

The Colony
ANIMAL
Services



The Colony **ANIMAL** Services

A SMALL SHELTER WITH A BIG HEART!
#ADOPTDONTSHOP











PRESENTS

BOWLING FOR PAWS

APRIL 6TH

3-5PM



BOWLING TOURNAMENT
RAFFLE ITEMS
AUCTION
50/50 RAFFLE

5000 MAIN ST, STE 138, THE COLONY, TEXAS 75056

The Colony Courier-Leader

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 23

STAR LOCAL
MEDIA

Renovations complete at animal shelter

New digs part of director's years-long overhaul



**GARRETT
COOK**

gcook@
starlocalmedia.com

Mark Cooper, director of The Colony Animal Shelter, has seen the best and worst of animal shelters. At the city of Dallas, he worked at a facility with more than 900 kennels. Many of the pets would go days without a human touch. A lot of them had to be euthanized.

Cooper has also managed Operation Kindness in Carrollton, the largest no-kill shelter in the area. That's where he was before he moved over to supervise the shelter in The Colony where he's put his ex-

perience to use to great effect.

"I kind of picked the best from all of them and chose not to do some of the worst of them," Cooper said.

October will mark three years at The Colony for Cooper. In that time, he's done everything from bringing landscaping in to spruce up the building's exterior to involving the youth in the community to create projects that benefit the animals and make the shelter more welcoming.

"Just trying to make it not this big, bad shelter that kills animals," Cooper said. "That's the concept that everybody seems to think. That's definitely not how I want it."

The latest step in the evolu-

"Just trying to make it not this big, bad shelter that kills animals."

**— ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTOR
MARK COOPER**

tion of making a better home for his dogs and cats was just completed at the end of this week. The city-funded renovations included all new kennels and flooring in the dog area along with new doors and security cameras throughout the shelter. It's a far cry from the chain-link dog pens, stained floors and rusty doors of the past.

See SHELTER Page 7A



GARRETT COOK/STAFF PHOTOS

Animal Shelter Director Mark Cooper stands proudly beside new renovations to the shelter, which include new floors, dog kennels and a more animal-friendly backyard. The facility reopened for business this weekend.

https://starlocalmedia.com/thecolonycourierleader/news/the-colony-animal-shelter-could-be-on-tv/article_00fc7ada-104e-11e9-9ca9-83c4659acb23.html

SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED

The Colony Animal Shelter could be on TV

Chris Roark, croark@starlocalmedia.com

Jan 5, 2019



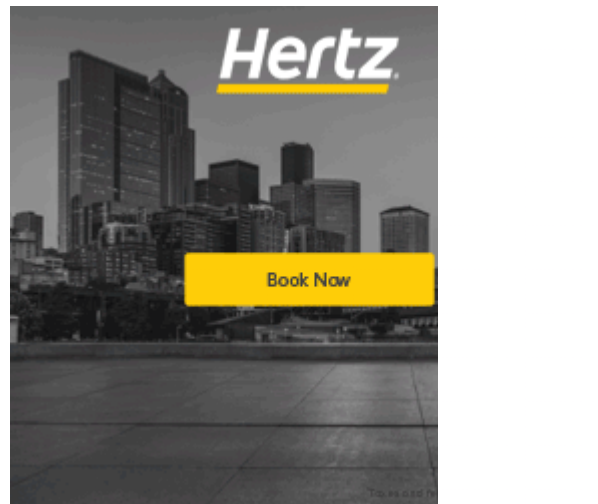
Mark Cooper, center, talks about The Colony Animal Shelter as crews film him.

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.

Follow us on Twitter!

@FMLeaderNews

Like us on Facebook!

TheLeaderNews