



# PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare ■ Fall 2021  
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 ■ [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org)

## Helping our sweet Otis find his confidence

By Natalie DiPaolo

**W**hen we adopted Otis (then Ricky) in May of 2020, he was a very sweet yet timid four-and-a-half-year-old pup. PAW said they believed he was a failed hunting dog, so we knew he would need a bit of reassurance and time to acclimate to a home environment. As he settled into his new home and family (two pup parents and a quite energetic one-year-old pup named Etta), we quickly discovered that he was a very fearful dog who struggled a lot with quick movements, being in small spaces (like hallways, bathrooms, or stairways), and the attention paid to him by our rambunctious Etta. He also was reactive on walks and unsure of how to act in new situations, usually resorting to freezing or fleeing.

Initially, we felt overwhelmed with the pairing of a fearful dog who needed space and a puppy who didn't fully understand boundaries or body language, but we set our sights on meeting the needs of both pups and did as much research as we could. We knew Otis needed some time and space to acclimate, so we restricted Etta's access to him and started taking twice-daily walks as we noticed he seemed the most confident outdoors. These walks allowed Otis to get exposure to Etta and the two of us in a positive way without the confining walls of a house.



*Natalie and Otis on a hike*

After giving him a few months to quietly adjust to his new life and new family, we employed the help of a local trainer who works with fearful dogs using positive, science-supported training methods. Bringing in a trainer to help us work with Otis to replace his fear and reactivity with confidence and comfort was such a transformative experience for us and Otis. Upon the trainer's recommendation, we immediately started providing enrichment activities for Otis two or three times a day (squeaky toys, snuffle mats, Kongs, etc.) and an extra decompression walk



*Otis sits for his portrait*



*Etta, Otis, and Natalie*

each week to help him get any nervous energy out and explore his natural and soothing behaviors like sniffing, rooting, and licking.

We worked with our vet to assess his anxiety level and provide appropriate medications to help manage it, and we worked diligently on his leash reactivity over several months, which resulted in much happier and relaxed walks for Otis (and us). After a year of training with Otis, he is a much

happier and more confident pup who loves a belly scratch and isn't afraid to explore new situations, even if at a slower pace than other pups.

This gentle and patient approach to training with Otis has allowed us to build a strong, caring, and loving relationship with this gentle boy, which has been such a blessing. Otis is the sweetest dog you'll ever meet and now feels confident enough to ask for endless pets and squeaky toys whenever he wants them. We always happily oblige.

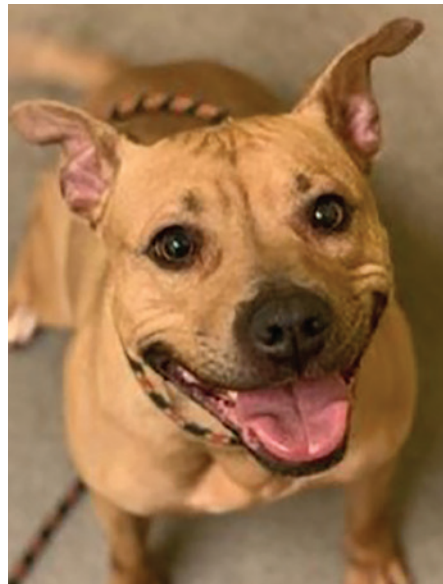
## Going the extra mile

*By Tracy Crotty*

In an age of constant electronic communication, finding someone with no e-mail address is extremely rare. Yes, e-mail, social media, and texting have made communication easier, quicker, and more convenient but not everyone is on board with these modes or has the means or desire for electronic communication.

One day, a call came into the PAW voicemail from a woman who was looking to adopt a dog. She was older, loved dogs, and had recently lost her dog. She lived alone—having also lost her husband a couple of years before—so she was looking to adopt another furbuddy. The problem she was having was that none of the rescues she contacted would help because she did not have a computer, internet access, or e-mail.

When a PAW volunteer checked the voicemail, she heard this woman's plea in which she explained that she needed to do everything by phone, and because of this, no one else would help her find a dog. The PAW volunteer contacted her and told her that



*Stella shows us her dimples*

we could do better! She then sent an e-mail to PAW's dog coordinator about the woman—we'll call her Melanie. She was looking for a pup, and she wasn't too picky about breed or sex. The e-mail included Melanie's full name and number and the comment that "It's going a bit beyond our normal work, but I think she'll be very appreciative!" The dog coordinator

passed the e-mail along to a couple of other volunteers who had knowledge of the available dogs.

Luckily for Melanie, PAW's medical coordinator (MC) gave her a call to find out exactly what she was looking for in a dog. She wanted a friendly pup, not too old (under four years), not too big (50 pounds or less), and not too active. The MC said she would look over the pups PAW had and give her a call back the next day. After checking out the list of pups, the MC found one pup who would fit the bill: Stella. She was a three-and-a-half-year-old German shepherd/Labrador retriever mix who weighs about 40 pounds.

Stella was turned in to a local shelter because her owner just didn't want a dog any longer. When she first arrived at the PAW vet's office, she was scared, shy, and unsure of what was going on. It was rare that she would let people touch her without her trying to bite them. One of PAW's dedicated volunteers walked her every day. It took several days before Stella would let the volunteer pet her. Poor Stella had no



idea what was going on or why she was not in her home with her person.

The day came for Stella to meet Melanie. Two PAW volunteers met Melanie at the kennel where Stella was staying. Stella was friendly with the kennel staff but did not want the volunteers to touch her. Melanie took Stella for a walk around the parking lot—they were only gone a couple of minutes. When she and Stella came back to the volunteers, Melanie bent down and petted Stella. The volunteers were shocked because Stella had not allowed anyone to touch her.

Melanie liked Stella and it was obvious that Stella liked her, so Melanie took her home. The MC checked in on them the next day, Stella was still a little shy and scared but seemed to be coming around. Melanie decided to keep the name Stella, telling a friend that the name was because they both “needed to get their groove back.” Melanie was already in love with Stella and was ready to officially adopt her after a week together. She and the MC set a day, time, and place for the following weekend to meet and complete the paperwork.

They met at a pet store and Melanie brought Stella with her. When the MC got to the store and saw Melanie and Stella, she was shocked at what she saw. Stella walked right up to her—very friendly and unguarded—and let the MC pet her. In seven days, Stella had done a complete 180. When Melanie and the MC were doing the paperwork, Stella walked up to one of the store employees and let the employee pet her as well. After seven days with Melanie, Stella was a happy girl. I would say she definitely got her groove back.

## Happy Ending

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 one here.

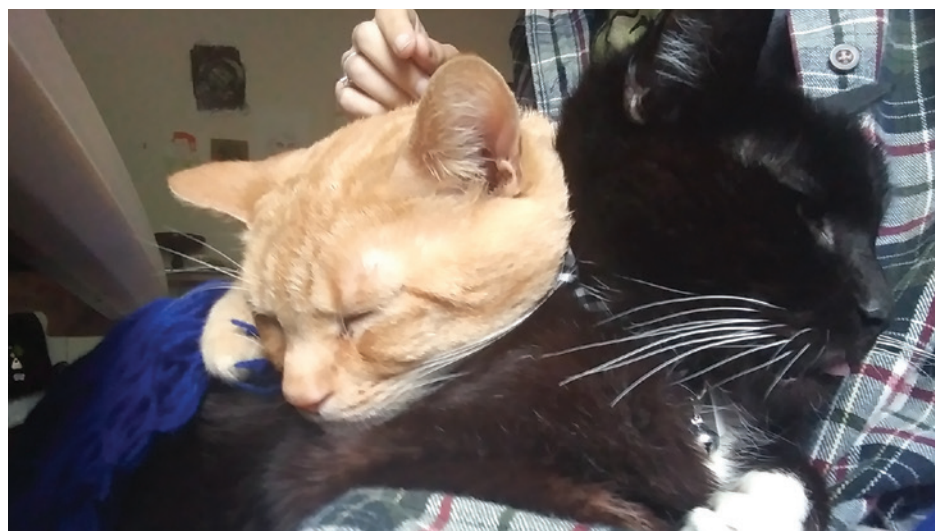


## Loki, caretaker and mischief maker

*By Ezra Loptwitch*

I had the utmost pleasure of adopting Alvin three months ago from PAW! We renamed him Loki, after the Norse god (not the pop culture Marvel version)—and it’s a name well deserved. (Loki is a wily and mischievous trickster god.) While our feline Loki had some rascally times adjusting to home life, he quickly took to my elderly and special-needs tuxedo cat, Donut.

Loki swooped in to bathe her, watch over her, and make sure she was eating. Donut has renal failure and has been on prescription food that does not come in the same flavors as Loki’s. She has become picky, and often I need to feed her with a spoon. If Loki observes her not wanting to eat her own less-appealing food, he backs away from his own bowl, encouraging Donut to eat his food instead of going



*Loki and Donut snuggling*

hungry (which she will absolutely do in protest if I don’t spoon-feed her).

Did I mention that Loki is absolutely spoiled? He enjoys taking to the streets in his stroller and making friends wherever he goes! Loki has become my little companion out and about, cheering me

up and keeping me on the move with grocery shopping, runs to the 7-Eleven, and even visits to Starbucks where he tried his first catpuccino!

When I was searching for a companion for my senior cat, I had the hardest time—adoptions kept falling



Loki in shades basking in the sun

through. Coming across the PAW website was fortunate, and even better, the little ad for Loki touched my heart. I have never adopted an orange friend before, and boy does he have a personality! Loki has won my heart and captured my cat-loving soul in more ways than I could have imagined. Adopting him and hearing the story of his being trapped then spending time in a shelter—just waiting those two years for adoption—really broke my heart. He has become the most loving and gentle kitty who enjoys rubbing his face against mine, giving kisses, and basically being my shadow.

Because Loki seems to enjoy the outdoors so much (and I do as well!), we are planning on starting leash training when the weather is cool so that he can accompany me on hikes. He is extremely curious about the world around him and enjoys stopping to smell the flowers. One day he will visit the beach.

Some of Loki's hobbies include a game of meowing to be let in and out the bedroom door (then repeating the process over and over again), indulging in extremely deep sleep, and playing with his favorite stuffed lobster toy. His present goals are world domination and—Instagram fame!

## Pet adoption—save a life!

By Alex Rosenberg

*Fifth grader Alex Rosenberg was assigned a school project to write an essay about the charity of his choice and design a sneaker for it. His family had adopted his dog Amelia from PAW, so he chose PAW.*

I want to tell you why adoption of dogs and cats is important. Adopting and fostering of dogs and cats is important because so many dogs and cats are in shelters and need a family. Many dogs and cats are in cages and not allowed out. This is a problem because all dogs and cats should have a family.

Have you ever thought about where your pet comes from? Have you ever thought that your dog or cat could be in a cage for life or be killed because there are too many dogs or cats and not a place for them? Have you ever thought that mother dogs are constantly making puppies? Well, this is why pet adoption is important.

One reason that pet adoption is important is because people don't know that dogs and cats are in shelters or pounds. Many people are not adopting pets, so the dogs and cats are being



Alex and Amelia

euthanized. Shelters and pounds are like jails for dogs and cats. According to the U.S. Humane Society, more than one million dogs and cats are euthanized every year. This number can be reduced if more people adopt instead of buying from a breeder. By adopting, you make space at a shelter so that more pets can



Alex's PAW sneaker design

be adopted. You are saving two dogs' or cats' lives when you adopt one dog or cat.

The second reason that you should adopt is

that dogs and cats are good for your health and well-being. Playing with your pet provides exercise. Dogs and cats make people happier and nicer but also help people become more responsible. This is because people have to take care of the animal and do what's best for him or her. People who have a dog or cat are happier because they always have a companion to play or snuggle with.

A third reason that adoption is important is because of puppy mills and the over breeding of pets. Puppy mills are bad because mother dogs are being made to make puppies without taking



a break. This makes it so that when the puppies are born, the mother will keep making puppies. After some time, the mother could get sick, and the puppies will not be healthy.

You should donate because it is important to recognize that there are pets who are abandoned in shelters and need a family. People need to do what is right to save the animals. The money donated to the Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW), will go directly to helping dogs and cats find a home. PAW helps get dogs and cats out of shelters and into a family. If you

donate, it helps save pets from being abandoned.

According to PAW, "Of the money donated, the majority is spent on veterinary care and other costs that directly benefit the animals. Thanks to these donations, we are able to find permanent, loving homes for our animals. You can help by donating to PAW for a spay, a rabies vaccination, or whatever you can afford."

I like PAW because I got my dog from PAW. My family was surprised that my dog had been in a shelter and all she needed was a family to love her. Now my dog is happy. The foster

parents at PAW treat the dogs and cats with love and respect like they would with a human. I hope you will donate to my cause and PAW because it matters that we stop the killing of dogs and cats, stop puppy mills, and keeping dogs in shelters, and, of course, stop buying dogs and cats from breeders.

You can donate to PAW by going to the PAW website <https://paw-rescue.org> and at the top or bottom of the page click "Donate." You can help save a dog or cat's life by donating. Thank you for reading my essay. Please donate, and when you get a pet, don't shop, adopt.

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## My first volunteer dog walking adventure

*By Judy Novak*

**M**ax, an adorable 19-pound Jack Russell mix, was tasked with introducing me to the nuances of my first volunteer walk. I met him at his boarding kennel, where he blasted out an interior door, tethered to a leash from the outstretched arm of his escort. I had previewed this little cutie's picture on the PAW website, but the living incarnation tickled me still, with his animated purposeful gait, multi-colored brown splotches on a white canvas, and stretch-limo low-rider chassis.

We walked across the parking lot to my car where I wooed him with a pocketful of Pupperoni that he summarily inhaled. I hoped to get to know him better before commencing our first blind-date walk, so I tried to break the ice with small talk. Like most dates from my long-ago single days, I enthusiastically initiated the conversation, yet, disappointingly, Max offered no input; worse yet, he demonstrated no interest.

So, we headed to the nearby woods where Max pulled like an Iditarod



*Max poses for Judy*

dog, seemingly intent on charging down a route he knew well. I naively trusted him to lead and forge the way both out and back. He didn't pause, sniff, or frolic playfully in his zeal to follow his chosen path. His stubby short legs effortlessly propelled him, even atop and over thick trunks of several fallen trees, impatiently

stalling as I gracelessly stumbled over them.

At each fork in the path, he confidently directed me as we climbed, descended, crossed a stream, and snaked deeper into the wilderness. Several miles out, my ancient Girl Scout survival savvy hinted that an imminent return was prudent because of my unfamiliarity with Max's long-distance endurance, but more concerning, because I had doubts about my age-diminished stamina. Max balked, but I cajoled him to do an about-face with the promise of a gourmet Pupperoni delight.

Once this very clever boy sensed a sabotaged march to freedom, instead of proceeding as an Amtrak Acela of speed and unabated determination, he abandoned his will to navigate and lost his urgency for forward progress. Suddenly, each piece of greenery required careful inspection, every patch of clover invited a frivolous roll and wiggled back scratch, and every scent enticed a prolonged nose poke.

We traveled quite a painfully

dawdled distance, passing foreign landmarks, when I concluded that we were dreadfully lost. Eventually, we neared civilization and emerged onto a residential road. I consulted my phone and saw that we were located about two miles from our origin if we used the nearby roads to return. I knew these roads were unsafe with considerable traffic and no sidewalks. On the other hand, the prospect of returning to the snarled maze of timbered trails was daunting with my disorientation and Max's disengagement.

Before reflexively panic-dialing 911, fortune intervened when I recognized that my good friend Vern

lived just down the road. I called and he came out to greet us, befuddled by my local loitering with a strange dog (before I explained my idiocy). He graciously offered to rescue us, volunteering as our canine Uber, so I scooped Max up and placed him on my lap in the passenger seat where he comfortably settled as if we were life-long BFF's. Vern chauffeured us the short distance back, and I thanked him many times over as I exited the car. Max chimed in as he boisterously disem-barked. This will be an even sweeter happily-ever-after tale when Max's next walk date becomes his forever match!

## PAW's first adoption show coordinator

*By Jerry Roth*

I joined PAW in 1996 and served into 2003 when I retired to Arizona. I admired those great humans in the early days of PAW, and the contact with the dogs and cats was much-needed therapy. I may be remembered as the first show coordinator (never an official position). I noticed that the PAW display table would not arrive and be set up until the show was underway and that store managers were not thrilled with our blocking certain merchandise. I volunteered to bring all the show materials and the table—which I did every week to every store.

The shows were longer then, and my pickup dog and I arrived an hour early and stayed an hour late to do all the necessary tasks like meeting with the store manager about where the cats and dogs should be located and leaving the aisles the way we found them. Good relationships with the



*PAW veteran Jerry Roth in Arizona*

stores were important. There were many other duties and tasks behind the scenes, so I definitely want to thank the volunteers who are currently setting up shows. For me, it was a much longer day but very satisfying when our show ran smoothly—I loved serving the public, the store, our organization, and mostly those wonderful cats and dogs.

## Fostering foxhound mix Boots

*By Teresa DiTizio*



*Boots shortly before his adoption*

In the spring of 2020, I had been looking for a good fit for Bethany, my bluetick coonhound whom I adopted from PAW a few years ago. Then I saw Boots, a foxhound mix, and decided to foster him. Boots was full of energy, playful, and also very sweet. Boots and Bethany became buddies quickly. They played 24/7, leaping onto the sofa and darting off to run around the house. Boots loved to be with his human (that was me) when he wasn't busy playing with his new friend Bethany.

Boots would sit in my lap (he thought he was a small dog) and at bedtime, he had to sleep right next to my pillow. In the morning, he gave me lots of kisses. Boots loved to run around in the fenced yard and go on walks with Bethany. I took pictures of Boots and learned important things about him that were helpful to potential adopters. I fostered Boots for six or seven weeks until he found his forever home. It wasn't easy saying goodbye to Boots, but seeing his happy ending made it all worthwhile. It was a rewarding experience for me to know that I gave Boots a break from the shelter environment, and at the same time provided a playmate for Bethany.



## WOOFIE'S FUND Continues!

In memory of his beloved cockapoo, Woofie, Michael Weiss continues to generously support PAW in his name. We thank Michael for helping us save the lives of more companion animals than we could have otherwise. The PAW kitties and pups send Michael and Woofie their love, and the PAW humans send their gratitude.



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

### In honor of people:

In honor of people:  
In honor of Albert Pike, III, by Louise Short  
In honor of all volunteers past and present,  
by Jim & Joy Edwards  
In honor of Dr. Wendy Hall's full healing  
& recovery, by Carol Fineblum

### In memory of people:

In memory of Joe Edward Pace, by Elizabeth  
Seastrum  
In memory of John Baker, by Martha Bonar  
and by Joan Hresko  
In memory of Richard Skinner, by Bob & Karen  
Huguley and by Patricia & Roger Peterson

### In honor of people and pets:

In honor of Bob & Nancy for watching Sky,  
by Stephanie Brody

### In honor of pets:

In honor of Junie, by Joanna & Matt Haley  
In honor of Lily Beagle, by Maleen Godwin  
In honor of Mochan, faithful feline companion  
to Jane Nishida, by Mary Blotzer & David  
Iannucci  
In honor of Pup-pup, by Elfriede Pace  
In honor of Simba, by Mridu Katwal

In honor of Speedy, one of my cats,  
by Iris Rainone  
In honor of Wolfie, by Barbara & Joe Haurand  
In honor of Wolfie, by Susan Stayer

### In memory of pets:

In memory of Amos & Lily, by Jennifer  
& Alvin Mineart  
In memory of Freckles, by Bob & Karen  
Huguley and by Carol Skinner  
In memory of Lila & Zelda, by Kathleen  
Murray  
In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat,  
& Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon  
In memory of P.J., Jen's loving cat, by Junia  
Tomb  
In memory of Sasha, by Dorna Richardson  
In memory of Sassy, by C.J. Williamson  
In memory of Sophia, Harvey, & Tedi (cats),  
by Craig & Kathy Hougum  
In memory of Storm, by Barbara Evans  
In memory of Sysco & Daisy, by Rhoda Bush  
In memory of Winnie, by Stefanie Pryor  
In memory of Woofie, by Michael Weiss

### In memory of pets and people:

In memory of Curly, our beloved poodle, &  
Rosemary Wotten, who fostered him in 1999,  
by Elizabeth Seastrum

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

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### 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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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.



**Partnership for Animal Welfare**  
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## 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; Animal Behavior and Wellness Center & Amy Pike, DVM, DACVB; College Park Animal Hospital; Lake Forest Animal Hospital; Veterinary Orthopedic Sports Medicine Group Pet+ER/Columbia, MD; CVCA/Columbia, MD; and Dr. Omobolaji Eniola at Petwell Veterinary Hospital for providing reduced-cost medical care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats.
- TRAINERS Beth Joy, Joyce Loebig, Sarah Stoycos, Jen Boyd-Morin, 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.
- 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 for the kindness and energy they give to PAW dogs.
- PARADISE FOR PETS in Beltsville, many thanks.
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland-area PETSMART, PETCO, LOYAL COMPANION, and PET VALU 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.

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