



Rescue & News Report

February/March 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: Shelter Expansion update * Celebrating our Volunteers * Snowstorm Heroes * Girls Gotta Howl Returns! * Happy Tails * Statistics*

From a Dream to Reality...



Feline Adoption Center nears Completion

What an exciting time for the AWL! Once considered an impossible undertaking and unaffordable to attain, the construction of our new Feline Adoption Center has become a wonderful reality. It's taken the dedication, passion, talents, and especially the generosity of so many people to make our No Paws Left Behind campaign come to fruition, and we particularly thank you - our committed AWL members. This project never would have happened without the support of the POA, the project design and building by Renaissance Homes, all our vendors, and the enormous efforts by the AWL Board of Directors, particularly the countless hours spent by Cat Adoption Coordinator Jill Jones and the enormous amount of logistics and planning expertise by President Beverly Fitzpatrick.

Click below to view our campaign video.

[NO PAWS LEFT BEHIND VIDEO](#)



Above, Three full truckloads containing our Midmark customized cat condos (56 total cages) were shipped from Kansas City. Shannon Kerns, owner of SK Installations, and his team staged them and they're ready to be placed once the floor covering is completed.

The expansion has been a huge undertaking - orchestrating flooring and windows, painting and plumbing, power and heat, sinks, track lights, cages, dishwashers, and custom cabinets just to name a few of the needed interior items, while exterior work is nearing completion as well.

Below, Entergy installs new lighting, and still on the schedule is filling uneven culverts, adding asphalt, installing a back up generator, and repairing fencing to ensure the safety of our visitors, volunteers, and our many dogs who get walk on the pathways.





Everything must be completed before we have a final POA inspection and receive our certificate of occupancy. At that time, we can begin to move our kittens to their new home - Kitten City, and then we'll transition our Tabby Town cats. Once all felines have been moved, we can start the final phase of the expansion, which includes improvements and enhancements for the canines within our existing building (to be renamed the Dog Adoption Center.) Shelley Shepherd, our Dog Adoption Coordinator, and her team are already developing exciting plans to benefit our dogs and potential adopters.

Impact of the Adoption Centers on our Volunteers

While the Cat Adoption Center was under construction, considerable effort was also devoted to behind-the-scenes planning to secure a smooth transition with staffing and optimizing the workflow. As reported in last month's Rescue Report, Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator Melanie Marshall led the formation of a committee of AWL team leaders and trainers, who designed a new volunteer workflow, created new job descriptions, and developed standard operating procedures tailored to the needs of both adoption centers.

Staffing the AWL Adoption Centers

Volunteers are critical to the success of our operations and to ensure proper animal care. According to Melanie, once both Adoption Centers are open, our dedicated volunteers will serve as Dog Care Workers, Cat Care Workers, Kitten Care Workers, Dog Walkers and Guest Relations. Additionally, volunteers come to the shelter to bathe dogs, play with puppies, and sort donated goods.

It will take 78 shifts over the course of a week to fill just these positions at the Adoption Centers alone!

At our Volunteer Luncheon Celebration on February 26th, (see article below) our emcee Beverly asked the volunteers to help us fill our membership and volunteer needs. "I can't imagine you can't convince a friend or two to become a member and even give up 3 hours twice a month as a volunteer. Please be our AWL ambassadors and help us grow our membership and volunteer staff."

While Beverly pointed out that we are currently blessed with 207 volunteers, the need continues to be great, and can exceed our availability. "In addition to volunteering at the shelter, we need several folks to work our spay/neuter clinics, foster animals, fundraise, help with our Angel Fund and Help Us Go programs, photography, public relations, website and Facebook postings, plus several behind the scenes volunteers to help with membership, vouchers, Lily Alerts, grant writing, adoption folders, medical records and more."

Learn more about volunteering



Cat care worker Jennifer Hurd spends time socializing with an adoptable cat, while it's double the pleasure, double the fun for dog walker Lynn Poole.

Celebrating our Volunteers

More than 100 volunteers celebrated at the luncheon which was held at the Coronado Center and catered by Home Plate. Michelle Alford (left) displays a custom cake made for the AWL, while Elvis (aka Marcus Sugg) surprised us with a special performance. He quipped that though "Glen Campbell is an Arkansas boy, he was on another assignment, so I

volunteered because you give so much to made a difference in a pet's life." Thank you Elvis!



Since our volunteers work flexible schedules, the luncheon is always a good time for them to get acquainted with volunteers they might not otherwise get to meet. Pictured below are volunteers Christine Lagerquest, Cindy Boucher, Sandy Jannick and Linda Tetley; Jackie Paul, Karen Goodroad, and Barry Zarling; Steve and Karen Blankenship, and Connie Weidert. Showing off their respective cat and dog outfits are Belinda Baechle and Mary McCullough. As singer Rod Stewart says, "You wear it well!"





Kudos to the hard-working members of the Luncheon Committee, chaired by Sandie Rickerman (3rd from left) She is joined by (from left) Susan Senogles, Lisa Austin, Michelle Alford, Pattie Swenson, Susie Neal, Beverly Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Hurd, Barbara Reinecke, Tori Varriale, Melanie Marshall, & Jill Jones.

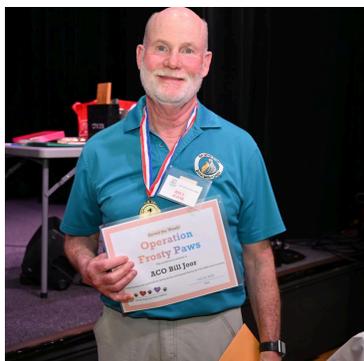
Paws for Justice

A very special guest at the luncheon was a beautiful lab retriever mix named Roxy, a Certified Courthouse Facility Dog and a member of the Paws for Justice Program in Little Rock. Fawn Borden, Assistant Program Manager and Certified Facility Dog Handler, discussed Roxy's important role in creating a calming presence and sense of security for victims and witnesses testifying in a courtroom environment or during interviews.



Snow Brigade Team

Pictured below: Jill Jones hugs Bill Joor, winner of the Operation Frosty Paws Award, and Noah and Kim Warren also receive a gift for their extraordinary animal care at the shelter during the storms.



Our unprecedented ice and snowstorm wreaked havoc throughout the village, and it was almost impossible to care for the animals at the adoption center. While most of us sheltered in place, some truly exceptional individuals braved the elements and made caring for the animals their top priority. Bill Joor exemplified dedication and perseverance, as he stayed at the shelter practically round the clock to care for the animals. He jokingly gave the "AWL Airbnb" a 2 star rating, due to the "poor shower, just an adequate bed, and some noisy neighbors!" Beverly presented Bill with a gift card and announced, "What you did for the animals and the AWL saved us in excess of \$3,000 in boarding and vaccinations." Bev also had lots of praise for Kim and Noah Warren, who managed to get to the shelter several times to help Bill. "Kim also walked down to Balboa Storage and got the AWL van out before the building collapsed from the weight of the snow any further." She added that "I don't want to forget those brave and strong souls that came equipped with snow shovels to clear the shelter driveway." Shoveling the never ending ice packed driveway (pictured below) were Bob and Janice Dean, Dawn Michalec, Grady Shepherd, Julie Keck, Beth Mielke, and Denise



Roberts. Other "Snow Brigade" members but not present were Steve Kleinpeter, Trish Hammond, Lynn Poole, and Nancy Ritchie. We can't thank them enough!



Praising our POA Partners

Beverly also presented gifts to our hard working POA team. Animal Control Officers (from left) Mark Holley and Jim Kull, and Community Support Manager Tommy Benfield. Beverly noted that Jim and Mark helped her and Shelley Shepherd move several bulky shelving units from the van storage area that was collapsing from the weight of the ice and snow. She stated, "What these guys do for us each and every day is truly the definition of a partnership," and added that "Tommy is always running interference for me with the POA."



Congrats to the Wolf Pack - Team Trivia Winners!

How many eyelids do cats have on each eye? What was the name of the dog in the Simpsons TV show? How many animals were adopted from the AWL in 2025?* These are just a few of the 15 questions presented in this year's Trivia contest. Seventeen tables competed, and it was no surprise that a team named Wolf Pack was the winner. Each member received a Walmart gift card. Pictured below are Kim Warren, Tommy Benfield, Ruthie Bowser, Noah Warren, Chief of Police Kristi Bennett, ACOs Mark Holley and Jim Kull. **Answers to the questions are: 3, Santa's Little Helper, and 306 - 238 felines and 68 canines.*



View more photos from the Volunteer Luncheon on our website!

Luncheon Photo Gallery

Sand Trap Sports Bar raises \$500 for the AWL!

Who doesn't love chili on a cold winter day! That's exactly what Sand Trap Sports Bar owner Sandy Wells and the staff thought when they decided to host a chili cook-off on January 17th. Patrons sampled sixteen varieties of chili and in the process raised \$500 for the HSV Animal Welfare League. *Pictured are BOD member Sandie Rickerman (left) who received the generous donation from Sandy Wells.*



Girls Gotta Howl returns October 26th for 2 shows!

After taking a break last year to focus on our No Paws Left Behind campaign, we're excited to reprise our popular Girls Gotta Howl event! Save October 26th so you can join us at either of two identical shows at 11:30 am or 5:00 pm.

Chair Sandie Rickerman and her committee are already planning the "thrilling" shows so you can get the cobwebs off your dancing shoes, get wicked, do the monster mash, try a witch's brew, enjoy frightful delights, and remember, Ghouls just wanna have fun!

As an AWL member, you will get first choice to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public. We will keep you posted on ticket and event information as we get closer to the event.

GIRLS GOTTA HOWL RETURNS ON OCTOBER 26!

Two "Thrilling" shows
11:30 & 5:00



Save the Date!

Happy Tails! The name game "E" for Excellence

Etta (now Eevee) took a break from playing with all her toys to have her picture taken in her new home.

She's energetic, well-socialized, and full of spirit. Eevee loves getting lots of attention!

This beautiful girl was the last of the 2025 AWL kittens to be adopted. Quite an accomplishment, as the AWL adopted 176 kittens in 2025!



Ellie



Ellie (fka Payge) is such a good girl with an endearing personality it's no wonder she is a failed foster dog. Ellie has certainly made herself right at home. She decided they love her and she must stay. As innocent as she looks, don't be fooled. Ellie keeps everyone on their toes with her puppy antics.

January Statistics

6 Dog Adoptions

8 Cat Adoptions (4 cats, 4 kittens)

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

5 Angel Fund requests

**10,468 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007
(through the end of January)**

(2 Vouchers used at Lucky Pet in January)

(25 Vouchers used at Waggin' Wheel in January)

February Statistics

3 Dog Adoptions

10 Cat Adoptions (5 cats, 5 kittens)

8 HUG transfers

9 Angel Fund requests

587 AWL Memberships

Welcome New Members:

Samantha Azbell

Sandra Bullard & Carol Scioneaux

Brenda Craft & Jennifer Jones

Marian Feist

Natalie Kepner-Godreau

Robert Gregg

Kathleen Henderson

Tom Noble

Raymond & Lois Petrosky

85 Champions*

Molly Crenshaw is January's Champions drawing winner.

**She is generously donating \$200 of her \$450 winnings
back to the AWL.**

Alice Hinkley is February's Champions drawing winner.

**She is generously donating \$200 of her \$425 winnings
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 for more information or click the link to join:***

Click to Join Champions

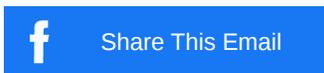
PETFINDER

ADOPTAPET

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

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