



# PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare ❀ Fall 2015  
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 ❀ [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org)

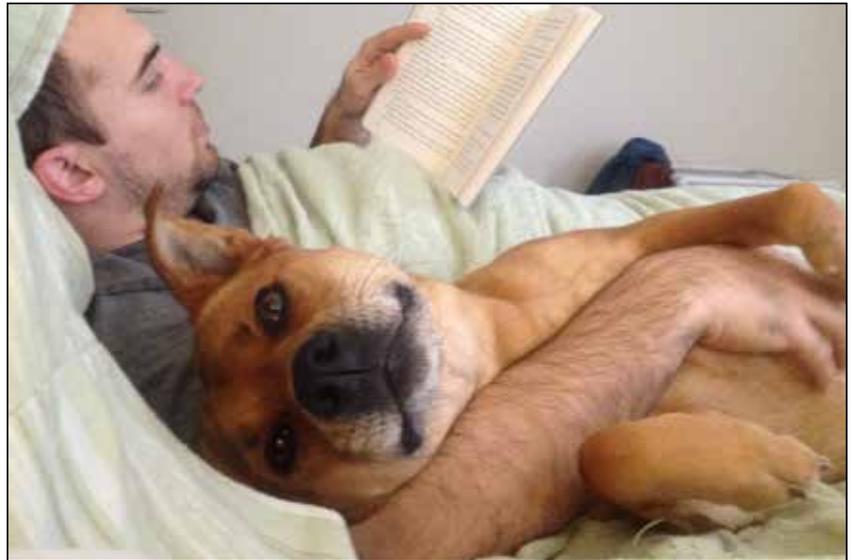
## Fostering dogs—Mazy's story

By Bob Klein

Many of the dogs and cats rescued by PAW are housed in kennel facilities until adopted, as we do not have enough foster homes for all the animals. Although PAW volunteers do great work walking and playing with the kennelled dogs, some dogs just do not adjust well to kennel life and they are the ones we have to keep an eye on. We look for the signs that a dog *needs* a foster real soon in several ways—they may act out, be aggressive with other dogs, or maybe just become lethargic or depressed. Our walkers and show handlers can usually tell when a dog has had too much time in the kennel, if their behavior starts to change over time when they visit the dog. And lastly, after years of experience, we have a sense of how long a dog can stand to live in a kennel. Although they are such resilient animals, even they can only take so much of life behind bars.

These problems are the same for small as well as big dogs but we seem to have more issues with the bigger ones because our fosters are generally more likely to accommodate smaller dogs. Mazy was a big dog who had been in the kennel too long—almost 7 months! We just knew that we had to get her out of there before she started to lose heart. Luckily, one volunteer finally found room in his home to foster her. There were already four dogs in the house and Mazy could be reactive to other dogs at adoption shows and on walks so we were not sure that it would work out. But Mazy was a smart girl and knew that it was in her best interest to get along with the native pups, and they were an understanding lot, and used to new dogs coming and going. The transition was seamless, Mazy fit right in to her new foster home.

Of course the happy ending to the story came when Mazy was adopted. Once she was in a foster home, it did not take long to find that forever home. Allison and Anthony Burns, the



*Reading with Mazy*

wonderful couple, who adopted Mazy in September 2013, say it all!

“Mazy has been such a joy and we are so glad to have her as part of our family. She has come a long way since we adopted her. At this point she rarely reacts to dogs. When she does it is usually whimpering or light pulling. We take her to the Cabin John dog park often and she does a great job interacting with dogs on and off the leash. She is also great with my mother-in-law’s 1-year-old Lab and my brother’s two dogs. She is such a loving dog and everyone who meets her can’t help but adore her because she seeks out affection. Her friendliness has even rubbed off on our other PAW adoptee, Miranda, and helped her become a little more social.”

Fostering provides a nurturing and loving home for a PAW dog or cat, supplies us with valuable information about the animal to pass on to potential adopters, and enables us to save more lives.

Even weekend-only fostering will give an animal a break from kennel life.

# The joy of fostering kittens 1

By Cory Tylka

Recently, I had the delightful opportunity to open my home and heart to five little orphaned, feral kittens from PAW. All I have is a two-bedroom apartment, but what more do kittens need? Luckily, they instinctively know how to use a litter box, so the only work was feeding them and



*Basket of fun*

giving any meds recommended by the PAW vets. I kept the kittens in a spare bedroom with a baby gate in the doorway to keep my dog from scaring them.

They slept together in a couple of shoeboxes with towels in them and I visited frequently to get them socialized as much as possible. It was such fun introducing them to simple playthings: long shoelaces and paper bags would lead to lively games, and

chasing a little ball of paper, cellophane, or aluminum foil was also great entertainment. When I was away, they had a whole room to investigate and play hide and seek in. It was a joy to watch them gain confidence and become bold little felines, who would rush each other and arch their fuzzy little backs while prancing around sideways, trying to look big and strong. It also wasn't long before seeing me enter their room made them begin purring and crying to be picked up and cuddled (what hard work that was!).

The other great part about fostering animals is that you become their best buddy, advocate, and protector, who will hold out for the best possible home when potential adopters come along. All five of my foster kittens went to great homes (some in pairs!) by the time they were 5 months old. The three adoptive families keep in touch, sending cute photos and snippets of cat news to put a smile on my face. Fostering kittens for PAW was a very gratifying experience that I intend to repeat. Anybody who loves kittens should give it a try, but remember—you'll have to teach them how to play!

# The joy of fostering kittens 2

By Leigh Altman

One morning last May, while walking our ancient Beagle, I noticed a mother cat and two kittens in our backyard. An impromptu shelter was made, food and water were presented, but what next? How do we capture all of the kittens without missing one or scaring

the mother away and separating them? Could they be separated from their mother without harm? And, we already have four cats, so what would we do with them if we trapped them?

Luckily, last fall I had helped a kind neighbor care for 2-month-old kittens she had taken in. It was fun, but we didn't know what we were doing.

# Kittens in need

By Kim Nelson

PAW always tries to help cats in need, but we are limited by our small number of cat fosters. Recently, PAW received a plea from a wildlife biologist who stumbled across a feral mom's "nest" of five very young kittens under an outbuilding where she works. PAW had no fosters available to take in the kittens, but the kind woman was so concerned with the little family's well-being that she volunteered to become the kittens' foster herself, through PAW.

Longtime PAW volunteers provided a trap and lots of advice. The trick was to let the kittens stay long enough to be weaned from their mom, yet catch them before they became too wild to tame. The decision on the length of time to leave them with mom was answered suddenly when she moved them to another location at the work site. They needed to be brought inside before mom took them too far away to find. They were easily caught and mom was trapped, spayed, and released (employees continue to feed her).

The kittens are now doing great! They love their foster mom and play with her ferrets and Chihuahua. All tested negative for FIV/FeLK and are very healthy. Thanks to the efforts of PAW and someone who cared and wanted to give these babies a chance, they will all make terrific companions to the loving humans in their forever homes!



**Bonnie**

We placed an ad on Craig's list (bad idea!) to find homes for the kittens and that's how we met the kind folks at PAW. They saw the ad and offered to help place the kittens safely if we went through the organization. Now, having worked with PAW, it seems obvious



**Clyde**

that it's important to get the kittens treated by a vet and to check out any potential adopters thoroughly. With PAW's patient guidance and help, the kittens, Bonnie and Clyde, found a terrific home with a very nice couple.

So, back to the backyard kitten

situation; I reached out to PAW again. They helped capture the cat family and offered lots of great advice. The kittens became PAW cats and were vetted, posted online, and attended cat adoption shows. About a month ago, a nice young fellow adopted Jasper, who is now Jasmine, who fit right in to her new home and is enjoying the company of her cat friends. Nina continues to live with us while awaiting her forever home and we couldn't ask for a sweeter house guest. We are sure that with the resources PAW provides, she will soon have her own family to entertain! So, a hearty thank you to PAW for all the great work you do every day to help our feline friends.

## Pets on Wheels brightens everyone's day!

*By Mary Lynn Ferman*

We adopted Bailey the day after Thanksgiving 2014. He is our very first dog. Our family and friends have commented that Bailey is a lucky dog to have us as his parents, but my husband and I always say that we are *all* very lucky to have found one another.

My husband and I retired in August 2013; we had never owned a dog, but it seemed an ideal time to start since we now had more time to devote to him. Unfortunately, at that time, my father developed Alzheimer's Disease and became bedridden. Being the oldest sibling and retired, I committed to 3 days a week to help with my dad's care at the assisted living facility. Emotionally it took its toll, but once Bailey came into our lives, we began to enjoy life again. He is such a clown, constantly making us smile and laugh out loud. The assisted living facility allowed me to bring my dog along on visits, and my dad would lighten up and smile whenever he saw Bailey. Slowly, other

residents started to notice Bailey and showed an interest in visiting with him.

Bailey is sweet-tempered and enjoys meeting people, so we decided to share his unconditional love with others. I



**Bailey**

researched therapy dog opportunities and found the non-profit organization Pets on Wheels (POW) of Maryland. POW volunteer teams (dog and handler) visit hospitals, assisted living communities, libraries, veterans' hospitals, facilities for the physically and mentally challenged, and for children at risk, homeless and domestic violence shelters, schools, stress-free zones helping combat anxiety and depression in col-

lege students, teen diversion programs, substance abuse facilities, and prisons.

Bailey and I went through the POW temperament screening process and were accepted into the organization in June 2015. We now visit with the other residents at my dad's facility for at least 2 hours a week. POW only requires volunteer teams (handler & dog) to visit for at least one hour per month. Many of the residents had pets before coming to the home and they miss that companionship. Bailey craves attention and the residents get to experience the unconditional love they once had with their own pets. Bailey also spreads joy to the caregivers and residents' visitors, and has been nicknamed "McLovin".

Our experience with POW has been wonderful. If you have time and a pet with the right temperament, we highly recommend the experience and there are plenty of facilities requesting visitations from POW close to where you live. Please visit the POW website for further information ([www.petsonwheels.org](http://www.petsonwheels.org)).



# Happy Endings

One of our favorite parts of being PAW volunteers is helping the animals find their forever homes. We love hearing happy stories from adopters and wanted to share some here.

## Bongo, the Come Back Kid

By Megan Laski

We initially visited a PAW adoption event to see a 4-year-old Corgi mix. My husband and I had decided to adopt a dog but wanted an older, low-key dog who could be my companion as I work from home. But after meeting the Corgi, I knew I needed someone with a little more personality—insert Bongo. He seemed so sweet though a little nervous when we first met him. But as I gently pet him, he ever so slightly leaned into my legs. That was game over; he had to be mine!

I did my research into the Australian Cattle Dog breed and realized that he would be extremely active and would need lots of attention. It seemed like a perfect fit! My flexible work schedule allows me to walk a dog throughout the day. PAW had warned me that Bongo had some potential behavioral issues, but all I could think about was his sad little face, stuck in a cage at a shelter.



Bongo

When PAW brought Bongo to our apartment for placement, he seemed a little jittery but I just thought he was unsure of what was happening. The PAW volunteers stayed for an hour, to make sure we were comfortable with our decision, but within 4 hours of having the dog, I was seriously doubting my ability to control him. He was running around like a maniac, biting anything he could latch his teeth into. I tried to take him for walks, but he would lunge and bark at anything or anyone walking by. I felt incredibly upset—I had no idea what to do.

Next day, Suzanne Mattingly checked in to see how things were going and I admitted that Bongo had gotten off to a rough start. She immediately sent me resources for the breed and trainers in the area and I quickly scheduled a private training session. I explained the issues we were having to the trainer, and my fear that Bongo was an aggressive dog. But within an hour, the trainer taught me how to interact with my dog and gave me the confidence I needed to be a good parent for Bongo.

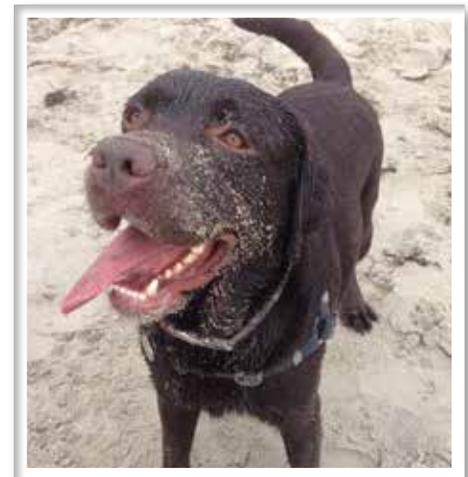
Bongo is very much a work in progress. We try our best to socialize him with other dogs and people and if I am traveling for work, we take him to puppy daycare, where they always say he is a delight (I think maybe they are just being nice). But others have remarked how much he has improved in the past 4 months. Bringing a new dog into your home requires a lot of patience as you learn to live with one another. I would highly recommend PAW to anyone interested in adopting a dog (or cat). I am

so grateful to their wonderful volunteers, who worked so hard to make sure that Bongo and my husband and I are happy!

## Atticus has come a long way

By Shilpa Patel

Atticus was found abandoned in a basement with two other dogs and a cat, with no food or water. PAW brought him to a College Park Animal Hospital, where they treated a large infected growth on his leg. PAW volunteers came to play with him, taking him for daily walks, and giving him love and attention. Everyone fell in love with him; there was something in his eyes—



Atticus

deep sadness mixed with hope and yearning—and he just tugged at your heartstrings.

When we first saw Atticus he was very scared, tail firmly between his legs, emaciated, and with a huge scar on his hind leg from the recent surgery. Atticus was still very wary and fright-

ened when he came to us in January of this year. He would run away when we approached him and getting his harness and leash on took much patience and determination! He spent a lot of time in his crate, which became his “safe place” in those early days. He was clearly overwhelmed at the big changes in his life. We also felt overwhelmed, as it seemed so difficult to reach him and get him to trust us. But love (and good food and treats!) can work wonders.

Atticus today is unrecognizable from the thin, unhappy boy we first met. He holds his tail up proudly, and wags it a lot (so much so that he spins himself in circles). He comes willingly when called, and is learning basic commands. He loves to be with other dogs at the dog park, where he is happy to play with everyone. He enjoys playing fetch, though we are still working on the “drop” command. He wants to be with people, and has developed the habit of carrying

one of his beds into the room where you happen to be, so that he can be comfortable! He no longer shies away from us, but instead wakes us up every morning with licks and cuddles, and is always eager to play and receive belly rubs.

Atticus has become so much a part of our family that we cannot imagine life without him. He is a constant reminder to us of the small joys in life, and how love and trust can go such a long way.

## Happy Memories

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.



### Remembering Coakley

By Wendy Smith

We got Coakley in December 1999, right after my previous dog died; PAW thought she was about 6 months old. She was an elegant dog, with a beautiful stance, and a fluffy white chest, giving her the appearance of wearing a tuxedo. We got her DNA tested and found she was part Akita (her high curly tail and high hips), part Collie (her friendly disposition), part Sharpei (don't know what she got from there), and way back Great Dane and Miniature Pincer (I wondered about that last matchup). But everyone thought she was mostly what she wasn't—a Lab.

My husband, Jay, retired and was home with her most of her life. He regularly took her to the dog park in Arlington, where she had a circle of dog friends that became a regular clutch for years, although she outlived all her pals. She loved dogs and people alike, was happy-go-lucky, and took everything in her stride. Her favorite trick was picking up a napkin when it fell off your lap and offering it back.



Coakley

Her perfect behavior only had one lapse. After my parents died, I sold their apartment and turned the money into a large Certificate of Deposit. It was sitting on the coffee table, and for some reason Coakley decided to eat it! I nearly had a heart attack until I found out the bank would honor it without the certificate!

Sadly, after 15-1/2 wonderful years with the best behaved dog we ever had, Coakley's body started to decline, and she began to have trouble getting around. We built a ramp for her to reach the backyard, and tried various

treatments, but although some days she could take a short walk to visit her dog friend in the neighborhood, for the most part we had to carry her. Finally, this May, she became unable to get up on her own and it scared her. It broke our hearts, but we had to say goodbye.

Thanks to PAW volunteer Suzanne Arnold for being her foster and bringing such joy to our lives.

### Remembering Gordy

By Chuck and Sue Aaron

In 2002, after our Cocker Spaniel, Sam, died my wife Sue and I went to an adoption show at Petsmart to find a small, older dog. Somewhere in the store I lost track of Sue but finally found her with this large, young dog with his head on her lap, looking lovingly into her eyes. His name was Gordy, and he was a Setter/Retriever mix (we called him a Resetter). Needless to say we adopted Gordy, who had spent most of his life up until then in and out of shelters. He had been adopted and returned twice and was due



**Gordy**

to be euthanized when PAW rescued him.

Gordy was a sweet but very high energy dog and after spending most of his life in cages he was not socialized and was very difficult to house train. It took months of patient work but Gordy eventually settled into the best, most loving and loyal companion anyone could ask for. He walked with

us around the lake near our house twice a day for the rest of his life, regardless of the weather, and made many friends over the years. Sue would often take him for long walks through the woods and around the neighborhood and those were his favorite times. He loved little children and old people and was very gentle with

them. He needed a job and he chose to tirelessly guard our house and yard and let us know when any visitors or threats (UPS trucks) presented themselves. At the dog park he ran like a cheetah and when he played he had this uncanny ability to do vertical leaps and spins from a dead stop. When we first adopted him he had digestive problems, so initially we gave him natural food and then switched him to a raw diet

which was expensive but worked out really well for him.

Since I work from a home office Gordy was my constant companion and number one business consultant (since he was such a good listener). On September 16th after 14 years of a happy and loving life Gordy left us. We scattered his ashes around the lake where we had so often walked together. He was an immense gift to us and we are grateful to PAW for saving him and bringing us together.

The only thing  
wrong with dogs  
is they can't  
live forever.  
—Anon



## Donations in Honor of and In Memory of . . .

### In memory of Pet:

- In memory of Belle, dearly loved by the Elbaum Family, by Philip Wood and The Jefferson
- In memory of Chloe, by Lisa & Greg Sakuta
- In memory of Daisy, by Jacqueline Mickley
- In memory of Jesse, by Fred Seitz & Kathy Foxhall
- In memory of Kramer, by Michael Backenheimer & Twyla Henderson. Forever in our hearts.
- In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, and Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon
- In memory of my beloved cat,

- Amelie, who passed away May 9, 2015, by Pamela Long
- In memory of my Sophie & BoBo, by Kathleen Murray
- In memory of our adopted PAW dog, Harley, 2000–2015, by Melissa Sandlin
- In memory of our late Manx cat, by Eloise Ross Rubin-cam
- In memory of PAW cat, Angel, by Bonnie Rand Smith
- In memory of PAW dog, Hampton, by Suzanne & Trey Goulden
- In memory of Wilbur & Wendell, our two grandkitties adopted by our daughter,

Andrea Shapiro (a PAW volunteer), by Steven & Adela Shapiro

### In honor of Pet and in memory of Pet:

- In honor of Smokey and in memory of Ned, by Richard & Donna Browder
- In honor of Smokey and in memory of Zeus, by Peggy Bowditch

### In honor of Pet:

- In honor of PAW dog Arthur, by Sarah Carter, Elise Stoklosa, Jessica Durand, Karen Huguley, Amar Desai, Katherine Evans,

- Randy Epstein, Julie Forman, and Julie Marks
- In honor of Dallas, by Claire Miller
- In honor of Darla, the Wonder Cat, by Kathy Freund
- In honor of Lady, by Carol & John Anderson
- In honor of Loki, by Bonnie Ellen
- In honor of Mazy, Koda, Jazmine, & Pebbles, by Marian Wright
- In honor of my BFF, Freckles, by Bob & Karen Huguley
- In honor of Smokey, by Don & Lyn Layer, Liz Downs, Kathleen Gillerlain, Joyce Emerson, and Tonya Higgins

In honor of Wills Brauner, former PAW dog, by Cheryl Gundry and Healthcare Data Management, Inc.

### In memory of People:

In memory of Dorothy Santilli, by Bonnie Rand Smith  
In memory of Frieda Jaffe, by Abby Kaplan, and by Douglas Heifetz  
In memory of Joyce Sydnor-Howard, beloved mom of Dina, by Amy Pergosky

### In honor of People:

In honor of all foster parents, by Iris Rainone  
In honor of Joanne Goldman,

by Melissa & Kirk Williamson, and by Anonymous  
In honor of Liani Setyawan, by Theresa O'Donnal  
In honor of Melissa Ramey, by Nicole Richmond  
In honor of Michael Backenheimer, by Twyla Henderson  
In honor of PAW's 20th Anniversary, by Joe & JoAnn Lamp  
In honor of Sara Taylor, by Kristi Neidhardt & Century 21 New Millennium  
In honor of Twyla Henderson, by Kerri Henderson  
In honor of Vicki & Jim Scott's 50th Wedding Anniversary, by Twyla Henderson & Michael Backenheimer

## Contact PAW

PAW is a private, nonprofit, and all-volunteer pet rescue group. We do not have a shelter; instead, we keep dogs and cats in foster homes and in temporary kennel space until permanent homes are found.

### Here's how to meet our adoptable pets:

**ADOPTION SHOWS:** Visit one of PAW's weekend adoption shows, held at participating pet supply stores throughout the Maryland/DC area. For information on our next adoption show, visit our website, call the number below, or see our ads in the Washington Post Classifieds under Pets: Dogs and Pets: Cats.

**WEBSITE:** To see photos and descriptions of all of PAW's adoptable animals, plus a list of upcoming adoption shows, events, tips, volunteer information, and more, visit our website at: [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org).

**CALL 301-572-4PAW/(301) 572-4729** for listings of upcoming adoption shows, volunteer information, donation information, and more. (Since PAW is all-volunteer, we can't always return phone calls as quickly or in as much detail as with e-mail. Please visit our website for photos and information on our adoptable pets, since we may not be able to return such calls as quickly.)

**E-MAIL:** For cat questions: [paw\\_cats@yahoo.com](mailto:paw_cats@yahoo.com). For dog questions: [pawdogs@yahoo.com](mailto:pawdogs@yahoo.com). Other addresses are listed on the website.

## Membership/Donation Form For Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc. PO BOX 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 • [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org) • 301-572-4PAW

### PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY:

Membership:  Single (\$25)  Family (\$45)  Renewal (Please check here if this is a renewal membership.)

Additional donation: I am enclosing an additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I enclose an additional donation in memory of:

A person: \_\_\_\_\_ A pet: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose an additional donation in honor of:

A person: \_\_\_\_\_ A pet: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer: I am willing to help in the following capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Please make checks payable to the Partnership for Animal Welfare and mail to the address on this form. The animals thank you.

The Partnership for Animal Welfare is an officially recognized non-profit organization which is funded through donations and adoption fees. Donations are tax-deductible (Tax ID # 52-1979581). If you would like to help, you can do so by donating money, earmarking your charitable donations to PAW, helping with some of our fundraising activities, or donating food, blankets and other supplies.



**Partnership for Animal Welfare**  
**P.O. Box 1074**  
**Greenbelt, MD 20768**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit #5745

Like us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/PAW-Partnership-for-Animal-Welfare/25717716228>

## PAW Shakes to . . .

- PAW's ADOPTION SHOW HELPERS, DRIVERS, and FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS for donating their weekend hours to help keep our group going from week to week. Meows!
- PAW's KENNEL BUDDIES, who exercise and socialize our kennel dogs throughout the week and the TRANSPORTERS who take them to and from the vets. The dogs are so grateful. Four paws up!
- PAW's FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILIES. We couldn't save lives without you. Slobbers and slurps!
- Woofs to Debra Ekman of Your Dog's Friend ([www.yourdogsfriend.info/](http://www.yourdogsfriend.info/)) for offering free workshops, training referrals, and more.
- VETERINARIANS AND STAFF at Beltsville Veterinary Hospital, Beltway Referral Associates, Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates, College Park Animal Hospital, Kenhaven Animal Hospital, Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic, Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists, Spay Now Animal Surgery Clinic, The Spay Spot, Patuxent Valley Animal Hospital, D.C. Vets Inc./Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates; and VCA Veterinary Referral Associates for providing reduced-cost vet care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats. Woofs and wags!
- Special thanks to Dr Luis Braz-Ruivo at Dogs and Cats Veterinary Referral, Bowie, MD, for discounted cardiac care for PAW dog, Megan.
- Fred Wolpert and Quan Harper at PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS in Columbia, and Hillary Stains, Laura Mathieson, Ellie, Kate, and staff at SNIFFERS DOGGIE DEPOT in Rockville for boarding some of our homeless pets at discounted rates.
- District Lithograph of Rockville, for printing this newsletter at reduced cost. Bow wows!
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland-area PETSMART and PETCO, and MIGHTY HEALTHY PET stores for hosting our weekly dog and cat adoption shows. Paw shakes and purrs to all.

**Make donating easy through your workplace—  
PAW CFC#65456**

## PAW Shakes

Published twice a year by the Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW), Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the rescue and adoption of homeless pets.

*Editors:* Sue Silver and  
Jodi Koehn-Pike

Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1074  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20768  
(301) 572-4PAW (4729)  
[www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org)

### 2015 Board of Directors

President— Bethany DiPaula  
Vice President—Jodi Koehn-Pike  
Secretary—Marian Wright  
Treasurer—Chris Lord  
Dog Coordinator—Sue Silver  
Cat Coordinators—Kim Nelson  
and Lori Simmons  
Volunteer Coordinator—Robin  
Vinopal  
Fundraising Coordinator—Lisande  
Bissonette  
Outreach Coordinator – vacant