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Champaign County Humane Society (speech)

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Champaign County Humane Society
David Jones Speech Contest May 2nd, 2013

Introduction

Attention Step
I. Have you ever been driving down the road and had to slam on your breaks to avoid a cat or dog running across the street? Have you ever seen a stray shivering in the cold on a winter’s night? Have you ever brought home a brand new puppy and suddenly realized that they aren’t just all cute and cuddly but time consuming and stressful then came to the conclusion you were no longer going to be able to take care of them? We have all been in one of these situations at one point in time and felt that ounce of remorse in hearts that goes out for these animals. Now now, I understand that we all cannot open up our doors and take in each and every animal we see and give them all of the special needs they acquire but there is a charity that does just that each and every day, and not just for cats and dogs, but rodents, reptiles, and birds as well.

Need Step
II. I am here today to inform everyone about the Champaign County Humane Society who strives to suit the needs of these animals and bring them all of the tender, love, and care they so desperately need. At the shelter, there are many cats, dogs, and small animals that walk in and out of those doors for many of reasons but the main problem is that they are there. It is our duty, as a society, to care for them by feeding them, walking them, cleaning their cages, and socializing with them. These animals do not have a voice or the powers to suit all of their needs on their own. It takes a special person to go out of their way and give these animals a helping hand. Without us, essentially these animals would die. Not just the ones in the shelter already, but the other animals roaming the streets that the Humane Society works very hard to capture and make their lives better. We need to help these animals because without them many of us would not have a best friend, confidant, pair of eyes, hunting partner, barn mouse catcher, security guard, the list goes on and on.

Satisfaction Step
III. To say the animal’s benefit from the support of the Champaign community Humane Society is an understatement. It cannot be said enough but literally, without the love, help, and support these animals would perish. And at the end of the day when the needs of all of these animals are met and they are happy and content, it ends up wearing off on us. Whether we are physically there volunteering our time to
help these animals, working around the facility, or donating our spare change, every little bit can have a lasting effect. The self-gratitude gained while being in support of the Champaign County Humane Society can grow larger then you would have ever thought. You are saving the lives of animals. To think that in the 3 minutes used to fill out a check you have saved the life of one animal maybe even more. As stated by the Champaign County Humane Society’s Website, “we are not supported by tax dollars”. This means that our money and time truly get put to good use and in return fill us with self-satisfaction because the shelter hits us at home. The Champaign County Humane Society is located in Urbana and for many of us, is just a short ride away.

Thesis: By supporting the Champaign County Humane Society, we can help the lives of many animals that so desperately need our help and in return, be filled with happiness, gratitude, and satisfaction.

Preview: To help you all better understand the Champaign County Humane Society, or better known as CCHS, I will:
   A. first give a brief history on the shelter,
   B. state the shelter’s mission and benefit to our community,
   C. then explain the different ways we can support the CCHS

Transition: Just like all other charities, CCHS has a history.

Main Body

Visualization

   IV. Everything needs a starting point and for CCHS it began all the way back in 1903.
      A. According to CCHS’s website, they first worked to improve conditions for livestock and cart houses in the Champaign-Urbana area.
      B. In May of 1954 the society opened their first shelter near Bondville, IL and finally moved into their current shelter in Urbana in 1988 as stated by the CCHS website as well.
      C. From the very beginning, the shelter strived for the care of animals and did everything to ensure this could be made possible.

Transition: From past to present, the care of the animals is always a priority as well as other things.

   V. By being a volunteer myself, I have been able to see the benefits of supporting CCHS at first hand.
A. The mission of CCHS is simple, to instill respect, kindness, and compassion for animals as community values.

B. A simple sentence that has left a lasting impression on the lives of many animals.

C. Not only does CCHS provide care for animals, but they educate the public as well.

D. CCHS does not turn down any animals that are relinquished to the shelter so it is there duty to educate any adopter on the full responsibility of a pet to ensure it does not end up back inside a shelter. As stated by petfinder.com over 20% of people who leave dogs in shelters adopted them from shelters.

E. CCHS also holds various activities to get the community involved like an annual garage sale and Mutt Strut. All of which is information I have been acquired by volunteering my time there.

F. CCHS doesn’t stop there, they have multiple obedience classes, education seminars at school, and a detailed website to inform the public on the proper care of an animal.

G. That is not even all. CCHS also offers a low cost spay-neuter program to help diminish the rising numbers of pets in shelters. According the ASPCA’s website, “5-7 million companion animals enter shelter’s nationwide every year.” The shelter offers this low cost program so that way animals can stop reproducing to benefit not just the community, but themselves as well.

Transition: I hope by now we are all well aware on the duties of the Champaign County Humane Society and the many ways they benefit animals and our community, so I will kill the suspense and enlighten you all now on how you can play a vital role.

VI. I understand that many of have busy schedules with multiple tasks but I am here to inform you of different ways you can lend a helping hand to such a memorable charity.

A. The most obvious way of helping out the charity is adopting an animal from the shelter and accepting a new best friend into the home. Many of us live in apartments or dorms where this is not acceptable so CCHS has plenty of other ways for us to get involved.

B. Supporting CCHS starts with the inevitable donation of money. CCHS truly makes every dollar count that is donated to them and ensures it goes towards helping the animals.

C. If this doesn’t really crave your satisfaction need, you can always use your money to buy items for the shelter and donate those so that way you truly see how you are benefitting the animals.

D. Maybe you want to volunteer your times but don’t really like one-on-one contact; well CCHS has a place for you. They are always
looking for volunteers to clean around the shelter or help at the
annual garage sale and Mutt Strut.
E. And of course there is the volunteering program that CCHS has to
offer that I partake in. Within the program is division such as
kennel assistant, dog walker, cat socializer, small animal socializer,
and lab assistant. These are just a few. By having these different
programs CCHS can almost cater to anyone's characteristics.
F. I currently work at Prairieland Feeds and taking 18 credit hours
and still find the time to volunteer at the shelter. CCHS is very
flexible with your schedules. You can volunteer as much as you
want but are asked to work a minimum of one shift a week. Every
Wednesday morning from 8:30-11 I skip sleeping in and go to the
shelters and walk the dogs, sunshine, rain, or snow.

Conclusion

I would like to review what I have covered today before I leave you all. CCHS
planted its roots in 1903, ventured its way into or community, and strived for the
well being of animals, which has left an impact on their lives. CCHS offers a plethora
of ways for us to help these animals and doesn’t stop there. CCHS also benefits the
community with education classes, low cost programs, an annual garage sale, and a
detailed website readily available for us.

Action Step
I want to leave you today with a choice; a choice to step up and give a voice to these
animals and send your support to the Champaign County Humane Society. If I have
didn’t say a way today that you could work into your schedule then give a call to the
society because they would be more then happy to work something out just to help
the animals. It isn’t a long drive or a time consuming task. Whether it is donating
our time, money, or company to the shelter, or better yet the animals, it is going to
have a lasting effect. This is that cat or dog you slammed your breaks for. This is
that dog you saw shivering on a curb in the winter. This is Champaign County. This is
our community. This is us. Who knows, maybe your best friend is in the shelter
right now, just waiting on your next move.
Works Cited

