

PAW Shakes



Partnership for Animal Welfare Newsletter ▪ Spring 2025
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 ▪ www.paw-rescue.org

An Unfamiliar Landscape for Adopting

BY LIZ DIETZ

AFTER MY HUSBAND'S Parkinson's diagnosis and the passing of our dear beagle, Boomer, in 2020, we put everything on hold. In January of this year, we moved to central New Hampshire to be closer to my family. We were finally in a good place and ready to adopt a dog. I started searching in February, but it took until mid-May before we found our new dog, Bunny. What took so long? We experienced an unfamiliar landscape for adopting a dog; here are my thoughts and observations about it.

We started with the local shelters, searching their websites for a beagle-sized dog, 2–5 years old, of a gentle nature so that they wouldn't be too rough around my husband. There were unusually low numbers of dogs at these shelters. We looked through Petfinder.com and found several of the kind of dog we were looking for.

Most rescues required the application for adoption to be filled out before choosing a dog because they said they couldn't guarantee a particular dog once the application was complete. Two groups conducted "home visits" with us via Zoom. In both cases, we passed with flying colors. But then we found out the closest place to meet the dog was two hours away, in central Massachusetts, and the other was even further, near Hartford, Connecticut. It was just too far for my husband to travel.

We found dog adoption shows to be few and far between—i.e. once a month,



Bunny with a favorite toy

way down in the Boston area. Some dogs we found through other rescues required adoption before actually meeting them. The dogs were being flown in from other states and Puerto Rico; we could see why they needed a commitment before the meet and greet. A couple of very nice, privately run shelters in New Hampshire and Maine had an abundance of dogs, and did offer appointments to come to see them. But they required a long drive for us to get there and back, so that precluded our going. We finally resigned ourselves to continue to check the local shelter websites.

Animal shelters in the Northeast have far fewer pets for adoption com-

pared to the South due to a combination of factors: spaying and neutering rates are much higher in the Northeast; and the harsher climate no doubt causes the early demise of more strays than in the South. The other big factor is that rescue organizations are transporting dogs from overflowing shelters in the South and Puerto Rico to areas in the Northeast with high adoption rates. See for example an article in *The Valley Reporter*—"Southern Rescues Send Dogs North", and this article on Stateline's website: stateline.org/2019/02/28/rescue-network-sends-southern-puppies-north. Private rescue organizations have often had a long relationship with their respective local shelters

in helping to place dogs. After multiple hurricanes battered the South in the mid-2000s, displacing thousands of families, rescue organizations started transporting dogs on a much larger scale, making regional relocations. The trend took off and it has become regular practice now.

Regional transport of dogs has not been without its bumps in the road: A downturn in the economy tends to hamper adoption rates; also, transporting across state lines has had to refine its practices as intake shelters required more stringent health screening to prevent the spread of disease. Nonetheless, inter-shelter and inter-state transfer of adoptable dogs has become a large percentage of live intake and live outcomes, according to Shelter Animal Count (IOD) statistics. See www.shelteranimalscount.org/intake-and-outcome-database-iod/. The table “Gross Intakes Detail,” selected for Canines by All Types of Shelters for 2023, shows that shelters consistently reached well above 20,000



Liz with Bunny

Intakes of Transfers in their monthly reporting. This means thousands of adoptable dogs were sent from high-kill shelters to emptier shelters on a regular basis. Good news!

Some local shelters in wealthier towns in New Hampshire bring in as many dogs as they can from high-kill shelters. These dogs are typically well cared for until they find homes. These towns often have beautiful, well run shelters. Poorer towns lack a regular influx of dogs. In both cases, it seems that local shelters are still doing what they were originally intended to do - taking in the occasional given-up or stray dog and finding them a good home. Thank goodness for broad use of spay-neuter programs! And with widespread transfers, thousands more dogs are being saved every day.

As for us, we found our dear Bunny at our local shelter. At 11 months, she is the youngest dog we've ever adopted. She's a bundle of energy but still very gentle around my husband. Bunny originally came in as part of an unwanted litter from Georgia—now she is very much wanted and loved! 🐾

Behind the Scenes with a Serial Foster

BY JIM MALTESE

THE E-MAIL COMES IN, and the Bat Signal has gone up: PAW can take in a small, senior dog from a rural shelter if a foster home is available. My wife, Elsa, sends me a text with a picture of the dog and a plaintive emoji. I take a moment, considering whether this one will be a good fit with our own two dogs, Leo and Nina.

“Ok,” I respond.

Since 2017, Elsa and I have fostered over 45 dogs for local rescues. We've had a wide variety of breeds and sizes, young and old. Sometimes it's a temporary placement while another foster is out of town, but usually we host our furry visitor until they find a forever home. As you can imagine, being a foster for PAW is tremendously reward-



Elsa with Rocco

ing, but comes with plenty of challenges. Every dog we take in has an element of mystery: What is their personality? How long will it take for them to come out of their shell? Are there any hidden health issues? Perhaps most importantly, are they house trained?

Take Maxine, for example. She was a 7-year old beagle mix who was extremely sweet, obsessed with food, and very sneaky. We returned home one evening to discover she had gotten a tub of Crisco off the counter and eaten the entire thing. After that, we tried to ensure any temptations were out of reach, until we realized too late that she could jump up onto our dining table. She managed to open and consume an entire sealed package of joint support treats when we were out running an errand. We went to bed that night imagining the very interesting poop we would get to clean up in the coming days. Despite the headaches, she was a delight.

One of the questions we get often is, “don’t you want to adopt them yourselves?” Of course! In fact, our second



Leo, Nina, and Maxine

dog, Nina, was one we had fostered for a brief period. The best dogs are often the hardest ones to say goodbye to, but also the ones that we feel most confident will give their new owner a lifetime of love. Tucker (now named Toby), is one of those. He was fantastic with us, but

when he met his new doggie sister, they fell head over heels for each other, and it was clear there was no better place for him. Our current PAW foster, Rocco, is another example. A black chihuahua/pug mix, about 7-8 years old, he is affectionate, playful, easy to care for, and cute. He fits in well in our home, but I long ago made the decision that I don’t want us to be permanently outnumbered by dogs, and besides, if we adopted a third one, we wouldn’t be able to foster any more!

Saying goodbye to our foster dogs is less painful when we get updates from the adopters on how their dogs are doing. Like Gizzy, the dog we were fostering in 2020 when the pandemic began. He is a tiny, wiry, blind bundle of sweetness. To this day, his adoptive mama checks in every so often with a new adorable photo. This causes Elsa’s heart to burst all over again each time. And for me, it reminds me why we continue to foster, even when life gets busy with other things. It’s about bringing joy: to us, the adopters, and the dogs themselves. 🐾

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

PO BOX 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 • • 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: Partnership for Animal Welfare and mail to the address on this form. *The animals thank you!*

The Partnership for Animal Welfare is an officially recognized non-profit organization which is funded through donations and adoption fees.

Donations are tax-deductible (Tax ID # 52-1979581). If you would like to help, you can do so by donating money, earmarking your charitable donations to PAW, helping with some of our fundraising activities, or donating food, blankets and other supplies.

Happy 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.



An Orange Cat and a Pink Blanket

BY MADDIE UNDERHILL

EACH MORNING, I awaken to the jarring sensation of my mother ripping me from the warmth of my pink sherpa blanket. The curl of my body with my head tucked inside is a position I tried six times to perfect the night before, and she pries me from my fine-tuned crevice, pulling me into her arms. In some form or another, being showered with this affection is my signal that the day must begin. Though my comfort is temporarily disturbed, I cannot resist the sudden, rhythmic vibrations of my vocal cords, as my mother's arms provide such unwavering comfort and safety.

I wait patiently for my mother to begin her journey to the kitchen and acquire her first meal. Her setting forth unleashes my deep fear of abandonment. I must follow her. As she consumes her meal, I consume mine, but always keeping her in sight.

By the time noon approaches, my mother has begun engaging in meaningless tasks, sometimes even leaving home for hours at a time. I've accepted these departures, though our time apart is not without heartbreak. I indulge in frequent naps, where my beautiful pink blanket awaits me. Each nap is as if I sleep upon a sunset's cloud, thanks to the tufts and wrinkles beneath me. I return to the kitchen for a lick of water every so often. Sometimes, around 2:00 PM, I will interrupt my father's time at a screen and pester him to play a few games with me. Later, I treat myself to another pink-blanket-hosted nap.

Many felines frequently return to their primal needs throughout the day: food, water, affection. However, I return



Sesame under his Pink Blanket



Sesame on his Pink Blanket

so fondly to the loyalty of my homely pink blanket. It cradles me in such a way that no other blanket has even dared to attempt. My mother and I have changed our home several times, but my blanket has joined us on every journey. I'm not attached to many physical objects, and don't view myself as much of a material man, but this one holds a special place in my heart. It is not clear to me whether this blanket actually belongs to me, but I hope my attachment to it has made my feelings of ownership over its beauty and comfort evident enough.

In the evening, both of my parents consume a meal together, and I often join them for some quality family time afterwards. They eventually reach a decline in energy and start their bedtime routines. I take this opportunity each night to run rampant throughout our home. Once unsupervised in our main living areas, I leap onto chairs, tables, countertops,

and other surfaces, releasing a surge of energy that has been building throughout the day. When they are settled in bed, after throwing myself around the room a bit, I run to the bedroom; not a typical run, though, because I must inquire about my parents' willingness to engage in a bit of tomfoolery before they sleep. I gallop into the bedroom with one of my string toys between my teeth. If this does not catch their attention, I release the most ear-piercing howl they have ever heard. I repeat it a few times for emphasis. At this point in the evening if they do not succumb to my requests for a game or two, I surrender. If my howls are tumultuous enough, I may get myself into trouble and hear the words, "Sesame, no!" arise from the bed. This is an undeniable signal that they have capitulated to the temptation of their own comfortable blankets, and will not reawaken.

Though playtime may be restricted to daylight hours, I'll always return to the faithfulness of my perfectly plush, pink blanket. It lays next to the bed, imprinted with whichever pose I most recently laid in, and calls me to its embrace. I fall into it and sprawl accordingly, falling into dreams of the next day's endeavors. 🐾

Consider fostering a PAW cat or kitten!

PAW provides a starter kit of supplies and You provide the LOVE!

Our cat program needs your help and support of foster homes.

To find out more, contact the PAW Cat Coordinator at cat-coordinator@paw-rescue.org



PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM SUMMER HEAT!

Pets can suffer from heat strokes just like humans.

Extreme temperatures, lack of water as well as being left in a hot car can quickly cause heat stroke. Cracking windows or parking in the shade does very little for inside temperatures!

Limit exercise on hot days: Your pet can experience heat stroke due to hot pavements and sidewalks because they regulate body temperature through their feet. The hot surfaces can also cause blisters and burns on the pads of your pet's feet, so limit their exercise on a hot day.

Watch the humidity: When animals pant, the moisture from their lungs evaporates, aiding in regulating their body temperature. When the humidity increases, their lungs have more moisture, causing pets to overheat instead of cooling off. Take your pet's temperature to determine if they are overheating. If your dog's temperature is over 104, you should take action fast by giving your dog a cold bath or ice cubes to lick.

Signs of Heat Stroke

Body: weakness, seizures, collapse, organ damage

Behavior: disorientation, confusion, anxiety, unresponsive

Mouth: pale gums, bright red tongue, thick saliva, vomiting

Heart: rapid heart rate

Lungs: difficulty breathing, excessive panting

Vehicle temperature

Outside car (°F)	Inside car (°F)	
	10 mins	30 mins
95°	114°	129°
90°	109°	124°
85°	104°	119°
80°	99°	117°
75°	94°	109°
70°	89°	104°

Seek veterinary attention immediately if your pet is experiencing any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

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.





Jilly Bean

BY LINDSEY PAIGE

I GREW UP WITH DOGS. I have taken care of other people's dogs for over two decades. And even with all of that experience, I had no idea the impact this little 15 pound terrier love bug would have on my life. Jilly was my very first dog as an adult, and came into our lives in the winter of 2018 thanks to PAW. She was a sprightly 14 months old, full of life and love. She was all wiry haired black fur with a white beard and chest and adorable little white paws, coined *French Tips* and the longest eyebrows you have ever seen (I used to judge her health by their length: the longer the eyebrows, the healthier she was).

One of her favorite activities was chasing (and often catching!) squirrels, chipmunks, bunnies, and field mice. She also loved barking at the deer behind our property, greeting every guest with excited tail wags and barks, and curling up with us any chance she got. Jilly helped me and my business get through the



Jilly, just adopted at 1-1/2 years

pandemic. She is featured on many of our training videos, and came with me for special events at our studio. She wasn't a huge fan of puppies, and always stood her ground and put them in their place. At a mighty 15 pounds, she was sure to puff up her chest and be the toughest girl on the block.

Unfortunately, she developed health issues early in life which affected her movement, her vision, and much, much more. Through all of this, she remained a survivor and love bug in our family. She would get sick, and we would nurse her back to health. After a significantly longer bout of discomfort, disorientation, incontinence and more, we made the painful decision to say goodbye. She was only seven years, old which made the decision that much harder. I held her until the very end, with my other dog Violet right by my side. As soon as she took her last breath, I felt this totally unreal sensation through my body like part of my soul was torn out—and then a sudden sense of relief that her pain was finally over.

We all miss Jilly every day, and at the same time the sense of peace in our household is palpable. I am forever grateful for the time I had with my sweet little Jilly Bean. Her paw prints will always be on my heart. 🐾



Lindsey with Jilly Bean, at around 4 years



Jilly's smile, around 4 years



Donations in Honor of and in Memory of . . .

In honor of people

- In honor of Coco Karasek, by Patricia Wason
- In honor of Caroline Karasek Bat Mitzvah, by Toby B Kaufman
- In honor of Coco Karasek's mitzvah project. XO, Raya
- In honor of Coco Karasek's bat mitzvah project, by Anonymous
- In honor of Coco's bat mitzvah, by Jennifer Feinberg
- In honor of Coco Karasek, by Amy Marcus
- In honor of Coco's Bat Mitzvah—Danielle Cho
- In honor of Coco Karasek, by Joshua Marcus
- In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Coco Karasek, by Sheri Allen Dascal
- In honor of our veterinarian, Dr. Barbara Henderson, by Nancey Parker
- In honor of June Stockdale, by Nelson Coleman Jewelers
- In honor of Nik Meuschke, by AGM Financial Services
- In honor of Bob and Nancy Klein . . . the best lifetime fosters ever. by Katherine Woodard
- In honor of Elizabeth Kloos and her PAW pup Fess, by Emily Ratner
- In honor of Amy for her birthday, by Sharon Zehner
- In honor of Dr. Beck at College Park Animal Hospital, by Elizabeth Wendt

In memory of people

- In memory of Ted Stanton, wonderful person and animal lover, by Carol and David Rusta
- In memory of Arthur & Frieda Jaffe and Isadore & Florence Goldman, by Anonymous
- In memory of Pauline Almquist, by Dana and Mark Matthews
- In memory of Joe Lamp, animal advocate, by JoAnn Lamp
- In memory of Richard Rind, by Susan Middleswarth
- In memory of rescue beagle dad Carson Drake, by Karen Drake
- In memory of Michael Symonds, by Teri Hershberg

In loving remembrance and honor to the Nakashima family

Dr. and Mrs. Tadayoshi Nakashima, their talented daughter Rieko Nakashima and lovable, clever feline Aka Nakashima, who lived in Palmetto Bay, Florida.



- In memory of Stephen M. Denz, beloved father, by Gladys Schultz
- In memory of Suzanne Mattingly, Zeke Cunningham and Stella Cunningham, by Dennis A. and Shigeko Cunningham
- In memory of Ruth "Sissy" Fine from her sister, Carol Fineblum
- In memory of Eve Bonadonna, by Lauraleen OConnor
- In memory of Jennifer Pruet Gattis, mother of Melissa Maloney, by Wendy Hall
- In memory of J. D. Noell, by Nancy Schiavone

In honor of pets

- In honor of PAW dog Casey and in memory of PAW dog Coakley, by Wendy Smith & Carry Fitch
- In honor of Roz, Daisy, Searoy, by Julie Stanish
- In honor of Atticus, by Jean Jacques Dethier
- In honor of my PAW dog Annie, by Nancy Lee Galloway
- In honor of our Ernie, adopted from PAW, by Patricia Johnson
- In honor of Clyde, PAW alumnus, by Bridget Higginbotham
- In honor of Ziggy & Riley, by Wayne & T Humphries
- In honor of PAW, thank you for my precious Selena, adopted in August, by Stacy Pollack
- In honor of our PAW adoptee, Ernie, by Cheryl Johnson
- In honor of PAW, for all the great work that PAW does and a thank you for bringing Sky to us,

- by the Brody Family (Lee, Stephanie and Juliana)
- In honor of PAW rescuing Georgette, by Diana Lund

In memory of pets

- In memory of Cookie Dough, by Liz Symonds & Clayton Englar
- In memory of our PAW cats Dash and Violet, by The Loftus Family
- In memory of Nala, by Nancy & Bob Klein
- In memory of Chase, from Aunt Nancy & Uncle Bob
- In memory of PAW pooch Winifried, by Stefanie Pryor
- In memory of Little Agnes, by Elizabeth Payer & Family
- In memory of Spunkie, Jami, Malik, Caleb & Ms. Fish, by Gail Shepherd Smith & Atiya Smith
- In memory of Lola, by Ilene Pollack & Kenneth Lightner
- In memory of Susie, a PAW rescue, by Jean Polatsek
- In memory of Hampton, by Suzanne Goulden
- In memory of Daisy; For Lucky, by Pamela and Donald Gochenour
- In memory of Pebbles and Nicky, by Carolyn Kujawa
- In memory of our furry granddogs and grandcats—Bourbon, Kaiser, Willow, Zuri, Tabitha and Buddy Greulich, by Linda and George Uram
- In memory of my sweet cats Marky and Donnie, by Aileen Hilliard
- In memory of PAW cat siblings Katie & Raven, adopted Dec 2004, by Kyle & Alan Bell

- In memory of Luke aka "Man Cat" and Zoe the Toe, by Skye Chacon
- In memory of Maurice, Frida, and Nigel (former PAW pups), by Erin Antognoli
- In memory of Milo, PAW adopted 1996, by Jonathan Reel
- In memory of Buddy, one of Molly's bff's, from the Goldman Family
- In memory of Casey, Kittle-Guy, Nala, Tigra, and all the other cats from PAW that I had the honor to love and be loved by, by Robin Steel
- In memory of Oliver, the marvelous dog you gave us in 2011, by Martine Guerguil
- In memory of our late cat "BlackJack" who we adopted through PAW in 2001, by Ellen and Judd Moul

In memory or honor of people and pets

- In honor of Vicky Caponiti and in memory of our beloved Patches, by Dan Gorin and Nina Uzick
- In memory LeRoy, my beloved PAW dog, and in honor of Amy Bleich, by Katrina Boverman
- In memory of our beloved poodle Curly, and Rosemary Wotten who fostered him in 1999, by Elizabeth C Seastrum

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PAW Shakes to . . .

- PAW's ADOPTION SHOW HELPERS 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 College Park Animal Hospital; Dr. John Wesson at Dr. Boyd's Veterinary Resort; Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital; Caring Hands Animal Hospital; Dr. Hannah Levy at Cozy Cats—A Cat Practice; Dr. Solomon Perl, independent mobile vet; Petvaxx Animal Hospital & Mobile Veterinary Service; Veterinary Referral Associates (VRA); Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG), Columbia, MD; VetRad Radiology Services; Maryland Veterinary Surgical Services, Catonsville MD; and Dr. Leslie Sinn of Behavior Solutions.
- TRAINERS Robin Shepherd, Infinite-Dog; Ira Hartwell, A Breed Apart; Susan Sanderson; and Liz Catalano, Dog Behaviorist, Coventry School for Dogs and Their People, Columbia; for their generosity, help, and training advice for our more challenging dogs.
- YOUR DOG'S FRIEND for offering free workshops, training referrals, and more.
- PUP SCOUTS in Rockville, MD, owner Henry Towberman.
- BEST FRIENDS PET CARE in Gaithersburg, MD, manager Vanessa Hidalgo and assistant manager Catheren Hondros.
- PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS in Columbia, MD, owner Fred Wolpert, Quan Harper, Fernando, Courtney, and all our friends at Preston.
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland—area PETSMART and PETCO stores and HOME DEPOT Gaithersburg for hosting our weekly dog adoption shows.

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