

Adopting pets requires commitment, hard work

I am sitting here at my computer writing this column with two of my own adopted shelter dogs at my feet, contented and happy to share my space.

Duchess is a boxer mix that came to the shelter pregnant about three years ago. She had eight puppies, and things were going fine for the first week, and then she developed mastitis so severely she couldn't feed the puppies.

The other adopted shelter dog lying here watching me type is Luke. Luke is the puppy of one of the very first dogs that came to the North-west Kansas Animal Shelter foster care system in 1998. Molly is Luke's mother's name, and she still lives in Atwood with her adoptive family.

Watching the dogs now, I am reminded of what I have learned from them — the importance of spaying



sandy
rodgers

• animal shelter

and neutering and that it takes a commitment to adopt a pet.

You see, Duchess would never have had to suffer through the complications of her pregnancy and following mastitis if she had been spayed. The first night of her ordeal, all I could do was cry. I was sure all the puppies would die, and there would be no way we could do this, but the next four weeks, Kelley and I were bottle feeding eight puppies, and thank goodness, Dr. Shelby Palmgren, veterinarian, lived just two doors down.

We had to keep the puppies sepa-

rate from Duchess, so they wouldn't nurse, as she was a very sick dog on some high-powered antibiotics. We would let Duchess clean and be with her puppies while we held and fed them.

All the while, Duchess was so uncomfortable, and I am sure a bit confused as to why she couldn't be with her pups. In spite of her situation, she was an incredibly good sport. She is one of the most loving little creatures I know.

It was quite a ritual, but eight weeks from the day they were born they were all healthy, happy, bouncing little bundles of fur that found loving homes through Lifeline Puppy Rescue.

Dr. Palmgren went with me the day we took them to puppy rescue;

it was hard to say "good-bye," but we shared some tears of joy as well. Anyway, when I walked back in the house and looked in Duchess' eyes, I knew she had found a home with us.

When Luke's mother had her puppies, we found homes for all but two, and then a couple from Oakley came to pick out their puppy, and Luke was left all by himself. I took him home with me.

Luke was an adorable puppy, but the equivalent of the "terrible twos" hit when he was about six months old. Luke had separation anxiety, and whenever we left him, he demolished things, like the recliner, any pillow he could get ahold of, etc.

We bought a 10'X10' kennel and decided he would have to stay outside while we were gone. He demolished the kennel.

It was time to get out the books and study what the behavior experts had to say. We were committed to taking their advice seriously and read everything we could on separation anxiety.

We left for short periods of time and came back; we didn't make a big deal about coming or going; and we left the television on. With time, Luke felt secure, and he is now six years old and a truly awesome companion.

After Duchess' ordeal, I promised her she would never go through anything like that again, and she was spayed as soon as she was healthy enough. Don't kid yourself — pregnancy is not always a piece of cake for these critters, and thousands of innocent puppies are put to sleep every week.

Spaying and neutering is critical in order to stop the killing of un-

wanted animals!

In Luke's case, his mother was not spayed and was abandoned because she was pregnant. Another lesson from Luke is that it takes a commitment to make things work out when you adopt a dog. It takes more than a couple of days and a lot more patience than some folks realize.

We get calls at the shelter that people can't keep this dog because he barks or his is not housebroken or he chews things. That's what dogs do, and we as responsible dog owners have to take the time to educate ourselves about solutions to these problems and not expect too much from these dogs too soon.

It takes time and hard work, but if you open your heart and mind to them, maybe you will find some of the rewards that we have with our beloved Duchess and Luke.

Woman works at certified feedlot

The daughter of a Goodland couple works for a feedlot that is now a Certified Angus Beef LLC Premier Partner.

Rachel Smith, daughter of Dave and Sheila Smith of Goodland, is the cattle clerk for Thomas County Feeders Inc., which was named the June Feedlot Partner of the Month by Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB).

Feedyard Manager Mike Hunter and Assistant Manager Kendall Lock have worked to improved the feedlot's participation in the program, enrolling 7,000 Angus-influenced cattle for carcass data over the past 12 months.

The feedlot was recognized for such efforts by being named Feedlot Partner of the Month. Lock was

also named runner-up 2004 CAB Quality Assurance Officer of the Year.

To offset the loss of cattle due to drought, the feedlot managers have been working with customers to increase profits and have made it a priority to reach out to prospective customers for new partnerships.

The management team has placed an increasing emphasis on feeding Angus cattle over the past couple of years, said Paul Dykstra, Certified Angus Beef feedlot specialist. They always look for opportunities to create value through marketing premium carcasses, he said, and it has helped them bring more profits to their customers.

The feedyard has worked with Certified Angus Beef to create mar-

keting tools that generate more Angus customers.

"They have even placed their Angus cattle in the pens by the highway for all the motorists to see," Dykstra said, "along with CAB Partner logo signs on each enrolled pen."

Certified Angus Beef is a non-profit, limited liability company that owns only its trademark and operates a program. Its mission is to increase demand for Angus cattle through its branded beef program, by licensing the use of the trademark.

Restaurants, retailers, food-service distributors, packers and feedlots have to meet certain criteria to be approved to use the trademark.

Parks biologists to check health of deer

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks biologists plan to use check stations to monitor the health of the western Kansas deer herd this fall.

Hunters in western Kansas must take their deer to a check station within 48 hours after they kill it. Data will be collected from the hunter, and a seal will be attached to the carcass. This will allow a check of the report card system used to survey deer hunters.

Wildlife agents will visit check stations to collect biological information from the deer. The primary reason for the check stations is to create locations where large numbers of deer may be examined and samples obtained to monitor the health of the herd, including checks for chronic wasting disease, a condition similar to mad cow disease.

Hunters should be sure to phone the number listed for a check station

before bringing a deer in.

In the Mountain Time Zone:

Goodland: Goodland Sinclair, 2320 Commerce Rd., 785-890-6855, open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week.

Bob's Taxidermy, 303 Grand, 785-821-1207. open 3-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on weekends.

Sharon Springs: Fox Still, 421 Elm St., 785-852-4318, open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call on Saturday and Sunday.

Tribune: Ampride, K-96 and K-27, 620-376-2311, open 5 a.m.-11 p.m. seven days a week.

In the Central Time Zone:

St. Francis: Tri-State Gun Shop, 223 W. Washington, 785-332-2731, open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday.

Atwood: Northwest Arms and Service, 720 S. 2nd St., 785-626-

3700, open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

Colby: Colby Lumber Yard, 1760 W. Fourth, 785-460-2781, open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-noon Saturday and 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday.

Logan: Logan Hardware, 200 Main St., 785-689-7592, open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Norton: Phillips 66, 407 W. Holme, 785-877-2274, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Oakley: Oakley Meats, 3847 U.S. 40, 785-672-3220, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Oberlin: Dale's Fish 'n' Fun, 502 E. Frontier Pkwy., 785-475-2201, open 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

July 27 — Richard R. Johnson, 65, Andover, was fined \$120 for speeding.

July 28 — Roberto A. Reyes, 29,

Topeka, was fined \$129 for speeding.

Leo P. Million, 43, Locust Grove, Okla. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Andrew M. Minor, 26, Fort Collins, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Joanne M. Rock, 48, Langhorne, Pa. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Gwadalupe Rodriguez, 45, Denver, was fined \$100 for over weight limit on wheels and axles.

Kristi K. Johnson, 40, Hartville, Mo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

FOR SALE

480 ACRES DRYLAND & GRASSLAND
Sherman County, Kan.

Legal Description:

E/2 OF Section 21-10-42

SW/4 of Section 22-10-42

Location: From Kanorado go South 11 1/2 miles.

Minerals: Seller will retain 1/2 of the existing mineral rights for a term of 10 years with said reservation to be non-participating in lease monies, delay rentals and bonuses, but fully participating in royalties.

Acres Information: Grassland Acres - 180
Dryland Acres - 300

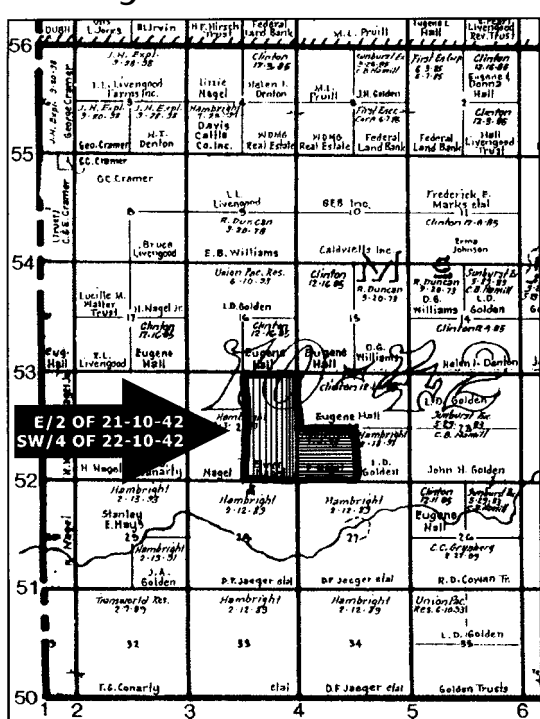
Base/Yield Acres:

	Bases acres	DCP yield
Wheat	162.8	33
Oats	9.1	36
Grain Sorghum	18.1	42
Barley	19.5	36

Taxes: Seller shall pay taxes for all of 2003 and prior years with taxes for 2004 to be prorated to day of closing. **(2003 Taxes = \$1,017.14)**

Possession: Date of closing on open ground, after wheat harvest on cropland, and after the grazing season on the grassland.

Price: \$216,000



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