

PAWSCHICAGO

pawschicago.org

magazine

Summer 2016

MEET NED

PAWS Chicago Alum
& ABC-TV's New Star

SENIOR PETS IN WITH THE OLD

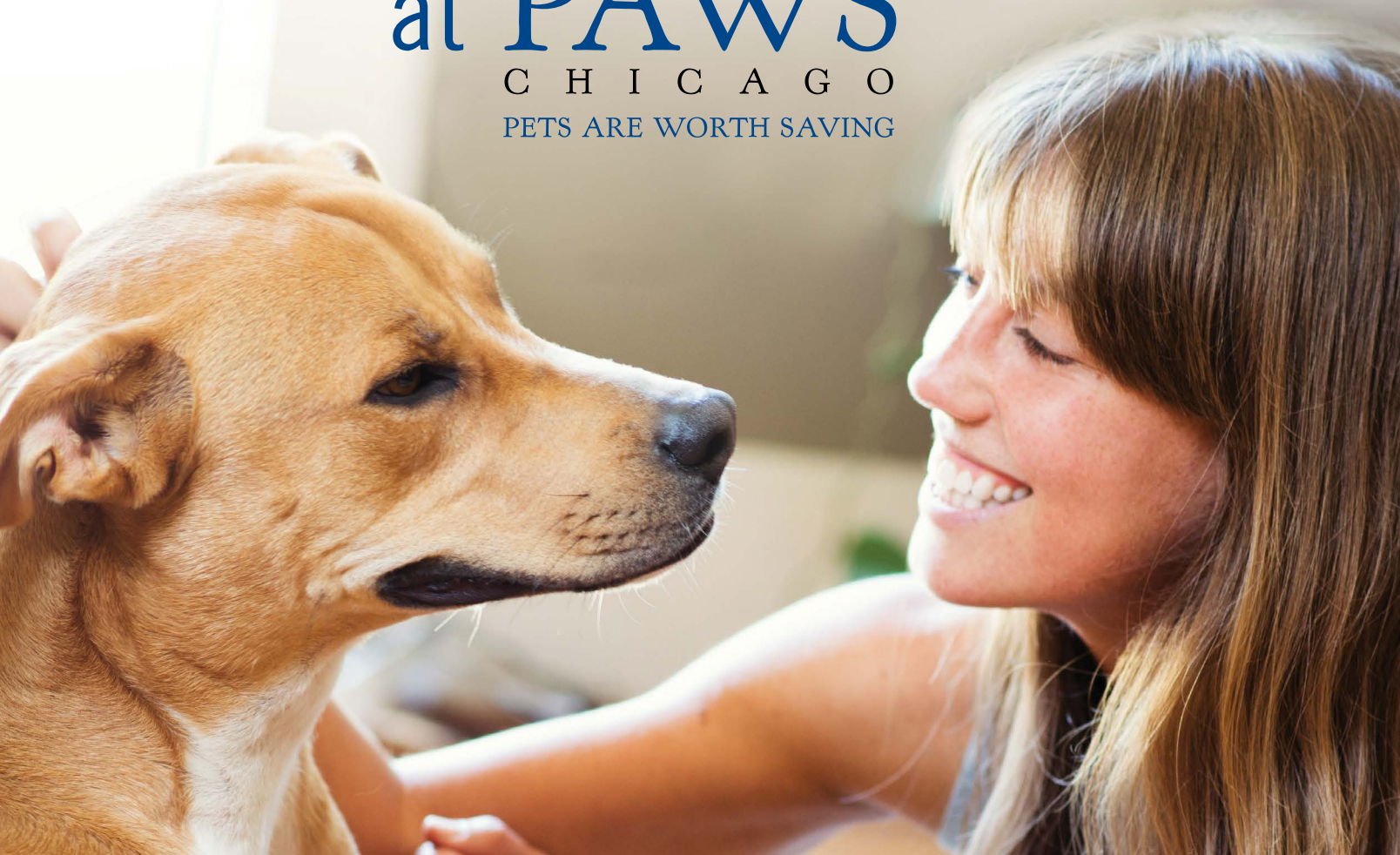
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ABOUT **PAWS**[®] CHICAGO

PAWS CHICAGO'S NO KILL MODEL

PAWS Chicago is dedicated to building No Kill communities—starting with a No Kill Chicago— where all healthy and treatable pets are saved. Since 1997 when PAWS Chicago was founded, Chicago has seen an 80 percent drop in euthanasia rates across the city. These numbers are encouraging, but PAWS' work is far from done: More than 8,600 animals were killed in Chicago last year. PAWS Chicago's comprehensive No Kill model is designed to bring an end to the killing of homeless pets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The foundation of the No Kill Model is engaging people in the cause of homeless animals. By inspiring and mobilizing individuals throughout Chicago, PAWS is able to bring about change. People adopt dogs and cats, spay/neuter their animals, volunteer their time, donate financially and spread awareness. Sitting atop the foundation of community engagement are PAWS' four mission critical structures—the actual programs that are bringing Chicago closer to its No Kill goal:

PREVENTION

The main tools for reducing overpopulation are spay/neuter programs and community outreach. The majority of homeless pets originate in low-income, under-resourced communities. The PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic is the city's largest provider of subsidized spay/neuter surgeries. Through the clinic, GusMobile and the PAWS for Life door-to-door program in Englewood, PAWS works to prevent pet overpopulation.

2015: 18,418 animals spayed/neutered

ADOPTION

A robust and visible adoption program is essential to building a No Kill community. PAWS finds new, loving homes for animals through its two No Kill Adoption Centers and innovative off-site events.

2015: 5,987 pets adopted

ANIMAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR

As a No Kill shelter, PAWS is a safe haven for animals. Through a state-of-the-art shelter medicine program, each rescue receives full medical treatment, while a comprehensive animal behavior program provides social and behavioral enrichment and training.

2015: 97.87 percent saved

VOLUNTEERS

PAWS Chicago's dedicated team of volunteers plays an invaluable role in every aspect of its lifesaving efforts, supporting adoption, medical and spay/neuter programs. Foster families provide nurturing, warm, stress-free environments that help homeless pets heal and develop socialization skills. Without this impassioned labor force, PAWS Chicago would not be possible.

2015: Hours equivalent to 56 full-time staff

HOW YOU CAN HELP



ADOPT

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VOLUNTEER

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pawschicago.org/foster

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AT VCA ANIMAL HOSPITALS, WE SUPPORT FOREVER HOMES



DEAR FRIENDS,

The newest canine Hollywood star is a PAWS Chicago alum and we couldn't be more excited! When the ABC-TV comedy *Downward Dog* airs, people all across America will fall in love with Ned and his beautiful, expressive golden-brown eyes, and be inspired to save homeless, abandoned animals just like him.

Like so many thousands of pets each year, Ned may not have survived if we didn't rescue and provide him with extensive medical and behavioral care. When we brought Ned to PAWS, he was suffering from heartworm and severe anxiety. Ned received the help he needed through our PAWS Chicago Gold Star program, which provides behavioral enrichment and training to dogs that may have suffered neglect or abuse, and may not know how to interact with people or other animals.

Rather than giving up on these animals, our behavior experts and volunteers dedicate countless hours to help them overcome their challenges and find homes where they will thrive. Read more about Ned, his adopter and his rise to stardom on page 10.

In this issue, we are also celebrating senior pets (page 22). Older animals are some of the most vulnerable populations in shelters today, with the stress of abandonment often compromising their immune systems and their will to live. They need treatment, love and stability to flourish after experiencing such trauma.

An older pet looks at you through eyes that have experienced the good and bad of life, reflecting the

empathy that comes from years of living. Rather than just asking if we can teach an old pet new tricks, we are using this magazine to think about what an old dog or cat can teach us. And we'll let these animals and their families tell their own stories, because with age should come that privilege.

We hope that these stories will inspire our readers with useful information on how animals nowadays actually live to be much older than in previous generations, and how to train, feed and care for elderly pets. Most importantly, we hope readers will come away ready to open their hearts and homes and consider giving older animals the love and dignity they deserve for life.

Helping Gold Star and senior pets are key programs for PAWS Chicago as we continue our efforts to build a No Kill community. But in this issue, we also bring you up to date on some of the other initiatives PAWS Chicago has been working on in recent months, from offering public support and policy recommendations for a proposed No Kill Chicago City Council resolution (page 6) to sending staff and volunteers to Greece to share our expertise on large-scale spay/neuter programs, part of our mission to spread the No Kill message to new communities (page 16).

Ned and the rest of our animals want to thank you for supporting our programs during 2016—making the stories that you will read about in this magazine possible—and ask you to continue to help us in the coming years as we try to rescue the most vulnerable animals that are still suffering and dying simply because they do not have homes.

Thank you for all you do for homeless animals.

Warmest regards,

Paula Fasseas
Founder and Chair



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SPECIAL REPORT IN WITH THE OLD



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PROUD TO BE THE EXCLUSIVE FEEDING PARTNER OF PAWS CHICAGO.

PAWS CHICAGO SUPPORTS NO KILL RESOLUTION

In March, Alderman Ed Burke (14th Ward) and Alderman Raymond Lopez (15th Ward) introduced a Chicago City Council resolution to take steps to build a No Kill community. PAWS commends this action and will work with the city to bring Chicago closer to becoming a No Kill community.

Last year, more than 8,600 dogs and cats in Chicago were euthanized because they were homeless or sick, including more than 4,400 at the city pound. The situation is better than it was in 1997, when 42,000 homeless animals died in Chicago. But PAWS knows our community can become No Kill and save every healthy and treatable animal.

The resolution calls for an examination of practices at Chicago Animal Care & Control (CACC), the city pound, and the convening of hearings to recommend policy changes including ending euthanasia in Chicago.

In support of the City Council actions, PAWS put together a set of policy recommendations and introduced a petition backing this resolution, which has received nearly 16,000 signatures. PAWS still needs your help to ensure these recommendations are considered and the voices of Chicago's homeless pets are heard by the City Council.



PLEASE HELP
by signing and sharing the No Kill Petition
pawschicago.org/nokillpetition

POLICE LIEUTENANT WINS PAWS CHICAGO LEADERSHIP AWARD

When an animal has been abused or neglected in Chicago, there is no better friend than Chicago Police Lieutenant John Garrido. PAWS Chicago honored Lieutenant Garrido with the Animal Welfare Leadership Award at the annual Animal Magnetism event in March.

"When we are concerned about the safety or welfare of a cat or dog, John is the first person we call," says PAWS Chicago founder Paula Fasseas. Lieutenant Garrido often assists PAWS in assessing complaints of abuse and has been instrumental in fighting animal cruelty and seeking justice for those who commit crimes against animals.

Lieutenant Garrido and his wife, Anna, have a number of dogs of their own, including Trixie, a Shepherd mix, and Bush, a PAWS alumnus whom they adopted in 2001. They found their third dog, Pedro, in 2014 in Belize. John and Anna encountered the Doberman on a beach, in desperate need of rescue. And after more than 7,700 miles of flying, driving, walking and taking boats, they were able to bring him home to Chicago! They recently adopted a stray named Elly.

While dealing with animal neglect and abuse cases is difficult, Garrido says, "we are able to retain our humanity

by knowing we helped. That's enough for us; just knowing we helped." On behalf of PAWS Chicago, thank you to Lieutenant Garrido for your tireless work, deep compassion and ability to get results.



Anna and John Garrido with Bush

DYLAN'S CANDY JOINS FORCES WITH PAWS CHICAGO

Homeless pets are coming to Dylan's Candy Bar's state-of-the-art emporium on Michigan Avenue. A September 18 event will feature more than 50 PAWS Chicago pets, as well as family-friendly fun and a chance to enjoy candy and animals at the same time!

Dylan Lauren, founder & CEO of Dylan's Candy Bar, is a lifelong animal lover who brought a sugar rush to Chicago in 2015 when she opened her first stand-alone store in the Midwest in the historic Tribune Tower. Dylan's Candy Bar features more than 7,000 candies from around the world and a full service café, bar and party room.

The Dylan's Candy BarN foundation is committed to supporting animal welfare organizations by hosting fundraising events at Dylan's Candy Bar's national locations, encouraging adoption, assisting rescue efforts and highlighting the value of proper pet care.

"Dylan's Candy BarN is raising awareness to change the stigma that shelter animals are not good. By having the dogs that are up for adoption at events at our Dylan's Candy Bar stores, people can see for themselves that animals from shelters are just as beautiful, loving, healthy and clean as animals from pet stores and breeders," Dylan says.

If you love candy and pets, please come out to support PAWS at Dylan's Candy Bar on Michigan Avenue on September 18 from noon until 4 p.m.

Q&A WITH DYLAN

Did you always have pets growing up?

Yes! At age 9, I had a black bunny and a white bunny I named Chocolate and Vanilla. My favorite animals are bunnies and despite having had two real ones, I also have a collection of 3,000 rabbit themed things. My family also had a dog, Rugby (a Sheep Dog mutt rescue), and now my parents have Bikini (a Yorkie), my brother Andrew has Cinch (an Australian Shepherd rescue) and we have Jersey! Jersey is a black Collie/flat coated Retriever mix that was rescued from Puerto Rico. She is my first baby and an extremely cuddly, sassy and energetic dog.

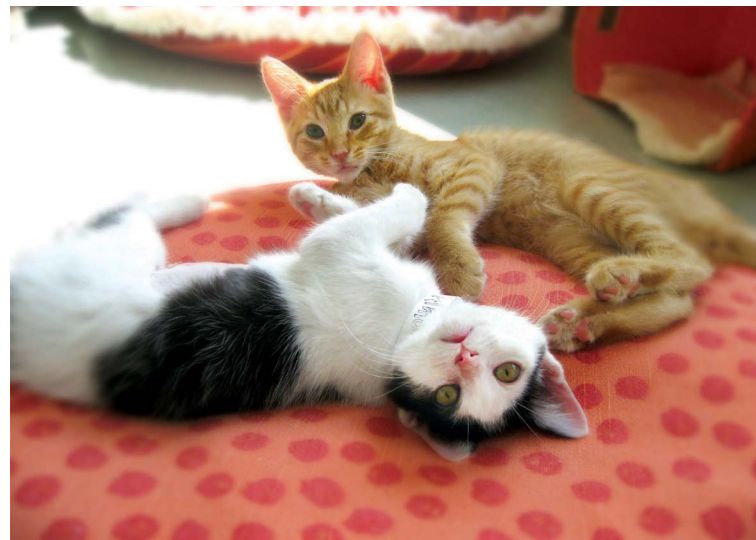
Why is adoption important?

There are millions of dogs, cats, rabbits and others that are in shelters or abused or roaming the streets living a miserable life. They all deserve a happy existence and the karma of adopting makes humans and pets both have a better life. In addition, some animals that don't get adopted may have to be put down and this is so unnecessary when you see first-hand what an amazing friend, family member and unconditional lover an adopted animal makes, especially because they are so appreciative to have a home.



Dylan Lauren with Paula Fasseas, PAWS Chicago founder

TO GET ALL THE DETAILS
visit pawschicago.org/events



TUNE IN TO THE PET CAM!

What could be better than kittens and puppies when you need a quick break from a hectic day at work? Visit PAWS Chicago's Pet Cam to watch the adorable animals at the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center play, snack, meet prospective new adopters and take long naps in the warm sun. Bookmark the page and return as often as you need! Special thanks to the MaddieCam Network and Maddie's Fund for providing the cameras used to stream live Web video feeds from shelters and rescues across the country.

WATCH TODAY
 between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.
pawschicago.org/pawscam

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM FOCUSED ON BIGGER DOGS, COMMUNITY CATS

PAWS learned early on that curtailing pet overpopulation was key to building a No Kill Chicago. The main tools to reducing the birth of unwanted animals are spay/neuter programs and community outreach. In 2015, PAWS Chicago performed 18,418 spay/neuter surgeries.

For many years, PAWS has used a zip-code approach to target its subsidies for spay/neuter services. The PAWS Chicago 2016 Campaign for Prevention continues to provide spay/neuter services in low-income and underserved neighborhoods where the problem of homeless or unwanted pets is highest.

The new campaign also focuses on the particular animals that are most at risk of ending up at the pound and facing euthanasia. These include:

- **Bully breeds and other larger dogs** (35 pounds and over), which tend to have the hardest time finding new homes. In 2015, dogs labeled as "pit bulls" made up 41 percent of the dogs that ended up at the pound and 53 percent that were euthanized. While adoption is a key element to helping these animals get out alive, targeted spay/neuter programs are essential to lowering the number that end up in shelters in the first place.
- **Community cats** who reproduce quickly, increasing the number of animals that end up at the city pound and in danger of euthanasia. Chicago has seen a significant decrease in homeless cats and kittens indicating that spay/neuter programs are helping to reduce the total population. Between 2014 and 2015, the number of cats entering the city pound decreased by 18 percent.



LEARN MORE
 about PAWS' spay/neuter program at
pawschicago.org/spayneuter

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MEET NED

PAWS Chicago Alum & ABC-TV's New Star

by Danielle Gordon

IN AN AMAZING RAGS-TO-RICHES STORY, PAWS CHICAGO ALUMNUS PUP, NED, HAS BECOME A TELEVISION PERSONALITY WHO WILL STAR IN THE NEW ABC-TV COMEDY *DOWNWARD DOG*, ACCORDING TO A RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE NETWORK.

The show is based on a web series about struggling millennial Nan and her dog Martin. Nan is played by Emmy-nominated Allison Tolman from *Fargo*. Ned takes the role of Martin, the contemplative stay-at-home dog who talks directly to the camera about his feelings about Nan, his housemate cat and life in general.

In the show's trailer, Martin explains he doesn't always feel respected for his contributions to the household. Nan works 60 hours a week for a boss who calls her "girl," and is obviously devoted to her dog. But Martin thinks that when Nan says she's going to work, she's really just "driving around."

Ned sees his own days as packed with responsibilities, chores and dangers: He has to sleep for at least 14 hours a day, plus deal with "threats" like the vacuum cleaner and of course the household cat, whom he considers to be an "emotional terrorist."

While the show is funny, it's also about friendship and the deep bonds between humans and animals. "Life isn't always a walk in the park in this dog eat dog world," according to the trailer, but sometimes your best friend is already walking right beside you.

Martin knows why his relationship with Nan is so complicated: "I am just scared because it's so vulnerable to love someone this much, to know that no matter what they do or how mad you get you'll always come back to them. I literally can't quit her."

ROAD TO STARDOM

Little is known about where Ned came from or how he started on his road to television celebrity. He first entered the public eye when he came to PAWS from a shelter in rural Mississippi in July 2014 at about one year of age.

He was with PAWS for over a year, and even had to go through two heartworm treatments as the first one didn't kill all of the parasites. Ned was adopted out in June 2015 but returned a few weeks later because he was "not a good fit" in his new home.

Over this period, Ned became a favorite of the staff and volunteers he met along the way. He was a play group all-star, getting along well with other dogs. He was particularly good at teaching new puppies about manners. One little-known fact about Ned's time at PAWS is that his best friend, a dog named Yule, is now a trained police dog who received his narcotics certification in March.

Those who got to know Ned said he was a sweet, sensitive boy who loves to cuddle. He liked learning commands and knew sit, down, touch and come. According to his foster family, Ned got along well with their cat, but did have a high prey drive. They added that "Ned is a wonderful house guest who is house trained and gets along well with other dogs, especially puppies!"

But even with these good reviews, Ned may not have been picked as most likely to make it as a TV star.

While at PAWS, Ned had to be put on medication because he was so anxious. He was afraid of thunder and other

continued on page 12



Ned and Actress Allison Tolman

WATCH THE TRAILER
for *Downward Dog* at
pawschicago.org/ned





FINDING YOUR 'MARTIN'

If you are looking for your own special Martin to walk beside you, Joy offers the following advice when picking a dog that could become your best friend: "Think about your own life and what kind of dog suits you. Do you live in a small apartment or a house with a yard? How much time do you have to devote to your dog? How long will he/she be alone? Do you want a very active dog that you can go running with? Do you want a mellow dog? Look for personality traits when you go to a shelter more than for a specific breed. You will be amazed at what you find in the unexpected dog."



Ned and his adopter, Joy Ronstadt

**"WHEN I FIRST SAW
NED'S PICTURE, IT
WAS HIS EYES THAT
GRABBED ME."**

—JOY RONSTADT

continued from page 10

loud noises, large people, strollers and kids. He also growled at other animals and strangers, barked and whined in his crate, and even tried to chew through a wall. He was a great escape artist and tended to get car sick.

Officially, Ned was diagnosed with possible generalized anxiety, noise phobia, separation anxiety, fear/territorial aggression and kennel stress. His medical history shows that when he was assessed, he "repeatedly turns quickly away when touched, or repeatedly spins toward the touch, and repeatedly tries to exit."

But despite all these challenges, PAWS staff and volunteers kept working with Ned, giving him additional training and socialization through the special PAWS Gold Star program for dogs with behavioral issues. And PAWS kept looking for a very special adopter for this very special dog.

NED'S BIG DAY

Joy Ronstadt, a professional animal trainer, met Ned at the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center in September 2015. At this point, "he had been in and out of shelters for a year and a half, was on anti-anxiety medications, and had bitten people through displaced excitement/anxiety while out on walks," Joy recalls.

But she saw past all of Ned's challenges. "When I first saw Ned's picture, it was his eyes that grabbed me. Then I started learning more about his story," Joy says.

"It can be incredibly rewarding for people who want to develop a very strong bond with a dog to adopt one of our Gold Star pets," says Joan Harris, Director of Training at PAWS. "Many of these dogs are intelligent and require more mental stimulation. Additionally, they often have been neglected or abused, or just never been socialized, and need someone dedicated to giving them consistency and building their trust."

After the adoption, Joy reported: "Ned is doing absolutely amazing! We have been working on socialization, getting used to environments and meeting dogs on leash. I'm so impressed with all the efforts everyone there made, and I think they helped lay a solid foundation. Ned has adjusted so well. We have had zero issues thus far."



Joy's job as a trainer for animal talent agency Steve Martin's Working Wildlife took her and Ned to California. Working Wildlife has more than 100 animal actors who have appeared in thousands of commercials, feature films and TV shows, including *Parks & Recreation* (raccoons), *How I Met Your Mother* (chimp) and *Grey's Anatomy* (bear).

Joy has trained a wide variety of exotic animals, such as hyenas, bears and skunks, but since starting her current job at Working Wildlife in 2013, she has mostly focused on dogs and a couple of potbelly pigs.

After Ned and Joy relocated to the West Coast, Joy wrote to PAWS that "he's loving the weather out here and thoroughly enjoying life outside the shelter. He is off all his anti-anxiety medications and has done great with meeting new people and going new places. He is truly a blessing in my life."

Ned was discovered when a director and writer for *Downward Dog* saw a picture of him and absolutely fell in love. "We gave it a shot to see how 'Neddy Pants' did with the training, and he LOVES it. He has really blossomed into a fantastic dog," Joy says. "The first time I taught him to bark on cue, you could see a little light come alive in his eyes, and his tail started wagging. From there, I could tell he was going to have some fun with it."

Joy says life as a TV star has not changed Ned much and she doesn't think his new-found fame will go to his head: "It's far less glamorous than one would think. There's a lot of laying around and waiting, but there's also a lot of love from the cast and crew on set. Short bursts of working, and then more waiting."

In the trailer for the first episode of *Downward Dog*, viewers can see that Ned brings something special to the role of Martin, but there are differences between the actor and the part he plays, Joy says. "Ned is a lot less familiar with people than Martin is. Ned spent the majority of his life not having a home or one person, so I think he hasn't experienced the same dependency and disappointment—as well as joy—that Martin has." ■

PAWS CHICAGO'S GOLD STAR DOGS

Rather than viewing behaviorally or socially challenged dogs as "not adoptable" or "having too much baggage," the PAWS Chicago Gold Star training and enrichment program works with these special pets to prepare them for adoption and matches them with adoptive homes that can help them thrive.

Each dog rescued by PAWS has experienced loss, and some have suffered illness and emotional or physical damage. Some are scarred from past experiences. Abuse, neglect, trauma and improper socialization can cause them to be anxious or overprotective.

For dogs that have had a bumpy start to life or exhibit challenging behaviors, PAWS' Gold Star program is designed to provide the support they need to prepare for adoption. Through the PAWS Training Center, expert trainers and volunteers, these dogs are given customized exercise, enrichment and rehabilitation.

PAWS knows that with the right training and structured environment, these dogs can overcome behavioral challenges. And the hard work is paying off: 153 Gold Star dogs found new homes in 2015, up from 122 in 2014.

LEARN MORE
about Gold Star dogs at
pawschicago.org/goldstar

PERSIE

Gold Star Success!

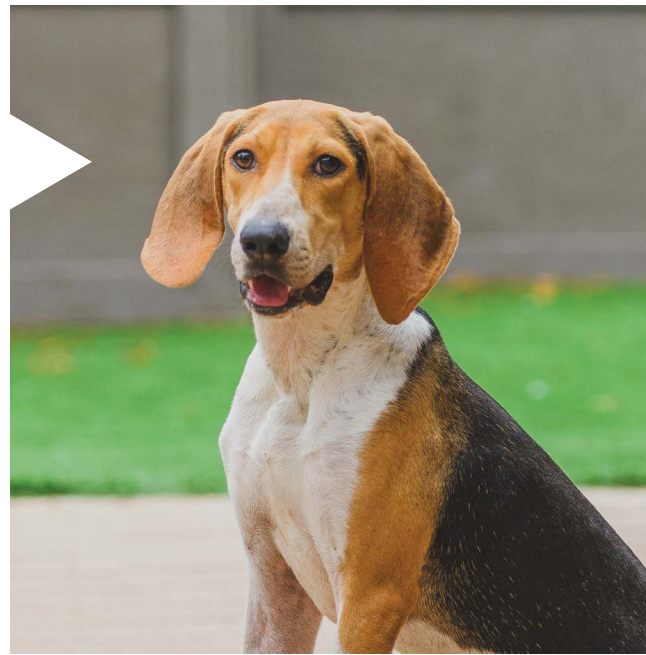
Look who's gone home! Earlier this year, Gold Star dog Persie left PAWS to join her devoted new family. This rough-and-tumble, happy-go-lucky pup went to a home with lots of room to run and play, and a canine sibling to keep her company. "Persie is having a blast in her new rural home. She often sniffs the bases of all the trees and occasionally stands on her hind legs with her front legs on the tree looking up! We think she is a tree hugger for sure," her new family wrote.

Persie took longer than many dogs to find the right home because of her high energy level and need for space to run and play. Even with the special training and attention she received at the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center and organized weekly fun runs, city life just wasn't right for this dog. Persie needed a big area to explore and activities to keep her busy.

PERSONALIZED TRAINING

To help Persie, PAWS Chicago called on its friends at A Closer Bond Dog Community Center (acloserbond.com), northwest suburban Chicago's all-inclusive canine center, to give Persie the personal training and attention needed to get her ready for her adoptive home.

"We are proud to have been working with PAWS Chicago to help Persie find her new home, by having her board and train with us. It just warms our heart to be able to be a part of her life," says Katy Cushing, CEO and Director of Training for A Closer Bond. "A Closer Bond is raising the bar on pet care. We understand the uniqueness every family and pet brings and will develop engaging activities and training to ensure a closer bond and a lifetime of companionship between families and their pets. We bring out the best in each relationship by helping dogs and humans create a common way of communicating."



Persie playing at A Closer Bond



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PROJECT GREECE

PAWS' No Kill Model Goes Transatlantic

by Tom Hay Bauer

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, THE GREEK ISLAND OF AMORGOS IS A SLEEPY PLACE.

Most of the resorts and guest accommodations are small, family-run operations, and the owners are just starting to get things ready for the summer tourist season ahead. The cats are sleepy too—thousands of them—basking in the warm spring sun and forgetting about the cooler winter weather that just departed.

Unfortunately, spring is also the harbinger of kitten season. While stray cats in Greece appear to tourists to have an idyllic life, reality is another matter. With a never-ending cycle of litter after litter being born and winter without tourism and their ready supply of food, felines on the island face starvation. And there are some locals who despise stray pets and treat them like rodents, using force, or sometimes even poison, to deal with the overpopulation.

Animal Zone International (AZI) was founded in 2007 by New York City-based Paola Mieli, a tourist who

fell in love with Amorgos and returned annually with her husband, on the condition that they did something about the terrible condition of animals on the island, particularly stray cats. AZI has brought veterinarians to the island to sterilize cats and has controlled the population on the port side of the island. But on the other side of the island, overpopulation was still rampant. She reached out to PAWS Chicago for help, hearing that the organization was founded after a Chicago family found a stray dog, Pippen, in Greece.

With a robust Trap-Neuter-Return program, primarily run by volunteers, Mieli knew that AZI could learn the best practices in how to build a volunteer base and work with populations of stray cats from the PAWS Chicago team. With funding from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the Paula and Peter Fasseas Foundation, a group of volunteers and two PAWS Chicago community outreach managers journeyed to Amorgos for the Aeigiali Sterilization Project, a coordinated approach designed to



Blind cat Litsa in her new home



AZI and PAWS staff and volunteers



Trapping in Amorgos

spay and neuter as many of the feral and stray cats living near the village of Aegiali as possible before kitten season.

Through the project, 193 cats were spayed or neutered in one week. Incredibly, 86 of the 94 female cats were pregnant. PAWS Chicago Assistant Director of Community Outreach Laurie Maxwell says of the trip: “With no veterinary options on the island, this group brought in two vets from Athens and transformed an old slaughterhouse into a spay/neuter clinic right in our target area. Trappers were climbing steep stairs into remote villages, and waiting patiently outside town dumpsters for cats while the clinic team prepped, cleaned and sterilized all of the cats.”

AZI offered the expertise of the visiting professionals from PAWS to help train and educate local individuals in the handling and humane care of stray animals so that the TNR effort can continue after they leave. Animal welfare professionals and veterinarians from other islands in the Cyclades and throughout Greece were invited to observe and learn the methods employed on Amorgos.

“Animal Zone International offered this opportunity to educate and promote the humane, sustainable practice of sterilization, as well as best practices with regard to handling and veterinary care,” said AZI Program Coordinator, Litsa Passari. “It is the intention of AZI to continue to make Amorgos a model for the appropriate management of its environment and its animal population and to maintain a balance between commerce, consideration and compassion.”

Following the spay/neuter project, AZI and the local Animal Welfare Society of Amorgos conducted visits to all elementary schools and kindergartens to talk to students about the value of animal protection and health, and its impact on the community of Amorgos.

“The PAWS team worked without a break, from morning till night. They knew exactly what to do and they had the knowledge to handle any situation,” says Passari. “We said goodbye to the team with tears in our eyes. Tears of gratitude and pride that we worked with them.”

It turns out that three cats of Amorgos also said goodbye and made the trek to the United States, alongside their new-found human friends, just as the original Pippen made the journey from the Greek island of Crete to his new Chicago home years ago. The Chicago team immediately named the cats Litsa, Anastasia and Giorgos in honor of the three AZI staff who served as hosts, translators, guides and friends during the week on Amorgos. One of the cats, Litsa, who is blind and required eye surgery through PAWS, has already been adopted. Most importantly, many thousands of kittens will not be born on Amorgos thanks to the work of the Chicago and AZI team. ■

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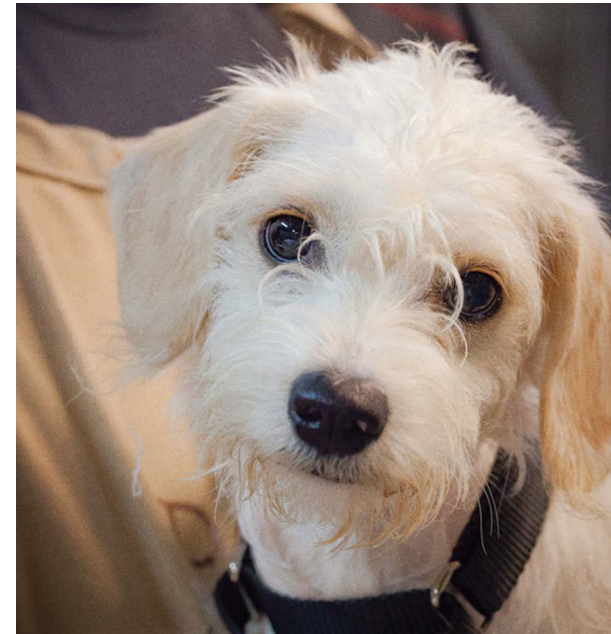
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FOSTER FIRST, LASTING LOVE

FOSTER-TO-ADOPT PROGRAM GIVES SICK DOGS
AT THE CITY POUND A SECOND CHANCE



PAWS' Foster First program gives these sick or potentially contagious dogs a chance to heal in a loving environment while opening up much-needed spots at the PAWS Chicago Medical Center so more at-risk dogs can be saved. Many animals are sitting at the city pound, uncertain of their fates. The more animals PAWS can take in, the more lives can be saved. While it may be a bit harder to foster a CIV-exposed dog, it's also an incredibly rewarding experience.

To avoid spreading CIV, Foster First families must have no other dogs in the residence and must keep their dog away from other dogs during walks. The program also gives prospective adopters an extended time to get to know their new pup. Once the foster dog is medically cleared, the official adoption can take place.

The Foster First program is the newest addition to PAWS' robust foster network. Foster families open their homes to care for sick and injured pets or animals having trouble adjusting to shelter life. In 2015, more than 2,800 PAWS animals spent time in foster care, and many resulted in wonderful stories like that of Princess.

"Princess has totally taken over our lives in the happiest of ways. She is the sweetest, most loving little creature I have ever known," David says. "It is near impossible for all of us to get up in the morning because we are greeted with an assault of kisses!" ■

After a tragic year of loss, PAWS foster dog Burgundy came into the lives of PAWS Development Board Member David Klaskin and his two daughters, 11-year-old Lily and seven-year-old Katie, at a time when they needed her most. They renamed this six-month-old Terrier mix, who PAWS rescued from the Chicago city pound, Princess.

"We thought we were saving a little sick creature, but it turned out she really did more for us coming off a very rough year of loss of human and animal life in our family," David says. "Until Princess came along, I had gone months, through much personal tragedy, without a good night's sleep. I will be away from her for the first time tomorrow and am already missing my sweet angel."

Princess is one of PAWS Chicago's Foster First dogs. The Foster First foster-to-adopt program was started late in 2015 in response to the epidemic of Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) that hit Chicago last year. CIV is a flu, not a life-threatening disease, but dogs who have it are contagious for up to 30 days. During that time, they can easily spread it to other dogs. Foster First dogs are nearly ready for adoption, but first need a little extra time and TLC as they recuperate from CIV or wait out the period during which they may be shedding the virus, even if they don't have any symptoms.



GET INVOLVED

Watch a video of Princess with her new family
and read more about becoming a Foster First
family at pawschicago.org/fosterfirst

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THE DOGS AND CATS AT PAWS CHICAGO'S ADOPTION CENTERS SLEEP AND PLAY ON SOME VERY SPECIAL, VERY SNAPPY BEDDING, designed just for them by Nancy Baird, founder and owner of the animal gift design and manufacturing company, Creature Comforts (creaturecomfortstm.com).

For PAWS' adoptable animals, Nancy focuses on making cute and brightly colored, fanciful bedding, with signature styles like fringe and piping. Nancy's company is creating 200 new pieces of bedding for PAWS this year.

Nancy and her husband, Wyllys, currently live in California, but 15 years ago, when they were Chicago residents, they met PAWS founder Paula Fasseas and embraced PAWS' No Kill mission. They became active with PAWS, donating the fireplace that graces the center of the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center in Lincoln Park, co-chairing the Fur Ball, serving on the Development Board and bringing their design aesthetic and manufacturing expertise to the look and feel of PAWS Chicago. They have been donating pets' comfy bedding since the Adoption Center opened. These stylish textiles are also durable and can sustain daily laundering to keep the animals healthy.

Nancy has been in the animal business for more than 25 years and has designed at least 400 products. In Chicago, you can find her distinctive Creature Comforts merchandise at Barker & Meowsky in Lincoln Park, Tails in the City off Michigan Avenue, Noah's Ark Pet Supply in Winnetka, as well as many other pet boutiques.

How did Nancy find herself in the animal product business? It all started when she wanted a different collar and leash than was available at that time for her chocolate Labrador. She covered an existing leash in a floral print fabric, and demand was huge.

Nancy's products include all kinds of animal-inspired gifts, from ceramics in trendy designs to all-natural, human-grade treats with fun names and enticing designs.

If you want to give the gift of Kitty Cabernet cat crunchies, this merchandise is for you!

Nancy's family currently includes three dogs. Her PAWS rescue LuLu, a Great Pyrenees, was brought to PAWS from Moore, Oklahoma, following the devastating 2013 tornadoes. Nancy adopted from PAWS for the same reason she has supported the organization: "We were brought in by PAWS' No Kill efforts and the progress that they have made working with Chicago Animal Care & Control is remarkable," Nancy says. ■



Nancy Baird and LuLu

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SPECIAL REPORT IN WITH THE OLD



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The saying “60 is the new 50” may apply to pets just as it does to people as the age that defines a “senior” pet is evolving. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, improved pet care and healthy lifestyles are helping pets live longer than ever. In fact, the oldest recorded age of a cat is 38 years while the oldest dog was 30.

At PAWS Chicago, pets age six years and above are considered “seniors,” but that doesn’t mean they are ready for retirement, as you’ll see in this special report.

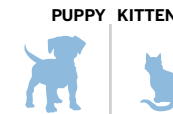
ADOPT A SENIOR

like 13-year-old Kiara (right)
pawschicago.org/adopt

Age is Just a Number

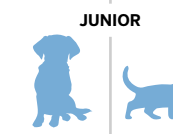
STAGES OF AGING

Birth until six or seven months of age



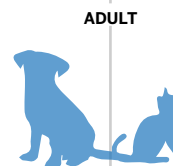
Birth until six or seven months of age

Reproductively mature but still growing, typically until one to two years of age.



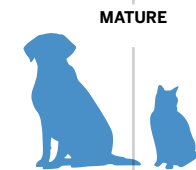
Reproductively mature but still growing, typically until about two years old.

Finished growing and mature, both physically and socially.



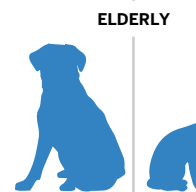
Three to six years old. These cats have established basic temperament and personality.

From the middle to three-quarters of a dog’s life span, which is based on breed/size. Mature dogs tend to be less active and may need special considerations based on physical issues.



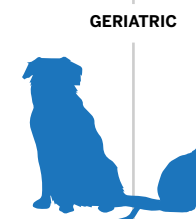
Seven to 10 years old. These cats tend to be less active than adult cats, and annual veterinary exams are advised.

The last quarter of a dog’s expected life span. These dogs often sleep more, eat less and are not as active.



11 to 14 years old. This period is considered a cat’s golden years, when they often sleep more, need fewer calories and are less active.

At life expectancy and beyond. Geriatric dogs inevitably encounter medical issues so bi-annual veterinary examinations are recommended. Keeping the pet as comfortable and healthy as possible is of primary importance.



15 years and above. Keeping a cat as comfortable and healthy as possible is of utmost importance at this age, and cats may need to visit the vet twice a year.

HOW OLD IN HUMAN YEARS?

The American Veterinary Medical Association offers the following charts to show how animals’ ages relate to our own.

| Cat years | Human years |
|-----------|-------------|
| 7 | 45 |
| 10 | 58 |
| 15 | 75 |
| 20 | 98 |

| Dog years | Human years* |
|-----------|--------------|
| 7 | 44-56 |
| 10 | 56-78 |
| 15 | 76-115 |
| 20 | 96-120 |

*Age range depends on size and breed of dog.



LOVE KNOWS NO AGE

by Alison Martin

Auntie Em waits patiently while her owner, Abby Lee, lays out her pills. When Abby Lee finishes, she opens another pill bottle—this time for herself.

“I deal with depression,” Abby Lee explains, “so having someone to take care of keeps me moving. I know I have to wake up and take care of her, and it keeps me motivated. We take our medication at the same times every day. Giving it to her reminds me to take mine as well,” she says.

Abby Lee adopted Auntie Em, who is 13, from PAWS Chicago in February 2016. Auntie Em came to PAWS when her previous owners became homeless. Em is nearly blind as well as suffering from gastrointestinal issues.

But Em is active for her age and gets Abby Lee up and out of the house, as they go together on long walks. “She’s a sniffer! She has her nose to the ground as soon as her paws hit the grass,” Abby Lee says.

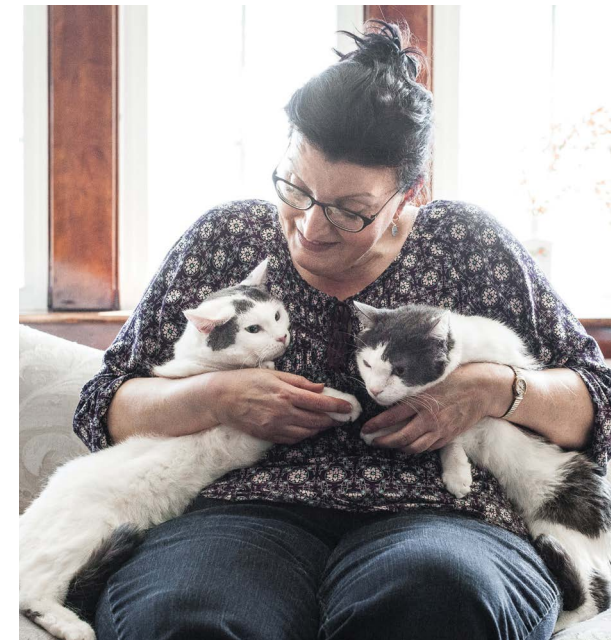
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Photography generously donated by volunteer photographer Martin Aspera

Thirteen-year-old Auntie Em with adopter Abby Lee



Eight-year-old Sadie with adopters Matt and Nicole



Eight-year-olds Piko and Coco with adopter Christina

continued from previous page

Abby Lee and Em have a special connection that could only be shared by a loving adopter and an elderly pet who requires a little extra attention and care. Their love shows why elderly pets can hold a unique and extraordinary place in our hearts, and Auntie Em is proof there's more to give as you get a little more gray fur.

While Auntie Em's story is one of hope for senior pets in need of new homes, many elderly animals, especially bully breeds like Em, are part of a group at higher risk of ending up in a shelter. They are vulnerable to catching contagious diseases and often in danger of being euthanized.

In 2015, of the dogs and cats for which age information was reported, those older than age six accounted for 17 percent of the population that entered Chicago Animal Care & Control (CACC), the city pound. They made up 31 percent of animals that were euthanized.

PAWS Chicago is focusing on finding homes for older dogs and cats like Auntie Em. During 2015, PAWS adopted

out more than 50 animals over the age of 10. But older animals often take longer to find new homes. The average length of stay for animals age six or more entering the PAWS Adoption Program is 54 days, compared to under 30 days for the entire PAWS population.

"People don't always want to give older animals a chance because of the many misconceptions about adopting them," says Diane Wilkerson, PAWS Adoption Center Director. "They want a younger pet, thinking somehow they are better. They are drawn to cute puppies and kittens, not dogs and cats with graying muzzles. They may even hesitate at adopting a senior, because they fear the eventual loss."

Older animals, however, rarely fit the stereotypes of being sickly, passive or short term. Many senior pets are highly adoptable and make a wonderful addition to the family. Many have years left to live and a great deal of love and experience to share.

Sadie an eight-year-old Husky mix, was adopted by Nicole and Matt in November 2015. When Sadie came home she had a hard time with her mobility and suffered from joint pain, likely due to arthritis and being over-weight. Some adopters avoid seniors because they fear they will come with significant health problems. But many of these issues can be overcome.

Nicole and Matt worked with their vet, and Sadie has lost weight and her pain is now under control. She even enjoys activities that once were daunting. "She has become much more mobile, going for longer walks and has even learned to play fetch with us," Nicole says.

"It has brought us so much joy to watch Sadie's transformation. We would definitely recommend adopting a senior pet to anyone looking for a loving and laid back dog."

Another big fear adopters have with senior pets is

“
In the future,
should I adopt
more pets, I will
not hesitate to
look for seniors.

– Christina

their behavior. A puppy or kitten often represents a clean slate. With senior pets, the slate isn't completely blank, but that's not always a bad situation, according to Joan Harris, PAWS Chicago's Director of Training and Canine Behavior.

Piko & Coco like many elderly pets, came from previous families so they already knew how to behave around humans. These best friends were recently adopted by Christina, who doesn't notice their ages and doesn't feel it slows them down. "Senior pet? Who knew? With the exception of their size, these eight-year-old adoptees are just as easily as cute and funny and warm as any kitten," she says. "I am so thrilled with my choice to adopt them. I am certain, in the future, should I adopt more pets, I will not hesitate to look for seniors."

continued on next page



“

Luna is the feistiest cat I've ever had the privilege of sharing my home with.

– Kortney

”

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Luna age nine, is diabetic and missing all her teeth, but adopter Kortney says “Luna is the feistiest cat I’ve ever had the privilege of sharing my home with.” Luna, who was adopted earlier this year, had been a long-term PAWS resident because she needs to receive daily insulin shots. During her year-and-a-half stay at PAWS, Luna made many friends, and was a staff and volunteer favorite due to her adorable, quirky nature.

When Luna was first brought home, Kortney’s family, which includes multiple other pets, was curious how she would fit in. Thankfully, she made herself right at home. “We tried to keep her separate for a few days, but she wasn’t having it,” Kortney says. On day one, she “walked into the condo as if she’d been there her whole life, establishing her rightful position as the Queen Bee.”

Luna even purrs when she eats, Kortney says. “It’s seriously the cutest thing, but not surprising since meal time is her favorite time of the day! It’s hard to understand why she spent over a year and a half with PAWS without much interest. She’s an amazing kitty and

continued on next page

Nine-year-old Luna with adopter Kortney

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“

Tinker is an incredibly patient, calm and affectionate elderly lady.

– Jeanna

”

Eleven-year-old Tinker

continued from previous page

we are so thankful she allows us to be her humans.”

But for each senior like Luna and Sadie that has found a special home, there are many still patiently waiting for their loving family to walk through the door.

Tinker finally found her family in May 2016. This 11-year-old Beagle mix spent her entire life chained outside of a trailer home in Tennessee, likely subjected to having litter after litter of puppies. Years of breeding, improper care and neglect left this sweetheart in awful shape. When she was finally taken away by Animal Control, she had a mammary tumor so large, it was raw from chafing against her thighs and dragging on the ground. She also was emaciated and tick-ridden.

Upon arrival at PAWS Chicago in December 2015, Tinker’s life changed for the better. Treated by PAWS Chicago’s medical team, her mammary masses were removed and she was given a new lease on life. This resilient girl then went into foster to recover from her surgeries before being adopted into a permanent home.

“Tinker is an incredibly patient, calm and affectionate elderly lady,” her foster Jeanna noted. “Although she does not play or run much, she loves the company of other animals and people alike. She might sleep more than her puppy counterparts, but when she is awake, she will be by your side looking at you with her adoring eyes,” Jeanna says. “I’m just happy my little old lady gets to finish out her final few years in peace, good health and in good company.” ■

PAWS CHICAGO SENIOR ALUMNI

POMEX, PRISMA AND ONITZA

This trio of 12-year-old angels was brought to PAWS Chicago in August 2015 after their owner passed away, leaving the dogs at a veterinarian’s office. They have been inseparable their whole lives and needed to be adopted together. Onitza and Prisma are blind, so Pomex helps to guide and comfort them. These three affectionate dogs were recently adopted by their foster, Rosa, who says they were sweet and laid back and even got along with the cat. “I fell in love with them immediately,” says Rosa.



Pomex, Prisma, and Onitza



Crissy

CRISSY

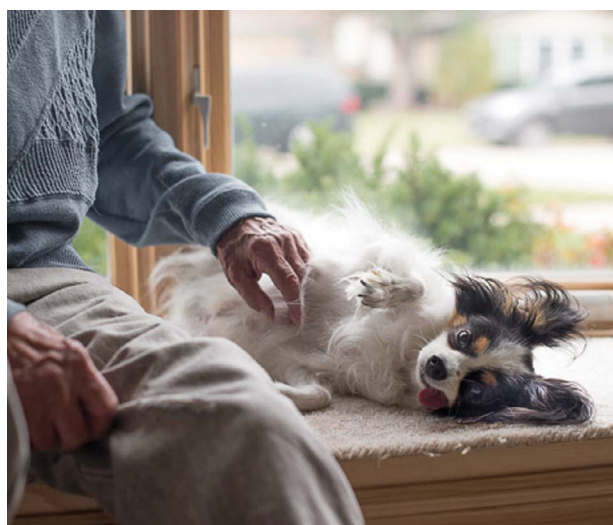
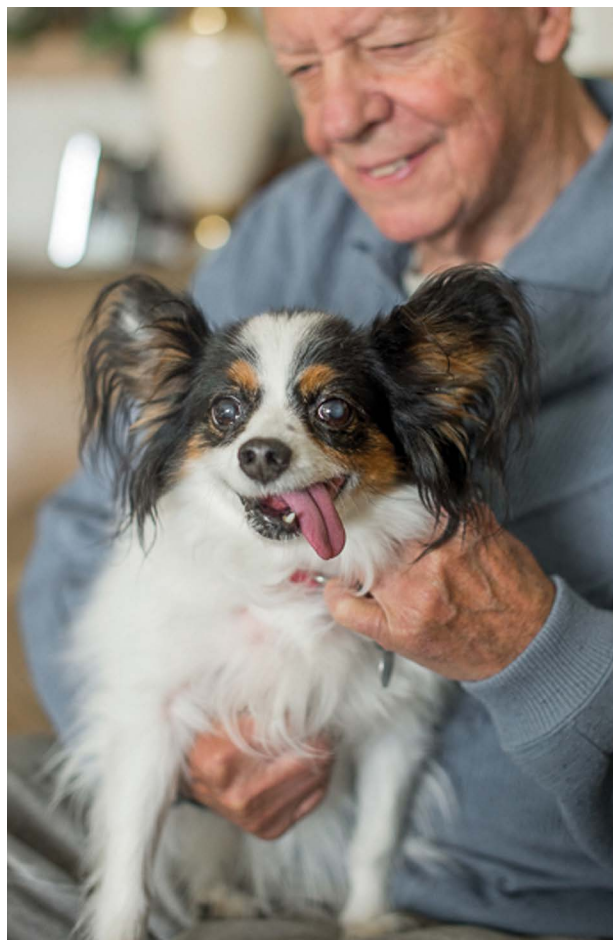
Crissy, a 13-year-old Toy Poodle, had been at PAWS for three months and appeared somewhat subdued before her adoption. But her bubbly personality quickly emerged and adopters Matt and Bill remember the moment they saw it. “The night we adopted her, we were at PAWS until closing. The entire staff came out to say goodbye to her and as we were leaving, we realized we hadn’t yet eaten dinner,” they say. “We obviously didn’t want to leave Crissy alone in the car, so we stopped for burgers and ate in the car. About two minutes into our meal, from the shy, quiet, little dog we just adopted minutes before came a loud and enthusiastic ‘ROWF!’ We looked back and Crissy was giving us the most determined and intent stare. It’s actually sort of hilarious in its seriousness. We now refer to this mesmerizing stare as ‘Poodle Mind Control.’” From the first night, Crissy learned how to communicate her needs, and “we’ve been under Poodle Mind Control ever since.”

MARMON AND TOSHI

Cristy and Michael adopted Marmon and Toshi around Christmas. “If you would have told me two 11-year-old cats would change our lives for the better, I wouldn’t have believed you,” Cristy says. “In fact, we’ve had cats in the past and I never knew cats like these guys even existed.” When they first brought the cats home from PAWS, they were concerned about how much work they would be or how they would fit in with their dogs. “But shortly after introducing them to the house, I found both the dogs and the cats all curled up on the couch together sleeping peacefully. And as for work, they are the easiest, most well-adjusted cats ever!” Cristy and Michael knew they had made a wonderful decision by picking two seniors: “It was then I knew we were a perfect little family.”



Marmon and Toshi



MATURE SEEKS SAME

ELDERLY PETS CAN BE PARTICULARLY GOOD CHOICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE.

Happy little Papillon Nicky is 16 years old. He ended up at PAWS Chicago after his owner died and the man's wife, who had two other dogs, could not take all three to her new condo.

Nicky was adopted by Ed, a widower in his 80s who lives in Des Plaines. Ed has always loved dogs. He went to several shelters and kept hearing that he was too old for a new dog. However, his daughter heard that PAWS Chicago had a program for senior citizens wanting to adopt pets, and that's where he found Nicky.

Adopters frequently think about younger dogs who need a lot of activity and upkeep. But Ed and his daughter had a different perspective, and had an immediate connection with Nicky. The two seniors are enjoying growing older together and keeping each other company. Nicky has three dog beds, but sleeps next to Ed. They love to take walks and Nicky can't wait for Ed to watch TV so he can jump up right next to him on the couch.

Ed has had six or seven dogs in his lifetime, and Nicky is the second best dog he has had, if not the best. "I don't know who will go first, him or me, but if Nicky goes first I will really miss him." Ed says. (As a PAWS dog, Nicky has a lifetime guarantee that PAWS would take care of him if something happened to his owner.)

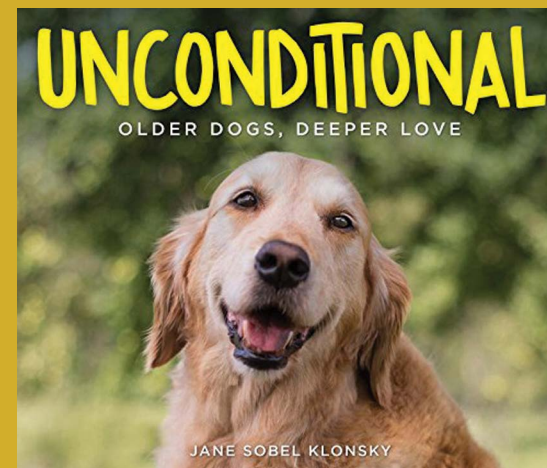
Since 2006, PAWS has worked with the national Pets for the Elderly Foundation, which was founded to provide companions to senior adopters and save homeless animals. Through the first quarter of this year, the program has helped to place more than 66,000 animals nationally with seniors, and currently has 47 participating shelters in 26 states. The organization underwrites a portion of adoption fees for senior citizens.

Research shows that pets help with the physical, emotional and social issues facing many seniors, according to Pets' Executive Director Susan Kurowski. Owning an animal results in improvement in medical conditions like blood pressure. "Emotionally, there is an easing of loneliness, as well as the feeling that 'someone' is counting on you to care for yourself and them. Also, particularly for dog adopters, there is a reduction in isolation, as many walk around the community and reach out to others," Kurowski says.

Kurowski notes that the biggest concerns she hears about, usually from people who are not seniors themselves, are whether older people have the ability to afford an animal on a fixed income, the physical capacity to keep up with the pet, as well as what will happen to the animal when the owner dies.

Kurowski responds that 90 percent of adoptions to seniors are to people in their 60s and 70s—not very old by today's standards. And while the affordability of pet care is always a concern, most seniors are aware of their budgets and know what can be fit into their plan.

PAWS Chicago recently started an initiative to bring together senior pets with senior adopters. The Seniors for Seniors program will include PAWS presentations at senior living and retirement facilities, focused on the advantages of fostering and adopting senior pets. ■



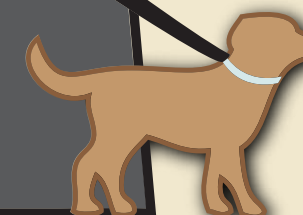
Elderly dogs and our love for them are being showcased in a new book, *Unconditional: Older Dogs, Deeper Love*, by acclaimed photographer Jane Sobel Klonsky. The book, published by National Geographic, will be available in the fall but can be pre-ordered now online. Information about the book and photographs from Klonsky's *Unconditional* series can be found at projectunconditional.info. A number of PAWS alumni including Nicky and Crissy are featured in the project.

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Joan Harris with Watson

ASK THE TRAINERS

by Alison Martin

YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS. OR CAN YOU?

For this edition, Joan Harris, PAWS Chicago's Director of Training and Canine Behavior, and Erin Mayes, Feline Behavior Coordinator, answered our most pressing questions about senior pets.

Can old pets learn new tricks?

JH A dog can learn at any age. They can learn new tricks, they can learn new behaviors, but it's very similar to how people are. If you've been practicing the same habit, the harder it is to change that habit so I think that's where that phrase came from. It really has nothing to do with the learning aspect.

EM Up until the age of 16, cats generally are as mentally flexible as younger animals, according to *The Behavior of Domestic Cats*. For example, they are as quick in learning a new location for their food. At around 16, declines in the central nervous system are usually reflected in a cat's behavior. These cognitive changes mean adopters may need to make environmental changes to accommodate their aging cats, such as adding extra litter boxes.

How does training a puppy or kitten differ from training a senior pet?

JH When you're training a puppy, you have a blank slate so everything is new information. They are like a sponge. You can mold the puppy however you want because it has no pre-established habits. When you're training a senior dog sometimes you have to deal with existing behaviors.

If you want to modify or change, that can be more time consuming. New behaviors can be reinforced, but it's important to keep in mind that if you're trying to change habits, the old habits served a purpose. And you have to figure out what they are and show they no longer serve a purpose.

EM Find something the cat absolutely loves. For example, every time that cat uses the scratching post, give the cat a treat. You have to give them something that is higher value than what you don't want them doing. With senior cats it's a matter of knowing what their limitations are. For example, they may need a litter box with lower sides so it's easier to enter and exit the box. These are little things you can tweak in your home that can make a big difference. When you're creating an environment for a cat, you want to make sure it's age appropriate. So, for example, if you want to teach jumping down, you don't want an older cat to jump down from the top of a refrigerator.

How do outside factors or personal histories impact how a senior pet learns?

JH If a dog was not socialized properly as a puppy, he may have fear issues toward certain things because he hasn't been exposed to them or had bad experiences. There are various windows of time in a puppy's development where the most rapid learning occurs—he's curious and open to new people and experiences. There are also times, called the fear imprint periods, during which anything that frightens him could be much more lasting or even permanent.

EM Cats are a product of their environment. It's more a matter of shaping behaviors that you want with cats. It's a long process. You'll see that in a two-year-old cat, and you'll see it in a 14-year-old cat. With cats you do need to take your time if you're trying to shape a certain behavior. You just have to be patient. That's the biggest thing cat owners need to know.

What are the impacts of training and adapting to a new home for senior pets?

JH Training is essential because you are opening up your lines of communication so your dog is able to understand the directions you're giving. Training is also bonding because it sets up guidelines for the dog's behavior so the dog feels more secure and can trust you more. Through expanding your bond and communication, your dog can be more integrated into your life because you can take them more places.

EM We emphasize having a special room for your cat, which is good for all cats of any age, but for senior cats, we especially don't want them rushed into a new environment too quickly. Start off small, by keeping the cat in a safe room where there's nothing they can chew on or break, and be sure to block off any dangerous hiding spots. It is important the senior cat be given adequate time in its special room before being introduced into the larger home.

For a prospective adopter, what is the most important thing to know about choosing a senior pet?

JH Seniors can still learn and they make great pets. And I think in some ways it's easier because you can already see their fully developed personality. If they are compatible with you, then you know what you're getting, and many times, that's a comfort in itself.

EM They're just as loving as any other cat. A six-year-old mature adult is just as playful, affectionate, and healthy as a two-year-old cat. And when you adopt an older cat, you are able to base your decision on the fully-formed personalities, making it easier to choose a cat that fits your family. ■

Training is bonding

Learning at any age

Be patient

Shaping behaviors

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how they perceive the world and how they evolve through the stages of life at pawschicago.org/catbehavior

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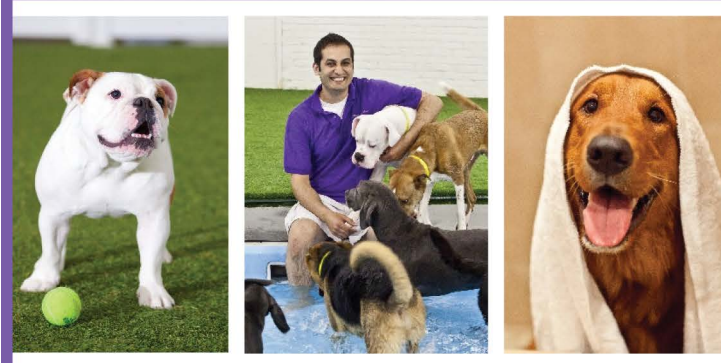
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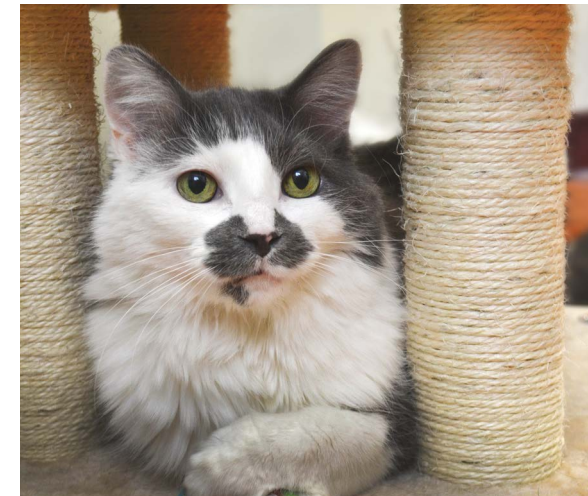
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Eleven-year-old Margo

ASK THE VET

HOW DO YOU KEEP OLDER ANIMALS
HAPPY AND HEALTHY?

by Alison Martin

GOOD HEALTH IS POSSIBLE AT ANY TIME OF LIFE, ACCORDING TO DR. BARBARA ROYAL, PAWS CHICAGO BOARD MEMBER AND OWNER OF THE ROYAL TREATMENT VETERINARY CENTER: "Old age doesn't have to equal ill health, and with the right care and supplements, senior pets don't have to 'act their age.'"

Royal says some of the more common health issues senior pets face include arthritis, loss of vision or hearing, obesity and dental, heart, liver or kidney problems. Adopters, however, shouldn't feel intimidated by these potential issues. Working with senior pets can be a joy. And with a sensible approach to health, age will be just a number: "Age is not a disease. It is a measure of success," Royal says. "People often explain problems as signs of age and will say 'She's just getting old.' But 'old' is not a diagnosis. It is just an assessment of how long the pet has been here."

The approach of fusing Western and Eastern medicine, promoting fresh, high protein diets, plenty of exercise, daily supplements and massage therapy is effective for keeping pets young. "We have a lot more that we can do to help them keep their youth so a geriatric animal of maybe 15 years can still have a lot of vigor because we have effective nutrition and supplements," she says. Above all, she encourages her patients to keep their pets active and moving. "If they aren't challenged, their brains and bodies will deteriorate."

When Royal's own dog, Tundra, was 11, she worked on a strategy that she now applies to all aging pets: "I was thrilled that Tundra lived another six years—playing on the beach and living a wonderful life. Supporting animals as they age is something I look forward to, because my clients and I consider aging an asset rather than a disease," Royal wrote in her book *The Royal Treatment*. "We can't make our pets live forever, or extend their lifespan to match ours," Royal notes, but there are some common-sense actions we can take to "mitigate the effects of old age."

continued on next page

“
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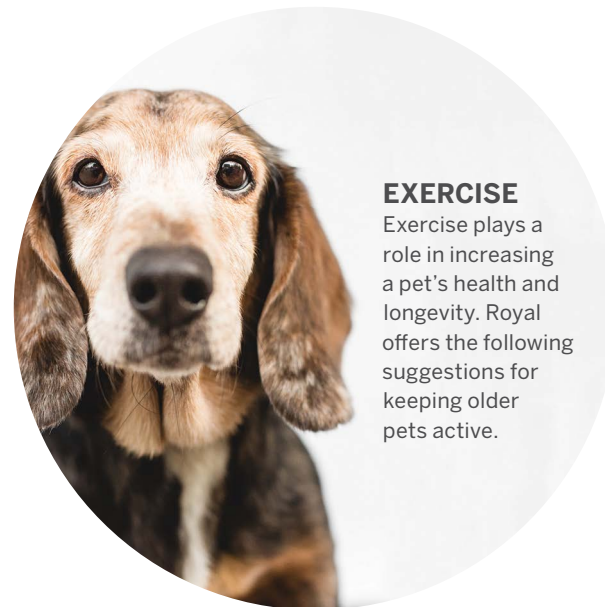
– DR. BARBARA ROYAL

TIPS FOR KEEPING **OLDER PETS HEALTHY**



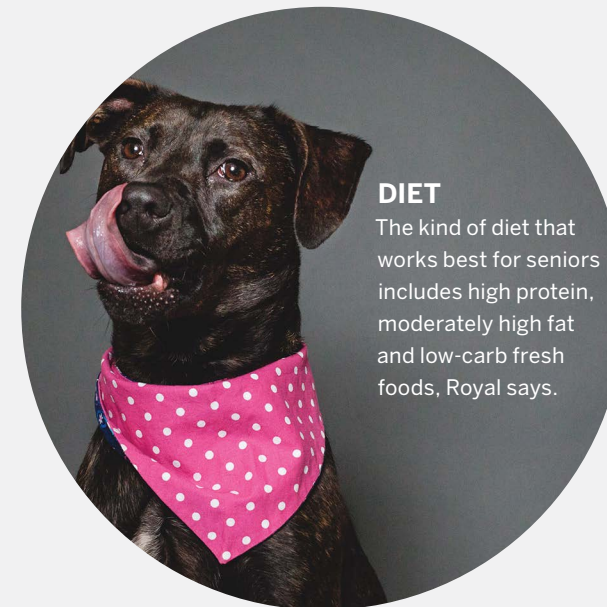
SENSES

Like humans, as a dog or cat ages, they may not be able to see, smell or hear as well. Royal has a number of suggestions for helping them deal with these changes.



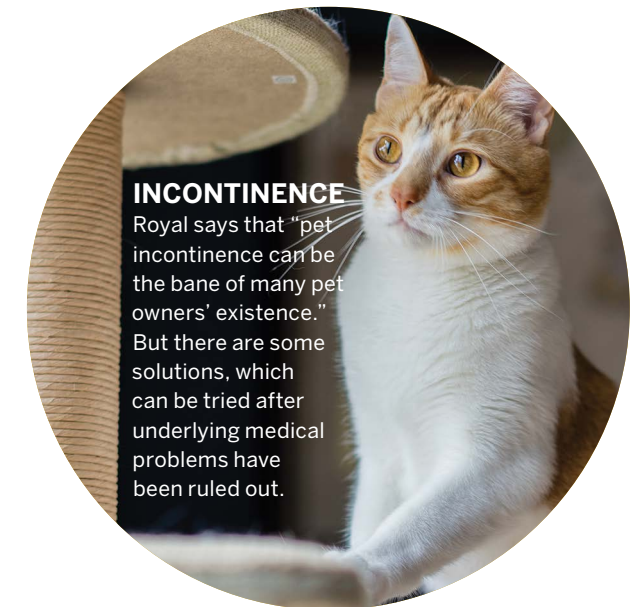
EXERCISE

Exercise plays a role in increasing a pet's health and longevity. Royal offers the following suggestions for keeping older pets active.



DIET

The kind of diet that works best for seniors includes high protein, moderately high fat and low-carb fresh foods, Royal says.



INCONTINENCE

Royal says that "pet incontinence can be the bane of many pet owners' existence." But there are some solutions, which can be tried after underlying medical problems have been ruled out.



SMELL

If your pet seems uninterested in food and other medical issues have been ruled out, it could be because they have lost some of their sense of smell, which is an important appetite stimulant. To enhance the smell of food, you can warm it up or mix in hot water or chicken broth.

SOUND

Try using hand clapping or high-pitch tones to get the attention of your dog or cat. You also can gently massage small circles around the base of the ear to improve circulation. Finally, acupuncture can be considered for hearing loss in some cases.

SIGHT

Many older animals have hazy vision that can obscure depth perception. If your animal is suffering from vision problems, you can add light fixtures to key areas like stairwells. Another tip Royal offers it to avoid rearranging furniture, litter boxes, and food and water bowls if you pet has vision problems.



WALKS

Take your dog beyond the sidewalk onto more challenging terrain. Vary the surfaces your dog gets to walk on and include stepping up and down curbs or going on inclines. Dog walks should include a variety of experiences, interesting smells and sights to keep your dog's mind active.



MASSAGE

Cats and dogs can benefit from paw massages on a daily basis, if they are not sensitive about having these areas of their bodies touched. The massage can include gently squeezing the paw and pulling slowly down on the toes, which will improve mobility and placement.

GAMES

Toys and play time are not just for kittens and puppies. Older animals can be engaged in play and may even shed some unwanted weight in the process. You can make your dog or cat play a bit to get their toys or treats. Instead of placing an item right in front of them, challenge your animal to do some exercise, like climbing some stairs, to get to that special item.



SLIPPERY SURFACES

Help your animal navigate slippery surfaces so they can move around with more confidence. Place carpets, non-skid tape or mats in areas that may cause problems for elderly pets.



FOOD

Fresh commercially prepared frozen raw food doesn't have to be cooked, and is typically prepared to be complete and balanced. It's also not as expensive anymore. Look at ingredients lists, Royal advises: "If you look at the list on your pet food and it looks like a chemical store, it's going to be harder for a senior pet to digest."

SUPPLEMENTS

A number of herbal supplements can be particularly beneficial for geriatric pets as part of a treatment program. These include Omega-3 for free-radical scavenging, milk thistle as a liver protection or tonic, ginseng for cognitive support, arnica as a blood mover, turmeric for inflammation and glucosamine for joint support.

TREATS

Be picky about treats and chews for older pets. Choose treats that are natural, with no chemicals or sugar. Avoid treats with significant carbohydrates or unnatural substances. Many of Royal's clients use raw bones as chews to help with dental tartar and for enjoyment. Cooked bones may be more likely to splinter and pose a significant health risk if ingested.



FECAL INCONTINENCE

Take your dog for a "double walk." After you finish walking your dog, go inside for a minute and then go right back out for a second walk. This walk will be less interesting and your dog may be more focused on the task at hand.

FILLERS

Your pet can make smaller, firmer and less frequent poops if you decrease the amount of filler being consumed. Generally, canned, home-cooked or pre-prepared raw foods have less fillers and fewer carbs.

URINARY INCONTINENCE

Once medical reasons for urinary incontinence are ruled out, there are some changes you can make to help manage this issue, including feeding a diet with the correct moisture content so you animal does not over drink.



HOW MUCH EXERCISE IS TOO MUCH?
 Royal advises watching the animal in the 24 hours after their workout to see how they behave. If they are too tired or stiff after a 20-minute walk or playtime, cut the time in half and try 10 minutes the next day. You can increase the time back up slowly each day. In particular, look for changes in breathing and water consumption, and adjust the exercise routine accordingly.



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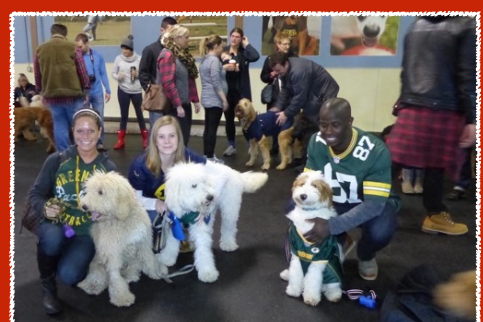
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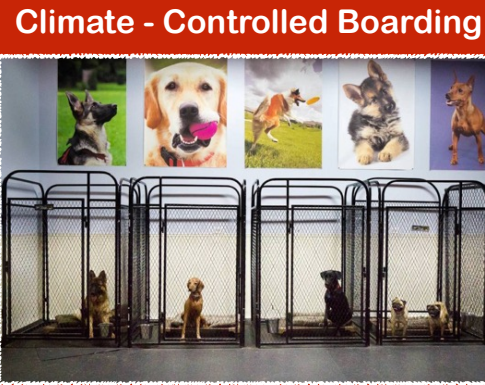

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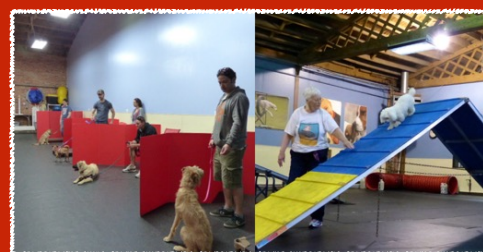
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PAWS CHICAGO FUR BALL

In November 2015, PAWS Chicago hosted its 14th Annual Fur Ball at The Drake Hotel. More than 750 people and 275 pets attended the party, and canine companions enjoyed all festivities with their guardians, from walking the red carpet to dancing late into the night. The Fur Ball marks an important evening for Chicago's homeless pets, raising 15 percent of the annual funds required to operate PAWS Chicago's robust lifesaving programs. Through the generosity of event sponsors and guests, the evening raised \$1.6 million. The event was co-chaired by Melissa & Michael Canning and Corey & JP Marchetti, with honorary chairs Nancy & Michael Timmers. Presenting sponsors included A. Marek Fine Jewelry, Chopper Group and The Drake Hotel. Event highlights included Bonnie & Jim Spurlock raising their paddle to cover the \$30,000 cost of kitten vaccinations, Janice & Philip Beck joining in to cover \$25,000 for puppy vaccinations for the year, and guests including Raj Fernando, Cheri Lawrence, Maria Magnus, Barbara Bradford & Robert Sherman, Nancy & Michael Timmers, and the Clack Family contributing to the PAWS Chicago spay/neuter program. ■



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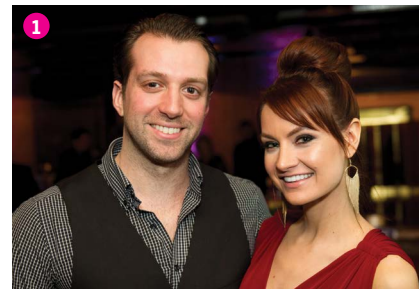
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- 3 Janice & Philip Beck with Betsy
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- 7 Fur Ball Grand Ballroom emcee ABC 7's Meteorologist Cheryl Scott with her dog Lola
- 8 Anne Marie Peretz and Franzen
- 9 Gold Coast emcee ABC 7's Roz Varon & Glenn Kedzie with dogs Gracie and Ella

ANIMAL MAGNETISM



More than 500 animal lovers and their canine companions celebrated homeless pets at the sold-out 10th Annual PAWS Chicago Animal Magnetism event on March 18 at Morgan Manufacturing. This dog-friendly evening was presented by DMD Restoration & Remodeling, Inc., and proceeds raised help fund critical life-saving programs for homeless animals. Animal Magnetism was co-chaired by PAWS Chicago Professional Board members Kristine Chrapek and Drew Osika, and emceed by FOX 32's *Good Day Chicago* Traffic Anchor Jenny Milkowski. ■



- 1 Emcee Jenny Milkowski with Jared Hoffa
- 2 Noelle Sharma with Merci
- 3 Leadership Award Honoree Chicago Police Lieutenant John Garrido with his PAWS dog, Bush
- 4 Dr. Sarah Husseini, Dr. Emily Dozeman, Raj Fernando and Paula Fasseas
- 5 Corey Krause, Brianna Schwartz, Samantha DeMichael and Sean Parsons
- 6 2016 Animal Magnetism Committee
- 7 Dan Doubrava and Frank Zubricki, DMD Restoration & Remodeling, Inc.



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SPA DAYS FOR PAWS CHICAGO DOGS

by Alison Martin

Two-year-old Champagne, a Pekinese mix, is led down the hall of the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center toward Janice Grams. Hair tied up and a black smock over her clothes, Grams greets Champagne and lifts him onto a grooming table. It's bath time.

Grams is PAWS Chicago's volunteer groomer, giving homeless dogs the VIP treatment one paw at a time. She calls her method "comfort grooming," and she believes that—just like people—dogs present themselves best when they feel at their best. "It's a makeover just like a person," she says. "When you look better, you feel better."

To Grams, comfort grooming means taking as much time as needed for a positive experience. When she first meets a dog, Grams allows space to let the dog warm up to her. Her tone is soft and comforting. Before long, the dog is ready.

If dogs are anxious or agitated, Grams lets them return to their rooms to calm down. Some dogs take hours to groom, but the end result, Grams says, is worth it. "They're always so happy and pretty," she said. "They smile."

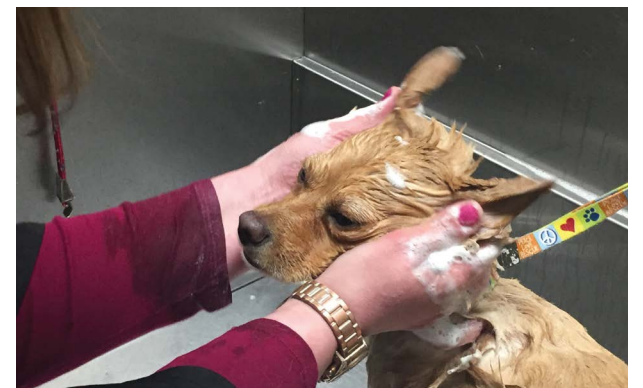
During her day job, Grams takes care of humans as an outpatient nurse, but animals have always been her first love. In 2013, Grams graduated from the Academy of Dog Grooming Arts and the Bishop School of Grooming. Though she considered grooming show dogs and pets, the ones who needed her most, she says, were in shelters.

Grams has worked with dogs whose fur was so long it hung in their eyes and nails so long they have grown into their paw pads. Grams says matted fur and long nails can turn a friendly dog into an aggressive one. When the mats get smaller and tighter, they pull the skin. "A lot of people don't realize that when they're matted, it can be painful," Grams said. "It's uncomfortable and they're not going to present well. They may be shy or seem aggressive or anti-social," she says.

As Champagne finishes his spa treatment, his fur looks fluffy and feels silky. When Grams sets him down on the floor, he prances around proudly. ■

Grams' Dog Grooming Tips

- **Create a quiet atmosphere** to help the dog keep calm.
- **Go to where the dog is most comfortable.** If the dog has joint problems or wants to lay on the floor, groom on the floor.
- **Put a towel over the dog's head and ears** to block out sounds from hairdryers and sheers.
- **Take breaks** to give the dog time to calm down.
- **If the dog is matted, do not wash first.** It will make the mats tighter.
- **If the dog won't let you clip or trim a certain area, do not force it.** You could cut your dog.
- **Give the pup a break and try again.** If the dog still won't cooperate, ask a professional for help.



Memorials & Tributes

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KRISTIN WALTERS



IN LOVING MEMORY OF LYNN NORTON



In Loving Memory





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IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH SWEIG AKA "THE HISSER"



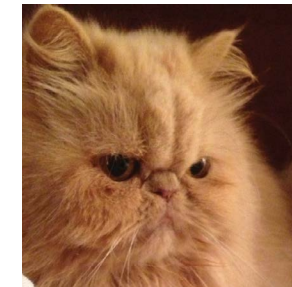
Elizabeth Sweig died in her sleep on March 13, 2016. She was feisty and loving, but deep down, she was a loner. She was loved dearly and will be missed so much by us, her parents, Michael and Jo Ann Sweig. Michael adopted her from City Cat Dr. in October of 1997. They

had nicknamed her "The Hisser." The runt of the litter and a scrawny little thing, she went everywhere with Michael as he traveled for business. By February of 2000, Michael and I had rescued four more cats and Elizabeth tolerated them, to put it mildly. Later that year, Elizabeth stopped eating and went

in the hospital. Five days later, the vet told us she probably wasn't going to make it. We ran into the nearest church and prayed the "God, if you let Elizabeth live, I will (insert the deal here)" prayer. The next morning the vet called and told Michael "It's a miracle! She's eating! Her blood counts are nearing normal. She's going to live." Michael almost fainted.

Three months later, my Christmas present from Michael was a handwritten letter asking me to marry him. Explaining that his deal with God was that if Elizabeth lived, he would marry me. Thanks to Elizabeth, we've been married 15 years and have been the proud and loving parents of 13 rescued cats. But there will only be one Elizabeth Sweig – The Hisser, the lick, the lover and a friend. She was one in a million and we are honored to have known her.

- Jo Ann & Michael Sweig



The moment we adopted her we knew she was special. She was beautiful, strong, elegant – sunbeams welcomed her every step in the morning and moonbeams followed her at night. Marmalade taught us what strength and love was really all about...we know we will meet again.

- Bonnie & James Spurlock

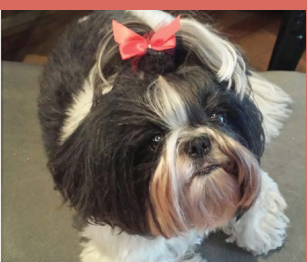
IN MEMORY OF MARMALADE SPURLOCK




Yoodle Doodle was a bald little street urchin from PAWS. We fell in love and he turned out to be an angel, staying with his papa after surgery, making his recovery his life's mission. We gave him everything a dog could want and we miss him every day. He was precious!!

- Judy & Howard Tullman

IN MEMORY OF YOODLE DOODLE



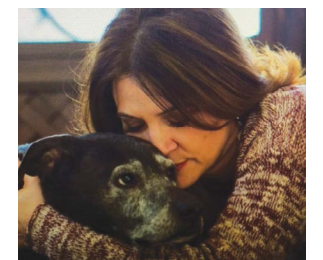
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IN MEMORY OF FRANKLIN SPRATT



IN MEMORY OF CHAIRMAN MEOWSKIE

Chairman was such a source of light in my life. I'm grateful for the time I had with him and the bond between us. I'm grateful he was loved by many. I'm grateful for the love he gave me. I'd encourage everyone to adopt a shelter pet. The greatest love, like Chairman Meowskie's, is waiting for you at the shelter.

- Elly Greenspahn

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