

PAW PRINTS

People Helping Animals, Animals Helping People

"If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow; but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much."

— Mark Twain

Mission

To enrich the lives of both animals and people as a solution-based community resource for animal welfare by providing high-volume and high-quality spay and neuter, rescue and adoption services, volunteer opportunities, outreach, and education.

Vision

To be the regional leader for animal welfare in adoption, spay and neuter, outreach, and education to ultimately create a No-Kill Community.

In 2011, fewer than 25 percent of all dogs in American households were adopted from shelters and rescue groups. That percentage is beginning to improve, and it's making a huge difference in terms of lives saved.

Dogs not adopted from shelters usually come from puppy mills, newspaper and Craigslist ads, friends and family, or they are simply found as strays. In most instances they are not spayed or neutered or microchipped. If you purchase your dog from a breeder you are likely to pay a hefty fee.

October is "Adopt a Shelter Dog" month. At PAWS Humane you can choose from a wide selection of hopeful pets awaiting their new "forever" homes. Both mutts and purebreds are represented as well as every age group from puppies to house-trained young adults to old-timers who just want to be in your company. They are spayed or neutered, microchipped and fully vetted with age-appropriate vaccinations and ready to go home with you.

The choice is clear from Rico's face below...

Adopt from a shelter and save a life!

- *Bobbi Yeo, CEO*



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Contact Us

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4900 Milgen Road

Columbus, GA 31907

www.pawshumane.org

office@pawshumane.org

(706) 565-0035

Vet Clinic phone number

(706) 987-8380

Shelter Hours

Adoption Hours

Monday-Friday

10am - 6pm

Saturday

10am - 5pm

Sunday

12pm - 5pm

Clinic Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am - 6pm

closed

12p-1p

PAWS Adoption Central

There are many misconceptions about the quality of animals found in rescue shelters.

The stigma shelter pets have been stuck with for many years is that they are "damaged goods." This is simply not the case.



MYTH: Shelter pets are obviously not good pets, or else their original owners wouldn't have gotten rid of them. **TRUTH:** Animals are brought to shelters for a large variety of reasons, most of which are not the fault of the pet. Examples include divorce, moving or loss of job.

MYTH: Animals from abusive homes will never be good pets because they have been mistreated for so long. **TRUTH:** Most animals coming from abusive homes will typically make a full emotional recovery - with proper care and attention. In fact, many of them are so grateful to be rescued from their previous situation, they end up being more devoted and loyal than animals coming from non-abusive homes.

MYTH: You never know what you're getting with shelter pets, or animals in rescue shelters are sickly or unhealthy. **TRUTH:** It certainly is possible that a pet adopted from a shelter may have medical problems. However the majority of the animals that are adopted from shelters are perfectly healthy and just need a good home. Animals in shelters are typically treated much better than animals in pet stores which have often spent their short lives in cramped environments with little socializing and often unsanitary conditions.

MYTH: Animals from a shelter have frequently been abused or have behavior problems that indicate abuse. **TRUTH:** Don't be fooled by an animal's shy or frightened behavior. Many animals cower and flinch when approached by strangers, especially tall or assertive people or excited children. This behavior is not an indication that the animal was abused. In fact, many animals that actually have been mistreated are outgoing and forgiving. Many young animals in shelters did not receive training or sufficient exercise. Some lack social skills. The best remedy for these pets is a new home with the love and attention they need and deserve.



First-time pet owners have a lot to worry about when they first bring their new pet home. From introducing a new pet to family members to potty training, everything is new and exciting. One of the most important, and possibly most overlooked, things to do is to have a new pet examined by a veterinarian.

Often, new pet owners are under the assumption that their new pet doesn't need anything because they were told that the pet "has had everything." Puppies and kittens need vaccinations and dewormings at regular intervals up to age 16 weeks. Also, heartworm tests (for dogs) and FeLV/FIV tests (for cats) and oral heartworm and flea/tick preventatives are important to start early on.

Your veterinarian can talk to you about spaying/neutering your new pet. Some people think that a dog must go into heat or reach a certain age before being spayed or neutered. We now know that dogs that are spayed before their first heat have a 90% less chance of developing mammary cancer. Male dogs and cats that are neutered early have a decreased chance of developing other behavioral problems such as marking and roaming.

Animals can carry intestinal parasites that people, especially children, can acquire. New products and information are always developing in regard to parasites, and your veterinarian can help you choose the right product to prevent problems.

Even though your new pet may appear perfectly healthy, you should have him examined as soon as possible after you bring him home. Your veterinarian may be able to detect any underlying medical issues and provide counseling on wellness care, potty training, and other issues. By developing a relationship with a veterinarian, when you have a pet illness or emergency, or even a question regarding your pet's health.

Adoptable Critters



Salem

Salem is gorgeous and is looking for a calm and laid-back home to call his own. He is two years old and was returned to PAWS HUMANE due to being food aggressive and crying too much. He is very playful and has never tried to harm another animal.

He has never been exposed to children, dogs, or other cats but

seems to be fine with his roommates here at PAWS. He is

loving and talkative. He is litterbox trained and loves sleeping at the end of the bed. He gets nervous and stressed when left alone. Salem loves shoe strings, catnip, and his automatic feeder. Salem has been neutered, microchipped, and is current on his vaccinations. He would love to meet you today and try to steal your heart!



Frank

This sweet and happy boy is Frank. This seven year old Coonhound mix was transferred to PAWS from Animal Control after being found as a stray. He is a typical Coonhound with the desire to roam and howl. He will need a

home that can monitor his activity and whereabouts. He is happy and loves taking a walk. He loves the outdoors as well. He has been neutered, microchipped, and is current on his vaccinations. We hope that this loving senior guy will find a home soon. He really wants to give and receive unconditional love.

Volunteers who adopt...

There are many rewarding experiences that come along with being a PAWS Humane volunteer. Probably the most delightful part of volunteering is interacting with our sweet, playful fur babies that live at our shelter. Sometimes our volunteers form an instant connection with one of our shelter animals, and before you know it, that volunteer has a new family member.

In the case of Luna (formerly Cordelia), it was the other way around. Luna's adoptive mother, Alyson Cederholm, saw Luna's picture on PAWS Facebook page and instantly knew she would be the perfect playmate for her dog Autumn. Alyson immediately took Autumn to PAWS for a meet-and-greet, and the two pups loved each other the moment they met. The perfect playmates are described by Alyson as inseparable. "I couldn't ask for a better dog," she says.

Alyson attributes Luna's adoption as the catalyst in her decision to volunteer at PAWS. "My love for animals and my belief in adopt don't shop is what drew me to PAWS to adopt Luna and eventually start volunteering," she says. PAWS Humane is always looking for dedicated volunteers to join our wonderful volunteer team. It is one of the best ways you can donate your time to a great cause.

Alyson describes volunteering at PAWS as some of the most gratifying work she has ever done. "It warms my heart every time I see one of those precious fur babies go to their forever home," she says. Since Luna's adoption in October of 2014, Alyson has become one of the most dedicated and reliable volunteers PAWS has. She is the first to respond to emails to sign up for offsite adoption events. Also, she can be seen at the shelter every week walking dogs and socializing cats.

We understand that all adoptions do not lead to volunteers, and all volunteers do not adopt. But when it does happen, and in cases like Alyson's, it is truly amazing. Sweet Luna has a wonderful forever family, and PAWS has gained one awesome volunteer.



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Did you adopt an animal from PAWS? We would love to see them living the good life in their forever homes. Text your picture and an update to 706-570-5775.

