



# Rescue & News Report

April, 2025

*Dedicated to rescue, vet, & find homes for all adoptable cats & dogs, and prevent the overpopulation of unwanted animals.*

## IN THIS EDITION:

Spay Neuter Hits 10,000 milestone \* HSV Animal Control Officers  
Texas Tech Volunteers \* AWL Happenings \* Happy Tails \* Statistics

## 10,006 and Counting! AWL Achieves Spay Neuter Milestone

At the spay neuter clinic held at the Crows Fire Station on April 11th & 12th, 60 cats and dogs were sterilized, which propelled the AWL past the 10,000 threshold for total owned animals sterilized since 2007. This amazing accomplishment would not have been possible without the dedicated and relentless efforts of our spay neuter director Angela Nickols, her exceptional team of hard working AWL volunteers, plus the amazing veterinarians, techs, and sponsors that have tirelessly supported the program through the years. Angela adds, "I am so proud of this accomplishment and the entire team that it took to achieve this milestone. But the need is never-ending!"



Cashmere doesn't quite understand what all the fuss was about, but this

precious little gal's mom Amber was very surprised and pleased at the recognition plus the free services she received in honor of this milestone event.



Below, Angela poses with Cole Wakefield, the Director of the Good Shepherd Humane Society in Eureka Springs. Angela stressed that without the AWL's partnership with them, we couldn't conduct our clinics. Cole stated that "no single organization has enough resources to justify having the mobile van in our rural areas, but by working together, we do have enough volume since there are ten Arkansas groups that share the Fido Fixers van."



Cole added that since shelters are so overcrowded, "imagine what they would be like without access to a spay and neuter program. The program is a model, especially for rural areas like HSV. This is why this type of partnership is so valuable - Arkansans helping Arkansas."

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**Viewing the timelines below for just ONE unsterilized dog and cat and their offspring, it's almost incomprehensible to calculate how many animals could have been produced if we didn't spay and neuter over 10,000 owned animals.**

# The Impact of Unsterilized Dog Populations

Just one dog and its offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years!



# The Impact of Unsterilized Cat Populations

Just one cat and its offspring can produce 2 MILLION kittens in 8 years!





We are extremely grateful to Petco for providing free vaccines for the animals, our wonderful vet Dr. Paula Gibson, who sterilizes more than 60 animals at each clinic, our vet techs, the Neva McCormick Foundation for their grant, the Bissell Pet Foundation, Fido Fixers, and all our hard-working volunteers.



*Dr. Paula Gibson with volunteer Sue Luse*



*Vet tech Abby with Beth Barrows*



*Volunteers review registrations and schedules*



*Volunteers closely monitor the animals post-op.*

**Next S/N Clinic June 6 & 7 at Fountain Lake Fire Station - [Click to register](#)**

## **Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week**

Every year, the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) proudly supports Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, a time to recognize the hardworking professionals who protect animals and serve our communities. We extend a special thank you to Jim Kull and Payge Farewell, our dedicated HSV Animal Control Officers who work tirelessly (on call 24-7) and often in challenging and dangerous conditions to ensure the safety of our residents and animals. In 2024 alone, they responded to 918 service calls within HSV. These included calls about snakes, stray cats and dogs, dog bites, barking and/or dogs off-leash. They also tend to injured and road kill animals. Last year they processed 165 dogs and 121 cats that were then transferred to the AWL and put up for adoption. Everyone at the AWL values the special relationship we have with Jim & Payge!





## Texas Tech Students Volunteer at AWL



from left, Dawt Ci, Jen Cala (both biology) Lauren Conger, bio-chem, and Jordan Zarate, higher ed.





**Lauren Morrison, TT staff advisor; Jesse Solis, MBA student; and Mai Dao, bio-chemistry, join AVL volunteers Julie Keck (left) & Shelley Shepherd (right)**

While many college students spend their spring break travelling to beaches or other trendy destinations, we were pleasantly surprised when Texas Tech University students offered to volunteer at our shelter during their spring break. Members of the Raiders Helping Others (RHO) program, they chose AVL as the animal shelter where they wanted to volunteer. Lauren Conger, the RHO President said "volunteering at the AVL was a great experience for all." For the AVL, it was a privilege to work with these very helpful and motivated students, and we are sharing an inspiring quote displayed on the RHO t-shirts they proudly wear:

*"The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." DeAnn Hollis*



Our 6 Shepherd mix puppies enjoy their baths and some playtime!



Both the puppy play area and the dog run equipment get a good spring cleaning.





Shortly after the Texas Tech visit, our 6 special puppies went to Waggin' Wheel for their health certificates so they could head out to a partner rescue in the northeastern US. Upon arrival they were all quickly adopted!

## Happy Tails!



### Sweet Santana

Santana was one of eight kittens dropped off at the shelter in a box. He and the others were very sick and we almost lost Santana to pneumonia. His lungs were damaged and as a result he has to take medicine every day to help him breathe. The AWL cared for Santana for six months until he found a wonderful new home with someone that would take special care of this sweet, precious boy.

### After 10 Months in Shelter, Ben & Elizabeth have a New Home!

In March of 2024, the AWL was called to help a family in Paron that had close to 50 cats and kittens on the property. The AWL provided traps and instructions to trap as





many as possible. Over the next year, the adult cats were taken to our spay/neuter clinics and to Waggin' Wheel for voucher sterilizations. Eventually, all the adult cats were sterilized and released through the AWL spay/neuter program.

There were also about 20 kittens that were caught and brought to Jill Jones to be adopted after vetting. The kitten foster volunteers worked hard to care for these sickly kittens. Some didn't make it, but the majority recovered and all the kittens found good homes! Since there were so many at once, the volunteers named the kittens after characters in "The Waltons" TV show. The last two kittens to be adopted, Ben & Elizabeth, had severe respiratory issues as babies, were very shy and lived at the shelter for almost a year. One of our new volunteers and her mother took them home to see how they would do.... and Ben & Elizabeth are doing fantastic in their new home!

### Thumbelina - A Very Special Happy Tail as told by Nadia



The last time I wrote to your organization was in 2017! Time absolutely flies. Today, my Thumbelina turns 10 YEARS OLD! I adopted Thumbs when I was in 11th Grade, going into my senior year.

She has now been with me through high school, graduation, moving out of my parents home, getting married, moving with us to Germany for 3 years, meeting our first daughter, and then making our way back home to Hot Springs. Thumbelina has been with me through every huge life change and I'm so thankful I have had her by my side. She is the sweetest, most kind kitty I have ever had.

I will never be able to express my gratitude enough to you guys. She still has that kitten heart and LOVES to play with her kitty sister, Itsy Bitsy (formerly known as Wendy), who I also adopted through you guys. I just wanted to send out another update now that she is 10 and is doing so so good :). Thank you guys again!



**Thumbelina & Itsy Bitsy**

### **Ozzie - Sweet Love Bug**

Ozzie is just the best boy and has a cute heart on his nose! He loves his new family who says he is "just perfect." A very smart dog and a loyal companion, Ozzie also gets along great with his new canine sister.



### **Jacob - A Super Senior!**

At 15 years old, Jacob, a maltese, lost the only home he had known since he was a puppy when his person passed away. He was brought to the shelter, and it was obvious he was miserable. But that all changed when Jacob was fostered and then adopted by his caring foster parents, the AWL's Shelley and Grady Shepherd. Now Jacob happily lives with several other dogs and a cat. According to Shelley, Jacob immediately bonded with Grady, and is constantly on his lap.



The AWL was a proud exhibitor at the Jessieville High School Fitness and Health Fair on April 11th, in addition to the POA Arts and Crafts Fair on April 12th. They are great opportunities to let the community know about the AWL and the many ways we can serve them. Plus, it's always nice to visit with our many friends and supporters.

*Pictured right are new members the Warren Family, who recently moved to HSV from Hawaii. Below, AWL President Beverly Fitzpatrick explains our services at the Jessieville Fair.*



## Be Aware of Nursing Cats & their Kittens

A good samaritan found a tabby cat looking for food and brought her to Animal Control. However, it was quickly determined the cat (now named Blossom) was nursing and missing her kittens. AWL volunteers went to the area where Blossom was found and searched for her kittens. Fortunately, they located four scared and hungry 2 1/2 week old kittens and Blossom, excited to see her babies, immediately started to clean and feed them.

**Please Note:** if you see a young female cat, especially this time of year, there is a good chance she may be pregnant or have kittens hiding while she is out looking for food. Please notify Animal Control immediately so we can get her and any kittens to a safe place.

### **Future Adoptions:**

The happy family is residing at a foster home and all five will be available for adoption in late May or early June. The kittens are named Chepi, Nahele, Oberon and Pixie.



## FREE FIRE & EMERGENCY DECALS AVAILABLE!



The next time you visit the Adoption Center, please ask for your free emergency decal. List your animal quantities and affix it to a visible window or glass pane on your front door. In case of an emergency, the stickers are very helpful to our first responders. Various sized animal respirators provided by the AWL are also kept on HSV fire trucks.

### February Statistics

2 Dog Adoptions (*low dog inventory*)

12 Cat Adoptions

No HUG (Help Us Go) transfers

18 Angel Fund requests

January Spay Neuter Vouchers

- 10 used by Waggin' Wheel Vet Clinic
- 20 vouchers used by Kelly Veterinary Clinic
- 2 by Your Pets (Dr. Deary)

9,925 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007



662 AWL Memberships

96 Champions

Susan Senogles was the February Champions winner!  
She has graciously donated her \$480 winnings to the AWL.

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### March Statistics

11 Dog Adoptions - 35 Cat Adoptions

2 HUG (Help Us Go) transfers to other

rescue, no-kill animal shelters

10 Angel Fund requests

9,936 Animals Spayed/Neutered since 2007

678 AWL Memberships

94 Champions

### Welcome new Members

Cynthia Bremerman

Judy Cockey

Martha Dickey

Vincent & Patricia Erickson

Susan Gipp

George & Valerie Kittner

Josh Maynard

Donna O'Neal

Bob & Cheryl Parrish

Jody Rincon

David & Damon Schleuse

Ben & Kimberly Warren

Congratulations to Shelley Kemp, the March Champions drawing winner. She won \$470.

*\*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](#)

[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 note 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're required to remove them.*



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®  
Until every pet has a home.



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The Adoption Center is





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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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