

# Looking for a Lifetime of Love?

Sarah Warburton

Consider adopting an abandoned dog or cat from your local shelter. Sure, he may not have the pedigree of a show dog...but he'll have a heart of gold and you'll be first place in his life forever.

And they call it "puppy love." Everyone loves the idea of a cute puppy, but not everyone is ready for the work involved in training a dog "from scratch." Robert Willard, the Shelter Adoption Coordinator for the City of Sugar Land, says, "We get plenty of great older dogs. We just had an 8-year-old hound mix who was housebroken and even knew some tricks. The perfect couple adopted him, and they just called us to say how much they love him." Which isn't to say every shelter puppy comes perfectly trained. Most dogs need some one-on-one training time, either

with the help of a book, or through classes at a place like Pet Smart. Your new best friend will love spending time with you, while you learn to say, "Sit, Stay," like a pro.

My fuzzy Valentine, sweet fuzzy Valentine, you make me smile with my heart. Robert says, "All of us at the Shelter love working with animals. Katherine Ketchem, our manager, has really brought the whole facility up to a new level, but we couldn't do what we do without the help of the community. My own work with a Sheltie/Collie rescue organization brought me to the shelter." Citizens like you, and rescue organizations like Scout's Honor, Animal Rescue Kingdom, and the Brazoria County Humane Society gather stray, abused, orphaned, and abandoned animals who need new homes. When you make



the commitment to bring a shelter dog into your family, you can see the appreciation in their puppy-eyes.

Maybe you don't have the time or the resources to commit to the care and upkeep of a new pet? Welcoming a new pet into your home can be a challenge, so make sure that the whole family's up to the task. We're lucky enough to have great parks and temperate weather which makes Texas a dog walker's dream. If you're not quite prepared for training, bonding, and trips to the vet, but you'd still like to help out, consider volunteering with the shelter or a rescue organization.



**Haro • Giant Raleigh Diamond Back Sales & Service**

**15% off all Clothing, Shimano Shoes, Accessories and clipless pedals! With the purchase of any new road bike. Expires 02/29/2008**



**OCR 2**  
Key Upgrades (over OCR3)  
• 9-speed Shimano Sora shifting

**The Bike Route**  
2633 Town Center Blvd  
(across from La Madeleine)  
(281) 265-3900

Official MS150 Bike Shop  
{Come in for a FREE safety check}

Sugar Land is working on a new shelter, scheduled to open in March or April of this year. The 4200 square foot facility will have space for 40 dogs and 30 cats...and lots of volunteer opportunities. Keep an eye out for news of the Grand Opening celebrations.


If you are looking for that special furry someone to light up your life, check out the mug shots at [http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/police/services/programs/adopt\\_a\\_pet/index.asp](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/police/services/programs/adopt_a_pet/index.asp) or call 281-275-2842 for more information. As Robert says, "We're not Animal Control, we're Animal Services. We just want to help these pets find homes with the perfect people for them."

For the Missouri City Animal Control kennel call 281-403-8707 or visit <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/TX1049.html>. Both shelters are open by appointment only.

#### Rescue Organizations:

[www.BrazoriaCountyHumane.org](http://www.BrazoriaCountyHumane.org),  
[www.petfinder.com/shelters/animalrescuekingdom.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/animalrescuekingdom.html),  
[www.scoutshonor.petfinder.com](http://www.scoutshonor.petfinder.com)

**SureSmile**  
Dr. Glenwood Jordon, Orthodontist



**Valentine's day**  
"Complimentary Consultation and 50% off Diagnostic workup a value of \$260.00 .  
Some restrictions apply, offer ends February 29th, 2008

**A Sure Way to SureSmile!**

**JORDAN**  
ORTHODONTICS  
15541 Southwest Freeway  
in Sugar Land.  
281-277-3535  
[www.gbjordanortho.com](http://www.gbjordanortho.com)