

## In Memory



We found Midge and Piper too late. We did the best we could for them but their hard lives had taken its toll. Bailey developed cancer. All were very lovely and sweet cats.

### CANDIDS



## Silent Auction

In October of 2019, we kicked off a PAWS Silent Auction. This event had two components: 1. online bids that were submitted via Facebook in the week prior, and 2. the "in-person" event, held at The Inn of Acadia. 100% of the proceeds raised by this fundraiser went directly to funding the care-taking of our shelter cats. Money raised was applied towards areas such as purchasing cat food/cat litter, paying for veterinary care, and other shelter-related necessities. We had a huge variety of amazing and valuable items. Thank you to the public for your great show of support with the many bids submitted. We were thrilled at results.

Thank you SO MUCH to all of the area businesses/organizations who donated items, the volunteers who organized the event, and to the many people who placed bids... it was a team effort that greatly benefited local kittens/cats.



## PAWS Rescue

Rusty arrived at our shelter in Jan. 2019. He had been outside, trying to survive in the brutal Maine woods for four years, and had even lived amongst a group of raccoons. There were two neighbors trying to help him stay him alive, in two different rural areas. One of the persons would put out food for Rusty in the summer, while the other person would do so in the winter. We were unaware of this situation until we were contacted in January. We then went through the process of working to live-trap him, which proved challenging as volunteers had to load/re-load the trap twice daily during numerous snowstorms. We finally caught him! He needed medical treatment and time to physically recover from injuries and neuter surgery. After time spent healing, Rusty was adopted by one of the persons who had been feeding him! Despite all that he had been through, Rusty adjusted remarkably well, and is a friendly loving boy. We are thrilled for him.



## PAWS Rescue

During the winter of 2019, PAWS received a call from a Good Samaritan who had found two kittens abandoned in an apartment. The tenant had moved out, and left behind these two kittens in an empty apartment, as though they were trash - with no food, no water, and no heat. It is a miracle they survived. Frannie and Sweet Pea, both friendly and charming, were adopted from PAWS after they had recovered and have gone on to lead happy, healthy lives in their new adoptive homes.



*"It often happens that a person is more humanely related to a cat or a dog than to any human being."  
~ Henry David Thoreau*

## 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. Many businesses and individuals continue to support us each year and we are extremely grateful. We want to take this opportunity to thank as many of them as possible in this newsletter.

- 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 you to all the businesses who held fundraisers or made donations. Special mention goes to Gas n' Go, John's Shurfine, Central Building Supply and the Bald Eagle store for the coin boxes they put out for us every year, Paradis Shop n' Save in Madawaska, S. W. Collins, Unitarian Universalist Congregation and the Town of Fort Kent.
- Thank you to these individuals who deserve special mention for their donations - Hana Strnad, Robert Bourgoin, Susan Hall, Sandi Coburn, Sue & Sam Greenlaw, Laura Nickerson, Jeanne Nadeau, Celeste Cobb & Oliver North, Rick & Carolyn Daigle, Tammy Nadeau, Rita Levasseur, Chester and Rachel Bates and Manon Raymond.
- We want to give a rousing cheer to the supporter who matched the money PAWS raised from June 1 through Oct. 31 with a donation of \$5500.
- Thank you to the families who have 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*

We want to thank all the people who volunteered at the shelter in 2019. PAWS could not succeed without you!

### PAWS Volunteers

Bouchard Family  
Alyssa Brown  
Ellington Family  
Vickie & Lexi Gagnon  
Lori Grant  
Shelbie Guerrette  
Malmborg Family  
Gina, Nicolette & Christopher Martin  
Connie Michaud  
Roy at NMG  
Olivia Owens  
Samantha Ricciardi  
Naf Richie  
Judy Schenck  
Layla Cole  
MacKenzie Sheehan  
Dawn Susee  
Tardie Family  
Tricarico Family  
Wilson Family  
Halsey Yarrow

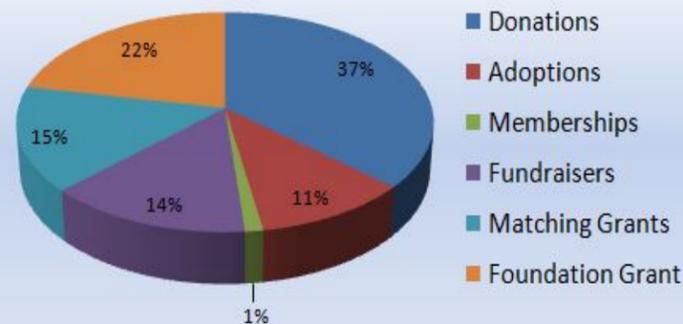
### PAWS Board Members

Jean Cobb  
President  
Garry Bouchard  
Vice President  
Christin Kastl  
Treasurer/Secretary  
Caroline Michaud  
Jeannine Ayotte  
Kathleen King  
S.L.



www.ourvalleypaws.org

**PAWS Total Revenue for 2019 = \$45,869**



**PAWS Total Expenses for 2019 = \$38,692**



ISSUE

09

FEBRUARY 2019



**PAWS**  
Animal Welfare Society, Inc.



**SPAY/ NEUTER HELP FOR KITTENS/CATS LIVING IN LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS!**

**DON'T DELAY! CALL US TODAY!**

**(207)-543-7348**

**YOU CAN HELP!**

**OUR SHELTER KITTIES COULD USE:**

**- DRY FOOD: PURINA ONE**

**- WET FOOD: FRISKIES PATE**

**- ANY BRAND OF CLUMPING LITTER**

**DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS WELCOMED!!!**

Each year PAWS spends approximately \$35,000 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 coupon or donating through PayPal on our website: <http://www.ourvalleypaws.org>

Complete this form to make a donation or to become a member of PAWS. Members will receive a quarterly newsletter via e-mail and will have the right to vote at our annual meetings in May. Also, members will receive a membership card via regular mail.

Any donations are tax deductible.

Donation and/or  Membership [ Lifetime \$150  Family \$25  Student/Senior \$10  Single \$15 ]

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

**PAWS helped the following homeless cats in 2019:**

**SHELTER ACTIVITY:**

- At shelter as of Jan. 1, 2019 - 13
- In foster care - 3
- Cats taken into shelter - 124
- Spayed/neutered - 58
- Extra medical care (x-rays, dentistry, etc.) - 32
- Adopted - 85
- Transferred to other shelters - 18
- Returned to owner - 5
- Euthanized - 3
- At shelter as of Dec. 31, 2019 - 26
- In foster care - 8

**CATS CAME FROM:**

- Allagash - 1
- Caribou - 2
- Cross Lake - 2
- Eagle Lake - 11
- Frenchville - 9
- Fort Kent - 24
- Grand Isle - 11
- Madawaska - 23
- New Canada - 5
- St. Agatha - 3
- St. David - 8
- St. Francis - 5
- St. John - 4
- Van Buren - 13
- Wallagrass - 2
- Winterville - 1

**SUPPORT OF OWNED CATS**

- Spay/neuter program sponsored by PAWS and friends - 88
- # of cat owners that received financial assistance from PAWS for medical care - 10
- Total # of owned cats helped by PAWS - 98



Before



After

2019 was a year of settling into our expanded facility and applying the finishing touches. We were very fortunate in terms of the latter; we were chosen by the Madawaska Border Patrol officers to be the beneficiary of their annual volunteer project. Their project was to do some much-needed landscaping for us. The officers arrived in June with their equipment and enthusiasm early one morning and by the end of the day they had leveled off our parking area, placed gravel and crushed shale over the gravel, installed a platform of tiles in front of our entryway, replaced our wooden stairs and porch floor with durable decking and spruced up our flower beds. This was an exciting event and a greatly appreciated gift to PAWS.

In addition to this improvement to our facility, we were able to continue fulfilling our mission of helping homeless and abandoned cats. We took 124 cats into our shelter and found good homes for 103 cats. All of our cats find homes eventually, even if they need to stay with us for months and, in some cases, over a year. Our goal has always been and remains to find a forever home that is right for each particular cat as well as ensuring that the cats have had its medical needs met before he/she leaves the shelter.

We continue to be successful each year because we have been fortunate to have dedicated and hard-working volunteers and because we receive the support we need from the community (see our thanks to our donors on Pg. 3). Everyone in our group is a volunteer including the board members. Unlike many other shelters, we have no paid staff which means all donations and money raised is used for the direct care of the cats

In addition to the donations and support we receive from others, we hold fundraisers each year. In 2019 we had two major fundraisers – yard sales in the Spring and a silent auction in the Fall (see article on the next page).

In addition to fundraisers, we apply for grants. We received \$10,000 from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation in Oct. of 2019 to provide funding for spaying/neutering of community cats (groups of homeless cats). This will allow us to expand upon the work we have already been doing and result in a greater reduction in the number of homeless cats.

Paws Animal Welfare Society, Inc. was born in the winter of 2008 when two women discovered that the overpopulation of cats in the St. John Valley was out of control causing the suffering and death of countless cats. They decided that the situation was unacceptable and vowed to do something about it. Because of their vision, compassion and determination the situation was brought under control and the organization they started is thriving more than a decade later. Today, the St John Valley has a state of the art animal shelter that is a tribute to all our volunteers past and present and all of our many supporters.