



PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare 🐾 Fall 2018

PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 🐾 www.paw-rescue.org

Teagan—always ready, rain or shine!

By Melissa Menke

For a long time, PAW hoped for energetic and athletic foster or adoptive parents so that Teagan could expend his huge reserve of energy, ideally with runners or hikers and someone who would continue with his training. Teagan, who is a medium-sized dog, has the strength of a dog twice his size. Early on he loved to perform a gravity-defying vertical launch, which was a wonder to behold. Some people who met him felt he was “too much dog” for them. Not Melissa and Andy.

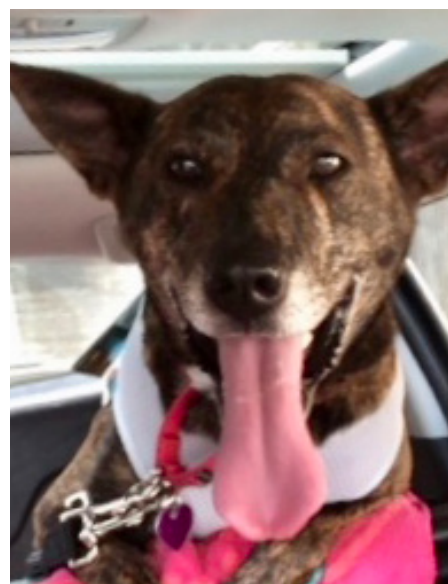
My significant other and I had been looking at shelter and rescue dogs online, and as soon as we saw Teagan on the PAW website, we just knew he was the one we wanted to meet. I practically stalked him via his profile until we were ready to arrange a meet-and-greet. Neither of us has had a dog since our childhood family pets, and we already had two indoor cats that we weren't sure Teagan could cohabitate with. When we met Teagan, we realized we would have our hands full with his bulldozer strength and high level of excitement and energy.

Now, four months into our fostering-to-adopt him, Teagan has made significant strides, though when we first brought him to our home, he was already a well trained dog, thanks to his volunteers at PAW. We were filled in on his personality and quirks, and we received a list of “his words” from the trainer. He crated with no prob-

lems at all, he had no food or eating issues, and still to this day he has never chewed on or torn up anything in the house!

Teagan did have some barriers to overcome. He was picked up as a stray at roughly a year old, so it is not known what he may have experienced before that. We discovered very quickly that walking him brought significant challenges because of his excitement, strength, and leash aggression toward other dogs, this last a common trait in dogs with little early nurturing or canine socialization.

We found that he did beautifully running on the leash, and he has lost a few pounds and toned up from our twice-daily runs. We had forgotten about Teagan's love for peanut butter



Teagan happily exhausted from a long run



Teagan ready for a rainy-day walk

and PAW's request that we cut back on it. One day we opened a jar and witnessed a whole new degree of enthusiasm from him!

Walking, on the other hand, gave him more opportunity and time to focus on “curiosities” and not move past them quickly. Nothing could break his focus or stop the barking and lunging if we got anywhere near other dogs. Living in the city, it isn't really an option to avoid other dogs. We also couldn't tell if his behavior was high excitement or aggression because his tail kept wagging, but his barks were not so friendly.

We first focused on simply improving his walking skills and teaching him that we would not continue walking

until he calmed down. This was *our walk* together, not just *his walk* to pull us around! From his training at PAW, we knew we should continue using treats to help with walking him, as he is extremely reward-driven. He improved quite quickly, walking more calmly and staying next to us rather than sprinting ahead.

Again, it's only been about four months, and even after this short a time, Teagan can at least see other dogs without turning into the Hulk. He may bark once and keep his eyes pinned on the dog, but his attention moves back to us more quickly. We know he will get better and better.

Then—there are the cats. We had a plan to not rush and to properly introduce him to our two cats, Zeus and Leo. We are fortunate enough to have a two-floor home where the cats are happily living in our upstairs, and Teagan enjoys his “apartment” on our

first floor. There is a door at the top of the stairs, so in the beginning we were able keep them completely separated.

We first opened the door at night while Teagan was crated so the cats could wander and explore on their own with Teagan contained. Teagan made a high-pitched whine upon seeing them, and the cats, not enjoying the serenade, were completely disinterested in going back downstairs after that.

We eventually started letting Teagan go to the top of the stairs with the door closed so everyone could get used to scents and become aware of each other's presence. We started taking Teagan upstairs on a leash for short periods and taking him back down if he did not settle. When off-leash, Teagan was now fully aware of where the cats were, and he pulled a fast one on us a couple of times by going upstairs on his own.

Also, we learned that Leo is the

smarter cat: he hides under the bed. Unfortunately, Zeus doesn't understand this tactic and just keeps running, which triggers Teagan's excitement, so he continues chasing and nipping at him. We've continued taking Teagan on leashed interactions upstairs, but he is still too excited about the cats for us to allow him off-leash in the same room. We plan to continue these controlled meet-ups until everyone involved calms down and acclimates to one another.

Overall, Teagan's loveable nature and good behavior far outweigh the efforts we've made in training him and getting all resident animals to live peaceably. It honestly shocks us how much he has improved in four months, given his previous wild-child tendencies. We are nothing but excited for him to continue settling into our home and making further progress around other animals.

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.



Birdie and Peanut

By Noelle Drewes and Zachary Hollister

We adopted our first cat Birdie, an adult female Russian Blue, about six years ago. She's been a great cat, but we're often gone for long stretches during the day for work. This past fall, we decided it was time for Birdie to have a friend. That's when we adopted Peanut (formerly called Doris Day) from PAW! She's a lovable, cream-colored beauty who likes to flop around. We were worried about how Birdie and Peanut would interact, so we took it nice and slow in introducing them to each other.

Everything has worked out great! Birdie always wants to be on top of things (like a chair) and Peanut always wants to be underneath. Birdie has always had a loud, insistent voice and Peanut has a tiny little meow. They like to chase each other around, hang out on the screened-in porch, and catch the crickets in the laundry room. We are so glad that Peanut is now a member of our family!



Birdie and Peanut on their special chair

My quest for a cat

By Zander Felder

One of PAW's first-time kitty adopters, nine-year-old Zander, wrote the following story about how he and his family came to provide a forever home for two PAW kittens. We wish them all a very long and happy relationship!

I really wanted a cat for years, especially a black cat. I couldn't get one because my parents wouldn't let me. But after completing my summer writing goal (40 pages of writing!), I was allowed to choose a reward for my hard work. I thought, "Here's my chance to get a cat!"

I did lots of research and finally convinced my parents to let me get a cat. I went to the animal shelter and saw a cat named Blackout. But—a lady there told us that she was adopting him, so I was very sad. I thought that I would never find my special cat, so my mom and I did more research. We read about another kitty but figured he wouldn't be a good fit for our home.

So, we kept searching until we found Frey, who was a PAW kitty. I



Simba, Zander, and Frey snuggling

thought he would be a great fit. My mom and I went to a PAW cat adoption show to see him. Although Frey was very bashful and scared, I knew that there would be some way to get that loving, great kitty out of him. I met Simba at the cat show too and learned that she and Frey were littermates. We didn't want to separate them, so we adopted them both!

PAW brought Simba and Frey to our home. After a few weeks, Frey

was lashing out aggressively at me. I did research and started cat training to help him adapt. After three tough weeks of training, he stopped being aggressive and has since been really nice. Simba started to be less scared too. They have a great time playing together. I am very satisfied with my choice in adopting Simba and Frey. It feels great to finally have what I wanted for years — my very own kitties. Thank you, PAW!

Little old ladies in tennis shoes? Hardly

By Lisande Bissonette

Almost 25 years ago, "Melanie," a young woman frustrated with the high euthanasia rates of cats and dogs in shelters—or what were still often called "pounds"—decided to lay plans to save as many as she could. She would form an independent animal rescue group, and she envisioned her local shelter as a partner to this group.

Back then, county animal shelters were reluctant to work with such rescue

organizations. There were very few not directly tied to shelters, so the concept was considered somewhat novel, impractical, and, well, a little naïve by local governments. Because there was no Internet, the rescue groups that *did exist* were not widely known to the public. Without the trappings of an "official" organization, volunteer non-profit rescue groups had to prove their professionalism and efficiency.

Armed with the energy and opti-

mism of youth (and a master plan), Melanie approached local government and Animal Control about her desire to form a coalition of like-minded people, a self-governing rescue group working in tandem with the shelter. She assembled the tools she needed: a business plan, a description of processes, sample applications and forms, and a timeline.

As she presented the project to officials, she was told they had neither

time nor resources to fuss with “crazy cat ladies” living in houses overrun by scores of stray felines. They said it would be too labor-intensive to manage and organize a bunch of “little old ladies in tennis shoes,” each pleading the heartrending case of Tiger or Sparky or Muffy. This was a common stereotype of animal advocates at the time.

Fortunately, Melanie was able to convince the shelter that this second



avenue for adoption would save them time and money—and, critically,

many more lives. This hoped-for rescue group became PAW, and the shelter has been a valued partner for many years.

How times have changed! Now, in 2018, some PAW volunteers are indeed little, and others of us are old. Many are (arguably) ladies. Most, in fact, wear tennis shoes as we carry out our rescue work. However, among us are young men and women with lots of tattoos, people of all ages sporting multi-colored hair, some who wear combat boots, and older gentlemen who are decidedly crazy about cats.

PAW people—in fact, all rescue people—are a cross-section of denominations, ethnicities, genders, and nationalities. We are teachers, parents, editors, Peace Corps volunteers, home makers, and college students. We are neighbors, NASA and DoD employees, SAHMs, attorneys, veterinarians, scientists, neighbors, marathon runners, and more.



And—we have a wide array of tastes in footwear!

On any given weekend, numerous rescue groups throughout the country take over the pet supply stores for their adoption shows. During the past few decades, rescue groups have successfully educated a huge segment of the public on the merits of adopting a homeless pet. Nearly every time I have a conversation with someone about the dog walking beside her or the cat in the carrier next to him, the response is a proud “She’s a rescue!”

That’s what we like to hear.

Where’s Wally? Everywhere!

By Terri Arthur



Wally lounges at home

Wally had the sweetest, funniest picture on the PAW website, and we knew we wanted to meet him in person. It was very cold on the day we met him at an adoption show at a local pet supply store. He was so cute in his sweater as he cuddled on my lap. I was impressed that a rescue dog was secure enough to be so friendly in the middle of so many new experiences.

Poor Wally had certainly had a tough few months—he’d been picked up by Animal Control as a starving stray, adopted out for a week, returned to Animal Control, and then rescued by PAW, who took such good care of him



Wally in his "morning jacket"

and made sure he got the full package of medical treatment and grooming! It was obvious he loved his foster mom who brought him to the adoption event even though he'd only been with her a couple of weeks.

We put in an application to adopt him, and then the lucky day came

when both of his foster parents brought him to our house for a home check, along with his favorite toys. As he had been a stray on the streets, he had a habit of gulping down his food—his foster parents told us about it in advance—so we had a special gulp-proof food bowl ready for him. He needed

just a short while to figure out there would always be food. Our vet was amazed at how beautiful his teeth were and that he was fully vaccinated.

Wally is such a happy-go-lucky, sweet boy. He loves everyone he meets, and he's very eager to please. He also has so much energy that we took him to flyball classes when it was warm, and he started indoor agility right after Christmas. We bring him with us hiking and on dog-friendly errands—he's made friends at the home-repair place and the plant nursery and the little family-owned pet supply store. Whenever he's out in public, people want to pet him because he has such a sparkle in his eyes. He also has a mischievous little bent—he'll bring me my shoe if he wants to go for a walk, and he loves to steal socks and prance past us with them in his mouth!

Membership/Donation Form For Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.

PO 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/donation in honor of:

A person: _____ A pet: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

☐ Volunteer: I am willing to help in the following capacity: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

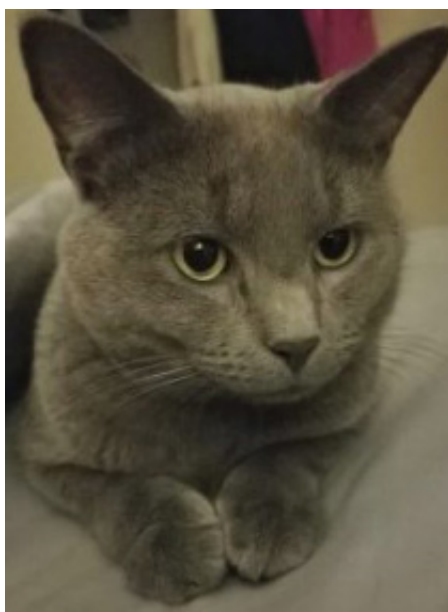
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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.

Scooter, our dog-ish cat

By Maddie Dwyer



Scooter insists he is not a dog

I always believed that as soon as I graduated from college, I would get a dog as soon as possible. So—when my boyfriend Collin suggested that we get a cat instead because cats are usually “more reasonable for a small apartment” and “less stressful to take care of,” I was a little unsure.

My whole life I had been a dog person, so this seemed like a betrayal, but I soon came to realize that getting a cat was definitely the right decision. We met Scooter (known then as Sylvester) at a PAW adoption event in Greenbelt, MD in September of last year. I had seen him online and was intrigued when his foster mom Mimi described him as a “dog-like cat” who was laid back and loved being petted.

He wasn't the first cat we had met during our search, but I knew right away he was the cat for us. When we stroked his back, he rolled over for a belly rub, which is exactly what my family's dog does any time he meets someone new. About a week later we were welcoming him home. I love the way he runs to the door when Collin and I are about to enter. He's also so soft and pleasantly chatty. When he sleeps he makes very strange but very cute noises. He likes looking out the window, paw-bopping any pen he can find onto the floor, and sitting on laptop keyboards, the last two of which have been a lot of fun while on video calls for work!

I can now say with certainty that getting a cat who sometimes acts a little more like a dog was truly the right choice for us. Scooter thinks so too!

Attention Federal employees! PAW has participated in the Combined Federal Campaign for many years. It is a major source of funding for our animals. Federal agencies sponsor CFC and encourage their employees to support local non-profits in their communities. Events are held at various government buildings throughout the National Capital area. These events give PAW volunteers a chance to meet with employees and tell “our story” and allows employees to choose whom they would like to support. Payroll campaigns are run by CFC and United Way and are by invitation only. Please give to PAW through the United Way/CFC campaigns. Our CFC number is 65456, and our United Way number is 8156. Maryland Charity Campaign 52-1979581.



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.

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.

E-MAIL: For cat questions: paw_cats@yahoo.com. For dog questions: pawdogs@yahoo.com. Other addresses are listed on the website.



Donations in Honor of and In Memory of. . .

In honor of people:

In honor of Dr. Barbara Henderson,
by Nancey E. Parker
In honor of Erin Meola, by April Carter-
Hutson
In honor of Izzy Townsend's 16th birthday,
by Elizabeth Symonds, Jay Buckberg,
and Jennifer Hill-Boulin
In honor of Jean Ripley's service and dedica-
tion to the citizens and animals of College
Park, by Joyce Richardson
In honor of John Shumaker, by Barbara
Claxton
In honor of my son Carlos' 11th birthday,
by Diana Gough and by Anonymous
In honor of Star's adopters, Dave & Erica,
on their wedding, by Bob & Nancy Klein
In honor of the Children of Temple Emanuel
ECC
In honor of the Shine family, by Anonymous
In honor of the volunteer efforts of Mike &
Phyllis Courlander, by Paul & Emily Singer

In memory of people:

In memory of my beautiful mother, Mary Jo,
by Karen Huguley

In honor of people and pets:

In honor of Amos and Julie Marks, by Jennifer
& Alvin Mineart
In honor of Tim and Dymphna, by Patricia
Decoster

In memory of people and pets:

In loving memory of Ruth Cottman & her
PAW dog, Missy, by Gloria Cottman

In honor of pets:

In honor of Dori, by Sandy & Kevin Carter
In honor of Kaden, by Charles Martino
In honor of Keifer, by Beth Parker and
Carol Keyes
In honor of Lady, by Carol & John Anderson
In honor of Paco (Oliver), by Vanessa Lopez
In honor of Pandora, by Charles Martino
In honor of Priscilla, by Donna Moore and
Carrie O'Rear
In honor of Snickers, by Joan Marshall,
Rosalind Elahi, Barbara & Joe Haurand,
Valerie Fenton, Tammi Fergusson, and
Debbie Byrnes
In honor of Tanner, by Donna Moore

In memory of pets:

In memory of beloved Cinco, by Jane Cantor

In memory of my beloved dog Sora,
by Fran Durako
In memory of Jami & Malik, by Atiya, Ru-
dolph & Mommie Gail
In memory of Kramer, by Michael Backen-
heimer & Twyla Henderson. Forever in our
hearts
In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, and
Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon
In memory of Norman, by Joseph
Chapdelaine

In memory of our sweet Truman,
by Susan Stayer
In memory of our two precious cats, Duke &
Nina, by Kevin & Kathleen Swartz
In memory of Riley, Linda Coleman's buddy
& mentor, by Bob & Nancy Klein
In memory of Sophie & Zelda,
by Kathleen Murray

WHY YOU SHOULD AVOID ON-LEASH MEETINGS



- Leashes prevent dogs from using **adequate body language** such as turning their body sideways and using lateral motion to communicate peaceful intentions.
- Holding dogs on leashes straining to get to each other puts them into a position of **staring straight into each other's eyes**, which is perceived as very threatening.
- The **physical pressure on the neck** makes the situation more tense and the dogs **less likely to react appropriately**.
- Leashes **prevent dogs from retreating** when they feel uncomfortable, so they might charge in absence of other options.

Even dogs that have previously met and liked each other **may react snarly** when meeting on leash. Reserve dog-to-dog interactions for settings in which they can **act freely without restraint**.

*Reprinted with permission from Spirit Dog Training, Albuquerque NM,
www.spiritdogtraining.com, www.facebook.com/SpiritDogTrain*



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

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/PAWrescue

PAW Shakes to. . .

- 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 and cats are so grateful.
- PAW's FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILIES—we couldn't save lives without you.
- VETERINARIANS AND STAFF at Beltsville Veterinary Hospital, Behavior Medicine/Amy Pike, DVM, DACVB of the Veterinary Referral Center of Northern Virginia, College Park Animal Hospital, and Dr. Boyd's Veterinary Resort for providing reduced-cost medical care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats.
- TRAINERS Beth Joy, Adrienne Crank, Banu Qureshi, Joyce Loebig, Sarah Stoycos, Jen Boyd-Morin, and Jennifer Owens, and Jackie Moyano for their generosity, help, and training advice for our more challenging dogs.
- YOUR DOG'S FRIEND, 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, Sarah Horstkamp, Tyler Crotty, and all our friends at Preston.
- RUFF HOUSE DOGGY DAY CAMP & SLUMBER PARTY in Rockville, where owner Sidd Kashyap provides a safe and fun environment with excellent service and loving care for our dogs.
- 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, Bryan Dowall, and Ashley Blandford 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.

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: Lisande Bissonette and
Jodi Koehn-Pike

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

2018 Board of Directors

President—Bethany DiPaula
Vice President—Jodi Koehn-Pike
Secretary—Jenn Wertz
Treasurer—Beth Mackenzie
Dog Coordinator—Dave Campbell
Cat Coordinators—Kim Nelson
and Lori Simmons
Volunteer Coordinator—Robin
Vinopal
Fundraising Coordinator—Tracy
Crotty
Outreach Coordinator—Liza Malnik