



# PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare  
FALL / HOLIDAYS 2004

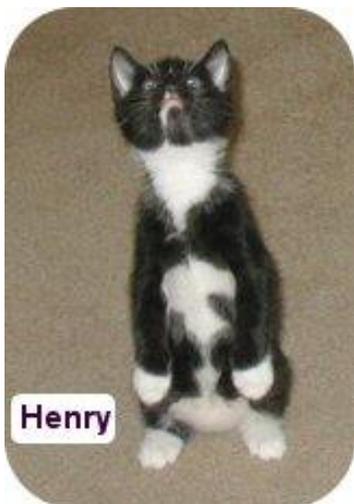
P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768  
www.paw-rescue.org

## Momma Cat Deserves Some Mothering of Her Own

### Zella Survived Fall and Abandonment To Raise Her Kittens

By Janet Drazek

It's hard enough to be homeless. But when you are homeless, abandoned and also very, very pregnant, survival can seem downright impossible. That's probably how a young cat named Zella was feeling before she was rescued by a Good Samaritan and brought to PAW.



Zella was living in an apartment in Bladensburg, but when her owner moved away she was left behind to fend for herself. The other residents fed her and gradually gained her trust. She was just a young cat when she lost her home, barely more than a kitten, but she was old enough to become pregnant. And of course, she did. As she got closer and closer to having the kittens, she started looking for a safe spot to give birth. One day she darted through an open door into one of the



apartment buildings. An annoyed maintenance man, without thinking, grabbed her and tossed her out the window from the first-story landing. (He was very sorry after he did it; it was a terrible thing to do but was not an intentional act of cruelty.)

The residents were appalled, and one of them, Linda, took Zella into her own apartment, even though she wasn't officially allowed to have a cat. But the manager gave her special permission to keep Zella there until she could find another home. Three days later, to nobody's surprise, Zella gave birth to four kittens, all big strapping boys. Things were going as well as could be expected, but Zella kept bleeding a bit and she wasn't eating well. Linda got more and more worried, and when Zella was still bleeding after five days she emailed PAW to ask for help. A PAW volunteer took the little family to one of



our vets to be checked out. Luckily Zella didn't have any major problems. It just took her awhile to recover from the birth, which isn't surprising considering how small she is and how enormous the kittens were.

Zella and her kittens were all taken in by PAW. The kittens were affectionately dubbed "the Mutants" by PAW volunteers because they were so big and precocious when they were infants. Poor Zella, being just a little bitty girl, had her paws full with these four enormous boys.



Now the kittens have been weaned and Zella has been spayed, and the whole bunch is ready to look for homes. Some of the kittens might be adopted by the

time this newsletter is printed and mailed, but Zella still needs a home.

*Continued, next page....*

## Momma Cat Needs Some Mothering

*continued from page one...*

Zella is a beautiful little girl. She's a bit shy with strangers, and she is squirmy if you try to hold her when she doesn't want to be held, but she's friendly and lovable with the people she knows. Being an attentive mama took a lot out of her, but she took great care of her kittens. Now it's time for somebody to take great care of her.



Zella took great care of her kittens. Now it's time for somebody to take great care of her.

To inquire about meeting or adopting Zella, please call PAW at 301-572-4PAW or email [paw\\_cats@yahoo.com](mailto:paw_cats@yahoo.com) and ask for Janet.

Donations are always appreciated to help rescue and care for abandoned pets like Zella and her family.

**PHOTOS:** The uncaptioned photo at the top of the story is Zella. The other photos show Zella's kittens (captioned). The photo at the left shows all four boys together. The photo below shows Zella again, resting after a long day of motherhood!



## How to 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*. We usually have an ad every weekend listing the show location, date, and time.
- **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: [dogs@paw-rescue.org](mailto:dogs@paw-rescue.org). Other addresses are listed on the website.

## PAW Shakes

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**Editor/Designer:**  
Kathleen Summers

*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)

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## Couple's Wedding Helps Homeless Pets

The only thing that made Lori Lubin and Chris Fassnacht as happy as being together was the love of their adopted PAW dog, Peanut



(formerly Cindy Lou Who). So when they decided to tie the knot, they kindly asked their guests to contribute to PAW instead of giving gifts. What a great tribute to their love and the love of their dog! We thank Chris and Lori for their generosity.



A partial list of guests and friends who contributed is as follows (some gifts may have been recorded after the deadline for this newsletter)...

In addition to the donors thanked on page 7, the couple received and forwarded gifts from:

Akeson/Lay; Albrecht/Lyans; Brieu Gooch van der Rijn; Groden/Pager; Kundic; Potter; Shapley; Squires/Nitta; Thierfelder/Galkiewicz; Toback; Ziokowski

**Many thanks to all who donated in Peanut's honor!**

## Vehicle Donations Wanted

It can be a hassle to try to sell your old vehicle: taking calls, meeting strangers, tense negotiations, transfers of title, etc. But if you choose to donate that vehicle instead, you can do it all with one phone call, receive a handy tax deduction, and also benefit from the satisfaction of helping to save homeless pets!

PAW has partnered with a program that will sell used vehicles at auction to benefit our charity. The program is able to take donations nationwide, so if the vehicle is in another state, no problem!

If you have a vehicle that you might be willing to donate, or for more information, please contact PAW's Fundraising Coordinator at [janetisman@aol.com](mailto:janetisman@aol.com). As always, consult a professional tax advisor as needed.

## "Goddesses" Had a Ball for PAW

*Lynn Kowalski and Sharon Allen presented PAW Vice President Amy Bleich with a \$2500 donation and a PAW-inscribed golf ball. Their 2004 "Goddesses" Golf Tournament was held to benefit our work for the animals. Many thanks from all of the PAW volunteers and from our furry charges!*



**Payroll Deduction Helps PAW Save Lives... United Way / CFC #9167**

## LETTERS TO PAW...

### DEBBIE'S MEMORY LIVES IN THE ANIMALS SHE RESCUED



Calvin Ditrick sent in this photo of adopted dog Chester, "the Bester," with Cal and his wife Adele. Calvin is the father of Debbie Ditrick Breuer, a PAW volunteer who passed away in March of 2003. The Debbie Breuer Memorial Fund was set up in her honor.

Calvin writes:

"My daughter Debbie Ditrick Breuer is living up to an expectation read by Ann Wingate at her memorial service. The expectation was expressed in a superb letter from Air Force Colonel Dr. Penny Giovanetti. One extract from that letter read: 'Last summer, she nursed my horse through stomach cancer, and when it came time to let him go, she braided feathers into his mane in accordance with an old American Indian custom to aid the spirit in its flight to the next world. Then she stayed with him until he was on his way. During that difficult time, we talked about death and letting go. And I think she would tell us that if we are attuned and patient,

*Continued, next page...*

## LETTERS TO PAW, *continued...*

she will contact us from the other side—at a time and in a manner that is unique to the relationship we had with her.’

Due to my fatherly relationship with Deb, soon after and ever since she has been contacting me, and no doubt many of her PAW friends. I feel certain she and her wonderful mother and my first wife Kay have been rejoicing as they work together to keep me on the right track. Together they have convinced me to become a PAW Patron by sending the enclosed check to be added to the Debbie Breuer Gift of Hope Fund. Debbie and her mother (as well as my wife Adele) keep reminding me that the key to a better life for all animals is through educating the public about their proper treatment—and that is a key focus of PAW.

[...] Some of you may recall that Deb and her husband Jeff saved a dog from ‘death row’ in the Scotland County Humane Society in Laurinburg, NC. They named it Laurin (after Laurinburg) and nursed it back to health. A lady at the memorial service beamed as she told how Laurin was a blessing to their family—just as the enclosed picture reflects the blessing Chester has brought to Adele and I.”

**PAW thanks Mr. Ditrick for his letter and generous donation. Mr. Ditrick also enclosed some promising fundraising ideas which have been forwarded to our Fundraising Coordinator for further attention.**

## DENVER PEACHES

by Vicky Balenger

We adopted Denver in the summer of 2001, after searching far and wide for a dog that our "dog-reactive" lab mix, Midnight, would tolerate. Denver was an adorable eight-month-old puppy—about 40 pounds—who appeared to be a red Doberman mix. I met him at the White Flint adoption show, and his foster mom, Chris Lord, graciously agreed to bring him to our house to see if he'd pass the Midnight test. Well, Denver was such a sweet, *submissive* little boy, she said "okay," and they immediately became friends. The next hurdle was raised by my husband, who was concerned about Denver's unusual gait. After Chris took him to the vet for more assessment, we were relieved to find that he had only mild dysplasia. On the day that Denver came to his new home, Chris left us with a tip: "He likes to be called Denver Peaches."

Denver settled right in, making himself comfortable by wiping his nose and mouth on our navy-blue upholstered living room chairs after every meal. He eagerly gobbled his own food, and also Midnight's if we weren't paying attention. And we began to realize that the main reason he walks funny is that he is no Doberman mix.... As Denver grew to 95 lbs, what materialized was a big Rottweiler body with a little Collie face! Being such a special and unique (read: awkward) mix of breeds, Denver Peaches simply has to swagger to get where he's going. We suspect that he lost his tail because Mom was a Rottweiler, and that the same fate befell his brother, John Paul.

We are so grateful to PAW and to Chris Lord for saving (and socializing) Denver, whose time at the shelter was up before his young doggie life had even begun. Now three years old, Denver has outgrown many of his puppy behaviors and fancies himself to be a big, bad watchdog. He also loves to carry things in his mouth, sometimes collecting up to three toys at a

time and parading them around the house. Denver possibly saved Midnight's life on one occasion, sounding an uncharacteristic bark-alarm to let us know she had gotten a piece of wood lodged in her throat while they were playing in the back yard. And of course, she loves the play and affection he provides; at times, she seems to believe that she has her own Collie-Rott puppy!

## Prayer of a Stray

Author Unknown

*Dear God, please send me somebody who'll care!*

*I'm tired of running, I'm sick with despair.*

*My body is aching, it's so wracked with pain,*

*And dear God I pray as I run in the rain,*

*That someone will love me and give me a home,*

*A warm cozy bed, and a big juicy bone.*

*My last owner tied me all day in the yard*

*Sometimes with no water, and God, that was hard!*

*So I chewed my leash, God, and I ran away*

*To rummage in garbage and live as a stray.*

*But now God, I'm tired and hungry and cold*

*And I'm so afraid that I'll never grow old.*

*They've chased me with sticks and hit me with stones,*

*While I run the streets just looking for bones.*

*I'm not really bad, God, please help if you can,*

*For I have become just a "victim of man."*

*I'm wormy, dear God, and I'm ridden with fleas,*

*And all that I want is an owner to please!*

*If you find one for me God, I'll try to be good,*

*And I won't chew their shoes, and I'll do as I should.*

*I'll love them, protect them and try to obey*

*When they tell me to sit, to lie down, or to stay!*

*I don't think I'll make it too long on my own,*

*'Cause I'm getting so weak and I'm so all alone.*

*Each night as I sleep in the bushes I cry,*

*'Cause I'm so afraid God, that I'm gonna die!*

*And I've got so much love and devotion to give,*

*That I should be given a new chance to live.*

*So dear God, please, please answer my prayer*

*And send me somebody who will really care...*

*That is, dear God, if you're really there!*

## How We Let Them Go Thoughts from a PAW Foster Mom

by Amy Bleich

As a long time PAW foster, I have been asked many things by people. One of the questions I have heard most is, "How can you give up an animal after



taking it to your home? I would get too attached."

To be honest, it does take a bit of adjustment. My first foster and placement experience caused many tears. As I drove away from the house, the dog I left behind looked back at me with eyes that seemed to say, "Why are you leaving me?" But what I learned, with time and more fosters, was that what the eyes really show is gratitude.

As foster homes, we take down-on-their-luck animals and make them whole again. They become part of our packs, our families. They regain health and confidence and become adoptable to good and loving homes. One of the reasons it has become easier to let them go is that I know that here at PAW, every home is screened and checked with a particular animal's needs in mind. I know that where they are going is at least as good for them as my home, and often their new homes are even better. One of the greatest pleasures in rescue is getting a letter, call, email or a visit at an adoption show from our alumni. I see how they thrive—so much so that it is often hard to remember the beginning of the journey. And that is really the goal.

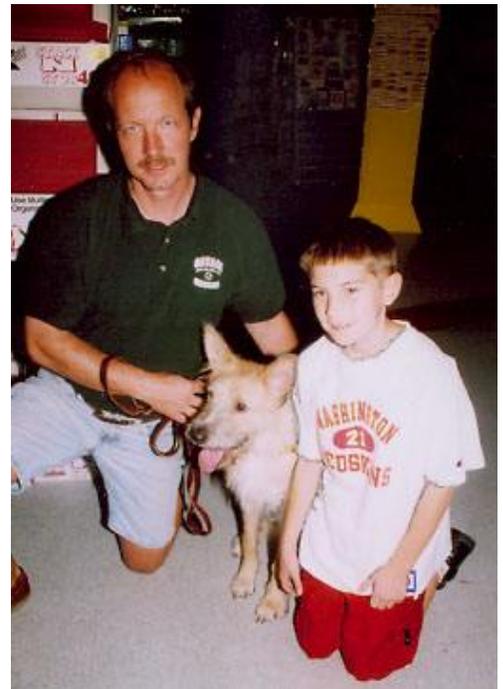
Our former fosters never forget us; adopters often tell me that my former fosters get especially excited when they see me, even after years have gone by since they last saw me. What I imagine is that they are remembering the kindness and warmth and healing. And, when they leave me after seeing me again, the look is different; their eyes now say, "Thank you, but this is my family now."

Yes, it is sometimes hard to let go, but these happy endings are forever. If you think you have what it takes to care and to let go, please consider providing a temporary home for a needy animal. I guarantee you, their eyes will thank you.

### FORMER FOSTERS:

**LEFT:** Chloe and Etta Mae Hodges, who were fostered and adopted through PAW.

**RIGHT:** Toby Spaulding, formerly known as Lewis, visits PAW with his new family.



## Little Bites...

### Cats and Dogs Seek Loving Foster Homes

The need for dog and cat foster homes is always urgent. Without them, PAW cannot save the lives of dogs and cats who have run out of time at local shelters. Foster pets share your home until they find their "forever families." You provide food, love, and gentle training; PAW provides all necessary medical care, and can loan crates and other supplies.

To read more about fostering for PAW, go to: <http://www.paw-rescue.org/foster.html>.

To discuss fostering a dog, please contact [dogs@paw-rescue.org](mailto:dogs@paw-rescue.org), or for cats, contact [paw\\_cats@yahoo.com](mailto:paw_cats@yahoo.com). Thank you!

### Your Online Shopping Can Help PAW

Whenever you shop online, whether it's for books, pet food, clothes, or even office supplies, a portion of your purchase price can be donated to PAW, **at no cost to you!** Just go to [www.greatergood.com](http://www.greatergood.com). Click on "find a cause" on the homepage, and type in "Partnership for Animal Welfare" as your charity of choice. Then shop away at hundreds of major retailers—everything from Barnes and Noble to PetSmart—all while helping the animals. You can also shop at a similar site, called IGive, [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com), the same way. Both sites will help us save dogs' and cats' lives at no cost to you.

## These Dogs Need Special Homes: Can You Help?

### Trace Needs an Understanding Family

Guardian Angel: Are you out there? Trace needs you. We are featuring Trace in this issue in the hopes that someone reading this can adopt or foster him, or knows of someone who can.

Trace is an exceedingly sweet, sensitive, and devoted 1-year-old Jindo (or Shiba Inu) mix, discarded by his owner and found as a pup wandering the streets with his brother, Macabee. He is housetrained and rides well in the car.

Trace is bright, playful (there isn't a chew toy he doesn't like), and affectionate (he will shower you with kisses and gaze lovingly into your eyes), but most



unfortunately he can be placed only in a certain type of home. These types of dogs were bred to hunt and so Trace is a bad fit for any home with a cat. He also has shown aggressive behavior towards male dogs and has shown very strong protective behavior towards some male humans in the household. However, there are other male humans with whom Trace has bonded.

Trace is in a Catch-22 situation in that he needs to be in a home where an experienced dog owner can work with him on this behavior and reassure him that life is safe, but it is precisely this behavior that makes it so difficult to find him a foster home. He is currently living in a kennel. Trace ideally needs an all-adult household with experienced dog owners and no other pets. If you can help by fostering, or if you think you might

know of someone who can, or for more information, please call (240) 449-9745.

### Harley : a Big Girl with a Big Heart



Don't let this young girl's size intimidate you! Harley is a 3-year-old German Shepherd/St. Bernard mix. She weighs about 100 pounds, but has a sweet and gentle soul, and she thinks she's a lap dog. Harley, who loves to play or cuddle, gets along well with everyone—dogs and people alike.

Harley and her brother Putter (who has since found his forever home) were given up when their owner could no longer care for them. Harley likes most other dogs but especially enjoys human companionship. Won't you find a place in your heart and home for her? She will make you a wonderful buddy! She would do best living with someone who either works at home or is home part of the day.

For more information on Harley, or any of the other wonderful PAW dogs, please call PAW at 301-572-4PAW. Harley thanks you.

**Please Post this Page at a Veterinary Office or Bulletin Board Near You.**

## Special Donations...

### In Honor of People

- In honor of all the Baysox volunteers – what a hard-working group, by Lori Goetsch
- In honor of David Jacobs, by Henry Jacobs
- In honor of Emily and Bitzee Beehler, by Anonymous
- In honor of Irv and Janet Soslow, by Roberta Soslow
- In honor of Julia Vance, by Marguerite Goldman
- In honor of Liz Dietz, for all she does, with such good-naturedness, by Susan Tipton and Fred Margolis
- In honor of Mike McDuffie and Ebony Watts, by Allan and Carroll Herrmann
- In honor of the wedding of Lori Lubin and Chris Fassnacht, Philippe Brieu, Bob & Ellie Brouhard, Kendra Nitta, Andreas Albrecht, Cheryl Thierfelder, Robert Becker, Matthew Richter, Mark, Evy and Zoe Matteson, Jane Potter, Anonymous, David Toback, Alice Shapley, Daniel van der Rijn, Sean Pager, Daniele Huerta
- In honor of Vincent Daddino, by Laurie Daddino
- In honor of Zachary Harris, by Patricia Harris

### In Memory of People

- In memory of Dorothea Lillian Howard, by Community Association Services, Inc.
- In memory of Florence Litchfield, by Bert and Nancy Brown
- In memory of Kim McGuire, by Jane Dudley
- In memory of Kim McGuire who died too soon, by the Goldfarb Family
- In memory of Raymond Lavelle “DuWop” Williams, by Hannah Six

### In Honor of Pets

- In honor of Buffy, by Mary Miceli
- In honor of Chloe, by The Forman Family
- In honor of D’Artagnan, a rescued Shepherd, by S. Zanne Bigley
- In honor of Kizzy, by Nancy Klein

- In honor of Levi, by Loree Trilling
- In honor of Lindsay, by Elfriede Pace
- In honor of Peanut, by Kendra Nitta
- In honor of Tyson, by Karen Wruk
- In honor of Woody, Chocolate Lab from PAW, by Janet C. Greene

### In Memory of Pets

- In memory of Addie, a sweet 18 month old Torti, by JoAnn Lamp
- In memory of Bassey Daugherty, by Wendy Aylward
- In memory of Corky and Hobak Sonnenberg, by Bill, Melissa, Phantom and Nittany Korzuch
- In memory of Corky Romeo, by Cynthia Romeo
- In memory of Emma Weiss, by Paul Izzo
- In memory of Hunter, a beloved pet cat of a dear friend, by Shirley Kapusciaz
- In memory of Inky Oliver, by Marla Allentuck
- In memory of Ivy Malone, companion to Karen, by the Goldfarb Family
- In memory of Lenny, by Vera Green
- In memory of Milo McAuliffe, by Anne & Joe Sachs
- In memory of my deceased dog, by Virginia Homan
- In memory of Paddington, by Colleen Pritchard
- In memory of my cat Peanut, by Bernadette Bailey
- In memory of Rocky, my son’s Chow, by Pat Maslin
- In memory of Sam and Holly, beloved cats – they are angel cats in heaven, by Karla Walker
- In memory of Sam, by Karen Drake
- In memory of Sox, Nani’s best friend, by Sana M. Petersen
- In memory of Sparkle, by Robyn Zeiger and Dori Steele
- In memory of Spot, beloved cat, by Fran Durako
- In memory of Starshine, by Mary Miceli

**PLEASE NOTE: Some gifts may have been received after the deadline for this issue. They will be printed in the next issue. Many thanks.**

**Membership/Donation Form**  
**Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc., P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768**  
**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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Volunteer:** I am willing to help in the following capacity:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to the Partnership for Animal Welfare and mail to the address above. The animals thank you.*

## PAW Shakes to...

- **DEBBIE ETHRIDGE**, for all the wonderful things she does for PAW... Major tail wags!
- **PAM LIBBY** for her outstanding work in dealing with the public. Purrs and meows!
- **THE POTOMAC ALMANAC** for featuring an adoptable PAW dog and cat every week in their paper. Paw shakes and tail wags!
- **PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS**, for boarding some of our homeless pets at reduced rates. Wags and woofs!
- **GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS** for featuring a promotional spot for PAW in some of their weekly editions. Meows and woofs!
- **PAW'S BASKET BINGO VOLUNTEERS** for organizing and staffing these highly successful fundraisers; the last Basket Bingo event raised over \$3000 for the animals! Purr-fect!
- **PAW's FOSTER FAMILIES**, who open their homes seven days a week to give PAW's dogs and cats a second chance at happiness. We couldn't save lives without you. Arf!
- **VETERINARIANS AND STAFF** at **Beltway Referral Associates, Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates, College Park Animal Hospital, Family Veterinary Clinic, Gaithersburg Animal Hospital, Hyattsville Animal Hospital, Kenhaven Animal Hospital, Laurel Park Animal Hospital, Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic, Nebel Street Animal Hospital, St. Charles Animal Hospital, St. Leonard Animal Hospital, VCA Veterinary Referral Associates, Watkins Park Animal Medical Center, and Wheaton Animal Hospital** for providing reduced-cost vet care to so many of PAW's homeless dogs and cats. Wags!
- **PRINTING IMAGES of Rockville**, for printing this newsletter at reduced cost. Meow!
- **WUSA TV'S PETLINE 9** for featuring an adoptable PAW dog each month on a live TV spot on the Saturday morning news.
- **LAST BUT NEVER LEAST**, we thank the Maryland-area **PETSMART and PETCO** stores, for hosting our weekly dog and cat adoption shows. Paw shakes and purrs to all!



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

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