

# The WAG Review

Volume 7, Issue 2

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## Happy Holidays!

### Walton Animal Guild, Inc.

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### 2014 Successes

- \* 106 animals adopted.
- \* Low-income spay subsidies for 56 pets.
- \* Beat the Heat promotion spayed 25 cats.
- \* Approx 15,000 lbs. of pet food delivered to food pantry.

For more news visit  
**Buddy's Blog**  
[www.awagtale.blogspot.com](http://www.awagtale.blogspot.com)

Another year is winding down. This was WAG's seventh year of helping community pets and their owners and we continue to be grateful for the generosity of our donors and supporters.

During those seven years, we've helped over 1,000 cats and dogs find new homes, spayed/neutered 670 pets and donated nearly 35,000 lbs of pet food to our local food pantry.

Our work is truly a community effort, with many people contributing to our success. Some individuals volunteer time by fostering, attending adoption events or otherwise get involved in rescue efforts. Other people offer their support through donations or other assistance. But every animal lover makes a difference.



Archie, a WAG rescue "alumni" gives thanks for the season.

The work we do for these animals is only possible through the continued support and generosity of our donors. Walton County has many pets in need—not all will have happy endings. But as 2015 approaches, we'll strive to make a difference in the lives of as many animals as possible. ♦

## Donating Made Easy

Donating is easier than ever, thanks to a myriad of online giving programs. Check out the easy options below.

Amazon shoppers can donate a portion of each purchase price to WAG through the AmazonSmile program.

When holiday shopping online, use search sites like iGive or GoodShop that partner with online retailers to donate a portion of each purchase price to the charity of your choice. All those pur-



chases add up!

Kroger shoppers can use their Rewards card to donate to WAG through the Community Rewards program. Simply visit the Kroger website and choose WAG as your preferred

non-profit.

Online donations are easy with Paypal. You don't need a Paypal account to use the service. Paypal also offers a recurring payment option, an easy great way to continue giving all year long!

## Why Rescue?

Kenzie, a black pitbull/Lab mix, languished in the shelter for two weeks in January. No adopters came along and other rescues passed her by—the Pit Bull curse. So this sweet girl became WAG's first rescue of 2014. A few short weeks later she hit the family jackpot and is now a pampered and much-loved family pet.

That's what rescue is about—helping shelter animals that might not otherwise get a chance. Because rescue isn't merely plucking the healthy, highly-adoptable cute fuzzy animals from the shelter and waiting for the inevitable onslaught of applications. It's taking a chance on animals with medical issues, or working with the overly boisterous adolescent dogs turned into the shelter for bad behavior, merely because their former owner failed to spend any time with them. It's spending hours

convincing a terrified dog that you won't hurt them and a leash isn't a bad thing. It's making room for a dog that drew the unlucky card by being born an unpopular breed or color and polishing them so they shine to potential adopters.



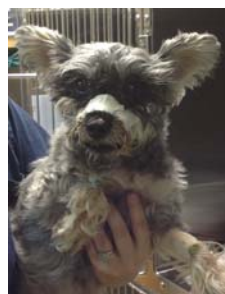
WAG's rescue program helped 106 animals this year; many were only hours away from euthanasia. Now these happy pets will be part of the lifetime memories of their new, loving families.

## Challenges to Overcome

Some rescued animals face extra challenges. Maggie, a Catahoula Leopard Dog mix, came to the shelter after being struck by a vehicle. She was on the fast-track for euthanasia because of her injuries when WAG rescued her. Dr. Wise at Monroe Animal Care determined that Maggie needed a complicated orthopedic procedure, a femoral head ostectomy, to get back on track. Rehab and lots of post-surgery leashwalking helped her make a complete recovery. Although it took a long seven months for her forever home to come along, the happy faces in her photo prove it was definitely worth the wait!

Pepper the Miniature Schnauzer was another motor vehicle victim. She arrived at the shelter with fresh lacerations and obvious trauma, staggering inside the kennel, drool pooling at her feet due to an inability to close her jaw. With the severity of her injuries unknown, she was a financial risk and several rescues passed her by. But a committed shelter employee brought her to our attention.

A vet examination brought both good and bad news. No jaw fractures were found. Nerve damage was suspected as the reason her jaw couldn't close. A jaw sling kept Pepper's mouth supported for several weeks while we fed her watered-down canned food. But her x-rays also showed several large bladder stones, so after her jaw healed surgery was scheduled to remove the bladder stones. One more medical hurdle for Pepper was a bout with gastroenteritis, requiring IV fluids and an over-



night stay at the vet clinic. But she's 100% healthy now and on the search for her new home.

Other medical problems affected several of our other rescue dogs during the year. Holly, a rescued cattledog mix, nearly died from an intestinal blockage. Surgery saved her life but took 12 inches of her intestines. Several rescue dogs required lengthy treatment for heartworms, typically a 60-day regimen. Others needed months of medication and veterinary rechecks for mange, skin infections or severe allergies. Thankfully, the support of our donors allows us to give these loving animals the medical care they deserve.

## Helping the Community

Animal lovers donated bags of pet food, vet clinics conducted food drives, and WAG worked with local rescue Pound Puppies 'n Kittens and Petsmart to deliver an estimated 15,000 lbs of pet food to F.I.S.H Ministries in Monroe this year for pet owners needing a helping hand. Unfortunately food demand always outweighs supply, even though we continue to pick up donated broken bags of pet food every two weeks from retailers like Walmart. But no one should face the hard choice of feeding themselves or their pet. Pet food drives are a great way for the community to help and everyone is encouraged to contribute!

Volunteers built or donated dog houses for animals needing shelter through our Huts for Mutts program. With cold weather coming, WAG recently purchased additional

doghouses and bedding. These will be distributed by Animal Control officers to the pets of county residents in need of support.

By offering resources when needed, WAG has also helped help spay cats in feral colonies, provided flea treatment to the pets of senior citizens, or furnished individual emergency supplies of pet food. Our reason is simple—help the owners or caretakers keep their animals well-fed and out of the shelter.



Unloading pallets of donated pet food at F.I.S.H.

## Can You Say Spay?

Stop the breeding—stop the pet overpopulation. Simple to say, yet extremely difficult to achieve.

WAG continues to promote the spay/neuter of local pets through our Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), paying to spay or neuter the pets of low-income residents of Walton County. In 2014 the pets of 56 families benefited from this program

WAG once again participated in Paradox Spay Neuter Clinic's annual "Beat the Heat" February promotion, funding the sterilization of 25 female cats.

The new Puppy Prevention program, targeting female dogs with litters, spayed ten female dogs who altogether had produced 58 puppies, with litter sizes ranging from two to nine puppies. For many of the female dogs, this was a second or third litter. It was a satisfying day when we retired them from the breeding burden!

An estimated  
80% of pet  
overpopulation is  
caused by a mere  
8% of pet  
owners.

## Puppy Prevention

### FREE PUPPIES!

The internet and social media sites are filled with these pleas from the owners of unspayed female dogs with litters of puppies to give away.

And who doesn't love roly-poly puppies? But too often these "free" puppies are eagerly snatched up by people without the commitment or financial resources to provide necessary vet care or sterilization. Soon these puppies grow up to produce their own litters, while the original mother dog continues birthing more dogs.



Too many puppies!

An endless cycle of breeding.

WAG's Puppy Prevention program works with the owners to vaccinate and keep the puppies healthy. When they're old enough, the pups are sterilized and join our adoption program on their way to new homes. Approximately six weeks later we contact the owner to arrange and pay for sterilization surgery for the mother dog.

Happy healthy sterilized puppies in new homes, happy sterilized mom dog, happy pet owner—a genuine Happy Ending!



## And Along Came Zoe

When a kind pet lover found a very pregnant stray dog during the February ice storms, she was determined to take care of the sweet dog she named Lady. But most rescues weren't interested in helping a hound mix mom and the seven puppies she soon produced. Eventually Lady's rescuer contacted WAG to ask about the Puppy Prevention program. Although the program was created for owners of mother dogs, we agreed to help the canine family find homes.

The puppies went to another foster home at 7 weeks and Lady stayed with her original foster. Although extremely sweet natured, the puppies were afflicted with a myriad of skin problems and suffered extreme itching, hair loss and skin infections. For months they rode a roller coaster of vet visits, painful skin scrapings, antibiotics, medicated baths, dips, and special creams. Even after adoption, skin problems continued for many of the puppies.

Through trial and error the problem was finally blamed on food allergies. Once the right combination was found, the puppies began to blossom.

The last puppy adopted was Zoe, the sweetest and mildest in the litter. Her patient tolerance was exhibited week after week as she endured repeated skin scrapings that made her bleed, being dunked in medicated dips and lathered up with medicated shampoo.

But perhaps there was a greater plan for Zoe.

Because while Zoe was enduring her treatment, a young girl named Thia was dealing with the medical diagnosis of Severe Social Anxiety Disorder that kept her away

from school, church, social gatherings. Her life had narrowed to time spent in her room or required family activities.

One day Thia visited the Snellville Petsmart with her mom and spotted Zoe. There was an instant connection between the puppy who'd endured so much in her young life and the girl who longed to open up. Adoption papers were signed and Zoe went home.



Zoe and her pal Thia

The first few days were promising. The new family routine with Zoe brought the family together.

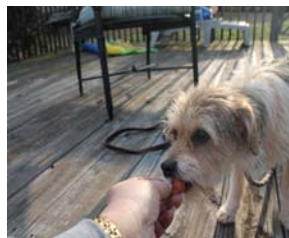
But then Thia was unexpectedly hospitalized. In the confusion of those several days, Zoe somehow escaped from the yard and couldn't be found. A search ensued but no one had the heart to tell Thia her new companion was missing.

Zoe was found when alert Petsmart employees saw her come into the store with a couple who'd found the wandering pup. They intended to keep her, but soon realized Zoe belonged elsewhere.

Zoe and Thia have blossomed during their months together. Zoe recently received an official designation of Emotional Support Animal and now accompanies Thia everywhere. Hopefully many years are ahead for this dynamic duo! ♥

## A Tough Cookie Crumbles

Three weeks passed before the unsocialized and terrified female terrier would take a piece of meat from our hand. Tied by rope in the bed of a pickup and hauled into the shelter with her two pups, she had obviously never known love. Her adorable puppies found homes quickly, but Cookie took time to come around. She'd snap fearfully and run to the opposite side of the kennel when approached with a leash. But there was a kind, trusting personality wait-

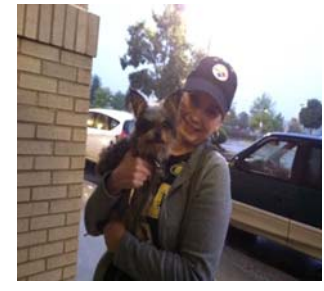
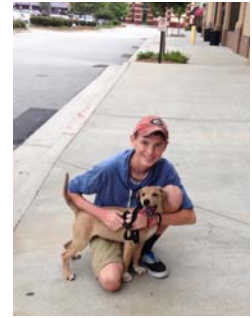


ing to come out. In her first foster home Cookie learned basic trust and kindness. Her second foster home showed her life in a pet-loving home. By the time Claire and her husband came along, Cookie was ready for her new life.



The new family of three plans to enjoy retirement and travel in their motor home. Seems Cookie now has the whole world ahead of her.

# New Families and Happy Endings



©Amy Etra Photography



### Lady

Lady's photos are a great example of how rescue changes a dog's life. Lady was dumped at the shelter by her former owner in May. Shelter photos on the left show a confused, nervous girl. Lady traveled with us to Dog Days adoption event in CT. It was love at first sight between Lady and David, her adopter. Photos on the right show a smiling Lady and her new dad. We love happy endings!





## People Make the Difference

Lots of people work together to make a difference for the animals. From individuals who network online to WAG volunteers spending Saturdays at Petsmart adoptions, a little effort by many goes a long way.

Thanks to amazing volunteers networking photos online, sharing information on Facebook or other social media and bringing attention to our very deserving animals, our rescued pets found homes across the country—from Colorado to Maine.

In June, WAG volunteers traveled to Connecticut with a rescue transport for our final adoption event with Dog Days, a CT non-profit. Our partnership with Dog Days found homes for 51 dogs during the past two years.

Other animal lovers volunteered to open their homes and foster dogs and cats this year, even bottlefeeding furry orphans!

Volunteers are like puzzle pieces—each person has skills and fits into a perfect slot helping these rescue animals start their new journey.

To all our volunteers, past and present, we'd like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for all you have done to change lives!



Rachel gets some puppy love!

### YES! I WANT TO PROVIDE A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR ANIMALS IN WALTON COUNTY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the animals in Walton County.

I'd like to make a donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (honoring) or (in memory of) my (friend) (relative) (pet)  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### MAKE ME A SPONSOR!

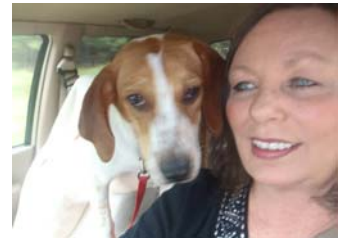
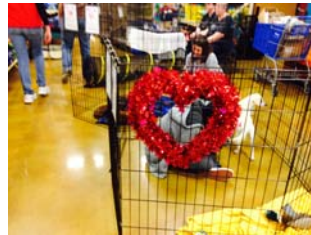
Guardian \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Rescuer \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum \$2,500+ \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you want to help in these animal welfare issues: Spay/Neuter \_\_\_\_\_ Pet Health \_\_\_\_\_ Humane Education \_\_\_\_\_ Fund-raising \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption promotion \_\_\_\_\_ Fostering pets \_\_\_\_\_

*Walton Animal Guild, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.*

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# Volunteer Snaps





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Founded in 2007, the mission of Walton Animal Guild is to end the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals in Walton County. Our rescue and adoption program brings animals out of the shelter and into new homes. Spay/neuter programs provide financial support to qualified Walton County pet owners to prevent the unnecessary breeding of animals, many of which might end up in the shelter. Community support programs provide food or housing to pets of owners facing financial challenges, offering an alternative to relinquishing their pet to the shelter. Education programs bring our message into the community.

WAG is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. All donations directly benefit our programs.

## Thanks and Gratitude

Our sincere thanks to the following animal lovers for supporting WAG, helping homeless pets and making a difference in their community in 2014.

Jana Adams, Alliance Fire Protection, Jeffrey and Amanda Armstrong, John Arnold, Tamara Ashley, Zach Bache, Nancy Baldoni, Kathy Barczykowski, Sheri Barnhart, Lauren Baroni, Theron Bell, Joshua Berry, Debra and Coye David Bishop, Thomas Blackstock, Graetane Borders, Judie Borucki, Boss Brothers Country Store, Carole Bossy, Michael and Holly Breaux, Dawn Brown, Steve and Susan Brown, Timothy Butler, Carole Bossy, David Chapman, Nancy Clark, Carol Collins, Laura Crump, Brian Cunningham, Carol Cunningham, Paulette Daly, Emily Davidson, Doris Davis, Michael Davis, Marshall Day, Bill and Karen Dean, Billy Dease, Dental Implant Training Centre, Ana Diaz, Joyce Dougherty, Wesley Dowdy, James and Debra Dubose, Kimberly Ellington, LaToya Emanuel, Lori Ewing, George-Anne Ferguson, Betsy Fetzer, Deepthi Gajjarapu, Shequita Garner, Mark and Lynn Garrett, Helen Geiger, Beth Goodwin, Larry Gordon, Mitchell Gregory, Elizabeth Gill, Glenda Gough, Cathy Graham, Tony Grayson, Donna Groussman, Courtney Hallmon, Christina Hannon, Claire Harrison, Kevin and Jessica Hatcher, Tarrah Hill, A. Haynes, J. Henson, A. Hilliard, Kerri Hobbs, Pamela Holland, Gary and Peggy Howard, Casey Humphries, Brian and Suzanne Isacson, Karlon Jackson, Shani Jackson, Lucynda Jaeger, Jenifer Jay, Scott Johnson, Jeanne Johnston, Liza Karsai, Loretta Keeler, Stephanie Kennedy, Katherine King, Philip Klein, Eleni



Kouzinoglou, Kroger Co., Suzanne Krone, Heather and Tracy Laverdiere, Kim Lincoln, William and Cindy Little, Carolyn Long, Crystal Marchant, Jennifer Markman, Valerie Martin, Sanford McAllister, Victoria McCarthy, William and Frances McDonough, Julie McFadden, Adrienne McFarland, Isabel McGetrick, Miranda McWaters, Courtney Malone, John and Deborah Meadows, Kristine Medea, Karen Meredith, Beth Miller, Susan Miller, Jim Milhollin, Mary Mills, Susan Mills, Monroe Animal Care Hospital, Monroe Veterinary Clinic, Vicki Tonya Mooney, Stacy Moore, Patrice Morgan, Vicki Morrissey, Alyson Mirrisette, Rachel Myers, Tanya Myles, Robert Nealin, Susan Nichols, G. Neal Nunnally, Alice O'Neal, Mary O'Rourke, Joni BonusO'Ship, Deborah Oscar, Brian Ottaviano, Veronica Owens, Michelle Padgett, Susan Pascali, Margaret Patierno, Barbara Periera, Petsmart, Bessie Prickett, Diana Ramdass, Jessica Rape, Matthew Redd, Anna Rigmaiden, Michael and Deborah Rising, Leo Reichert, Abbie Rush, Abby Rush, William Sacridier, Brent and Nancy Scott, Randi Short, Melissa Simmons, Sirius Grooming, Beth Smith, Mary Smith, , Mike Smith, Carole Smrecak, Alan Spector, Ted Stacy, Carolyn Staffins, Laura Stafford, Tommy Steed, Jennifer Stone, Catherine Stuff, Briana Styles, Kimberly Szeder, Robert and Jimmie Taylor, Jamie Teal, Laura Templeton, Kristen Thomas, David and Claire Thurber, Arianne Trigo, Patty Tudman in memory of Peggy Fulmer, Mary Ventress, Charlotte Vetsch, Christal Vinyard, Brenda Vostreys, Marlena Wald, Darrell Wallace, Walton EMC, Walton Living Magazine, Charles Werner, Jamie Welch, Margaret Willingham, Earl and Milisa Wise, Dana Zurbuchen.