Pet Talk

Welcome to *Pet Talk*, an occasional column about homeless pets and related topics.

Calling all bloodhound lovers!

Today we're featuring a story about a handsome dog named Rhett, who came to the Flathead County Animal Shelter in May.

Don't you just love his soulful face?

Anyhow, Rhett is a 4-year-old bloodhound/mixed breed dog—fun, strong, healthy, and intelligent. And, true to the breed, Rhett has a set of lungs that would be the envy of any opera singer!

Here's his description on the shelter website:

Introducing Rhett, the lovable hound mix with a heart as big as his floppy ears! This handsome boy, a four-year-old Bloodhound mix, is as charming as they come, with a nose for adventure and a playful spirit that knows no bounds. Rhett's striking features and soulful eyes make him stand out in any crowd, but it's his friendly and outgoing personality that truly steals the show. Whether he's romping around the dog park with his furry friends or curling up on the couch for a cuddle session, Rhett's enthusiasm for life is contagious. Despite his hound heritage, Rhett is more than just a nose on four legs - he's a social butterfly who adores the company of both people and other dogs. His playful nature and gentle demeanor make him a hit with everyone he meets, and he's always up for a game of fetch or a leisurely stroll around the neighborhood. This lovable pup is looking for a forever home where he can share his boundless love and playful spirit with a family who will cherish him as much as he cherishes them. If you're ready to welcome a furry friend who will bring endless joy and laughter into your life, then Rhett is the perfect match for you!

And for those of you who don't know anything about bloodhounds (which is the dominant trait in this dog) here's a brief overview from the PetMD website:

"The Bloodhound is a large dog, weighing 80-110 pounds and standing

23-27 inches tall. They are known for their long, droopy ears and skin folds, especially around the face, giving them a solemn expression. Bloodhounds . . . enjoy the company of others, including other pets and children . . . [and] can be a great family dog."

At the shelter, happy boy Rhett can hardly contain his enthusiasm when approached by staffers and volunteers in the kennel hallway. In fact, sometimes I worry that he's going to wag his tail off in anticipation of going out to the play yard!

Then, out in the yard, he typically gallops around the fence line, sniffing the whole world as he goes. But sadly, he sometimes stares longingly out the main gate while bellowing, "*Help! I need a home*!" with his unique bass voice.

Not to "hound" our readers too much, but I'm guessing that our valley contains many big-dog enthusiasts who'd love to share life with a cute flop-eared friend like Rhett.

So if that's you, please call the shelter ASAP to schedule a meet-and-greet with Rhett. (Or for *any* adoptable dog or cat, for that matter.)

Well, that's it for today's Pet Talk. If you too love pets, please consider adopting one (or several!) when the time is right for you. You can also help spread the word among family and friends in rapidly growing Flathead County. As you can see, pet homelessness is a very serious issue these days, so please support all our local shelters in any way that you can.

And please remember the generous adoption incentives at the county shelter. First, a recent donation from a local animal lover has allowed the shelter to substantially reduce its adoption fees. Flathead Shelter Friends also offers a Senior Pet Voucher,

which pays up to $350 toward veterinary care for 7+ year-old adopted pets.

For more information, please contact Flathead County Animal Shelter, phone number (406) 758-1310, or visit the website at https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/animal.

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Personal donations are always appreciated! For more information, see **www.flatheadshelterfriends.org**