



# 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.*

**September 2022  
Published for  
members of the  
HSVAVL**

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**Board of Directors**

- President - Susan Luse
- 1st VP - Shelley Shepherd
- 2nd VP - Jill Jones
- Secretary - Janene Howell
- Treasurer - Debe Jolliff
- At-Large - Melanie Marshall
- At-Large - Laura Allworth
- At-Large - Sandie Rickerman
- At-Large - Rose Johnson

Editor - Laura Allworth



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## Volunteers - The Heart and Soul of the AWL

They come from all walks of life, and from a wide geographic expanse, but the AWL volunteers are all fiercely united in their passion to help our animals in need. In fact, the AWL wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the 200+ volunteers who generously give their time, talents, and expertise. Since our beginnings in 1991, AWL volunteers have been critical in transforming animals' lives within the caring and compassionate community of Hot Springs Village and neighboring areas.

From nurturing and monitoring our shelter animals, taking them to the vet, partnering with the POA Animal Control Officers, operating spay/neuter clinics, fostering in their homes, finding the perfect pet for adopters, or serving behind the scenes in countless ways, volunteers make all the difference in our day to day operations.

To honor our volunteers for the tireless work they do, a long overdue luncheon was held in their honor at the DeSoto Club on August 31st. Shelley Shepherd welcomed the more than 90 volunteers that attended and quipped that "the dogs and cats have been asking us to do something for you - you are all heroes!"



*Clockwise from left, Julie Headley, Karen Skoch, Shelly Hill and Connie Shoemaker were among the more than 90 volunteers who came to the celebration.*



*For a little fun and to learn more about the animals we care for, volunteers picked a question to answer. If their response was the first correct answer drawn, they won a gift card. Dog Walker Jeff Cochran (below) receives a certificate from Jill Jones.*



*What's a celebration without cake? AWL's Board of Directors pose with a cake to mark the special occasion. From left, Laura Allworth, Sandi Rickerman, Jill Jones, Rose Johnson, Janene Howell, Melanie Marshall (who orchestrated the entire luncheon) and Shelley Shepherd, who served as emcee. Not able to attend were our Treasurer Debe Jolliff, and our president, Susan Luse, who always says that "AWL Volunteers are the Best!"*



## Volunteers with a Vision

The highlight of the luncheon was a special presentation to three extraordinary volunteers who have done - and continue to do - so much for the AWL. Visionaries Nancy Jones, Angela Nickols, and Cheryl Schaefer, along with her husband Chad, epitomize what can be accomplished with passion and fierce desire to save the lives of cats and dogs.



**Cheryl Schaefer**

**Angela Nickols**

**Nancy Jones**

"We accept this on behalf of all the people that give their time and love at the "Kitty Palace." It is a wonderful surprise and we will display this beautiful award with pride & honor for the rest of our days."

"It is such an honor to receive this beautiful award. I truly appreciate it. It is also an honor to work with such talented, smart, and dedicated people. The AWL is a remarkable organization!"

"Thank you for honoring me and for the recognition of the cat program. I have gotten so lucky in that there are other people willing to step up and take on the various tasks. The award is beautiful."

Below are just a few of their outstanding accomplishments for the AWL over the years:

Although the AWL is a no-kill shelter, that wasn't always the case. In 2009, it had a high 70% kill rate, and there was only room for 5 cats at the shelter. At that time, there were also several feral cat colonies in the village, so Nancy and Connie Mills started the TNR (trap, neuter, release) program. They did anything they could to place cats in suitable homes, and found many people who could keep the cats in their garages or homes while waiting adoption. Their efforts paid off, and they were able to place or TNR over 700 cats through 2013, when the AWL became a no-kill shelter.

*Through her advocacy and tireless work, Nancy has been instrumental in the adoption and saving the lives of well over 2,000 cats.*

Cheryl and Chad Schaefer were approached by Nancy when they moved to the village in 2009, when she found out they were avid animal lovers. They took care of many cats and kittens in their home. but soon realized they needed more space. So Chad built an extension onto their garage, complete with electrical, plumbing, cabinets, heating and air

conditioning, which they call their "Kitty Palace" and that they personally funded. It was the beginning of a commitment they keep 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - bottle feeding kittens, round the clock feedings, deworming, monumental laundry, cleaning, and vet visits to name a few of their responsibilities. During the 8 month kitten season, they keep anywhere from 10 to 40 kittens, including many pregnant mothers.

*Cheryl and Chad have personally saved hundreds of feline lives each year - for 12 years.*

Angela Nickols has always understood that the key to becoming a no-kill organization is spaying and neutering, and in 2007 set up a 10 member team committed to prevent the overpopulation of unwanted animals. In that first year, the AWL sponsored three spay neuter clinics. To help with the expense for needy pet owners, a low cost voucher system was quickly established and four annual clinics were held in the community. Today, Angela spearheads a team of up to 25 volunteers who actively help at these two day clinics, four times a year. As Shelley Shepherd stated, "AWL's spay/ neuter program is the backbone of our organization and is a well respected presence in our community and surrounding areas. The tireless efforts of you and the volunteers that work under your leadership have made this program a great source of pride for Hot Springs Village and the Animal Welfare League."

*Since the fall of 2007, A grand total of 8,433 owned animals have been spayed or neutered, resulting in saving the lives of millions of unwanted cats and dogs!*

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
A kitten can become pregnant when only 4 months old!

## Volunteers with 10 or More Years of Incredible Service!

It's not often our volunteers can all gather together, so it's always a fun reunion to celebrate and share stories. Pictured are just some of our long term volunteers who were able to attend the luncheon.



(From left) Angela Nickols, Nancy Harlan, Mike Frantz, Cheryl Schaefer, Don Fisher, Boyd Burkholder, Sue Fisher, Chris Frantz, Sandie Rickerman, Mary McCullough, Beverly Fitzpatrick, Sue Strayer, Sandy Young, Connie Shoemaker, Judy Sierocuk, Jackie Malone, Chari Larimore, & Mary O'Neill.

### Why Volunteer?

Chari Larimore, a 18 year volunteer who has helped with spay/neuter, fundraising, and is an Animal Care Worker, "loves to help the animals have a better day. I feel good when I leave here, it gives them some happiness, and I care about them!" Jennifer Hurd, who became an Animal and Cat Care Worker over two years ago, explains that "it's very rewarding to see the animals get a new home. Plus they give unconditional love and always seem happy to see me."



Chari Larimore (left pic in blue) greets Therral & Molly Wilson. One of many husband & wife teams, Molly prepares hundreds of adoption folders every year, while Therral helps with S/N and Guest Relations. Jennifer Hurd (right, in rear) enjoys lunch with Ginny Eller, who helps with spay/neuter.

### AWL Board of Directors - Elections in November to Join our Dynamic Team

Interested in contributing your skills and becoming an integral part of the AWL? We will have several positions for election/re-election in November, and they are open to anyone who shares our core values. If you wish to be considered, please discuss your interest with the Election Committee, headed by Rose Johnson. To learn more, contact her at [yougodawg@gmail.com](mailto:yougodawg@gmail.com). More information will be available in October.

## August Statistics

9 Dog Adoptions  
19 Cat Adoptions  
8,433 animals sterilized  
since 2007  
94 Champions  
671 AWL Memberships

*Note: as of publication time, not all August stats were available.*

## Save the Dates

### 2022 Spay Neuter Clinics

Sept. 12/13  
*Paron Community Center*  
Nov 14/15  
*Fountain Lake Fire Station*

### Sept 24 - Fall HomeFest

9am - 7 pm; Village True Value  
Parking lot. Food, Drinks, Visit  
the AWL Booth, Entertainment

### Sept 26th - Girls Gotta Howl

Nov 4 & 5, Mystery Dinner Theatre  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 6pm  
\$25 - Proceeds to benefit the AWL.

## Champions

Congratulations to  
Stephanie Pyatt, the  
August Champions drawing  
winner. Stephanie won \$470

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](mailto:contactus@hsvawl.org)  
for more information.

or click the link below to join:

<https://hsvawl.wufoo.com/forms/sguov4m0twh1dc/>

## Happy Tails - Me & My Shadow



*Gigi sits happily with Dave and Sheila, her new family, and looks very regal taking a rest from her "shadowing" adventures.*

Gigi is an all-around great girl that gets along with all dogs and loves to play. She was very popular at the Adoption Center, so we couldn't understand why it took 20 weeks for her to get a new home. But patience certainly paid off, and now Gigi has "superbonded" with her new owners, Dave and Sheila, friends of the AWL who live in the Village.

Dave said "Gigi was instantly taken with me, and is my shadow. She has me on an exercise program - we take nice long walks, and she enjoys going to the dog park." Dave confides that he also chases her with a golf cart! "She's a young gal, and we're working on getting her calmed down!" How else does Gigi shadow Dave? "Well, she knows where the food comes from!"

