

ARF: Humane Society of Jackson County



ARF 2021 news

01 2021 in Brief

by MaryAdams

Despite Covid, ARF has had a great year. Though our numbers are down due to reduced foster parent participation and ongoing construction with our partner shelter in Florida, we worked hard all year to rescue and rehome dogs in Jackson County. Here are a few of our accomplishments:

- 46 local adoptions
- 132 dogs adopted through our rescue partners in Florida
- 290 dog spay/neuters at ASPCA funded by ARF or subsidized by 50%
- 13 dogs spayed or neutered through other local vets
- 70+ assists with spay/neuter through Catman2 and the Jackson County Animal Shelter
- Countless road rescues, shelter rescues, and medical costs assumed by ARF

We hope you'll enjoy this newsletter of our accomplishments in 2021. Please consider volunteering, fostering, and / or helping with a generous donation.



“Going the Extra Mile for Road Rescues” 02

by Mary Adams

This year ARF helped rescue several injured animals that either ended up on the highway or were dropped at the shelter. Road rescues cost ARF a huge amount not only in surgery costs but in long-term foster care and labor.

Maudie was brought to the Jackson Shelter after a good Samaritan found her near Old Cullowhee Rd and Wayehutta Rd in Cullowhee. She was horribly thin and heartworm positive. Maudie had to stay at her foster home for six months until she was clear of heartworms. She was not used to the house, and her first week she crashed through a sliding window because she had never seen one before. The door received the brunt of

the injury, but Jenny had a goose egg on her head for a while. She was exuberant in foster care, but when she was ready for adoption, she was shy and confused. It took more socialization, a few trips to the beach, and two adopters before Maudie found her forever home.

Molly was brought to the shelter by her owner after a friend they were staying with assaulted her. A kind Samaritan raised funds for her medical costs and a deposit so the owner could relocate. In the meantime, Molly came to ARF to recuperate from her injuries, which were painful but not life-threatening. She stayed with us a month while she was vetted and spayed. Then, however, her owner's circumstances changed, and he decided to give her up. Her foster family had another female pit bull who couldn't really share space with her, so



Molly spent time in a couple other foster homes with Advocates for Animals, including an extended stay with the Samaritan's sister, before she found her forever home in Asheville. She was a sweet, loving girl, and we're thrilled she found a wonderful place to live.

Elijah was a two-year-old beagle who was brought to Junaluska Animal Hospital from Jackson County by a witness who saw him hit by a car. While his fellow traveler was adopted, Elijah's owner refused to pay for his injuries and eventually gave him up. Elijah was diagnosed with a fractured pelvis and dislocated hip which took a couple surgeries to repair. He stayed on cage rest for eight months, integrating into the pack at his

foster home. Elijah was adopted by a family in Florida and is very happy.

Pelo is a two-year-old lab/Great Pyrenees who was also hit by a car and brought to the Jackson Animal Shelter. His owner came the next day and brought him to Junaluska Animal Hospital but couldn't afford the initial \$3800 in fees it cost to stabilize Pelo and repair his femur, so he gave him up. Pelo is just beginning his journey with ARF, who is still trying to raise the money for his vet costs. He's big and affectionate and hard to keep still. He loves most women but not most men, though his male doctor at Junaluska said they bonded after a couple of days. Pelo ate his e-collar the second day, but still hasn't removed his staples. He's a beautiful boy and would love an adoptive home that would help him recuperate, since his foster mama has a spine injury and is struggling to care for him.

Bailey was a four-year-old feist mix who was brought to us with her brother the blue heeler because the owner felt she had too many dogs to care for after her kids moved away. Bailey was so shy that she needed to be coaxed out of her crate, and she would only go from the crate to a lap and back, terrified of the open air. She was also heartworm positive. She didn't want to eat any of the food, even hot dogs, though she finally learned to take her pills in fried hot dogs and cream cheese! Bailey was adopted by Trish Morgan of the Pet Stop, who saw her through most of her care. When she first made the transfer, we had to carry her from one place to another so she wouldn't bolt. Trish found that Bailey loved toys, and gradually over the course of the year, she came out of her shell, even

learning to walk on trails and meet strangers.

Miles came to ARF at aged ten to twelve years old after he was accidentally run over by his owner. He was covered in mats from head to toe. His leg wasn't reparable because the injury was old, but Miles had some health conditions that required several thousand dollars in tests. A good Samaritan and spaniel lover donated the money for Miles' care and agreed to keep him as long as he was able. ARF brought him back and forth to the specialists several times, and our good friend Brenda Blake at My Best Friends keeps him groomed these days.

Every year ARF spends \$10k to \$20k on emergency medical care for stray animals and shelter pets. Some of these pets are adopted, some returned to owner. Some break our hearts, like Sweetie, who lost 11 of her twelve pups because she was so infested with parasites when we found her. Some need socialization, some need medicine, and some much more. For about 50 years now, ARF has been there for these dogs thanks to your help. Please remember us over the holidays if you're able.



Low-Cost Spay Neuter: A Team Effort (Past and Future)

WRITER:

Nory Prochaska

This year marks the twentieth year of Humane Society of Jackson County/ ARF's spay/neuter partnership with the ASPCA, a partnership that has grown over the years to include Catman2 and, later, the animal shelter. Since we started in 2001, ARF has helped the ASPCA alter 9,571 dogs & cats. That doesn't include pets sent on our trips by the animal shelter or cats sent by Catman2.

Half-priced services

For the last two years, ARF and Catman2 have **absorbed over half of the cost** of spay/neuter to pet owners using this service. Support from donors and grantors like PetSmart Charities and Two Mauds has helped these groups control the proliferation of unwanted dog and cat litters. Over the years, ARF and Catman2 have provided hundreds of free or grant-sponsored surgeries.

A little history

The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance (formerly Asheville Humane Alliance) began as a way to control pet overpopulation by providing large-scale, low-cost spay and neuter services to individuals and animal-welfare organizations all over western North Carolina. Surgery is provided at a facility created in Asheville for this purpose. The service has grown to become a

03

national model for providing large volume, low-cost spay/neuter services, and was eventually absorbed by the ASPCA, known worldwide for its animal-welfare programs and efforts.

In Jackson County, it all started in 2001 when the Humane Society of Jackson County, also known as ARF, began to use the Humane Alliance service first for its own foster pets and then for local pet owners. Several humble collection points have been used over the years—businesses, the empty lot where Mountain Credit Union is now; the parking lot in front of the old Walgreens; a stretch of Mill Street below the current Lucy in the Rye Eventually, ARF was given a space at Bridge Park, a location to offer pet adoptions, meet the spay/neuter truck, and store transport crates and supplies. A generous gift let us buy a shed/office After collaborating on a \$35k cat spay grant, ARF and Catman2 teamed up and began offering the services in tandem.

These days, the ARF and Catman2 partnership has expanded to include the Jackson County Animal Shelter, which now makes sure all pets are fixed before leaving the shelter. The small group of dedicated volunteers and staff also includes the ASPCA doctors, techs, and drivers, some of whom have dedicated their lives to this effort. This year, two ASPCA staff were badly injured on a trip to another county. Without all these groups, this county would still be awash in homeless pets.

Bi-Monthly Spay/Neuter trips

Today, spay/neuter transports are usually offered twice each month. Pet owners can sign up online at ARFhumane.org (dogs) and Catman2.org (cats), or by phone. ARF and Catman2 pay for half the cost of spay, and owners must pay for extras like tests, shots, and microchips. We're now scheduling several months in advance!

When you sign your pet up for spay/neuter, you'll receive a date and instructions that include signing an online permission form. The rest goes something like this:

- On the scheduled Monday, scores of sleepy, dedicated volunteers arrive at ARF.
- Customers bring their pets to Bridge Park ARF facility (cats already crated, dogs on leashes), waiting in cars till the pets are checked in, crated, labeled, and loaded on a transport vehicle, usually a box truck provided by the

ASPCA S/N Alliance.

- Crates are provided by ARF or by owners and must be hard-sided plastic lined with newspaper bedding.

It's a little noisy when the animals arrive and are first loaded—a new experience, and lots of new faces for the pets—but they settle down remarkably once the loading is completed and the truck is on the road to Asheville.

Post-COVID changes

Volunteers have worked hard to make this service as stress free as possible, adding several changes to the process post-COVID. Most of these changes evolved to

prevent stressed-out animals standing in line, in an unfamiliar location, surrounded by other strange, noisy animals.

After COVID, paying in person, doing paperwork in the cramped ARF office, and having multiple people handling animals and crates were no longer options. For a few months, spay-neuter transports were suspended completely due to COVID precautions. Then, when transports started up again, volunteers put their heads together and came up with a better procedure:

- Customers sign up and pay online before the trip.
- As people arrive on the day of the trip, they get a number instead of standing in line. They are asked to park in a limited area, and to wait in their car with their pet(s).
- The coordinator and a volunteer approach each vehicle in order, finalize any paperwork, liability release, and payment. The crate is labeled and carried directly to the ASPCA Alliance truck.
- To keep volunteers from handling frightened cats and to minimize escapes, cats must already be crated, crates must already be lined with newspaper, and hardware and doors must be secure.
- Dogs must be walked to the truck, crated one at a time, and immediately loaded on the truck. Loading the dogs one at a time is much less stressful than accumulating a stack of crates of unfamiliar dogs.
- The S/N Alliance drivers have cooperated in arriving early so that crated animals are immediately loaded onto the truck, instead of waiting till all animals have arrived to begin loading.

The new process has lessened stress on pets and owners. The facility is quieter, and the

whole operation happens quickly, efficiently, and in an organized fashion for all concerned. While we can't prevent the occasional traffic delay, most people are happy with the changes.

The process of returning animals to their owners the next day is similar. Each owner receives a number determining the order they receive paperwork, information, and discharge instructions. Owners then collect dogs, and cats are brought to the cars, preventing crate failures and covid spread. The improvements are a win for the volunteers, the pet owners, and the pet overpopulation crisis!



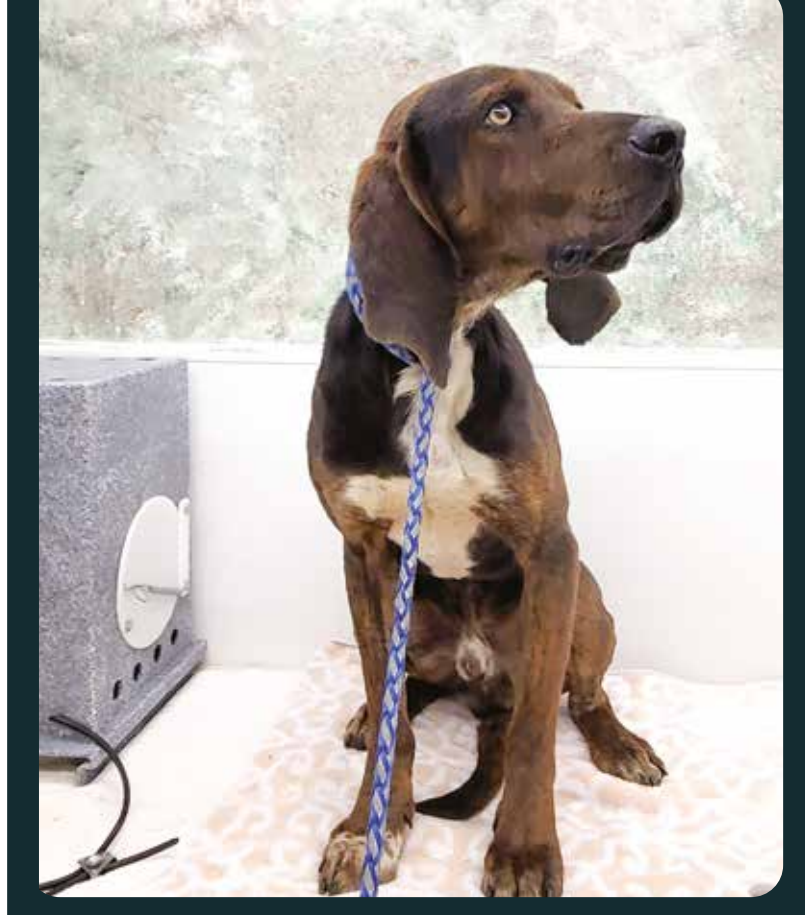
“Without our spay/neuter partners, some of whom have dedicated their lives to spay & neuter, Jackson County would be overrun with homeless pets!”



AGING DOGS: A VET'S PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Sandra Black, DVM

04



As dogs age, they begin to wear out (they are no different from people). Since they cannot verbally express how they feel, it is up to us, their caretakers and friends, to try to identify their ailments and help them maintain a comfortable and happy life.

Signs of arthritis often appear gradually. It starts with a subtle slowing down on walks, less enthusiasm for going outside, or the slightest reluctance to lie down or get up. More often than not, it progresses to an overt limp, a decreased ability to navigate stairs or jump up on (or down from) the couch, frequent pacing, panting, or even grumpiness or overt aggression.

A decline in cognitive function will manifest in accidents in

the house, pacing, standing/ staring, getting stuck in odd spots, and even aggressive behaviors. Whether or not a dog has cognitive decline, it may experience declining senses (vision and/or hearing). These contribute to its disengagement from activities, often resulting in accidents in the house, running into things, and less interest in daily activities.

Metabolic issues will cause a variety of signs depending on the organ(s) affected: declining appetite, a change in thirst, acting hungry but not eating, excessively urinating, having accidents in the house, becoming grumpy or even aggressive, coughing, and decreasing exercise tolerance—just to name a few.

So now we know what we need to watch for. But once we have identified

an issue, what then?

Start with a veterinary exam. A thorough exam, fasting blood work, a urinalysis, and x-rays will often identify the reason behind the change in behavior. When we know the cause, we can offer relief.

For arthritis, many modalities can help reduce our pets' pains:

- Standard pain medications (carprofen, gabapentin, tramadol) are generally safe and effective.
- Neutraceuticals such as glucosamine and polyaminoglycans can relieve those achy joints.
- We can supplement pain management with integrative care. Integrative care methods can provide profound pain relief through massage, chiropractic

care, acupuncture, laser therapy, transcutaneous electrostimulation, regenerative stem cell and platelet rich plasma therapy, and Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM).

I know very little of the science behind these modalities, but I have seen them work wonders. Dr. Tami Shearer at Smoky Mountain Integrative Veterinary Clinic is well versed in ALL of these and can work with you, your dog, and your vet to provide a comprehensive pain management plan. It is our responsibility as pet owners to help our friends be as comfortable and happy as possible.

For cognitive decline, some foods and some neutraceuticals help support the brain. But you can also contribute to your pet's care. Engage your dog. Take them outside to feel the warmth of the sun and the gentle breeze, maybe even hear a bird or see a squirrel. Take them on a car ride (assuming they don't hate riding). Brush them frequently and make sure they get their nails trimmed. Bathe them (again, only if it is not a war to do so!) which also serves as a mini-massage and helps you identify trouble spots. Even something as simple as petting them more frequently keeps them engaged.

The point of this article is not to go into the details of how to treat

every malady but to explain that for many physical ailments that come with age, we can offer veterinary help:

- For diabetes, we have insulin
- For heart issues, medications
- For kidney issues, special foods
- For incontinence, diapers

And there are integrative tools to help with these as well—again, beyond my base, but thousands-of-years-in-use herbals and acupuncture can offer support to the failing organ.

Finally, think about your pet's surroundings. Look at your house from your dog's perspective:

- Slick floors? Get rubber-backed runners for their paths and a firm supportive bed for them.
- Steps and stairs? Ensure they are well lit and the treads have traction, or

carry your dog (small dogs only!) or consider having a ramp built.

- Food and water on the other end of the house from where they normally stay? Move the bowls closer, and make sure they know where they are.
- Is it markedly cooler/draftier where their bed is? Consider redirecting the vent or getting a warming pet bed.

We have so many tools available now to help our furry friends as they get older. Age is not a disease, but it does bring with it a host of potential problems. Be aware, be proactive, and be kind.





Beretta Update 05

by Meagan Yeager

A year ago, my family decided to adopt Beretta, a dog with so many internal anomalies that specialists gave her only a few months to live. I'd gotten to know her through ARF, who brought her to us and later to a series of specialists in Asheville for vet and diagnostic care, and we thought the least we could do was make the time she had left memorable.

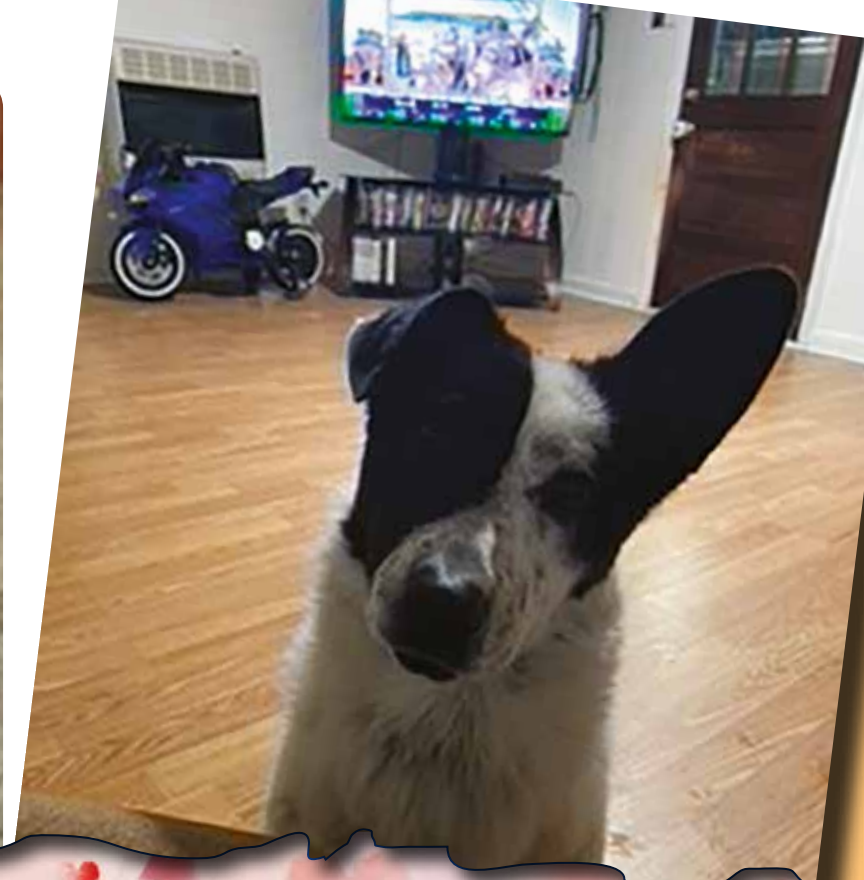
But here we are, a year later, and things are still somehow going great for our little pack of misfits. Our most favorite oddball (introduced in last year's newsletter as Beretta, the heeler-something puppy) acts as if there was never any reason for us to be worried for her health.

Beretta behaves as if her future were never bleak, as if

she has always been and always will be as strong as she is now. She runs faster than any of our children—furry and human combined. She wiggles from the tip of her nose to the bushy end of her tail when she's happiest, and her eyes are as bright as they were when I first met her, twinkling at me from her kennel. Now, in our home, those big brown orbs shine with mischief as she steals a sock or a sibling's toy. They glow with warmth when she sees open arms for her to run into or a lap to climb in. They soften when she lies on her bed in front of the living room heater, just before she drifts off to sleep.

Each time I look into those eyes, I remember that her beginning was perilous, and her ending was sure to be tragic, with only a single chapter in between. Then I watch her play and love harder than all five of our family members combined, and the world is suddenly brighter and more cheerful again. The challenges we have faced in the year since bringing her into our home (don't get me wrong, an incontinent animal is just as much work as gratification) seem so minor in the face of her delight for life. As always, the one whose place on earth was uncertain is the one who seems to appreciate the world the most.

She is my daily inspiration for acting out of kindness, knowing that we have given her the best days of her life by simply providing basic care and loving her like any member of our family. I hope hearing of her success helps any readers who are on the edge of doing the thing—the thing that's scary but will be so wonderful, the thing that will bring so much joy—to push forward and do it. Do the nice thing. Bring the joy—it will never be taken for granted by the right person animal.

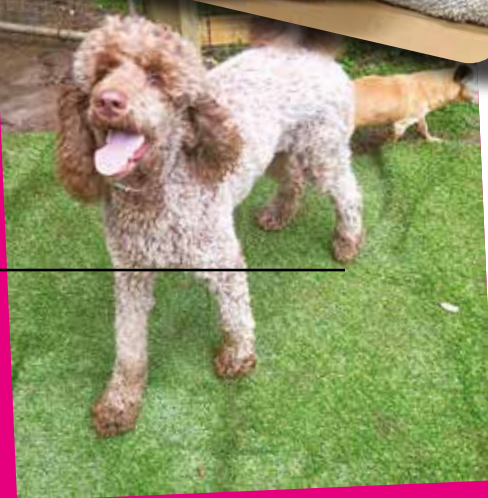
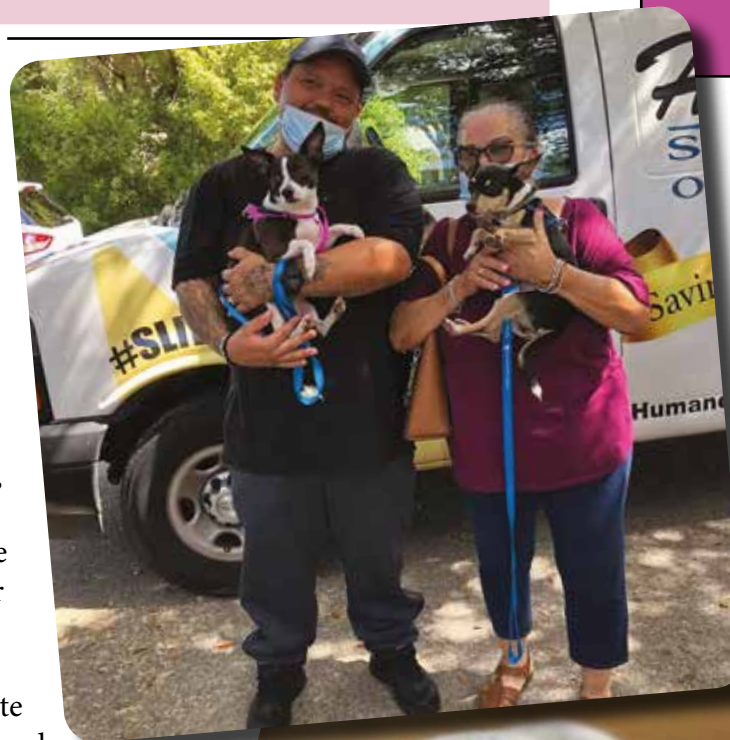


06 Multi-Dog Rescue Story By Katie P.

In mid-September 2021, our family was dealt an unexpected and heartbreaking tragedy in the form of a family death. In the course of managing the outcome, we were forced to find homes for ten dogs. We have only been in the area for a few years and did not know where to begin but we had a short timeline and needed help. Finding homes for so many animals felt like an overwhelming task at a time when we could not handle any more challenges.

A friend suggested that we contact Kaleb for guidance. Almost immediately, on a Friday evening, ARF responded to our plea with an abundance of empathy and resourcefulness. Within a couple of days, Mary and Kaleb coordinated rescue efforts with the dogs' vet, and all of the dogs' records had been scanned and the animals put into foster homes. Most got adopted in Pinellas county on the same day; some were even rehomed together. One cranky Boston Terrier still lives with Mary, hoping for the perfect home.

Our lost loved one had a soft spot for all living creatures, and despite the number of her pets, she took care of them. We knew that she loved them nearly as much as she loved all of us, and it was important that her dogs were taken care of in her absence. We are still humbled by the unquestioning and fast response provided by ARF and their network of animal lovers. We could not be more grateful and heartened to know that such incredible people and genuine hearts live in the world and in our community.



07 Make a Plan for your Pets

by Kaleb Lynch

07

Recently, the death of a friend reminded me how vulnerable our pets become when we're unexpectedly taken from them. We assume our relatives will step in, but many cannot. We assume our friends will help out, but sometimes they have problems of their own.

So what becomes of pet when we pass away? To a large extent, that's up to you. As a responsible pet owner, you do your best to provide your beloved pet(s) with food, water, shelter, veterinary care, and love. To ensure that your pet continues to receive proper care should something unexpected happen to you, planning ahead is crucial.

Here's some advice that will help all of us plan for the unthinkable, especially these days:

- Choose two trusted friends to assume short-term emergency care of your pets. Provide them with keys to your home, feeding/medical/care instructions, and the contact information for your veterinarian.
- Put a card in your wallet that lists the names and contact numbers for your pets' emergency caregivers. Put it on the refrigerator, along with your list of medications, your power of attorney, and your living will.
- Make sure people close to you know how many pets you have and who is who. If you have multiple pets, make a sheet with their name, photo, age, description, and any medical conditions. (Especially important if you have similar-looking animals!).
- Stay in touch with designated caregivers. Over time, people's circumstances and priorities change, and you want to make sure the arrangements you have made hold.
- You can also designate funds for you pets, but those funds could be delayed for more than a year while your will is in probate. It helps to have a friend identified who is willing to care for your pets long term. You can do that with a simple clause in your will:

"I leave my poodle Fluffy and \$2000 to Susan Smith, hoping the money will be used for Sarah's care and maintenance. If Susan Smith does not survive me, I leave Fluffy and \$2000 to Biff Edwards, hoping the money will be used for Fluffy's care and maintenance."

- You can't leave your money to your pets, but you can provide a Pet Trust, which is more complicated. Funds in a trust would be immediately available, whereas cash from your estate could be tied up in probate for some time.
- In any case, you should make sure the caregivers you designate are willing to take Fluffy on. Pets without such plans often end up at the shelter. More information is available here: <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/estate-planning-pets.html>

Most rescue organizations do not have the space or funding for indefinite care, so if you choose to leave your pet to an organization, be sure to communicate with them regarding the financial details of your future plans.

The Puppy Lady

by Dr. Sandra Black DVM

Jean Lewis's introduction to Jackson County was a new neighbor's dog that wandered over and bit her in the bum! Her introduction to fostering started with a husky who wandered into her yard without identification. Neighborhood inquiries yielded no owner, so Jean and her husband David contacted ARF and ultimately got him adopted. Jean knew then that she could help stray animals through ARF. And help she did. Since 1999, she has fostered close to (or maybe even over) a thousand dogs and a few cats. In one year alone, she fostered 129 pups!

As is common, Jean had a few "foster fails." That's when the foster person falls for one of their little friends and ends up adopting them for their own. Catscan is the most memorable. A rather large dog had a litter of 8 pups under one of Harris Regional Hospital's outbuildings. All the pups got medical names, and Catscan, who was enormous, got to live his life with Jean and David. Maggie May, a terrier mix, and several other fosters have also lived the rest of their lives in the comfort of the Lewis home over the years.

Jean hasn't just fostered pups for ARF. She has been ARF's Secretary since 1999, did a stint as the treasurer, compiles statistics for the various organizations that ARF interacts with,



has written several grants that have allowed ARF to sponsor low/no cost spays and neuters, and for several years was the vet check coordinator. All the animals transported to Pinellas County, Florida, for adoption have to have a veterinary exam as well as a host of other shots and tests before transport, and that can be a logistical challenge for 20-30 dogs and 8-10 fosters per transport. Up until Covid, Jean was at every vet check, keeping the foster parents and their charges in line.

Through all this, Jean has endured a serious dog bite that required a skin graft, a broken ankle tripping over a puppy, and two falls with dislocated shoulders, all foster related. And she

had two knee replacements, lost her husband to brain cancer, and lost most of her house to a fire. Some of these slowed her down, but they never stopped her from helping ARF.

She laughs when she recalls a transport that she and Jane Finneran took to Atlanta. They had multiple puppies in crates, and with puppies comes poop. So, Jean stepped on it to get there quicker. A cop pulled them over, and when he leaned in to see what they were transporting, he got a whiff of what they were trying to outrun. He just as quickly backed away and said, "Have a nice day."

Along the way, Jean took on the nickname of Puppy Lady. Jean LOVES fostering puppies because, well, they are so darn cute, and they have puppy breath, and they are small enough to handle easily. And she enjoys naming the litters: there have been flowers, trees, weather events, presidential candidates, foods, and beer varieties—to name a few.

Another bonus to fostering is the attention: Jean always gets calls and emails and even stops in the grocery store from those that have adopted a pet from her. They tell her they have had "the best dog ever" and thank her for making it happen. To be clear, it is not always as fun as puppies' kisses. There is the

poop, and lots of it. And there are losses. Sometimes the puppies don't have enough oomph to make it, despite veterinary care, medications, and an incredible amount of TLC. But always, the "Goods" outweigh the "Bads." And so she will continue on, the Puppy Lady, naming and fostering cute and adorable puppies.



Melissa Toppino writes,

I find it so satisfying to foster dogs for ARF. We domesticated dogs from wolves hundreds of thousands of years ago to be our helpers, companions, and protectors. Modern dogs are not wolves and cannot survive on their own. They need us and give us so much in return.

Here is the story of "Riff," a puppy found on the street by Ella Waldrop. Mary was calling him the Waldrop puppy. I flew to Key West to meet his new dad, Mike, who writes,

My new best friend just got here yesterday after traveling all the way from North Carolina where he was rescued. Thank you Melinda Toppino for taking care of him until he got here. Riff told me what his name should be! He was curled up in a ball on the bed. When I started playing a four-chord progression, he lifted his head, slowly crawled to the other end of the bed, and stared intently in wonder at this object producing this unfamiliar sound. Ladies and gentlemen, meet Riff! True to my weird side, his full name is 'The N.C. bootlegger, Riff Fender Festa.' But, Riff will do just fine!





Dogs need something to do. The average dog needs 20-30 minutes of exercise daily. Large breed and working dogs need even more.

Barking: it's what dogs do!

by Jane Finneran
Certified Dog Trainer

Dogs do bark. . . . and they shed and they chase things and they dig and any number of other doggie activities. To take any of these away from dogs is to take away their—well, their dogness. It's so very sad when people want a dog that doesn't do anything. How boring! To ask dogs not to bark is like asking a person not to talk. This is how they communicate, so pay attention!

The saddest barker is the dog tied out or penned 24/7. Dogs become "nuisance" barkers because they are bored and/or lonely. For that poor dog, the only attention is when someone comes to the back door to yell or throw something. To a dog, even bad attention is better than none at all, and if the barking gets rewarded with attention, the dog barks more.

The solution is to give the dog something to do. The average dog needs 20-30 minutes of exercise daily. If the dog is a large athletic or herding dog bred to work, it needs even more. Also, interactive toys and puzzles on the market will keep a dog busy. Feed the dog from one of these. Hide treats in the yard and ask the dog to find them. A tired dog will sleep and not bark.

Dogs will also bark for warning. If the dog is outside all day on patrol and barking at every squirrel, every passerby, and every leaf or bug that moves, the dog will be exhausted. Dogs usually sleep 16–18 hours per day. Without that, the cortisol level goes up, and the dog is a constant motion machine. I recommend vigorous exercise first thing in the morning and again in the evening. Then give the dog plenty of time for naps.

Dogs bark for excitement when someone is at the door, when you come home, when it is

time for a walk or a car ride, or when it is mealtime. The excitement bark can quickly develop into "demand" barking. Be careful. When trying to control the barking, the last thing you want to do is to chime in and yell (which from the dog's perspective is barking!)

What I recommend is taking a treat—the smellier and the tastier the better. Hold this treat under the dog's nose and say "enough" or "quiet" or whatever other cue you want to use. I put a finger to my lips like a librarian. Keep the cue consistent. Give the reward when the dog stops barking. Hold off for longer and longer periods of quiet so the dog does not learn to bark for another treat. If the dog is barking at something, move them away from the stimulus. I want my dogs to bark when someone comes in the drive or to the door, but I also want them to stop when I ask. It takes time but is well worth the effort.

Train with kindness!



PROS AND CONS OF FOSTERING DOGS by Kaleb Lynch 10

PROS:

- adorable dogs
- Everything is paid for by ARF! You won't incur extra expenses for food or a crate or vet visits. All you have to do is share your home temporarily!
- No long-term commitments! You get to have a new dog for a short time. You get just the right dose of doggie love and adoration and then send them to their new home.
- Choice. Some dogs are designated for transport to other states. Those dogs are term-limited at your home. If you prefer fostering a dog for local adoption, you can sign up for that too.
- Test drive! If you're still deciding on whether to get dog, fostering is a great way to test the waters and see what kind of dog would be the best match for you.
- Fostering can give you a sense of purpose! You're helping save and transform dogs' lives.
- Saving a life. You're not just saving one dog. You're making space at the shelter for many more.

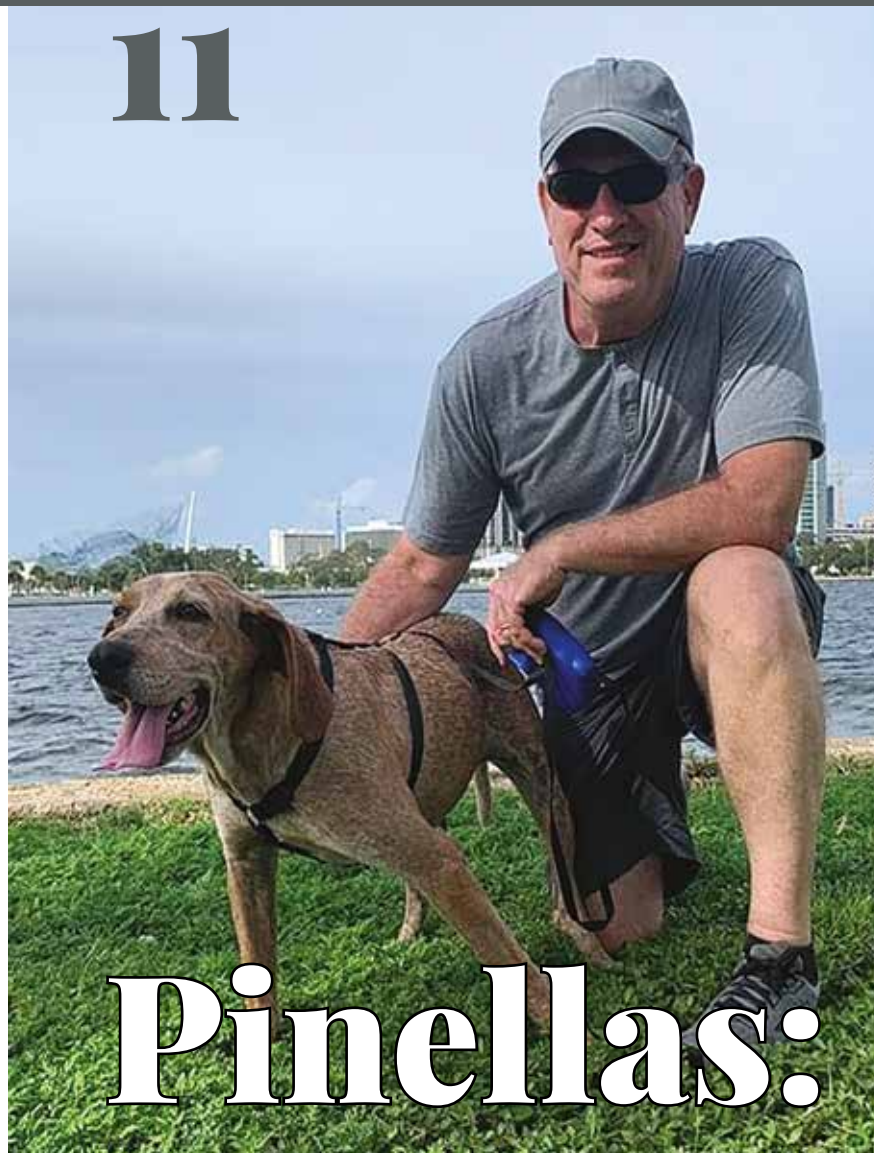
CONS:

- You get attached easily even if you have the animal for a very short time. Those sweet, grateful dog eyes can really get you! Even though you know the experience was good for the dog, it can still be upsetting to let the dog go to their new home.
 - You have to make changes in your routine in order to accommodate your new house guest.
 - The dogs aren't usually trained, so you'll need to invest in patience.
 - Guilt. All our foster parents report a free-floating guilt when they give up their dogs, when they divide their time between the foster dog and the resident dogs, when they separate pups from their mama, and more—especially when the foster dog has suffered in the past. Fostering takes a kind of emotional toll. It's rewarding, but foster parents should be prepared for the feeling they're still not doing enough.

We're looking for a few good hearts to help us keep dogs safe. We prefer homes with fenced yards. A foster coordinator will visit your home and advise you about fostering. Our president will keep track of your dogs' meds and shots and notify you when they need boosters. Fostering isn't for everyone, but it's one of the best things you can do for a homeless pet.

WE'RE ADOPTED

11



Pinellas: a six-year partnership

The year 2021 marks the sixth year we have worked closely with our no-kill partners in Florida, The Humane Society of Pinellas. During that time we have sent 1230 dogs to be adopted. We have weathered hurricanes, storms, and floods, Covid, cancer, construction, and lots of changes in personnel together. We hope we can work with them for a long time.

Many ask why we send adoptable dogs to Pinellas instead of placing them here. We've definitely seen an uptick in adoptions lately, but our county still doesn't have enough adopters for all the strays

found in the roads or dumped at the shelter. The shelter can hold dogs indefinitely when numbers are low, but they're "open admission." That means they have to take in dogs even if they are full, and that means if ARF didn't step in, dogs would get euthanized. We distribute these dogs across our small foster network, but local adoptions are difficult for most foster parents because screening takes so much time. We can't get enough spay/neuter appointments for all our dogs, and foster parents

like knowing exactly how long they will foster. Because ARF has no shelter, we can't always take dogs back if they are returned.

Enter our friends at Pinellas. They often fix the dogs themselves when we can't get it done. They take a range of ages and breeds, not just puppies. They can take dogs back that get returned, and they have vets and trainers on the premises. Most of all, they are awesome, and we love to see their happy photos of our dogs playing on the beach or cuddling in their new homes.

This year, ARF has fewer foster parents, and Pinellas is building a beautiful new shelter, but right now their current shelter is torn up. So our numbers were lower this year but still respectable. Since Covid began, we've sent 180 dogs, 142 of them this year alone.

Enjoy some of the happy tails photos! And please consider fostering for us if you're interested in short-term, time-limited fostering that saves lives.



Fostering Hounds by Sunny Himes

12

Until this year, I thought all hunters took great care of their hounds. I'd never met a hunter that did not claim his dogs were worth at least \$1000 each, or at least sound like a proud parent when talking about their dogs. Furthermore, since moving here in 1999, I had heard of the mythic Plott hound, the North Carolina State Dog, but had never seen one. In my mind, hounds, and the Plott hound especially, lived a good life, full of high-quality food, good health care, and long, exciting treks in the woods, followed by weeks of sleep and rest. I'm still convinced most hunters treat their hounds well.

But then I found myself fostering Houston, a full-blooded Plott hound that had been at the Jackson County Animal Shelter for over a week. I've learned a thing or two since fostering that sweet Plott hound. According to Mary Adams, ARF president, hounds and hound mixes are the largest dog population in ARF's care. Hounds need rescue from the

shelter for various reasons. Some are separated from their pack during hunting and never claimed. Some are brought to the shelter because they don't hunt. Some are found by well-meaning citizens who assume they are neglected (hounds run off lots of calories on the trail). Some hunting dogs wear tracking collars, though finders sometimes remove them, and some have cold brands. But without a tag or microchip, shelter staff usually can't unite dogs with their owners. That's when they call ARF.

Hounds often come into the shelter pregnant, and they have large litters. Adams says many hunters don't spay or neuter their dogs because many of them think fixing a dog weakens its hunting drive. In fact, hunting dogs are exempt from NC's laws governing id tags and at-large females in heat. Plus, if hunting dogs can garnish prices over \$1000 each, breeding them is lucrative business.

I loved fostering that Plott Hound, but it isn't metaphor to say he was born to hunt. Following a scent was in every strand of his DNA. I've never been around a dog so obsessed to do one thing. I was in awe. I feared finding him a suitable home would be difficult, though he was quickly adopted through ARF's

partners in Florida. But I still wonder if being a house dog will make him happy.

I don't find fault with people who use animals for work or sport if they properly care for them. I am not against hunting or hunting with dogs. However, I want to find a solution to the problem of over-population of hounds in Jackson County. One thing that will help is the microchipping clinics being hosted by ARF, Catman2, Advocates for Animals, and the shelter. But more needs to be done, and I think it is time that the sporting dog and pet dog communities got together to try to find a solution.

It seems to me that both communities, as well as the dogs, will benefit. If any hunters are interested in starting constructive dialogue with me on this topic, I can be reached at slhimes@yahoo.com.



Please consider fostering for us!

Estate planning by Lorna Barnett

Please think about us in your estate planning. There are two ways that you can remember the Humane Society of Jackson County in your will. You can simply name an amount or you can name a percentage of your estate. Many people provide support in this way to protect and support the organizations they have cared about throughout their lives. When a good donor dies, it can leave a big hole in the finances of a small organization.

The first thing is to be sure you have the legal name written correctly in your document. Our legal name is **The Humane Society of Jackson County, North Carolina** and our address is PO Box 298, Sylva NC 28779.

Then, you should decide if you prefer to give a percentage of your estate or if you prefer to designate a definite amount as your bequest. That is a decision you might want to make with your loved ones or your attorney.

If you already have a will prepared by an attorney, it's easy to make an alteration. If you choose to add us in your giving, simply give your attorney the information you want added.

If you haven't written a will, there are many online sites that can help you do it legally and safely. One site is Freewill.com where you simply fill in the blanks with the details of your estate, the people who will depend on you, and the organizations you wish to support. You can find other sites if you prefer.

The main reason people don't leave a gift to their favorite charities is because they have never been asked. We are asking you now! An important recent bequest was from Veronica Nicholas, one of the founders and beloved friend of the Humane Society for decades before her untimely death. That gift enabled us to continue providing care to the animals of Jackson County during a difficult transition to new leadership.

We hope you will take this simple action today so the animals we serve can have a better tomorrow.



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

www.arfhumane.org

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