

DAWG Unleashed

Douglas Animal Welfare Group

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SUMMER 2023

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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.



I'm Adopted!

Thank You!

Mojo



Dedicated Foster Mom Gives Jasper His Best Life

By Linda Miner, DAWG Volunteer

Jasper, his mom and four other newborn litter mates came to DAWG as part of the Found Cat Program at the end of June 2022. Jasper's foster mom noticed nothing out of the ordinary until Jasper was weaned and started eating kitten food.

For periods of time each day, Jasper would become lethargic and disoriented. He would drool, his tongue would protrude, and he would not eat. Jasper's foster mom noted that eating seemed to make him sick! Long story short, Jasper was diagnosed with a portosystemic shunt (PSS) which is extremely rare in cats.

A PSS is a vascular abnormality that allows blood from the digestive track to bypass the liver (the body's great filtration system) and distribute toxins throughout the body.

Turns out Jasper is a poster child for the PSS condition:

- He's much smaller than his litter mates.
- His eyes are a deep amber color.
- His testicles did not descend.
- He drinks a lot of water.
- He experienced temporary blindness.
- And on and on ...



Jasper's devoted foster mom has worked tirelessly to fine-tune the diet and medications required to give him a normal life. He is quite the happy, rambunctious little demon these days! Jasper's future is uncertain due to the unpredictability and rarity of his condition, but for now, as his pictures show, he is safe and well loved. ♥





Sweet Sparrow Searching for a Forever Nest

By Gayle Vassar, DAWG Volunteer

Sparrow is a smart, sweet girl who loves riding in cars and just wants to be someone's buddy. She is eager to learn, loves playing fetch and will do just about anything for a treat. Ask her to sit and she'll hold that pose like a fashion model ready for the runway.

Sparrow is a medium-size Labrador retriever/Pit bull terrier mix and is about 1 year and 4 months old. She has been known to climb fences left to her own devices – we said she's smart! – so should not be left in a fenced yard unsupervised.

While Sparrow can be reactive to other dogs at first, she warms up given the chance. She has gone on 'field trips' to a DAWG volunteer's home and was a perfect lady both in the car and inside the house. She loved running and playing with the volunteer's dog in the back yard.

Her adoption fees have been paid for by DAWG. To meet Sparrow, call the Douglas County Animal Shelter at 775-782-9061. ❤️



DAWG volunteers love sharing information about available pets and DAWG programs at their booth.

FUN IN THE PARK

Douglas County Shelter dogs were the well-behaved guests of honor at a special community event hosted by Leslie Lawson (Coldwell Banker Select Nevada) and Brandy Marshall (Guild Mortgage) at Heritage Park. Everyone who brought a pet-friendly donation to support shelter animals received a free photo by photographer Laura Tenney.

A doggone good time was had by all!



Maya gets some extra love from DAWG volunteer Cherie Owen. The lovely pup has been adopted.



Mojo looking majestic near the swag bags. Lucky guy has since found his forever home!



Photos by Laura Tenney Photography



BE A HERO TO HOMELESS CATS!

By Tondra Vees, Found Cat Program Coordinator

Imagine being a tiny kitten, cowering in a bush, frightened, starving, and shivering from the bitter cold and wind. Your mom disappeared and you don't know what happened to her.

Or imagine your human family abandoning you after years of life in the only place you know. They moved away and left you behind to fend for yourself. You are alone and confused.

These are just two of the sad scenarios that our volunteers routinely witness. It is an unfortunate reality for many cats and kittens, usually caused by humans' uncaring, irresponsible, and neglectful behavior. Illegal dumping or abandonment of cats and kittens happens. These felines don't have the best survival skills because they're not wild animals. The ones that manage to survive are often sick or injured. These domestic pets may eventually become feral and if they're not altered, more generations are brought into the world and the cycle continues.

Thankfully, between DAWG's TNR (Trap/Neuter or Spay/Return for feral cats) and Found Cat programs, help is available for many of Douglas County's homeless kitties.

The Found Cat Program is a short-term foster program for adoptable homeless cats and kittens. The animal shelter will not take in homeless cats or kittens until after a mandatory waiting period and even then, there may not be room for them at the shelter, so the Found Cat foster program is vital. Our amazing volunteers provide shelter, food, medical care, and lots of love and affection for these scared little ones. In time, once the foster kitties are ready for adoption, they're promoted through Petfinder and social media and their adoptions are processed through our local animal shelter.

The TNR program is another vital program for homeless cats. Residents who are aware of feral cats in their area are encouraged to fix them through DAWG's TNR program. The TNR team is available when needed to assist residents with trapping and transport of feral cats to and from spay/neuter/vaccines appointments. All expenses are covered by either DAWG or a grant.

Found Cat and TNR volunteers work closely together to build better futures for homeless felines. The work we do under these two important programs is very rewarding. The feeling one gets when taking in a cat, kitten, or litter of kittens that were previously destined to a short life of misery is almost indescribable. Instead of uncertainty, these innocent cats and kittens are cared for until they get adopted and able to live long, happy lives as beloved family members.

How to Help Feral or Stray Cats

If you reside in Douglas County, Nevada and have feral cats that need to be altered (their ears aren't tipped), or find stray (homeless) cats or kittens, please contact Douglas County Animal Services at 775-782-9061 to start the process. If you need assistance, the animal shelter will refer you to us.

Volunteers Needed

We are in desperate need of volunteers for these programs – feral cat trapping, transport and fostering of adoptable kitties. If you live in or near Douglas County, please consider helping. There's so much more to share and we are happy to answer your questions. And, by the way, we are also always on the look-out for local barns to place barn cats!

Please call DAWG at 775-267-7325 or email dawg.douglascountynv@gmail.com and you will be directed to me, the Found Cat Program Coordinator, or Eloise, our TNR Program Coordinator.



PAWS OF THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT [February - March 2023]



Every donation is special and appreciated. We wish to offer acknowledgements for the following unique donations.

- **MARK AND BONNIE DILLON** for their generous contribution toward the needs of cats awaiting adoption.
- **NIMBY FARMS** for their unwavering support of shelter cats.
- **DOUGLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS** who chose the Nevada State special Spay and Neuter license plates. A portion of those license plate fees are donated quarterly to DAWG to support our Trap/Neuter or Spay/Return (TNR) program.
- **THE MANY ANIMAL LOVERS IN OUR COMMUNITY** who donate dry and canned dog, puppy, kitten and cat food, treats, pet beds, cat litter, and towels and blankets for the shelter animals. They also recycle aluminum beverage cans in the dumpster at the shelter parking lot. We may not know who you are, but your acts of kindness make a difference!

THANK YOU

February – March, 2023

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| John Brackett | Linda & Bud Johnson |
| Roger & Pam Brekas | Tina Johnson |
| Jeanette Brindos | Betty & Chuck Kaminski |
| Linda & Steven Chambers | Kelsey Keppner |
| Audrey Colley | Eric Klesitz |
| Virginia (Ginger) Craik | Katherine Koepke |
| Margaret Crowley | Lonnie & Jan Lee |
| Kenneth & Sharon Douglas | Sara Maul |
| Ken & Sue Fujii | Nancy McDermid |
| Sondra Gilmore | Diane M. Noble |
| William Greene | Sharon Osgood |
| Sara Groenendyke | Peter & Pauline Roth |
| William & Roxanne Hart | Gregory & Sue Scott |
| Suzanne Hoaglund | Stephanie Stugart |
| Cynthia Hoch | George Weller |
| Margaret Hoefler | Larry Wooton |
| Mariann M. Jackson | Barbara & James Yeager |

Donations with Dedications

- Barry & Linda Boyd - *In remembrance of our wonderful little dog "Frito," who we lost on January 21, and in honor of Stanley & Tilly, beloved dogs of Tyler & Colleen Harkins*
- Janice Coil - *in memory of Felix (the cat)*
- Catherine Davis - *in memory of Colt*
- Charles R. Flanagan - *in memory of Toby*
- Mary Hays - *for the cat Trap/Neuter or Spay/Return program*
- Loraine Littlefield - *in memory of Teddy*
- Jack & Charold Post - *for the Found Cat Program*



INTRODUCING THE Senior-to-Senior Pet Adoption Program



Love knows no age limits ~

but sometimes financial barriers can get in the way. That's where DAWG's new Senior-to-Senior adoption program comes in.

Under the Senior-to-Senior program, people 55 years and older can adopt a senior dog, cat, or other animal from the shelter free of charge. Animals must be 8 years or older to qualify.

DAWG will cover all adoption fees, which may include spay or neuter costs, vaccinations, and license fees.

Senior animals make wonderful companions!

To learn more about adoptable animals, visit dawgrescue.com/available-pets and scroll to the "Click Here" button.



CAT CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at Douglas County Shelter

Calling all cat lovers! Additional volunteers are needed to care for cats at the Douglas County Animal Shelter.

Volunteers may help shelter staff by refilling food and water dishes, tidying kennels, and yes, scooping litter boxes.

But more important is the extra love and attention volunteers can give to these homeless cats while they wait to be adopted. Holding, petting and brushing cats helps them relax in the shelter environment, and increases the cat's ability to be friendly when approached by a potential adopter.

Ideally, there would be at least one cat care volunteer each day enriching the feline experience. Unfortunately, this cannot always happen due to lack of volunteers.

If you like cats and have at least one free hour once a week between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., consider becoming a Cat Care volunteer!

Prospective volunteers must be at least 16 years old, submit an application and complete a background check through Douglas County Human Resources. For more information, go to https://communityservices.douglascountynv.gov/animal_services

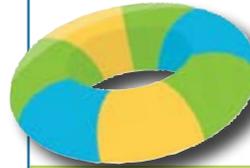


Sometimes a guy just needs to soak in the sun after a dip in the pool.



Cookie is among the many pups at the Douglas County Animal Shelter who love to play in the wading pool during their outdoor time with DAWG volunteers.

Cookie was still available for adoption at the time this photo was taken. To meet this Australian Shepherd mix, or any of the other cute canines at the shelter, call 775-782-9061.



**Carson Valley
Veterinary Hospital, Inc.**



1390 Highway 88
Minden, Nevada 89423
www.carsonvalleyvet.com

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Fax: (775) 782-7662

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For the first time ever, DAWG promoted its name and mission to the 18,300-plus vehicles each day who drive on Highway 395 in south Gardnerville. The banner was placed on May 8, right in time for National Pet Week, and was up for a week.

Look for it next year!



Animal Medical Services
Sharon Burns, D.V.M.
(775) 782-2297
1355 Centerville Ln. ▲ Gardnerville, NV 89410

ADOPTION FOLLOW-UPS



Buck



Carson



Chuck



Dale



Bella



Dylan

BUCK is doing very well. He just plays and plays in the snow. I only let him out when I feed the stock. I don't want to leave him out all day. I had him trimmed up at the groomer's and he looks great. **CARSON** is working out perfectly. I love her so much. She now follows me everywhere and is becoming more affectionate and less guarded every day. Thank you for her. **CHUCK** (now called Ace) is adapting wonderfully to the ranch. He's a good dog for around here because we have lots of room and energy for him. He just needed some guidance. He's a wonderful, wonderful dog and a great match for the ranch. Now he is happy. **DALE** and **BELLA** (12-year-old Chihuahuas) are settling in very well. We had another bonded pair of senior Chihuahuas before this, so when we saw Dale and Bella, we scooped them up. It's a shame people don't realize how good it is to adopt seniors. **DYLAN** loves to drive us crazy with a stick. She always wants us to throw it. She's settling in very well and follows me all over the place. She's a good dog.



Felicia



Gemma



George



Jerry



Kolby



Lobo

FELICIA (now Sierra) is adjusting and fitting in quite well. She got into it with the cat, but we are working that out. She's getting more exercise than she was used to because we walk all the time. She is good on the leash and sits on command. She was shy at first but not shy now which is good because we have three kids. **GEMMA** is a great dog. A little more of a puppy than I thought she would be, but it has worked out fine. She chewed up a few of my things but I have put them up. We walk quite a bit together and I look forward to hiking in better weather. We have a lot of fun together. I'm happy with her and glad I adopted her. **GEORGE** is a lover. The only issue is that he gives puppy nips when he is excited but we are working on that and he is getting better. We go on walks every day. I went to the shelter to see another dog and another couple came in at the same time and adopted him. Then Rae asked if I would like to see another dog and I was curious as to what a Basset/German Shepherd looked like so asked to see George. I bought him one of those huge bones and he chewed and chewed and then he buried it. I never saw a dog do that before. We're inseparable already. **JERRY** is great with our other dogs, a Doxie and a Terrier/Poodle. Both are smaller, older, and slower, but he and the Doxie play chase. He's excellent in the house and has never had an accident. Which is good because he has learned how to open the doors and get into the house. He does seem to have some separation anxiety, so our challenge is that he goes over our 6-foot privacy fence. We first got a large wire crate, but he quickly found its weak spot. So, we are looking at fencing options, possibly Coyote Rollers. But basically, he is a really, really good dog and we are absolutely in love with him. **KOLBY** is doing pretty well, but it has been a little bit of a challenge settling in because he is so skittish and scared. And super independent. The only time he seems happy is when I get the leash and take him for a walk. I was able to spend the first few days with him but then I had to go to work. He has been good being in the house by himself. **LOBO** is awesome. Our other German Shephard, Ranger, was not accepting of him at first, but now they've started running and playing. We're on 10 acres and he is learning about horses. He loves our cats. Everything is going great.



Mama Bear



Milo



Mistletoe

MAMA BEAR (renamed Boo-Boo Bear): This poor dog lost her home in September 2022 and had been bounced around before landing in the El Dorado shelter (she was temporarily at Douglas County Shelter after the El Dorado facility's boiler blew up). The lack of exercise for so long had taken a toll on her muscle tone and stamina. She spent the first week just being a zombie but then started to come to life. She will not go out of the house without me, so we take lots of long walks around the property. It's taken almost 3 weeks for her to begin acting like a normal responsive dog, but she is really on the mend. She is a very sweet-natured and loving dog. **MILO** is doing great. He is smart and obedient. We are blessed to have such a good boy. **MISTLETOE** is doing great. We're working on getting her used to other dogs when we walk her. We're calling her Canela which is the Spanish word for cinnamon.



Mizay



Mojo



Rocko



Rowdy



Scout



Solo

MIZAY listens well and is so sweet. We're in love with her. She was a little skittish at first, a little shy. She even gets along with my crabby Border Collie. She likes to sleep with my husband and me. She's perfect. **MOJO** is doing fantastic. He's perfectly at home and loves being spoiled rotten. He doesn't bark. The Fedex driver came and he just looked at him. Our other dog would have been barking up a storm. We just love him and are so glad we got him. **ROCKO** is such a sweet pup. We get him out for a walk every day and then he is content to nap or sit outside and watch what's going on. He does not like it when "his people" leave the house but otherwise he is calm. So happy we added Rocky to the family. **ROWDY** is a wonderful, sweet puppy, and he has adjusted well. He is always happy. His tail is always wagging. **SCOUT** is such a sweet loving boy and has won the hearts of my husband and son. Not a mean bone in his body. Unfortunately, it looks like he suffers from separation anxiety and noise sensitivity which is a bummer for him and us. Luckily someone is usually home. He is on trazadone now and I plan to start him on Prozac once seen by the vet, and then the separation anxiety training can start in earnest. He has A LOT to learn for a middle-aged dog, but fortunately, he wants to please and is willing to learn. **SOLO** is now Sully because we are Pittsburgh Penguin fans, and their coach is Michael Sullivan. We had another dog already and the two of them are wrestling and playing and having a great time. They nap in the recliner together. They get along really well.



Tucker



Anna Rose



Bernadette



Blackie



Butch



Charlotte

TUCKER is an absolutely wonderful dog. We went for a nice hike today and I found out what a water dog he is and he loves snow, too. I can't believe how well trained he is. He walks right by my side and never pulls. I had a black lab I lost in January. I thought about a puppy, but I am 72. My son showed me pictures of Tucker and I went to see him. This is a match made in heaven. He likes it here and I'm happy he's here. **ANNA ROSE** was adopted by my daughter and immediately spayed. I live in Tahoe and have another cat, so I am waiting until Anna Rose is healed to bring her home to Tahoe. Everything is going well so far. **BERNADETTE**, a feral foster, is lovely. She is an only cat. **BLACKIE** (now Jasper) is such a joy. She sleeps on the bed with me. She hid at first, but after six hours came out and settled right in. **BUTCH** (now Catticus Finch) is hilarious. He has the cutest expressions and keeps us laughing at his antics. We love him. **CHARLOTTE** is the best thing which ever happened to me; we were meant for each other.



Elliot



Maizy



Noelle



Rally



Tilly

ELLIOT (now Billy) is doing wonderfully and has been to get his shots. He gets along with the dogs. **MAIZY** and **BOOTS** (not pictured) are doing well. They have integrated nicely. **NOELLE** (now Scout) was a stray kitten rescued by DAWG's Found Cat program. She is very smart and quickly learned how to open drawers and cupboards, so we had to babyproof our house. We got her about a month after we adopted Catticus, and the two of them have a great time chasing each other through the house. **RALLY** is doing wonderfully. **TILLY** has been spayed. Everything is going great with her.

ADOPTION UPDATE

We are happy to report that between January and March, we succeeded in finding happy homes for

36 dogs, 14 puppies, 19 cats and 9 kittens!





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Mary Doran
Sharon Mead

ASPCA

TOP 5 Summer Safety Tips for Pet Parents 

Hope you are having a nice summer! With the hot weather setting in, we wanted to remind folks that amidst the fun and games, pet health should be kept top of mind to help ensure a safe season for all. To keep dogs and cats out of harm's way, the ASPCA has created a helpful infographic with the Top 5 Summer Dangers for Pets, including:

- 1 Fireworks & Thunderstorms**
 Loud noises like fireworks are one of the top reasons pets go missing, so secure your pet in an escape-proof place. If your pet does go missing, download the ASPCA app for a free step-by-step digital toolkit to help find your pet: www.ASPCAapp.org.
- 2 Sun & Heat**
 High summer temperatures and bright days can mean dehydration, overheating, and sunburned paws. Know the signs of overheating (excessive panting, increased heart rate, and weakness) and bring your pup indoors or to a cool, shady place.
- 3 Toxic Chemicals**
 Insecticides, ornamental products, and glow sticks are toxic to pets. Keep your pet away from areas where chemicals have been sprayed and ensure dangerous products are out of reach.
- 4 Parties & Barbecues**
 If your pet's joining the party, make sure guests don't feed your pet human food (especially grapes, onions, avocados, and chocolate) and ensure alcoholic drinks are kept out of your pet's reach.
- 5 Hot Cars**
 Even with the windows open an inch, a car's temperature can reach over 100° in 10 minutes on an 85° day. One quick errand can turn dangerous in minutes, so leave your pet safely at home. Sign our Hot Car Pledge to help save lives this summer and all year long.

DAWG's Facebook donate button is now active. Feel free to give it a try!