

# Animal Tails

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2024



**AWA**  
Animal Welfare Association  
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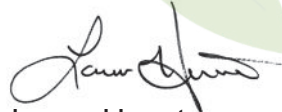


## LAURA'S LETTER

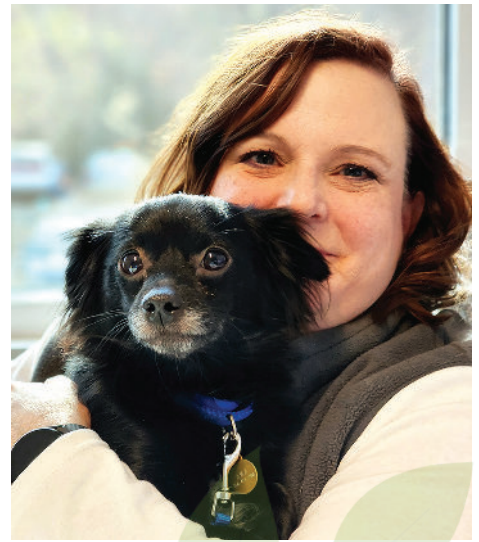
Spring has always been my favorite time of the year. I remember being a kid and my father teaching me to watch for how the trees seem to have a green mist over them as the leaves are first starting to bud. It is still a magical time to me. As an adult, and my career in the non-profit world grew, the time became magical for another reason. The spring brings kitten season and with it so much more work for rescues and shelters. But it also brings renewed hope in our mission. Over 200 volunteers step up to foster and welcome cats and kittens into their homes allowing us more capacity to save lives. We work in close collaboration with other local shelters and rescues to close the life-saving gap wherever we can. The staff bands together to come up with new and creative ways to encourage adoption and help fundraise to support the care of all the

additional animals. Yes, it is a busier and more stressful time trying to save as many lives as we can, but it also reminds me how beautiful

humanity can be when we all work together to save them and gives me hope that someday we can save them all. Thank you all for your support and helping us make this time of year magical for so many homeless kittens and other animals.



Laura Houston  
Executive Director



## Paul Joins AWA's Staff

Introducing Paul, the newest addition to AWA's team, serving as both the Outreach Ambassador (OA) and Chief Affection Officer (CAO). Coming to us from a local partner shelter in New Jersey, Paul is just over a year old.

Paul possesses a distinctive, wobbly gait, reminiscent of a cowboy's saunter. Following an assessment by Dr. Emily, it's been determined that he has spinal nerve damage, resulting in weakness and occasional hind limb collapse. This condition is deemed non-progressive, meaning it will remain stable over time. Unfortunately, confirming a definitive diagnosis would necessitate a costly MRI or CT scan.

When not engaging with schoolchildren during visits or participating in AWA's Corporate Cuddle events, Paul can be found spreading joy among the staff in the Development office with his warm hugs and comforting purrs.



Paul taking a break from work to enjoy some box time.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To eliminate animal suffering, promote the importance of the human-animal bond and improve the role of animals in the well-being of people.



## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS - ADOPTION CENTER & PET CLINIC

### ADOPTION CENTER

**2,162**

Animals Adopted

**1,644**

Lives Saved Via Transport

**1,609**

Medical Cases

**1,530**

Animals Spayed or Neutered

**537**

Behavior Consultations & Training

**296**

Shelter Pets That Received Behavior Help

### PET CLINIC

**9,164**

Vaccines Administered

**3,320**

Wellness Exams Performed

**2,192**

Animals Spayed or Neutered

**1,159**

Pets That Received Care at Vets on Wheels

**297**

Cats Helped Through Malibu & Gus Program



96% Live Release Rate







Ginny in her forever home.

## Ginny Finds a Loving Home

Ginny, a sweet brave dog came to AWA after she and 400 canine friends were rescued from a harrowing hoarding situation. These poor dogs endured months of neglect and overcrowding before being removed from this life-threatening environment.

Initially overlooked for adoption at a rescue partner, Ginny spent a year waiting. However, fate took a turn when she found solace with one of AWA's compassionate foster volunteers. In this nurturing environment, she discovered the warmth and security of a loving home.

Little did Ginny know; her foster home was her forever home. It's a heartwarming outcome for Ginny and all who cherish her.

## Foster Volunteers Prepare Pets for Adoption

Spring and summer mark AWA's peak season as we welcome kittens and puppies into our care. Of course, adult animals still need AWA's assistance as well, which is why we depend on the support of dedicated foster volunteers throughout the year.

### Benefits to pets in foster care:

#### Stress Relief

Shelter environments can be stressful for animals. Fostering provides a temporary home where pets can experience a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, reducing their stress levels.

#### Socialization

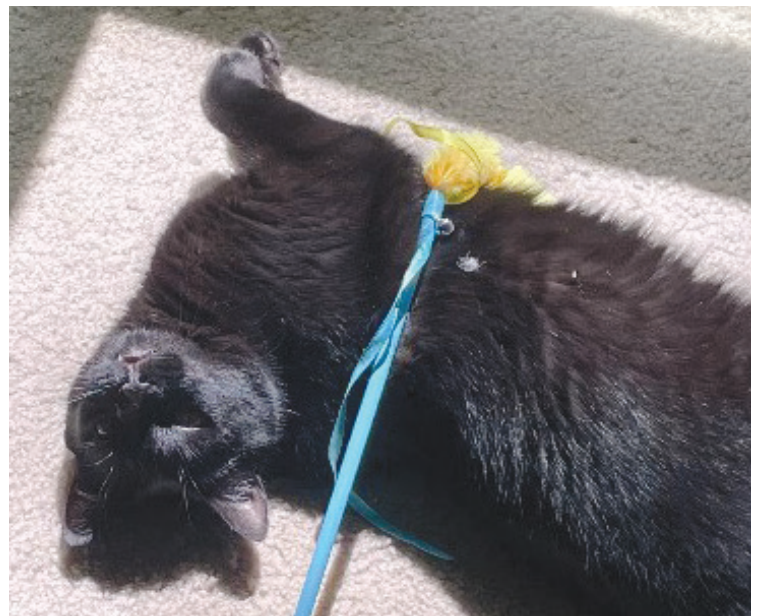
Foster homes provide an opportunity for pets to socialize with humans and, in some cases, other animals.

#### Bottle-Feeding and Neonatal Care

Neonatal kittens, often abandoned or orphaned, require around-the-clock care.

Foster volunteers who engage in bottle-feeding and provide constant attention, play a critical role in ensuring the survival and healthy development of these vulnerable little ones.

Explore the rewarding experience of being a foster volunteer at [awanj.org/foster-a-pet](http://awanj.org/foster-a-pet).



Monkey enjoying a nap in the sun in a foster home.





Sophie and her pet parents on adoption day.

## Sophie's Milestone

Not only is Sophie an AWA alumni but she's a valued member of our Pet Therapy program, and recently completed her **400th** therapy visit!

She holds the prestigious title of "AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished" for her achievement and dedication. Good job Sophie!

A **BIG** thank you to Sophie and Doug, along with all of our pet therapy volunteers for making this program such a success.

*Congratulations!*

## Breathing Easy Again

Gunner, once a tiny eight-week-old pup weighing just six pounds, arrived at AWA after he and his family were rescued from a poor situation by a partner organization. As the runt of the litter, Gunner faced constant challenges, struggling to thrive amidst competition for resources and attention that all puppies require.

In foster care, Gunner experienced a reprieve from the stress, allowing him to grow stronger. However, upon his return to AWA, Gunner encountered a new obstacle when he began experiencing breathing difficulties. Emergency tests revealed pneumonia, causing his lungs to become compromised, leading to excessive air intake and bloating of his stomach, displacing his lungs.

Urgent action was necessary, and Gunner was swiftly transferred to one of AWA's veterinary partners for 24-hour emergency care. Under constant supervision in the respiratory ICU, Gunner gradually improved.

After days of intensive care, Gunner was weaned off oxygen and released to the care

of an AWA employee for recovery. Despite a return trip to the ICU due to respiratory distress, Gunner responded positively to treatment once again, proving his fighting spirit.

Returning to foster care to complete his medications, Gunner received the love and support of his foster family. The heartwarming conclusion to Gunner's journey came when, just over a month later, he found his forever home, and is now living a happy and healthy life.



Gunner in the incubator.



## New Education Programs at AWA

**Wags & Wiggles** was created to educate our youngest animal enthusiasts about safety, compassion, and empathy towards animals. Instilling these values in children from an early age is essential for fostering responsible and respectable interactions with animals

**Kids Night Out** is an opportunity for adults to drop off their animal-loving children for a night of fun with the animals! Kids enjoy making a craft, visiting with the animals and playing at different activity stations, including the Vet for a Day: Dramatic Play Clinic, which is always a big hit.

**Animal Academy Home School** is a series of eight classes geared toward home school students. This provides the opportunity for home-schooled children to explore new opportunities and experiences, along with getting to know other youth their own age.



Students enjoying a learning activity at the Animal Academy Home School program.

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## Kitten Season Is Here at AWA

During kitten season, AWA experiences a surge in arrivals of abandoned kittens or entire litters. This period, typically in the spring and summer months, sees a significant influx of homeless felines in need of care and shelter. Our staff and wonderful foster volunteers work tirelessly to provide these vulnerable kittens with the support they need. From round-the-clock feeding to medication attention and socialization, we strive to give each kitten the best chance at a happy and healthy life. Through adoptions our goal is to find loving homes for each of these kittens, ensuring they have a bright future ahead.



A litter of kittens at AWA.

*Will you help kittens by making a donation to the Kitten Pantry Fund? Just use your mobile device to scan the QR code above. The kittens depend on your kindness.*

# SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING AWA EVENTS

## Barking Lots Sips & Brews

Three dates to enjoy!

June 21 - July 26 - August 20

5:30pm to 8:30pm at  
AWA's Campus

Tito's Cocktails & Local Beer  
Live Music & Food Trucks



## Paw Crawl

July 13

Check [awanj.org](http://awanj.org) for more  
details closer to event date.



## Putt for Pets

August 2 - 4

Pleasant Valley Mini Golf  
Check [awanj.org](http://awanj.org) closer to  
event date for ticket purchase.



**PUTT FOR PETS**



## Luminaries for Lost Love

September 10

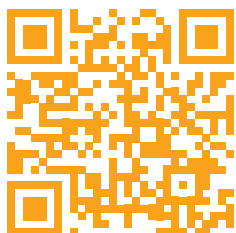
Light up the Night for Lost Loves.  
More information will be available  
at [awanj.org](http://awanj.org) as the event gets closer.

Visit [awanj.org/events](http://awanj.org/events) for up-to-date  
event information at AWA

## Kids Programs at AWA

In 2023, 5,158 pet lovers participated and  
enjoyed a variety of events especially for our  
youngest animal lovers.

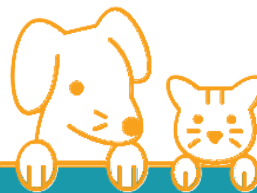
Birthday Parties  
Homeschool Program  
Kids Day Off Camps  
Scout Merit Badges  
Summer Camp  
Tales with Tails  
VIP Experiences  
Wags & Wiggles



*Scan for more  
information about  
AWA's Education  
programs!*

## Help Homeless Animals at AWA

Your generous gift ensures that homeless pets receive  
the compassionate care they deserve as they await  
their forever homes.



**\$25** Fills bellies with nutritious and tasty  
meals daily.

**\$50** Vaccinations for cats and dogs to  
help them stay healthy.

**\$100** Adoption services so pets can find  
their forever homes.

**\$200** Life-saving care and feeding  
supplies for neonatal kittens.

**\$500** Medical treatment for animals that  
are sick or injured.

**\$1,000** Treatment for a dog diagnosed with  
advanced heartworm.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check enclosed

Charge my card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Welfare Association, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Your gift may be 100% tax-deductible according to federal regulations. Federal  
Tax ID: 22-1752792



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*Once Homeless Pets Found Their Forever Homes at AWA!*



**Jakob & Bradley**



**Rome**



**Kyle**



**Lava**



**Mason**



**Sneezy**