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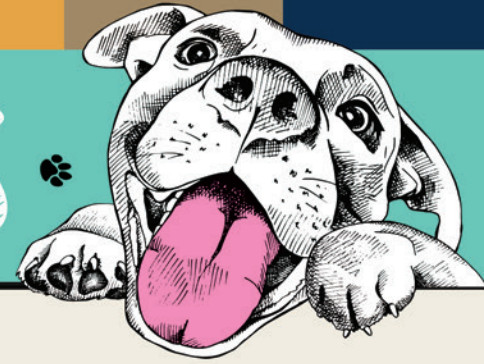
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# PAW PRINTS



Fall 2017 | People Helping Animals, Animals Helping People

## MALALA : A KITTEN WHO SURVIVED DESPITE ALL ODDS

This past May, a PAWS Humane staff person was headed to the store when she saw this little ball of fur sitting in the middle of the road. There she sat, eyes sealed shut, flies consuming her tail, and completely silent. As an animal lover and advocate, our staff person knew she had to help. So, she picked up this tiny kitten and took her home.

The kitten was weak, infested with fleas, dehydrated, and grossly malnourished. To be honest, even after doctoring her up, no one was sure if she would make it through the night. To everyone's surprise, the little kitten survived.

She came to PAWS to be evaluated and treated by our vet team, and then headed straight back to foster care with her wonderful rescuer.



Her name is Malala. She is a strong resilient kitten who fought hard to stay alive, despite the unknown hardships that happened to her. Unfortunately, because of the damage the flies had done, part of Malala's tail was amputated. But that sure doesn't stop her from wagging it like a dog; it's pretty hysterical.

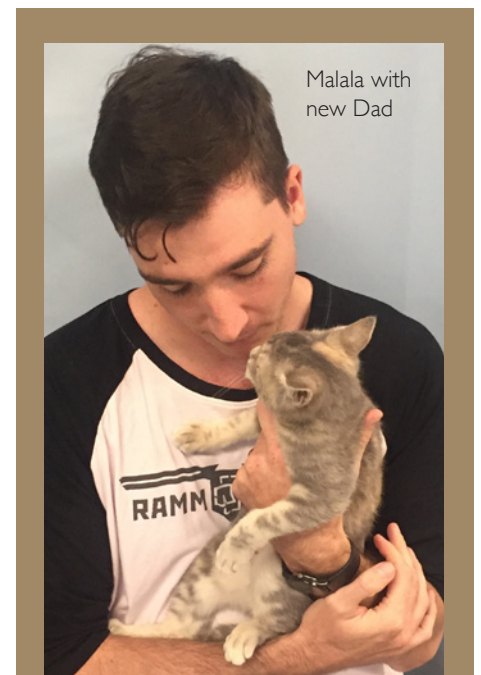
Malala spent some much needed time in foster care healing from her wounds. She came back to our shelter in August for less than a week before her new Dad came along. "Malala is fitting in better than hoped and expected," says her new Dad. "She already runs the house and the dogs took to her faster than I could have ever imagined."



It's pretty clear that our little survivor is thriving in her home, and this is all thanks to you. With your help, we can save more kittens just like Malala. If you wish to give today, please find the inserted envelope or find us online at [www.pawshumane.org/donate](http://www.pawshumane.org/donate)



Malala and her rescuer



Malala with new Dad

# JOY HUMPHRIES

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR

### PAWS HUMANE

The kennels and cages of Columbus Animal Care & Control (CACC), the city operated shelter, are typically filled to capacity with abandoned, lost and unwanted dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens. Discarded family companions and new strays arrive continuously every single day. Because CACC is an open admission shelter, they must accept all pets that arrive at their door steps regardless of health, age, breed, behavior, or aggressive tendencies. PAWS Humane is proud to be a community partner with CACC, having been able to transfer hundreds of animals from their facility over the past few years.

Because the city-run shelter does not have the space or the money necessary to give all of these animals the care they need, almost every day they send out distress calls to the local non-profit shelters and rescue groups to please help them relieve the burden.

It is estimated that between six and eight million cats and dogs enter animal shelters every year in the United States, but only about half of them make it out alive. Those adopted into someone's home or who are recovered by their guardians are the fortunate and lucky ones. Animals who remain when the short holding period expires may be euthanized to make room for the many others who are also in desperate need.

Every dog and cat has needs and feelings, every animal's life has meaning and value, and each one is unique and irreplaceable. Add in the fact that most are perfectly adoptable, the reality that not all of them will be given a second chance is all the more distressing. Such is the never-ending heartbreak and painful reality of the companion animal overpopulation crisis.

With friends like you, WE can save them. And together, with your continued support, WE will achieve our number one goal to make sure every adoptable animal in Columbus and the surrounding areas are saved. We aren't there yet, but thanks to caring friends like you our community is getting closer to that goal every day.

Your support has allowed PAWS to find dozens of dogs and cats new homes along with continuing our affordable spay/neuter, wellness, and community outreach programs.

While we watch every dime, the more donations we receive the better we'll be able to address the continuing challenges faced by our animals and those who care for them.

I joined PAWS Humane three months ago and it's with great pride that I have watched PAWS staff and volunteers deal with the constant influx of animals that come into our shelter. Despite the high number, every animal is treated with the care and love it deserves. I am proud to be a part of such an amazing team of hard working and passionate individuals. I grew up in Columbus and after living in southeast Florida for more than 30 years, I am proud to once again call Columbus home and I am also proud to have the opportunity to work alongside other great animal welfare organizations such as Columbus Animal Care & Control.

Thank YOU for all that YOU do to help save lives and to create a more humane community!



Joy Humphries  
Deputy Director



# LOVE JUST AIN'T ENOUGH



According to the ASPCA, 78 million dogs live in homes in the US, so it's obvious that many of us are dog lovers. Loving a dog is easy, but our dogs need more than love.

September is Responsible Dog Ownership month, but what does it mean to be a responsible owner?

The first component to responsible dog ownership is taking appropriate care of your dog. This includes ensuring that your dog is up-to-date on vaccinations and heartworm and flea preventative, spayed or neutered so



that no accidental litters are produced, registered with the city if you live in a place (like Columbus) where it's required, and microchipped, so that if your dog is lost it can easily be reunited with you. It also includes feeding your dog a quality food, ensuring it is groomed as needed, is given the appropriate amount of exercise and mental stimulation, and is not allowed to roam free. Responsible owners also clean up after their dogs, and don't leave feces behind for other people to step in. That is just the beginning of responsible ownership, however.

Dogs are social creatures. They need to spend quality time with the people they love. Leaving a dog shut into a crate or left in a yard for hours on end is cruel. Your dog wants to be with you, not be ignored and alone. Your dog also depends on you to teach him about the world. Your dog should be exposed to new sights and sounds, people, places, and activities. It's important your dog learn to ride calmly in a vehicle, and travel by car to fun places, not just to the vet or the groomer. Dogs that are not socialized become fearful of people and places they don't know.



Responsible ownership also means training your dog. All dogs should be housetrained and, at a minimum, be taught to not jump on or mouth/bite people, not to bark incessantly, to sit, and to walk on a leash. A dog that has mastered these simple skills is not only more pleasurable for you and your guests, but is much more adoptable should tragedy strike and leave you unable to care for your dog.

Your dog is a sentient being with a rich emotional life. He loves you, and gives you his devotion, his companionship, and his loyalty. Be your dog's best friend by being a responsible dog owner.

Karlene Turkington  
PAWS Humane Certified Professional Dog Trainer



# VET CLINIC

The PAWS Humane Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic offers affordable spay/neuter and wellness care to the public as well as to other rescue groups in our region.

## NEW Wellness Hours of Operation

We've extended our hours!  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

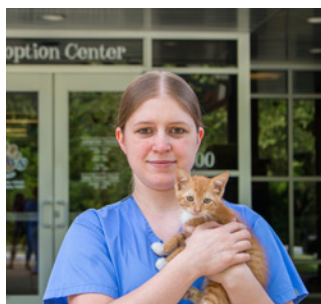
At PAWS, your pet will be treated like one of our own and we are deeply committed to maintaining the human-animal bond. Our doctors work alongside our dedicated team of Registered Veterinary Technicians, Veterinary Assistants, and Client Services Coordinators to provide affordable and compassionate care.

## Meet the Vets



Dr. Robby Wrighten is our lead spay/neuter veterinarian and has been with us for a little over two years. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and went to Auburn University for vet school. She worked for several years in private practice in Newnan,

GA., before her passion for making a difference brought her to PAWS. Her hobbies include scrapbooking and fitness and she is an avid movie buff.



Dr. Nicky Pettry has been an associate veterinarian at PAWS since her graduation from the University of Georgia in 2016. Her passions include promoting animal welfare and compassion for animals. She also enjoys baking and creating art in several different mediums. Oh, and of course, KITTENS!

Founded in 2008 as a low cost spay/neuter clinic, PAWS has recently expanded our services to meet the needs of the

public and rescue services in Columbus and the surrounding areas. We were named the **Best Veterinarian in the Ledger-Enquirer's Reader's Choice awards in 2016 and 2017**. This award is voted on by the citizens of our region and we are very proud to have won it two years in a row!

Currently we offer low cost spay/neuter services Monday-Friday and wellness appointments Monday-Wednesday and Friday. Wellness services include vaccines, testing, microchipping, and nail trims. We do not currently have the facility or the resources to offer sick or injured care for pets, therefore we do recommend our clients establish a relationship with a full service veterinarian in our area in case of illness or injury.

In addition to the services provided to the public and other rescues, our veterinarians provide care to the more than 100 animals housed in our shelter. This includes monitoring the medical and behavioral health of PAWS animals, creating and overseeing treatment plans for ill animals, and creating policies and protocols for shelter workers to follow to ensure



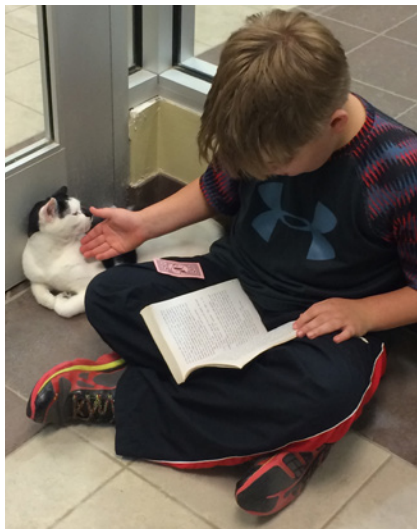
that the animals housed in our facility receive the best care possible.

Studies show that one out of three pets will get lost in their lifetime and that over 10 million pets are lost or stolen every year. Don't let your pet become a statistic! Microchipping provides permanent identification and significantly increases your chances of being reunited with a lost pet.

**NEW** at PAWS Humane Vet Clinic – Booking your appointment just got easier! Go online to [www.pawshumane.org](http://www.pawshumane.org) and click the **Book Now** button to schedule your appointment.



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED TEEN AND KIDS PROGRAMS



PAWS Humane has made a recent change in volunteer age requirements which took effect on August 1, 2017. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to be considered an official PAWS volunteer and must also attend a mandatory volunteer orientation. However, those

under 18 who already attended an orientation before August 1st have been grandfathered in as volunteers and will be allowed to continue volunteering with PAWS.

We do, however, have volunteer options for those under 18. Our most popular volunteer opportunity for kids is our PAWS 2 Read program which allows kids and their parents or guardians to sit in the room with our animals and read to them.



Stress for shelter animals can cause lots of health problems, but the sound of a calm voice can be very soothing. Less stress makes for healthier animals and faster adoptions. To participate in PAWS 2 Read, simply come to the shelter anytime during normal business hours and fill out the necessary

application and waivers at our front desk.



Once we have this on file, kids and their parents can get started reading to our cats and dogs. Blankets and books are available at PAWS, or kids can bring their own.

Another wonderful way kids under 18 can serve our orphans at PAWS is by hosting a Wish List Drive. PAWS has a "Wish List" made up of items we use on a daily basis within the shelter. Using the help of friends and family, kids can organize a drive to collect these items to be donated to our shelter.

Wish List Drives can be held in front of a busy store that sells the items on our Wish List, organized through the child's school, church or sports clubs, advertised through parents' social media accounts, or collected door to door from trusted neighbors and friends. However you decide to do it, the items you collect will help make a better life for so many animals awaiting their forever homes. For a copy of our Wish List, please visit our website at [www.pawshumane.org/donate/wishlist/](http://www.pawshumane.org/donate/wishlist/) or check out page 8 of the newsletter.

For more fun ideas on how to fundraise for PAWS Humane, check out this page: [www.pawshumane.org/donate/fundraising-tips-for-kids/](http://www.pawshumane.org/donate/fundraising-tips-for-kids/). Every little bit helps!



# FOSTER PARENTS UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Fostering for an animal shelter can be a fun and rewarding experience for animal lovers and it serves such a great purpose in the grand scheme of saving lives. Puppies and kittens are cute, cuddly and tons of fun for the whole family and we certainly appreciate our puppy and kitten fosters. At PAWS, we know these little cuties can be a lot of work!

But there is another side to fostering that can be a different kind of challenge, although just as rewarding. I am referring to our foster parents who take in our behaviorally challenged orphans and help rehabilitate them into loving, trusting, well-behaved pets for some lucky families to adopt.

It's never an easy task, but PAWS is here to support these foster parents along the way with anything from medical care to behavioral coaching.



Take Maxx, for example. Maxx is a three-year-old dog that was surrendered to PAWS by his owners. According to the surrender paperwork, Maxx really enjoyed his time outdoors and spent most of his days in his backyard, lounging on the grass. His owners would bring him inside to sleep at night, but

come morning, Maxx was back outside where he felt most comfortable...until the day he was surrendered to PAWS.

Since we have close to 60 dogs at any given time and a limited number of outdoor runs, the dogs at PAWS only get to spend 30 minutes outside about three times a day, not including walks by volunteers. This was a big difference for Maxx and he did not adjust well. He protested his time indoors every chance he got by growling at a staff members. Once Maxx was outside though, he acted like a happy, well-adjusted dog. The outdoors was Maxx's happy place and realizing this made all the difference in his behavior.



Once we placed Maxx into a foster home with a nice, sprawling, fenced-in backyard, he became the dog his owners described when they surrendered him to PAWS. Happy, friendly, enjoyed belly rubs and asked for affection. All because he had his very own backyard to relax in and explore. It hasn't been all rainbows and butterflies during Maxx's transition, but at least he is allowing people to safely pet him.

With time and the work of an amazing foster parent, Maxx is slowly becoming the dog that every family dreams of. The potential was always there, it just took a little love and a lot of patience.

If you would like to apply to become a PAWS Humane foster parent, please contact **Anitra Holley** at [foster@pawshumane.org](mailto:foster@pawshumane.org).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Pets bless their owners every day with unconditional love. Now, PAWS Humane wishes to bless them in return. The public's furry loved ones are welcome to be blessed alongside the orphans of PAWS Humane.

### 4th Annual Pet Blessing

Event on Saturday, October 7th at 11 a.m. at its facility, located at 4900 Milgen Rd in Columbus, Georgia.



# EVENT RECAPS

## 2017 BARKS AND BLUES FESTIVAL



The PAWS Humane 2017 Barks and Blues Festival was a huge success! We had more than 1,000 excited guests and 50+ vendors who came to the festival, enjoyed the live music, and all of the great shopping! We also found 18 homeless animals their forever home in just a few short hours. That means we were able to save 18 more! We brought awareness to our cause and raised money to support our mission. Thanks for attending the 2017 Barks and Blues Festival. Can't wait to see you next year!



## COLUMBUS MEDIA PARTNERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS RECEPTION



The local media, city council, U.S. Congress, and state legislators were all represented at PAWS Humane Media and Public Officials Reception on Thursday, July 27th, 2017. It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together and talk about the mission of PAWS Humane and what we can all do to get Columbus, Ga., to a No-Kill Community.





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

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER WISH LIST

- 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
- Chicken or beef broth
- Wet kitten food

## A YEAR IN REVIEW 2016


- **Adoptions: 1,755**
- **Vet Clinic**
  - **Spay/Neuter: 7,001**
  - **Wellness Appointments: 1,600**
  - **Best Friends Community Cats: 1,399**
  - **Heartworm Treatments: 283**
- **Humane Education: 3,000+ children**
- **Community Outreach: 3,500+ people**

\*Thanks to our supporters in 2016, PAWS Humane helped more than 10,000 animals and more than 6,500 adults and children. These numbers are not attainable without YOU!

Please help us save more lives by becoming a monthly donor. Simply go to [www.pawshumane.org/donate](http://www.pawshumane.org/donate).

### CHECK US OUT ON:

 Facebook: pawshumane1

 Instagram: pawshumane

 Twitter: PAWSHumane1

