



PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare 🐾 Fall 2017
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 🐾 www.paw-rescue.org

Randy: shattered and fearful to joyful and adored

By Kate Blackwood

Randy is a completely different dog from the one who came home with us nearly two years ago. He was quite shy, timid, anxious, and nervous about *everything* whether it was playing with a toy, eating his food, taking treats, or being loved on. At the time, Randy hovered around 55 pounds; he now ranges from 75 to 80, all muscle, and like many big dogs, he thinks he's a lap dog. He also has triple the energy he used to have. Walks are now a mile or more, he happily chases



Randy relaxing on his Baltimore Ravens blanket

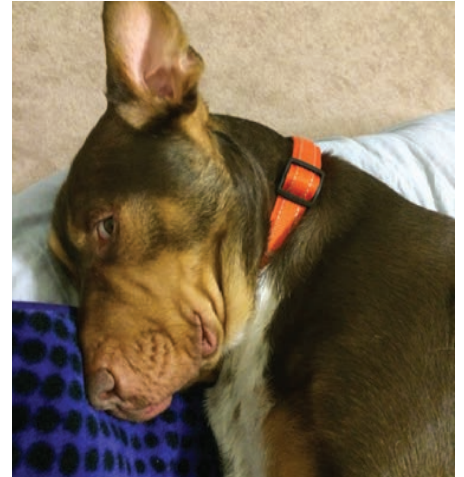
a tennis ball for an hour, and he pretty much has the hang of playing tug.

One of Randy's favorite activities has become car rides. I just roll down the window for him to stick his face out, and he's a happy camper. I'm also pleased to report he still chases his tail

whenever he can, but not to excess. My boy is obsessed with all things peanut butter, and he loves the snow—playing in it, eating it, and walking through it! We've also discovered that Randy is an empathetic face licker. If you're having a bad day, he feels it and will lick your face (or try to) until you start laughing.

Randy has done wonderfully with training! I started out just going through the basics. He knew sit, touch, and clearly had experience with lying down. We worked on reinforcing those while working on wait, lie down, and stand. During snow storms, we worked on some more fun tricks like paw/shake, pound it, and bedtime (going to his bed). He completed his first training class in August 2016, and that has made such a big difference! He's much better at socializing, and as we've started teaching speak, we've noticed he's become more comfortable with being vocal (which in his case is a good thing).

Training also confirmed something I'd suspected since he started coming out of his shell. Randy was abused the first year of his life before he was given up. We have more training to do to work on his triggers and modify the behaviors that are engrained in him as reactions. We do everything we can to avoid any unnecessary triggers. We've made progress on his less severe ones. Our trainer recommended an enzyme therapy to take the edge off the environments that cause him minor anxiety, and it's helped



Randy trying to ignore his wake-up call

so much with new people coming to the house, in being sociable on walks, and with his reaction to packages being delivered. He still has major anxiety with the vet, but during the last visit, he allowed the vet and the vet tech to pet him—which is *huge* for him! It's just going to take time for him to figure out they just want to cuddle him and shower him with treats. I think once he figures that out he'll be just fine with going to the doc.

We've been most focused on socializing the last few months, and Randy has had noticeably less anxiety when we encounter other people and/or dogs on his walks. He's been attempting to play with more of the dogs we meet rather than hiding behind my legs. Because he still plays like a puppy, most other dogs just stare at him until he stops jumping around and they begin to sniff each other. A few months ago, we finally trained him out of jumping on people for atten-

tion! He now sits without having to be reminded rather than jumping when he wants some love. If it's belly rubs he wants, he lies down and flops over.

Randy has become the beloved "family dog." We all live close to each other and I'm the only one with a dog, so my family members have also "adopted" him, showering him with love whenever they come over. Of all my family members, Randy seems to

love my dad the most, which is ironic because my dad is allergic to dogs and can only have minimal contact with him. When he comes over, Randy's tail gets to wagging faster than it does for anything or anyone else. He just follows my dad around the house, nosing at his hand for some love. My dad has developed a weakness for Randy, and gives in to petting him more often than his allergies would like him to.

Randy's other favorite person seems to be one of my sisters, and, of course, she's allergic to dogs too! This does not stop her from petting him with her feet, or playing tug with him when she's at my house. Randy has mastered puppy-dog eyes, and if he wants some love or attention, no doubt he'll find someone to give it to him!

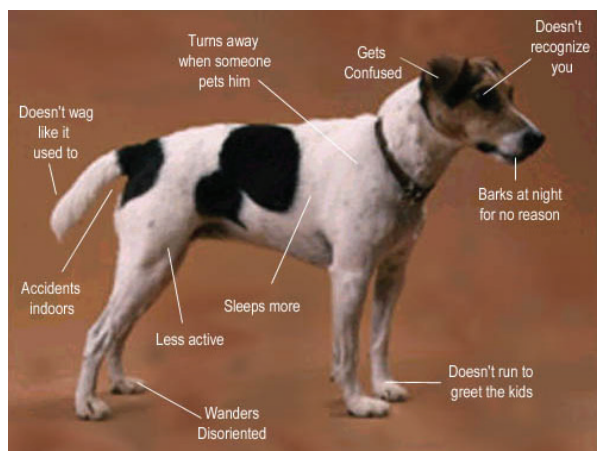
PAW, thank you for choosing me to be his forever mom!

Dementia in dogs and cats

By Wendy Hall, DVM, Ph.D.

As we take better care of our pets by preventing illness and death from infectious diseases, injury, and malnutrition, fortunately, many of them live longer. While more time is a gift, it also brings with it diseases and challenges associated with old age. As with people, older pets are subject to "cognitive dysfunction," also known as dementia. Unlike people, the symptoms can be hard to recognize. But identifying the signs early on is important: it can ensure that owners don't punish pets for "bad behavior" that they just can't control, and it may even open the door to therapies that will diminish the symptoms and improve function and quality of life.

Common symptoms of dementia in dogs. The list of symptoms for dementia in dogs is quite long (and can be found at dogdementia.com). It includes staring into space, pacing or walking in circles, standing in corners, getting lost in familiar locations, sleep-wake disturbances, changes in behavior toward people, house soiling, and becoming more fearful or anxious. Some symptoms can also be explained by physical changes such as vision or hearing loss or pain. So, to identify the underly-



ing cause, it's important to observe your older pet closely and take him or her to the veterinarian if you notice these or other changes. Of course, frequent check-ups (every six months in older dogs) will also help in detecting dementia in your dog as well as other age-related illnesses.

What to do for your dog with dementia. There are several approaches to helping dogs with cognitive dysfunction. Enrichment increases your dog's mental activity by stimulating his brain. For example, dog puzzles, playing hide and seek with treats, and teaching "an old dog new tricks" can help keep your dog's mind active. The medication Anipryl is approved by the FDA for treating canine cognitive dysfunction and the nutritional supplements, Senilife, SAME, and Neutricks also appear to

be promising. Hill's Prescription Diet b/d is formulated specifically to improve canine cognitive function and general health of older dogs.

Cognitive dysfunction in cats. More recently, veterinarians have recognized that older cats also display behavioral changes associated with aging. Wandering, vocalization, and increased night-time activity unrelated to other diseases can be signs of dementia in your cat. While fewer treatments specifically for cats are now available, research is underway. Enrichment with new toys and games may help, as can ensuring that your cat has a high-quality diet with rich sources of antioxidants.

If you suspect that your pet may be suffering from dementia, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to rule out other diseases. If the diagnosis is cognitive dysfunction, your veterinarian will be able to discuss the various options, or refer you to a specialist who can determine which options may be best for your pet. In the meantime, congratulate yourself on keeping your pet alive and healthy into old age, and enjoy your old friend every day that you can.

Annie, our multitalented celebri-cat

By Elizabeth Majella Pope

Iris, whom we renamed Annie, has brought so much joy to our lives in the nearly two years she has been with us. We cannot imagine our lives without Annie, also known as “Miss Thang” by her veterinary clinic staff. We found Annie on the PAW website and just knew she was the one for our family. We first laid eyes on her in person on December 5, 2015, and from the moment we held her, we knew we wanted to be her forever family. We never need to search for Annie; she is always with us. Wherever the family is in the house, there’s Annie! We have discovered that she can tell time, loves to travel, savors special foods—and she’s become a fashionista and gourmand to boot.

Annie is on the same sleep schedule as we humans are. She meows and calls out to us at night when she believes it’s time for everyone to go to bed. She even serves as our own personal wake-up service, rousing us promptly at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. Annie loves riding in the car and taking trips, whether it’s to the local Dunkin’ Donuts to get coffee, traveling to Washington DC, riding in her stroller around a state park, or

taking vacations up to Connecticut. Her most recent trip was to Savannah, GA. She is the perfect travel companion.

She has an Instagram account (@annie_miss_foodie) with nearly 1000 followers to date. She participates in the “Little Ladies Kitty Club,” an Instagram page where cats post themselves wearing little pearl necklaces, mini purses, cute hats, and other accessories. Annie also has a special friend (Sergeant Chandler), a 10-year-old rescued gentleman cat who resides in the Netherlands. They mail cat treats back and forth to each other. Annie even sent out her own Christmas cards this year featuring her adorable little face.

Annie lives up to her other nickname of “Miss Foodie” as she frequently asks (she is *very* vocal) for human food. She also lives for her evening snack. Cats, as most know, are creatures of habit and as soon as it gets to be “evening snack time” she calls out her reminder to all of us.

We are so blessed to have Annie in our lives, and we are grateful to PAW, Mimi Cole, and all who took care of Annie before we became her forever family.



**“A knit chapeau is ‘a must’ for this season!”
—Annie**



Annie works on her Instagram account

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.

CALL 301-572-4PAW/(301) 572-4729 for listings of upcoming adoption shows, volunteer information, donation information, and more. 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. For dog questions: pawdogs@yahoo.com. Other addresses are listed on the website.

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, or call the number at left.

WEBSITE: To see photos and descriptions of all of PAW’s adoptable animals, plus tips, volunteer information, and more, visit our website at: www.paw-rescue.org.

Ginger's cold laser therapy and acupuncture

By Jo Hahn

Ginger came to me as a PAW foster in late December 2012. She was a bouncy, tail-wagging, clown of a little girl—always smiling, always excited to see me come home, always making me laugh. It didn't take long to know that I could not let her go, so I adopted her a few months later.

Recently, I came home to find Ginger stumbling and having trouble holding up her head and back end. Our walks, usually 30 to 45 minutes, were shortened to 10 or 15. I often carried her because simply walking around the block was just too much. She had little muscle control in her hips and rear legs. It quickly became clear that she was in serious trouble.

After doing a physical evaluation, my veterinarian determined that Ginger either had a disc injury or a tumor. An MRI was required to learn what the specific problems were. The initial assessment suggested that surgery would be needed for disc problems. I asked the doctor about his views on acupuncture and received a favorable response, but he also suggested a new treatment the animal hospital was offering: cold laser therapy.

Cold laser therapy, sometimes called low-level laser therapy, is becoming a popular treatment in animal rehabilitation. It is used widely for pain reduction, reduction of inflammation, and increased cell metabolism for wound care and healing. A "cold laser" is a concentrated form of light energy that can penetrate up to 5 cm into soft tissue without generating much heat. While it is not completely certain how the treatment works, it is thought that the light stimulates the natural healing response around the nerves and tissues targeted with the laser.

While getting the MRI scheduled,



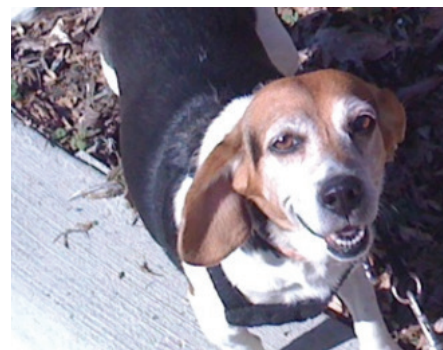
Ginger in shades for her cold laser therapy

I decided to start Ginger on cold laser therapy immediately. Everyone needs to wear dark glasses to protect their eyes because the technician waves a light-emitting wand over the injured area. That's it! Ginger received the laser therapy every two or three days in combination with drug therapy. Within days of beginning the treatment, she was showing signs of improvement.

Our next stop was to see an acupuncturist in College Park, who specializes in animal acupuncture. Acupuncture is a form of traditional Chinese medicine and consists of inserting very thin needles into specific points in the body. The insertion of needles is thought to signal nerves to relax muscles, override brain signals, and stimulate hormone production, producing chemical changes in the body.

I was unsure how Ginger would react to needles being stuck into her, but our situation was dire and we had to try something, so off we went. Our first meeting with the acupuncturist was so calm and peaceful, both Ginger and I relaxed. Ginger calmly accepted the therapy, with minimal discomfort—just a little flinch when a sore spot was treated. Her first session was on a Saturday morning, and for the rest of the weekend she was calm and restful. Monday morning, she started to

liven up and by Tuesday morning she was showing significant improvement. There was more healing needed, and treatments continued weekly for about a month. Each treatment improved her mobility and reduced her discomfort. Slowly sessions were reduced from weekly to bi-weekly to monthly. Ginger had two MRIs, one cervical (neck) and one thoracic (back). Her diagnosis: herniated discs in both her neck and back, and multiple bulging discs in both areas. Luckily, surgery was not recommended!



"Feeling much better, thank you!"

The cold laser therapy in combination with some drug therapy was key in starting the healing process and putting Ginger on a path to recovery. The acupuncture therapy has been instrumental in getting Ginger back to her old self. After a couple of treatments, that bouncy, tail-wagging, clown of a little girl I fell in love with was showing up again. This is a chronic health problem for Ginger that will require continued treatment, but it has been well worth the effort to try alternative treatments to see her so happy and watch her tail go!

*Editor's note: PAW does not promote or endorse specific medical treatments or products; this article recounts the experience of one PAW adopter and her dog. Thanks to Peter H. Eeg BSc, DVM, CVLF, FASLMS, co-author of *Veterinary Laser Surgery: A Practical Guide*, for technical consult. He is not the veterinarian referred to in this article.*

Happy Endings



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

Over the moon—with Luna

by Joy Levine

Annie,” I said, “you’re getting a little sister.” Our black lab/hound mix perked up her ears and cocked her head to the side. I imagined her saying “I’m getting a what?” Growing up, I always wanted a cat but could never have one because my mother was allergic to them, plus there was always a dog in our house. And—we just didn’t know how the dog would react to a feline sibling. After graduation, and after I landed my first “grown-up job,” I presented the idea of adopting a cat to my mom. She agreed to it as long as I would be the primary caretaker, of course. My biggest worries were, first, if bringing home a feline friend would cause my mom to have a severe reaction, and second, if Annie would be able to amiably coexist with a cat.

After a visit to my local SPCA and a few clicks on an adoption search site, I found the profile of a brown and caramel tabby named Suzie. I instantly fell in love, so I contacted her foster family. Following a few e-mails, I set up a meeting with Suzie and brought my mom along with me to make sure her allergies didn’t flare up. Thankfully, everything went smoothly, and I was surprised to find out that Suzie could be brought to my house later that afternoon! I had a moment of panic because my room was not ready for a cat and we didn’t have enough time to get Annie emotionally prepared. Luckily, the adoption event took place in a pet-supply store, so I could stock up before returning home.

Finally, the time came for Suzie to arrive. Right away we took her to my room and let her explore. Annie frantically sniffed at Suzie’s empty carrier and then went to lie down on the couch. So far, so good. Suzie fit her description; she was extremely sweet, playful, and seemed to enjoy the company of people. About a week before Suzie came home, I went back and forth on whether or not I should change her name. I compiled a list of about 20 names and began to narrow it down. I had names ranging from “Penny Lane” to “Biscuit” to “Baccardi,” so essentially, I was all over the place. Then one day at work, the book *Stellaluna* caught my eye and that’s when I knew that “Luna” was the perfect name for my new kitten!

For the first two days of Luna’s residence, Annie was as calm as could be. She was probably thinking “Joy’s bluffing—I’m not really getting a sister.” Based on her demeanor, I thought everything would be fine and that I was getting worked up over nothing. I was wrong. In the afternoon, Annie was frantic. She finally caught on that another animal was living in our house. She was basically glued to my bedroom door, desperately wanting to see what was in there. At night, she would lie outside my door, alternating between whining and sniffing. It was at this point that I decided it was time to introduce Annie and Luna face to face. I was nervous, but I brought Luna out to Annie. I’m sure there



Joy and Luna

were a million thoughts going through Annie’s head like “Who is that?” and “You weren’t bluffing after all.” Luckily, all the introduction entailed was lots of sniffing and curious looks. Luna was so relaxed and truly couldn’t have cared less about her big sister.

After an initial phase of chasing each other around the house, displaying puffed and rigid tails, and a fit or two of hissing, the storm subsided. My sister sent me the most wonderful photo while I was at work: Annie and Luna lying on the couch together. All my anxieties instantly melted away. Occasionally, Luna still chases Annie around the house and playfully jumps out at her. Annie has been quite tolerant and good-natured, but she won’t hesitate to growl a little if Luna gets too close to her food.

Luna has been such a wonderful addition to our family, and every day I am learning new things. I can’t thank PAW enough for their willingness to work with me, as well as for bringing Luna into my life.

I left my heart with San Diego

By Caitlin Scoville

When I first joined PAW, I wanted to volunteer in various ways to get a feel for what I liked. I went to a cat adoption show in College Park one rainy Saturday, and I met Constantine and San Diego, both long-haired beauties. San Diego, a female calico, was new to PAW, not yet in a foster home, and sorely in need of a good grooming. Although she was two years old and had lived in a home before coming to PAW, it was clear that she had been a victim of neglect and hadn't had a decent chance to groom herself while kept in a kennel. I brushed her and tried to work loose some of the mats from her gorgeous fur. What struck me immediately was how calm she was—she just lay there, showing me her belly, serene and content to get some TLC. I fell in love and knew in my gut that I would help her find a good home.

It was a tremendous adjustment for our two cats, Spring and Sergeant, to



San Diego, Caitlin's cali-foster

acclimate to a feline house guest, and I was worried that amidst the whirlwind of hissing and growling I had permanently damaged my relationships with my cats! At first, I remember feeling I had made a horrible mistake, but with patience, the caterwauling slowly subsided. That said, it was *my cats* who were the aggressors; San Diego was extremely gentle. A huge challenge with fosters is navigating that initial adjust-

ment with the family pets—sometimes you just pray that you make it to the next adoption event with everyone (including you) intact!

Although I was treading unfamiliar waters as a first-time foster, I have lots of great memories of San Diego. I got her professionally groomed and saw her coat restored to its former glory. My husband Casey discovered that she knows how to fetch—a wonderful accident, which we quickly video recorded and sent to PAW and our families so they could join in our giggles and amazement!

We had great success with getting inquiries from potential adopters, and in the end, I helped choose between two very loving, deserving candidates. Although I miss her terribly, I'm happy that I can stay in touch with her adopter to check in and see how she's doing. San Diego was a perfect guest, and I couldn't have asked for a better experience as a first-time foster mom.

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(Please check here if this is a renewal membership.)

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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.

Happy Memory



PAW's calendar boy Max

By Bob Klein with Carol & Phil Thomas and Amy Bleich

Max was one of those difficult PAW rescue dogs who needed to stay at a separate end of the meet-and-greet row during adoption shows. He was a wonderful big lug but a tough dog to adopt out. He did not like going to shows, and he let everyone know it. However, PAW did for Max what PAW does: we found him the perfect home. Actually, Phil and Carol Thomas found their perfect dog and PAW just helped make it happen. Phil and Carol adopted Max in 2008, and Max passed away in January 2016.

In those eight years, Max graced four PAW calendars. Not only did Max find a great home, he found one with an ace photographer—Carol. The calendar pictures of Max tell a wonderful story of the good life that Max led after he was adopted.

In 2012, Phil and Carol bought him a 40-foot catamaran, and Max shows up in the calendar lounging on the stern deck wearing his Doggles.

In August 2015, we see Max standing in a stream with a most intent look on his face. Something *really interesting* is going on and Max is watching closely. Carol said that just before she snapped the picture she saw and heard a large bird fly out of the surrounding trees. Carol captured Max tracking



Max "watching the birdie"

the bird, and we all got to enjoy that purely dog expression on Max's face for a month.

In 2017, Max made a posthumous calendar appearance in May. Max reminds us to stop and smell the flowers before we take our leave.



Handsome Max in his final calendar appearance

Thanks to Phil and Carol Thomas for giving Max such a rich life and sharing it with all of us through their grand calendar pictures. Thanks to Amy Bleich for putting together the PAW calendar that we enjoy year-round. Thanks to PAW—all of us—for making brilliant stories like Max's possible.



Donations in Honor of and In Memory of . . .

In honor of people:

- In honor of Alison Ungerleider, by Vasa Ighanian
- In honor of Gina M. Smith, by Dominique Smith
- In honor of John Doyle, by Dominique Smith
- In honor of Mitch Segal's retirement, by Spacesaver Systems, Inc
- In honor of Robin Vinopal, by Direct Energy Foundation
- In honor of Sarah Carr, by Marina Volkov
- In honor of Twyla Henderson, by Michael Backenheimer

In memory of people:

- In memory of Barbara Windecker, by John & Honor Johnson

In memory of Mom, by Philip Wood

In memory of my mother, Vivian S. Raney, by June S. Raney

In memory of Suzanne Mattingly, by Dennis & Cindy Cunningham

In honor of people and pets:

In honor of Saxy and Debbie Smith, by Jay & Debbie Cleaver

In honor of pets:

- In honor of Ducky, by Ashley Walton
- In honor of Gretchen, by Dianne Thompson & Robert Kengle
- In honor of Jake, by Constance Walker
- In honor of Lady the Beagle, by

- Carol & John Anderson
- In honor of Peanut/Ziggy, by the Aguiar family
- In honor of Ranger (Aiden), by Richard Wagner
- In honor of Ripkin Roberts, by Donna Hupp
- In honor of Speedy, my brave cat, by Iris Rainone

In memory of pets:

- In memory and celebration of Marble's long life, by Pauline Almquist
- In memory of Blackjack, by Ellen & Judd Moul
- In memory of Cosi, by Julia Marshall
- In memory of Jule, beloved JRT of the Bauwens family, by Diana Gough

- In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, and Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon
- In memory of Peanut, companion of Lori Lubin & Chris Fashnacht, by Melinda Waring
- In memory of Shani, formerly Dixie, by Eleanor Nespica
- In memory of Smokey, by Roser Caminals Heath

In memory of pets and people:

- In memory of Beau, who was adopted from PAW, and my mother, Dola Marsden, who loved him, by Jim and Joy Edwards



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- PAW's ADOPTION SHOW HELPERS, DRIVERS, and FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS for sacrificing many hours throughout the week to help keep our group going.
- PAW's KENNEL BUDDIES, who exercise and socialize our kennel dogs all week.
- TRANSPORTERS, who take them to and from the vets. The dogs are so grateful.
- PAW's FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILIES—we couldn't save lives without you.
- 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., Veterinary Referral Center of Northern Virginia, Vets Inc./Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates, VCA Veterinary Referral Associates, Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery, and Veterinary Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Group for providing reduced-cost medical care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats.
- TRAINERS AND BEHAVIORISTS Adrienne Crank, Sarah Stoycos, Jen Boyd-Morin, Jennifer Owens, and Amy Pike, DVM, DACVB for their generosity, help, and training advice for our more challenging dogs.
- YOUR DOG'S FRIEND (www.yourdogsfriend.info), Debra Ekman for offering free workshops, training referrals, and more.
- DALE'S PET GROOMING in Laurel, Dale Martins for free grooming of PAW dogs and cats.
- PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS in Columbia, owner Fred Wolpert, Quan Harper, Tim Van Hess, Nickie Ice, Sarah Horstkamp, Tyler Crotty, and all our friends at Preston.
- SNIFFERS DOGGIE RETREAT in Rockville, owners Hillary Stains and Laura Mathieson Green, for boarding some of our dogs at discounted rates, and all Sniffers staff, especially Kate Byrne, Kelsey Thompson, Ellie Cook, and Jasmine Roberts for the care and kindness they show our pups.
- DISTRICT LITHOGRAPH OF ROCKVILLE for printing this newsletter at reduced cost.
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland-area PETSMART, PETCO, and MIGHTY HEALTHY PET stores for hosting our weekly dog and cat adoption shows.

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Jodi Koehn-Pike

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