

‘Madness’ event connects animals, people

By Tracy Agnew
Staff Writer

Though only two animals were adopted during the Suffolk Humane Society’s Midnight Madness adoptathon on Saturday, many more positive things came out of it, volunteers said.

“Obviously, we hoped more would have been adopted, but there are so many positive things that happened that day,” Kay Hurley said. “Lots of the animals got attention, got some TLC, grooming and exercise. They felt joy for a little while.”

One dog and one cat were adopted from the Suffolk Animal Control shelter on Saturday. The Midnight Madness adoptathon included animal shelters throughout Hampton Roads. In addition to Saturday’s adoptions, volunteers anticipate more adoptions throughout the next couple of weeks as a result of the publicity. Two animals were placed in foster homes — one Chihuahua that was frightened to stay in the shelter, and one pregnant cat that now can have her kittens in a comfortable home.

The dogs and cats received plenty of cuddling, walks and grooming throughout the day, Hurley said. In addition, volunteers performed minor repair work at the shelter, and many visitors brought supplies for the shelter.

Events such as Midnight Madness are important for shelters, Hurley said.

“Out of sight means out of mind,” she said. “These animals are just so innocent, and in many cases they don’t understand why they no longer have a home or why their people gave them up. They just know that all of a sudden, their lives changed.”

The present economic situation has caused many former owners to have to give up their pets because they are moving or cannot afford to keep them, Hurley said. People who are prepared for the responsibility of pet ownership should stop by the shelter, she said.

“I think if they will go to the shelter, they can find some wonderful, wonderful companions,” Hurley said. “It’s easier in so many ways to not think about them, but we want everyone to think about them.”

For more information on the Suffolk Humane Society, call 538-3030.