



ARF 2022 news

ARF: Humane Society of Jackson County

01

2022 in Brief

Despite Covid, ARF has had a great year. Though our numbers are down due to reduced foster parent participation and loss of our Florida partners, we worked hard all year to rescue and rehome dogs in Jackson County. We also found several new adoption partners in the northeast. Here are a few of our accomplishments from 11/1/21 to 11/22/22:

Intake:

- 217 dogs including 193 from shelter and 20 from public
- 4 returns

Outcome:

- 208 adoptions or transfers

Total Dog Services:

- Neuters: 81 total (21 ARF dogs)
- Spays: 113 total (36 ARF dogs)
- Total S/N: 194 dogs

We also assisted Catman2 and the shelter to spay or neuter hundreds of cats and dogs. ARF paid medical costs for several sick and injured shelter animals and more than a dozen severely ill or injured animals. However, our shelter is full of cats and dogs, and for this first time in almost a decade, we can't save them all. We need more foster homes, and we need your support.

ARF needs foster parents, volunteers, fundraisers, and donations. Please help us continue our vital services to this community.

www.arfhumane.org





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Going the Extra Mile for Road Rescues

by Mary Adams

” 02



JOEY

Joey is an elkhound who was found by a good samaritan with a collar embedded in his neck. Once he had recovered, Joey had trouble finding an adoptive home because he looked a lot like an

elkhound, but apparently not enough for the breed rescue groups. Two elkhound fans came to see him only to decide his tail wasn't bushy enough and his chest wasn't big enough. But Joey's foster family persisted

until they found him the perfect home, a local family who had found another elkhound around the same age at the same spot Joey was found. For all we know, it was a family reunion!

Apollo

Apollo, formerly Pelo, landed in the Jackson County Animal Shelter after being hit by a car. Like many dogs who are hit by cars, Pelo had been roaming at large and was unneutered, which often puts dogs like him at risk. Once his owner realized the cost of the surgery to repair his leg, Pelo became the property of ARF, who scrambled to raise the funds (about \$5,000). Pelo was pretty cross at first, and to this day he still gets cranky when his leg hurts. But he quickly bonded with his female foster parent. The two of them spent the winter and spring doing frequent, short, and controlled leash walks, along with a regular regimen of leg massage. Pelo's tendency to roam didn't work out at his first adoptive home, where he got his current name Apollo, but one of the vet staff with plenty of acreage fell in love him, so now he lives with her. As long as ARF has a foster home willing to take in injured homeless dogs, we do not turn them away because of cost.



ROAD RESCUES CONTINUED

02

Gordon

Gordon was brought to the Jackson County animal shelter by a good samaritan who found him after he nearly lost his leg because a tie-out chain got embedded in his leg. His foster mom picked him up from Sylva Animal Hospital and began a long and ultimately successful effort to save his leg. For the first few days she changed his bandages and applied antibiotic cream as well as oral antibiotics. Once the infection was under control, he began a series of laser treatments with the wonderful staff at Smoky Mountain Integrative Veterinary Services, which continued until he journeyed north to meet his new mama in New Jersey.

Donors like you saved Gordon from a difficult life without his back leg. For an active dog like him, that's life-saving!

"Please help us spread the word about the dangers of tie-outs, which can result in amputation, injury, or even strangulation."





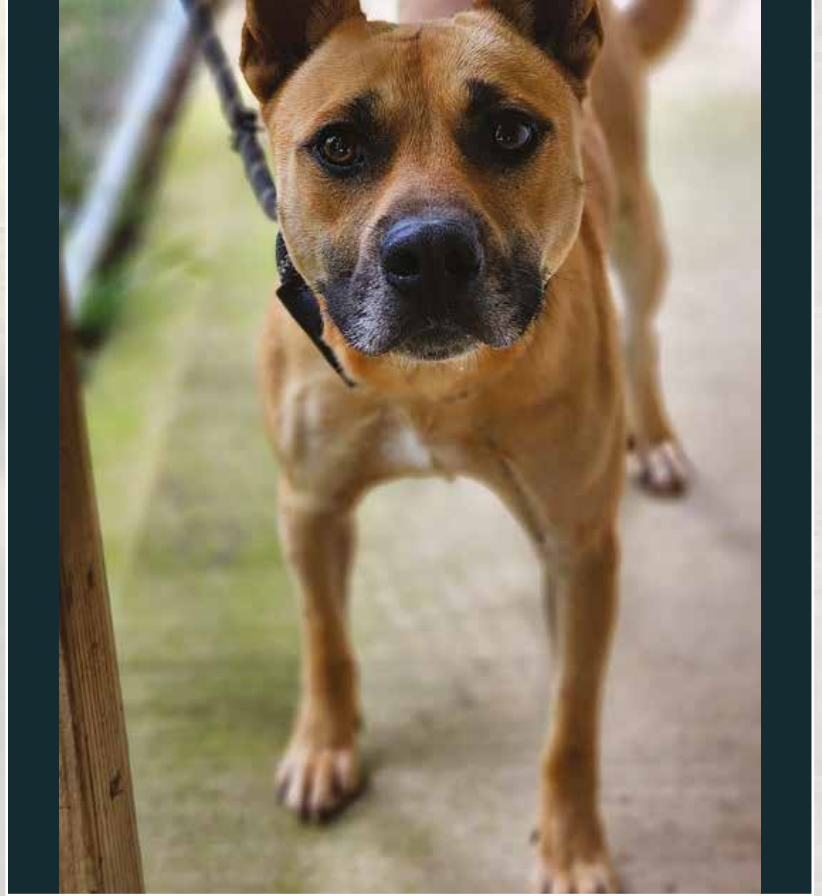
Roscoe

Roscoe was turned into the Jackson County Shelter because of heartworms. Usually heartworms can be treated in about six months, with two expensive injections of melarsomine plus a daily course of broad-spectrum antibiotics, which kill the microfilaria or small organisms inhabiting the heartworms, which are released as the heartworms die. But Roscoe had a resistant case and kept testing positive. That meant poor Roscoe had to spend a year restricted to low activity while his foster parent treated him for these deadly worms. He got a bit fat during that time, but never fear. As soon as Roscoe tested negative, he was adopted by a family that takes him hiking every day, which he loves as much as he loves them!

DIABETES MELLITUS IN PETS: A VET'S PERSPECTIVE

03

Dr. Sandra Black, DVM



I am willing to bet that everyone reading this article has some knowledge of diabetes, whether they or one of their family members, their friend, their pet or their friend's pet has it. Diabetes is a disease in about 11% of the adult US population. It is also a very real disease in our pets, but at a much lower rate: about 1 in 230 cats (0.4%) and 1 in 300 dogs (0.3%). This article will be a not-too-in-depth overview of diabetes in dogs and cats.

Type

In humans, there are two major types of diabetes mellitus (DM): Type 1 is an absolute deficiency of insulin due to the autoimmune destruction of beta cells in the pancreas and represents 5-10% of DM in people. Type 2 is an insu-

lin resistance state, a relative deficiency of insulin, resulting from genetic and environmental insults. Type 2 represents about 90% of DM cases. Extensive testing is not readily available for our pets to define what type. Dogs are thought to have Type 1 as they are completely insulin dependent, and cats are thought to have Type 2 as they appear to have a relative insulin deficiency and, in some cases, can go into remission.

Prevalence

In dogs, most newly diagnosed patients are between 5 and 15 years of age. Females outnumber males, and most are less than 50 pounds. Often dogs

have a concurrent disease such as pancreatitis, infection, or chronic kidney disease. In cats, males outnumber females 2 to 1; 50% are 10-15 years old, 22% are 7-10 years old, and most are inactive, overweight, and indoor only.

Clinical Signs

The most common signs in cats and dogs are increased drinking (polydipsia) and urination (polyuria). Other symptoms include an increased appetite (polyphagia), weight loss, lethargy, decreased interaction with owners and other pets, a decreased ability to jump, difficulty with rear legs, and (more in dogs than cats) a decrease in vision due to cataract formation.

Diagnostics

An initial workup should include at least a blood panel and a urinalysis. Blood glucose consistently over 270 (cats) and 200 (dogs) supports a diagnosis of DM. Note that concurrent diseases and stress can raise a dog or cat's blood glucose. Evaluating blood glucose levels and treating them are essential to a true diagnosis of DM and, ultimately, its regulation.

Treatments

The predominant treatment of diabetes in pets is the administration of insulin via injections. Traditional insulins used in veterinary medicine are intermediate-acting insulins (NPH and Lente), long-acting insulin protamine zinc (PZI), and insulin analogs glargine (Lantus) and detemir (Levemir). NPH (Humulin N and Novolin N) is a recombinant human insulin. Lente (Vetsulin) is a purified pork-source insulin. PZI (Pro-Zinc) is a recombinant human insulin. That is as deeply technical as I will get, I promise!

My experience base is treating dogs with either Novolin N (a U100 preparation) or Vetsulin (a U40 preparation). The U number refers to the number of insulin units per milliliter (ml). Cats are usually treated with Pro-Zinc or Vetsulin (both are U40 preparations). I have little experience with glargine or detemir, but both are recognized as legitimate treatments for DM. They are both U100, and the dosing in cats and very small dogs could be tricky. Mostly all of these are eventually given twice a day, depending on how the pet responds.

alone will not regulate glucose levels enough, but directed foods will improve the pets' overall health and could potentially reduce the amount of insulin needed. Purina (DM, OM), Hill's (M/D, W/D, R/D), and Royal Canin (Diabetic, Obesity Management) have diets specially formulated with higher protein and lower carbohydrates. Some of these may not be appropriate depending on whether your pet is overweight or too thin. You may find some other foods available; be mindful of calories, fiber, and carbohydrate contents. More importantly, the food needs to be something your pet will eat.

Back to the insulin injections: Your veterinarian and their team will guide you through the entire process so you are comfortable handling and administering the insulin. My biggest takeaway to clients is that it is better to miss a dose than to give two doses. The second is never to use U40 syringes for U100 insulin, or vice versa. The risk of misdosing and adverse reactions is high.



The second treatment I will mention is diet. Food

DIABETES, continued

Monitoring

Monitoring can be done in the clinic or at home, depending on the pet and the owner's comfort level. For in-clinic monitoring, a day-long glucose curve works well for most dogs. Cats often become too stressed for the levels to be close to accurate. For cats, I often spot-check even though there are large variations in their glucose levels during the day. There are portable blood glucose monitors (PBGMs) and continuous glucose monitors (CGMs). These are becoming quite popular to minimize the stresses and inconveniences involved in appointments. Your veterinarian can discuss the pros and cons of these home monitoring options.

Another test that can help monitor overall regulation is a blood test called fructosamine. This test is not influenced by food or stress but requires more than a micro drop of blood. Theoretically, the fructosamine concentration is a marker of the average blood glucose during the prior one to three weeks.

Lastly, and as important, is attention to your pet at home: their appetite, thirst, attitude, energy level, engagement and mobility.

Complications

The first and most critical complication of giving insulin for diabetes is creating hypoglycemia. This is a life-threatening emergency. (Remember the "better to miss a dose than to double dose"?). If your pet is wobbly, disoriented, twitching, or actively seizing, rub Karo syrup on their gums, check their glucose (if you have a monitor) and start the process of getting them to a veterinarian. If they start "coming to," get some real food into them and maybe another bit of Karo syrup. If they do not respond to the Karo within five minutes, get them to a veterinarian ASAP.

Expect that your dog will likely develop cataracts and probably go blind. Most dogs adapt well to vision loss; do not move too much furniture around, and be mindful that your pet doesn't step off a deck or fall

down a flight of stairs. Diabetes can be hard on the kidneys and can cause neuropathies, so it is important to have them examined regularly.

Take Care

If your pet is diagnosed with diabetes, take a deep breath and talk with your veterinarian. It is important to take care of your pet, but it is also important that this diagnosis does not take over your life.

References: Canine and Feline Endocrinology. Feldman et al. 2015. Vetsource.com. CDC, 2022.

Name: Sunny

Employment: Biology Instructor at WCU for 18 years

Time in Jackson County: 23 years

Time as a Foster Parent for ARF: about 4 years

Why I foster: I love having animals in my life, and I have several of my own. They are my family. However, I also like house guests! Having a foster dog is like having an exciting friend visit. I get to learn about a different breed and dog personality with each foster dog. I get to teach each dog new things and show them new places. I also get to shower each one with love and attention. I know these dogs are better off because of the attention I have given them. I enjoy their company, but I also feel good about the help I have given a creature in need. Oh, and did I mention PUPPIES?!?! I don't know about you, but I believe one cannot have too many puppies in one's life!

www.arfhumane.org

ARF is Family

by Allison Hancock Padgett

I had a very challenging (okay, horrible) year in 2013. I lost my mom, two cats, a dog, my two favorite horses, and my first husband and father of my son (with whom I was still friends). I really lost my mojo. So, I decided to throw myself into something positive. I started volunteering at the Jackson County Animal Shelter. I dove in headfirst and was up there every single day. I met Mary Adams and Kaleb Lynch while working there, and soon I decided to get involved with ARF.

I was tentative at first about fostering (putting it mildly) as I had already immediately adopted two dogs from the shelter. So, I decided to volunteer as Vice President of ARF first, helping with marketing and such. In 2015, my husband and I moved much closer to Cullowhee as my husband's health was declining, and we needed to be off the mountain. I decided it was time to foster since I was much closer to town. The parameters were: "must be house-trained, older, no puppies, no hounds, and must get along with my other dogs...and husband." I have fostered, foster failed, and grown for the past seven years. This year, well as other "not house-trained" dogs. I have expanded my horizons, and it has been a joy; ARF has been a lifesaver for me.

Here's what you get when you volunteer to help ARF. You get a community – a caring, hands-on, loving community. I started volunteering because of such a horrible year, and the past nine have been equally challenging. My current husband's health declined, and he passed away four years ago; I had both knees and a hip replaced, and COVID happened (okay, that derailed a lot of ARF activities). Plus, I experienced all the ups and downs that come with animal rescue. I found my tribe when I started volunteering with ARF, and that tribe has never failed me. I'm proud to be associated with ARF; I know you will be, too. We welcome you with open hearts!

I took on puppies for the first time – as



The year 2022 marks the end of a six-year association we had with our no-kill partners in Florida, The Humane Society of Pinellas. During that time we sent over 1230 dogs to be adopted. We're sorry to lose the opportunity to send to them, because our county always has far more dogs than homes for dogs.

Many ask why we sent adoptable dogs to other shelters instead of placing them here. 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 have to take in dogs even if they are full, and that means if ARF didn't step in, dogs would get euthanized.

Moreover, 2022 has seen a huge uptick in homeless animals all over the country. We're not sure why. Perhaps people got pets during Covid and can't care for them now. A lot of those pets couldn't get fixed because vets were closed or had to restrict services, so now we're seeing the puppies and kittens from those years. And rents are crazy high. Because so few landlords allow pets, people are being forced to moved with no place to bring their pets. That means, even with our life-saving efforts, we can't save every shelter dog.

ARF has begun looking for new rescue partners in the Northeast. We've found a few, but they take only a few dogs and are overwhelmed with pets in their regions, possibly for the first time in decades. Finding drivers for all our pets is difficult because the distance is longer, and sending dogs north costs money. So we're looking for fosters who can handle puppies and dogs for a month or two until we can arrange a transport. And we're always looking for drivers. Now eWWnjoy some of the happy tails photos!



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 pets 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 to 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 Fluffy'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.

Volunteering for ARF

07

by Brittany Howard

As a kid, I was always bringing found animals home. My empathy for them would never allow me to walk away, and my dream was to have all of the animals live with me. As an adult, I realized that goal was unrealistic, but fostering would allow me to love on lots of animals while they wait for their forever homes, which was close enough! I've fostered puppies, adults, and hospice cases, and every experience has left me feeling like I'm doing something to really help a cause that means a great deal to me. My husband and I moved to NC in 2018 and recently started volunteering with ARF. We have fostered a few pups and made a couple of transport runs up North to help move dogs to a part-

ner rescue in an area without strays or overcrowded shelters. To date, my most unusual experience with ARF has been fostering Vanessa.

Vanessa (now Nellie) is a shy girl who struggles to warm up to most people. She had been placed as a pup with a man who did not like her, and when she was returned, she was terrified of all new people, especially men. However, she fell in love with my husband, and they bonded immediately. A few weeks into having Vanessa, we received our first email from someone interested in adopting our special girl. I left a voice mail and also replied to their email with an honest description of her shyness and explained that she needed a family that would be patient with her and help build her confidence. I never

heard back, and I worried

that finding a home for sweet Vanessa would be challenging.

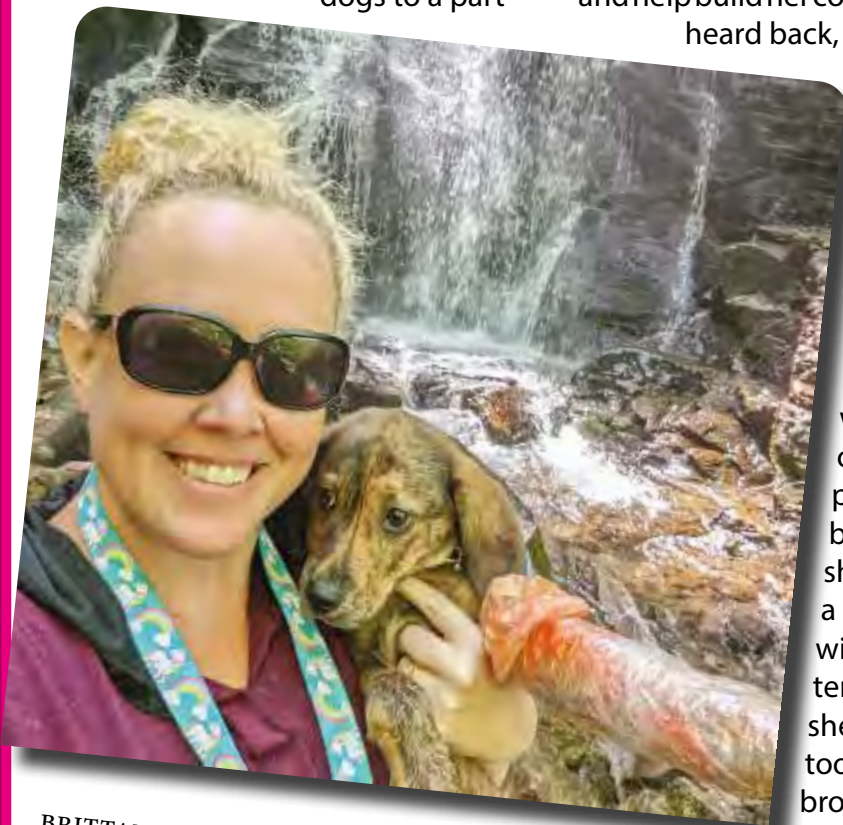
To my surprise, not long after the first email, we received another from a couple not deterred by Vanessa's shyness. We set up a meet and greet with Vanessa's potential family, and she immediately took to her new fur brother and looked to him for comfort when a big dog star-

tled her by barking nearby.

From there, we arranged a trial sleepover for the weekend. It took her a few days to adjust to her new parents, but now Vanessa (Nellie) is in a home and living her best life. Her people have bent over backward to ensure she

has all the tools to succeed in her new life. It was a great reminder to me to stay positive. Finding a perfect home doesn't always have an ideal beginning.

I don't have a fenced-in yard, so I walk any dogs we foster. I have a problem-child dog who survived abuse in his past life, so I have to separate my fosters from him. (I also have two others and a semi-feral cat). I have a heavy workload and am taking classes, so I have moments when I feel overwhelmed. I also have a great love for animals, which is why I need to keep going. Nothing is more rewarding than the moment the right people come along for your foster dog and you know you have been part of that dog's happy



BRITTANY FOSTERING A PUP W. BROKEN LEG



Va



...nessa as a baby

ending. We all have many reasons to say "I can't," but saying "I can" to fostering is life-changing for the dogs you help. Try fostering instead of adopting if you're like me and have always wanted all the animals!



S/N in Jackson County

by Kaleb Lynch, Spay Neuter coordinator

Total Dog Services:
Neuters: 81 total (21 ARF dogs)
Spays: 113 total (36 ARF dogs)
Total S/N: 194 dogs
Vaccines: 216 total
Microchips: 110 total

Total Cat Services:
Neuters: 137 total (38 CM2 cats)
Spays: 151 total (53 CM2 cats)
Total S/N: 288 cats
Vaccines: 359 total
Microchips: 49 total

So much has changed in the past few years with our spay/neuter program, but one thing remains the same: it is affordable! ARF/Catman2 pay for over 1/2 the actual cost of each surgery, leaving clients to pay just \$20 for their pet's surgery, plus the minimal costs of other services like vaccines and micro-chipping. Our longstanding relationship with the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance and generous donors allow us to provide this valuable, life-saving service to our community at the lowest possible cost.

This year, a few cases of pyometra were discovered and successfully treated via our program. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus, which is fatal if left untreated. What's the treatment? Spaying. What's the prevention? Spaying!

Additionally, our partnership with Catman2 means we have assisted with sterilizing over 70 feral and community cats this year. This accomplishment dramatically impacts reducing cat overpopulation and keeps colonies of free-roaming cats healthier.

Our online registration system has made signing up for our program much more accessible than our one-day-a-week in-person registrations of the pre-Covid days. Over 300 animals in our community have registered online this year. The program is very popular, and appointments are booked months in advance as of this writing because the need is great. Your support allows us to continue providing these deeply discounted, essential services!

I am proud of our fantastic team of dedicated spay/neuter volunteers who show up at every transport with a smile, ready to play a part in reducing pet overpopulation. They work quickly and effectively to check in around 40 dogs and cats every few weeks, even in crummy weather. Our team has managed to turn what used to be such a stressful process of checking animals in and out into a smooth operation. I am grateful for the team's hard work and the animal lovers in our community who use our services and help others access them.



Leash Training

by Jane Finneran
Certified Dog Trainer

When I was training dogs in Raleigh (30 years ago!), the number one reason people came to class was to teach the dogs how to walk on a leash. City dogs must walk on a leash several times a day, so leash manners are essential. Once I moved to Jackson County and started helping dogs with their owners, I noted that many dogs never got on a leash. It was not uncommon for dogs to be allowed to run with or without a fenced-in yard. I still talk with people who do this, and they tell me the dog always returns. But dogs return until they don't. Leaving dogs off-leash so often ends in heartbreak.

Training a dog to walk on a leash is crucial in many situations: traveling and vet visits come to mind. I can't help but think that if more dogs had better leash manners, they would get walked more often, which would benefit not only the dogs but also the owners. Unfortunately, waiting until you need to have the dog leashed is not the time to start the training.

Most dogs teach their owners how to walk on a leash—they pull and the owner follows. Often, owners attempt to teach leash walking by holding the dog tightly at their side and yelling heel over and over. This method does NOT work. Dogs have an opposition reflex; the tighter the leash, the more the dog pulls.

Your goal is to teach dogs that when they are attached to a leash, they should pay attention, and you will make it worthwhile. So a lot of leash walking is based on your relationship with your dog. The dog will want to be with you if you make

yourself engaging with toys, treats, and conversation. If you are boring, the dog will look elsewhere.

Start with having your dog pay attention to you and reward them! Practice inside (or outside in a fenced-in area) and give a reward when the dog “checks in.” Move away from the dog and reward when the dog follows. Pick a side that you want the dog on and reward only on that side. If you are going to do formal obedience work, it must be on the left side.

Once your dog is walking nicely along with you, put the leash on. Use a collar or harness. Be fair—no chokes or prongs. Reward the dog for being at your side. Reward every step or two, then every three or four, then every five or six, then every tenth of a mile. If the dog pulls, STOP. Wait for the dog to calm down, turn, and walk the other way. Reward when the dog catches up to you. This training will be more accessible if you work someplace without distractions or smells. I had a dog that was terrible on a leash when I got him. He never made it out of the driveway for a week or two.

This exercise is treat-intensive, so you could use part of the dog’s breakfast or dinner to avoid weight gain. That is what I did with the dog mentioned above. I would give the dog half of his meal so he wasn’t too hungry, and then the second half went into my pocket mixed with something good, and off we went.

Make sure all dogs are leash trained individually before you take multiple dogs walking. When I go walking, I walk three dogs at once, so they cannot all be in a “heel” position. I also want to allow them to sniff and explore, so I am happy as long as the leashes are loose and all are going in the same direction.





WE'RE
ADOPTED



Fostering: A Tribute to Shirley Bones

I had just placed my first two ARF foster dogs when Shirley fell into my life in early 2013. A friend found a hound dog in rough shape wandering in search of food. She was very underweight and had a traumatic eye injury, and it was clear that she had nursed several litters. My friend got the dog to follow her home and contacted me about her. Since I was foster-less, I asked ARF if it would be okay to take in a dog with medical needs. Then I went to meet her. Her spine and ribs were jutting out, and she had the saddest face. She became Shirley Bones that day.

Sylva Animal Hospital surgically repaired her eye and spayed her, and ARF took care of her medical bills and provided me with plenty of nutritious food to help get her to a healthy weight. My job was to keep her safe, fed, and happy until I could place her in a loving home.

Shirley attended several adoption events but only seemed to attract people who wanted her as a yard ornament. She was so much more than that! This dog had lived a hard life for too long, and it was time for her to be a spoiled couch hound. I remember calling my mom and crying about the thought of her leaving. I decided that I

could not let her go.

She went to work with me at the Catman2 Shelter every day and became our "Feline/Canine Relationship Coordinator," helping match adopters with cats who did well with dogs. She took her job very seriously. Every morning she would do a couple of laps around the shelter to check in on her kitties,

then she'd have a bite of cat food with her favorite kitty friend. She loved to help me raise bottle baby kittens.

Shirley was by my side through some tough times and was my constant companion. She was much more than a dog; she was my very



best friend and part of my soul. My beloved Shirley was diagnosed with cancer in January. The next six weeks were full of love and her favorite things. We celebrated nine years together shortly before we had to say goodbye.

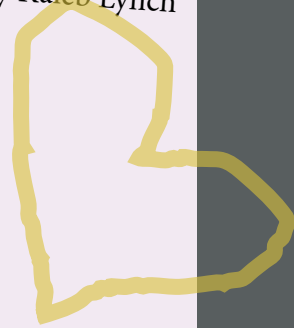
Shirley never missed an opportunity to roll around in a sun puddle or “waller” in the grass, even though it made her itchy. She lived in the

moment and taught me how to do the same. There are two things that are certain regarding our animal companions—they will fill your heart with more unconditional love than you could imagine, and they’ll break it when they leave. But the pain is worth it for all the years of love and friendship. Take a chance on the old busted-up hound dogs. Jackson County sure has a lot of hounds with a lot of stories. You might just find part of your soul, too.

10



by Kaleb Lynch



Fostering and volunteering

by Deborah Lank

11

Are you an empty nester? A grandparent whose children and grandchildren live far away? New to the area? Single? Trying to find your way?

Young or old, do I have a deal for you! Volunteer for an rescue like ARF.

- We've got cats!
- We've got dogs!
- Come on down!!!

Does it tug on your heartstrings?

Yes.

Is there heartbreak?

Sometimes.

Do you sometimes think you can't go on?

Of course.



But.....Volunteering for spay/neuter trips only takes a couple of hours a trip. You get to meet all sorts of people hoping to make a better, safer life for their pet, a friend's pet, or even a feral cat. It's a chance to comfort someone during their first overnight separation from their pet and to see the relief and joy on their faces on the next day's return. Some are sweet, and some are cranky, but you do it anyway for the animals despite human behavior. (wink)



If you have a little more time and space in your home (and heart), ARF desperately needs people who can foster a homeless animal in their home and teach them what they need to know to find a place in someone else's heart and home. There will be pee. There will be poop, just as with children and grandchildren, but maybe on a smaller scale.

Sometimes fostering is short-term. My shortest was for just forty hours. Sometimes it's a little longer if animals need more time to decompress and learn the ropes of home life. Some breeds are not as sought-after as others, so it helps to be patient. If you don't have much time to commit, volunteering as a vacation foster

12

adoption and transport

by Jean Lewis

might be right for you. Our fosters can always use some time away.

Are you worried you might do something wrong? Don't worry. You will.

Failure is a fact, and the world doesn't stop revolving. You will learn what works and what doesn't. Each foster animal is different. Speaking of failures, two still live with us.

Try it! You might like it.



ARF always needs additional volunteers to foster dogs awaiting adoption. ARF is presently in need of fosters for local adoption or transport to no-kill shelters in other states. Dogs to be considered for these two types of programs come to ARF from Jackson county's overcrowded shelter or from residents of the local community. ARF pays for supplies and medical costs for foster dogs in this program. Dogs are assigned "local" or "transport" designation based on various circumstances. ARF administrators consult with foster parents to decide which dogs would be the best fit.

ARF has fewer transport options than in the past, but some foster parents prefer to foster either for transport or for local adoption. Fostering for transport has a different set of requirements than fostering for local adoption, though both have their pitfalls and rewards.

Foster for transport:

- Usually for a shorter period of time (hopefully, under a month but sometimes more)
- Involves taking foster dog to vet appointments and to transport departure
- Allows little or no contact with foster dog or its new family after transport departure

Foster for local adoption :

- Great for those who with a wide network of interested adopters (for example, one foster parent brings her fosters to work)
- Dogs are fostered for a longer period of time (until dog is adopted successfully)
- Foster parent takes foster dog to vet appointments
- Foster parent meets and screens prospective adopters
- Foster parent completes required paperwork for adoption
- Contact with new owner may be continued if the new owner is willing or needs advice
- Initial adoption may not work out, and dog may have to come back to ARF

Both types of foster parents run the risk of "foster failing" or falling in love with the dog. While we discourage keeping multiple dogs because it sometimes keeps people from fostering again, we certainly understand!

If you think you might be interested in volunteering to be an ARF foster parent, contact ARF to let us know of your interest. Leave a message with our service at 877-273-5262, or visit our web site: arfhumane.org.



Random Dog Facts by Kaleb Lynch

Did you know....

- Dogs aren't color blind. They can see blue and yellow!
- When a dog kicks backwards after they potty, it's not to cover it up. They are actually marking their territory with scent glands in their feet!
- Three dogs survived the Titanic sinking—two Pomeranians and a Pekingese.
- Star Wars creator George Lucas modeled the Ewoks after his family dog.
- Only 45% of U.S. dogs sleep in their owners' beds.

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

Detach and return with your donation to:

Humane Society of Jackson County
PO Box 298, Sylva, NC 28779

Or make a one-time or monthly donation through Paypal at <https://arfhumane.org/donation/>

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ EMAIL _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

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