



# Rescue & News Report

April, 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: Feline Adoption Center \* Blanket Brigade \* March Spay Neuter Clinic \* Animal Control Officers \* Great Things Happen at the AWL \* Volunteers \* Statistics*

## Feline Adoption Center (FAC) Opens!





Since breaking ground on our Feline Adoption Center in October, the AWL has been eagerly looking forward to the day we could move our kittens from their foster home into their new "Kitten City." That day finally arrived at the end of March when we received our Certificate of Occupancy from the POA. We immediately focused on making a smooth and stress-free transition for our kittens. We also are making preparations to move our adult cats and their condos into their new space early in May.

*Above, Cat Adoption Coordinator Jill Jones observes kittens as they get acclimated to their new home, while (below) volunteers Therese Klier makes sure all the kittens are fed and Sandy Jannick gives a little TLC to Emerald.*



### **Recognizing Our Volunteers: The Heart Behind the Move to The Feline Adoption Center**

**Contributed by Lisa Ake**

Preparing the new Feline Adoption Center (FAC) for its very first feline residents was no small task. It took planning, teamwork, and a whole lot of elbow grease from an incredible group of dedicated volunteers. Every step of this move was powered by volunteers who gave their time, energy, and heart to ensure the cats and kittens had a safe, welcoming place to land. AWL is proud to recognize and extends its deepest gratitude to every volunteer who helped make this major transition a success: Lisa Ake, Lisa Austin, Katherine Barnes, Cindy Boucher, Rene Boucher, Alise Ferree, Deb Fitzgerald, Sue Espinal, Jennifer Hurd, Sandy Jannick, Jill Jones, Patti Keahey, Therese Klier, Becky Mason, Carol Monk, Dawn Moffitt, Susie Neal, Sandie Rickerman, Susan Senogles, and Lisa Stiegler. Their

dedication made the move into the Feline Adoption Center not just possible, but truly special.

A special thank you goes to Beverly Fitzpatrick, Jill Jones, and the expansion committee, whose coordination, planning, and countless hours of hands-on effort ensured that every detail—from cabinet labels to equipment placement—was thoughtfully handled. Their dedication helped create a functional, welcoming space for both volunteers and feline residents.



**The Work Begins** - Once construction was completed on the FAC, hardworking volunteer groups got to work. They scrubbed every cat condo, wall, door, and window to remove construction dust; lined and labelled cabinets and drawers; finished unpacking, sorted items, completed the final cleaning, organized storage areas, and prepared each condo for move-in. At the same time, volunteers were also busy at the Kitten Foster Home—packing supplies, organizing equipment, and preparing the kittens for their big move.

Finally, the FAC was ready to welcome the felines. Romi, a nursing mother recently separated from her weaning babies, was the very first resident of the FAC. Shortly thereafter we welcomed twelve kittens and a mother cat with five babies, and we're ready to take care of more! *Below, first FAC resident Romi; kittens are ready to move to their new home!*



*Editor's note: An Open House of the new facility will be planned after the adult cats move over from the current shelter.*

## **Operation Cat/Kitten Bedding: A Purr-fect Success for the New FAC By Lisa Ake and Katherine Barnes**



### **Moving in Style**

Thanks to Operation Cat/Kitten Bedding, all the felines are lounging on a cozy, handmade blanket fit for a whiskered king or queen. The mission was led by Lisa Ake and Katherine Barnes, with their trusty sidekicks Cindy Boucher and Susie Neal—a quartet we're pretty sure could out-organize even the most determined tabby. Volunteers donated fleece, flannel, cotton, and even gently used blankets that were magically transformed into condo-ready comfort.

## 200 Blankets Made!

Working their magic from home and crafting multiple templates, the sewers created over 200 blankets. That's a whole lot of cozy naps, biscuit-making sessions, and dramatic blanket burrowing.

*(Pictured right, just one of the temporary sewing rooms set up for the huge project. Below, these kittens cuddle on their new soft blankets, (along with each other) and Emerald get the best of both worlds lounging on his blanket and snuggling with her tiger friend.*



**Special thanks to all our fabric donors and volunteers: We couldn't have done it without your talents and support!**

Lisa Ake, Katherine Alexander, Sue Allen, Katherine Barnes, Cindy Boucher, Pat Bowles, Deanna Britton, Church of the Hills Ruth's Circle, Doris Compton, Trish Dietz, Rose Felt, Jane Finch, Deb Fitzgerald, Frankie Gaugler, Karen Geiger, Marcy Hellman, Shelly Hill, HSV Quilt Guild, Susan Insell, Karen Jones, Marilyn McCarthy, Rachel Meador, Jane Matheny, Cathie Moeller, Dawn Moffitt, Susie

Neal, Pat Olson, Sheryl Pickle, Judi Prestridge, Janis Rowe, Susan Senogles, and Nancy Smith.

### **Dog Bed Covers for Kuranda Beds**

Our dogs got cozy covers too! Thanks to the generosity and sewing skills of Jan McInerney, all the Kuranda beds for our shelter dogs have soft and comfy custom-made covers. Hartley certainly enjoys lounging on her bed! And if she gets tired of this particular pattern, there are plenty more covers at the shelter she can choose from!

**Note: For six long months, sweet Hartley is still waiting for a new family of her very own!**



**Even Linus from Peanuts knows the comfort a cozy blanket can bring to all!**



### **Spay Neuter Clinic at Fountain Lake Fire Station**

On March 13 and 14, the AWL sterilized and vaccinated 67 animals at the Spay Neuter Clinic at the Fountain Lake Fire Station, bringing the total number of community-owned animals spayed or neutered since 2007 to 10,592. Even more impressive, this number doesn't include the hundreds of shelter animals that the AWL sterilizes every year prior to adoption. Registration is already full for the next clinic at the Mountain Pine First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on May 1st & 2nd.



*Above, our dedicated veterinarian Dr. Paula Gibson performed the sterilizations, and was assisted by AWL volunteer Susan Luse. Sue uses a heart and oxygen monitor to measure the animal's heart rate and blood oxygen levels during each surgery. Below, vet technicians Hailey Davis and Machenzie Guernsey prepare each animal for surgery.*



A huge thank you to our incredible spay and neuter volunteers who pitch in at every stage of the process—from driving the Fido Fixers mobile surgical van and hauling crates of supplies, to handling pet registration and intake, assisting with pre-op and post-op care, monitoring recovery, cleaning crates and sterilizing instruments, calling owners when pets are ready, and witnessing the joyful reunions! Below, Julia Pires (in red) reviews schedules with Kateri Amrhein; Beth Barrows and Beth Mielke monitor a dog with its owner post surgery; Connie Weidert comforts a dog; and Susie Neal and Joyce Gaines release a dog to its happy family.





### **Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week - April 12th - 18th**

Every year, the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) proudly supports Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, a time dedicated to recognizing the hardworking professionals who protect animals and serve our communities. Hot Springs Village is very privileged to have two enforcement professionals that work so closely with the AWL - Mr. Jim Kull and Mr. Mark Holley. We can't thank them enough for all they do for the animals. These highly trained professionals play an essential role in keeping both our animals and residents safe, and someone is always on call 24-7. In 2025 alone, they made 918 service calls including responding to stray dogs and cats, dogs off leash, snake calls, dog bites, nuisance animals, plus tending to injured animals or unfortunate roadkill. Within their intake program, they also processed 165 dogs and 121 cats. Those that weren't claimed by owners, were put up for adoption by the AWL after undergoing quarantine and the vetting process.

#### **Did you know?**

Animal Control is offering microchipping service for just \$20. Owners are provided with a booklet with instructions on how to register a pet, as well as a handy card with the microchip number and instructions on how to report a lost (or found) pet. Microchipping is done by appointment only, and only on Fridays. Pet owners can call Animal Control at 501-922-6547 to schedule.

*Pictured below are Animal Control Officers Jim Kull (left) and Mark Holley (right). We are also very thankful for the support we receive from their supervisor, Community Support Manager Tommy Benfield (center)*



They say behind every great man is a great woman, and this case is certainly no exception! We give a special shout out to Kathleen Kull (below in blue) and Kelli Holley who are huge supporters of their husbands' awesome work. They are pictured with the AWL's Animal-Control-Officer-In-The-Making-Volunteer Noah Warren. Noah recently spent a typical day in the life of an Animal Control Officer, riding with Officer Holley, meeting folks who came to pick up their pet, and learning about medicines from Dog Adoption Coordinator Shelley Shepherd.





## Great Things Happen at the AWL!

**Helping each other** - Trinity and her daughter Tatum enjoy some playtime with Winnie, one of seven puppies that were brought to the AWL's attention from within the community. The AWL is helping them with some medical needs, while Trinity and Tatum provide playtime, socialization, and lots of affection.



**Bathtime for Molly** - Bathtime can be a fun occasion at the AWL, as shown by this heartwarming moment when dogwalker Steve Kleinpeter bathes our sweet and patient Molly. With every splash and gentle scrub, it's clear that Molly is relishing getting pampered.



**Dutch gets a Spring Coat** - Dutch is also very patient as his winter undercoat gets thinned out by dogwalker Karen Geiger. He must know spring has sprung!



**Cuddles for Cyndy** - Taking a pause from playing in the dog exercise pen, Beth gives dogwalker Cyndy Echevarria her thanks for a fun time.





**AWL participates in the POA "Meet & Greet" on March 24th**

It was an evening to "Connect, Discover, and Celebrate" and AWL volunteers (from left, Beverly Fitzpatrick, Tori Varriale, Lisa Ake, Carol Monk, Melanie Marshall, Susan Senogles, along with Sandie Rickerman and Michelle Alford (seated) met with many new HSV residents. But the undisputed stars of the event were the adoptable pets - our feline Frank (pictured with Carol Monk), and our canine Skittles (giving a warm welcome to ACO Jim Kull)



## National Volunteer Appreciation Week - April 19 to April 25.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is an annual US observance dedicated to recognizing the contributions of volunteers and inspiring continued service. Established in 1974, the week highlights the impact of volunteer service.

In honor of everything our dedicated volunteers continuously do for the AWL, we will be honoring our more than 200 deserving volunteers during this special National Volunteer Week. For those members that also serve as volunteers, please be on the lookout for a communication shortly that will outline specifics. **Without volunteers, there would be no AWL!**

### Volunteer Assessment Program Survey

The AWL is always striving for continuous improvement and effectiveness within our operations, so we recently asked our volunteers to take a program assessment survey from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The survey has been completed at 165 other shelters encompassing 21,000 volunteers. AWL had 92 out of 207 volunteers respond, and we thank our volunteers very much for their participation and valuable feedback.

Overall, **AWL was rated above the norm in best practice areas!** The AWL Board of Directors is actively reviewing the complete survey report and will implement a plan to act on growth and other improvement opportunities that were identified.

### Not A Happy Anniversary Ojo and Cutie Reach One Year Milestone at the Shelter





### **A Year of Waiting, A Lifetime of Love**

Ojo and Cutie—our mother-and-son duo—have come a long way over their year at AWL. They're no longer the timid newcomers who first arrived, but thoughtful, cautious cats who open up slowly and sincerely. They're not overly affectionate, but they've learned to trust, enjoy companionship, and show their softer sides to the people who take the time to know them.

Cutie, almost four, appreciates a gentle approach. She prefers to keep all four paws on the ground, but she's generous with head bumps, conversation, and companionship once she feels comfortable.

Ojo, nearly two, has spent half his life at the shelter, and will thrive with a patient adopter who will give him the time he needs to adapt.

After twelve months of waiting, these two are more than ready for a home where they can continue to grow, relax, and be cherished. They nap together, groom each other, and are deeply bonded. Because of this, they must be adopted together. Whoever brings them home will be giving them the chance to grow into the very best cats they can be.

If you're willing to offer patience, understanding, and a gentle start, Ojo and Cutie are waiting. *Contributed by Lisa Ake*

## **Shop or Dine and Support the AWL!**

### **Visit the new AWL booth at Vintage Pearl Market!**

It's fun to go shopping to benefit for our furry friends, especially when the proceeds benefit the Hot Springs Village Animal Welfare League. Come visit our booth featuring new and gently used items at the Vintage Pearl Market at 372 E. Glazypeau Road right outside Hot Springs Village. Open Mon-Sat 8am to 4pm.



The AWL was selected to be a fundraiser recipient by Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Hot Springs. Simply print out this flyer or stop by the Adoption Center to pick up a copy and bring your family and friends to Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, April 21st. Dine in anytime from 3 pm to 10 pm or grab an order to go. The AWL will receive 10% of your total food purchases.



**TEXAS** (501) 651-1600  
ROADHOUSE 3623 Central Ave | Hot Springs, AR

**FUNDRAISING**  
DINE-IN OR TO-GO



»» *Support* ««  
**Animal Welfare League**  
Tuesday, April 21st  
3pm – 10pm



**10%**  
**DONATION NIGHT**  
Support the Animal Welfare League  
by presenting this flyer to the Hot  
Springs Location and Texas  
Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your  
total food purchases to the Animal  
Welfare League!

## March Statistics

**2 Dog Adoptions**

**2 Kitten Adoptions**

**6 Cat Adoptions**

**14 Angel Fund requests**

**10,592 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007**  
*(including 67 at the Fountain Lake Clinic in March)*

**20 Vouchers used at Your Pets in February**

**37 Vouchers used at Waggin' Wheel in February**

**683 AWL Memberships**

**96 Champions**

**Welcome New Members**  
**March & April (through 4/12)**

**liana DeRemer**  
**Allen Edmonson**  
**Sue Farabaugh**  
**Alissa Ferree**  
**Sara Finegan**  
**Tia Helberg**  
**Nancy Hendrick**  
**Una Johnson**  
**Dodie Kenney**  
**Robert Matthews**  
**Joleen Medford**  
**Michelle Militello**  
**Tom Noble**  
**Susan Peterson**  
**Amanda Powell**  
**Deborah Smart**  
**Paul & Tammy Smith**  
**Megan Testwuide**  
**Ruth Witteried**

**Congratulations to Marge Harvey**  
**March Champion Winner**  
**Marge won \$425, and has generously**  
**donated it back to the AWL**

*\*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](mailto:contactus@hsvawl.org) for more information or click the link to join:*

**Click to Join Champions**

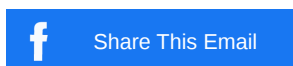
**PETFINDER**

**ADOPT A PET**

## 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.



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

The HSVAWL is a 501 (c)(3)non-profit organization.

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!