



# Kirkpatrick Family Fund



Joan Kirkpatrick and her grandson Blake Keese.

*“I wish people would realize that animals are totally dependent on us, helpless, like children, a trust that is put upon us.”*

*- James Herriot*

Respect for animals is second nature for Joan Kirkpatrick and her family. This quality has focused her personal philanthropic interest on the humane treatment of animals, research to improve animal health, and standards of excellence for veterinary education and professional development. Her knowledge and interest has influenced local and national grants made by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. These were also factors in the grant made to Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Science for the Joan Kirkpatrick Chair in Small Animal Internal Medicine. The holder of the Chair will engage in research and instruction which will have a lasting impact for veterinary students attending OSU and to the field of veterinary science.

Ms. Kirkpatrick’s influence is visible in other grants made by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund to support educational programs to improve animal adoption rates and spay/neuter programs to reduce overpopulation. Additionally, grants have helped to improve shelter and sanctuary environments where animals recover their health, await adoption or humanely live out their lives.

Over the last several years the Kirkpatrick Family Fund has supported a network of animal rescue and shelter organizations through the formation of the Metropolitan Alliance for Animal Life. This public/private

network is focused on how these different organizations work together to reduce and ultimately eliminate the euthanasia of healthy dogs and cats in central Oklahoma. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund has supported the formation of the Humane Society of Central Oklahoma. Working in partnership with the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter the two organizations have begun implementing programs that address dog and cat overpopulation, improve adoption rates plus educate and advocate for the humane treatment of animals. Grants to national organizations including the Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals provide valuable professional development and training for local shelters and rescue organizations, law enforcement, lawyers and judges responsible for the enforcement of state and federal law in Oklahoma.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund thanks Joan Kirkpatrick for her interest and knowledge which guides our grant making decisions related to animal issues.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund is responsible for supporting the mission and programs of many nonprofits primarily in central Oklahoma through grant programs described in detail at [KirkpatrickFamilyFund.org](http://KirkpatrickFamilyFund.org). The following is an overview of the fiscal year 2008 Large Grants.