



PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare 🐾 Spring 2019
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 🐾 www.paw-rescue.org

The joy of fostering Bobby and Bretta

By Dan Aldana

When I was a child, I was afraid of dogs. My parents say that my fear of dogs came from being chased by a German shepherd when I was three years old. I was not injured by the dog, but the sensation of being threatened by this creature triggered a fear that took me years to overcome. Today I can proudly say that it is long gone.

I was born in Colombia, and growing up, I saw stray dogs everywhere. Back then, there was not as much of a culture of conscience surrounding homeless animals as there is now. During my childhood, I saw every single stray dog as a threat, and the social stigma against stray dogs and certain breeds did little to help me overcome my fear. Even though to this day it's still a huge problem, I've seen a vast improvement in awareness of animal rights.

Since my childhood, I've known people who owned dogs, and as I grew up, I gained a better understanding of dogs' individual characters and behaviors. However, I did not become passionate about dogs until I started dating my now-wife Katie, whose family at the time owned two golden retrievers named Mystic and Chatham. I was attached to them from the very beginning, and I give them credit for solidifying the bond Katie and I had as a couple. They were a huge part of our lives, and we often planned activities with the two of them.

When Mystic and Chatham passed away, we felt as if our whole world had crashed. At the time we were already married, and we felt that preparing to become dog parents ourselves was our



Bobby: "May I help you?"

next big step. After moving to Maryland, we got two corgi pups that we named Fox and Terry. Ever since then, they've become the center of our lives. Even so, our love for dogs grew so big that we knew volunteering with a rescue and helping other dogs find homes would be the right thing to do.

My wife and I have been PAW volunteers for three years. We began by walking dogs and bringing them to adoption shows. Starting in March of 2018, we grew quite attached to a dog named Bobby. From the moment I met

him, I saw a sparkle in his eyes like no other I'd seen. He was so full of joy and such yearning to be loved. I knew it wouldn't be long before someone showed interest in Bobby.

Unfortunately, Bobby had an unpleasant experience with his first adoptive family. Upon his return to PAW, we saw that he had lost some of his trust in people. Quickly, though, he gained back some confidence, and a few months later he was adopted by another family. However, because of his still ongoing fear of the unfamiliar, he was reactive towards some house guests, and he was returned once again. While Bobby warmed up to people who spent enough time with him, Katie and I realized it would take him a while to get used to a new family in a home environment.

Katie and I soon decided we needed to nurture him, train him, and lessen his fear. Because of our work schedules, we could foster him for only a few days each week, but we were determined to make every day count. Fox and Terry already knew Bobby because we would take the three of them on walks through parks and trails. While Fox was a bit uneasy about our bringing Bobby home, he quickly warmed up to him and learned to see him as one of the family.

We had been given pointers and some background from a volunteer trainer who worked with Bobby to



Terry cuddling with Bobby

decrease his anxiety and thus improve his behavior. Bobby began showing progress during our walks, and we were happy with the results. Our goal was to get him adopted, but we had one main obstacle: Bobby was unable to stay calm and show what a terrific little guy he is during adoption shows. Being in an environment surrounded by many dogs and lots of new people was a bit overwhelming to him. It was necessary to schedule his meetings

with potential adopters one-on-one.

Finally, this past December, a wonderful lady named Paula came across Bobby's profile online. She was fascinated by his cheerful face and wanted to meet him in person. Our PAW team talked to Paula about his ongoing behavioral issues, but that never discouraged her from meeting Bobby, and PAW soon took him home to Paula. The positive things about Bobby by far outweighed the negative, and given

Paula's background as a vet technician, she was a great fit. It was a huge pleasure for all of us at PAW, especially those who helped Bobby along the way, to find that despite a few setbacks our efforts have been rewarded.

We are currently fostering another dog named Bretta, who is just as wonderful as Bobby, although a bit less energetic. PAW rescued Bretta in July, and despite a few minor issues we're working on, she's a bundle of joy. Bretta is sweet, gentle, gets along with other dogs, and is very easy to walk. We are quite surprised she has not been adopted yet because she's quite a catch! We hope somebody will soon give her a chance.

Katie and I see fostering as preparing a dog, as leading a dog down the path towards a permanent, loving home. As a foster, you learn about the dog or cat you are taking care of, and the knowledge you gain and share makes it easier for the adoptive family to have a happy life with their new companion.

Walking dogs, fostering cats, and falling for Spyke

By Rain Hall

Six years ago, I read in a news item that the month of April was Volunteer Month, so I decided to do just that. In this same article was a website that listed organizations needing volunteers. That's where I found the Partnership for Animal Welfare. The website mentioned "dog walking," which immediately appealed to me. I've always had cats, and even though I love dogs, I've never had one, so this was a great opportunity to get my dog fix.

PAW volunteer orientation led by Robin Vinopal was only a couple weeks away. The class was easy-breezy and the

next week on my day off from work, I walked my first dog. Our canine rescues who don't have a foster home are boarded in nice kennels, but they do need walking every day. One of the kennels just happened to be 15 minutes from my home, and there is a wonderful park in the area. It was perfect.

After almost a year of dog walking and helping at dog adoption shows, I decided to help with the cats for a while, just for a change of pace. I know cats very well and felt more knowledgeable when speaking with potential adopters. In the last six years, I've transported cats

from shelters, helped at adoption shows, and fostered cats and kittens. I'm on my 18th foster cat at this writing.

It took me a year to decide whether to foster. It's a big decision. I always questioned myself. Will I be a foster failure—as in, will I not do well? Will I find the perfect home for the cat? Will my own cats get along with the fosters? Do I want to clean all those litter boxes? Will I have enough patience with introducing new cats to the household cats? I had to consider all sorts of things.

Most of all, I had to accept that I might cry like a baby when bringing my

foster to a new home. As it turns out, I don't shed tears like I thought I would because the bottom line is finding a cat's perfect forever home, and when I do, I can help save another life. It's very rewarding.

By the way, I *was*, in the lingo of the rescue world, a “foster fail[ure]” once, I adopted my foster cat Spyke who had been with me for seven months. The day he walked into my home, he knew he had found his perfect family. It took me all that time to realize it as well, and once I did, adopting him was a no-brainer. Spyke is always so excited to see a new foster. He's a very playful and happy cat, and he even teaches the new cat some good manners—sometimes, anyway.



Spyke in his tunnel

I love being involved with PAW. The long-time cat adoption coordinators, Lori Simmons and Kim Nelson, have

been great to work with and very helpful. I feel part of a really good group, and I've found my perfect place here.

Thanks to Hope and Diesel for bringing cheer

By Joanna Nguyen

My mom, Quy Tran, visited me from Vietnam in the middle of the polar vortex this year. This was her second time experiencing a snowy winter in a country where she doesn't understand the language and has trouble making new acquaintances. She's an active lady in Vietnam with hundreds of friends and relatives, so it's sad for me to see how lonely she feels here. This time, I decided to invite someone over to our place for a day so that she and my mom could keep each other company. That “someone” was PAW dog Hope.

They got along very well. Hope, who is a hound mix, is so mellow and sweet. She won my heart, my brother Henry's, and my mom's. Hope liked to lie down on the floor next to my brother's desk to check on the progress of his job applications. Looking for a job is a stressful process for Henry, but

Hope poured some calm over him as he worked to score on the job market.

With my mom, Hope played “puppy eyes” and politely asked for treats. She especially liked to be scratched around her neck. Once mom started, she would not let her stop, as usual. Hope puts her head on your lap and her paws on your hands to signal that she wants more. Who could ever say no to that? Hope's pawprints are forever on our hearts.

On a Sunday, I got a chance to handle a pup named Diesel at the Bark! adoption show. If you've met him, you know he's full of energy and joy. We felt love at first sight with him, and we got lots of kisses. He's *such* an affectionate guy. Diesel eagerly jumped into my car and could not wait to get to the show. Sometimes he even joined the conversation in the front seats and gave Henry a lecture on how to be a good driver. He was always watching out for

action on the streets and looking curiously at people and vehicles passing. The whole car was filled with puppy energy that felt exciting and youthful. Despite all of that, he was very well behaved. He will be a great partner for



Gentle Hope comes for a visit



Diesel critiques Henry's driving

his forever family's adventures. Have I mentioned that he has the best hair in town? It's soft as velvet and shiny as satin. We definitely got some jealous looks on the way because we had such a handsome pupper in the car.

Once we got to the show, Diesel constantly greeted guests. He was the dog who gave big hugs and free kisses



My mom gets a kiss from Diesel

to people. He was well trained and knew to signal when he wanted to relieve himself. When I took him out for a walk around the busy shopping center, we passed by a toddler who was about to throw a big tantrum. The moment she saw Diesel and his

wiggly tail, the baby's face brightened up and a big smile burst forth. Diesel and I stopped for a few minutes to make sure the baby was settled down before continuing with our business. The young mother, who was tired from holding the baby with zillions of things that she just bought from the stores, was quite grateful to Diesel, her heaven-sent angel. I was so proud of him for cheering up the poor mom.

It was time to take Diesel back to the kennel. As we departed, Diesel gave my mom a big hug and sloppy kisses. Mom was very happy and shared her pictures of Hope and Diesel with her friends back in Vietnam. We will never forget the good time with Hope and Diesel and the love they generously showered on us.

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.

My Hope was found!

By Karla Nemec

After our first dog died in 2017, my husband declared he was “done with pets.” He agreed to my fostering for PAW while he continued with his job and our kids started college, which combined left me in an empty-nester funk. He was insistent, however, that all animal adventures be temporary. His resolve remained firm until my Hope was found during the 2018 Memorial Day weekend.

Hope—a beautiful brindle boxer/cane corso mix— was our second PAW foster. Coming to PAW as a stray, Hope's personality and history were unknown except for her friendly temperament and possible abuse evidenced by her skittish

response when someone started to touch her too-closely cropped ears or docked-tail tip. Hope was especially sensitive to noise. She avoided rather than reacted to barking dogs, expressing herself with a mere soft whine during her first few months at home. Hope was a timid soul in need of a patient, nurturing family.

Hope's timidity peaked the day she joined our home. Arriving after a Memorial Day weekend adoption event, she shied away from her excited foster family and sought an escape route while exploring our fenced-in yard. She was spooked by her new environment *and* an incoming storm. Soon after I left her

with the teen welcoming committee to tackle indoor chores, the kids retreated inside . . . without the dog. Hope had accomplished her great escape.

We scanned the neighborhood and notified PAW. We searched for hours in ravaging rains, finally postponing efforts until the following morning. A team of PAW supporters and pets joined our Memorial Day search— hanging fliers, following leads, and walking neighborhoods and countryside. I had given up, distraught after 28 hours of fruitless searching, when a pair of PAW searchers called to announce they'd found Hope in a private-

property livestock field and would not leave until she was safely captured. My Hope was found!

After a joyous, tearful reunion with her favorite canine playmates and PAW walkers, Hope returned to her new home—hungry, lean, and as beautiful as ever. Within the first few days we learned that she initially cowered but slowly warmed to people, preferred sleeping in her first-floor kennel to our upstairs bedroom, attempted to escape like a bucking bronco when encountering loud noises during our walks, and was *not* housetrained. I was certain the last issue would solidify my husband's *NO MORE PETS* resolve, but as he saw my hope restored and our family's nurturing ways reveal her



The lovely Hope

timid, slow-to-trust nature, he surrendered: "Put in the papers already!"

Since officially joining our family nine months ago, Hope has come out

of her shell. She was rapidly house-trained using the kennel method. She eventually revealed her bark when needing more attention or protecting our house from visitors (often even familiar ones), and she pulls hard to the dog park but stops if we ease up on the leash. She is still impervious to barking dogs but plays hard with her canine buddies at the dog park. She elicits cuddles by leaning into her people or joining us on the couch or recliner—yes, we have a 75-pound lap dog. While Hope is *my* sweet, constant companion, I confess that my (supposedly) pet-averse husband shares more posts on Facebook these days. Our foster failure epitomizes the adage "Who rescued who?"

It all started with Molly

By Lori Simmons

In May 2001, my partner Kim and I were searching for a Persian cat. Our search led us to PAW, which had a one-and-a-half-year-old cream-colored Persian kitty named "Miss Molly" posted for adoption. Miss Molly had been found as a stray by Animal Control. Because she had been declawed sometime in the past, Molly could not fend for herself on the street. She was emaciated and her front fangs had broken off in her attempts to scavenge for food. Kim and I went to PAW's very next cat adoption show to meet her, and we hovered by her show crate the entire time so no one else would be enticed by this beautiful cat. After our vet record was checked, Molly was placed with us and became part of our family.

Just a couple of years after welcoming Molly into our home, an outdoor feral cat gave birth to a litter of kittens in our back yard. We called several rescue organizations to help out, and PAW

was the only one to return our call. PAW helped us acquire a humane trap, which allowed us to trap the feral mother and father, have them altered, and return them back outside. We also trapped and tamed the litter of kittens and fostered them through PAW. With PAW's help, we ultimately found loving forever homes for all the kittens. That was in 2003!

Since then, my wife Kim and I have been active volunteers with PAW, fostering and finding homes for well over 100 cats and kittens (and over a dozen dogs!). During most of the last 16 years, one or both of us have also served as PAW's Cat Coordinator. What a rewarding experience! We are now preparing to retire and, therefore, stepping away from our leadership roles, while passing along our knowl-



Molly, early 2000s

edge to PAW's next leaders. However, we continue to actively support the PAW cat program.

And, if you are wondering about Molly, she is still with us. She is nearly 20 years old! As the elder stateswoman of our furry menagerie, she has "graciously" welcomed (or ignored) many temporary feline residents over the years.

Summertime, dogs, and water-borne diseases

Summertime is just around the corner and that means time in the water for us and our water-loving dogs. While from swimming and playing in the water, if you must, use a long leash. This is great exercise for our pets and an easy way to cool down on a hot summer's day. However, we must be aware of water-borne diseases our pets may be exposed to.

What's lurking in the water? Water-borne diseases are tricky because usually the danger is not obvious. Here are some of the most common water-borne diseases in dogs, along with signs you might see, treatments, and possible outcomes from infection.

LEPTOSPIROSIS—treatable but can be fatal in severe cases

Cause/source: Leptospirosis is caused by bacteria (*Leptospira* spp.) that have worldwide distribution and can infect any mammal. Dogs contract the disease through contact with infected urine or water, but not all infected dogs become ill.

Signs/symptoms: Fever, anorexia, vomiting, and diarrhea, but signs can vary. Kidney and liver damage have been reported in some dogs.

Treatment: Antibiotic therapy to clear the organism, and supportive care and hos-

pitalization is required in the most severe cases.

Prognosis: Depends on the severity of organ damage and the presence (or absence) of complications. Mortality rates are 20%, although some experts report them as high as 70% in the most severely affected individuals. Vaccination can help but may not offer complete protection.

GIARDIASIS ("Giardia")—treatable with good long-term outcomes

Cause/source: Giardiasis is caused by protozoa (*Giardia* spp.) with a wide geographic distribution.

Signs/symptoms: Diarrhea is the most common clinical sign, but many healthy dogs have giardia organisms in their stools.

Treatment: De-wormers such as fenbendazole, or antibiotic therapy with metronidazole, are used to treat symptomatic dogs.

Prognosis: Long-term prognosis is very good.

PROTOHECOSIS—in immunosuppressed dogs can be fatal

Cause/source: Caused by an algae (*Prototheca* spp.) usually found in warm, humid regions such as the Gulf Coast states, but which for the past few years has often been found in the waters of DE,

MD, VA, WV, and PA as well. Although many dogs come in contact with this organism, illnesses are rare and often associated with immunosuppression.

Signs/symptoms: Skin lesions as well as central nervous system signs (such as seizures, blindness, and incoordination) and diarrhea, vomiting and weight loss if the large intestine is involved.

Treatment: Anti-fungal agents have been effective; most dogs with clinical infection succumb to the disease.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PET

Pay attention to the signs posted around water areas. If signs say an area is not safe for swimming or fishing, it's probably not safe for your dog, either. Err on the side of caution.

Don't let your pet play in or drink water that has a rotten-egg smell or dead fish floating in it. It is likely contaminated with a pathogen or pollutant. Crystal clear water like that found in mountain streams does not equal safe! When hiking with your dog, it's best to bring his or her own water supply or carry with you a water purification system.

—Adapted with permission from an article on the Morris Animal Foundation website, www.morrisanimalfoundation.org

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In honor of Robin Vinopal & Michael Hickey, by Linda Cronin
In honor of the 2018 PAW Board, by Bob & Nancy Klein
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In honor of Twyla Henderson, by Michael Backenheimer

In memory of people:

In memory of Debbie Breuer, by Sue Miller
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In memory of James Young, by Christina Young
In memory of Lawanna Houchens, by Christine Flaker
In memory of Maureen Murphy, by Hilary Murphy, Jane Hand, Nancy Osgood, Peggy & Mike Robinson, and by Elizabeth Dietz
In memory of my beloved mother, Rosemarie Farrera, who loved her pets so much, by Christina Farrera
In memory of Robert Carns, by Dorothy Carns
In memory of Rosemary Watton, who fostered our wonderful poodle, Curly (1999–2010), by Elizabeth Seastrum

In honor of people and pets:

In honor of Carlos' birthday and our dog Ruby, by Diana Gough

In honor of pets:

In honor of Amos and in memory of Ms. Lily, by Jennifer & Alvin Mineart
In honor of Annabelle, by Judy Tuttle
In honor of Annabelle, by Lawrence & Beth Pratt
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In honor of Gretchen, by Dianne Thompson & Robert Kengle
In honor of Hailey, by Katy Bernhard-Gore
In honor of Izzie, by Jane Cantor
In honor of Kahlua, by Connie Surosky
In honor of Lili, by Barbara Rubin
In honor of Lilly, by Jeremy Weirich
In honor of Logan, by the Paret family
In honor of Magic, my beloved PAW dog, by Debbie Brynes
In honor of Misha, formerly Fancy Pants, by Carmen Revenga
In honor of Neville (formerly Oso), by Allison Madden
In honor of our new dog, Charlie, by Iris Rainone
In honor of our so cute current adoptee, Casey, and our prior love, Coakley, by Wendy & Jay Smith
In honor of our wonderful Beagle, Peach, by Eleanor Glatly. We loved her well!
In honor of our wonderful dog, Molly, adopted from PAW 3 years ago, by Karen Weingart
In honor of Paco (Oliver), by Vanessa Lopez
In honor of PAW cats, Dash & Violet, by the Loftus family
In honor of PAW dog, Lucy, formerly Joy, by Caitlin Rice
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In honor of Weldon, by Pam Pierpont Wilson
In honor of Whiskey and future rescues, by Josh, Jennifer, Lainey, Gatsby, & Whiskey Keepes
In honor of Ziggy (formerly Peanut), by the Aguiar family

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In loving memory of Katie & Raven, by Ms. Kyle Z. & Mr. Alan G.R. Bell
In loving memory of our PAW dog, Tyke, by Kathleen Beres & Miller Einsel
In memory of Cheyenne, by Charles and Charlotte Trainor
In memory of Cocoa, by Twyla Henderson & Michael Backenheimer
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In memory of Hampton, by Suzanne & Trey Goulden
In memory of hospice cats, Precious & England, by Susan Flashman & Richard Bissell
In memory of Jami & Malik, by Atiya, Rudolph, & Mommie Gail
In memory of Kaiser Greulich, by Linda & George Uram
In memory of Kaiser, our gentle giant German Shepherd, who was kind and loving towards everyone whose path he crossed, by Kristin & Donald Greulich
In memory of Kiku, our precious PAW pooch, and her brother, Musashi, by Gordon & Linda Aoyagi
In memory of Lacey, by Charles and Gail McGuire
In memory of Lea, beloved companion of Danny Morse & Anne Dix, by Virginia Smith
In memory of Lily Beagle, by Maleen Godwin
In memory of Louie, beloved dog of Kathy & James, by Diana Gough
In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, and Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon
In memory of Marco, by Donna & Brian Almqvist
In memory of Mark & Raleigh Jaffe's sweet fur children, Cody, Milo, Little Bits, Bobo, Gilly, & Tiny, by Joanne Goldman
In memory of Marko, by Dorna Richardson
In memory of Max & in honor of Niko, by Philip & Carol Thomas
In memory of Melu, by Ed Renaud
In memory of my PAW dog, Billy, by Catherine Stirling
In memory of my sweet kitty, Finnegan, by Rosalind Elahi. He will be in my heart forever.
In memory of Olivia, by Jackie Threatte
In memory of our cat, Blackjack, by Ellen & Judd Moul
In memory of PAW dog, Missy, by David & Julie Morgan
In memory of PAW rescue, Susie, by Jean Polatsek
In memory of Pepper, by Susan and Ray McGlynn
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In memory of Rhett & Buddy, by Bee L. Attkisson
In memory of Shiloh, Dakota, & Cherokee, by Randy Kenyon & Mark Beall
In memory of Storm, by Barbara Evans
In memory of Walter, by Iris Rainone
In memory of Woofie, by Uzi Ben-Ami
In memory of Woofie, my dearly beloved cockapoo, by Michael Weiss, relatives, and friends.

In memory of pets and in honor of people:

In memory of LeRoy and in honor of Amy Bleich, by Katrina Boverman



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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 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 and Jessey Scheip and Kayla Paugh 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.
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- 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.
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Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.
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