

Healing Paws Project Gracie: Staff Member at MEC

ever registered the
 ice to return a lost
 ily.
 possible after be-
 l to the hospital,
 n the condition of
 accinate for rabies
 ne distemper virus
 ome other respira-
 t for Feline Leuke-
 id Feline Immuno-
 rus, check for fleas,
 uites and intestinal
 can be adopted out,
 t be spayed or neu-
 et this done as soon
 o they have a chance
 om the surgery.
 n fee is \$100, which
 e above procedures.
 pical case last week
 y called at 8:30 am
 morning to ask if we
 a stray cat which she
 ght in a trap.
 ut that the cat had
 outside all summer
 y had been feeding it.
 was concerned about
 ig out in the freezing
 ged to catch the cat
 mane trap with food
 at she could not keep
 l was hoping that we
 : the cat and find it a
 as our weather was
 : week of November,
 nderstand the lady's
 etary instructed the

On examination, we found her to be a petite five pound cat in seemingly good health. She was about six months old and did not have a microchip. Blood was drawn by the certified veterinary technician [CVT] to test for the Leukemia and Immunodeficiency viruses. The results came back in ten minutes and she was negative for both viruses. She got her rabies and distemper virus vaccines and finally while under a general anesthetic, she was spayed.

The surgeon closed her abdominal incision with an absorbable suture material, so that she would not need to have skin sutures removed later.

After surgery, we placed her in a large fiberglass pet carrier containing a litter pan, because the next day we were planning on adopting her out to a businessman who wanted a mouser for his office and work shop.

Early the next morning, the lady who brought the Calico cat into the clinic, called and said that her father wanted to give the cat a home, as he had become attached to her.

We were happy at this turn of events, as it meant that the little Calico cat would have a good home with someone to care for her.

The lady paid our adoption fee and happily took the little Calico home to daddy.

SCHPD Blotter

8/18 Byron Munoz, 275 Leonard St. CH arrested, charged with Improper Parking. DUI-Al-



days a week. Gracie is the first Therapy Dog for the Project. She had her picture taken on Picture Day because she is a "staff" member. Research shows that therapy dogs can provide physical benefits to people, by lowering blood pressure, allowing the release of endorphins that have a calming effect on the body, improving cardiovascular health, and diminishing overall physical pain.

Students at MEC have embraced Gracie as part of their day from her first day at "work."

Wortel said "Therapy dogs are showing up in more and more places, including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and even in the work place because they connect with people in such a special way. Gracie has been a game changer at MEC, and she has demonstrated a natural ability to relate to the kids as well as the staff. They all notice when she is not at school."

Wortel said that he is grateful for the support the program has received from Superintendent Dr. Kara Coglianesi, and the acceptance of the school community for new and innovative therapeutic interventions such as the Healing Paws Project.

Illinois born Author Thom Jones once said, "Dogs have a way of finding the people who need them, and filling an emptiness we didn't even know we had."

This philosophy has inspired the Healing Paws project at Monee Education Center, a Crete-Monee School District 201U therapeutic day school.

Program Director Brian Wortel, initiated the Healing Paws Project this year with Gracie, a poodle/beagle mix, who comes to school with him three or four

In Loving Memory

