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LA GRANGE

4-H buys horse trailer for Animal Control

By Andrea Uhde

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Thank goodness horses eat a lot.

For four years, members of a 4-H horse club collected proof-of-purchase seals from thousands of horse-feed bags. They mailed them back to the company for a rebate of up to 25 cents each.

With persistence -- along with some sales of candy bars, heating pads and notebooks -- their funds fattened to \$3,700, which they recently spent on a new horse trailer for Oldham County Animal Control.



The 4-H horse club collected proof-of-purchase seals from horse-feed bags to help purchase the trailer. (By Andrea Uhde, The Courier-Journal)

The department received the trailer within the last month, ending a practice of borrowing one from people in the community.

"We kind of felt bad inconveniencing coworkers and the citizens of the county, even though they didn't mind," said Animal Control Director Barbara Rosenman. "It's better that we have our own trailer."

The Pony People 4-H Horse Club, for youths ages 9 to 19, started the fundraiser after the department had borrowed leader Mary Kolb's trailer to transport escaped or neglected animals.

"That's when we thought they need their own trailer so they can transport them where they need," Kolb said.

Over the years, about 20 children worked on the project. Most of the money came from thousands of proof-of-purchase seals on horse-feed bags, which were worth 15 to 25 cents each, Kolb said.

"To me, that's 14,800 bags of feed," she said, adding that at least one horse owner would leave stacks of the bags for the group. "We'd sit there and just clip coupons."

The Animal Control department had a trailer several years ago but had to declare it surplus because the floor was badly rusted.

Rosenman said the department handled 80 animals last year, including runaway goats and horses. A few weeks ago, eight Icelandic ponies were found roaming on Covered Bridge Road. They eventually moseyed back home.

"We've had a couple of times when goats are just out on a road, and you're going, where did this come from?" Rosenman said.

Sometimes, Animal Control takes the animals to a holding place such as Rosenman's property -- and if it's a larger animal, there are property owners who have volunteered to temporarily board animals.

The new trailer can fit two horses, Rosenman said.

Kolb said many of the young club members never really knew how much work was involved in rescuing an animal. But they were glad to help.

"The kids were excited," she said.

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