



# Rescue & News Report

December, 2025

*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: \* Thanksgiving \* Annual Meeting & BOD Election \* Blessing of the Animals \* Shelter Expansion Update \* Spay Neuter Clinic \* Petco Adoptions\* Happy Tails \* Statistics \**



## Happy Holidays from your Animal Welfare League!

At this festive time of year, we thank all of you - our generous AWL members, Facebook friends and followers, HSV area neighbors, and our dedicated volunteers - for supporting our lifesaving work during our holiday appeal and on Giving Tuesday. It is through your generosity that we can continue our lifesaving work. Your gifts have helped us place over 300 homeless pets in loving homes so far this year. Due to your philanthropy, here are just a few of the many animals that have thrived under our care, while we continue to help more animals with urgent veterinary needs, food, medications and spaying and neutering.



Abandoned & starving, the AWL nursed these four kittens back to health for several months before they were ready for adoption.



Hugo came to us very emaciated, had many medical problems including heartworms & mange, and ended up in our care for 704 days before he was adopted.

Frost recently was found outdoors with a severe eye injury and infested with fleas and ticks. Since he is declawed on all four paws, he was unable to protect himself. The AWL provided veterinary care to remove his eye, and he is currently recuperating and getting care at our foster home.



*If you wish to make a tax deductible donation this holiday season, scan the QR code, visit [hsvawl.org](http://hsvawl.org) and click donate, or send a check to the AWL, PO Box 8032, HSV, AR 71910-8032*





All current members of the HSVAWL were invited to attend our annual meeting and BOD election on November 20th at the Village Church of Christ. The current board of directors presented a brief summary of the year's activities, including cat and dog adoptions, fundraising, shelter operations, and grants, but the main topic was the No Paws Left Behind capital campaign and shelter expansion. President Beverly Fitzpatrick discussed the history of the expansion, including working with several departments within the POA, generating seed money, and completing all the building plans with Renaissance Homes. She added that she is very proud of "the AWL team and that the expansion has been a very behemoth undertaking."

*Below, Carol Monk (left) tallies the election results; Beverly Fitzpatrick presents a status report.*



### 2026 Election Results

The twelve volunteer members of the Board of Directors oversee all operations of the AWL along with the vital support of more than 200 volunteers. Beginning January 1st, 2026, six current BOD members will continue to serve on their 2 year term - Beverly Fitzpatrick, President; Shelley Shepherd, 1st Vice-President; Debe Jolliff, Treasurer; Melanie Marshall, Laura Allworth, and Michelle Alford. Four members ran for re-election - Jill Jones, 2nd Vice-President; Jennifer Hurd, Secretary; Sandie Rickerman, and Susan Senogles. We are also proud to announce that two new candidates were elected - Kim Warren and Tori Varriale, who have been serving in various volunteer capacities.



**2026 AWL Board of Directors**

*Pictured from left: Shelley Shepherd, Laura Allworth, Tori Varriale, Sandie Rickerman, Kim Warren, Beverly Fitzpatrick, Melanie Marshall, Susan Senogles, Jennifer Hurd, Jill Jones, Michelle Alford. Not pictured - Debe Jolliff.*

## **Shelter Animals enjoy a Thanksgiving feast**

In what has become a holiday tradition, Hartley, pictured below, was just one of many shelter dogs (and cats) that enjoyed a special Thanksgiving meal prepared by our volunteers. Pictured below are Rose Johnson, Sandie Rickerman, and Shelley Shepherd who helped prepare the special treats!



## **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church donates \$1,000 to the AWL in honor of their Blessing of the Animals Celebration**

The Reverend Dr. Keith Hearnberger, along with members of the St. Francis Chapter of the Daughters of the King, who sponsored the annual Blessings of the Animals present a \$1,000 check to AWL member Sandie Rickerman. From left are Shelley Kemp, Barb Bowman, Gerry Brown (kneeling with Queenie) Nancy Meyerhoffer, Mary Ann Kavelage, Sandie Rickerman, Rev. Keith Hearnberger, Rector; Debbie Masters, Trish Knocke, Nancy Hendrick, and Becky Mason.





Holy Trinity's annual Blessing of the Animals is always a lively event with several dogs of all shapes and sizes and even a few cats in attendance who bring their people to the celebration. The liturgy of St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals, was read and each pet was blessed by the clergy.





## Exciting Expeditious Expansion!



A lot of progress has been made since last month's update. AWL President Beverly Fitzpatrick reports that plumbing, electrical, and HVAC ducting are all completed. Shingles are being applied, light tubes have been installed, bathroom fixtures, . accessories, and specialty sinks are in storage, and the designs for the cabinetmaker have been finalized. Weather permitting, the expansion could be completed by March, 2026.



### **61 Animals fixed at Fountain Lake Spay Neuter Clinic plus a fond farewell to S/N founding director Angela Nickols**

At the spay neuter clinic held at the Fountain Lake Volunteer Fire Station on November 21st & 22nd, 61 animals were sterilized making the total animals fixed to date more than 10,400. This has been a remarkable achievement, thanks to the enormous efforts and vision of Angela Nickols, who founded the Spay Neuter Program in 2007. It was a milestone year for the AWL, as Angela set up a 10 member committee dedicated to setting up and running the clinics. In that first year, 3 clinics were held, and now 18 years later, the AWL holds 5 clinics per year at locations in neighboring communities. Additionally, low-cost vouchers with our partner veterinarian clinics help defray the S/N cost to pet owners.

These staggering S/N statistics are even more impressive when you consider the following:

- **In 6 years, one unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies**



- In 7 years, one unspayed female cat and her babies can have a staggering 370,000 kittens\*

\*from Pawsomeadvice.com



Angela informed us earlier this year that she and her husband Tom would be moving to Florida early in December to be close to her daughter, but that she fortunately would still serve remotely as the coordinator of the S/N program.

*"I am so proud of our S/N program and all we have accomplished. It is all because of YOU and all your hard work and commitment. We have sterilized and vaccinated over 10,400 cats and dogs in the past 18 years and are part of Bissell's 'Fix the Future' program. We are truly making a difference in the lives of so many owners and their pets" Angela Nickols*



*Above, AWL S/N volunteers (in red) talk with pet owners and coordinate all the steps involved for each animal, including intake, surgery, recovery and release. Below, volunteers discuss and monitor cats in recovery; check registrations and status; and ensure cages are cleaned and sterilized after each use.*





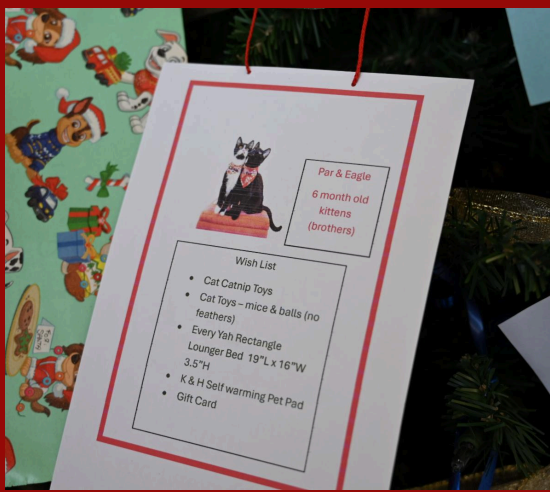


## AWL Cats & Kittens available for adoption every Saturday at the Petco Store in Benton



Nearly every Saturday for the past 6 years, AWL Cat Adoption Coordinator Jill Jones (left) has travelled to the Petco Store in Benton with as many of 12 cats and/or kittens in tow who are looking for their forever home. She is regularly assisted by volunteers Carol Monk (center) and Lisa Ake. Every week they transport not only the precious felines, but tables, crates, chairs, food, toys, litter, signage and of course adoption forms. On a recent Saturday morning they hung beautiful cards on Petco's Giving Tree. The cards, handmade by Susan Senogles and Lisa Ake, featured every dog and cat at our shelter with their own "wish list." The Giving Tree is prominently displayed at the store's entrance where customers can choose a card for an animal they want to purchase a gift for, and gift bags under the tree are already overflowing with generous gifts!





Jill says that Petco and their customers "are awesome and really support the AWL. Through the years they have also given us several large grants, and they provide the vaccines at our Spay/Neuter clinics." The AWL has been a regular presence at Petco since Nancy Jones started coming every week in 2009. Carol Hardin (pictured below with Jill) has been Petco's General Manager for 12 years, adds that "Miss Jill is a celebrity - everybody asks about the cuddle babies. Customers call Jill the answer lady with all their feline questions!"





On this particular Saturday, no adoptions were made, but 7 year old Audrey made a donation instead since she said they already have 3 cats and a dog!



**Holiday gathering for the amazing**



## kitten volunteers and foster parents

AWL volunteers who were part of the kitten volunteer and foster team led by Cat Adoption Coordinator Jill Jones, were guests at Bill & Pam Galuska's house for a very festive holiday celebration. Long time foster parents Cheryl and Chad Schaefer were the honorary guests. The celebration was much deserved, as the volunteers did an incredible job taking care of (and still do) the more than 120 kittens that the AWL has cared for to date in 2025.

*Pictured left (1st row) Cindy Boucher, Therese Klier, Susan Weaver, Janene Howell, Katherine Barnes, Lisa Ake, Cheryl Schaefer, Sue Espinal, Julie Gurush, Jennifer Kallas; Back Row - L to R - Chad Schaefer, Brenda Bennett, Rene Boucher, Bill Galuska, Jill Jones, Susan Wheat, Patti Keahey, Tracy Ake, Pam Galuska, Jennifer Hurd, Todd Hurd, Susan Senogles, Kris Karr Not able to attend: Carol Monk, Sandy Janick, Susan Druit, Nancy Jones, Betsy Bailey, Susie Neal, and Bill Wheat.*

## AWL donated resuscitator saves dog's life in devastating fire



We recently learned that Julie Maricle, long time Waggin' Wheel employee and a good friend of the AWL, lost her HSV home to a fire shortly after midnight on December 3rd. Fortunately, Julie was able to safely evacuate the burning home. Since then, we were informed by Fire Chief Simmons that Julie's dog JJ's life was saved when firemen used a resuscitator donated by the AWL to revive him.



The AWL hopes resuscitators never have to be used on our furry friends, but we are so thankful that our donation made a lifesaving difference for Julie's beloved JJ. We will continue to donate resuscitators in all sizes for cats and dogs to our first responders.

## Happy Tails - A Sweet Story for Cupcake

Sweet Cupcake is treated to her new forever home with a new canine sister. And what a wonderful new life, as she was originally found tied to a tree in a very short leash.



Cupcake was at the shelter for 71 days.



## Happy Tails - Bristol



Remember Bristol's adoption last month after being at the shelter for 12 weeks? She is loving her new life with her mom and feline siblings. Her huge smile shows how happy she is to meet Santa.

## Happy Tails - Rebecca & Shaffer



You may recognize Rebecca and Shaffer pictured on the front of this newsletter. They were two of the four kittens found abandoned and starving. After nursing them back to health for several months they were finally adopted after 139 days at the shelter. The beautiful young cats are now living the best life together with their devoted mom!

### **Happy Tails - Petra**

After 10 weeks of winning the hearts of all the AWL volunteers at the Adoption Center, Petra is so happy to have a new family of her own.





## Happy Tails - Charming & Aurora

These lovely tabbies named after a Disney prince and princess look like they will be treated like royalty by their new family. After 10 weeks at their foster home, they are certainly ready to explore their new kingdom!



**Just a few still precious pets waiting to be adopted....**

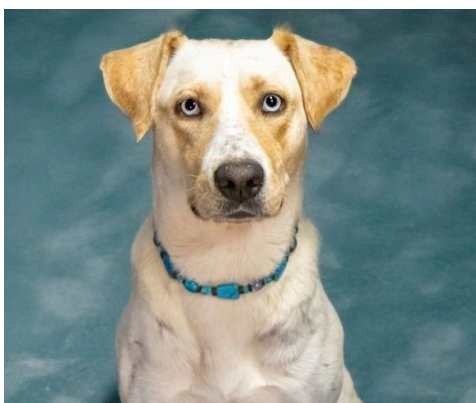
## Ojo and Cutie - 250+ days at shelter

This bonded pair of young cats balance each other beautifully which makes them the perfect duo. Because they are bonded, they need to be adopted together. In return, you'll get double the love, double the purrs, and double the joy.



## Lucy - 175+ days at the shelter

Everyone loves Lucy, a joyful, happy and beautiful Labrador Retriever with gorgeous blue eyes. So we can't understand why she has been at the shelter for 25 weeks, nearly half of her 18 month age.

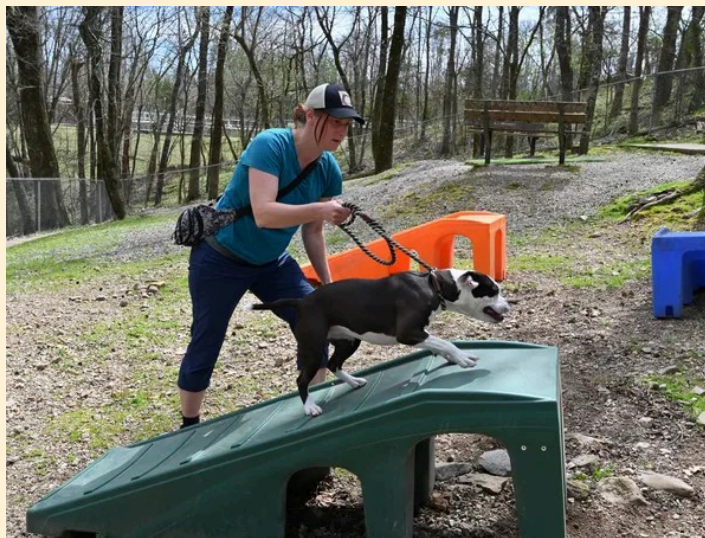


## Urgent Need for Dog Walkers

Please consider giving our HSV shelter dogs some of your time while getting some steps in for yourself too! Our shelter dogs enjoy strolls on a picturesque Village hiking trail near our animal shelter. We also offer a fenced-in exercise pen with dog playground equipment—an excellent spot for playing ball and helping our dogs and puppies socialize. There's also a lovely bench for sitting and petting our furry friends. Plus schedules are flexible!

*If you are able to help, complete the application below or call for more information*





[Click for Volunteer/Membership Application](#)

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## **November Statistics**

**7 Dog Adoptions**

**14 Kitten Adoptions**

**10 Cat Adoptions**

**6 Angel Fund requests**

**10,400 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007**

***12 Vouchers used at Lucky Pets in October***

***3 Vouchers used at Your Pets in October***

***21 Vouchers used at Waggin' Wheel in October***

**628 AWL Memberships**

**89 Champions**

## **Welcome New Members**

**Elizabeth Austin**

**Earl Beeson**

**Rhonda Briggs**

**Brenda Craft & Jennifer Jones**

**Breta Easterwood  
Linda Erickson  
Luci Fortune  
Cathy Leece  
Charles & Joni Mecca  
Yayang Talarico  
Debbie Varley  
Daryl Wedwick  
Champions\***

**Congratulations to Cheryl & Chad Schaefer  
November's Champion Winners  
They won \$445!**

***\*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**

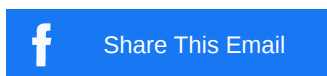
**ADOPT A PET**

***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

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