



### **By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

The annual Perkins County Animal Shelter will be hosting their annual wine tasting event on Saturday, with the star of the evening being a canine by the name of Mario.

The public is invited to the fairgrounds on the southwest edge of Grant to take part in the fundraiser for our furry friends who are housed in the no-kill shelter.

Come enjoy a unique experience on Saturday, April 13 that will feature hors d' oeuvres, wine tasting, beer, a silent auction and a live auction.

Although one pet seeking a home will be in the limelight, there are many animals who spend their days in confinement waiting to be adopted and taken into a loving home.

This event gives the public a chance to support the non-profit animal shelter and take part in its cause while visiting, eating and learning about the benefits it provides to southwest Nebraska.

What seems to be a trend in the adoption process is the "black dog syndrome." According to Shannon Jensen, DVM, the reality of the syndrome is recognized around the country. Big black dogs are the last to leave a shelter, she said, which is a phenomenon that has been experienced here in Perkins County.

A piece of good news is that "Leprekahn," the featured ambassador dog last year, was adopted following exposure at the wine tasting fundraiser. However, a lovable cat named Shamrock is still in the shelter.

Tickets for Saturday's event can be purchased at the door or in advance during business hours Thursday and Friday at the Perkins County Veterinary Hospital south of the railroad tracks in Grant. Proceeds from the \$20 tickets will benefit the Perkins County Animal Shelter.

Assisting Jensen in organizing the event are Jorje Geisert and Ronda Lawyer.

### **Shelter/Adoption Fees**

The costs of sheltering an animal until time for adoption is far more costly than people realize. The average length of stay for a large dog (unless it's black!) is four months. The average length of stay for a cat is 10 months.

What is surprising is the monetary loss suffered by the clinic during the time an animal is sheltered. For example, the shelter loses \$23 on a female dog, if there for only one month, with no other treatment. The shelter loses \$10 in a month for a male dog who received no other treatment over a one-month period.

In one month, the shelter loses \$110 on a female cat and \$74 on a male cat that needs no other treatment.

When an animal is surrendered to the shelter, a \$35 fee is charged, but is received only about half the time.

When animals are found as strays or they are brought in as a group, the shelter usually does not receive any surrender fee.

To spay a 50-pound female dog is \$130. To neuter a male of the same weight is \$118, plus nearly \$80 in shots, dewormer, food and cleaning supplies for each animal. A female cat costs \$95 to spay, while neutering costs \$60 for a male, and all of the shots, tests, food and supplies run close to \$90.