

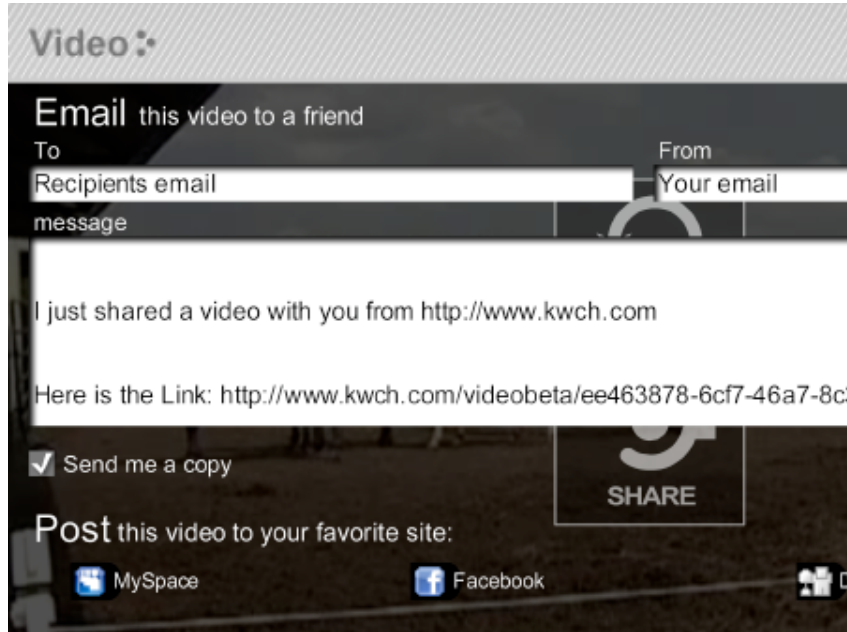
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Animal rescue operations at capacity in Sedgwick County

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By Michael Schwanke
KWCH 12 Eyewitness News
8:54 p.m. CDT, June 1, 2011

(WICHITA, Kan.)— Since last year, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department has seized about 150 animals due to neglect and animal cruelty.

The resources that house and rehabilitate the animals are at capacity.

"We expect to see more of them and that's why were pushing for the adoption of the ones we have," says

Detective Dale Butcher.

Hope in the Valley is an equine rescue operation in Valley Center. It has more than 20 rescued horses that need permanent homes.

"The families love these horses and these horses love being taken care of," says founder Ande Miller.

Miller started the rescue about six years ago. Many of the horses she helps rehabilitate are hundreds of pounds underweight.

The sheriff's department wants to the public to help relieve overcrowding pressures on facilities like Hope in the Valley.

"We have 20 (animals up for adoption) and I believe we have another 30 pending rehabilitation," says Butcher.

If you're interested in adopting an animal you can come meet them yourself.

This Saturday at Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary, 9025 north Broadway, Valley Center, there will be 20 horses available for permanent adoption.

The event starts at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Hope in the Valley at <http://www.hitveras.org> or 316-755-2826.

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