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# PAW PRINTS



Spring 2018 | People Helping Animals, Animals Helping People

## FLORIDA/GEORGIA LINE: TO THE RESCUE



Clay County Animal Care and Control

The 2017 hurricane season was one that will go in the history books as having two of the most destructive storms to have ever hit the United States, Harvey & Irma. Destroying lives, property and separating pets from the only families they had ever known.

In preparation for Hurricane Irma, transport rescues all across Florida and southern Georgia moved thousands of animals out to destination shelters all throughout the Eastern U.S.



PAWS North

These animals needed protection from the anticipated flooding, and many were rescued from floodwaters during and after Irma. The shelters that housed these animals were desperate to make space for the large number of pets

who could be lost from their families and needed a local place where they could reunite once the storm and floodwaters passed.

This is when PAWS Humane sprang into action. Our organization was asked to take in dozens of cats and dogs from the north east coast of Florida. We immediately put out a request for donations of animal care supplies and the response from our community was overwhelming. Within hours, generous individuals from all over the Valley donated a large space to house the animals, food, blankets, toys and other needed items. We could not have helped these animals without the support of our very philanthropic community.

Mike Merrill, President of F.U.R. (Florida Urgent Rescue - an animal transport group out of Jacksonville, FL) stated, "Shelters in Florida are overwhelmed and we are so grateful that organizations like PAWS Humane have jumped in to help save lives." "Without help from groups like PAWS Humane, many of these dogs and cats would have no hope." Many of the animals arriving needed a lot from our organization. There are many underserved counties

throughout the U.S. that do not have the resources to provide even the most basic standard of care to their stray animal population. Taking these animals in can be risky business, but PAWS has the protocols in place to help mitigate risks and properly take care of their needs.

By the time our rescue efforts had ended, PAWS had taken in 39 dogs and 43 cats, and the wonderful news is that almost all were adopted within 3-4 weeks.

PAWS Humane's mission is to save animal lives and we will do all we can to help, just as we hope others would help us if we were in a similar situation.

## LANDRY & IKE - 2 IRMA DOGS STILL LOOKING FOR THEIR FOREVER HOMES.....



Landry



Ike

# STARTING OFF 2018 RIGHT!

Outreach and education have always been an important part of the PAWS Humane mission statement. Historically, however, our funds were primarily allocated to the veterinary clinic and adoptions. These activities address the most urgent and visible needs in our community. Yet there is quite a lot of behind the scenes work that must take place if we are ever going to achieve our vision of a “no-kill” community.

PAWS Humane has operated Pets for Life, an intensive community outreach program, since April 2015. This model requires door-to-door canvassing in the most underserved neighborhoods in Columbus. We develop meaningful relationships with pet owners and provide access to the PAWS Humane spay/neuter and wellness clinic. We can even help with containment and other issues related to compliance with local ordinances. The goal is to help keep companion animals in their homes and with the families who love them.

In 2015, there was no budget allocated to support a community outreach program coordinator, so our volunteer coordinator and I carved out hours from our already full schedules to make this program a reality. Through these efforts, PAWS Humane provided **1,200** spay/neuter surgeries to canines in a subsection of the 31907 zip code.



We could not have done this without a grant from Pet Smart Charities which funded the spay/neuter surgeries. In 2018, Pet Smart Charities is back with another grant to help us expand our Pets for Life program in Columbus. We now have a full time outreach coordinator working with volunteers in the neighborhoods which supply the greatest numbers of Columbus Animal Care and Control intakes. This is where we will finally win the war against pet overpopulation and the needless suffering that goes along with it.



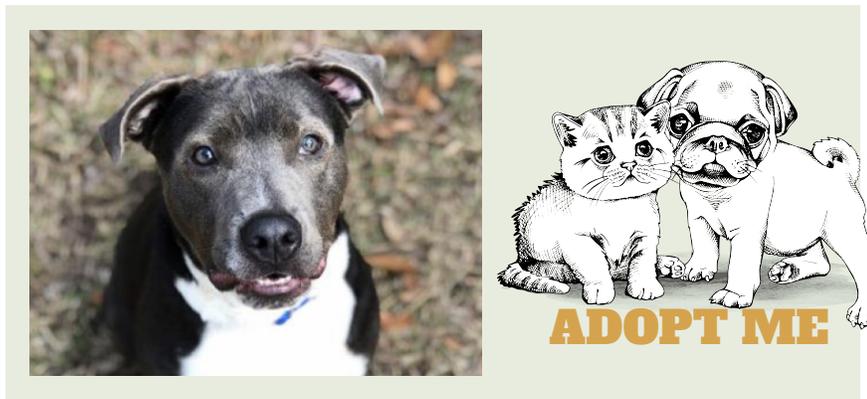
In 2017, PAWS Humane also received a generous grant from the Petco Foundation to take over the community cat project that Best Friends Animal Society began in 2014. It is because of this program that the live release rate of cats at Columbus Animal Care and Control has gone from **10% to 92%**.

The Best Friends project spayed and neutered more than **2,000** cats each year. Our goal is to maintain this level of activity for at least three more years. At that point we will evaluate our progress and determine the appropriate level of activity needed to maintain no-kill status.

These are exciting times for PAWS Humane and for Muscogee County when our vision of a no-kill community is quickly becoming a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Solbi Yeo".

CEO, PAWS Humane



# LUCK OF A SHELTER PET

## 6 REASONS YOU SHOULD ADOPT FROM A SHELTER

- **Because you're saving a life- or two**  
Each year millions of homeless dogs and cats are euthanized simply because too many animals come into the shelter and not enough people consider adopting. The number of animals euthanized could be dramatically reduced if more people adopted instead of buying. When you choose to adopt, you not only save your new best friend, but open up space so desperately needed by another animal.
- **Because it costs you less**  
Buying an animal is quite an expensive decision. You could pay anywhere from \$200- \$2000 for the animal and then you will spend much more on appropriate vaccines, spay/neuter surgery, deworming, and microchip. When you adopt, the shelter has done all the vetting for you! You will pay a much smaller price in comparison and get so much more.
- **Because adopting comes with bragging rights**  
Have you noticed your selfies haven't been getting the likes and comments they used to? Post a selfie with your new adopted best friend and watch your likes skyrocket!



Charlie



White Sox

- **Because you have so many choices**  
Shelters are full of all kinds of options! Are you a couch potato and need a laid back dog or cat to watch movies with? No doubt, you will find the perfect match. Perhaps you need a running buddy so you need a dog who can really put some miles in. Shelters will have that too. You may find with so many options you need help making a purr-fect match. We have you covered there too. Shelter staff can work with you and answer any questions you have to help narrow it down.
- **Because you always have support**  
Life doesn't always go as planned. Most shelters, like PAWS Humane, understand this. Adopting means you always have support. Perhaps you fell on hard times and can no longer care for your pet. They always have a safe place to return. Maybe you just need help with veterinary care. Shelters can provide or refer you to low-cost options so you can keep your buddy. Are you just having issues with some bad habits and need advice? Shelters are often staffed with people who have years of experience so they can help you work through your problems.
- **Because you will change their whole world**  
There is no better feeling than knowing you made a difference. You have a forever friend and they are forever grateful.

# NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK



The month of March highlights National Poison Prevention Week, March 18th-24th.

With spring right around the corner, there are many hidden dangers in your household that could be harmful to your pets. Being exposed to toxins is one of the main reasons many pets are taken to seek emergency care.

## Top 10 most common toxins:

-  **Over the counter medications** such as pain relievers, herbal supplements, vitamins, coconut oil, etc.
-  **Prescription drugs**
-  **Insecticides**
-  **Human Foods** - xylitol (found in sugar free items), grapes or raisins, onions, greasy foods, alcohol, and garlic.
-  **Household Items** - cleaning supplies, paint, potpourri, glow sticks, etc.
-  **Veterinary Medications** - incorrectly used off label
-  **Chocolate** - baking chocolate and dark chocolate have a higher toxicity
-  **Plants** - Lilies, Azaleas, Daffodils, Tulips, and Hyacinths, etc.
-  **Rodenticides** - rat poison
-  **Garden Products** - herbicides and fungicides

## Stay Safe

Make sure all medications are kept in child proof bottles and kept in cabinets that are not accessible. Don't ever give your pet over the counter or prescription medication without first consulting your veterinarian. Use veterinary prescription drugs and flea medications as directed on the label. Do not apply dog flea medication to cats. Dog-specific insecticides containing pyrethrins are highly toxic to cats.

Keep cleaning products in cabinets enclosed in their containers. Wipe up all residue or extra liquid when finished.

Allow cleaning products to dry before allowing pets access to the area.

Make sure that candy is kept out of reach of your pets. Chocolate and xylitol (found commonly in sugar free gum) can be deadly. Avoid giving pets table food as some things, such as greasy foods, can cause pancreatitis. Feeding coconut oil has also been linked to causing pancreatitis and diarrhea. Keep plants outside or in a room where cats are not allowed. Even ingestion of a few leaves or petals can cause serious issues. Don't put insecticides or rodenticides in areas where other animals have free access to them.

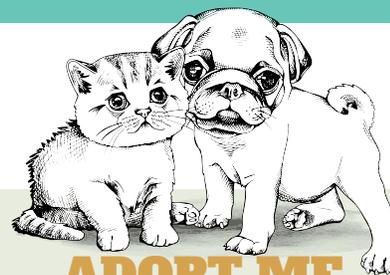
## What to do

If your pet should accidentally come into contact with any of these items, please contact your local veterinarian or the **Animal Poison Control Hotline (888)-426-4435** as soon as possible. Remember, the faster you get your pet help, the more favorable the outcome! Also make sure to have the package or bottle of the toxin available as it will help with treatment. Never try to treat your pet yourself as different toxins are treated differently.

Many of these products are also hazardous to children as well. So as you start your spring cleaning make sure and create a safe environment for you, your family, and your pets!

## PAWS HUMANE VETERINARY CLINIC

BOOK YOUR VET CLINIC  
APPOINTMENT NOW! CALL  
706-987-8380 OR VISIT  
[WWW.PAWSHUMANE.ORG](http://WWW.PAWSHUMANE.ORG).



**ADOPT ME**



# SERVICE ENTERPRISE VISION

*“Our vision is a qualified, proficient volunteer base with defined roles for volunteer positions, effective volunteer training, and a cohesive work relationship between staff and volunteers to achieve our vision of a no kill community.”*



Change is in the air at PAWS Humane and we couldn't be more excited! It is common knowledge that, as a non-profit, PAWS relies heavily on volunteers to achieve our mission and keep our doors open. But you may not realize that the quality and skill-base of our volunteers matters...a lot.

Imagine for a moment when you show up to work tomorrow, your company has hired a brand new Administrative Assistant for you. Wonderful, right? A couple days of training, and this new assistant will be golden. You will be able to get twice the amount of work done and



a promotion could be right around the corner. Yippee!!!

Now, imagine you show up to work and your boss informs you that you will have a different Administrative Assistant every single day for the rest of your time with the company, and it is your responsibility to train these new assistants every day. How will you ever get your work load done if you're busy training

another employee every day? How will you ever get that promotion?

For most non-profits, this scenario is an ongoing dilemma that can impede productivity and burn out valuable staff members quickly.



That is where Service Enterprise Certification comes to the rescue. Thanks to a \$7,500 grant awarded by Best Friends Animal Society and a volunteer program overhaul designed by Points of Light, PAWS Humane is well on its way to an efficiently run

Volunteer Program with a volunteer base that is highly skilled and effectively trained.

The training and transformation to become certified in Service Enterprise will take PAWS employees 18 months to complete and has been underway since July 20, 2017. "It has taken a lot of preparation and teamwork over the last 7 months, but we are seeing positive changes at PAWS Humane," says PAWS Volunteer and Foster Care Coordinator, Anitra Holley. "Not only have we been successful in recruiting more skilled, dedicated volunteers, our entire staff has been quite welcoming of the change. We can see the final vision taking form and are pleased at where our Volunteer Program is headed."



PAWS should receive its Service Enterprise Certification in December of 2018 and will continue to be evaluated and assessed by Best Friends Animal Society every three years

in order to keep its certification. "The most exciting part about this transformation is that PAWS' Volunteer Program must continue to grow and improve in order to keep its certification once it is obtained," Holley says. "This can only mean great things for our Volunteer Program and our community as a whole."

# FROM FOSTER TO FOREVER

It was like any other weekday at the shelter. Dogs barking, cats purring and potential adopters perusing the halls looking for their next forever family member. That is, until a scruffy little dog showed up completely malnourished and reeking of urine. He covered in his kennel when humans came near. A sure sign that physical abuse was an experience with which he was all too familiar.



Upon further investigation, we learned the dog had been kept most of his life in a kennel that was too small for him and left to drink and soak in his own urine.

Our staff and volunteers jumped into action, feeding, bathing and loving on the sad little guy determined to give this dog the kind of life he

deserved. We started by naming him Asher, which means happy, fortunate, and blessed. Then we got busy looking for the perfect foster family for him. Turns out, Stephanie



Taylor and her family were the perfect fit to help Asher trust humans again.

It only took a couple of days in Stephanie's home for Asher to start eating and playing like healthy, young dogs should. He bonded quickly with Stephanie's two larger, older dogs, initiating play and snuggling with them during naptime. Then he decided to trust Stephanie and her family enough to snuggle on the couch with them. Only a week into their foster experience with Asher, Stephanie said, "He's doing so good!....He plays with the big dogs and chases them, and has started to come to me when I



call him. It's amazing what a week in a loving home can do for a dog." We couldn't agree more.

After a month of showering him with love and attention, Asher's foster family became his forever family! Asher will never have to worry about where his next meal or hug will come from. The Taylor family is smitten with

him and committed for life. We couldn't have asked for a happier ending!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 3RD ANNUAL BARKS AND BLUES FESTIVAL

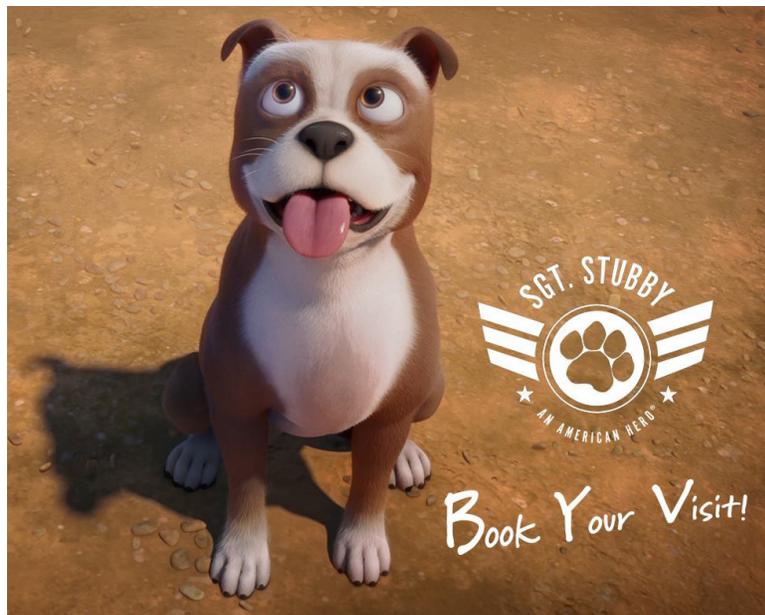


Join us for the 3rd annual Barks and Blues Festival! This free event will feature a full line up of live music, a pet costume contest, food & beverages, raffles, vendors, pet microchip discounts, and much more. There will also be specials at the Take Me Home Zone for the wonderful animals that will be on site for adoption.



**Saturday, May 19th,  
2018 4-11 p.m.  
Woodruff Park, Uptown Columbus**

## SGT. STUBBY: AN AMERICAN HERO



PAWS Humane is proud to announce their partnership with Fun Academy Motion Pictures on the upcoming animated film SGT. STUBBY: AN AMERICAN HERO, based on the incredible true story of America's most decorated dog!

After being rescued off the streets by a young Soldier on the eve of World War I, Stubby is given a home, a family, and the chance to embark on the adventure that would define a century. Marching into theaters on April 13, 2018!

As a celebration of this heartwarming tale, Fun Academy is giving back to communities by recruiting a network of non-profit animal organizations and institutional partnerships across North America, highlighting the important role service animals play in society through the true story of America's most renowned stray dog.

Starring Logan Lerman, Helena Bonham Carter, Gérard Depardieu



**Mark your calendar  
for Thursday, April  
12th for the PAWS  
Humane premier of  
Sgt. Stubby!**

**Stay tuned to  
[www.pawshumane.org](http://www.pawshumane.org)  
for more details!**





**PAWS Humane**  
 4900 Milgen Road  
 Columbus, GA 31907  
**Adoption** (706) 565-0035  
**Vet Clinic** (706) 987-8380

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER

- Purina one dog chow (burgundy bag)
- Purina puppy chow (blue bag)
- Purina cat chow (blue bag)
- Cat Litter
- Large Kong dog toys
- Peanut butter
- Dog and cat treats
- Hot dogs and cheese sticks
- Wet kitten food



Please help us save more lives by becoming a member of our monthly giving circle. Go to [www.pawshumane.org/donate](http://www.pawshumane.org/donate).

### CHECK US OUT ON:

Facebook: pawshumane1 Instagram: pawshumane Twitter: PAWSHumane1