



DAWG Unleashed

Douglas Animal Welfare Group

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FALL 2025

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 4

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DAWG Mission Statement:

To better the lives of Douglas County animals by improving their adoptability and thereby increasing the adoption rate while at Douglas County Animal Care and Services, educating the community about responsible pet ownership, and engaging in other projects and activities that may come available that will yield positive benefits to the animals, owners and citizens.



Adelaide

"Made in the Shade" – keeping our canines and volunteers cool!

DAWG launches campaign for new shade structures at animal shelter

By Gayle Vassar, DAWG Unleashed Editor

Time outside is especially precious if you're a shelter dog. It doesn't matter if it's raining, snowing or blazing hot, outdoors is THE place to be.

To meet the dogs' need for outdoor time, the Douglas County Animal Services shelter has three fenced exercise yards where shelter dogs can chase balls, frolic in kiddie pools, and sniff the ground in search of strange scents to their heart's delight.

Each area has a shade structure meant to protect volunteers, visitors and dogs from the desert sun, rain and snow – and each structure needs replacement.

Their wooden posts are showing signs of deterioration, hastened no doubt by the number of dogs who lift their legs on the posts.

The roofs of two of the structures are tilting to the point that taller volunteers and visitors have hit their heads. The shade structure in the largest yard was placed in such a way that people must stand outside it during certain times of the day to be in the shade.

"For afternoon volunteers, the sun can be brutal," says frequent dog walker Roxanne Hart. "A larger shade structure will allow more protection for the volunteers, visitors, and dogs."

"Made in the Shade"

DAWG is launching the "Made in the Shade" campaign to raise \$43,000 to replace the three shade structures. All will be made with dog-resistant materials. The shade structure in the largest dog yard will be bigger than the current structure and repositioned to avoid the sun.

In memory of their beloved Lab, Coach, who was adopted from the Douglas County shelter, a Douglas County couple is offering to match the first \$5,000 in donations (see related story, Page 2). To participate, simply write "Made in the Shade" on your check or choose the "Made in the Shade" option on the DAWG website (dawgrescue.com).

All donations are appreciated; those donating \$1,000 or more will be listed on a donor recognition plaque. To donate online, go to dawgrescue.com. Checks may be mailed using the envelope in this newsletter, or directly to DAWG, PO Box 1850, Gardnerville, NV 89410.

Let's work together so our shelter dogs, volunteers and visitors are "Made in the Shade"!





For the love of Coach | *By Melissa, Coach's adoptive mom*

On June 8, 2021 just two weeks after saying goodbye to our beloved 15-year-old dog and 19-year-old cat a handsome 9-year-old Lab became available for adoption at the Douglas County Animal Shelter. Without hesitation, we made an appointment to meet him. I'll never forget the moment we laid eyes on each other: Coach howled in excitement and rolled over to show us his belly as we approached. There was no question he was coming home with us.

Coach had been surrendered and was clearly broken-hearted, but so were we. This was our first rescue, and we had so much to learn about each other. He already had amazing recall, knew a few commands, and even had a special trick he played on his new parents: the "I haven't had breakfast or dinner yet" look. It worked often enough to earn him the occasional double meal. Such a trickster.

Early on, Coach revealed he wasn't a big fan of other dogs, which was perfectly fine with us. Surprisingly, he did like cats. Over a year ago, we adopted a kitten from DAWG, and Coach was the perfect big brother. We knew Coach loved his toys—but he also loved the cat's toys, often claiming them as his own. He'd greet company at the door with a cat toy in his mouth. All toys technically belonged to Coach, though he graciously allowed his brother to play with them from time to time.

It took some time to earn his complete trust, but once we did, Coach showered us with affection and loyalty. He looked forward to his monthly BarkBox delivery but nothing compared to his love for the ball. Except on vacation. On vacation, Coach took on a different persona, preferring the frisbee during his R&R time. True to his Labrador nature, swimming was his absolute favorite pastime.

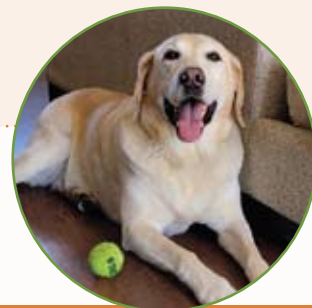
Coach took no fewer than four vacations a year, always near water, and always with a frisbee. He was a sucker for older women, who gave the best belly rubs and sweet talk. Every year on his birthday or "gotcha" day, we celebrated Coach with a party, surrounded by all his favorite people complete with a piñata, cake, and his very own "Coachuterie" board.

On April 1 this year, we received the news no pet parent ever wants to hear: cancer. We were blessed to share 17 more beautiful days with our sweet boy loving him hard, celebrating him, and cherishing every moment. In the nearly four years we had with Coach, our hearts were never fuller. Not a single day passed without telling him how much we loved him.

Coach, thank you for the gift of your presence and for the countless cherished memories. While we've always had dogs, you were our first rescue. We specifically chose an older dog so we could spoil you rotten for the best of the rest. The short time we had together makes losing you even harder but we would do it all over again.

We share Coach's story because his life mattered, and he meant so much to so many. He was our first rescue, but certainly not our last. Our hope is that by sharing his story, we inspire others to consider adoption. It's such a rewarding journey, and there are so many deserving pets still waiting.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to the Douglas County Animal Services shelter and DAWG for the incredible work you do to bring families together. ❤️



COACH'S LEGACY

In honor of Coach, his pet parents Andy and Melissa are kicking off the fundraising effort for new shade structures at the Douglas County Animal Services Shelter by offering to match the first \$5,000 in donations. (See story on Page 1 for details)



And the winner is ... DAWG! DAWG is proud to announce that we have been selected as the Best Nonprofit and the Best Service Organization in the "Best of Carson Valley" awards sponsored by the Record Courier newspaper.

It is the second year in a row that DAWG has received First Place honors in both categories.

"Our amazing volunteers work very hard to improve the lives of animals and their families here in the Carson Valley," said DAWG President Adrienne Chaney. "This could not happen without the support of this community. We are looking forward to some big projects this year, so stay tuned!"





Laura with one of the many rescue dogs she helped on the way to their forever homes.

Remembering former DAWG president Laura Winking

By Susan Carbiener, Cherie Owen and Alison Grey

We were saddened to hear about the May death of Laura Winking, former DAWG president and one of the first DAWG volunteers.

In 2008, Laura was honored nationally by the Points of Light Institute in Washington D.C. as a "Daily Point of Light" for her years of volunteering for the animals at the Douglas County Animal Services Shelter.

We are grateful for the achievements made during Laura's tenure as a volunteer for our organization. Laura's efforts put DAWG on the map through visibility, community involvement and fundraising. Laura and Pat Stanley hosted "DAWG Tails", a local TV program all about DAWG. She pioneered wearing DAWG T-shirts at the weekly Farmers Market in Lampe Park to promote our group, and she would parade available shelter dogs with "Adopt Me" vests, collars, etc.

Her fund-raising skills established a pattern of annual events from garage sales to community events. The one we often remember was the Mutt Poker Walk. This was such a fun event and Laura was instrumental in making it a true community undertaking by involving local business owners.

In the early history of our group, we also remember the Carson Valley Days parade held in June. With Laura and other volunteers, we walked with coffee cans along the route asking for donations for DAWG.

Laura's passion and compassion for rescue animals was unmatched. One of her many hats volunteering was organizing the shelter dog walkers. As the Lead or Captain, she accumulated the daily information on the dogs from volunteers and disseminated this to all volunteers. Everyone knew what each dog's behavior was that day, who needed medical attention, and other needs to promote their adoptability. Laura adopted Elvis, a tripod from the shelter who was fortunate to live out his life with her and her husband, Larry.

Laura was a caring, smart person, beautiful inside and out. She was a class act and a true friend to many. Lewis Carroll wrote that the secret is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile. Laura was one of those people. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who remember her. ♥

"DAWG Days" delights!

Thank you to **Daunelle Wulstein of Sierra Shadows Lavender and Honey** for hosting the "DAWG Days of Summer" fundraiser on July 19. Participants enjoyed strolling through the blooming lavender, sampling goodies and checking out a variety of vendor booths. The highlight, of course, was the opportunity to have a professional photograph of beloved pups taken in the lavender, **courtesy of Rachel Alloway of Sage River Photography**, who donated her time and the \$10 per person fee. The event raised \$1,100 for DAWG's Shelter Medical Fund.



Right: DAWG President Adrienne Chaney and Board member Heidi Sandvik signing in a dog and its human.

Left: Shelter dog Thor never looked better! The 4-year-old Husky was still available for adoption through Douglas County Animal Services when this newsletter went to print. (photo by Rachel Alloway/Sage River Photography)



PAWS OF THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

...  ...
[April - June 2025]



Thank
You

We wish to acknowledge the following special donations:

- **RICHARD CANTON** for his gracious support of DAWG.
- **MARION CONSTANCE DUFFY LIVING TRUST** for providing better futures for homeless animals.
- **CINDY DAVIS** for ensuring vulnerable animals will get the veterinarian care they need.
- **DIANNE EDMONDS** for always remembering cats in need.
- **EJW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** for making it possible to connect homeless animals with future adopters.
- **ELLEN GOLDSMITH** for her tireless support of DAWG and shelter animals.
- **HELLEN GREENWAY** for her magnanimous contribution to the new Cat Cottage.
- **JACKSON & WHITAKER** for spearheading a successful fundraiser for DAWG.
- **SANDRA MCANARNEY** for helping DAWG provide medical care to shelter animals.
- **JIM AND KATHLEEN STEMLER** for their extraordinary generosity in making the Cat Cottage a reality.
- **LORI WARD** for remembering Lulu by helping needy animals.

Anonymous
Brandi Alley
Bev Anderson
Gayle Badgley
August & Ila Bellas
Dale Bohlman
Rebecca Botsford
John Brackett
Jeanette Brindos
Judy Brown
Theresa Callahan
Debbie Cole
Virginia Craik
Margaret Crowley
Gerald & Setsuko Cuffe
Michael Daugherty
Marjorie Derrick
Charles Di Layra
Dwayne Dietrich
Kenneth & Sharon Douglas
Michael & Carolyn Dragics
Nicholas Duncan
David & Yvette Field
Kristina Forrester
David Forsyth
Ken & Sue Fujii
William Greene
Dan and Gail Greenlee
Linda Hamer
Judith Hansel
Barbara Havens

Jeanne Hay
Maribel Herrera
Margaret Hoefer
Larna Hoyt
Don & Jaclyn Hunt
Dan & Rebecca Hunter
Mariann Jackson
Tina Johnson
Betty Kaminski
Kelsey Keppner
Katherine Koepke
William & Jan Kyle
Lonnie & Janet Lee
Tom Lewis
Judy Lloyd
Lupy & Lynda Lopez
Rose Lopez
Charles & Terri Luetzgerodt
Georgette Maddox
Jody Mallory
Oliver & Roxanne Manfredi
Sara Maul
Susan and Mike McLaughlin
Michele Mecir
Ralph Medley
Donald Micheli
Minden Fortnightly Club
Northern Nevada Australian
Shepherd Club
James Nunnally
Debbe Nye

Sharon Osgood
Alyssa Park
Toni & Eldon Penner
Peter Philips & Estela Rodriguez
Jack & Charold Post
Kathleen Replogle
John & Liye Roemer
David Rogers
Thelma Rogers
Andy & Pam Rollins
Nancy Sanicola
Robyn Saunders
Stacey Sawyer & Brian Williams
Annette Shannon
David & Lynda Smit
Stewart Title
Norman Streeter
Rick & Carole Strehle
Judith Thran
Carol Vickrey
Jennifer Villalobos
Richard & Clyda Walker
Ken & Sandra Ward
Stephanie & Charles Ward
Frank & Peggy Warren
Bonnie Weber
Robert Wieczorek & Sonya Roth
Kaleigh Williams
Larry Wooton
Barbara & James Yeager
Craig & Stacey Ziglar

(continued)

Donations with Dedications

Barbara & Jeffrey Bordok – *in memory of Laura Winking, past president of DAWG*
 Cindy Austin & Al Burrill – *in memory of Ramey*
 Chris Cooper – *in memory of Jake Cooper*
 Kimberly Cox – *in living honor of Axel*
 Mary Lou Ericsson – *in memory of Father John Corona*
 Mike and Cheryl Ferrara – *in honor of cats Olga and Dorothy*
 Dawn Gordon – *in memory of Mango, the best Kitty*
 Sabine Henkel – *in memory of our beloved deceased pets*
 Jon & Joy Ignacio-Yip – *in memory of Ellie*
 Pamela Johnson – *in memory of Jazz and Fonzie*
 Patricia Long – *in memory of Bella*
 Patty Montague – *in memory of Krista*
 Rick & Julie Moore – *in loving memory of Frankie*
 Beatriz Morales – *in living honor of sons Oliver & Patrick*
 Diane Noble – *in memory of Archie*
 Jo Ann Patton – *in honor of Eloise and Steve Reed*
 Nancy Sanicola – *in memory of Sue Modarelli*
 Carole Seright – *for Rue Momorey*
 Marilyn Slagle – *in living honor of Don and Dar Broadwell*
 Jean Tomlinson – *in memory of Kit E., in living honor of L & M Mordaunt, Laura B. & family, and B. Muzzy*
 Craig & Stacey Ziglar – *in memory of RVCA*
 Judy Wickwire – *in memory of Virginia "Ginger" Craik*
 Pascal Zehnder – *in loving memory and gratitude for my American mom, Sue.*

Make a difference in the lives of homeless animals

– become a shelter volunteer for Douglas County Animal Services.

Dog walking volunteers work one-on-one with the adoptable dogs, taking them outside for exercise and attention. The shelter can be noisy and stressful for the dogs; having quality time outside with volunteers who care for them helps overcome that stress.

Cat care volunteers help the cats relax in the shelter environment, holding, petting and brushing them. Ongoing socialization helps the cat relax and be more friendly when meeting a potential adopter.

New volunteers are partnered with experienced dog walkers or cat carers to learn the ropes of caring for these vulnerable animals. Volunteers are asked to dedicate at least 1 2-hour shift a week.

Prospective volunteers must be at least 18 years old, submit an application and complete a background check through Douglas County Human Resources.

To get started, email volunteer@douglasnv.us or call Douglas County Human Resources at 775-782-9860.



CAT COTTAGE DONATIONS | April - June



Anonymous
 Bev Anderson
 Rick and Carol Athenhour – *in memory of Anni and Peanut, our first DAWG kittens, and in honor of our new DAWG cat Marie*
 Terri and Charles Billman
 Iris Blaisdell
 James Boyd
 Eric Brink & Gayle Vassar – *in memory of Graycie & Olivia, and in appreciation to DAWG for Catticus and Scout*
 Susan Cunningham – *in memory of Sammy, Angel and Stevie*
 Dianne Edmonds
 Sheila Gardner – *in honor of Posey Johnson*
 Hellen Greenway
 Clarissa Hopkins
 Nancy Humphries – *in memory of Charlie, Moon & Star*
 Jackson & Whitaker
 Katrina Krause
 Karen Martins on behalf of Cards with Hearts

Mary Ann Middleton
 Maureen Morris – *in memory of Smokey and Pumpkin*
 Diane Noble
 Rit Palmer & Rhonda Glisson
 Steve & Diann Potter
 Karin Reilly
 Wayne & Swarn Scarpaci – *in living honor of Tasha Marie*
 Eric Schafer
 Dr. Bill & Chris Seals – *in memory of kitty "Paws"*
 Kim & William Shrum
 Celeste Sozoff
 Jim and Kathleen Stemler
 Patty Sweeney
 Doug Taylor – *in memory of Sally Taylor*
 Charlotte Ursic – *in memory of Honey Bunny*
 Marian Vassar
 Charles "Ted" & Mary Ann Voyles
 Kien & Sandra Ward
 Lori Ward
 Renato & Elsa Zamperin



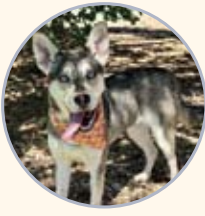
Adoption Follow-ups



Amaia



Amber



Anna



Annie



Bubbles



Chico



Chloe

AMAIA (now Aurora) is adorable. She did like to steal food from the counter, so we made some changes and took care of that. **AMBER** (now Annie) When we brought her home, we took her all around the property on a leash and she looked at me with a smile on her face like "is this for real?" I can't say enough good things about this dog. **ANNA** is doing awesome. We have a high-energy Boxer/Husky named Josie and they are a good match. **ANNIE** is so well behaved. The only thing is she doesn't answer to Annie so thought we might change it to Lily since she's white. She enjoys the swimming pool. **BUBBLES** (now Bob) loves to be petted and raises his paw when he wants more. I live at Topaz Lake and I walk him up to the casino twice a day. I think he may be deaf because he doesn't seem to respond. **CHICO** (now Kelly) is doing great. **CHLOE** is a real sweetheart. She watches TV with me, and she growls and barks at this cat commercial. I had no idea this ad came on so often!



Darwin



Doug



Emmet



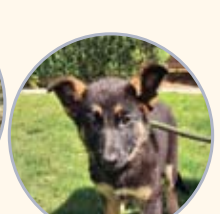
Everest



Fuji



Henny



Jazmine

DARWIN (now Reilly) is doing well with the housetraining. When I can't watch him, he goes to my Grandma's house and she has little dogs Reilly can play with. **DOUG** is just a wonderful little dog. We are trying to see who is going to run the house, him or me. I'm used to big dogs. But he is so adorable and so loving. **EMMET** is settling in with the other dogs, a Boston and another Pug. They play like maniacs. **EVEREST** (now Buddy) is doing well. The five cats are doing better with him and have started coming out more. **FUJI** (now Scooter) is starting to potty train and adjust to the household but he does have abandonment issues. He cries when we leave. At night, we lay with him until he falls asleep. **HENNY** (now Goober) is getting along with the other dogs and learning his spot in the pecking order. There are potty issues, but we are working on that. He's not an easy guy but all in all a good boy. **JAZMINE** (now Freya) and our Husky are playing together. When he goes out, she goes with him. She's full of energy and growing like a weed.



Jenny



Kam



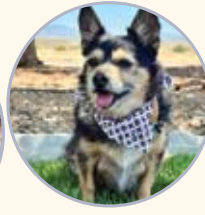
Kevin



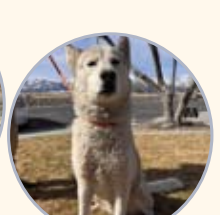
Kiki



Laverne



Shirley



Magnus

JENNY I own North Coast Plumbing, so she can go to work with me. My daughter, who lives across the street, has two dogs so Luna sees them a lot. She's doing very well. **KAM** is getting used to people in the house. We have a 5-year-old, and they get along well. We signed up for the training at the Community Center. **KEVIN** The first few days he was apprehensive but then he started relaxing. He and his adopted brother, Captain FOMO, a purebred Chihuahua, get along well. He's a great fit. **KIKI** (now Roxie) is smart and housebroken and has adapted really well. In September she goes to training. **LAVERNE** and **SHIRLEY** I'm so glad I got older dogs and kept them together. I can't talk highly enough about them. We have bonded and it's all good. **MAGNUS** We have two other dogs, and they are all doing well. He's great.



Pippin



Mr. Cow



Pocket



River

PIPPIN is animated, he's fun, he loves to sing. All the neighbors love him. He's a wonderful little dog. **MR. COW** (now Jasper) made himself at home and was settled in by the second day. He gets along with the cats. He respects them and they respect him. He's a little snuggle butt. **POCKET** He's great. He and our male Husky are out in the yard playing as we speak. **RIVER** listens well and is very obedient and she loves long walks. She's a really good dog.





Archimedes



Baby



Bob



Callie



Chatty Cathy



Charlie



Chonga

ARCHIMEDES (now Archy) is into everything and gets locked into rooms. He's doing really well and is fitting in. He's growing. **BABY** (now Luna) is doing fantastically. The owner loves adopting from the shelter and all her animals have come from there. **BOB** is adjusting well and has been to the vet. He is very happy. **CALLIE** is still shy and sleeps under the bed. She lets the owner stroke her while eating. She does get along with the dogs. **CHATTY CATHY** is great and loves everyone except males in the family! **CHARLIE** has adjusted and will sit on the couch with the owner. **CHONGA** is beginning to be more comfortable and is coming near strangers.



Cosmo



Orion



Dipper



Donny



Elipse



Geneva



George

COSMO (now Colorado) and **ORION** are lovely boys, playing and adjusting well. **DIPPER** (now Olaf) is adapting to the dogs and kids. He has his own cat tree and toys. **DONNY** is doing well and has had a checkup and the first of his shots. **ECLIPSE** and **BB** (not pictured) are terrific. **GENEVA** (now Clover) is really sweet and talks a lot. She gets along well with the kids in the family. **GEORGE** is a dream cat. He and the owner are bonding.



Granite



Hank



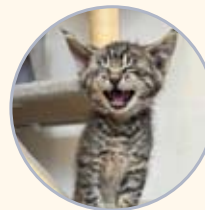
Ivan



Jeter



Jordan



Lars

GRANITE (now Rosie) is doing fantastically and is sweet. **HANK** (now Murphy) is doing well and about to go for his shots. **IVAN** is very shy; he mostly sleeps under the couch. He's very sweet and just needs more time to adjust. **JETER** (now Zephyr) is doing very, very well. He is scheduled with Dr. Kimmerman for his vaccines and neuter. He's a very nice boy. **JORDAN** gets along with the two dogs and is an amazing cat. **LARS** (now Paw) is doing great. The family is loving him.



Lenox



Ry



Loki



Lucy



Matilda



Hiccup



Matt

LENOX and **RY** play like brothers and are a handful. The owner is happy to have adopted from the shelter. **LOKI** is doing great and has no bad habits. Everything is wonderful. Thanks to the shelter for being such wonderful people. **LUCY** is very active! The only way they would adopt is from the shelter. **MATILDA** and **HICCUP** "Oh, my gosh," said the owner. "I've loved cats all my life and these cats are the best with the best individual personalities." **MATT** (now Ouija) has taken over the laundry room as his own private room where he has his cat house, a hammock, and his cat tree.





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Douglas Animal Welfare Group
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DAWG Salutes our Veterans and Active Military

Veterans and active-duty military who live in Douglas County have a friend in DAWG.

If they adopt a dog or cat from Douglas County Animal Services, DAWG will cover any vaccination and spay/neuter fees included in the adoption costs. (The adopter will still be responsible for a \$10 adoption fee and an \$8 animal license fee).

In addition, veterans and active-duty personnel can qualify for the following programs without meeting the programs' low-income requirements:

- Community Assistance, which helps with the costs of veterinary care.
- Fix-a-Family Pet, which provides spays and neuters for family pets for a nominal co-pay. (A related program, Fix-a-Pit Bull, provides spay and neuters for pit bulls and pit mixes for a nominal co-pay without any income requirements.)

Verification of veterans or active-duty military status is required. To learn more, call 775-267-7325.

Veterans Day is November 11 – let's honor our veterans and active military then and every day!

DAWG's Directors 2025

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DOG COACH ACADEMY



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO PAPERLESS?

Email us at
dawg.douglascountynv@gmail.com
and we'll switch you over.

THANKS
FOR BEING
GREEN!