

# P.A.W.S. Print

**HOLIDAY EDITION!!!**

What a year...this year has challenged us in ways that we have never been challenged before. We have weathered stormy times, but nothing quite like this.

When Helene hit Western NC, we were far more fortunate than some; we had some storm damage due to trees falling and crashing through the top of our food storage building and flooding and ruining all our food, not only the food for our animals at P.A.W.S. but also all the food we hand out to our community to families in need. The storm caused us to lose precious vaccinations and expensive medication that had to be kept refrigerated; trees took out parts of our fencing, and one tree damaged our cat's catio area, but compared to many, we fared so much better than most.

We are thankful we were spared so much of the destruction and that all our animals and humans are safe.

We were already having financial difficulties due to the price increase of medications, vaccinations, food, and utilities, but then, on top of all that, we got handed another big hit that we did not anticipate due to a high rate of town water our water and sewage bill was increased by 300%, an increase we had not put in our budget this year. Between the storm and the water increase and all the other inflated costs of running a shelter, we are in dire need of monetary donations. We need your help in order to keep our shelter open and running.

Now that I have shared some of the sad news, let me share a few glimmers of great news. Although our shelter capacity has not increased, the number of animals we house or care for has quadrupled. You might ask how that is even possible; well, this year, we strived to increase our foster base in order to help more animals. In hindsight, this year may not have been the year to take on such a more significant amount of animal expenses; however, it was needed. So many people this year have come to us needing to surrender their animals due to the cost of living. They were having difficulties putting food on the table for their own family, so providing care for their animals was impossible. We all know that an animal coming into a shelter, no matter how great the care, is a scary and traumatic event for an owned animal. That is why we knew we had to increase our foster base. These animals would be served better in a home than at a shelter. As great as we are here at the shelter, one thing we have never been able to do is mend a broken heart, which happens when an owned animal loses his/her people and his/her home.

The need to help was NOW, even though we knew it would be a financial burden on P.A.W.S., but we did it. We stepped up to the plate to help these animals. We got them placed into loving foster homes. Many animals sadly need medication or special food due to their age or the lack of proper veterinarian care in their previous home.

However, the burden to P.A.W.S. is that we took on this plight even though we were already worried about how we could keep our doors open. Donations have been down, and expenses have dramatically increased. We now need to beg, plead, cry, and do whatever it takes in order to help all the animals that depend on us.

We know it has been a rough and trying year, and this year, there are so many places in great need, but we need all the help we can get to continue our work.

Can you please double, triple, or make a substantially larger donation this year so we can help these much-needed animals? They are all counting on you, and we are counting on you.

# DOC

It's been one of our most challenging years at the shelter, but it has been extremely difficult for one of our sanctuary dogs.

Doc.

We first met Doc in September 2012. He was one of 16 abandoned feral dogs left at a church. We devised a plan to capture these dogs and successfully rescued each one. All 16 dogs were rescued and two dogs, Doc, and Big Daddy, came to live at the shelter.

We always knew Doc did not like change. Back in September 2012, when he was first caught and taken to a foster home, we found out that he had gotten loose from that home, and no one could find him. Imagine our surprise when we went to feed the other dogs at the church and found Doc back there. A creature of habit, he trekked over 12 miles back up to the church the minute he got loose from the foster.

After that, he was a little more cautious with us, and he and Big Daddy were very suspicious of our every move. However, they could not resist McDonald's cheeseburgers, so we finally got him to accompany us. Fast forward to his living at our shelter for the past 12 years. Before you gasp and feel sorry for Doc for his life in a shelter for the past 12 years, let me explain this is where he chose to be. This was his home, and he made sure we all knew that. He had no desire to live anywhere but the shelter. This is where he felt safe; this is where he found love, empathy, compassion, and care. This is where he found HOME. Doc has never wanted for anything in our care. Like all animals in our care, he gets nutritious meals, medical and preventative care, healthy snacks, a comfy bed, toys, his own kennel, and a private play yard. We learned he didn't like change, so he wasn't a fan of you mixing things up on him. He loves his kennel, private play yard, toys, loyal friends, and fan club. He has consistently received good veterinarian care, and he's been fortunate that his vet made farm visits to see him as he doesn't like to travel. Let me rephrase that: he refuses to travel. He doesn't even like to go to the lobby or med room, so we have accommodated him in every way. He loves his life with us; he knows he is safe and loved.

Sadly, Doc recently started losing a lot of weight and couldn't keep his food down. We tried everything, and several vets came to do shelter calls to see if they could help him. Ultimately, although Doc would hate it, we knew he had to leave the shelter to go into a vet's office so he could have X-rays, ultrasounds, etc. They had Doc stay the night, and he couldn't stand up when we got him back. He looked like he had given up; he was worse; however, once we got him back to the shelter, his home, he immediately seemed happier; he was weak, but he was standing, eating, and acting as if he was feeling much better. What we learned that day was not only the diagnosis of megaesophagus but also that Doc did not do well leaving his home. We wouldn't put him through that again. Doc has megaesophagus. [Continued on next page.](#)



## DOC.....Cont. from page 2-

Ordinarily, when this happens, a dog needs a bailey chair to eat from; well, we knew our sweet Doc, a creature of habit, would not allow us to put him in a chair to eat sitting up. We tried several techniques that our vet suggested, including having him position himself as if he were going on a piggyback ride on our back to feed him. We were willing to try anything, but some would be apprehensive about putting Doc on their back, but Beth did it without hesitation. As we said, we were willing to try anything. Well, Doc thought Beth had finally lost her mind, and of course, he wasn't eating this way. We finally got him to accept his food out of a new heightened bowl, but even that took days for him to adjust. We know we are on borrowed time with Doc, but as of right now, he has shown us that he still wants to be here and that he is not in any pain. He has medication and gets subQ fluids with vitamin B to help keep his energy up, and after trying every type of food possible, we finally landed on one that he will eat. Doc still loves going into his play yard, and he loves the sound of a specific voice and sound coming around the corner, one of us coming around the corner with a McDonald's bag. That boy can get up and move when he sees a McDonald's bag coming in through his lot. Cheeseburgers make him happy, and we are all about keeping him happy. For years, he did not get to eat burgers, but we will let him have all the burgers he wants at this stage in his diagnosis and life.

Ironically, you would think seeing that McDonald's bag and smelling those burgers would make him think back to the day he was captured. Perhaps it does. It's the food that changed his world 12 years ago and allowed him to live his best life with us.

He is a staple at the shelter. Honestly, we who have been around him for 12 years don't know how it will ever seem the same after he is gone.

We are just happy to be able to provide Doc and all the thousands who have come through our doors with all the care they need. You make that possible. Your donations are what make this possible, so from Doc and all the lives you have changed, we thank you!!!

At this time it is costing us over \$500 a month for Doc's special food & meds, he is worth every penny but we desperately could use some help with this expense.

Could you help us care for our special boy, a dog that deserves to live out the rest of what he has left in comfort, in the place he calls home.



All of our fur kids here at the shelter have written their letters to Santa with a little help from their friends. They have been extra good this year. I thought you might enjoy reading some of their letters. Santa is extra challenged this year like the rest of us. If you would like to give him a hand, we know it would be appreciated.

Dear Santa,

Not sure about this Christmas business. Now they want us to write a letter, silly hoomans! Most of my peeps here want a new family but I have Mama Beth. She takes me for rides and gets me cheeseburgers. I am now on this medication called Librella because I am old and old arthur is settling in. These shots cost \$100 per injeciton and I recieve a monthly shot. It has really helped me to keep moving around pain free. My friend Ginger is also on it. So I know P.A.W.S. could use some help financially with our Librella. I know it is hard for staff to afford this for us because we caught them crying over the trays of Librella we lost due to losing refrigeration during a storm.

I would like a new kopek bed, some Pupperoni, and Lambchop toys. Love me some Lambchop! Thanks, Santa.

Big Daddy

Hi Santa, My name is Momo

I want a family to call my own, It's tough to keep this happy girl image up here in the shelter. I mean, they are great to me but I want to play with KIDS! I understand if you can't. It's a lot to ask. Some stuffed animals, some blankets, and treats and treats and treats would be great. Did I mention treats?

Love, Momo

Hi Santa! I'm a happy pupper, Bruce is my name and cuddling is my game! (and hugs and kisses!) My friends say I'm a ray of sunshine.

Can I have a family for Christmas? A family to love and play and call my own? And balls and ropes and squeaky toys to play with. And Pupperoni! Thanks! Love, Bruce

Hi Santa, I'm Maizy

Can I have a family? I love em! And ear rubs and belly scratches! I love to run and play. I also love those big chew toys, durable toys and rope toys and any treat.

I'm a VERY good girl, everyone says so! Thanks, Santa!

Love, Maizy

Dear Santa, I'm Shorty I've been around for awhile. I love playing in the water, I know strange for a cat but I love it. I have a loud purr and love all the pets, treats, laps, pets, and oh, did I say pets. Ooh, and mice toys, mice toys are the best! All us kitties would like water fountains, laser pointers, catnip, catnip, catnip, feathered toys, treats, balls, string toys, and treats!

Oh and I am old without teeth so I eat Sheba wet food if you want to help with my food. Love, Shorty

Dear Santa,

I'd sure love an ortho bed (my old bones hurt), staff thinks I could benefit from Librella so I am asking for help with that. Also soft fluffy toys and Dino chews, and other treats.

Love, Baxter

Santa, Hi, I'm Scooby, I love balls, squeaky toys, Pupperoni and oh my gosh, oh my gosh, ball, ball, ball, huh, letter, what letter? Oh, I love balls and balls and balls and things that squeak. Squeaky toys! Oh, and Pupperoni! Huh? There's a ball! Gotta go, Thanks Santa! Love, Scooby

I'm a good girl Santa! Could you bring me a family that loves me and wants to have two great dogs. I want to take my daughter Clover with me. We are a bonded pair. I love to play and cuddle and get ear scratches. Could you bring me some long toys, squeaky toys, a soft couch, oh and treats, I love the treats! Thanks!

Love, Ginger & Clover

Dear Santa, I'm Shirley, I would love a home with lots of love, pets, cuddles, and belly scratches.

My sister and I are little and many want little dogs but we are very bonded to one another. We do everything together including sleeping in the same kennel together. Some say we are harder to place because I have a defective leg that causes me no pain, just looks funny and my sister Laverne is on seizure medication. This has made placing us in a home a bigger challenge but staff here tells us our perfect loving home is out there, so that is what we would like for Christmas.

Love, Shirely & Laverne

Hi, Santa,

Seriously, me and all the cats would love some Feathered toys, ball toys, laser toys, fluff or feather toys and string toys. Thanks, Santa! Gotta jet!

The Cat Crew



Dear Santa,

I'm Raven, I'm always thinking of others and well myself too. All of us cats would love new cat towers to play in and on. We love to sit up high and have cool hide outs for quiet time. Could you maybe bring us some cool comfy lounging towers with lots swings & hanging toys.

Love, Raven



Puppers Wish List: Balls, Blankets, Squeaky Toys, Blankets, Stuffed Animals, Pupperoni, Rope Toys, Milkbones.

Kitty Wish List: Cat Towers, Water Fountains, Cat Nip, Feathered Toys, String Toys, Stuffed Animals, Blankets, Treats

2024

# LITE-A-LITE FUNDRAISER

With the holidays just around the corner, PAWS will soon hang lights for our Lite-a-Lite fundraiser. If you would like your pet's honor or memory to be represented in this special holiday display send in



the donation form below to PAWS Animal Shelter at PO Box 1814, Bryson City, NC 28713 or stop by PAWS Thrift Store. Any donation is appreciated.



Did you know that PAWS gave out over 1800 lbs of dog & cat food this year to needy families that otherwise would not have been able to feed their animals?



# LITE-A-LITE

In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (any amount is appreciated)

*Your pet's honor/memory will be represented at PAWS Thrift Store when our lights are lit for the holiday season. Names will also be added to the PAWS spring newsletter.*

Send your tax deductible contribution to PAWS Animal Shelter, PO BOX 1814, Bryson City, NC 28713. Thank you for your support!



# HELP PAWS HELP THEM

Yes, I want to help PAWS 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 PAWS animals
- I would like to talk with someone about other ways to give (estate planning, vehicles, land, etc)

*Adopt      Spay/Neuter      Donate*

[www.pawsbrysoncity.org](http://www.pawsbrysoncity.org)

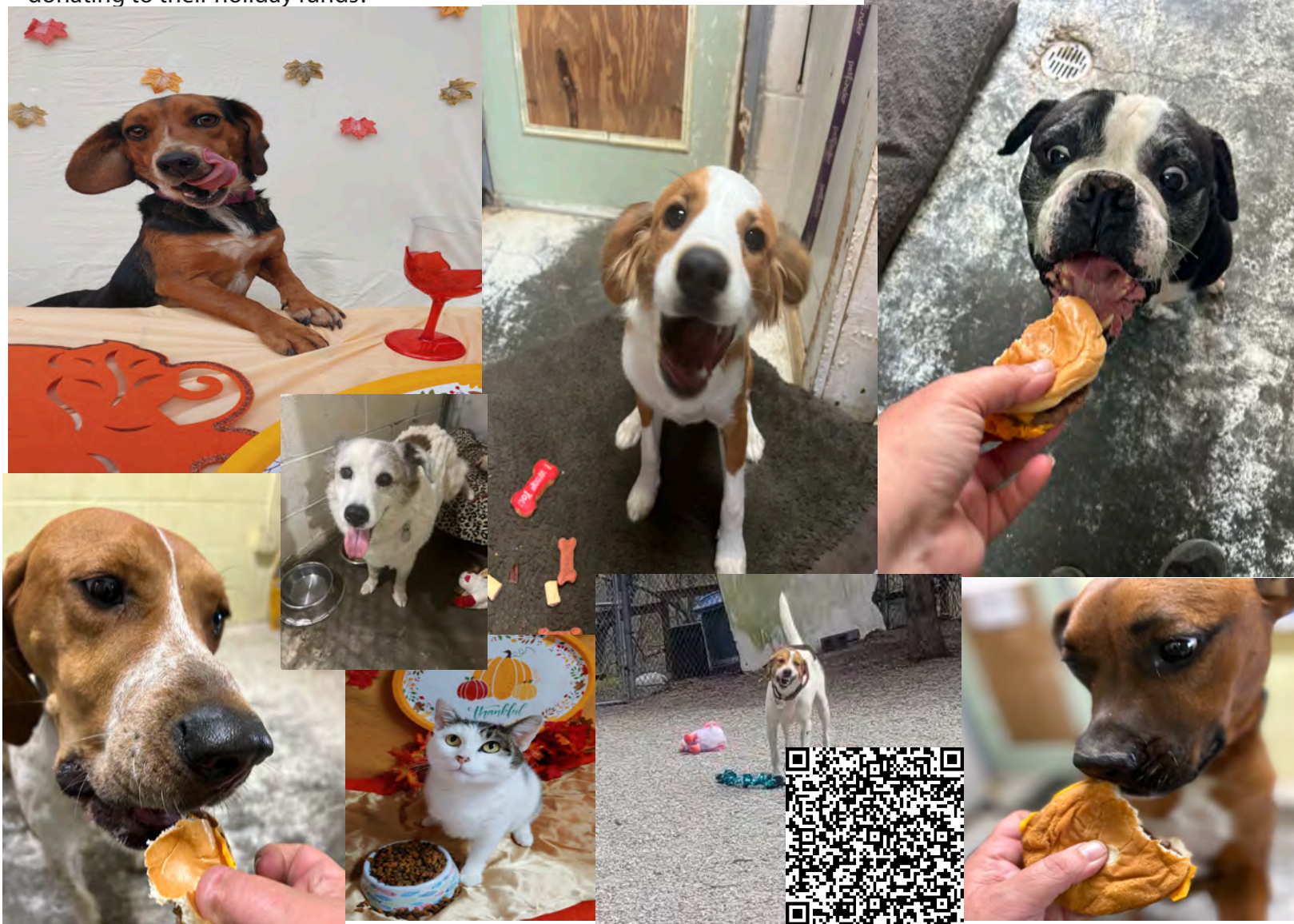
Send your tax deductible contribution to:  
**PAWS Animal Shelter**  
 PO Box 1814  
 Bryson City, NC 28713

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



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

Did you know that the animals at P.A.W.S. get to celebrate the holidays too? We give them a special Thanksgiving & Christmas feast and special toys on the holidays. Would you like to help us make their holidays more cheerful by donating to their holiday funds?



As a non-profit, no-kill shelter, PAWS receives no tax dollars from any federal, state or local government, and no funding from any national animal organization. Because of this, financial contributions are always needed and appreciated in order to continue our mission. In addition to monetary gifts, there are many other ways you can help us take care of the animals in need. One such way is to purchase and donate items on our supplies wish list. Some items in particular are always in great demand at the shelter. Donated items can be left at the PAWS Thrift Store or PAWS Animal Shelter. Also see the animals holiday list on page 4

All pictures in this newsletter are of animals in our shelter.

**BIG ITEM WISH LIST**

- Larger vehicle for spay/neuter trips & transports
- Quarantine Building
- New Shelter
- Generator

**EVERY DAY ITEMS WISH LIST**

- Purina Dog Chow
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Purina Cat Chow
- Purina Kitten chow
- Puppperoni
- Milkbones (medium and large)



- Wet dog food
- Can (wet) cat food
- Cat treats
- Cat toys/ laser toys/Cat Towers
- Laundry Detergent (he)
- Bleach
- Trash Bags
- Cat litter (Tractor Supply natural pine equine pelletized bedding)
- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Hand sanitizer
- Dish washing liquid



## **MEET Jasper**

Jasper is a sweet Chiweenie dog who was part of a litter of small, emaciated puppies that P.A.W.S. rescued two years ago and nursed back to health. After the puppies were healthy enough, neutered, or spayed, we got them adopted into good homes. We pride ourselves on doing our very best to find each animal a perfect, loving home. We also have it in our contract that if for some reason it doesn't work out, the animal will be brought back to us, no questions asked. We want to assure you that we stick to our promise to each of these animals and that when they leave us for their new home, they get to live their best lives. We do everything we can to ensure they get placed in the very best of homes.

Unfortunately, Jasper and his sibling Jasmine recently found themselves at Asheville Humane Society and were not returned to us. The adopter did not even contact us; instead, they surrendered the dogs to A.H.S. We have an excellent working rapport with almost all the neighboring shelters, and they all know that we are always willing to take our animals back. The adopter needed to be more honest with A.H.S. about the surrender, but luckily, the dogs do have a microchip, and the secondary contact number is PAWS. An owner can transfer an animal from their ownership on a microchip, but somebody can not remove the PAWS name and contact number as the secondary. We are thankful for this because it gives good samaritans and other shelters the knowledge that these animals were once PAWS residents. All shelters, including ours, are above capacity and have been way before the flooding, and I know A.H.S. must have been so relieved to find that these dogs did come from our shelter because they knew we would happily take them back.



When we got the call from A.H.S., we immediately started planning to get Jasper and Jasmine back into our care. A.H.S. was even gracious enough to have a volunteer bring them to us.

These two beautiful pups have been returned, and we have no explanation for why. However, we do know that we will make sure they are cared for and loved by us until they are once again in a home.

Sadly, Jasper has a cherry eye, something that he developed while in the care of his previous owner. Although the cherry eye is not giving him any severe issues, it is becoming a little of an irritation to him. Eventually, it will be more than just an unpleasant cherry eye but a source of infection. We would love to get his cherry eye fixed to relieve any discomfort, but we also feel that, cosmetically, it might be a deterrent for some interested in adopting him.

Your donation today can help us get Jasper the eye surgery he needs. We have several other animals in our shelter who are scheduled for surgeries and treatments, and your donation today can help make their tomorrows happier and healthier. Jasper and Jasmine are both up for adoption, but it is in their best interest if they are adopted out as a bonded pair. They have always been together and even sleep in the same kennel. If you are interested in adopting Jasper and Jasmine, please come by the shelter to meet them. They are precious.

This year we had so many unexpected expenses between major veterinarian bills and expensive repairs to be done at the shelter, we spent \$6,000 in the kennels to get AC in them as we faced such a hot summer and AC was now desperately needed to help keep the animals cool and comfortable. We are worried about the health of PAWS. We can't let the animals down, we are their only hope. Please donate today if you can.

You can make a donation by mail at PAWS, PO Box 1814, Bryson City, NC 28713 or <http://pawsbrysoncity.org/donate.html>, you can also drop off a donation at PAWS Thrift Store at 57 Slope St. Bryson City or use QR code Or you can even Venmo a donation if you so desire, our user name is PAWS-AnimalShelter.

Thank you for your continued support that enables us to help animals like our sweet ole man Doc.

It takes a village to help these animals.







# AVAILABLE PAWS ANIMALS

Here are some of the beautiful faces you will find at PAWS Animal Shelter. Come find your fur-ever friend today!



## HELP PAWS SAVE THEM

Yes, I want to help PAWS save them! I would like to:

- Be a volunteer
- Make a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation
- Sponsor a dog or cat with medical expenses
- Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month to help all PAWS animals
- I would like to talk with someone about other ways to give (estate planning, vehicles, land, etc)



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**Send your tax deductible contribution to: PAWS Animal Shelter  
PO Box 1814 Bryson City, NC 28713**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



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