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PAW PRINTS



Paws Humane Society of the Chattahoochee Valley | Summer 2018

OUR FIRST ORPHANED PUPPY



Trooper was our first orphaned puppy of 2018.

The days-old puppy was dropped off at our shelter after being found on a sidewalk alone. He was cold to the touch, severely dehydrated, malnourished and full of round and hook worms. With his tiny frail body, we were concerned he wouldn't make it.

Upon arrival, the puppy

sought immediate care from our Shelter Medicine Team, who provided him with the necessary medication to help him heal. Then, we found a loving foster parent who took Trooper home to nurse him every two hours throughout the night to keep him warm.

The first 24 hours were critical. Without around the clock care to ensure he stayed warm with a full belly, Trooper wouldn't have survived.



Day by day, he healed more and more. That's when we knew Trooper was the perfect name for such a tiny little fighter. Pretty soon, our little Trooper was weaned off his bottle and started to scurry around. Trooper had five furry foster siblings who taught him how to interact positively with both people and animals. Once he was ready, Trooper was placed up for adoption. And it didn't take long. That same day, Trooper was adopted and was on his way to a new life in Tennessee with his adoring family.

During the summer, many orphaned animals like Trooper come to Paws Humane Society. They need formula, baby toys, medical care and lots of love. Your kind support ensures kittens and puppies just like Trooper, who cannot survive on their own, can go on to experience a rich and wonderful life.

Thank you for helping us save animals like Trooper!



PAW-TO-MATIC GIVING

Show your love for the animals all year-round by donating monthly. By signing up for Paw-to-matic donations, you can help us save money on printing and postage by designating a credit or debit card to automatically charge every month.

Giving monthly is the easiest and most effective way to support the animals and Paws Humane Society; it's Paw-to-matic!

To sign up,
visit www.pawshumane.org/monthly-giving.



WE STAND UP FOR THE FIVE FREEDOMS

Paws Humane Society, like all animal shelters and boarding facilities in Georgia, is licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Many states do not require inspections and licensing of facilities within their jurisdictions. Unfortunately, this allows more room for the proliferation of well-meaning but misguided rescue efforts.

On any given day, Paws Humane Society houses 100 animals, not including those in foster homes. The care we give these animals each day provides the foundation for everything we do once we take them in to our facility. The Department of Agriculture provides a very basic set of standards. However, at Paws, we go much further than this.

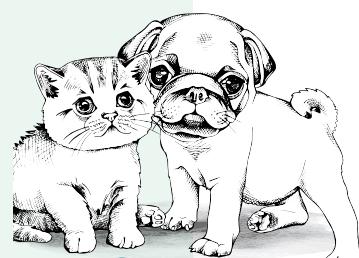
In 2011, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians published the "Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters". This publication addresses everything from intake procedures to enclosure size to maintaining the mental health of the animals we care for. It's a tall order, but I've seen it make a big difference in terms of live outcomes when shelters begin to adopt these practices.

At Paws, we also take into consideration the Five Freedoms which originated in 1965 with a report issued by the UK Technical Committee tasked with a study of intensive livestock operations. Although the report was initially focused on farm animals, it was later distilled into the list we have today which has been adopted internationally as a basic guide for keeping companion animals in any high density environment.

We use the Five Freedoms, along with the other standards, to guide our day-to-day operations and ensure that the care each animal receives is appropriate to her needs, which may at times be unique.

The concepts are simple:

1 Freedom from hunger or thirst: This freedom seems hardly worth mentioning because it is so basic and it is contained in most state laws and local ordinances. Still, when you are caring for large numbers of animals, it should be built into the standard operating procedures followed by staff members so there are no gaps in care. Along with the basic necessity of food, water, and lots of treats (of course) we provide all our dogs with Peanut Butter Kongs each night for enrichment and to make sure they all go to bed with full bellies.



2 Freedom from discomfort: Animals should have easy access to shelter from rain, cold and heat. This requirement is also contained in most state and local law books. We have seen multiple animals come through Paws who have been living in a crate far too small for them. We strive to make sure every animal has a room that is spacious and comfortable so they never have to experience the discomfort of living in an environment unsuitable for them.

3 Freedom from pain, injury or disease: Disease prevention has to be an active endeavor. It begins with sound intake protocols which include vaccination on intake. The second line of defense is achieved through prompt diagnosis and treatment once an issue is suspected. Incoming animals which are injured or diseased should receive treatment as soon as possible. Unfortunately, this does not always occur in many cash-strapped municipal shelters. At Paws, we make sure every pet is seen by our clinic before they arrive on the adoption floor.

4 Freedom to express normal behavior: This freedom requires that sufficient space be set aside for individual housing. Opportunities should be provided for animals to socialize and engage in play with their own kind, as their individual temperaments allow. This outlet is essential to long-term mental health for any animal. At Paws, we ensure every animal is provided with enrichment through human and animal interaction such as training and play groups.

5 Freedom from fear and distress: Some animals handle the shelter environment well, while others do not. Soft bedding, toys, even music can help animals relax. A well-run foster program allows opportunities for fearful dogs and cats to live in quiet homelike settings until they are cleared for adoption. Even well-balanced dogs and cats can feel the strain of shelter life over time. At Paws, we encourage staff members and volunteers to provide relief to the animals by allowing them to relax in our office space and taking them out of the shelter to interact with the community.

All it takes is a little empathy and common sense to give stray and unwanted animals the support they need to go on to successful outcomes and it is something we take seriously at Paws Humane Society.

Bobbi Yeo

CEO, Paws Humane Society

HAVE A LITTLE MERCY

The story of a resilient mama cat who fought hard to stay alive despite the odds.



Mercy

One afternoon, our community cat coordinator received a frantic call from a local cat caregiver. A cat was lying on the side of the road trying to give birth to kittens, but was having an extremely hard time. The caregiver didn't know what to do and feared the cat was injured and wouldn't make it much longer.

Immediately, we jumped into action and went to her aid. Once we arrived, our worst nightmare was coming true right before our eyes. The cat was in active labor and was also injured, likely hit by a car. Knowing there was not much time, we scooped up her almost lifeless body and headed straight to see the veterinarians at Paws Humane Society.



In route to our facility, she gave birth to a premature stillborn. It was at that very moment we decided to name this mama cat Mercy. She needed someone to show her mercy and compassion from the horrible situation she was in and we were going to do just that. Even though hope was running low, we knew there was still a chance.

Upon arrival, Paws veterinarian Dr. Pettry examined Mercy and determined the injury that caused her trauma was the reason she went into early labor. The doctor induced her labor so she

could give birth to any remaining kittens. Sadly, the kittens were too premature and didn't make it.

Even though labor and birth were over for Mercy, she wasn't quite out of the woods yet. To assess her injuries, we sent Mercy to our friends at Second Avenue Animal Hospital. Again, our worst nightmare was coming true. Mercy's leg and pelvis were severely broken. The decision was made to amputate her leg as that was her best chance at recovery.

A few weeks have gone by, and Mercy is a very happy cat in good spirits despite her past. Her favorite pastime is lounging around and receiving lots of love and pets from humans. She is getting better and better every single day thanks to the hard work of the veterinarians and staff at Paws.

Our programs and vet clinic exist to serve our community in emergency situations like this, to help a cat who had never received the mercy she so deserved, to finally understanding what compassion and love is.

Thank you for the support of the Paws Humane Society Veterinary Clinic!



**Ledger-Enquirer's
Readers' Choice
Awards**

**Voted 2018 Favorite
Veterinarian**



FORGET-ME-NOT

Occasionally there are animals in our care who wait longer than most for a new home. Despite being amazing pets, they are overlooked by potential adopters for one reason or another. Once you meet them, you'll understand just why we feel they are so special! Introducing to you two of Paws Humane Society's most loved longest term residents....

White Sox

Homeward Bound, I Wish I Were

White Sox is a sweet girl who already likes you before she has met you. Even if you're not at your best, she'll give you the benefit of the doubt.

White Sox is always in a good mood, always friendly, always welcoming and always ready for whatever attention, affection or adventure you can offer her. More than anything, she wants someone or a family she can call her own. "I love you all," she seems to tell us, "but it's time for me to go home."

White Sox did well indoors at her original home. She loves to play with her two and four-legged friends. She enjoys walks and does well on a leash. She gets along well with other dogs and likes children. She is affectionate. What more can you ask for?

White Sox originally came to us from Columbus Animal Care & Control, where she was surrendered by her owner. We don't know (and can't imagine) why. She was adopted, but was again surrendered due to no fault of her own. She has been vaccinated, microchipped and spayed and is looking for that one and only home.



White Sox

Luke

More than Meets the Eye

You know that friend of yours, or friend of a friend, or that cool uncle who is always cracking jokes, always ready for a good time, always willing and able to have fun doing anything, anytime, anywhere, and spread the joy wherever they go? Yeah, that's Luke.

To say that he's playful would be an understatement. Luke can be both: the entertainment and the entertained. He loves to play with toys. He loves to play with people. He loves to play with other dogs. Luke not only likes to have fun, he is fun.



Luke

Luke is also smart. He already knows basic commands and will enjoy learning more. Luke is a social creature. This handsome, sweet boy is counting the days (who says he can't count?) until he goes home and gets the play time, attention and affection that he deserves.

Luke transferred to Paws from Columbus Animal Care and Control. He was found wandering the streets alone. Luke has been vaccinated, neutered and microchipped, and is patiently waiting for his chance at a new life.

As you can see, both White Sox and Luke are pretty special dogs and could make any family very happy! **If you are interested in adopting either of these wonderful dogs, please stop by the shelter to visit them or apply for adoption online at www.pawshumane.org.**



**Ledger-Enquirer's
Readers' Choice Awards**

**Voted 2018 Favorite
Non-Profit Organization**

THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Have you ever heard someone say they received more from volunteering than they gave? Having been a volunteer myself, as well as having managed volunteers, I can attest to the truth of that statement. There is something about serving others that makes me feel better mentally, emotionally and physically.



According to researchers at the London School of Economics, I am not alone in feeling this way. In fact, their study found that among those surveyed who volunteered weekly, overall happiness rose by 16%. Researchers compared this spike in happiness to suddenly going from earning an income of \$20,000 a year to earning \$75,000-\$100,000 a year. And while volunteers don't actually earn money for their time, they do receive major benefits in other areas.

Improve Your Social Life

Many people volunteer simply for the social aspect. Retirement and the increase of professionals working from home has led to a rise of people who say they feel more isolated. Volunteering with a nonprofit organization that appeals to your interests and ideals is a great way to meet new people who share in your passions.

Even if you aren't necessarily looking for new friends, volunteering with someone special in your life can help improve your bond. By working toward a common goal or shared interest, you and your friend will grow closer on an emotional level. Either way, you are developing your social skills while doing something meaningful.

Improve Your Overall Health

Studies have shown that volunteering can help you live a

longer, healthier life. The social aspect alone can positively impact your mental health which, in turn, helps improve your physical health. Volunteers tend to experience reduced anxiety, depression and anger, resulting in lower blood pressure and a lower risk of heart disease.



For those who may not enjoy working with people, there are always animal shelters and rescues that need volunteers. Not only can working with animals help reduce stress and anxiety, the physical nature of many volunteer roles in shelters can serve as an outlet for exercise.

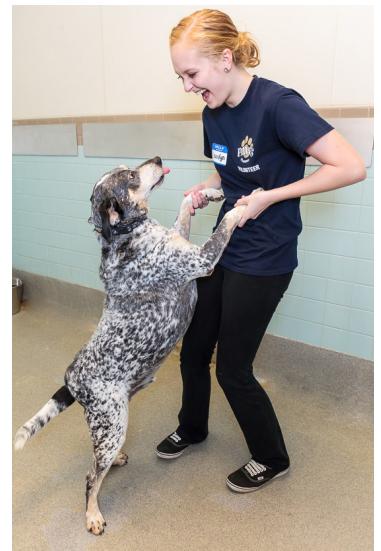
Improve Your Resume

Most organizations that utilize volunteers offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, many of which can help you gain more skills to beef up your resume. Many people think that just because Paws is an animal shelter, they would have to walk dogs or clean litterboxes as a volunteer. That is simply not the case. As a nonprofit, we can greatly benefit from volunteer Grant Writers, Attorneys, Contractors, Accountants, Investment Bankers, Customer Service Reps, etc. And most hiring managers are looking for community-minded applicants these days, so volunteering to gain experience can be a win-win.

So what are you waiting for? Combine your interests and goals, and choose your volunteer path. You've got nothing to lose!

Anitra Holley

Anitra Holley
Manager of Volunteer Services, Paws Humane Society



IT'S RAINING PUPPIES & KITTENS

While we are always in need of finding loving foster homes, during kitten and puppy season, the demand for these in-home heroes has a large impact on our shelter.



As the temperature begins to increase, so do the numbers of offspring from our furry friends. While the typical monthly intake during a "slow month" may find 15-20 animals in need of foster placement, in May alone, Paws Humane Society placed 68 animals in foster care. The majority of which were puppies and kittens. Neonatal

kittens were showing up in droves and our largest litter looking for foster care that month was 13 Mastiff puppies!

During spring and summer when it is raining cats and dogs, kitten and puppy fosters have a direct impact on the number of pets shelters are able to help. Young pups and tiny kittens require extra attention; they sometimes need to be bottle-fed, stimulated, and transitioned onto solid foods. Depending on the age of the kitten or puppy, their needs vary, but they have one thing in common; they blossom as they receive one on one care.



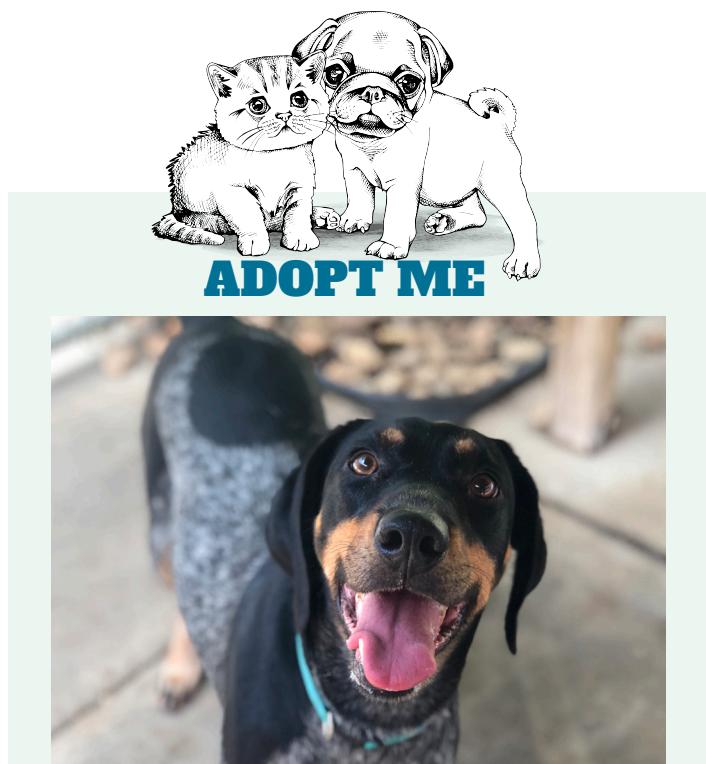
Fostering kittens and puppies is not for the faint hearted. It typically includes lots of poop, needle teeth, litter box training, puppy pads and did I mention lots of poop? However, the rewards of seeing your foster placed into a safe and loving forever home makes it all worth it. Being a kitten/puppy foster is like being a grandparent; you get

to love on them, spoil them and at the end of the day, you get to give them back!



If you are interested in becoming a foster for Paws Humane Society, please do not hesitate to fill out our online application at www.pawshumane.org/get-involved/. Your preferences and experience will be matched with an animal looking for a foster and the adventure begins!

For questions regarding our Foster Program, please contact our Foster Care Coordinator at foster@pawshumane.org.



LEND A HELPING HAND

WE WANT YOUR PET TO BE FOR LIFE!



As a part of our mission, Paws Humane Society offers community outreach to pet owners in need of support in the Chattahoochee Valley.

Our primary focus is to share our free veterinary clinic resource of spay/neuter surgery for unaltered pets. Our hope is to eliminate pet overpopulation in these underserved areas while decreasing intakes at Columbus Animal Care and Control.



In addition to spay/neuter surgery, there are other areas we are able to help with such as vaccines, microchips, minor injuries, and pet containment issues.

Our community outreach coordinator canvasses underserved neighborhoods 3-5 days a week building trusting relationships with pet owners. Currently, we are working in a section of Winterfield neighborhood where most residents are Spanish speaking. Although language can sometimes be a barrier, our translator, Claudia Calle - Program Assistant for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program in Muscogee County, lends us a helping hand by introducing us to residents as well as translating when needed.



We have found that many of these residents acquire multiple pets through helping stray or abandoned animals. Residents take in these animals that no one cares for and do the best they can. These animals become a part of the family and Paws steps in to ensure these pet owners have everything they need.

PETSMART
Charities

The Paws
Humane
Society
Community
Outreach
program
would not

exist without the support from our wonderful community and a grant from PetSmart Charities. With a little assistance and compassion, pets in Winterfield are thriving in their loving homes. Thank you for believing in us and making our mission possible!





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

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER

- Purina One Smartblend Chicken and Rice (Red Bag, dog food)
- Purina One Smartblend Healthy Puppy Formula (Red Bag)
- Purina One Tender Selects Blend (Teal Bag, cat food)
- Purina One Healthy Kitten (Teal Bag)
- Large/XL KONG toys
- Peanut Butter
- Cat Litter (non-clumping)
- Dog and Cat Toys
- Hot Dogs and Cheese Sticks.

2018 BARKS AND BLUES FESTIVAL OH WHAT A NIGHT!



Approximately 2,000 people and their furry family members attended the 3rd annual Barks & Blues Festival on May 19th. Three years ago, the festival began on the Paws Humane Society campus as a means to enhance community awareness for the services provided by our organization. Within two years, the festival grew so much it was clear it was time to move to a large venue, Woodruff Park in Uptown Columbus.

The entire event was emceed by Paws Board of Directors Vice President Brian Waters of 103.7 lite FM radio and featured a full line up of great bands which included The Breakdowns, Tom Petty Tribute Band. An entertaining Pet Costume Contest judged by local celebrities was one of the many highlights of the day. Other activities included the Take Me Home Zone with wonderful adoptable dogs, discounted microchips, raffles, food and beverages.

The event was dedicated in memory of beloved Paws supporter, Leigh Johnston, whose family was presented with a beautifully engraved vase on stage. As a tribute, one of Leigh's favorite songs "New Shoes" was wonderfully sung by Anitra Holley who was joined by Mark Sasser on guitar. All proceeds raised from the Barks & Blues festival support the animals, programs and services at Paws Humane Society throughout the year.



THANK YOU TO THE 2018 BARKS AND BLUES SPONSORS

Janice Watson | Shelby & Wanda Amos



Please help us save more lives by becoming a Paw-to-matic monthly donor. Go to www.pawshumane.org/monthly-giving.

CHECK US OUT ON:

Facebook: pawshumane1



Instagram: pawshumane



Twitter: PAWSHumane1