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SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED

The Colony Animal Shelter could be on TV

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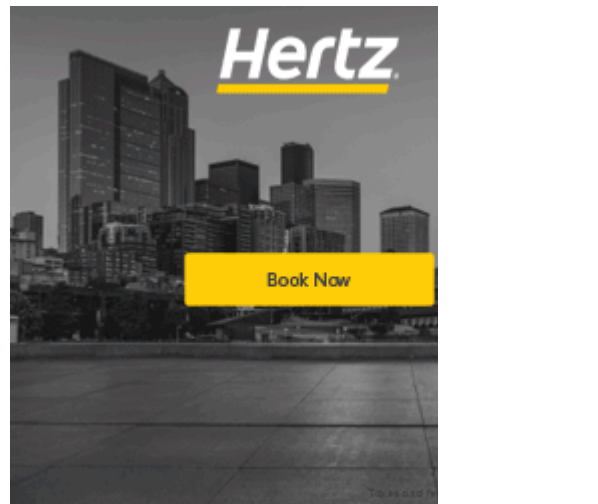
Mark Cooper, center, talks about The Colony Animal Shelter as crews film him.

Courtesy of Duane Klosterman

The Colony Animal Services could soon draw a national viewing audience from animal lovers.

Film and production crews wrapped up work Monday at The Colony Animal Shelter for a possible pilot episode for "Dog Rescue 911," a reality show that tells the story of the Dallas-based animal rescue organization by the same name.

Mark Cooper, animal services division manager, said a producer reached out to him six weeks ago about the shelter being featured on the show.



The show would follow the work of Dog Rescue 911 and its president Tawana Couch. The organization rescues stray dogs and dogs from shelters and sends them to less crowded shelters in northern states such as Washington and New York. Cooper said often times there is a long waiting list of families who want to adopt them.

Cooper said producers determined The Colony's shelter would be a good one to feature after learning of its high ratings and heavy social media presence.

"The show will talk about how rescue organizations come into shelters and help keep dogs from getting euthanized," Cooper said. "Our euthanizing rate is basically non-existent."

In addition to The Colony, crews filmed at the Farmers Branch Animal Shelter and the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter in southern Dallas County.

"They picked three good ones," Cooper said. "They went with groups that really have no drama and have good reputations."

Cooper said the episodes would showcase different animals that are taken in to tell their story.

“For example we had a pit bull where someone cut their ears to make them look mean, but it was the sweetest dog,” Cooper said. “So we would talk about the stigma of pit bulls and really just educate people.”

He said the show would also include clips of him and employees at the other shelters talking about the shelters’ goals and how they operate.

It will take a look at the process that goes into determining whether a dog would be a good fit to be transported up north.

Cooper said the pilot episode, which will include clips from all three shelters, should be complete by mid-February. He said once the pilot is done it will be sent to five major networks in hopes of getting picked up, including Animal Planet and Discovery.

Cooper said if the pilot is picked up a 10-episode season will be guaranteed, and all of the shelters will be included in each one.

“Even though we don’t have the green light yet, it was a huge honor to be chosen,” Cooper said.

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