



HSV Animal Welfare League Rescue Report

Dedicated to place all rescued and surrendered, adoptable companion animals into loving homes, and to prevent the overpopulation of unwanted animals.

April 2022

**Published monthly
for members of the
HSVAVL**

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AWL'S Spay/Neuter Program Celebrates 15 Years & 8,276 Sterilizations

It was still dark at 6 am on March 28th when volunteer Chad Schaefer drove his personal truck hitched with the AWL trailer to Crows Fire Station. The fire department moved its trucks out, the trailer backed in, and volunteers spent the next 45 minutes unloading its contents - crates, pet carriers, towels, heaters, paper towels, food and other supplies - in preparation for a two day spay/neuter clinic.



Crows Fire Station S/N promo sign; Chari Larimore and Judy Sierocuk bring in supplies for the two day clinic.

Less than 48 hours later, a total of 80 animals were sterilized - 41 cats and 39 dogs - thanks to AWL partner Dr. Joanna McManus, D.V.M., of the Ozark Mountain Mobile S/N, two of her veterinary technicians, and up to 25 AWL volunteers who tirelessly helped each day under the expert guidance of Angela Nickols. The team of volunteers handled the intake paperwork (pre-registration was required), helped move the animals and cleaned cages, monitored the animals post-op, and called the pet owners when the animals were ready to be picked up. The animals' progress was closely tracked on two large boards indicating which stage they were in - intake, surgery, recovery, and release. The clinic didn't end until the last animal was released around 6 pm. Fatigued but happy, the team went home knowing they helped save many lives, and many of them would do it all over again the next day. *(cont'd page 2)*



Left, Bill Joor helps Warren Taylor transport a dog post-surgery, while Connie Shoemaker and Diane Gowar monitor two of the 41 cats brought to the clinic.

Spay /Neuter Program (cont'd)

Spay/Neuter Vouchers - Serving the Community Throughout the Year

While the S/N clinics serve a very important community need, they occur only four times a year in four different locations. To continually serve spay/neuter needs, the AWL offers a low cost voucher program through our partner veterinarians, Kelly Veterinary Clinic and Waggin' Wheel Vet Clinic. **Over 63% (598 of the 938 animals) that were spayed or neutered in 2021 used the AWL voucher program.** The popular program is monitored by Angela Nickols, Nancy Jones, Chari Larimore, and Julia Pires maintains the financial records.

How the Spay/Neuter Program Began

In the fall of 2007, AWL Board Member Angela Nickols, realizing the importance of spaying and neutering animals, wanted to help set up a program. Angela explains:

"If we are going to have no-kill, the root to getting there is spay/neuter, and preventing the overpopulation of unwanted animals is also part of the AWL mission statement."

With the board's approval, Angela promptly set up a 10 member committee and in that first year, three S/N clinics were held. In the ensuing years, Angela says "the AWL has built a definite presence in the community, and that our best advertising has been word of mouth." The S/N Program is able to operate because of grants, donations, volunteers, and the payment amount that pet owners can contribute to the spay/neuter cost. Reflecting on the past 15 years, Angela is especially grateful to the committee members who have volunteered since the program began: Wally Johnson, Nancy Jones, Chari Larimore, Mary McCullough, Mary O'Neill, Jackie Morris, and Judy Sierocuk. She is amazed by all of the volunteers' continual commitment and their exceptional teamwork. Angela is confident that "the program will continue as long as we have funds, our wonderful volunteers, and the support of the community and the AWL Board of Directors." *If you are interested in joining this amazing team, please call Angela at 501-922-8840.*



Top right: - Volunteer Bill Joor carries a dog to the intake area; Spay/Neuter Program founder Angela Nichols oversees the volunteers and the status of the 80 animals sterilized at the Crows Clinic on March 28th & 29th.

Importance of Spaying and Neutering

As an animal rescue, the AWL is required by Arkansas law to spay and neuter all cats and dogs before adoption, unless that animal is less than 3 months old or not healthy enough for the procedure. Besides a longer life expectancy* and controlling overpopulation, there are numerous health benefits from spaying and neutering, including a much lower rate of developing mammary and testicular cancers, as well as pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection found in unspayed female dogs and cats.



**By spaying and neutering just one male and one female DOG,
more than 67,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just 6 years!**



**By spaying and neutering just one male and one female CAT,
more than 2,072,514 unwanted births can be prevented in just 8 years!**

*The life expectancy of a neutered male dog is 13.8% longer. For spayed females, it's even longer – 26.3%. On average, the procedure adds over a year to the animal's life. Dogs without it live about 7.9 years, whereas spayed and neutered ones live 9.4 years. The numbers are even more drastic for cats. Spayed females have a 39% longer lifespan, and neutered males – 62%.

*<https://pawsoftheadvice.com/pets/spay-and-neuter-statistics/>

AWL - A New Nextdoor Neighbor!

The AWL is so very fortunate to have such generous supporters. Many who have lost a pet graciously donate their beds, carriers, toys, and leftover food to us. Towels are always needed and appreciated! The majority of the items we're able to use at the Adoption Center or one of many programs, such as spay/neuter clinics. Those gently used items that we can't find a home for become a money-maker for us. In addition to marketing them on Ebay and two resale shops, we've added Nextdoor to our toolbox. So, if you follow Nextdoor look for our items. They are clearly marked as benefiting the AWL. Most items can be seen at the Adoption Center during operating hours. (Monday - Saturday 12 to 3 pm) while some are kept in a private home. Check the ad for details. "Help us Help Them" by purchasing these items for your own use. Below are some recent pet supplies for sale on Nextdoor. All proceeds go to the AWL.

Not familiar with Nextdoor? It's easy to join:
Simply create an account on Nextdoor.
Visit www.nextdoor.com.
Enter your residential street address and email address.
Select Find your neighborhood.
Complete all of the required fields.
Click Sign up, and finally, verify your address.



Petco & Bissell Pet Foundation give 101 Cats & Dogs their Best Shot!

Thanks to the generosity of Petco Love and the Bissell Pet Foundation, 31 dogs and 13 cats received free vaccines on Saturday, March 19th at the Fountain Lake Volunteer Fire Station in Hot Springs, and 57 cats and dogs also received free vaccines at the Spay/Neuter Clinic at Crows Fire Station on March 28th and 29th. Special thanks to Kelly Veterinary Clinic, Waggin' Wheel Vet Clinic, and Ozark Mountain Mobile Spay Neuter for administering the vaccines; and to all the AWLvolunteers who made it possible.



From left - Beth Barrows assists while Mary McCullough administers a vaccine; Volunteers Angela Nickols, Beth Barrows, Sue Luse, Julia Pires, Chari Larimore, Mary McCullough, Connie Shoemaker and Diane Whitwell pose for a group photo; Karen Goodroad and Betsy Bailey help with traffic control. All photos from the March 19th clinic.

Dine at Tanner's on April 28th; Shop at Village True Value in June & Support the AWL!



Enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner at Tanner's Neighborhood Bar & Grille on Thursday, April 28th, from 11 am - 8 pm and the AWL benefits!

Thanks to the generosity of Joey & Lynn Clampit, 10% of your food purchase will be donated to the AWL! Reservations are recommended. Call 501-915-9880 www.tannersneighborhoodbarandgrill.com 25255 Hwy 5, Lonsdale, AR



The AWL has been selected as the June charity for the "Donate Your Change" program at the Village True Value Home Center. Patrons can donate the change from their sales during the entire month of June and the store will match the proceeds up to \$250.

It's a great opportunity to get your garden and pet supplies! 4650 N. State Hwy 7, HSV <https://stores.truevalue.com/ar/hot-springs/20918/> 501-984-6074

March Statistics

10 Dog Adoptions
10 Cat Adoptions
30 Spay/Neuter vouchers used in February
80 Animals Spayed/Neutered at Crows Clinic 3/28 & 3/29
101 Petco Love Vaccines given on 3/19, 3/28, & 3/29
10 Angel Fund requests
89 Champions
687 Memberships

Save the Dates

2022 Spay Neuter Clinics
May 16/17 - Mountain Pine Fire Station
Sept. 12/13 - Paron Community Center
Nov 14/15 - Fountain Lake Fire Station
April 28 - Tanner's Fundraiser
Month of June - Village True Value
"Donate Your Change" program to benefit AWL
Sept 26th - Girls Gotta Howl
Note New Date!

Champions

March Champions winner is Carrol Allison!

Carroll graciously donated his entire \$450 winnings to the AWL!

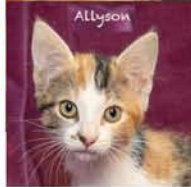
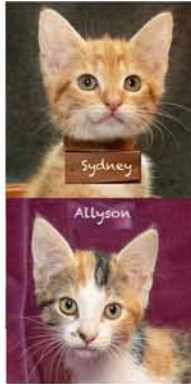
Join Champions - AWL's program for a \$10 monthly pledge. Each month there is a 50/50 raffle, with a cap payout of \$500.

Email contactus@hsvawl.org to join or for more information.

Happy Tails!

From a Wheelbarrow to Welcoming Homes - Truly a Team Effort

Mama cats are known to be resourceful when it comes to finding a safe place for their kittens, but one of the most surprising was a litter of four kittens discovered in a wheelbarrow at Good Samaritan. A caregiver notified the AWL, and Nancy Jones, one of AWL's Cat Adoption Coordinators, contacted Animal Care Officer Sean Sprague. As it was Sean's first experience rescuing a mama and her babies, Nancy provided guidance on how to safely catch them all. Sean promptly captured the kittens and set a trap for mom. Soon mama (named Sprite) and her kittens were reunited and taken to Cheryl Schaefer's foster home. Sprite was a very nurturing mama, and once the kittens were weaned, spayed and neutered, were all quickly adopted. Since Sprite had been a stray cat, foster mom Sharon Zaigler spent time socializing her so she could also be adopted. Around the same time, Jill Jones, AWL's other Cat Adoption Coordinator, was contacted by a gentleman looking for a "working cat" aka a mouser, for a large indoor space. Jill immediately thought of Sprite. Jill reports that Sprite, now called Smiley, is "happy as can be in her new environment, and that her adopter has enjoyed such a good experience with Smiley, he has also adopted Arrow." (now called Ace.)



Above, a timid Sprite when she was brought to Cheryl's foster home with her four kittens - Sydney, Allyson, Bryce, and Rai - all quickly adopted. Sprite (now Smiley) explores her new territory while getting head rubs from her new human, who also adopted Arrow, (now Ace) - definitely a Happy Tail!

**"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person."
-Andy Rooney, Television writer and commentator**