



1111 Dodgetown Rd.
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
www.friendsofstokesshelter.com



MARCH 2026
ISSUE #35



WELCOME BACK

Here we blow into March. Just like that, the Valentine candy is gone and we are now picking out where we are going to drink green beer. It is refreshing that each month, we get to reflect on what has been going on with our alumni's and see sweet pictures of them. Our volunteer, Wendy Elliott collects aluminum cans and turns the cans into cash for FOSS. She has invited our supporters to help with this effort. We ask that they are in a trash bag that contains NO liquid. They will be stored at the center as well as transported in her car so we want to make sure we don't have flies and that the bags don't soil her car. We are gearing up for our 2026 3rd Annual Putts for Pets Golf Tournament as well. This has been so much fun in the past and we feel sure that this year will be just a memorable. We would love to have your company, the company that you work for or even you as an individual sponsor of tee signs, snack cart, Longest Drive and Closest to Pin. By the time that you are reading this, our cat glass wall will be constructed. The dog ISO play yard will be underway with getting completed and we will be ONE step closer to our storage building outside. Every month we grow and every month we are amazed at how wonderful our supporters are. We had one donor send a ton of Chewy items and one who sent a much needed outdoor bench. In February we brought in 15 dogs and 11 cats. That is 26 lives that our volunteers will love on and spoil. We ask that you please continue sharing our post and helping us adopt as many animals as we can. We can only do this with your help. We hope that you enjoy this issue and that if you have adopted from us, send in those stories and pictures to fosservicesmanager@gmail.com

Newsletter Highlights

Dixie AKA Fidget



Bob



Bluey AKA Midget



Juniper



Bonnie AKA Godiva



Milah AKA Gennie



Meet Your GM & Staff



Millie AKA Camilla



Libbie AKA Mistleto



Cat & Small Dog Spay-Neuter Clinic
May 1, 2026

Mobile Unit will Spay 5 female dogs and Neuter 7 male dogs. ALL DOGS MUST BE UNDER 30LBS AND NO "SMUSHY FACE" (PUG, BOSTON, FRENCHIE, ETC)

There will also be spots for 26 cats (Cats must be owned cats and not feral cats)

Thanks to a grant, we can provide this for our community. The cost will be \$25 per pet, and DSS will assist FOSS in determining applicants eligibility.



ALL pets must have a current rabies vaccination (if the pet is not up to date, a vaccine will be given at the time of surgery).

3RD ANNUAL FRIENDS OF STOKES SHELTER GOLF TOURNAMENT
PUTTS FOR PETS
MAY 16TH, 2026 8:00 AM

4 PERSON "CAPTAIN CHOICE" SHOTGUN
REGISTRATION STARTS 7:30 AM
GROUP OF 4 - \$240 OR 2 - \$120 JUST SOME GOOD OLE' FUN!

PACKAGE DEALS

GREAT DANE - \$900.00 INCLUDES 8 PLAYERS (2 FOURSOME), SIGN WITH COMPANY LOGO AT 4 TEES AND RECOGNITION ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

GOLDEN RETRIEVER - \$450.00 - INCLUDES 4 PLAYERS (1 FOURSOME), SIGN WITH COMPANY LOGO AT 2 TEES AND RECOGNITION ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.

BEAGLE - \$250.00 - INCLUDES 2 PLAYERS, SIGN WITH COMPANY LOGO AT 1 TEE AND RECOGNITION ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.

CHIHUAHUA - 100.00 - INCLUDES A SIGN WITH LOGO AT 1 TEE AND RECOGNITION ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.

STRINGS - 3.5, AND MULLIGANS - 2 FOR 10 FEET - \$20 \$10, 1 PER 9 HOLES

SPONSORS NEEDED

GOLF HOLE - \$100
SNACK CART SPONSOR - \$200
LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR - \$200
CLOSEST TO PIN - PAR 3 - \$200

TO REGISTER VISIT:
WWW.FRIENDSOFSTOKESSHELTER.COM OR SCAN QUESTIONS? OR CODE CALL 336-914-9270

HEMLOCK GOLF COURSE
1872 POWER DAM RD
WALNUT COVE, NC 27052

LUNCH, DESSERT AND AWARDS 50/50 PRIZES RAFFLES

Donate Supplies from our
amazon wishlist



chewy.com

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN ORDER FROM OUR CHEWY WISHLIST

Look Who Got Adopted in February

Snow	Toby	Nala
Prince	Darla	Bean
Silvie	Kira	Daisy the Bunny
Sprinkle	Ziva	CharlieBrown
Dash	Duke	Winter
Chilli	Buddy	Fred

Dixie AKA Fidget

By: April Childers

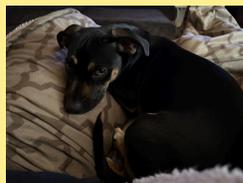
I was adopted as fidget but Dixie just fit me too well so now that's what Mom and Dad call me! I get to go to work with Mom everyday and I sure do love meeting new people every day, getting lots of treats and a whole lot of loving! I highly dislike collars but I listen really well so I don't have to worry about wearing one. I'm thriving, having a blast and Mom and Dad love me bunches!



Bob

By: Jeff Harris

Here are some pictures of Bob who enjoys eating toilet paper and various parts of my body. The blanket photos are when we brought him home and the other two are more recent to show how much (not much) he has grown. Thanks for blessing us with Bob even though it is dang hard to type after he chewed off my index finger.



Bluey AKA Midget

By: Monica Murphy



I truly appreciate the call today regarding Blue. I changed his name from Midget to Bluey, but we all call him Blue for short. He is an absolute angel and healthy as can be. He goes Monday, 1/12, for the last of his puppy shots and he is already on flea/tick preventative as well as heartworm preventative. He fits in perfectly with the rest of my pack; however, he is quite spoiled since I bring him to work with me most days!!

I had his DNA tested through Embark and have attached the results in case any of his siblings are interested in what makes up their puppy. I know he had three sisters when they were brought to FOSS. I was so surprised and pleased with the results!

I'm also attaching two current pictures of Blue. One is at home, where he likes to sit on my coffee table, and the other is in my office, where he spends his time getting spoiled by my employees. In that picture, one of my employees brought him a special bone to enjoy!!

Probably the most interesting thing so far with Bluey is the fact that he has a "cracked glass" or "marbled" eye. In Blue's case, it is a hereditary trait and nothing to be concerned with. It, of course, doesn't interfere with his vision but it is quite a conversation starter. People who notice it think he has something in his eye. I have attached a picture of that, as well. My vet says he has never seen it before!! But, apparently, it's a thing because it's all over Google!!

Thank you again for the phone call today. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am so impressed with the wonderful organization you run.



Juniper

By: Joy Branch

This is Juniper with her new family. Rudy is the ruby color dog and that's her brother. She's so lovable and such a drama queen. She is learning good behavior and loves her boy, Brayden. He is the 11 year old in the pictures.

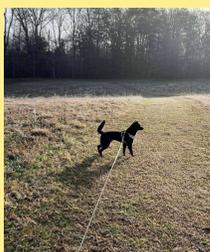
Thank you!!



Bonnie AKA Godiva

By: Sandra Belmont

Bonnie (formerly Godiva) is adjusting well to her new home. She loves to take long walks and play in the backyard -she is a super fast runner! She is playful and loving though still skittish around new people. She loves every dog she meets. We are so thankful that you rescued her and that we found her ❤️



Milah AKA Gennie

By: Carol Tilley

Milah has brought us so much joy. She has fit right in and made herself at home. We love her so much . Thanks to all of the friends of Stokes shelter for rescuing and caring for these precious animals.



Adopt Me



Apollo

Apollo is a 61lb hunk of love. He is a little over 2 years old and is so loving. He wants to find him a person to throw him some toys for him to play with then go inside and lounge on the couch with him. He has the sweetest personality.

Rocky

Rocky is a 60lb soul guy who will just melt your heart! Those brown eyes will just talk to you. He is a little over 3 years old and is ready to have a family to call his own. He isn't a high maintenance guy. He just wants his own lap to rest his head on and give his love to.

APPLY TODAY

www.friendsofstokesshelter.com



MEET THE FOSS GM & STAFF



Renea Brown

Services Division Manager

I would like to start off by saying it is my honor and privilege to be a part of this amazing organization. It has, and will always be a piece of my heart. I have always loved animals and like every kid, I wanted all of them. When I was growing up, the philosophy for animals was quite different from the way it is now (and should have been then). Pets ARE a part of the family. The drive behind me becoming a part of the FOSS organization in 2013 was to make a difference for the animals in Stokes County AND to teach our kids how you properly care for animals. That later landed in the Girl Scout Troop that I co-lead and has been something that I am PROUD to say is instilled in the hearts of my kids. That beautiful girl in the picture is my amazing grand-daughter and she also LOVES being at FOSS and loving on the "uppies and meows". THIS is where the difference will begin, with these little ones we need to teach them how to love and care for animals. I am so proud of how we have grown and how we continue to grow. Not only in the facilities growth and education in the care that we give the animals but in the way that we reach out to our community and give back. The community blesses us EVERYDAY and we need to show them how much they are appreciated.



Tonya Palmer

Kennel Assistant

Hey, hey everybody! My name is Tonya Palmer. I am a kennel assistant at Friends of Stokes Shelter. (FOSS) All of this was once a dream of mine and so many others! I've been with FOSS since day one, meeting one. My love for animals dates back to the day I was born. I have two daughters one in the space force, and one who gave me the greatest gift of all my grandson. In my spare time I love to read and write and sing! (I cannot carry a tune in a bucket, but it won't stop me) As many of you may remember Savannah, our longest term resident to date, is my doggy daughter! She has made a wonderful companion for our older dog Otis! She still chases a tennis ball BUT she prefers a lazy car ride! She ended up after all, sharing a home with my critter cat, although she still is not the biggest fan! My love for FOSS runs deep within my soul. I not only enjoy the animals, the volunteers, the fundraising, the community & transporting, I most of all love cleaning our building!! I am proud of what we have built here and I am proud of our community for stepping up. We could not do it without you. From the bottom of my heart thank you!

Mike Barsness

GM/Emeritus Board Member

It is a tremendous honor to be part of the FOSS experience. My wife, Mary Anne, introduced me to animal rescue nearly 25 years ago and was the impetus to join FOSS and make it a retirement focus. After serving six years as a board member, including two years as chair, my current volunteer role as general manager allows me to work with an incredibly dedicated group of employees and volunteers. Creating new and innovative ways to place homeless dogs and cats is an everyday practice for our team. We see great results because everyone is pulling in the same direction. Our FOSS mission guides us to not only find homes, but to be a resource to the community to provide information and tools that, in the long run, will serve to reduce the number of euthanizations, abuse and neglect. Success requires a lot of hard work but the results make the work seem like fun.



MEET THE FOSS GM & STAFF



Crystal Finney Kennel Assistant

My name is Crystal Finney, and I am one of the kennel assistants at Friends of Stokes Shelter (FOSS). I have been part of the FOSS family since the COVID era, and caring for animals has become more than just a job for me—it's a true passion. I live in Pinnacle with my husband and our two grown children. At home, our family includes six dogs and three bearded dragons, who are a big part of my life.

My love for animals led me to pursue hands-on education to better care for my own pets. After an incident involving one of my Yorkies—I have three—I went to school to learn how to groom my own dogs. More recently, I graduated with a diploma in dog training, further expanding my ability to understand and support animals with a wide range of needs.

Over the years, I have gained experience working with many types of animals, including dogs, cats, small pocket pets of all kinds, and reptiles. At FOSS, I strive to treat every animal that comes through our doors as if they were my own. The animals I enjoy working with most are the ones who arrive scared or unsure. Being able to witness their transformation—watching them learn they are safe and cared for—is incredibly rewarding.

I truly love my job and take pride in being one of the many safe, familiar faces the animals see each day. FOSS is a strong team and a true blessing to the animals of our county, and I am grateful to be part of something so meaningful.



Erika Podjaser Kennel Assistant

Hi! My name is Erika, and I've been volunteering with Friends of the Stokes Shelter since February 2023. I currently serve as the backup kennel assistant, and I truly love being part of a team that works so hard to care for the animals in our community.

My husband, David — my high school sweetheart — volunteers alongside me, and our three kids do too! We homeschool, so serving at FOSS has become a meaningful part of our family life. It's been such a gift to work together and teach our children compassion, responsibility, and patience through caring for animals who need a second chance.

We were both raised in Orlando, Florida, but as our family grew, we longed for a quieter lifestyle. In 2022, we made the move to Walnut Cove and have been thankful for the opportunity to raise our children in this community. Becoming part of FOSS has been one of the biggest blessings of that move — it's helped us feel rooted and connected.

Our home is happily full of animals — three dogs, four cats, and some fish — and two of them are proud "foster fails" from FOSS. One especially close to our hearts is Bean, a special girl who/is was very scared of people. She slowly fell in love with our family, and we with her, and she's been with us since July 2024. Watching her grow in confidence has been one of the sweetest and most rewarding experiences of our time with FOSS.

We love animals deeply and are so grateful to be part of the work FOSS does every day. It's an honor to serve and to help give these animals the love and safety they deserve.



Lorrie Bennett Grant Manager

I first became involved with FOSS in the fall of 2020 as a volunteer, simply wanting to walk dogs and help with cleaning. What started as a way to give back, quickly grew into a true passion for the FOSS mission and the incredible work being done at FOSS every day.

I stepped into the role of a Volunteer Coordinator, where I've had the privilege of working closely with the dedicated individuals who give their time and heart to our animals. Supporting and organizing our volunteer team has been such a rewarding experience, and I'm continually inspired by their compassion and commitment.

Today, in addition to serving as a Volunteer Coordinator, I also work as Grant Manager. In this role, I focus on securing funding that allows us to continue rescuing, caring for, and finding loving homes for animals in need. I recently retired from my full-time job, so I have more time to spend at FOSS doing what I love. I live in Rural Hall with my husband, Mark, and our rescue dog, Daisy, who reminds me every day why this work matters so much. I love traveling, reading, listening to live music and spending time with family and friends.

I'm grateful to be part of such a dedicated team and community, and I look forward to continuing to support our mission in every way I can.



FOSS Donation Wall

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact (336) 914-9270 or fosservicesmanager@gmail.com with any corrections or questions.

AND FOR ALL OF THE AMAZON WISH LIST PURCHASES

IN MEMORY OF PERSON

Marilyn Sensabaugh
Neil & Betty Moore
Kevin & Debbie Moore
Richard & Angie Abbott
Allison Washurn
Blane Tuttle, Jr.
Kim Craig & Stan Inman

IN HONOR OF PERSON

Susan Hathcock Collins
Alice Gardiner

IN MEMORY OF PET

Mickey Martin (Marla Martin)
Jennifer Roberts

DONATIONS

Diane Lackey
Mendenhall Pest
Powell Shelton
Charles Jones
Lori Purnell
Lauren Osterman
Ruth Harden
Lisa Weaver

VPP HEROES

Elizabeth Trumpie	Barbara Self
Deborah Dodson	Emily Ann Williams
Lisa Tutterow	Candi Carter
Karen Coleman	Tammy Meadows
Robin Amos	Jeanette Burleson
Kathryn Ball	Courtney Dwyer
Dana Curtis	Ruth Harden
Larry Greenwood	Deb Fox
Cynthia Wadkinson	Rose Oakes
George Wadkinson	Lauren Osterman
Lisa Robertson	Regina Rollins
Karen Grano	Nancy Wagner
JoAnne Silvia	Sheri Lynn Rokosh
Robert Barnett	Karen Fulscher
Lynne Pasquale	Angela Gamble
Brenna Husel	Samantha Cooley
Jessica Lucy Lawrence	Gina McGee

SPECIAL THANKS

Wanda & Marty Dyer
WestieWeens Pet Boutique

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND A DONATION IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, PLEASE SEND IT TO: FRIENDS OF STOKES SHELTER 1111 DODGETOWN RD., WALNUT COVE, NC 27052

Amazon & Other Donors

Amazon has stopped allowing us to send out electronic "thank you's" for your generous donations. We have decided to say our thank you in the newsletter. We are so thankful for you. Some donations do not come in with a receipt so if you do not see your name, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU.

Debbie Lavoie
Kara Kymont, Jeanne & Dog
Denise Bridgen
Alicia Reynolds

Laura & Bill Norman
Lynne Lankford
Vanessa Peet
Emily Andrews

Kris
Lois Slate
Tiller Dillon
Ronda Jones

Jessica Lucy Lawrence
Kristie Vette
Wanda & Marty Dyer
Lauren Osterman



Volunteer of the Month

JoAnne Silvia

720 HOURS

JoAnne has been volunteering for a couple of years. She is always so energetic when it comes to working with the dogs and helping them learn commands and sends us some of the cutest photos of the animals. When we asked the volunteers for ideas on how to improve FOSS, JoAnne has never hesitated coming up with some of the most productive ideas. We so appreciate all that she puts into FOSS and the love and attention that she gives the animals.

- 1st - Arianna Tynio
- 24th - Erika Podhajser
- 25th - Lynne Burnette
Pat Anderson

Millie AKA Camilla

By: Robin Hooker

Hil! I spoke with Nonie yesterday, and she asked that I send you some pics of my baby. You had her named Camilla; I named her Millie. She is absolutely rotten. lol. Potty training is a challenge. Sometimes she does pretty well, then other times it's out the window. But I know I'm not the best dog trainer ever. Actually, I'm not good at it at all. And I have a senior dog with issues, so it doesn't help that she potties here and there. I'm struggling with that one... she and the other blue heeler were actually my husband's dogs. He passed in 2022, so I'm dealing with a lot of issues with those two.

But Millie is the sweetest little goofball. I love her to pieces. She is such a joy to me. That little face just melts my heart.

Oh, and I don't know what kind of worm medicine they had given her, but she was infested with tapeworms. I had to take her to the vet a week after I got her. Not complaining, just an fyi.

Thanks for everything you all do there! I would help you out, but I'm afraid I'd want to bring them all home with me. I've thought about it many, many times.



Libby AKA Mistletoe

By: Anne Sapp

Hello!

I just wanted to share that it's been one year since we adopted Libby (aka Mistletoe)! She is a very patient dog with a stubborn streak that only turns on when we are outside and she doesn't want to come back in! She is a supreme snuggler and is obsessed with her Kong. I attached 2 pics to show how much she's grown.

Thanks for the opportunity to make her part of our family.



OUR FUREVER HOME SWEET HOME



Send in your adopted pet pictures. Email them to fossservicesmanager@gmail.com





HAPPY ADOPTION DAY!!

