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www.hswm.org

The Latest Poop

FALL
WINTER
2025/26

A biannual newsletter for friends of the
Humane Society of the White Mountains



Director's Message

by Debbie Neff,
Executive Director

Hey Hey! Many of you know me already while some of you may not. I am Debbie Torbet Neff and I have been with the Humane Society of the White Mountains (HSWM) since October, 2007. It all began when a friend of mine was Front Office Manager at the shelter. She had moved and they needed someone to take over as Receptionist. I applied and got the job. It was probably the best day of my entire life! I have always had a deep love for animals and what better way to expand that than to help them get healthy and assist in finding their forever loving homes? I worked as the receptionist for a bit and then wanting to learn more, I moved to cleaning kennels and being more hands on with the animals. I was then able to both work with pet residents and the public as we were often short on staff. I was promoted to Office Manager around 2010.

In the beginning of 2011, I was laid off due to HSWM's not having enough money for my position. That day my whole world shattered! I was absolutely heartbroken! I was laid off for about 8 months when I was approached by Deena Pace, who was part of the Management team at that time. She explained they had a position open but it was not Office Manager and asked if I'd like to come back as an animal caregiver? I never agreed to something so fast in my whole life. The long wait to come back and do what I love was finally over.

In 2013 I was promoted to Shelter Manager and worked alongside Deena as Director for almost 10 years. During that time, I not only learned what it took to be a better manager, I also learned a lot more about myself - my strengths and my weaknesses. It was an absolute amazing experience. When Deena was retiring at the end of 2022, everyone asked if I would be taking over that position and the answer was always "no". I didn't think I was ready for that just yet.

In late 2023, I was promoted to Director of



Operations. After a year and a half in this position, I was asked to be the Executive Director and I accepted. The last 18 years have been an exciting adventure for my family and me. I can't wait to see how far HSWM can go in the future.

Natural Forgiveness

by Joe Jacks, Director of Operations

It never stops here at The Humane Society of the White Mountains. From the hustle and bustle of new intakes to the care of older residents, the animals are always in need of our help. Not just the animals at the shelter but all over the White Mountains. That's why we are here, to be advocates and voices for those who do not have one. Through the ups and downs, seeing an animal make it to their forever home is what keeps us motivated at HSWM.

The last time you heard from me was the Spring/Summer 2025 newsletter when I was the Bookkeeper. I have since moved up to the position of Director of Operations for HSWM. This job has given me a more complete understanding of how our shelter operates on the ground level and what it takes to maintain the day-to-day operations. From animal intake to surgery to adoption, I learn something new about each step in the process every time I go through it. I consider myself blessed to be a part of a lost animal's journey to being found, returned to its owner or finding a forever home.

Speaking of the animals here at HSWM, we all know that each are 'one of a kind' with many different personalities and each has a unique story. The love and happiness they want to share with everyone they meet is unmatched. Their forgiving nature is a constant reminder to be a better version of myself. Just like the animals at HSWM, and everywhere in the White Mountains, we all deserve a second chance and can't fear returning that favor to others.

One could argue that it might be easier to just "buy" a new puppy or kitten from a breeder and I am not writing this to tell you not to do that. But I can tell you this, there are so many deserving dogs and cats of all ages here at shelter that would love the opportunity to meet you and be taken home. So here's to the animals and the second chance you might be able to provide them.



Holiday Greetings from The DOGhouse

by Bonnye Knoche, Manager



www.facebook.com/The-DOGhouse-Thrift-Shop-1539090302976736/

At the DOGhouse, we continue to receive great donations from the public. Here is a view of behind the scenes on a daily basis: we work as fast as possible to get new items to the sale floor for customers to view and purchase. The process includes cleaning the item, assessing the value, and pricing it. When items are dropped off by a donor at the Donation Door, we sort them based on the category - clothes, linens, electrical, furniture and household. Merchandise is inspected for damage and desirability. We look at items, asking ourselves "Would I purchase this object?" during the sorting process. After all, any clothing item with stains or holes is not something we would sell. However, a torn or stained cloth item is a great item to recycle.

Recycling is a major part of any thrift store business. We receive money for our recycled goods - cans, metal, cloth, electrical, and many other materials. This money, like all sale proceeds, goes directly to the Humane Society of the White Mountains. We happily say that we are helping the environment as very little ever goes into trash or a landfill. Sadly, there are times when the donations are ruined by weather. We always ask people to only leave donations when we are open. We have had items rummaged through by vagrants, strewn all over the donation area, and soaked by the rain. All had to be discarded - very unfortunate for the animals, the donors and potential patrons.

On a positive note - I want to share with you the normal sales we run on a monthly basis:

Tuesday and Wednesday - Senior and Military Day - Save 25% off everything.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 50% off specials, maybe clothes, dishes, furniture, etc.

Sale Saturday - 1st Saturday of the Month - 50% off everything.

Our winter hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 5 pm. Donations are welcome from 10 am to 3 pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year, as together, we support a Great Organization - The Humane Society of the White Mountains - and the precious adoptable pets in our care!

Keep Your Pets Safe During The Winter

by Debbie Neff,

The winter months here on the mountain can be rather brutal at times with snow and wind and just over-all cold. Pets can't handle these sorts of freezing temperatures and will not retain their body temperature to keep themselves warm. Rule of thumb is: if it's too cold for humans to stay outdoors, it's too cold for pets to stay outdoors.

While a lot of people believe that pets need to be outdoors, the fact is they are still part of your family and need to be brought inside during those frigid nights. Even if it is just to a laundry room or bathroom with the door shut for the night, this will help keep them warm and dry. If this is not something that can be done, there are ways to keep them warm and dry while they have to stay outside.

Dogs need a dog house to get into and out of the elements. The dog house needs to be placed in an area that it is not going to flood in the event of a rain storm or snow melt. The front of the doghouse must face the opposite direction of the wind (which usually comes out of north in

winter) and should be in an area that gets plenty of sunshine during the day. If the ground is freezing, consider putting some hay or straw underneath the dog house to create a barrier between the two. In the dog house there should be some sort of bedding - such as hay or straw. Blankets hold in moisture and if it is raining or snowing, the dog will be tracking the moisture in on their feet at which point the blanket is not going to keep them warm and dry.

Cats also need some way of getting out of the elements of the harsh winter weather. Most cats live indoors but there are those who are either feral or just prefer to be outdoors. The easiest way to make a shelter for cats would be to take an old ice chest, cut a hole for access and put some straw in it for bedding. If you do not have an extra ice chest you could consider purchasing a styrofoam cooler. Cut a hole for access and lay some straw down for bedding. Another way for using the styrofoam cooler is to insert the cooler into a plastic tote with a hole for access. The entrance hole needs to face opposite the wind and in an area that gets plenty of sunshine in the day. It also needs to be propped up off of the ground so rain does not splash in and snow cannot block the door way.

Sadly, too often outdoor cats will climb into the engine compartment of vehicles where it is warmer. To make sure there is no animal in there, honk the horn or bang on the hood before starting the vehicle.

All pets use a lot more energy trying to stay warm during the winter and will need to be fed a bit more to help them survive. As always, make sure they have plenty of open, unfrozen water to keep them hydrated.

Antifreeze and coolants are sweet to the taste and can attract dogs and cats but are extremely poisonous. These liquids cause serious illness or death, so be sure to clean up any spills and secure the bottle where the pets can't reach it.

Finally, wintertime can cause power outages and, just like for ourselves, we need to make sure we have emergency plans for our pets. Have enough food, water and medication (if necessary) to last 5-7 days. Pets are part of our families, so let's do what we can to help make wintertime a little less stressful on them and let them snuggle in with us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Humane Society of the White Mountains provides the highest standards of care for all animals entering our shelter. We educate and assist local communities regarding quality companion animal care, and serve as a voice for the voiceless pet, seeking always to end animal cruelty and neglect.



BIG HEART, NEW HOMES: A Look at Our Recent Animal Adoptions!

by Debbie Neff

We're thrilled to share some heartwarming news—thanks to your incredible support - 90 dogs, 138 cats, and 1 guinea pig found their loving permanent homes in the last 10 months, making a total of 229 adoptions! That's 229 lives changed, tails wagged, families made whole and kennels free for the next homeless animal.

Each adoption story is a reminder of the love and care that goes into what we do every day. From long-time residents, like Jasper, a 3.5 year old Hound mix who waited patiently for his perfect person, to tiny kittens who found homes within hours of being available - every adoption brings joy not only to the adopters but to our staff and volunteers too.

We couldn't have done it without

Our Volunteers, who walk, feed, comfort, and care for each animal.

Foster Families, who open their homes and hearts to animals in need of extra time or care.

Donors, whose generosity funds medical treatments, food, and shelter.

Adopters, who make the lifelong commitment to love and care for these incredible animals.

But the work isn't done! Many more furry friends are still waiting for a second chance. If you or someone you know is thinking about adding a pet to the family, now is a great time to visit us and meet your new best friend.

You can also help by spreading the word, volunteering, or donating to keep our mission going strong.

Thank you for being part of our shelter family - and for helping us make tails wag and hearts happy every single day. ❤️

Jasper



Adopting from the Humane Society of the White Mountains Changes Lives

by Terry Bankert, Adoption Chair

When it comes to bringing a new dog or cat into your home, one of the biggest decisions you'll make is where to find your new best friend. While some people turn to breeders, adopting from the Humane Society of the White Mountains (HSWM) offers a more compassionate and impactful choice - one that saves lives, strengthens our community, and fills our homes with love.

Every year, countless pets end up in shelters through no fault of their own. Some are surrendered because their owners can no longer care for them, while others are rescued from neglect or abandonment. At the HSWM, these animals receive medical care, nutritious food, and, most importantly, kindness. Each one is given a second chance—a chance to be part of a loving family again.

When you adopt from the HSWM, you're not just gaining a pet, you're giving hope to an animal in need. The adoption fees go directly back into supporting the shelter's mission - helping more animals find safety, healing, and happiness. And because the HSWM ensures every animal is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped, you're starting off with peace of mind and a healthy companion.

By contrast, purchasing a pet from a pet store or breeder - especially a commercial breeder - can unintentionally contribute to the cycle of overpopulation. While some reputable breeders do care deeply for their animals, others operate in ways that prioritize profit over welfare. Meanwhile, animals in shelters wait, often overlooked, for someone to see their worth.

There's something truly special about adopting from the HSWM. Shelter pets seem to know they've been given a second chance - they love harder, play happier, and show gratitude in the smallest gestures. Whether you're looking for a playful youngster or a calm, older companion, the staff at the HSWM will work to match you with the perfect pet for your lifestyle.

Every adoption story at the Humane Society of the White Mountains is a story of hope, love, and renewal. When you adopt, you become part of that story - you help change the life of an animal who's been waiting for someone just like you.

If you're thinking about adding a pet to your family, come visit the Humane Society of the White Mountains. The best friend you've ever had might be waiting behind one of those kennel doors, ready and looking for you!

New Cat Building and Generator

by Debbie Neff,

For the past couple of years, we have had an increase in the number of cats coming in with Ringworm. Ringworm is a serious condition for the host (see Laurie's article on Ringworm). It is contagious to other animals and people. However, it is not a death sentence for that animal. We also frequently have cats coming in with Upper Respiratory Infections. We have an isolation area for these cats which houses them away from the healthy ones.

Unfortunately, the rise in Ringworm and Upper Respiratory Infections has created serious problems to avoid cross-contamination between these two populations. Plus, both groups must be housed away from the healthy cats. We have never, until now, had the space to properly separate these three groups. Thanks to very generous donors, construction has started on a new building which will allow us to have not just one but two isolation areas for sick cats. One is for the Upper Respiratory cats and the other for the ones with Ringworm. We are very excited to have this done as it is great for the cats as well as helping ease the stress on the staff of having the unwell cats fully separated from the healthy ones.

Monsoon season on the Mountain has been a little scarce over the last few years, as have big snow storms. However, power outages have continued to make their appearances. For some folks, a power outage is a slight inconvenience. But for our animals and staff, a lengthy power outage is major problem because without power we have no lights, heat or air conditioning. Even worse, we have no water as we are on a well that uses electricity to pump. This year we were fortunate enough to receive the donations needed to purchase a Caterpillar Generator. Now, in the event of a power outage, the generator will kick on and we can resume animal care as usual.

With all of that being said, I'd like to Thank all our Donors and Supporters. Without you, these desperately needed improvements would not exist. As they say "it takes a village" and we are so proud to have all of the wonderful people we do in "our village."

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."

~Unknown Author

In Gratitude for Happy Tails 2025

by Mary Hovden

Happy Tails 2025 is in the books and we are so grateful to all of you for making our 20th annual event such a success! We'd like to highlight our gratitude for the Donation Center where everything we auctioned and/or sold at Happy Tails came from.

We are grateful for:

- 🐾 The Pederson Group for donating the use of the retail space next to Safeway in Lakeside for our donation center.
- 🐾 The community - individuals and local businesses - for supporting us with their fabulous donations of individual items, gift certificates and baskets.
- 🐾 The cheerful and generous volunteers who helped us at the Donation Center. Look at photo collage to see what fun they had.
- 🐾 The DOGhouse Thrift Shop for collecting fantastic donations throughout the year for us to use in all Happy Tails areas
- 🐾 The talented group of basket makers who prepared 140 baskets for the Silent Auction and 45 baskets for the General Store.
- 🐾 The fun and shared laughter we had preparing for Happy Tails: 52 Live Auction items, 410 Silent Auction individual items and baskets, five \$5 Raffle Packages, six Blitz Raffle items and hundreds of individual items and baskets for the General Store.
- 🐾 The HSWM staff for always being there for us.
- 🐾 And finally - for the beautiful and loving animals at the HSWM shelter - the reason we do what we do!

We have already started planning next year's Happy Tails Auction and BBQ, so if you are interested in helping, donating, etc. please contact the Shelter Office.

Homemade Cat Treats

Making cat treats from scratch might seem like a lot of work, but when it comes to our feline friends, it's really the least we can do to reciprocate the love and care they give to us!

Ingredients:

1/2 cup whole wheat pastry flour
(plus a few additional tablespoons)
One (3.75 oz.) can of sardines
One egg

Supplies:

rolling pin
food processor
cookie sheet
parchment paper,
mini cookie cutter *if desired*



Step One: Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Purée the can of sardines (with the oils) in a food processor, then add one egg and a 1/2 cup flour. Pulse until well blended. Continue to add flour, one tablespoon at a time, until the mixture begins to pull away from the sides of the food processor and just starts to form a ball. Once the consistency is that of a pie dough, remove the food from the food processor and place on a floured surface. Note: When using pastry flour, you can end up needing closer to 1 cup. If you choose to use another flour, you may end up using more or less. Always start with 1/2 cup, then add more as needed.

Step Two: Roll the dough on a floured surface until it forms a ball, then roll it out with a well-floured rolling pin until it is approximately 1/4 inch thick. You can cut out the treats any way you choose, but we recommend keeping each individual treat 1 by 1 inch or slightly smaller. You can use a mini cookie cutter or you could also make tiny biscuits by rolling small balls and flattening them with the back of a fork. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until crunchy. Cool before serving.



Help 2026 Happy Tails Now!

In 2025, our wonderful Happy Tails volunteers made 185 basketry creations. Some of the actual baskets were huge, some smaller and some not even baskets. One of the fabulous creations this summer was a child's sleigh filled with goodies.

As we are already making plans for Happy Tails 2026, our first and most immediate need is for baskets! Please keep this in mind when you are out and about in various stores. The larger the better and there are never too many. Please bring them by the shelter and we will keep them safe until next summer. Thank you for thinking of the dogs and cats who count on all of us for their well-being.

Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

Your furry friend is an important member of the family and that means they deserve homemade treats too! Sure, you can go out and buy a box of dog treats, but these Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats are made with love and they're just as easy to make as making a batch of cookies.

Here's what you'll need to make the homemade dog treats:

Whole Wheat Flour- whole wheat flour is packed with nutrients for your pup, like fiber, protein, and antioxidants. You can use all-purpose flour in a pinch, but it won't provide as many nutrients.

Eggs - great for dogs and add protein, fatty acids, and vitamins to their diet.

Canned Pumpkin - make sure you get pure pumpkin puree and not pumpkin pie filling. The pumpkin pie filling can have added ingredients, like sugar.

Peanut Butter- use natural peanut butter or double check the ingredients and make sure the peanut butter doesn't contain Xylitol, which can be harmful to dogs.

Salt - salt will help the treats' flavor and it's perfectly safe for dogs in moderation. **Cinnamon** - not only does cinnamon give the treats a delicious flavor, but also it can provide some great nutritional benefits (like antioxidants, anti-inflammatory properties, and better heart health).

Water - this optional step will keep the dog treats together and make it more workable for you.

Ingredients:

1/2 cups whole wheat flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs	1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup canned pumpkin	1 teaspoon water,
2 tablespoons peanut butter	or more if necessary (optional)

Making Dog Treats

Simply combine all your ingredients in a bowl or stand mixer. Then transfer the mixture to a work surface and work it with your hands until a dough has formed. Roll out the dough and either cut it into strips or stamp it with your favorite dog bone cookie cutters. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, until crunchy. Make sure to wait until they are completely cool before giving it to your dog.

Welcome to the P.A.W.S. Clinic



Yes! Pets Are Worth Saving!

By Laurie Palazzolo, certified veterinarian tech

Ringworm! The minute that word is spoken people tend to freak out. Is it contagious? Yes! Is it treatable? Yes!

If you have been around dogs or cats, whether they were strays, came from a breeder, or adopted from a shelter, you may be familiar with this condition.

Dermatophytosis, (Ringworm), is not an actual worm. It is a fungal infection caused from a fungal spore that lives in the environment. It got its common name from its ring-like appearance. It thrives on the proteins in hair, fur, skin, and nails. Ringworm enjoys residing on cats, dogs and humans. If you notice a flaky, crusty, red or pink circle or spot with hair loss, it could be ringworm. It tends to affect the young or hosts with a low immune system. If you think your pet has ringworm, see your veterinarian. If this fungal infection is caught at an early stage, it is easier to manage. Your pet could be contagious for a few weeks during treatment and should avoid contact with their other furry friends until the lesions have started healing.

Treating Ringworm is fairly simple, but time consuming. It is important to wash all bedding, clothes, bowls, toys, litter boxes, and any other surfaces that may have been in contact with the affected kitty, dog or human. Always wash hands thoroughly after contact. Using a bleach-water solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water can help combat the fungal spores. Make sure to clean thoroughly after using bleach solution to avoid harm or irritation to skin and paws.

Ringworm is curable. It isn't like Leprosy or the Black Plague; it is just an annoying fungus that will go away. So, if you ever encounter this annoying "Worm", don't panic, see your veterinarian and do some deep cleaning. It's all good.

Stay "Pawsitive"

PAWS Clinic

PETS ARE WORTH SAVING LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers Plan Ahead. Get Involved.



DEC Holiday Fundraiser details to be announced

APRIL AZ Gives Day

APRIL/ MAY Petsense Adopt-a-thon date to be announced

AUG HAPPY TAILS in the Orchard at Charlie Clark's

*Please check our website
HSWM.ORG for event updates*

petsense in Show Low



**Our adoptable cats and kittens are always there,
dogs are available most Saturdays from 11-2**

"As anyone who has ever been around a cat for any length of time well knows, cats have enormous patience with the limitations of the humankind."

Cleveland Amory

Located at the Humane Society of the White Mountains on Porter Mountain Road in Lakeside.

**Be a part of the solution . . .
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Become a member or renew today. Your membership makes all the difference!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ New membership ☐ Renewal Donation Amount \$ _____

☐ Junior (16 & under) \$10 ☐ Supporting \$100 ☐ Sponsor \$500

☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Business \$250

☐ Family \$50 *Memberships are renewed on an annual basis*

☐ Gift Membership From _____



**HUMANE SOCIETY
of the White Mountains**

P.O. Box 909
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Lakeside, AZ 85929

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www.hswm.org

Our Wish List . . .

Organic Hemp Oil for Pets

Canine Items:

Canned Food Adult and Pup
Pedigree Dry Puppy Food
Dog Treats
Treat Puzzles
Toys (Rope, Kong, Etc.)
Puppy Teething Toys
Powder Puppy Formula
Miracle Nipples (Amazon)

Feline Items:

Canned Cat & Kitten Food
Purina Kitten Chow
Purina Cat Chow
Cat Toys
Powder Kitten Milk
Scoop-able Litter
Clay Cat Litter
Treats
Small Animal Bottles
Miracle Nipples (Amazon)

Cleaning & Laundry:

Bleach
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap and Dish Sponges
Fabuloso or OdoBan
Window Cleaner
Disinfecting Wipes
Latex Gloves
Paper Towels
13 Gal/55 Gal Trash Bags
Toilet Paper
Deck Brushes w/Handles
Floor Squeegee w/Handles
Bathroom/Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Pet Friendly ICE Melt

Professional Services:

Pro Bono
Electrician
Plumber

Gift Cards:

Welcomed



Utility Donations Welcomed:

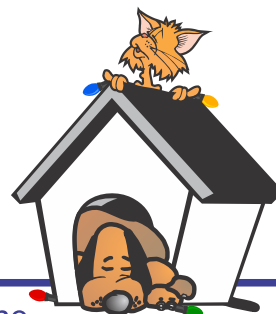
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Sparklight / AZ Water
Pinetop/Lakeside Sanitation

Office Supplies:

Pens & Printer Paper
Receipt Books - Duplicate or Triplicate
Disposable Cups
Hand Sanitizers
Dry Erase Markers
USB Drives
Manilla Envelopes (9x12)
Manilla Clasp Envelopes (Legal Size)
AA & AAA & 9V Batteries
Masking Tape
Sharpie Markers

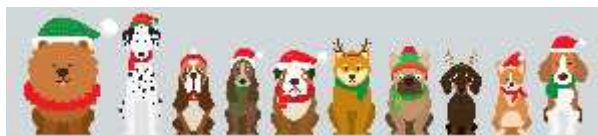
Other Services:

FOREVER HOMES
VOLUNTEERS
FOSTER HOMES



the
DOGhouse
THRIFT SHOP

3002 Wht Mtn Blvd, Lakeside
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm



Walmart ✨

HSWM is a member of Walmart's
Spark Good Round-up, a great way to donate.

Thank You!



Thanks to the volunteers that
prepare our mailings.

EDITOR: Gayle Basso

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www.HSWM.org

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**Bringing People and Pets together
to enrich the lives of both**


HUMANE SOCIETY
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