

# How Our Shows Help With Animal Rescue And Fostering

When we started hosting our first car shows in 2003 under the banner “Paws ‘n’ Wheels”, we were very surprised to learn just how many individuals not only did not understand animal fostering, most car show attendees did not know that it even existed. We hosted a few shows and were very successful at raising funds for, and awareness of, this noble effort. Being the benevolent souls that many show car owners and car show spectators are, once they were enlightened, they helped a number of situations that desperately needed it at the time. In 2009, after way too long of a break from our efforts, we began hosting shows again. This time, we chose the name Great American Wheels & Wings and chose Paws ‘n’ Wheels as the disbursement vehicle for any funds that we raise and supplies that we collect.

The reason for the long name, “Great American Wheels & Wings”, is really straightforward. We believe that, in spite of some of the negative things everyone is currently experiencing, this country is still really pretty damn GREAT! And what is more American than weekend car and air shows and most of the cars and planes that are in them? Even though other countries may have had a hand in their development, cars and planes are what they are today because the citizens of America have made them that way. I’m a former Marine and I believe that America is still the greatest country in the world. I, and all other true Americans, know that we got that way by decent, moral and benevolent means and methods! I make absolutely NO apologies for that! Since we are headquartered at a private residential airpark, that is a prime example of AMERICAN freedom itself, and we are as passionate about flying our planes as we are about our cars, we chose to combine cars and planes in our shows whenever possible. It makes an interesting mix of American beauty and ingenuity for ALL attendees, owners and spectators, to enjoy! We host a monthly event, on the third Saturday, from April to November at 5360 Kelly Road, NW Regional Airport in Roanoke, Texas 75262. We also host interim shows at area businesses and plan to expand to other airports as soon as we are able.

The way that our shows help animal rescue, fostering and welfare efforts is also straightforward. Our car/plane events are usually judged events with awards (mainly wall plaques) being awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in various car classes, as well as special awards such as bests in show and club participation. Show car owners wishing to compete for the awards pay entry fees to participate in the judged event. During the show, usually four hours long, funds are collected for a 50/50 drawing whereby the winnings are split with Paws ‘n’ Wheels, for disbursement, and the winner of the drawing and funds are collected from food sales as well as contributions made by attendees. Funds may also be derived from sales of specialty products and services, etc.

Various animal rescue groups are invited to join each event and are allowed to set-up booths, tables, canopies, tents, trailers, etc. These may be breed specific rescue organizations or groups that are involved with rescuing many types (species) and breeds of animals. At the sole discretion of the rescue organization, they are allowed to bring some of their rescued animals that are available for adoption but, that depends on the venue, weather, etc. Some of the event locations are just not conducive to the well being of the animals. The animal rescue organizations do not allow instant adoption and possession of their rescues at an event. Most have procedures in place to prevent a recurrence of rescuing the animal. During the shows, representatives of the rescue groups have the opportunity to collect individual contributions for their effort and explain how their rescue, fostering and adoption programs work to anyone interested in listening. Most of these organizations are responsible for saving dumped, surrendered, neglected, abandoned and abused pets from almost certain euthanasia at shelters, or horrible deaths from neglect, and placing them in caring foster environments until a permanent loving family can adopt them.

Not only are funds collected for the rescued animals, car owners are given the option of bringing needed food and supplies in lieu of an entry fee. We just ask car owners provide a like amount in value. It has been our experience that most owners bring more than a like amount of food and supplies for the entry fee and sometimes pay the fee in addition. The funds collected from all sources described above, less any actual costs, are divided equally among the animal rescue organizations participating in a specific event. As the attendance and entries grow, a special emergency fund may be established to help any animal welfare organization in need. WE DO NOT MAKE OUR LIVING FROM THESE EVENTS!! Absolutely NO administrative fees are deducted. Printing costs for flyers, forms, etc. are contributed and individuals provide the original, reimbursed funds for the awards. It is our sincere goal to disburse as much of the funds collected as possible to animal rescue efforts.

I am personally dismayed by some the tragic stories I have heard, or witnessed, regarding our loyal, loving, charges. God gave man the direction to care for ALL of His creatures and mankind has not performed according to His wishes. I don’t just like animals and just say that I love them. I LOVE ANIMALS! And even being the former Marine I am, I do not feel any less of a man for saying it! I not only talk the talk, I WALK THE WALK! You can say that, too! Please join us and help us by helping those who cannot help themselves.

Thank you for your time,

*Jim Carrey*, Managing Director.