



# DAWG Unleashed

**Douglas Animal Welfare Group**

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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.*



**Sapphire**

## One Dog plus One Dog equals Double the Fun!

*By Gayle Vassar, DAWG Unleashed editor*



*Bentley's 'glamour shot' taken while he was at the shelter. Katie, now named Boots, is a gorgeous husky with striking blue eyes.*

Tom Azbill had been wanting a dog for years, but the timing was never right. Then he had a long hiatus from work and found himself getting bored. "I thought 'I always wanted a dog. Why not now?'"

Tom went to the Douglas County Animal Shelter. After a less-than-successful meeting with his first choice, he met Katie (now Boots), a 1 ½ year old husky. It was a perfect match.

Three months later, it was time to go back to work. Tom works long days, and the thought of leaving Boots alone all day didn't feel right. "I needed a buddy for my buddy," he says.

Remember the dog Tom met before he decided on Boots? Tom did. It was a handsome 2-year-old Border Collie named Bentley. Their first meeting in May had not gone well. Bentley – who had a reputation for not liking men – had been snippy.



*Boots and Bentley love to rest head-to-head after a full day of playing.*

This time was different though. "This time, I had Boots with me, and because of that, it worked out," says Tom.

With Boots in tow, Tom returned to Douglas County Animal Shelter and asked about Bentley. Shelter staff brought Bentley out for a meet-and-greet with his prospective new family. Bentley and Tom went for a walk, accompanied by Boots and a shelter staff member. By the end of the walk, Tom knew he'd found Boots a friend.

At home, Boots and Bentley get on famously.

"They play in the back yard all day. They share. When I adopted Bentley, I got him a water bowl and food dish, but I noticed quickly that they drink and eat out of the same dishes," says Tom.

Boots is the leader, says Tom. "She has been the alpha dog since Day 1. When Bentley goes too far, she lets him know it."

As for Bentley, he is learning every day what it means to be part of a family. "He is getting calmer," says Tom. "He realizes he isn't going anywhere. This is his home."

Tom has no regrets about going from a no-dog home to a two-dog home. "They often lie face-to-face when they are sleeping. They love each other, and they love me. They bring so much to my life – I am really glad I did this." ♥

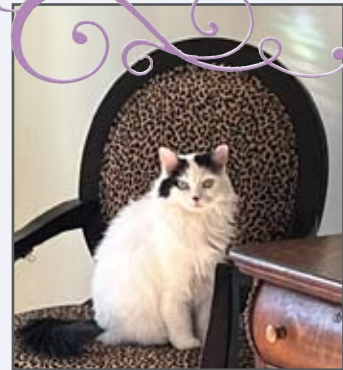
# DAWG Volunteer gives Priscilla a Second Chance

By Kathryn Dodge, DAWG President

Priscilla is a gorgeous long-haired cat who no doubt was a beautiful kitten. She was adopted about 9 years ago by someone who intended to love her for life. But that owner developed dementia. One day someone came and did a wellness check and determined that the owner needed to go to a home to be cared for.

Priscilla was taken to the shelter. There they determined she needed to be shaved, so she was taken to a vet, anesthetized – because no one could handle her – and shorn of more than 2 ½ pounds of matted fur.

Priscilla was confused, scared and missing her human. She sat in the shelter cage and hissed, bit and scratched anyone that came near her. The shelter finally determined that she was unadoptable and put a message out to DAWG members asking for anyone that might adopt this very frightened, untouchable cat.



*Sitting pretty! Priscilla has settled into her new home nicely*



*Priscilla and her new friend Phoebe, a formerly feral cat rescued by a DAWG volunteer*

A DAWG volunteer read the message and thought about it for a while. Finally, she decided “I’ll take her.” She drove to the shelter, unsure of how they would even get the cat into a kennel for the ride home. When she arrived, she discovered Priscilla was already in a carrier. Whew! So, home they went.

There Priscilla was released into the “cat room” where there was litter, kibble, water and beds – a safe place where she could decompress and come out at her own pace. She started sitting on the futon and the new owner started sitting near her.

As the months passed, Priscilla allowed the new owner to sit nearer and nearer and finally even touch her. A year-and-a-half later, Priscilla lets her owner pick her up and carry her, pet her, and even care for her when she is sick. She has gone from an “unadoptable cat” to a well-loved family pet, thanks to the determination of a DAWG volunteer. ♥



## Archer the Kansas Cat

By Jen Northcutt, DAWG Volunteer

If you asked Anna to describe her family when she was growing up, she always included her pets. She was raised to love and respect the family pets as part of her household. In 2021 Anna graduated from high school and started her college career at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas.

Like most of the students at Bethel, Anna lives in the on-campus dorms.

Being so far from her family in Nevada was hard, says Anna. “A lot of the students here can go home on weekends and it’s easy for their families to visit.” Anna spent her first two years at Bethel missing her family and battling homesickness.

When Anna came home for the summer of 2023, she saw a picture on social media of a Douglas County shelter cat, Archer. Something about this tuxedo cat caught Anna’s eye. After visiting Archer at the shelter there was no way she was going to leave him there. She gathered her necessary paperwork and went to adopt him.

Archer was approved to live on campus and traveled by car to the state of Kansas. Archer settled into dorm life right away.

“He’s very friendly to everyone who comes in,” says Anna. “He’s always really excited to see me when I get back from class and he doesn’t mind being picked up, so I give him lots of hugs. When I lie down to go to bed, he comes and curls up on my chest to get his pets. Having him here makes it feel more like home and less lonely.” ♥



# IF our Pets Made New Year's Resolutions

Tired of making the same old resolutions each year, only to break them a few weeks later? What if we turned to our pets for inspiration? We might just find a resolution that we could keep all year long. Here are a few we imagine our cats and dogs would make that might apply to us humans as well.

- **Love Unconditionally** – Why hold onto grudges or bad feelings? No matter how long your human has been gone, greet him or her like they are a superhero when they walk in the door.
- **Get Enough Sleep** – The secret to being ready for playtime lies in getting lots of rest. Try to get 16-20 hours of sleep a day if you're a cat, and 12-14 hours a day if you're a dog. That way, you are refreshed and ready to wake your human before the alarm goes off.
- **Exercise! Never turn down a chance to move your body.** One of the best things about being a dog is all the exercise your human will get taking you for walks. It's great for cardiovascular health and getting enough Vitamin D from the sun. You're welcome!
- **Live in the Moment** – Worrying about the past and stressing about the future only diminishes the simple joys to be found in the present. Car ride? Squirrel? New ball to bat around? There is so much to enjoy in the now.
- **Love Your Food** – Food is awesome! Be sure to let your human know how much you appreciate being fed by running to the bowl and eating as noisily as you can.
- **Don't Eat Food You Don't Like** – On the other hand, sometimes humans give us something we just don't care for. Don't like it? Don't eat it! Save those calories for things you really enjoy (did someone say treats?)
- **Stop and Smell the Roses** – When you're out on a walk with your human, be sure to take time to sniff things along the way. Maybe your human will take the hint and pay more attention to all the interesting things around them.
- **Spend Quality Time with Those you Love** - It doesn't have to be complicated. Cuddle on the couch watching Netflix. Rest your head against them when they've had a hard day and let them know you are there for them. The important thing is that you're together with someone you love.



In honor of National Coffee Day, September 29, Coffee on Main donated a dollar to the Douglas County Animal Shelter for every cup of coffee purchased.

“We appreciate all the support you have provided us on National Coffee Day and look forward to making it a bigger event next year!” said the shelter on its Facebook page. Thank you to Coffee on Main for helping to better the lives of Douglas County animals.



# PAWS OF THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT [ July - September 2023 ]



THANK YOU

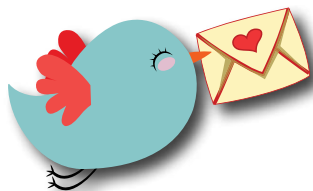
We wish to acknowledge the following special donations:

- **THE HELEN CLOSE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** for outstanding support of DAWG's community service programs, pet adoptions and the shelter animal medical fund.
- **DONNA KEYES** for her gracious gift to help where most needed.
- **NIMBY FARMS** for steadfast dedication to helping shelter cats.
- **LOIS WRAY** for making the dreams of many homeless animals come true through her generosity.
- **DOUGLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS** who chose the Nevada State special Spay and Neuter license plates. Portions of those license plate fees are donated quarterly to DAWG to help support our Trap/Neuter-or-Spay/Return(TNR) program.
- **THE MANY RESIDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY** who donate puppy, kitten, dog and cat food, pet beds, treats, blankets and towels for shelter animals, and who recycle their aluminum beverage cans in the dumpster at the shelter parking lot. Your acts of kindness make a difference.

## July - September 2023

Betty Birnbaum  
 Dale Bohlman  
 James Boyd  
 Gerald & Georgia Brown  
 Joe & Theresa Callahan  
 Linda & Steven Chambers  
 Patrick & Debbie Cimijotti  
 Virginia Craik  
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 Maureen Shanahan  
 Sylvia Smith-Turk  
 Celeste Sozoff  
 Richard & Carole Strehle  
 Gayle Vassar & Eric Brink  
 Richard & Clyda Walker

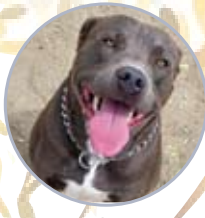


## Donations with Dedications

Kimberly Bain - *for assisting found cats*  
 Margaret Crowley - *for Fix a Family Pet*  
 Dick Flanagan - *in memory of Toby*  
 Zachary Hill - *honoring Sunshine by donating the cost of her spay fees*  
 Kelsey's Groom Shop & Boarding - *in memory of Bowie Dreyfus*  
 Georgette Maddox M - *in memory of Gary & Bubba*  
 Lisa Magnotta - *in memory of Cinda, beloved dog of Mark & Gail Falconer*  
 Camille May - *for the Found Cat Program and to support Trap/Neuter/Return*  
 Patty Montague - *in honor of Reese & Krista*  
 Douglas Bus Drivers Association NCSEA Chapter 6 - *in honor of Robert Stirling*  
 Robert & Arlyn Pacheco - *for the Found Cat Program*  
 Sandra Paul - *in memory of Chester, Chelsea, & Cooper*  
 Jack & Charold Post - *for the Found Cat Program*  
 Gayle & Ken Riley - *adoption assistance for the Senior to Senior program*  
 Dorothy Schumaker - *in memory of Sam & Muffin*  
 Joseph & Lisa Sherych - *to support the Trap/Neuter or Spay/Return program*  
 Marilyn Slagle - *in living honor of Don & Dar Broadwell*  
 Susan Van Alyne - *in memory of Pete Saletti. We will miss his hugs!*  
 Carol Vickrey - *in memory of Bigg*  
 Jennifer Villalobos - *in memory of Dianne Hawhee*  
 Ken & Sandra Ward - *for cats' needs*  
 Robert & Sonya Roth Wiczorek - *in memory of Scooter*  
 Craig & Stacey Ziglar - *in memory of Bigg*



# ADOPTION FOLLOW-UPS



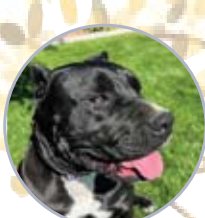
Blue



Chica



David



Gemini



Jake

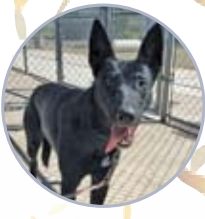


Karma



Max

**BLUE** seems to have some separation anxiety, but he is starting to learn not to pull. I have gotten him a no-pull harness. I took him on a 4-mile walk and he seemed to like that. **CHICA** (now Annie) I've only had her a short while and it takes time to get to know an animal. So far OK. Her rare breed (Dogo Argentina) is not the kind of animal I am used to. She does resemble a Pit but doesn't act like one. She is very intelligent. **DAVID** was hiding under the bed when we first brought him home and we left him to decompress. Now he has moved over to his own bed. **GEMINI** is a great dog. I'm socializing her quite a bit and she is doing fantastically. **JAKE** is so mellow and loving. I have eight workers and he gets along with them. He has a run with a big doghouse and 3 acres to roam when he is not in his run. He will come inside in the winter. **KARMA** (now Tyra) is feeling right at home and having a good time. She seems to like being with people. She is high energy, but we're used to that because we have had a few Borders. Our boys, ages 14 and 15, run with her. **MAX** is sitting right next to me trying to eat my popcorn. Someone has spent a lot of time with him. He comes, sits, lies down, jumps on the bed. He minds so well! It is impressive.



Nani



Wally



Waylin



Aurora



Bassett



Coach

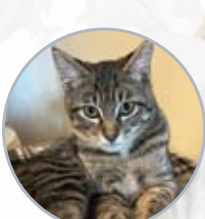


Dazzle

**NANI** is doing great. I've sent pictures and video to the Shelter staff. **WALLY** poops and pees everywhere. He is a poop monster! He is a lot of work, but we knew that would be the case since he is a puppy. I also have a Coonhound named Scooby Doo and they are getting to be friends. These are my boys. We are very happy with him. He's got a good home here. **WAYLIN** has settled in pretty well. He's a great addition to our family and a great companion for his sister. **AURORA** (now Domi) is becoming less shy. She's getting out of the closet where she hides and has made friends with the squirrels outside. **BASSET** (now Raven) is doing well. Her owners say she is amazing. She sleeps all day and plays all night - she's a wild child in the morning. She gets along with the dog. **COACH** (now Thor) and Drako (now Loki) have adjusted well. They play all the time and like the dog. **DAZZLE** is very social. The owner is harness training her even though Dazzle hates it. She wants to be able to take her in her car without the cat carrier. The owner's sons adore her.



Gizmo



Hermoine



Kai



Kalea



KC



Poptart

**GIZMO** is a sweetheart and gets along with the other cat. **HERMOINE** is doing great. Her owners love her. **KAI** was shy at first, but is getting more friendly. She is strictly an indoor cat. Her adopter is glad he adopted from the shelter, and describes Kai as hyper potty trained. **KALEA** (now Lux) is a sweetie. Her adopters love the shelter for doing such a good job. **KC** is doing wonderfully and growing like a weed. He fits in well with the other animals in the family and has grown a lot. A perfect cat. **POPTART** (now Pork Chop) is amazing.



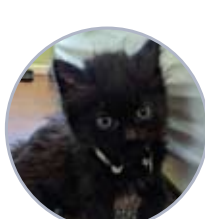
Sarah



Winnie



Zen



Zorro

**SARAH AND WINNIE** are doing great and were just taken to the vet. **ZEN** is the perfect addition to the family. The adopters say it was nice to be able to talk to Zen's foster mom. It was a wonderful experience. **ZORRO** is doing really well.

We are happy to report that between July and September, we succeeded in finding happy homes for **28 dogs, 2 puppies, 18 cats, 51 kittens and 17 rabbits!**

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## Helping adopted shelter dogs stay in their homes with Behavior Assistance Training

By Leslie Morefield, DAWG Volunteer

When DAWG needs to enroll a rescue dog in its Behavior Assistance Training Program, the first person they call is Greg Gibbs.

DAWG created the Behavior Assistance Training (BAT) Program to help adopters of rescue dogs with serious behavior problems, with the hope that the dog can remain in a loving home rather than being returned to the shelter or worse.

Greg, of Gregarious Dog Training, is DAWG's primary contract dog trainer in the BAT program. There's no dog that Greg doesn't give his heart and soul to while trying to help because he knows that most serious dog behavior issues come from a place of fear and feeling unsafe.

Greg's first goal is to gain the dog's trust and create a safe environment before he begins to work with the dog – amazing things can happen after this! Life in the shelter, even for a brief time, is highly stressful for most dogs. Greg works with these struggling shelter dogs, and has helped many overcome their fears, enabling them to be adopted into loving homes.

Greg has been training and working with dogs for over 25 years and is strictly a force-free positive reinforcement trainer. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior recently published a position statement supporting positive reinforcement training as the only training method to effectively and humanely change an animal's emotional response, and therefore its long-term behavior, while creating a loving bond with its human.

From strong dog aggression to inter-dog household conflict, hyper-arousal, barrier aggression and separation anxiety, Greg knows how to help owners and their dogs so the dogs can stay in their homes. He also knows how difficult it is to own a struggling dog as it can be a frustrating, isolating, and discouraging experience, so his goal is to help the human as much as the dog. Dogs just want humans to understand where they are coming from and why they behave the way they do. We are lucky that we have Greg to help us help these dogs.



Greg Gibbs, with canine pal Norman, knows that gaining a dog's trust is the first step in helping with behavioral problems.

*If you would like to learn more about the Behavior Assistance Training program, please call 775-901-7666 (only Douglas County residents and their rescue dogs qualify). If you would like to contact Greg directly with your dog's behavioral issues, please call 775-240-6256.*



**A BIG THANK YOU TO STEWART TITLE**, who held a month-long Pet Drive, accepting donations for Douglas Animal Welfare Group and Douglas County Animal Care and Services. At a special Open House, dogs available for adoption were present to thank Stewart Title for all the generous donations. The dog pictured with the Stewart Title staff is Gemini, a two-year-old Cane Corso – we are happy to say that Gemini has since found her forever home.



Carson Valley Turkey Trot 2023

# TROT SQUAD

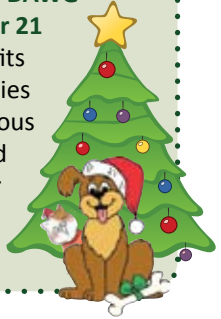
We would like to thank all of the Carson Valley Turkey Trot Sponsors for their support of our community Turkey Trot:

- Caesars Entertainment
- Carson Valley Accounting
- Carson Valley Health
- Carson Valley Insurance
- Carson Valley Shopping Centers
- Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital
- Curtis and Sons Construction
- Dr. Allen DDS Digital Technology Solutions
- Eastside Memorial Park
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- Skyline Assisted Living
- Stor All Gardnerville
- Sandy Trivett Allstate Insurance
- United Electric
- Valley Pediatric Dentistry
- Che' White Bookkeeping

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the Chocolate Shoppe, Carson Valley Cinema, Alpen Sierra Coffee Roasting Company and Starbucks

## A SINCERE THANK YOU

to Kori Snyder-Lundberg, owner of Max's Pet Supplies and Gifts, for sponsoring the 19th Annual DAWG Holiday Gift Tree in the store November 21 through January 1. The Gift Tree benefits the shelter animals and the pets of families depending on FISH in the Ranchos. Generous donors contributed pet food for FISH and treats, toys, collars, leashes and more for the shelter dogs and cats. We sincerely appreciate Kori's efforts and dedication.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### DAWG's Officers for FY 2023:

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**Kathryn Dodge**

*Vice President*

**Adrienne Chaney**

*Secretary*

**Lori Paxson**

*Treasurer*

**Gayle Youngs**

*Member-at-Large*

**Casey McClain**

### DAWG's Board of Directors:

*Chair*

**Eloise Reed**

*Secretary*

**Dan Greenlee**

**Gwen Blanc**

**Mary Doran**

**Sharon Mead**

## THANK YOU Carson Valley!



Thank you to Douglas County residents for voting DAWG the 2023 Best Service Organization in the Record-Courier's Best of Carson Valley Awards.

Holding the banner are DAWG president Kathryn Dodge and Vice President Adrienne Chaney.



Join DAWG as an Active Member or as a Supporter!

Call DAWG at  
**(775) 267-7325**  
to find out how to join!