

ARF: Humane Society of Jackson County



ARF 2019 news

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Another great year

ARF continues to produce for Jackson County. We held 24 public spay/neuter clinics & several shot clinics. We pulled 151 dogs for the Jackson County shelter and rescued another 146 from the public...

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It was two weeks before Christmas 2018 when Rico was found dragging himself along at our local rec center. He weighed 16 pounds—half the weight he should have been. When I saw his pitiful intake photo at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, I wanted to cry.

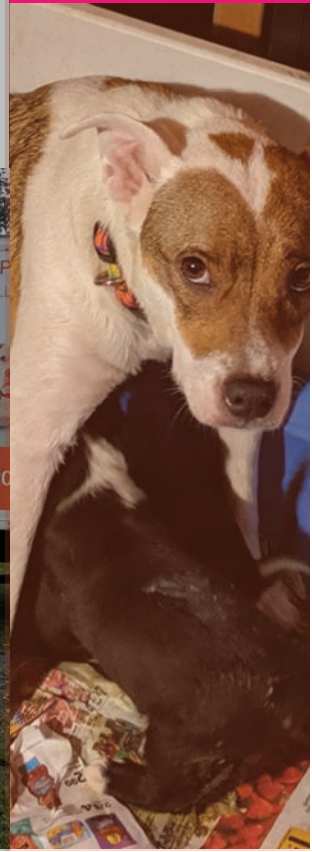
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We all know the current shelter is too small for the county's growing needs. The shelter stays at capacity almost all the time, and only by heroic efforts by ARF volunteers and Catman2, has the shelter kept from euthanizing almost any animals in the past three years.

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Spay Neuter Team

Twice a month, ARF and Catman2 volunteers meet in our downtown location and help owners keep their dogs and cats from littering all over the county. Kaleb Lynch talks about how much this effort and ARF and Catman2's subsidies are making a difference.

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Hard Luck Dawgs

What happens to dogs hit on the road or abandoned at the shelter with life-threatening diseases? To litters of puppies dying of parvo virus? A host of partners from groomers to vets keep their prices low, but ARF pays for most emergency care for this county's abandoned dogs.

PAGE 30

01 ARF in 2019 at a glance

Item	ARF
Spay/Neuter (24 clinic tran	
Shot clinics	
ARF Transports and Adoptio	
Total shelter intake (dogs)	
Shelter dogs pulled by ARF	
Total Shelter Adoptions by pu	

ARF expenses 10/18-10/19	
Item	Expense
Business Expenses	\$1,427.80
Transport Expenses	\$4,128.61
Fees/Insurance/Bank	\$2,269.60
Medical Procedures/Supplies	\$27,872.39
Spay/Neuter	\$25,686.19
TOTAL	\$61,384.59

emergency and non-routine treatment for shelter dogs.

Each pet that comes through ARF receives expensive medical protocols and is spayed before adoption. In recent years, we've focused our efforts on unwanted shelter animals. To make sure that the shelter doesn't have to euthanize for space, we pull dogs, foster and socialize them, and find them homes either locally or through our partners at other shelters.

ARF continues to produce for Jackson County. We held 24 public spay/neuter clinics (spaying and neutering dogs for \$20 and absorbing the rest of the cost) and several shot clinics (including a collaborative clinic with Catman2 and Advocates for Animals). We pulled 151 dogs from the Jackson County shelter and rescued another 146 from the public, almost all of which are now in homes (some continue to receive medical treatment). ARF pays for all

The contrast from several years ago, when the county was overrun with homeless dogs...reflects the hard work of local rescues like ARF.

Our work is paying off. The shelter euthanized only 19 dogs this year—all for aggression or health reasons only. The contrast from several years ago, when the county was overrun with homeless dogs and the shelter euthanized hundreds per year, reflects the hard work of local rescues like ARF. But it also shows a change of culture.

For example, our county is building a glorious new shelter because our

ARF & SHELTER STATISTICS FOR 2019	
	Number
Public transports for the public)	
Adoptions	896
(logs)	3
ARF	297
s by public	439
	151
	123



leaders have come to believe, as we do, that treating unwanted pets like our trash and recycling is not okay. We've seen our hopes realized in the words of commissioners, the county manager, the architect hired to build, and in the outpourings of support from the community. Because of your efforts, we hope the new shelter will soon be a reality.

Generous donations like yours have made all this work possible. But we still need you. We need money to fund our efforts. We need volunteers for short-term fostering of "overflow" dogs that must leave the shelter or die. ARF volunteers give a piece of their hearts to every animal, as you'll read about within. It can be tough, but it's incredibly rewarding.

The following pages contain tips about dog care and training, updated information about parasites and heartworms, and reflections by our volunteers on their experiences. We hope these stories will inspire you to join us and help us.

Thank you for all you do for animals every day. We hope you and your pets have a safe and healthy holiday and 2020, from all of us.

MS. LUCY WAS A "FOSTER FAIL." AFTER HER FOSTER PARENT NURSED HER THROUGH MASTITIS, SHE WAS PART OF THE FAMILY.



Fundraiser at Bear Lake by The Wine Shop and Bird in Hand

“ DRIVE : ” 02

Ferrying ARF dogs to Safety

by Brian McMahan

At this point in my life, I am unable to have pets that require constant attention. The sad reality is that my family is rarely at home. That doesn't mean that we don't love pets and that we don't try to find ways to be impactful in our community. One way that I have found to offer some assistance to ARF is to volunteer as a driver for the transport trips. It is a great way to positively impact the lives of many dogs (and people), all at one time.

The transport starts with the loading of the van in the twilight hours of departure day. The van is parked with all its doors standing wide open as a welcome sign to the pets that will make the journey to their forever home. One by one the foster families arrive with the pets, which are loaded into crates that have been labeled to identify the occupant. There is a sense of anxiousness and anticipation on the faces of both the volunteers and the pets. One more pat on the head, a few tears

shed, and up into the van they go in orderly manner that has been perfectly laid out. Each time I have observed this ritual unfold, I am reminded of how awesome these volunteers are.

The van pulls out of the parking lot and Jackson County is quickly far behind us. The further we travel the longer the night seems to get. It feels as though we are driving a large refrigerator with the air conditioning on high to keep our furry friends cool and calm. As the miles quickly roll away on the odometer, the night is full of conversation between transport drivers, stops for coffee, gas, and snacks, and the occasional lone howler in the back. All of us are eager to see morning.

We arrive in Florida in the pre-dawn hours at the Pinellas County Animal Shelter. We are

The night is full of conversation between transport drivers, stops for coffee, gas, and snacks, and the occasional lone howler in the back.





COMMISSIONER BRIAN MCMAHAN AND FITZALLEN ELDRIDGE EMBARKING ON A TWO-DAY DRIVE TO OUR PARTNER SHELTER

greeted by a group of individuals excited to meet their new friends. The crates are unloaded one by one. Some dogs pop out quickly, while others seem content to stay inside. They all find loving arms to guide them to their new temporary housing. We hear lots of tail wagging and words of encouragement. It feels like a welcome-home event. The crates are cleaned, neatly stacked into the van, and after a quick bathroom break and a thank you and good bye to our Florida friends, we are off again.

The trip home is full of thoughts about what just happened. Over two dozen dogs were just given a chance to find the perfect home where they will fulfill their destiny of being mankind's best friend. We stop for a hot breakfast and enjoy a few moments in the warm Florida sunshine. The mountains are calling and we head off towards home with a great sense of satisfaction.



Adopters Brant Barnes & Karen Barnes

SAVING RICO SUAVE

WRITER: KALEB LYNCH
WRITER: SARAH LITTLE

Kaleb:

It was two weeks before Christmas 2018 when Rico was found dragging himself along at our local rec center. He weighed 16 pounds—half the weight he should have been. When I saw his pitiful intake photo at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, I wanted to cry. Instead I said, “I’ll foster him!”

Sarah was fostering another dog at the time but fell in love with Rico and ended up bringing him two sweaters to wear until I could get up to the shelter and take him home. He looked as dapper as he could, considering the circumstances.

My house was way more exciting than the shelter or the vet. Rico met my cats and my two dogs with no issues. Then he discovered my bed. He scrubbed his little face on every single inch of the bed and the pillows, then promptly fell fast asleep. For the

first few days, he was too weak to do much walking, so he had to be carried up and down the stairs when it was time to go potty. He got several small high-calorie meals a day and gained six pounds in less than a week.

Christmas came and Rico thought he was in Heaven with all the new toys and beds my animals received. Of course, when I learned I’d be fostering him over the holidays, I ran out and got him his own special toy and bed. He must’ve tried out all the new beds before curling himself into the tiniest cat bed.

In six weeks, Rico went from a tiny 16-lb shell of a dog with no energy to over 30 pounds with a goofy personality and lots of puppy energy. Since I only do special medical fostering and he no longer needed that, Sarah agreed to take him and socialize him some more. I could follow his progress at her house and, shortly after Valentine’s Day, we screened a potential adopter together and decided that our boy had found the home of his dreams! It was great working with someone else who also invested in Rico. Finding him the perfect adopter was a joint effort that worked out beautifully.



That’s why we love ARF. ARF is an organization that gives dogs like Rico Bones hope when they have none.

I ran out
and bed. I
bo

Sarah:

Kaleb had all the hard work and I got the easy part! Kaleb did such a wonderful job of nursing Rico back to health and establishing basic trust. I just came in at the end and finished what he started.

What I could bring to the table was a pack environment: a large group of dogs with an established hierarchy that Rico had to learn to fit into and make “home.” I foster most months of the year, and I always

say that I don’t do much. My crazy gang does the work! I often take the dogs who need to learn how to be a dog again and need a canine lead to follow. My dogs show fosters that I’m a safe person in a safe place—a place they can relax and become part of the gang. I provide food and shelter and love and safety, but my dogs do the real work. They show dogs who never had someone to trust that people can be good and kind and trustworthy—AND that if they get too big for their boots they’ll be firmly put back where they belong.

Truthfully, though, Rico’s attitude really didn’t need adjusting. He came in with his tail and head held high and made himself right at home. He stuck his nose into EVERYTHING and was always ready to “help.” He loved dogs and people and was just submissive enough. And boy did that kid love food!

He spent the next six weeks or so playing with his new friends, learning the new house rules, becoming the dog he should have been all along. The more we can do as foster parents to “round out” our charges while we have them, the better chance they have of being adopted.

Kaleb and I helped Rico to find himself. We brought him back to that pushy, cheeky, hundred-mile-an-hour, perky-eared boy he was born to be.

Saying goodbye is always tough. Every foster parent knows that emotional roller coaster. But seeing Rico Bones turn into Rico Suave made this goodbye so much harder. It took a village. It always does. But for Rico more than most.

We laughed and cried, we hugged him, we worried, we hoped, we said goodbye. And then hugged him again. And then another goodbye. And another hug. And then, in a way only Rico could, he jumped in his new mama’s car, plopped down on the passenger seat, and promptly stuck his snout in her cup and stole her coffee! Yep. That boy was going to be just fine!

Now Rico chases rabbits on a horse ranch in Florida. And us? We moved onto the next, as we always do. For Kaleb, it’s his incredible work with cats and our local spay/ neuter program. For me it’s the next foster dog, and helping with events and fund raising. Rico took a little part of our hearts with him. But he left us with enough heart to carry on doing what we do.

Yep. That’s what dogs do. They steal your heart. And then they steal your sofa.



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bed. He must’ve tried out all the new beds
before curling himself into the
tiniest cat bed.

This photo of Greenville Animal Shelter, also built by architects McMillan Pazdan and Smith, combines the look of the Green Energy Park with the functionality of the coming animal shelter.



NEW SHELTER IN THE WORKS

BY MARY ADAMS

Jackson County's archaic shelter is finally being replaced by a new state-of-the-art facility. After meetings, focus groups, community outreach, and more, County Manager Don Adams hired a firm called McMillan Pazdan and Smith to help the county brainstorm about new

shelter needs. ARF, Catman2, and Advocates for Animals were invited to give feedback, and ARF will move its office space and spay/neuter loading area away from downtown to the new shelter when it opens.

The new shelter will be built on the same campus as the Green Energy



“**ARF’S NEW SHELTER
HOME WILL MAKE US MUCH
MORE ACCESSIBLE**”

Park. It will contain a walking trail, animal enrichment spaces, a possible retail space, community dog washing facilities, meeting spaces, and will have much more room for the county’s growing needs, all in a park-like setting. First, the Recycling Center currently operating at that location must move, and then the county will break ground on the shelter, which will still take a couple of years. ARF hopes to have volunteer or even paid staff at the location so that we’ll be more accessible to the public and to potential volunteers.

We all know the current shelter is too small for the county’s growing needs. The shelter stays at capacity almost all the time, and only by heroic efforts by ARF volunteers and Catman2, who pull more than half the animals out of the shelter each year, as well as community adoptions and Facebook

outreach, has the shelter kept from euthanizing almost any animals in the past three years. Volunteers can’t continue to carry this burden without help. So McMillan Pazdan and Smith, which specializes not only in animal shelters but also in arts facilities, helped us define the new shelter’s needs. Above all, we wanted a community-friendly place, not a shelter tucked away on the pinnacle of a mountain surrounded by fencing and wire.

When it is built, the new shelter will be able to perform public school outreach and even fundraising events. We hope it will attract adults on its walking trail as well as tourism in its arts spaces. McMillan Pazdan

and Smith used previous projects like the Greenville Animal Shelter and the Dick & Joan Whitcomb Art Center to gain inspiration. Shelter and non-profit personnel hope the shelter will be home to events like Pet Photo Shoots, Kids Critter Camp, Dog Training, Rescue Readers (Children reading to shelter pets), Cat Yoga, birthday parties, and more.

Combining pets and arts spaces sends a message: Pets are valued members of our community, and Jackson County has committed itself to caring for them.

For us, the new shelter can’t come too soon.



THIS SECTION CONTAINS SOME STORIES BY OUR FOSTER PARENTS ABOUT WHY THEY FOSTER

Foster parent Kaleb Lynch describes the “foster failure” that changed his life and broke his heart.

05

I never wanted two dogs. I adopted a walker hound named Shirley Bones, whom I fostered through ARF in 2013, and she was supposed to be the permanent fixture in my home while I fostered here and there.

Then one day in September 2015, I got a call from Mary asking if I would foster a chihuahua who was being surrendered to JCAS under suspicious conditions because she was too scared to leave her crate. I agreed, and that’s when Little Satan entered my life. Not only was she scared, she was growling up a storm and had zero intention of

allowing me to even get near her.

Man was she vicious! I was supposed to foster her for her stray hold and then decide whether to continue or to have her go back to the shelter, where her behavior would have made her impossible to adopt. On the last day of her stray hold, I sat next to her opened crate and spoke softly to her while I read a book. The next thing I knew, she “army crawled” out of the crate onto my lap and kissed my face.

From that moment on, she was attached to me at every available moment. I tried to take her to adoption events, but she was so hateful and tried to eat anyone who wasn’t me. I figured that she chose me for a reason, and I officially adopted her. She was an absolute devil, and no one could handle her. I had to take her with me when I traveled and had to pay for anesthesia whenever she had anything done to her at the vet because it was impossible unless she was knocked out completely. Having company over was a huge ordeal.

But she was the best snuggle buddy in bed and truly looked at me like I hung the moon and the stars. That little dog loved me ferociously with every fiber of her being. And I loved her right back.



At the end of May of this year, she had a seizure and subsequent fainting episodes. At 10 years old, my Little Satan had developed a sudden severe heart condition with idiopathic seizures. She was on four different medications, but at that point her heart was just a ticking time bomb. She passed away at home on June 12th and took a huge piece of me with her. I've never understood "little dog people" and never wanted one, but my special bond with Little Satan helped me understand them a little better.

My house is so much quieter and even with a bunch of misfit cats and a goofy hound dog, it still feels empty. The last five months without her have been gloomy, but I am lucky to have so many stories and memories of my wild devil child to get me through them. Thank you, ARF, for finding me the world's worst, meanest, best little dog. I will never forget the four years we shared together.



This year has been a busy year fostering with little breaks in between. My four dogs are better with puppies, so we normally stick to pups under a year old, and my dogs do a lot of the work for me. They are a great bunch. I used to believe one at a time was the way to go, but now I realize two fosters at once are better so they keep each other company while I'm at work. When I'm not home, my fosters seldom stay with my dogs. I'm lucky and have a good setup so all dogs

have access to a fenced area and part of the house while I'm gone.

This year our total foster count is 17. A couple of those were short-term fosters of just a few days. Among the 17 were two sisters Melba and Meryl (sweet girls), two brothers Dave and Buster, and three very small dachshund pups Reese, Massey, and Ty that a wonderful foster couple passed on to me two weeks before transport.

I proclaimed I was taking August off after having my previous foster Buddy for six weeks. Buddy was AMAZING, and I really did think about keeping him—he was so perfect. Buddy stayed with my dogs free roaming in my house while I was home and even when I was not home. He never destroyed anything. I cried all the way to drop him off and all the way back home. It was tough. But I always tell my kids you aren't a hoarder if you can afford them. I knew keeping my Buddy wasn't realistic.



Then, at the end of August, I saw a post on ARF's foster page about a litter of eight pups, skin and bones, a few with no hair at all and others with patches of missing hair. I remember messaging Mary saying I would take two, and she said, "Could you do four?" I'm not sure why I agreed—maybe it was how pitiful they looked. I wanted to take care of them and get them healthy. So I get these poor guys. It was the worst shape I've ever seen a foster in. I was told they were four months old and 10 pounds under weight.

The first two weeks, all they really did was sleep and eat. Boy, did they eat. My boys Al, Dobby, Sherlock, and Lucas grew stronger every day. Al was the smallest weighing just 4 lbs 9oz. At Al's vet check he weighed 22.7. Sherlock was the biggest at 7lbs and 10 oz; at his vet check he weighed 27.4. Dobby had no hair at all and looked like a hairless cat— I'm not even kid-

Debbie Sanchez split the eight-puppy cruelty case litter with Erin Carpenter. She tells the two-month saga of their rescue.



PUPPIES PART 1

WRITER: DEBBIE SANCHEZ

- THE - RESCUE PUPS

ding. Then his hair came in and he was white with these beautiful green hazel eyes.

After the first two weeks, they really started becoming puppies, playing with toys and chasing each other. Once I got home I would move them to the bigger fenced area, giving them time in the house with my dogs. At four weeks, we started leash training and going on trips to Lowe's. I had asked a friend from work to help with that. They played ice hockey on the porch on hot nights, and one of my neighbor's pups would come over and play. Turned out they were still too weak to go on the first

transport, so they ended up being with us for about nine weeks before catching their trip. And all were adopted in just over a week.

Fostering isn't easy, but it is very rewarding to save a life and to give puppies a chance for a great life with a loving family. I have people ask me if I ever know where they go or if they ever go together. I don't, but I know their time with me makes them more adoptable and gives them the chance they need.

I also hear a lot of people say, "Why not adopt them locally? Why transport them somewhere else?"

Jackson County Animal Shelter is always full. If every month, the 20-25 dogs going on transport didn't go, at some point that shelter would have to make some very tough decisions because of space. Sending these dogs on transport doesn't just save their lives; we also give other dogs a chance to be adopted by making needed space at the shelter.

ARF & Catman2 are offering a low-cost spay/neuter right now for \$20. Getting your pets spayed and neutered should be a priority. If everyone did, we wouldn't need to send our dogs away.



PUPPIES PART 2: ERIN CARPENTER AND DEBBIE SANCHEZ RESCUED SOME VERY PITIFUL PUPPIES. HERE IS ERIN'S STORY.

I

The puppies came to us over Labor Day weekend, scabs covering their flea-torn skin, washboard ribs and hard round bellies full of worms. They slept all together in an extra-large wire crate, making a white, brown, and tan pile of indiscriminate ridges and limbs. We had eight the first night, and they ate until we feared they might burst and then waddled around a minute and fell over asleep. Soon after they excreted an equal amount of mess, and I began to fill the first of many trash containers with poo-covered issues of the Sylva Herald. Thankfully, Debbie Sanchez took half of them to her foster dog haven in Birdtown, or I'd be dead by now.

II

Things our puppies did other than poo.

1. Pee
2. Come at the sound of a squeaky toy



3. Step in each other's poo and then wipe their paws on my pants
4. Hoard all the things
5. Destroy the herb garden (but smell like mint and sage!)
6. Roll in the ashes of the fire pit
7. Dig like a pirate
8. Meow like a cat
9. Disembowel their dog bed
10. Find that one special acorn out of hundreds on the deck, and play keep-away with it

III

Most people comment when you tell them about fostering, "I couldn't; I would get too attached." Of course, you get attached. When they were at their smallest and most fragrant, I would get a visceral reminder of them every day at work--the same way I felt when I left my daughter Katie home with my mother before she was weaned.

Detaching is always painful, but it is a good spiritual exercise. We cannot escape loss in our lifetimes. Yes, Katie cried over giving up her foster puppies. But what better way to experience difficult emotion? For one, we are nearly guaranteed a positive outcome for these pups. The Humane Society of the Pinellas just got a \$4M donation. They have top-notch facility, medical and training staff, and outreach. Two, we can find comfort and connection surrounded by other caring animal lovers who know exactly what we are going through as we say good-bye. Three, we learn that our feelings are not always an indication of what's best for ourselves or others. We can experience them without shame or judgment, knowing we are doing the right thing.



IV #buildingrelationships

Setting, Cherokee Middle School 7th grade ELA class

Student: Ms. Carpenter, you have something on your butt that looks like poop.

Me: (fidgeting purposefully): It probably is poop. I have four foster puppies.

Boy: (gesturing wildly at the back of his own thigh) Right here.

Me (wielding Clorox wipe): Eew. It is puppy poo!

Boy: I couldn't let you walk around in white pants all day with poo on them. (To friend) I told you. I saw it first!



Foster parent Matthew Rave explains how the perfect dog taught him to love all dogs in this loving tribute to Dwight.

Why do I foster? I foster because of dogs like Dwight.

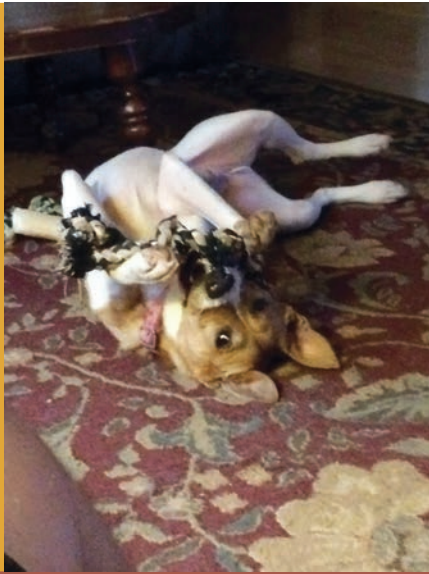
Dwight was small-to-medium—couldn't have been more than 30 pounds—with alternating patches of white and butterscotch. He looked like a Goetze's Caramel Cream, one of those candies Grandma used to hand out, the one in the twisted wrapper. But dare I say it? Dwight was sweeter. He always looked like he was on the verge of crying with happiness.

Dwight liked being a dog. He'd writhed along the ground, on his back, just for the fun of it. Want to play fetch? *Sure, I'll do that*, Dwight would say. He'd play for a while. But he'd get distracted easily: by the cat, or a walnut dropping onto the roof outside, or a stinkbug, or the scent of French toast coming from the kitchen. He was curious, intelligent. He was friendly with everyone, even strange UPS drivers delivering packages to the front door. He rarely barked. He thought his crate was a comfy little home, built just for him. *This is my favorite*, he would say.

But what made Dwight extra-level special was the way he'd greet you at the door.

Most dogs, when they love their humans (and let's face it, almost every dog loves their humans) will get excited when you come home. We've all been jumped at the door, ambushed, knocked over with kisses and tail-wags and doggy dancing. But Dwight ... the little caramel

HUGGING A FOSTER DOG IS A GREAT WAY TO GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND BRING A FAMILY TOGETHER. AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN POLITICS.



Dwight

cream would always, *always* bring you a present.

Sometimes it was a sock, sometimes a chew toy, sometimes a shoe, once a pair of undies. Didn't matter. *Here's a gift for my humans!* Dwight would say, contorting his body into a horseshoe and dancing sideways. *Please accept my gift! You're back!*

He didn't harm the gifts. The socks were never ripped; the shoes were never chewed up. But Dwight felt an uncontrollable urge to greet you with a present. He'd usually grab whatever was at hand, but several times I recall coming home to an unsuspecting Dwight, only to have him panic and run around the house desperately, trying to find something—anything!—with which he could pay tribute. After a hurried search Dwight would show up with something odd...maybe a mop head, maybe a pillow cushion, maybe an empty shoebox. What mattered was that Dwight had found a gift. And so he'd run back to you, gift in his mouth, prancing around. He was saying: *you're the*

bestest human! I have a present for you!

I guess that's why I foster. For a little while, at least, I get to be the bestest human in the world.

Last year, my husband and nine-year-old daughter moved to Sylva from Florida. We were tired of the heat and love the mountains. I bought my first house, and I thought it would be a perfect environment for dogs in need. I am a huge animal lover and enjoy helping any way I can. So, as soon as I arrived, I immediately looked into fostering and this led me to find ARF (Jackson County Humane Society) as the place to go. It turned out that ARF was really in need of anyone willing to help. I was informed that lots of dogs needed fostering, as the shelter in Jackson County is very small. I also learned that the time frame for keeping most

LEEANN STEELE SHARES HER FOSTERING EXPERIENCE. HER DAUGHTER IS WONDERFUL WITH DOGS!

fosters was around a month. Food and medical expenses would all be covered. I thought this all sounded great and was really excited to start. Our first foster turned into another foster, then another and another, keeping each around a month.

Since last March I have fostered seven wonderfully amazing dogs, and even fell prey to a "foster fail" when our family found "our" perfect dog that we just couldn't say goodbye to. ARF has provided anything I have needed including a gate, linens, and leashes.

Working with ARF has been so rewarding,

not just for me but my daughter as well.

We always look forward to getting a different dog each month that we can

spoil, train, and give tons of love to help our foster get adopted and find their "forever" home.

If you think you can provide a safe and loving environment and want to help dogs in need, please consider fostering through ARF. My experience as a new foster has been nothing but wonderful, positive, and very rewarding.





GETTING A NEW PUPPY? LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW TO KEEP HIM OR HER HEALTHY...

puppy health:

First, consider the most common parasites that can affect puppies: hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, coccidia, giardia, and heartworms on the inside; fleas, ticks, and sarcoptic and demodectic mites on the outside.

- Intestinal parasites rob your puppy of nutrition by attaching to the lining of the intestines and preventing absorption of nutrients, creating distress and diarrhea.
- Heartworms are contracted by mosquito bites (that's quite an interesting lifecycle!) and will cause heart and lung failure in adult dogs.
- Fleas create a very itchy skin, and ticks can transmit several diseases, Lyme and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever to name a couple.
- Sarcoptes is a mange mite that creates intense itching and subsequent sores on the skin. It can be shared with other dogs and people.
- Demodex is also a mite and can create hair loss, but is much less itchy and is not contagious.

Next, let's think about the life-threatening viruses that commonly affect puppies: parvovirus and distemper virus.

- Distemper is a disease that is, thankfully, not terribly common anymore. It will cause your puppy to have a pneumonia with a deep nasty cough or affect his or her nervous system, causing tremors, blindness, and seizures. Treatment is usually not successful.



“

”

Did I mention to not delay?

Get your puppy checked now!

the short course

WRITER: DR. SANDRA BLACK

- Parvovirus attacks the intestines, creating profound bloody diarrhea. Unfortunately, it is still too common in puppies. Parvovirus is shed in the feces and exists for a LONG time in the environment. Treatment for parvo is often successful, but it involves hospitalization and is very expensive.

Now that you know all of the nasty things that can infect or

affect your new puppy, don't panic! Vets have effective ways to keep all these monsters from hurting your new friend; just don't delay. Days can make the difference between proactive preventative care (inexpensive) and reactive treatment (very expensive—and not always enough).

Vaccinations are extremely effective against distemper and parvo, but they must be given in a series as the puppy grows, every four weeks for at least *three shots*.

Dewormers come in a variety of

forms (liquid, pills, topicals) and are effective if given correctly and in a timely manner.

A variety of flea and tick medications are also available to get rid of and keep the buggers off your pet.

Did I mention to not delay? Right. Get your puppy checked by your veterinarian as soon as possible. Talk to them about vaccinations, dewormers, heartworm preventatives, and flea/tick medications.

That's it for my short course on puppy health. Wishing you a happy and healthy pet for years to come.

TIPS SECTION

WRITER: JANE FINNERAN
CERTIFIED DOG TRAINER

KIDS & DOGS: OH MY!



Children are as dangerous to dogs as
dogs can be to children. And dogs seldom
get a second chance.



Everyone thinks that dogs and kids are a natural combination. And they are—a natural disaster!



Most children (maybe most adults as well) do not know how to instinctively act around dogs and need to be taught. I see Youtube videos online that make me cringe: Children sitting on dogs, stepping on dogs, hugging dogs, and kissing dogs, their faces inches from the dog's fangs. The dog is giving all kinds of stress signals—lip licking, yawning, showing the whites of their eyes (whale eye), and yet no one is coming to the aid of the dog. Someone is across the room taking a video. When the dog is fed up, the video-taker will not be close enough to help. Dog bites always end poorly for the dog (not to mention the child). For example, rescues ARF works with often won't take a dog with any bite history, no matter how much the dog was provoked.

Who likes someone jumping on them when they are trying to sleep? Do you?

—Nope, not the dog either.

Who wants someone's hands in their food?

—Not the dog.

Who wants someone grabbing something of theirs?

—Not you. And not the dog.

Who likes being stepped on or climbed on without even an "excuse me"?

—No thank you.

Who likes to have their hair pulled or eyes poked?

—I think not.

Who likes loud noises?

—Not the sound-sensitive dog!

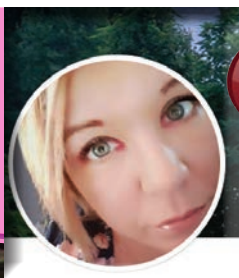
Children should be taught to be calm and gentle around the dog. Running, screaming, and flapping their wings (I mean arms) will only have the dog in hot pursuit. Then when the dog jumps up and knocks the child over or nips, it is always the dog's fault.

Ideally, children can be taught to help with training the dog. "Sits" and "downs" are nice alternatives to jumping up. A game of fetch when the dog has learned to drop the toy is a nice outlet. Walking calmly with the dog and an adult is also a nice energy-burning outlet for your child.

It's simple enough. Very young children who cannot follow directions should not have direct access to the dog. When children interact with the dog, the dog should be on leash. Maybe the toddler also!

When deciding when to leave your child alone with the dog, follow this guideline: Don't. Children should never be left alone with the dog. It's not that I don't trust the dog. I recall an incident when a St Bernard mauled a child and no one could believe it, as he had always been a sweet, docile dog. On autopsy, the examiner found a pencil shoved down into the dog's ear.

Teach your children well.



Please consider fostering for us!
 Foster parents talk about integrating new dogs:
 strategies and solutions...

Most important is that you are in charge. Don't let the new dog just barge into any space on your property. Introduce them on a leash or let your new dogs see them in a pen or other contained space. Plan on being undistracted and fully present to supervise interactions for the first week or so. You know your dogs best, so give more trust as they earn it. Experience is the best guide to understanding body language.

When a new kitten or cat comes to my house, I start by providing her with a safe place, usually the master bathroom. There she can eat, drink, rest and take care of business without hypervigilance. In this first week or so, she can get used to the sounds and smells of the other cats, again without confrontation. I then gradually introduce her to more of the house by expanding her protected space. With her in another area, I will allow the other cats to explore the bathroom where she has been and left her scents.

Through this whole introduction, I try to treat the others with catnip, treats and extra petting. Once the newbie has gotten her confidence, I escort her as she explores the house and checks out her new roommates. Soon, she will find all the cool hiding spots and comfy beds in the windows. And best of all, she will figure out which of the new roommates are the most fun to play with and which ones are the best to cuddle with.

Keep the dog on a leash until you know how he/she will handle the new place with cats, dogs, children, birds, etc

The number one thing for me is to let the new pup settle in, I want to build some trust between just me and them so they know they are in a safe place.

Crate training! Definitely, crate training. It isn't cruel, it's allowing the dog to have a safe place. You have to make it pleasant for them, and that can take some time and commitment. You also have to put up with a certain amount of fussing and crying at first, and maybe at night. It will pass much quicker than you expect, if you are consistent. But it makes the crate they have to be in for the trip to Florida a lot less scary, and if they are comfortable in a crate and don't fuss, it makes the trip much easier on the drivers!

Consistently give out treats to both dogs, so that they can associate each other with being rewarded.

I always walk new foster dogs on a leash in my house until I am sure they are good with my cats.

I give both my dog and the foster dog treats so my dog accepts the other dog's presence as a positive.

I always crate train my foster dogs and they are never left out unsupervised with my other animals.

We have a fenced-in back yard. After the foster meets our two permanent, everyone tumbles into the back yard for potty time! The newbies learn very quickly by smell that THIS is where you do your business!

Here's a WHAT NOT TO DO: Do not let your four new foster puppies that are balls of uncontained, raw energy jump out of their crate into the yard where your completely unsuspecting senior dog is blissfully sunning. This leads to wild-eyed pure panic in said senior dog who proceeds to run around the house several times with, as far as she knows, a pack of hell beasts on her heels. Luckily, these puppies have the attention spans of oreos and are quickly called off and onto the next victim, which was me, but at least I expected it!

Smell before see and see before touch. I usually keep the new guy in an exercise pen or another room with a gate for at least a few days.

When I get a new foster, I have everyone meet outside first, potty together, meet each other on neutral ground. Then keep on a leash going through the house.

Remember that dogs need to learn how to "soft bite" as a way to inhibit real biting when they confront actual danger, real or perceived, from other humans or dogs. So if you trust your dog not to harm another dog, don't worry if they mouth each other, pin each other, or wrestle with teeth. This can be hard, but if you are calm and confident it helps the dogs. If you aren't, maybe ask a more experienced dog person or an ARF volunteer to come along for moral support. Even when an older dog snarls, snaps or growls, do not correct. They are teaching the younger dogs manners, which they can do better than any human. But when your puppies or dogs hurt you with their mouthing, howl like you've lost a limb so they know they took it too far!

I have an older, larger, and very well behaved dog. I let him do a lot of the work. Once foster animals are introduced to my pack, I will ask them to sit and wait for a treat. Mine will sit pretty quickly, and the new dog will eventually follow suit; no one gets a treat till all are sitting. It's amazing how quickly they catch on to this! It's a handy thing when you need to get the group's attention and quiet things down.

- Most importantly, know yourself, your limitations and lifestyle, and your own animals' strengths and weaknesses. Try to choose an animal whose personality will fit in with these and don't overface yourself or over commit to what you can do

- Neutral territory is ideal for introducing a new animal, but isn't always possible. If it has to be done at home, try to use a large enclosed outside space and allow new animals to familiarize themselves with the space before starting introductions.

- When introducing a new dog to an existing group, try to do it one at a time and allow each introduction to run its course and calm down before introducing the next animal.

- Keep routines as normal as possible and let your existing animals lead the newbie into "the rules of the roost"

- Until you are absolutely comfortable that everyone is settled and amicable, do not leave your newbie with your existing animals unattended. It only takes a second for accidents to happen

- I like to feed my foster separately (for the first few meals at the very least).

**WE'RE
ADOPTED**





One of the things I love most about volunteering with ARF's low cost spay/neuter program is seeing so many people who aren't familiar with our program be pleasantly surprised when they hear our low-cost price compared to some private clinics. Jackson County has a 20.9% poverty level, so the need for our low-cost spay/neuter program is great.

I can't even count all the times someone came to the office describing the same scenario: They found a stray dog/cat who was never claimed, and they could afford to do buy food and basic care but couldn't drop a few hundred dollars at once for vaccines and sterilization.

ARF is lucky to have a partnership with the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance and strong relationships with other local animal welfare organizations so that we can extend the reach of our services where they are needed most. I love being part of an organization so dedicated to helping animals *and* the people who care about them.

- Kaleb



HSJC ARF 2019
- 28 -



Kaleb Lynch runs ARF's spay/neuter program which we share with Catman2 and the ASPCA Spay Neuter Alliance.

07

DO YOU REALLY HAVE ENOUGH DOGS FOR THE WINTER?

If you ever find you're short of dogs, and just can't get warm on those cold winter nights, come see ARF, Catman2, or the Jackson County Animal Shelter....





HEARTWORMS: THEY'RE HEEEEEEEEEEERE!

With warmer climates come other parasites as well: Increased numbers of parvo virus cases & heartworms....

Heartworms have arrived in Jackson County in a big way, and they're going to keep coming. While residents here haven't had to deal with heartworms very often in the past, ARF has helped treat seven dogs for heartworms this year (four new cases in the month of November alone). We have saved each one of these dogs, but at big expense (and a big time commitment from the dog's foster parent). If the number of cases keeps growing, ARF won't be able to pay for them all.

Jackson County is getting warmer, folks. And with warmer climates come other parasites as well: Increased numbers of parvo virus cases, drug-resistant parasites like hookworms and roundworms, and of course, fleas, ticks, and mosquitos.

How are heartworms carried?

Mosquitos bite your dog and deposit babies that grow quickly. A puppy can carry heartworm larva but seldom tests positive until the worms reach adult stage, which takes around six months. Adult heartworms carry baby microfilaria which begin to grow into adult worms. And once the doctor detects microfilaria, your treatment options are expensive.

My dog acts fine. Do heartworms show?

At first, no. Your dog can have heartworms and act just fine. Advanced heartworms sometimes cause symptoms like trouble breathing and bad teeth. Once ARF had a dog so advanced he coughed blood and fell over when he tried to walk.

That's why getting your puppy on heartworm prevention before six months of age is so important. Heartworm prevention can be pretty inexpensive, and most prevention options come in generic versions. Some are combined with good monthly wormers; others are packaged with flea and tick prevention.

How can I treat heartworms? Are there cheap alternatives?

If a puppy is young and has what's called "low-antigen heartworms" with no microfilaria in its bloodstream, you can sometimes use heartgard every month to kill the worms. But usually, by the time your dog's heartworms are detected, it's too late for that treatment.

The next option is more expensive. If your dog has high-antigen heartworm or if microfilaria are visible on a slide, treatment can cost between \$600 and \$1700. And the treatment can be dangerous.

At this stage, treatment involves monthly heartgard accompanied by doxycycline and prednisone, followed by three immiticide injections. Your vet will test your dog and give you a schedule of twice-daily pills to prepare your dog for the injections. Dogs must be kept inactive during treatment and recovery. And you must watch your dog carefully to make sure that the slowly dying microfilaria don't cause anaphylactic shock or respiratory distress.

Sometimes, dogs' heartworms are so advanced that vets won't treat them. Dying from heartworms is a painful way to go.

So if you love your dog, commit to buying monthly heartworm prevention. It's kind, and it's a whole lot cheaper than heartworms.



HARD LUCK DAWGS

08



Homeless dogs often come with their share of expensive illnesses and injuries. We include stories about just a few dogs we helped in 2019, some of whom are still in our care, while others are being spoiled rotten by new owners...

**WHO HELPS THE ROAD RESCUES?
PLEASE HELP US HELP THEM**

ARF seldom turns away a desperate case, and that costs money, even with the incredible generosity of our friends at Sylva Animal Hospital as well as the discounts other local vets give us. Since last year we helped Buddy, Anna, Noah, Alexa, Clara, and others with heartworms, Pamela and Ruby with major mass removals,



Sarah arrived with heartworms and some kids in tow. She is one of seven heartworm cases this year.

ANNA HAD HEARTWORMS AND VERY LITTLE HAIR LEFT

five puppies with parvo virus, Oliver with x-rays and hospitalization, Snowball with wounds sustained from a neighbor dog, Ruth with a C section, plus Kyle, a sickly foster puppy who spent close to two weeks in Sylva Animal Hospital's clinic. We took Elmer out of the shelter and treated him for a swollen prostate, and we helped Cuddles, an amazing pit bull, with a cantaloupe-sized mass on her face. (Elmer and Cuddles are still with us!) These are just a few of the emergencies we took on. We took stray dogs to the emergency vet in Waynesville. We fed, wormed, fixed, and medicated close to three hundred foster dogs. And we assisted with the spay neuter of almost one thousand community animals. It all costs money! So thanks for reading.



ROLLIE BEFORE AND AFTER



This poor baby's mats were so bad they had actually felted and were fused to her legs, which had ulcerated.

Is Humane Society of Jackson County (doing business as ARF) in your will?

ARF is working toward our long-term goal, dreamed of by our former president and inspiration Veronica Nicholas, of finding a place of our own so we can continue to help the pets of Jackson County and their owners with low-cost or donor-and-grant-subsidized spay/neuter services, adoptions, relocation of homeless pets to areas with more demand, road rescues, and other services. Please consider making a bequest as a fixed amount or percentage of your estate.

Sample #1 Percentage Bequest

"I give, devise and bequeath to The Humane Society of Jackson County (tax identification number 56-1575881), a charitable corporation organized now located at 50 Railroad Ave, Sylva NC 28779 (Mailing address PO Box 298, Sylva NC 28779) _____% of the rest and residue of my estate."

Sample #2 Residuary Bequest

"I give, devise and bequeath to The Humane Society of Jackson County (tax identification number 56-1575881), a charitable corporation organized now located at 50 Railroad Ave, Sylva NC 28779 (Mailing address PO Box 298, Sylva NC 28779), the rest and residue of my estate."

Sample #3 Bequest for a specific amount

"I give and bequeath to The Humane Society of Jackson County (tax identification number 56-1575881), a charitable corporation organized now located at 50 Railroad Ave, Sylva NC 28779 (Mailing address PO Box 298, Sylva NC 28779), the sum of \$ _____."

Sample Bequest #4 Contingent Bequest

"In the event that (name or names; i.e., spouse, children, sibling, heirs) shall not survive me, or shall die during the administration of my estate, within _____ days from the date of my death, or as a result of a common disaster, then I give, devise and bequeath those beneficiaries' shares of my estate to The Humane Society of Jackson County (tax identification number 56-1575881), a charitable corporation organized now located at 50 Railroad Ave, Sylva NC 28779 (Mailing address PO Box 298, Sylva NC 28779)."



Cat Discovers Self

The cat pictured was nearly blind due to entropion, and ARF helped with his surgery. This picture shows the cat after surgery looking at himself with his greatly improved eyesight.

Please help us continue our efforts by making your financial contribution to assist the animals of Jackson County.

DETACH AND RETURN WITH YOUR DONATION

Humane Society of Jackson County (ARF) Donation
Post Office Box 298, Sylva, NC 28779

You can make a one-time donation or become a sustaining supporter at <http://www.a-r-f.org>

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ other _____

Sustaining members can pay a small amount each month. From our web site, click "help" & follow the link