

# ARF 2017



Featuring:  
Cuteness!



*News about fostering, donating, volunteering and adopting*

# Another Amazing Year for ARF

ARF pulled 266 dogs from the shelter and 65 dogs from the community.

In collaboration with Catman2, we sent 894 animals to be spayed or neutered. We placed 51 dogs locally and sent 330 to no-kill partners.

ARF has another record-setting year. We pulled more animals from the Jackson County shelter than ever before, organized 11 transports of dogs to no-kill shelters, participated in 24 low-cost spay neuter trips, obtained one grant and are awaiting news on a second, paid for six road rescues and several expensive surgeries for shelter animals, fostered five dogs while they recov-

tor and shelter director at Catman2. Jean Lewis has continued as Secretary despite two knee surgeries.

ARF continues to support the Jackson County Animal Shelter by sending their pets to Asheville for spay or neuter, helping with vaccines, testing, and record-keeping, and pulling dogs as often as possible to keep the shelter

storage of our supplies, The Jackson County commissioners for their support, The Jackson County Health Department and Jackson County shelter for financial and other assistance, our transport partners, our generous donors and volunteers, Dustin Demos for the winetasting benefit, The Jackson County Recreation Department and donors of benches for the Animal Welfare Friends dedication, The ASPCA for transport assistance, and more. Special thanks are due to Veronica Nicholas and to the family of Susan Miriam Ross for bequests to ARF and to all those who gave generously.

We still need your help. We need spay/neuter sign-up assistance, help coordinating veterinary checks for our transports, foster parents, donors, drivers, and more. And please give generously!

Thanks for another wonderful year.

from over-filling while we await the brand new facility the county has promised us. We have also assisted Fish and More in their transition to adoptions by welcoming their pets to

our spay/neuter trips.

We survived the year thanks to a host of people, including new board members, new foster parents, new and continuing spay/neuter signer-uppers and trip helpers, and a lot of help from our community and friends. A short and necessarily incomplete list of our benefactors includes the Town of Sylva for our digs off Railroad Avenue, Sylva Animal Hospital for their endless generosity and assistance, The Pet Stop for generous discounts on food and supplies and for central

Disposition of Animals Taken into Jackson Shelter (Nov 1- Oct 31)								
Shelter stats	2016-17		2015-6		2014-5		2013-4	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
Intake	504	445	432	304	218	148	513	389
Adoptions	105	198	88	87	197	71	201	113
Transfer								
ARF	266	0	205	0	197	0	167	0
Catman2	0	107	0	69	0	71	0	60
Euth	45*	120*	35*	110	28*	111	101	192

\* mostly for aggression, health issues, or owner request

ered from heart worms, and held two fundraisers.

2016 ended on a very sad note with the loss of our visionary leader, Veronica Nicholas. We are still plodding forward, taking ARF in the direction she would have wanted. ARF's former Vice President Mary Adams took over as president, Alison Hancock Padgett stepped in as vice president, and Lorna Barnett became treasurer, relieving Jane Finneran after a ten-year stint. Jane will continue as volunteer coordinator, while Kaleb Lynch did double duty as spay/neuter coordina-

## BEING A FOSTER PARENT

I was first contacted by ARF about three years ago to take on two fosters that came from a hoarding situation. They lacked social skills and needed an extra loving hand as they learned what it was like to be cared for. So basically, they needed to learn how to be a dog, to learn what it is like to be loved. I had no clue at the time how much these two fellers would become a permanent fixture in my household. Besides filling in for vacationing fosters, my commitment to ARF had been limited at the time. The best thing I ever did for myself was to say yes, I'll take them and yes, I want to become more involved with ARF.

I picked them up on my birthday which I will never forget and my first look at these two was sad, to say the least. They were smaller dogs, so frightened, and they were cowering in the back of a travel kennel. Once I got them home and really checked them out, let's just say they gave me a run for my money. They did not know what human touch was so all they wanted to do was hide or lash out because they were petrified, but I was determined I would get through to them regardless of how long it took.

I decided to name the longer-haired, Lassie-looking male Toby and the smaller brown terrier mix Coby. Since leaving the only home they ever knew that housed over 70 other dogs, these adult dogs started experiencing things they likely never had before: their own beds, toys, collars, leashes, wide open spaces, and someone who loved them

unconditionally. Best of all, they got names.

Patience is what these two needed, and they got a heavy dose of it. I soon realized Toby had an overgrown dew claw that wrapped around and was embedded into his pad, which I'm sure was painful. Once corrected, the change in him was incredible—slow, but still it was the first day he licked my face and wanted to cuddle. Coby, I discovered, was blind, so he was scared in his surroundings and used to very little movement. No wonder they were so attached to one another!

They have thrived and have developed their own personalities despite a disability and a rough start in life. Toby is not afraid of people anymore, walks with confidence, follows direction and gently wakes me the morning happy, delivering kisses to my face. Coby, through voice, can navigate around like nobody's business. Not stuck in one place from fear, he loves water, is secure in his surroundings although occasionally he walks into corners or knocks himself silly but he can hold his own when playing with the others. They seek me out when needing hugs, are less dependent on one another, and both literally smile as they run around the field. They warm my heart and soul. In addition, they make a great welcoming committee when other fosters come for a short time, showing them the ropes, sharing their toys, and aiding in the recovering efforts.

Several things stick out through my experience working with ARF. These are caring individuals who

go above and beyond trying to save every animal they can, never getting enough credit or wanting it. They offer free or low cost clinics for spay and neutering, which is one reason it baffles the mind why a hoarding situation—like the one these two came from—ever happens in the first place. They return my calls—once even in the middle of the night! ARF got Coby and Toby in for a health check and neutering, taking extra care for Coby due to the blindness. Incredibly, besides the obvious issues, they were very healthy. They just needed someone to believe in them and take the time to nurture them, to not give up on them.

I cannot thank ARF enough for the opportunity to help them that actually turned into a blessing for me. I implore anyone who has room to give fostering a chance. You would be saving a life, and you might just find your own special connection. Toby and Coby have found their 'person,' and I am happy to say it's me.

~ Grace



# ANIMAL VOLUNTEERS HONORED

IN JULY, ARF, OUR FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS INCLUDING THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE STAFF OF SYLVA ANIMAL HOSPITAL GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE WORK OF ANIMAL RESCUE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. WE DEDICATED BENCHES TO THOSE WE HAVE LOST AND THOSE WHO ARE STILL WITH US. ALLISON HANCOCK PADGETT, ARF VICE PRESIDENT, ORGANIZED THE EVENT WITH OTHER ARF VOLUNTEERS AND WITH THE GENEROUS HELP OF RUSTY ELLIS FROM THE JACKSON COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT.



## + ARF GIVES THANKS

The Humane Society of Jackson County wants to thank all those who help us every day, including our board, our volunteers and fosters, and our friends and families. Thanks to Vickie Greene for a bench honoring animal rescue volunteers and to those who donated benches honoring Mary Adams, Betsy Ashby, and Veronica Nicholas.

our inspiration and president, the fierce Betsy Ashby, the visionary Paul Novak, the funny Karen Martar, and all those who have gone on to better things--metaphysically or in the earthly sense. ARF is not only what we are now; it is the culmination of the efforts of so many good people. Thank you.

*Small time, but in that small most greatly lived.* - William Shakespeare

On the anniversary of their deaths, we remember fondly Veronica Nicholas



*"OUTSIDE OF A DOG, A BOOK IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND. INSIDE OF A DOG IT'S TOO DARK TO READ." " - GROUCHO MARK*

## Daring Aquatic Rescue by Worthy Citizens

Late Saturday afternoon, August 26, James Eaker decided to go fishing in the Tuckasegee River. He was standing below the Webster Bridge when he saw a small dog sail over the high bridge railing and hurtle through the air down to the river far below. Amazingly, the dog seemed unharmed, and he floated down the river a way before turning and paddling with all his might toward one of the small islands just below the bridge.

A dog lover, James sped into action, asking his girlfriend to call the animal shelter. He borrowed a long red tie-out leash and swam over to the island to assist the dog. Terrified, the dog growled and back further into the brush.

Mary Adams, the ARF president, had just stopped by the animal shelter when Animal

Control Officer (ACO) R.L. Parker, who was manning the phones alone, received the call. R.L. decided to close the shelter at once, and he and Mary drove to the site separately. They threw James treats. But though the



shaking terrier was happy to eat the beef sticks from James's hands, he refused to come to him.

Seeing that the dog refused to come, John Hicks waded across to the island and helped James corner the terrified pup with R.L.'s catchpole, which had also been hurled into James's

waiting arms. John and James got a good grip on the dog and swam to shore.

Mary headed up to the shelter to help R.L. with vaccinating and de-fleaing the small creature, who was covered from head to toe with fleas and ticks undaunted by the freezing river.

Kaleb Lynch, ARF foster parent and Catman2 shelter director, declared



his wish to foster the small dog, whom he called Amos. Amos sat patiently while he received a heartworm test, worming, and several vaccines, as well as a topical flea & tick treatment. Exhausted, he crawled into RL's waiting lap and went to sleep.

Amos owes his life to citizens like James and John, who saw his peril and decided to act, and to ARF and shelter staff. Who knows how long he would have stayed on that island unnoticed otherwise? And who knows what would have happened had James and John simply decided that "someone should do something," shaking their heads, and continued with their lives.

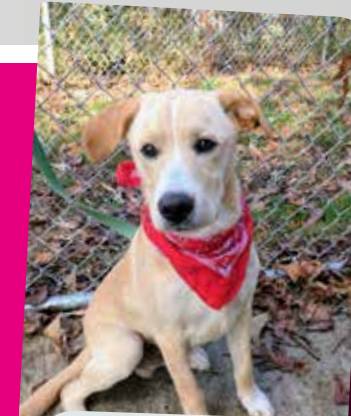
After getting fixed and further vetted, Amos found a wonderful home.

## ARF Receives ASPCA/ Subaru Grant

In 2017, the ASPCA/ Subaru Rescue Ride program gave ARF its second grant, this time for \$6000, to continue working to find homes for unwanted pets through out-of-state no-kill shelters. The Rescue Ride program runs from March-October 2017. This year, the ASPCA granted a total of \$150,000 to 27 animal welfare organizations across the country to fund the safe transport of shelter dogs from localities where supply exceeds demand to areas where the animals have a higher chance of adoption.

"As part of the Love Promise, we at Subaru are committed to keeping animals safe and healthy through programs such as the ASPCA & Subaru Loves Pets Rescue Ride," said Bridget Hanrahan, Promotional/Sponsorship Manager, Subaru of America, Inc. "Alongside the ASPCA, we are proud to help fund transports for shelter dogs and improve their chances of finding a safe and loving home."

The Humane Society of Jackson County/ ARF is proud to be one of these worthy rescues, and we are so grateful to the ASPCA/Subaru program for making it happen. Between March and October, ARF found homes for about 230 dogs through our partner shelter in Clearwater, the Humane Society of Pinellas County. We are exceedingly grateful to our friends in Florida, who contended with a hurricane and a flu outbreak but still found homes for all the pets we sent.



Sylva Animal Hospital Honored

ARF wishes to thank the Sylva Animal Hospital for all their work above and beyond for our community, especially in service of the ASPCA/ Subaru Rescue Ride program.



The head of the Jackson County Commissioners thanks ARF and the ASPCA/ Subaru Rescue Ride for helping to reduce shelter euthanization of adoptable shelter dogs to zero!



Princess Macie

Princess Macie, a senior rescue, had a brief happy time with her foster parent, maybe the only happiness she ever knew.

## Would You Foster a Dog for ARF?

**ARF** rescues hundreds of animals each year. Our goal is to save every shelter animal or keep animals from entering the shelter by fostering them. Sometimes it's hard. Fosters have to contend with the needs of animals that have often received little socialization, and then they must experience all the emotions associated with letting them go to other homes. But if you have the love in your heart and the ability to care for a dog safely, we need you.

### Why foster homes are needed:

- The Jackson County Animal shelter has only 15 runs for dogs. Our Shelter fills up almost every week. Community rescue dogs are also taken into ARF foster care. ARF has no building to house these dogs.
- Because our receiving shelters have enforced leash laws and strong Spay/Neuter laws, they have room for our additional dogs. ARF pulls dogs that have been approved by a receiving shelter and keeps them in foster homes until the date of a scheduled transport.

### What is required to be a foster parent/home for ARF:

- Register as an ARF foster/home (Foster parents must be at least 18 years of age)
- Own your home or have consent of housemates and landlord
- Have transportation to take foster dog to vet checks, to ARF for its vaccines on Saturdays or by appointment as needed, and to ARF on night of transport

- Have ways to safely contain foster dog when it is not on leash (fence, pen, or dog run). ARF dogs must not be allowed to run loose
- Have ways to keep animal sheltered and warm in the winter and cool in summer
- Have access to Internet so they can receive emails and join our Facebook volunteer group, which is the best way to stay current about announcements
- Understand that because ARF knows little of shelter dogs' backgrounds that we cannot guarantee they are housetrained, won't chew, or get along with other dogs or cats

### How ARF helps you:

- ARF provides food, vet care, crates, collars, etc. ARF's trainer/transport coordinator can help you introduce your foster pets to other pets in the home
- Foster parents can get support and advice from ARF officers and other foster parents
- ARF helps foster parents track deadlines for shots and other medical needs as prescribed by our receiving transport shelters
- ARF dogs help you figure out what to do with all those extra shoes...

ARF prefers that first-time fosters take dogs for transport (short term, usually

2-4 weeks.) **Note that dogs approved for transport cannot be placed locally or kept by the foster parent!** Fostering for local adoptions usually takes far longer (until dog is adopted.)

If you are interested in fostering, contact ARF's Volunteer Coordinator Jane at (828) 293-7415 or [ncdogwich@yahoo.com](mailto:ncdogwich@yahoo.com).

*We're adopted!  
Thanks for the New Lives!*



## CAT Scan: A Fond Farewell

CAT Scan was one of ARF's oldest foster dogs. He passed away at 14 years of age due to failing health on October 19, 2017. He was a seventy pound, Hound/Lab mix. On January 2, 2004, CAT Scan, his mother, and eight or nine of his ten-week-old siblings were taken into ARF foster care.

These pups had been born under an out-building at Harris Regional Hospital. They had been watched by patients from their rooms as the mom dog fed them and brought them out to bask in the sun.

ARF was contacted about their situation when the pups started exploring the adjacent parking area. On a raw and snowy morning, ARF members put out humane traps and caught mom and pups.

The mom dog went to one foster home, the pups to another. The pups were named various medical related terms that reflected their birth place (CAT Scan, Scrubs, Doc, Nurse, ER, etc.)

All the pups were quickly adopted after being neutered and given necessary medical care-- except CAT Scan. He was eventually adopted, but the adoption didn't work out and the foster

parent took him back. CAT Scan ultimately became what ARF has termed a "foster failure."

He had established himself as such a part of the foster home and family that they couldn't possibly put him up for adoption again, thus finding his "forever home."

CAT Scan wasn't always an endearing pet, however. He jumped fences, scared neighbors, and had to take obedience classes twice, getting only a certificate of attendance the first time.

As CAT Scan aged, he mellowed and because he loved puppies, he became the "resident counselor" to foster puppies at the ARF foster home, teaching them the rules (129 puppies in one year).

CAT Scan is survived by his foster parent and two other "foster failures," Peggy Sue and Maggie Mae.

CAT Scan's last meal was Omaha Steak brisket. His ashes will be scattered in the woods behind his foster/forever home.



## SHELTER RESCUE: SEAN BONES

ARF board members received a text message from JCAS with a photo of a sad looking emaciated hound dog with a badly broken leg, asking if we wanted to save him. ARF President Mary Adams immediately replied "Of course!"

"Sean Bones" was only 30 pounds when he should have been double that amount. His leg was mangled, a piece of bone broke poked through his skin, he had shrapnel in his

face, and he was dangerously anemic. . . and yet he wagged his tail as hard as his weak body could.

Our vet was initially concerned that we may have gotten to him too late, but slowly Sean is getting stronger and gaining weight. Early in November, he underwent surgery to remove the leg. Sean went from rags to riches and now has nutritious food, the biggest section of his foster dad's bed with blankets fresh from the dryer, round-the-clock veterinary care, and a fighting shot at a new life.

## The Number 1 Dog Training Tip!

OK, here it is: The tip from the pros. Dog show people use it, movie trainers use it, and modern dog trainers use it. Food! Yes, that's right. Give dogs what they want, and they want food. Meat is the currency of the dog world. So use little pieces of chicken, liver, or slivers of hot dogs.

I have had clients bring large, 80-pound-plus dogs for a lesson and tell me that the dog "doesn't listen." The dog is not deaf. The problem is that client is trying to explain to the dog what to do using three-paragraph essays, when everyone knows dogs do better with bullet points. I can almost always get the large dog to do what I want with a lure (food in hand) and eventually just a hand signal.

Students in class will tell me that they do not want to use treats. They think the dog should just "do it."

"Why?" I always ask. "I want a paycheck for my work. So does the dog!"

Eventually, if the relationship develops the dog will cooperate. But initially, I want to make myself very important to the dog and there is no easier way than a pocket of treats. Consider the treats as the pay check.

In his recent book *How Dogs Love Us*, Gregory Berns actually showed on an MRI how a dog's brain lights up in anticipation of a treat. Think about that--not the treat but the anticipation of it excited the dog. Treats make training fun for the dog. Training should be fun for the dog and for the owner. Confrontation risks aggression. Using punishment could affect the relationship with the owner in a negative way. But using treats can make a bad thing good.

To give an example, a dog that has never been on a leash can learn to like the leash with some yummy reinforcements. A dog that is afraid of strangers can learn to like them with treats (tossed at first). A dog that does not like its paws touched can learn to toler-

ate it--yep with treats. The list goes on...

So now you just need to find the right treat. Avoid huge treats that will make your dog gain weight. If your dog has skin allergies, avoid treats with wheat, corn, or soy. And definitely avoid rawhides. Try a variety of treats to make sure it's something your dog will want to work for. (As a last resort, try tiny pieces of hot dogs. Most dogs like those!)

Jane Finneran, CPDT (Certified Professional Dog Trainer) offers group and private lessons.

A Trained Dog is a Loved Dog



## + Veterinary Tips from Sylva Animal

Kittens and puppies are great. Who can dispute that? I have always preferred puppies and kittens to full-grown pets, but in the past few years I have had the pleasure of taking in several older pets and, although it has been different, it has been very rewarding.

From a medical perspective, older animals can have many ailments. Dogs commonly have arthritis, and may be incontinent or have tumors or dental disease, or have a metabolic disease, diabetes, Cushings, heart disease, or have problems with hearing or vision—just to name a few. Cats also may have arthritis, dental disease or tumors, but are also frequently affected by a metabolic issue--diabetes, kidney failure or hyperthyroidism.

When giving an older pet a new home, you should expect any of the following:

- Increased visits to your veterinarian for blood testing or monitoring, or changes in

medications or therapies

- Daily medications, possibly even special diets or feeding strategies
- Accommodations for decreased mobility (ramps, footing, orthopedic beds, different litter or litter boxes)
- More trips outside (even in the colder weather!)

What you will get from all this extra work? Satisfaction. Giving furry friends comfort in their twilight years has immeasurable benefits, the likes of which you will not realize until you have experienced it. So, contact ARF, the Catman2 Shelter, or the Jackson County Animal Shelter and give an old dog or cat a retirement home if you can.

To Handsome, Dixie, Grace, Holly, Sally, Mimi, and Mia: thank you for letting me help you, and thank you for the memories.

Sandra Black, DVM



**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 pay only a small amount each month. From our web site, click "help" & follow the link