

Plainville's pet food pantry continues to grow, but still needs donations, especially now

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@brianjohnsonBP

PLAINVILLE – Plainville’s recently founded pet food pantry is continuing to grow although founder Donna Weinhofer is seeing an increase in need on the horizon.

Weinhofer said she knows of 30 to 50 local people who are now utilizing the pet food pantry, and with the \$600 CARES Act supplement to unemployment benefits coming to an end last week, she is expecting there to be more. Fortunately, she said people have stepped up locally to support the pet food pantry.

“I’ve got a bunch of food in my garage right now and I’ve also received great financial support,” she said. “Most of the pet food we receive from donations is for cats and dogs. We use financial donations to help out the other animals; rabbits, Guinea pigs, fish and turtles.”

However, Weinhofer said of the food which has been donated to the pet food pantry, most of it is for dogs. She said the pantry is in need for more cat food and cat litter.

“I’ve found that there are some areas in town where there are a lot more cats than dogs; especially in apartments and condos,” she said. “It’s easier for cats to live there.”

Weinhofer also accepts flea and tick medications as donations. When it is financially possible, she also has helped people to get medicine for their pets.

“I recently had an elderly woman in town who called me and I got her what she needed for her elderly dog,” Weinhofer said. “If you need help with something, you should call me. I also have places that I can refer you to for what you might need.”

The pet food pantry was founded two months ago by Weinhofer, who has been an animal control officer in town for 10 years. During that time, she has come to know many local pet owners and helps find homes for animals in need.

“I knew that there was a need for it and I didn’t want people to have to choose between feeding themselves and feeding their pet,” Weinhofer said. “With all of the other things going on now, it has really helped a lot of people.”

Weinhofer thanked Ragged Mountain Animal Hospital in town, whom she said she has been “very helpful” to her over the years in making sure pets get the care they need. She also thanked the Main Street



Plainville Animal Control Officer Donna Weinhofer, right, and Layne Gordan sit with George the dog outside of Plainville High School. -Photo sent by Plainville Police Department

Community Foundation, which she said provided a grant which helped to get the pet food pantry off the ground.

“They called me to see if there was anything they could do to help us here in Plainville,” she said. “I explained to them that lots of people out there don’t have the ability to get appropriate vet care. Thanks to their grant, there were numerous animals here in town – dogs and feral cats, where I got them to a vet and got them their shots.”

Donna Weinhofer can be reached using the non-emergency police phone number 860-747-1616, ext. 291.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.