

Interview 2: Tonya Loftis | Business owner

Tonya Loftis is my mother and an owner of the boarding home The Loving Cottage. She focuses on the care of underprivileged individuals who need community type housing to either keep back on their feet or have the feeling of a family. Working as a care aid in other people's boarding homes inspired her to open a house that allows them to have freedom and independence while giving them the respect they deserve.

What kind of job do you have?

She owns and operates a residential boarding home that houses cognitively impaired and/or underprivileged individuals.

What are some past job experiences that you have had?

She has been a care aid for those with mental disabilities, disabled veterans, and those that have no families. Helping them happy and stable has always been her goal when caring for underprivileged people.

What are some things you do as hobbies?

During her free time she enjoys relaxing at home, spending time with her family, cuddling with her pups, gardening, and taking short day trips.

How many pets do you currently own?

She has two adopted dogs at home, a chiggi mix and an american bully. She also has 2 other dogs at her boarding homes that are rescues.

Why would you be interested in the Pickens County Humane Society?

She would be interested in the shelter because they have many cats and dogs that need to be adopted. She also believes that adopting from shelters such as the Pickens County Humane Society is very important to help them find loving homes. Knowing that they offer volunteering services, she believes it would be a good idea for her clients and residents to have the option to do so.

Why do you think it's important to adopt animals from a shelter?

Having adopted dogs herself, she believes it's important because they are in desperate need of a good home and saves their lives. She also stated that adopting from a shelter helps fight against puppy mills and harmful breeders.

What are some things that would be most important for you to see when visiting the website?

She would first want to see photos of the animals that need to be adopted and their information such as adoption fees. She also would like to see contact information for the shelter (phone number and email). Links to information on volunteering and adoption would also be important for her to see.

How willing would you be to volunteer your time to this organization?

She would be very willing to volunteer at this organization or any animal shelter that needs help. As she stated before, she believes her clients and residents who are able would be willing to volunteer their time to help animals in need.

Have you ever volunteered or donated at a similar organization?

No, she has yet to volunteer or donate to one but like stated before, she is open to it.

What are some things that you think would be important to include on the website?

Having contact information and information on the organization would be the most important to have the website in her opinion. She also stated that having an easy way to contact or view the things on the website (as she has a business herself) is the first step to anything, because clear communication is key.

Have you ever adopted a pet from a shelter like the Pickens County Humane Society?

Yes, she has adopted both of her family pets from a local shelter and also has adopted two more for her boarding homes.

What are other ways that you know of that could help out an animal shelter?

She agreed with the idea that if the shelter has clear communication with its audience, that more people would be contacted and be willing to volunteer, donate, or adopt from them. She stated that what we can do as the community is help them out (and the animals) and do whatever we can to help during our free time.