinations, is implanted with a microchip that will identify them if they ever get lost, and goody bags filled with collars, treats and toys. All adoptive pet owners must sign a legal contract agreeing to have the adopted pet spayed or neutered, as required by state law.

To see pictures of the pets adopted on Empty the Shelter Day, go to the Burleson Animal Shelter Facebook at www.facebook.com/burlesonanimalshelter. For more information about pets that are up for adoption, please go to the Burleson Animal Services page on Petango at <http://bit.ly/1bhQYY2>.