

Rescue & News Report

January, 2026

The HSV Animal Welfare League is a no-kill, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit group dedicated to rescue, rehabilitate, and find homes for all adoptable cats and dogs, and prevent the overpopulation of unwanted animals.

*In this edition: Year in Review * Petco Holiday Gifts * Holiday Meal for the Shelter Animals * Shelter Expansion Update * Welcome new ACO * Happy Tails * Statistics*

2025 A Year for the Record Book!

*A message from AWL
President Beverly Fitzpatrick*



As we left 2024 and began 2025, the AWL Board of Directors goal was 3-fold:

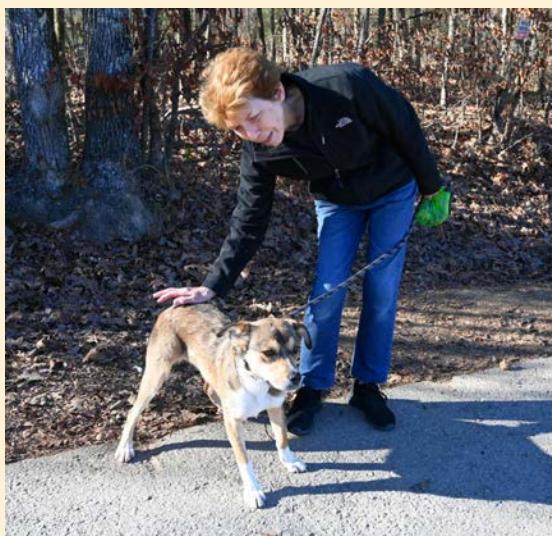
- 1 - Support the volunteers with the equipment and technology to make their time with the animals rewarding, more efficient and safer.
- 2 - Increase membership and AWL awareness
- 3 - Investigate a shelter expansion to accommodate the kittens and relocate the adult cats to a safer and healthier environment isolation suite.

Fast forward one year later, and significant strides have been made in these areas, particularly with the development and execution of our vital shelter expansion. Our *No Paws Left Behind* gala and fundraising campaign raised generous donations to begin construction, and funds have additionally been received for outfitting the new Feline Adoption Center.



From left: Jill Jones, Cat Adoption Coordinator; Beverly Fitzpatrick, AWL President; Jim Kull and Mark Holley, Animal Control Officers; and Tommy Benfield, Community Support Manager check out the shelter expansion progress.

Our Capacity to Care - Providing A New Leash on Life



This year has also been a strain on our capacity when it comes to canines. The H.U.G. (Help Us Go) program has certainly been a critical piece of our ability to find homes for our larger dogs. Adoptions have been beyond robust but for every dog we find a home, another one fills its slot. And this has certainly been the year for puppies! Our fosters have stepped up and we're so grateful. The heroes most certainly have been the dog walker team. At full capacity, in all kinds of weather conditions, they show up and give their all to keep the dogs and puppies exercised and socialized.

Dog Walkers Janice Dean (above) and Lynn Poole (below) are part of the dedicated team under Julie Keck that make sure our dogs are well cared for and get plenty of daily attention.



Celebrating Our Volunteers



The behind-the-scenes volunteers continue to toil in the background updating our many statistical and medical records, auditing veterinary statements, tracking and acknowledging our donors, managing our membership, preparing paperwork files, photographing the animals, writing grants, publishing Lily Alerts (our missing pet notifications), managing Champions, updating Facebook and our website. The list goes on.

"Listening to volunteers' needs is critical. Without our committed volunteers, the AWL would flounder. As needs have been identified, the AWL Board has reacted with investments in equipment upgrades at the Adoption Center." Beverly Fitzpatrick

The Importance of Spay & Neuter Clinics



Dr. Paula Gibson performs a procedure while volunteers check animals in recovery, update their status, and replenish supplies. Below, volunteers Ruthie Bowser, Karen Goodroad, and Tori Varriale take a brief break from their numerous tasks to pose for a photo.



The AWL is so much more than what happens at the shelter. A critical piece of our mission involves the spay/neuter clinics. All of the computer equipment was upgraded early in the year and the new management software ClinicHQ has reduced much of the manual work involved in running the clinics. During the last clinic of the year, each team identified areas of operations that were in need of upgrades. We reacted quickly and procured the equipment. Large or small (cages or brushes or tables), it's all in the supply trailer and ready for the upcoming March 2026 clinic.

"Since the S/N program began in 2007, we surpassed the milestone of 10,000 sterilizations in April 2025, and we look forward to increasing that number at the clinics this year."

(note: our next Spay Neuter Clinic on March 13 & 14 at Fountain Lake Fire Station is already filled. We will post dates for our upcoming S/N Clinics as they become available)

Petco Patrons Provide Gifts for our Shelter Animals....



In last month's Constant Contact, we showed the Giving Tree at the Petco Store in Benton, which featured "wish list" gift tags made by Lisa Ake and Susan Senogles for all our adoptable cats and dogs at the AWL. When Cat Adoption Coordinator Jill Jones picked up the gifts after the holidays, there were so many packages that they barely fit in her large SUV. Needless to say, we were so overwhelmed by the huge number of gifts that were donated by Petco's generous customers. Many of the gifts were beautifully wrapped as well, which included a bounty of toys, food, treats, beds and much more.



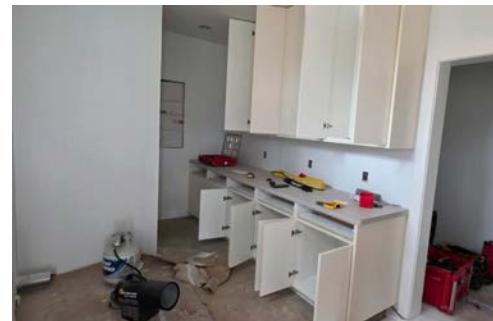
...while our shelter dogs and cats also enjoy a Home Cooked Meal!

Inspired by the Thanksgiving meal AWL volunteers always prepare for our shelter animals, Animal Care Worker Belinda Baechle and her husband Ford (*pictured below*) also wanted to provide a Christmas dinner for the shelter animals. They prepared turkey, carrots and green beans for the canines, while Jill Jones (*below left*) one of the helpers, gave tasty turkey treats to the felines.



Shelter Expansion Continues - Inside and Out

Driving along Cloaca Lane towards the shelter, an impressive 1500 square foot structure adjacent to our current shelter dominates the view. Officially called the **Feline Adoption Center**, after months of detailed preparation and meticulous planning with our contractor and builder Renaissance Homes plus multiple vendors for the outfitting, the facility is targeted to open within the next few months. It will feature our "Tabby Town" adult cat adoption area, which will hold up to 25 felines; a kitten intake area and "Kitten City," the adoption area which will be able to accommodate approximately 60-80 kittens depending on litter sizes; an isolation room (for felines undergoing health issues), a recovery room with six cages, a utility room, restroom, and an adoption office. Once the Feline Adoption Center is open refinements and reconfigurations will begin at the current adoption center, which will be renamed the **Canine Adoption Center**.



In addition to the physical planning and execution, a team of volunteers revamped and designed the workflow and communications to accommodate both buildings. Board member and volunteer coordinator Melanie Marshall worked with volunteers Sue Espinal, Kris Karr, Cathy Stiles, Susie Neal, Jennifer Hurd and Beverly Fitzpatrick to design a new workflow for both buildings. Additionally, Lisa Ake, Susan Senogles, Jennifer Hurd and Jill Jones wrote new job descriptions and standard operating procedures for all volunteer positions. A goal of the new workflow was to ensure volunteer safety by eliminating the need for volunteers from going between buildings, and that no volunteer would work alone. Several meetings were held the week of January 12 to communicate the changes to all volunteers at the adoption centers.

Operation Cat/Kitten Bedding Gains Momentum as Volunteers Step Up

contributed by Lisa Ake



While the Animal Welfare League's new Feline Adoption Center is inching closer to completion, community support is already helping transform the future space into a warm, welcoming home for its feline residents. As part of the preparations, AWL launched "Operation Cat/Kitten Bedding," a call for seamstress volunteers and soft-fabric donations to outfit the custom condos in the soon-to-open Cat Annex.

Several volunteers have signed on to sew the bedding, with the team led by Katherine Barnes and supported by Cindy Boucher and Susie Neal. Lisa Ake is coordinating the project. Together, they aim to produce 140 to 150 kitten/cat blankets ahead of move-in day.

A Constant Contact was sent out in December to our members requesting help with this special project, and we were very pleasantly surprised by the many responses we received. Several members donated fabric, while others offered their sewing skills to turn all that fabric into cozy bedding for our cats and kittens! Our felines will definitely be content with their new bedding!



Welcome Animal Control Officer Mark Holley



Mark places a captured stray or lost cat in an intake cage located in the Animal Control Area. Hopefully this feline will be claimed, as it did not have a microchip for identification.

Mark's connections with Hot Springs Village go back to the 1970's, when his parents first bought property here. More than 50 years later, after living in Florida and North Carolina and working as a global security trainer travelling to several continents, plus a one year adventure camping in a RV, Mark and his wife Kelli made HSV their home 2 1/2 years ago.

Mark came to the AWL as he "was ready to take on something new" and ironically already knew veteran Animal Control Officer Jim Kull, as they both work on the

Safety Ministry Team at Balboa Baptist Church. Jim is "super excited" that Mark has joined the team. "He's enthusiastic, eager to learn and has a great attitude."

In the short time he's been an Animal Control Officer, Mark says 'it's been an eye-opener,' as he wasn't aware of all the critical work the ACO's handle, but adds that he looks forward to recovering lost animals, and wants to contribute his talents anyway he can.

In his free time, Mark serves as the President of the HSV Camera Club, and is a member of the HSV Audubon Society.

Mark adds that he loves animals and the family always had pets. At one time he had three cats and two dogs, but is now down to one of each. Of course, when Mark is ready to adopt more pets, he certainly knows where to go!

Did you know?

In 2025 alone, the HSV Animal Control Officers documented 281 stray and/or surrendered animals within the Village.

Happy Tails! Maybelle



Raven (now Maybelle) was rescued from a home where her owner had become disabled and could no longer care for her. Covered in fleas, she also suffered major hair loss, and was in so much pain that she chewed her front legs until she had deep wounds. The AWL took her to Waggin' Wheel, where her legs were cleaned and bandaged but it was discovered that her paws were also burned, possibly from walking across a hot stove. The AWL cared for Raven until she was well enough to be adopted. Her name is now Maybelle and she has found the perfect loving family!

Happy Tails Eagle and Par - A Winning Combination!



Par & Eagle found a great home with two teenagers, two cat trees, lots of love and playtime! Who could ask for more? Par and Eagle have been side by side through every adventure, and they will truly shine in their new forever home together—double the play, double the purrs, and built-in best friends for life. Way to go, Par & Eagle!



Happy Tails Dudley Do - Right!

Dudley waited patiently on the perfect family to find him. They did and swooped him right up. They made a deal, shook on it and now Dudley is a loved boy excited to share his love, have endless fun and loyal companionship. You are going to have an amazing life, sweet boy!



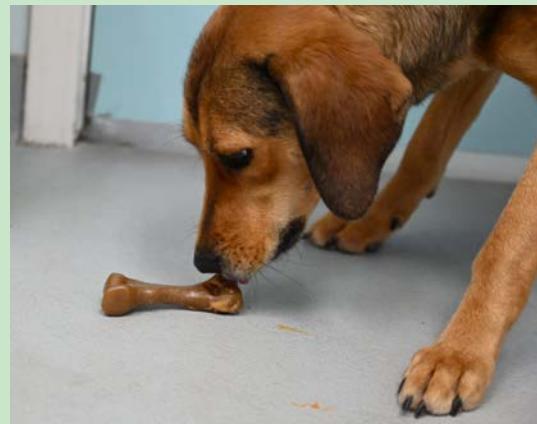
Happy Tails - Jackson

Jackson, dogs just don't get any sweeter than you. We know your new family will love you as much as we do! With a contagious playful spirit, he's eager to learn and will be a lively sidekick. Have a great life Jackson!



Nylabone Donates Chew Toys

The AWL is grateful to our partner Nylabone, who regularly donates a variety of chew toys for our shelter dogs. Their products help ease anxiety and stress, while teaching healthy chewing habits, and satisfy dogs' natural urge to chew. Our dogs especially enjoy them with a dab of peanut butter! Click the link below for more information.



December Statistics

7 Dog Adoptions

22 Feline Adoptions (15 kittens & 7 adult cats)

**1 HUG (Help Us Go) transfer to other
rescue, no-kill animal shelters**

7 Angel Fund requests

10,434 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007

1 Voucher used at Lucky Pets in November

13 Vouchers used at Your Pets in November

20 Vouchers used at Waggin' Wheel in November

683 AWL Memberships

86 Champions*

**The December Champions winner was Carroll Allison, who
donated the \$430 winnings back to the AWL!**

Thank you Carroll

Welcome New Members

Ira Adcock

Walt & Brenda Beckman

Megan Carr

Joan Cormier

Joanne Gay

Christine Grossenbacher

Stephanie Johnson
Denise Leonard
Claire MacNeill
Charles & Joni Mecca
Adam & Kristie Mitchell
Kristen Olson
Rene & Teressa Salazar
Debbie Smith
Jim & Shirley Starr
Gail Stencel
Daryl Wedwick

***Join AWL's Champions Program! Make a \$10 monthly pledge and become eligible to win a 50/50 raffle with a \$500 cap payout. Email contactus@hsvawl.org for more information or click the link to join:**

Click to Join Champions

2025 Year End Statistics

- **238 Felines Adopted - (176 kittens & 62 adults)**
- **68 Dogs Adopted - (36 transferred to adopters thru HUG)**
- **95.1% - Live Release Rate - the required rate is 90% to remain no-kill)**
- **\$26,734 spent on Angel Fund program (91 dogs & 34 cats owned by community families received emergency vet assistance)**
- **\$195,443 spent on veterinary expenses (\$139,411 for the shelter; remainder for Spay Neuter)**
- **\$30,632 spent on food/litter/supplies and equipment for the shelter**

Thank you for your Holiday Donations!

Our holiday appeal raised more than \$25,000 through the end of December. We thank you for your generous support!

Please note: Some statistics are still being compiled, and will be published as soon as they are available.

Considering a new pet?

Click the above links to see our adoptable cats and dogs.

For dog adoptions, call Shelley Shepherd at 314-520-8674

For cat adoptions call Jill Jones at 901-570-1430

An important message about unsubscribing to Constant Contact emails: We hope you enjoy receiving these newsletters, announcements, and our Lily Alerts about missing pets. Please contact us if you wish to remove your name from an individual mailing list, since if you unsubscribe to any of these Constant Contacts, you will automatically be removed from all the Constant Contact email lists from the AWL. We were informed by Constant Contact that when requested, they are required to remove them.

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION'S
fix the future
a national spay & neuter initiative



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**The Adoption Center is currently open
Mon - Tues - Thurs
Fri - Sat from 12 -3 pm.
We are closed Wed & Sun.
(501) 915.9337**



To report a lost or found pet, call POA Animal Control at (501) 922-6547

Hot Springs Village Animal Welfare League | 185 Cloaca Lane | Hot Springs Village, AR 71909 US

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