

# P.A.W.S.

Spring 2026 Newsletter

**Donate today!**



Paws



## SAVE THE DATE

P.A.W.S. 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WINE TASTING, BEER TASTING, AND SILENT AUCTION WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

P.A.W.S is currently collecting auction items & gift certificates, so please reach out to our Director, Beth Cline-Stroud, or one of our Board Members if you have something you wish to donate, or call 828-488-0418 for more info. Tickets are on sale online and at P.A.W.S. Thrift Store. You can also pay at the door on the night of the event.

We hope everyone will come out and join us for this fun-filled night of live music, great food, great wine & beer selections, and awesome items to bid on!

**P.A.W.S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Tasting, beer tasting, and silent auction will be on September 5, 2026**

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# BECAUSE OF YOU, THEY DIDN'T FACE THE STORM ALONE

When a brutal winter storm threatened the lives of vulnerable animals, P.A.W.S. acted without hesitation



As winter tightened its grip on our community and forecasts warned of an approaching snowstorm, our team at P.A.W.S. knew there were animals who would not survive what was coming. In the days leading up to the storm, we went out into the bitter cold—through freezing winds and dropping temperatures—to reach as many vulnerable animals as possible. What we found was heartbreaking. More than 30 dogs were living without reliable food, clean water, or shelter. Many were already weak from hunger. Some were desperately trying to survive by hiding in garbage, searching for scraps and a place to escape the cold. Among them were elderly dogs, their bodies worn and fragile, and small dogs whose size alone made survival in those conditions nearly impossible. It was clear: without immediate intervention, they would not make it through the night.



Because of you, these dogs did not face the storm alone. Because of you, they are safe, warm, and beginning new lives

So we acted. We brought the most vulnerable back with us—lifting them out of the cold and into safety. That night, because of the compassion and urgency of this mission, lives were saved. Once inside our shelter, each dog was given what they had been denied for far too long: warm, dry beds, nourishing food, fresh water, and comprehensive veterinary care. But just as important as their physical healing was something many of them had never known before—gentle, compassionate human touch. Fear gave way to curiosity. Curiosity turned into trust. And trust blossomed into connection.

# LAINNEY'S STRENGTH: A STORY OF SURVIVAL, LOVE, AND SECOND CHANCES

On the brink of survival, Lainey arrived carrying not only her fragile body—  
but the lives of her unborn puppies.



Some lives come into our care at the very edge of survival—and it is in those moments that compassion matters most. Lainey's story is one we will never forget. When she was brought to P.A.W.S., Lainey was severely malnourished, exhausted, and heavily pregnant—so close to delivering that we knew every second mattered. Her frail body told a story of prolonged neglect, yet despite everything she had endured, she remained gentle and trusting.

We got her just in time. Lainey gave birth safely within our shelter, but it quickly became clear that the effects of starvation had taken a devastating toll—not only on her, but on her newborn puppies as well. Lainey was also heartworm positive, further weakening her already fragile condition. Though she tried with everything she had, her body simply could not produce the milk her puppies needed to survive. Still, she never stopped trying. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we rushed Lainey and her puppies to an emergency veterinarian.



It was there we learned the heartbreaking reality: the puppies were failing to thrive and would not survive without immediate, intensive intervention. But giving up was never an option. Around-the-clock care began. Bottle feedings every two hours ensured the puppies had a chance. In a moment that none of us will ever forget, Lainey began gently lifting each puppy and placing them before her caregiver—as if asking for help.

***Today—because no one gave up—Lainey and her puppies are alive, healthy, and thriving.***

## WINTER SPICE'S STORY: A SECOND CHANCE BEGINS WITH YOU

Left alone, injured, and terrified, her story became one of hope.

Some stories stay with you forever. Winter Spice's is one of them. Just one day after Christmas, a frightened, malnourished young dog was spotted running along the road near the Bryson City welcome sign—alone, desperate, and silently begging for help.



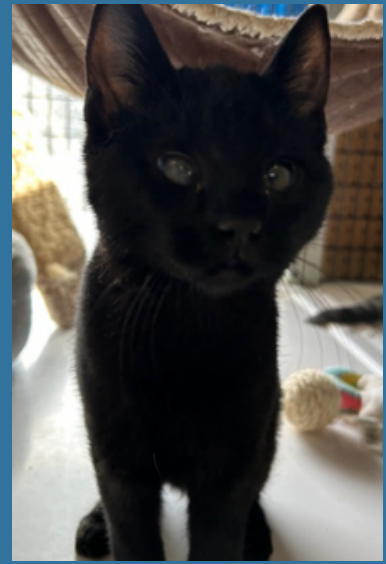
When she arrived at our shelter, she wouldn't stand. She wouldn't walk. She wouldn't even lift her head. Slowly, she began to respond. Then we discovered the truth. Her jaw had been shattered by a gunshot. Bullet fragments remained embedded. Yet somehow, she still chooses love. Because of compassionate supporters like you, she received the medical care she needed. Today, she is healing, growing stronger, and beginning to live the life she was always meant to have.



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**Some stories stay with you forever. Winter Spice's is one of them.**

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## P.A.W.S. RESCUES THREE KITTENS FROM THE BRINK OF BLINDNESS

THREE TINY KITTENS FACED A FUTURE WITHOUT SIGHT—UNTIL URGENT CARE CHANGED EVERYTHING.

In a powerful reminder of how timely intervention can change lives, P.A.W.S. recently rescued three young kittens suffering from severe eye infections that threatened their vision—and their future. When the kittens first arrived, their condition was critical. Their eyes were inflamed, swollen, and at high risk of permanent damage. Without immediate medical attention, they likely would have lost their sight entirely. Recognizing the urgency, P.A.W.S. sprang into action. The kittens were rushed into veterinary care, beginning a series of intensive treatments. Over multiple vet visits, they received specialized medications, including antibiotics and carefully administered eye ointments designed to fight infection and reduce inflammation. The road to healing was not easy.



But thanks to the dedication of the P.A.W.S. team and veterinary partners, the kittens steadily improved. Today, these kittens are a testament to what compassionate, timely rescue can achieve.

Because they were treated when they were, their eyesight was saved—giving them the opportunity to live full, healthy lives.

## HELP PAWS HELP THEM



Yes, I want to help P.A.W.S. help them! I would like to:

- Be a Volunteer
- Make a \$\_\_\_\_ donation for shelter supplies
- Sponsor a dog or cat with medical expenses
- Pledge \$\_\_\_\_ a month to help all P.A.W.S. Animals
- I would like to talk with someone about other ways to give (estate planning, vehicles, land, etc)

*PAWS is a 501(c)3 non-profit, no-kill animal shelter existing on the generosity of private donors.*

Send your tax deductible contribution to:

**PAWS Animal Shelter**  
**PO Box 1814 Bryson City, NC 28713**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

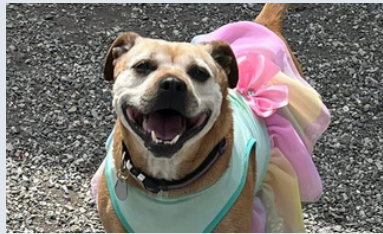
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP:



Provide high-quality, nutritious food to stray dogs, cats, and other rescued animals.



Fund life-saving treatments, vaccinations, and spay/neuter programs.



Support facilities that house and rehabilitate animals until they find forever homes.

## CONNECT WITH US!