

# DAWG Uüleashed

## **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.



Genji

# DAWG launching \$100,000 fundraiser for new Cat Cottage Everyone is invited to 'Feed the Kitty'

**Greetings DAWG supporters!** We have great news about the new Cat Cottage that will be built at the Douglas County Animal Services shelter. A prominent local General Contractor has agreed to donate his time for the project. County Administration is presenting this proposal to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval on December 19 (after this newsletter went to the printer).

That means DAWG is ready to raise \$100,000 to help pay for materials. (Note: In addition to DAWG's contribution, Douglas County Animal Services is contributing \$100,000; \$40,000 is coming from the Douglas County General Fund; and the County has agreed to cover up to \$48,000 in additional costs).

Why a new cat cottage? The new Cat Cottage will be a huge improvement for our felines. The current facility, a temporary structure donated to DAWG in 2011, is showing signs of significant structural failure and is limited in space.

The new Cat Cottage will be three times the size of the current cottage. It will have a spacious "catio" where cats can play and bask in the sun and a dedicated space for adopters to meet and interact with their potential new family member.

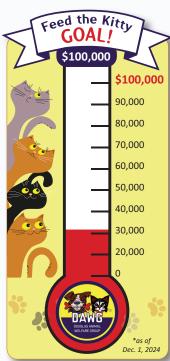
There will also be a quarantine area where kittens and cats brought to the shelter without any medical information can peacefully spend the required 5-day waiting period before their transfer to the adoption kennels, and where ill felines can recover. Currently cats in quarantine are kenneled in an interior windowless room in the dog facility, where frequent barking can be heard.

**How to 'Feed the Kitty'** As you can see from our "Feed the Kitty" thermometer, we are getting started on achieving our \$100,000 fundraising goal.

We are proud to announce that DAWG supporter Pamela Johnson has offered to match up to \$2,500 in donations for the new Cat Cottage. To participate in this generous matching offer, contact Mary Hartman at DAWG.douglascountynv@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or fundraising suggestions, reach out to me at Kathryn.dodge@gmail.com.

Thank you! Kathryn Dodge, DAWG President





## Family requests donations to DAWG in memory of their son

Written by Ezra's family

When Ezra Galvez was 8 years old, he was feeling lonely after his dog, Molly, turned out to be a better fit for a family without kids. His family lived in Markleeville without many other kids nearby, and he needed a playmate. His parents took him to the Humane Society of Truckee - Tahoe, and he picked out Ivy, a 2-year-old lab pitbull mix.

Ivy became Ezra's constant playmate, companion and emotional support. She had been left by tourists who couldn't take her home after their car broke down, and she was happy to have a new forever home and Ezra's love.

In October 2024, 18-year-old Ezra tragically passed away in an automobile accident. His family loves Ivy and will keep her in his honor.

Friends and family wanted to donate to animal shelters in Ezra's name. Ezra's family reached out to DAWG to ask about making donations.



Young Ezra with his best friend Ivy

"We know that Ezra would have wanted to support all the animals at the Douglas County Animal Shelter finding forever homes, because Ezra rescued Ivy, but Ivy also rescued Ezra," they said.



Donations in Ezra's name may be sent to DAWG, PO Box 1850, Gardnerville, NV 89410.





## Teamwork sets Radar up for success

Radar was a boisterous pup with distinctive ears when he arrived at the Douglas County Animal Services shelter in early spring, a transfer from the Washoe Tribe Animal Control shelter in Dresslerville.

Shelter staff and DAWG volunteers set their sights on teaching Radar how to behave.

"I think all of us at the shelter recognized pretty quickly that he was a special boy with lots of energy," says volunteer Dwayne Dennis. "He just craved attention, love and structure."

Volunteers took him on twice-a-day walks so he could learn how to behave on a leash and brought him to group and night-time training classes with trainer Guy Yeaman.

"It seems like he had his following of volunteers working with him," says volunteer Stacy Williams, who often accompanied the pup to training class. "He was great in training, he just needed structure and consistency."

Going to Wind Down Wednesdays at Heritage Park in Gardnerville with Dwayne gave Radar a chance to practice what he learned in training class.

"Wind Down Wednesdays were helpful because he got used to being around a lot of people, sounds and distractions, especially a lot of kids just running up to him," says Dwayne.

All the love and attention paid off when Radar was adopted seven months after he came to the shelter. His adopter reports that he's acclimating well, and that additional training is in his future.

"He is very energetic, but he has almost ¾ of an acre for a yard, and we get him out several times a day to run and play. Then my brother's dog comes over, and they play together," he says.

Radar the Rambunctious became Radar the Adopted, thanks to the dedication of the many people who cared for him during his stay at the shelter.

"A huge shoutout to our amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, and incredible dog trainer, who all put in so much time and effort to set Radar up for success," posted the shelter on their Facebook page the day Radar went home.



## DAWG to the rescue! Betty - the curious cat who needed to find her way home

As told by Walter Thomason, Betty's 'person'



Betty, right with her twin Veronica shortly after being adopted.

Betty and Veronica are identical twins who came to me after being flown as carry-on luggage from Texas. They seem to have had a rough time as newborns, and while they follow me all day long, they won't be picked up or cuddled. But sitting with me is OK, as is playing and petting. They are my best friends.

I'm strict about them being indoor-only for health and safety reasons; however, Betty is mischievous, curious and very adventurous. She opens cabinet doors and unrolls toilet paper, always has her nose at the windows and tries to squeeze out the door at every opportunity. I sympathize. She wants to know about the world.

She's very smart and strong and has learned to stand on her rear legs to operate the door handles. I bought some clever-looking plastic retainers intended to keep kids and animals from

wandering. But it took Betty only a few days to learn how to break the retainer on the door going out to the garage. One dark morning, I heard some scrambling downstairs. Betty had busted out to discover the freedom of the garage. Not only that, but the outer garage door was also open (this had happened before – someone else's garage door opener can open my door as well as theirs.)

My heart sank. Betty was nowhere to be found. I spent hours searching the neighborhood, looking under cars, calling her name (which she doesn't know), putting up posters and more making forays around the neighborhood to no avail, leaving food and water at the entries.

Fortunately it was April, so while the nights were cold, Betty would not freeze. I searched for food traps from friends and was directed to the good folks at DAWG. Kathryn Dodge called and came by with two food traps, towels and smelly foods that would likely get attention. She continued coming by every evening to arrange food and re-set the traps. She got two cameras from DAWG volunteer Eloise Reed and placed them where visitors interested in the food would be seen. We caught several incensed cats, but not Betty.



Betty, home at last in the safe embrace of her person.

Kathryn and Eloise put up posters and more posters. Five weeks went by. I was crushed and one day I gave up - I would never see my dear friend Betty again.

But miracles do happen. The very next day, I got a call from Eloise saying she had Betty and would bring her by in a few minutes. By now, we had seen several similar looking cats, so I kept my expectations low when the bell rang. There was Eloise with none other than the missing Betty in her arms, who crawled into my arms, licking and meowing. Lovely.

Eloise had met a preschooler who said a cat that looked like the one in the poster had been under a shed in the schoolyard for a long time. A teacher was fetched, and she extracted a dirty and thin Betty to the welcome embrace of Eloise.

The very definition of Joy. •



## Community Assistance helps Orange heal

We love hearing happy follow-up stories from pet parents. Recently, we received a note and photograph from a couple who turned to DAWG when their 5-week-old kitten Orange required surgery to repair a broken leg. DAWG's Community Assistance program helped cover the cost of Orange's surgery.



"Thank you so much for supporting Orange in his time of need," said the note. "We are forever grateful to DAWG for making his healing possible. Right now, he is very happy, leaping and bounding around in his crate. We wanted to send a reminder photo to not forget who is behind your service."



Thank you to Orange's people for the update! And a HUGE thank you to all the generous donors who make our Community Assistance program possible. 🎔



## PAWS OF THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT [ June - August 2024 ]

We wish to acknowledge the following special donations:

- SANDRA & STEVEN BOLGER for supporting the medical needs of senior dogs in living honor of their senior dog Zoe.
- GABE BOURBEAU for bettering the lives of Douglas County animals with his generous donation.
- **DIANNE EDMONDS** for her steadfast compassion for, and support of, shelter cats.
- EJW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION for honoring the memory of founder Emil Joseph Wachtel by helping DAWG care for homeless animals until they are adopted into good homes.
- HELEN CLOSE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION for graciously providing funding to support community service programs for animals.
- PATRICK MROWCZYNSKI for heroically responding to the needs of homeless kittens by supporting DAWG's Found Cat program.
- **AFTON PEEVYHOUSE** for her thoughtful support of animals in need.
- **ELAINE MARY ROGERS LIVING TRUST**, and trustee Suzanne S. Bornstein, for championing the well-being of animals.

June - August 2024 Anonymous Bev Anderson Cindy Austin & Al Burrill Gayle Badgley Dale Bohlman Rebecca Botsford **Iohn Brackett** Roger & Pam Brekas Gerald & Georgia Brown Judy Brown Timothy & Darla Brown Ioe & Theresa Callahan Virginia Craik Meghan Crowell Margaret Crowley Gerald & Setsuko Cuffe Dustin Depaoli John & Sharrie Flaherty Janice Fordham Ken & Sue Fujii Genoa Community Church Lorie Gottlieb William Greene John & Linda Hamer **Judith Hansel** William & Roxanne Hart Sandra Lee Haugner Jean Hay Kevin Heckart Maribel Herrera Karen Holmes Jon & Joy Ignacio-Yip Mariann M. Jackson Tina Johnson Kelsey Keppner Katherine Koepke Tom Lewis Charles & Terri Luettgerodt

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Larry Wooton

Barbara & James Yeager

Craig & Stacey Ziglar

#### **Donations with Dedications**

Erika Andrews in memory of Susi Chrobok Susan Cunningham in memory of Sammy and Quincy William Holmes in memory of Rocky and 2 Bits Barbara Hunt in memory of Randy Morris Kristi Innes for Fancy Feast cat food for the shelter cat cottage in memory of Arty, beloved cat Candace lewett for Veterans Adoption Assistance in memory of Charlie - such a good old dog! Pamela & Pat Jordan Johnson for senior dog care in memory of Quincy and in living honor of Yoda Stan & Jeanene Kapler in memory of Panda Patricia Long in memory of Bella Stefeni Luman in memory of Inger and Ray Bruno Maureen Morris in memory of Randy Morris Ron & Carol Nageotte in memory of Maggie Rusmisel Trish Port in memory of Bill Port Gary & Natalie Ritter in memory of Amador, Gabby, Molly and Fridge

Ray & Brenda Robertson in memory of Kenneth and his

puppy Sage

Wayne & Swarn Scarpaci for the cats in living honor of Tasha Marie

Louis W. Scheel in memory of Tyson, Odie, Cleatus and Mr. Higgins

Jan Snedegar in honor of Karen Reilly's birthday Don & Jodi Stovall in memory of Stan Lamb Mary Wenner in memory of Emmie and Goofy

> Valerie White in memory of LaJune dePourtales Roberta Wilson in memory of Ruby Rose Jean Tomlinson for spaying cats in living honor of Josh Mordant, M. Mordant, & L. Severance

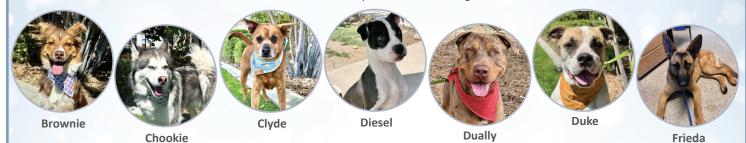


Sara Maul

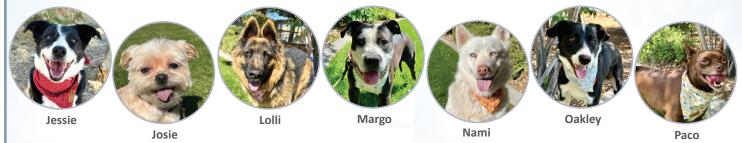
## DOG & CAT ADOPTION UPDATES



ANNIE We renamed her Dakota because it means "friendly one" and that's what she is. ASHLEY has become very energetic, but we were not surprised by the energy level at all. I've even looked into agility training. AXEL is so much better than we hoped for. He's loving and friendly and quite a character. He has a new bed which he seldom occupies because he sleeps with us and so we wrestle for bed space now. BARBEQUE "BARBIE" (now Mazikeen) is living her best life. She is such a happy girl, doing lots of leash work and learning the ways of our small ranch life. BELLA (now Koda) gets along really well with my Blue Heeler mix. He wasn't sure about her when they met at the shelter but the minute they hit the door here, they started playing and haven't stopped. BONNIE is wonderful and we love her. We have another dog about the same size, and they get along great. BRISKET (now Bubba) The first day he broke out of his kennel and chewed up shoes and some other stuff. I got some carabineer clips and solved that problem. Then he was sitting on the couch next to my 9-year-old who thought Bubba was chewing on a toy but it was the remote. Chewed it into little pieces. He's a challenge but a lot of fun.



BROWNIE (now Lulu) Things are going well with the kids, and she has picked up potty training quickly. She's happy, the kids are happy, we're all happy. CHOOKIE has adapted well and goes for daily walks and runs. He plays with my English Bulldog. They were very confused at first since they looked so different. Are you a dog? Are you a dog? CLYDE is so lovable that we've named him Snuggles. We are learning about one another so that's a lot of fun. DIESEL is doing great. We're keeping the name Diesel. Our most recent dog died 6 months ago so we occasionally call Diesel Rosie, but he answers to that too. DUALLY is the most mellow, awesome dog. I don't know how someone could give him up. I'm proud to have him as a member of the family. DUKE He's in the process of training right now. This morning, I had him out in the desert where he can run loose and we work on his coming back to me. He has a ferocious appetite. He has no bottom. FREIDA still seems a tad shy, but she is a big cuddler with the kids. I am home for the summer and training her. She already knows most of her basic commands but still working on recall in the backyard.



JESSIE loves to play ball. She just loves to play. We love her. JOSIE is the sweetest thing. She is a mama's girl and follows me everywhere. I have another Shih Tzu, and they get along fine. LOLLI is doing fabulously but I understand why people have given up on her. She is very possessive and very verbal. I've done a lot of training with her, and I constantly watch her body language. We had family that had to evacuate because of the fire, and they came with their 3 dogs. I introduced them individually and she was wonderful. MARGO is doing really well except that she chewed up my wife's favorite Bible and flip flops. But she is only 9 months old, just a baby. We've bought her a little kennel to put her in when we are gone, and she does just fine. NAMI just blended right in. She has learned to get up on the furniture just like my two other dogs and she sleeps with me at night. What a sweetheart. We always adopt older dogs now – they understand and appreciate their home. OAKLEY spent the last week camping in Washington, but before that he adjusted quickly to our home. He's great on and off leash. We are so in love with him and are glad he seems to feel the same way. PACO We were trying to figure out what his original name was, so we tried all sorts of names out on him. He responded to Rocky, so Rocky it is. It fits because he has the little man syndrome. My daughter loves him, so he sleeps with her occasionally.



PAPER She's super smart, she knows when to turn it on and when to turn it off. We've named her Harley, like Harley Quinn in the Batman series. She's good for the family and we are excited to have her. RANGER has a good demeanor, but we have never trained a puppy. We have lots of work to do on jumping, chewing, gently biting, and learning commands. Our first training session with Greg (Gibbs) is on Sunday. REMI is doing beautifully. He's calmed down some. He does like to bite and chew a lot, and my arms show that he's a puppy. We're going to get a doggie door for him.















Rock

ROCK (now Gilley) is the sweetest puppy I've ever seen. He loves to be petted and talked to. He has a brother Lab and a sister Labradoodle who play with him and he has three adults he gets attention from. My son walks him every day. ROGER is doing good. The children and grandchildren love to play with him. He has a fenced back yard, but he is fine in the house. SADIE is just a love and so precious. (Dog) Paulo and she are best friends. He showed her how to use the doggie door and he even lets her take his bone. I think he is happy to have someone he can play with. Right now she is all snuggled in next to (dog) Kit. SAMANTHA is a sweetheart. We've tried leaving her for a couple of hours while we watched her on the camera and all she did was lie there and watch the front door. There are days when she gets up in the morning and wags her tail and other days when she finds a little spot, curls up and thinks about things. We can't get enough of her. **SUMMER** What an amazing dog. She acts like she has always been a part of the family, and we are grateful to have her. We bought her a 8 x 8 kennel with a roof and pavers, and it has a canopy and a sunshade side panel. We are thankful for the crate the shelter sent home with us for inside the house. TANKINI is doing great. She gets along well with her brother-dog. They love each other. She is in her forever home. TITUS is awesome and loves everybody, but he is an escape artist. We have a third of an acre and he dug under the fence gate. But we have a plan to stop that. He's a sweetheart.

Samantha















Whiskey

Alson

**Bam Bam** 

Chili Bean

WHISKEY is great with the kids, ages 5 and 11, and is getting settled in on our 20 acres. We have horses, lambs and chickens and he respects his boundaries. He actually had a chicken run right in front of him and he was fine. WOLFY is a pretty good dog and settling in great. He is happy as can be. ZORRO is a great fit and we love him. We've named him Buster. ASLON is doing great and will be neutered soon. BAM BAM (now Apollo) lives with Zeus (not pictured). Their adopter is so happy with how they are doing and her experience adopting through the shelter, and she will recommend the shelter to others. CHILI BEAN (now Baby Pie) is doing fine. DOLLY is doing great; the 10-year-old cat in the house has accepted her.















Fred

Gregory

Hopper

Isadora

Loretta

FRED is eating well and becoming more active as a result. He is great! GENJI (now Nick) is a "people person" cat and is very snuggly. GREGORY is great - his owner loves him! HOPPER was adopted by a lady who later adopted Midge. The two kitties are doing fine. ISADORA is doing well. LORETTA and PATSY are wonderful cats, and their adopter appreciates that DAWG checked in with her.















**Pebbles** 

Savannah

Spritz

MISTER is full of it. He is a great cat, just the one the family was looking for. NALA adapted really well. PEBBLES is bonding with the daughter of the house. The owners are glad they found her at the shelter. SAVANNAH is doing well. She is a great addition to the family. SPRITZ is still mostly confined to one room as he is so small, but that won't last long. He plays and eats and is growing up. WAYLON and WILLIE are doing fantastically.



WILMA is a beautiful, wonderful kitty. She is really sweet.

The adoption numbers for June through August 2024 are

115 cats and 47 dogs!









Otter and her adoptive mom Patty with Genoa Community Church board members and DAWG Board of Directors chair Eloise Reed.

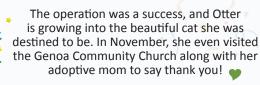
## Little Otter gets big boost from Genoa Community Church

Otter was a tiny kitten when she was discovered abandoned in a box along with her litter mates.

DAWG's Found Cat program agreed to foster the little ones. Over the next weeks, Otter's siblings grew and grew ... but Otter did not. When she began breathing strangely, her concerned foster mom took her to the veterinarian to find out what was happening. Otter was diagnosed with pectus excavatum, a chest wall deformity that causes the ribs and breastbone to grow inward. Without surgery, Otter's ribs would eventually puncture her lungs and heart, and she would die.

The search for a veterinarian who could perform the surgery led DAWG to USF. The doctors there agreed to operate on the little kitten – but the operation came with a big price tag.

DAWG volunteer Kathleen Swartz shared Otter's story with members at the Genoa Community Church, and the congregation agreed to make a generous donation toward the cost of Otter's surgery.



# DAWG and its volunteers win "Best of Carson Valley" awards

Two paws up to DAWG member Tina Dennis on being named "Best Volunteer" in the Record Courier's 2024 Best of Carson Valley program.

Tina started volunteering at the Douglas County animal shelter several years ago. "I wanted to make a difference in the lives of these sweet babies," she says. "Being retired gave me the perfect opportunity to give back to my community."

Douglas County Animal Shelter staff praised Tina's dedication. "Whether it's helping the staff, going above and beyond for the animals, or always being there for training and community events, Tina is a true superstar!"

Gwen Blanc received third place honors in the Best Volunteer category. Gwen is a dedicated foster for the Found Cat program, often taking on the frailest of kittens and giving them round-theclock care. "We need more Gwens," wrote an adopter whose kitten had been nursed back to health by Gwen prior to its adoption.



Tina Dennis and her husband Dwayne with shelter dog Nami (now adopted).

In addition to the recognition of DAWG Volunteers, DAWG received two awards of its own - first place honors in both the "Best Service Organization" and "Best Non-Profit" categories.

Thank you to everyone who voted for DAWG!

## Thank you to our 2024 Turkey Trot sponsors for their support.

#### **All The Trimmings**

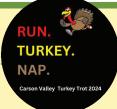
Carson Valley Accounting Dianne Edmonds Heritage Bank of Nevada Tom Goldston Roofing

#### **Drumstick**

Carson Valley Health
Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital
Douglas Disposal Service
Meagher Builders
Raceway Carwash
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#### Wishbone

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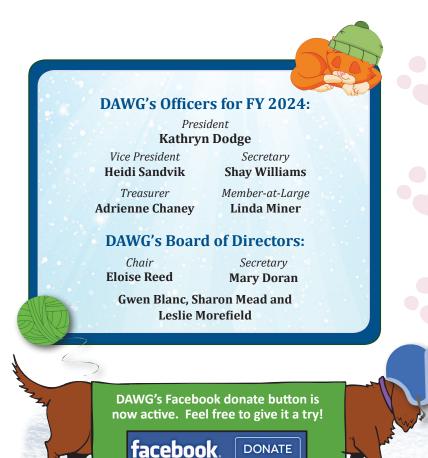
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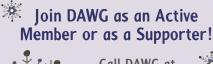
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Douglas Animal Welfare Group P.O. Box 1850 Gardnerville, NV 89410

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