



DOUGLAS ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP

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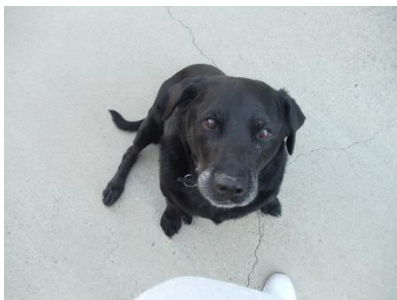
November 2023

Dear friend of Douglas Animal Welfare Group,

It's hard to believe that it is already November. DAWG has had another very busy year with all our programs and community services. There continues to be a strong need in Douglas County for animal care: medical, food, spays & neuters, cat/kitten fostering, etc. Last year, many of you generous supporters helped us with Shelter Medical donations to replace the huge expenses that we had with Ophelia, a sweet 9-month-old female Belgian Malinois/Shepherd mix that was a stray at the shelter and needed balloon valvuloplasty surgery for her heart condition. The surgery was a success and Ophelia was adopted by a very nice lady who loves her very much. This last fiscal year, DAWG spent **\$35,709** on medical expenses for the shelter animals. This does not include all the spays and neuters, vaccines, microchips, etc. that we covered. We are once again asking for donations to our **Shelter Medical Program** to help cover the ever-increasing veterinary expenses.

DAWG's **Shelter Medical Program** enables animals at Douglas County Animal Services to receive necessary medical care with the goal of making the animals as adoptable as possible. This includes senior exams, lab work, x-rays, ultrasounds, dental work, surgeries, tumor removals, medications, etc. This past fiscal year, DAWG paid the medical expenses for **30 shelter dogs and 24 shelter cats**. **Eleven** of those animals had one-time expenses of **over \$500, four were over \$1,000 and one was over \$5,000**. Several of these animals were seen more than once at the vet hospital. Treatments included seeing an eye specialist hospital in Reno, heart surgery, breast tumor removal & biopsy, cancer biopsy and surgery, echocardiogram plus other tests. Five animals needed dental surgeries, and one needed hospice care. In addition to that, **DAWG paid \$21,885** for the medical expenses, food, litter, and care for more than **43 stray cats and kittens** taken in by our volunteer fosters until they could be adopted. The animal shelter just doesn't have enough room for cats and kittens to house them all.

Here's the story of one lucky shelter dog that you helped... **Tank**... from his adopter.



“Tank’s story came across my social media feed as I was in the process of saying goodbye to my last senior adoption. I made an appointment to meet him. I could tell right off the bat he would make an incredible addition to my life. Tank came home with me the very same day. Tank needed a bit of weight management. Tank also has an issue called Proteinuria. It means that he has excess proteins in his urine that could be a sign of kidney disease or an issue with his urinary tract. The condition is easily treatable with Enalaril Maleate pills, a change in diet, and more exercise. He has slimmed down quite a bit and is still a work in progress. He does fantastic on our hikes and with increased confidence, he now leads the way. Not bad for an 11-year-old lab. When we get back from our adventures, we take a nap. Tank is a total bed hog. I had to learn to adapt to the sleeping arrangements. He totally makes me laugh. Adopting a senior dog can be great! Of course, all dogs need love. All shelter animals are a blessing in disguise. They are an adventure waiting to happen. Tank and I find them every day. You can too!”

DAWG covers all the medical needs for Tank through our Post Adoption follow-up program that helps special harder to adopt shelter animals receive the care that they need in order to assure that they do get adopted and lead as healthy and happy a life as possible. Special thanks to Tank’s wonderful adopter, Vernon, who has been so incredibly awesome in adopting needy senior dogs from the animal shelter.

If you can send a donation this holiday season, it would help our mission to treat more needy shelter animals. If you’d like to donate online, here is the link:

https://bit.ly/DAWG_DonateOnline

We are so grateful to all of our wonderful supporters. You enable DAWG to keep our programs running year after year. Thousands of animals have been helped because of your generosity.

May this holiday season bring you and your family peace, comfort, and joy. May 2024 be a wonderful year for you and all of the shelter animals coming our way!

With gratitude,

Kathryn Dodge
DAWG President

