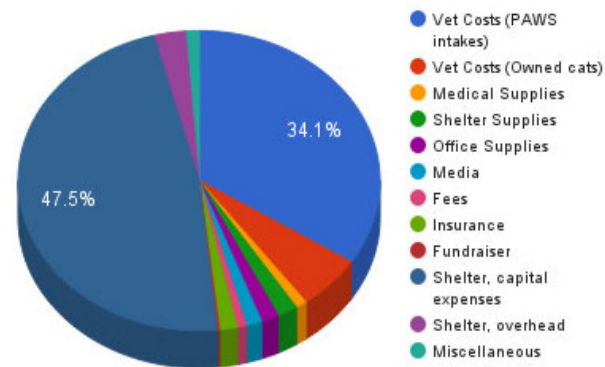


PAWS Board Members

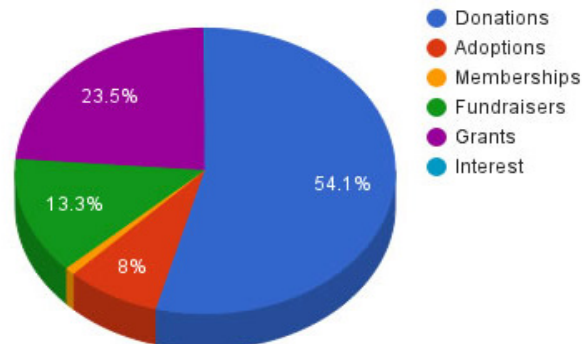
- Laura Nickerson
President
- Jeanne Nadeau
Vice President
- Jean Cobb
Treasurer
- Connie Michaud
Secretary
- Polly Jackson
Board Member
- Brenda Hebert
Board Member
- Lisa Bernier
Board Member
- Lisa Devoe
Board Member

Visit us at:
www.ourvalleypaws.org

PAWS Total Expenses for 2015 = \$49,872



PAWS Total Revenue for 2015 = \$46,780



PAWS ~ Issue 05 Jan ~ Feb 2016

DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS WELCOME!

Each year PAWS spends approximately \$30,000 to maintain its current service. Through fundraising and donations, we are able to continue helping homeless and owned cats. Please help us out by using the following form or by donating through PayPal on our website: <http://www.ourvalleypaws.org/membership.html>

Please complete this form and send it with your payment to us to become a member of PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc. and benefit from a quarterly email newsletter and the right to vote at our meetings. You will be receiving a membership card in the mail.

Your donation is tax deductible.

Donation and/or Membership [family \$25 Student/Senior \$10 Single \$15]

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Make check out to PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc. and mail to:
PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc., PO Box 94, Fort Kent Mills, ME 04744

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ISSUE

05

JAN ~ FEB
2016



PAWS
Animal Welfare Society, Inc.



PAWS helped the following cats in 2015:

Shelter Cats:

- At shelter as of Jan. 1, 2015 - 15
- Cats taken into the shelter - 98
- Placed in foster care - 14
- Spayed or neutered - 78
- Already spayed or neutered - 34
- Given additional medical care - 12
- Adopted - 100
- Adopted via other shelters - 6
- Relocated - 2
- Returned to owner - 5
- Euthanized/died - 0
- At shelter as of Dec. 31, 2015 - 14
- In foster care on 12/31/14 - 6

The above cats came from:

- Eagle Lake - 2
- Fort Kent - 40
- Frenchville - 11
- Grand Isle - 18
- Madawaska - 17
- New Canada - 1
- St. Agatha - 2
- St. David - 1
- St. Francis - 15
- St. John - 1
- Wallagrass - 3
- Winterville - 1

Community Support:

Feral colonies - Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR)

- Grand Isle - 1
- Madawaska - 3

Owned pets:

- World Spay Day clinic - 31
- PAWS spay/neuter clinics - 59
- Total cats s/n at low cost clinics - 90
- Financial S/N assistance - 11
- Financial medical assistance - 21
- Voucher S/N assistance - 38



What a Difference a Year Makes!

It has been an exciting 1 ½ years for PAWS. We purchased an acre of land in August of 2014 and moved the building that was constructed by the students at the Technology Center in Frenchville to the site on Dec. 5. Then, in 2015, we had to transform the building which was just the shell to a functioning facility that included finishing the walls, ceiling and floors and installing electricity, a heating and air conditioning system and plumbing just for starters. This process was a learning experience but was helped immeasurably by the assistance we got with regard to advice, donated labor and financial help from several members of the community.

On May 29, 2015 we celebrated our success in getting the majority of the shelter, named the Valley Cat Haven, completed by having an open house. It was a very successful event with people coming from near and far to see the Valley's new and only cat shelter. The support we received was beyond all our expectations.

Although the Valley Cat Haven is small, it more than doubles our capacity from six kennels to 14 kennels and features many nice amenities, such as, large windows that flood the rooms with sunshine on nice days where the cats can sit on window shelves, an isolation area for new arrivals and a small bathroom which greatly enhances our ability to clean the facility and provide routine care for the cats. We are even able now to allow some cats to have roaming days where they can be free from being in a kennel.

Throughout the decision-making process whether it was constructing the building, purchasing a suitable site, preparing the site or finishing and equipping the building, our priority has been on the quality of the end result so that we would have an optimal environment for the cats, the volunteers and the members of the community that receive our services. We had to remain small due to limited human resources but we wanted to make sure the quality of the facility was the best we could make it. Plus, we wanted to keep long-term expenses to a minimum by investing wisely in the upfront costs.

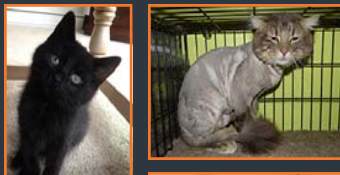
In the end, this has been a community effort and we thank everyone who has made donations, large and small, in-kind or monetary, of advice or labor or in words of support. We look forward to the years ahead when we can improve upon what we started in 2015.

Adopt a Pet Vanity License Plate...

You can purchase an Adopt a Pet license plate whenever and wherever you register your car. Ten dollars from each new and renewal plate goes to the Maine Animal Welfare Program and is spent on animal abuse investigations and on the State's spay/neuter program.



2015 Candids



In Memory



CLEO



Laura Nickerson
President

A Year in Review - The President's Message

Another amazing year at PAWS. Our new shelter has been up and running since late spring, housing cats in record numbers and a buzz with activity. We have overcome many hurdles in our transition, some expected, some not, but remain committed to meeting the demands of owning our own shelter. Our increased capacity has shown us our limits and helped us to develop new ways to enhance our cats lives and our volunteer experiences. We plan to continue to refine our process as we evaluate our first winter in our new home. We have been able to start Saturday Open Hours, giving the community a time to easily access the shelter, a long time goal. I would encourage you to come by and meet our great kitties and volunteers! We also continue to offer regular spay/neuter clinics in partnership with Fort Kent Animal Hospital that are so vital to the success of animal welfare in the St John Valley. It is with bittersweet emotions that I announce that I have been offered a new nursing position in Southern Maine that is an exceptional opportunity for myself and my family. At the annual meeting in May I will be stepping down from the Board this year due to my relocation. We have a wonderful group of volunteers that are ready and able to carry the PAWS mission forward with zeal and enthusiasm. I am so proud of what our dedicated Board and volunteers have accomplished this past year and look forward to seeing PAWS future.

Remember the spay/neuter tax check off.

Check the box on Help Fix ME's state of Maine tax check off! See Maine Schedule CP--The Companion Animal Sterilization Fund.



www.ourvalleypaws.org



World Spay Day @ FKAH February 2015



UMFK SNO with community spirit



Lucille Bouchard in remembrance of Smokey



Laura transporting cats to Kennebunk



Successful raffle at Sears



Open House at Valley Cat Haven on May 31st, 2015

Community Betterment Award

The Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce honored PAWS on January 29, 2016 with a Community Betterment Award. We are very grateful for this recognition of our work and the many people who have helped us achieve our goal of building a shelter. We are especially appreciative of the support that the Town of Fort Kent has given us since our founding in the winter of 2008.

Do you shop at Amazon? You can donate to PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc. every time you shop. Go to smile.amazon.com on your computer and select PAWS Animal Welfare Society, Inc. as your charity.



We want to thank all the people who volunteered at the shelter in 2015. PAWS could not succeed without you!

- Mistie Albert
- Joanna Becker
- Gary Bossie
- Louise & Garry Bouchard
- Autumn Bouchard
- Garrick Bouchard
- Rachel Brady
- Veronica Caron
- Makayla Clough
- Shawnee Ellis
- Randi Gelfman
- Cameron Grange & Family
- Roy Hafford
- Paige Hebert
- Christin Kastl
- Nickerson Williams Family
- Northern Maine General
- Paula Ouellette & Family
- Sue Palmer
- Leah Parent & Family
- Pam Plourde
- Chelsea Sadler
- Sophie Saunders
- Matt Stubbs
- Mary Watson
- Hannah Voisine
- Isaac White
- Braedon Williams

Many Thanks to our Donors

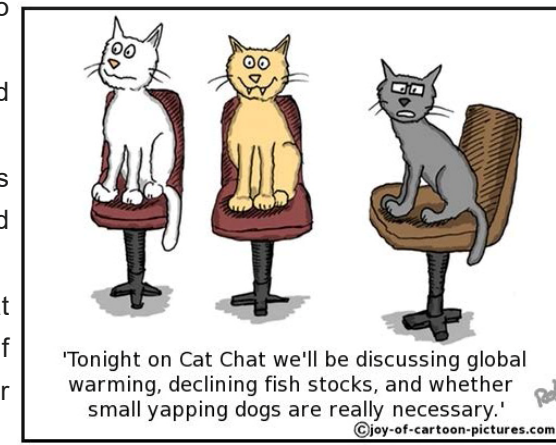
We have had the good fortune to have had another year of outstanding support from within and outside the St. John Valley. This has resulted in our being able to bring our operation to another level in terms of our rescue efforts this past year. We want to take this opportunity to thank as many of our supporters as possible in this newsletter.

- First, thank you to all the individuals who have made monetary or in-kind donations via mail, online, coin boxes and donation jars at our fundraisers.
- Thank you to Dr. Chris Yule and her staff at Fort Kent Animal Hospital and Dr. Victoria Swanson for excellent veterinary support.
- Thank to all the businesses who donated money, put out donation boxes or coin boxes or helped us through fundraisers. A special thank you to the over 40 businesses that contributed prizes for our holiday raffle. We listed them on the back of the tickets and in the Fiddlehead Focus during January. In addition to those businesses, we want to recognize these additional businesses for their support: Town of Fort Kent, Town of Eagle Lake, Key Bank, Inn of Acadia, Nadeau's House of Flooring, Gas n' Go, China Garden, Sugar Shack, Bald Eagle Store, Bouchard Farms, Gibson Realty, Dan's Electric, Nadeau's Lawn Care, Performance Printing, JBBC, Inc., Dr. Levesque School, and the Fort Kent Girl Scouts Troop #193 / Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).
- Thank you to the following individuals who deserve special mention for their contributions: Hana Strnad, Robert Bourgoin, Larysa Locapo, Susan Hall, Sandi Coburn, Sue and Sam Greenlaw, Laura Nickerson and Graham Williams, Paul and Jason Nadeau, Celeste Cobb and Oliver North, Wells Fargo employees and an individual who wishes to remain anonymous.

- Thank you to the families who lost loved ones and designated PAWS for donations in lieu of flowers.
- Finally, a special thank you to the many adopters who gave loving and forever homes to our cats and kittens.

We have had so much support this past year that we may have missed someone. We hope not, but if so, please know that we are equally grateful for your support.

The PAWS Board



The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."
~Jane Goodall

