

# PAWS CHICAGO

pawschicago.org

magazine

Spring/Summer 2017



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS  
OF PAWS CHICAGO  
1997-2017**

**SAVING THE SICK & INJURED  
PAWS ANNOUNCES MEDICAL  
CENTER EXPANSION**

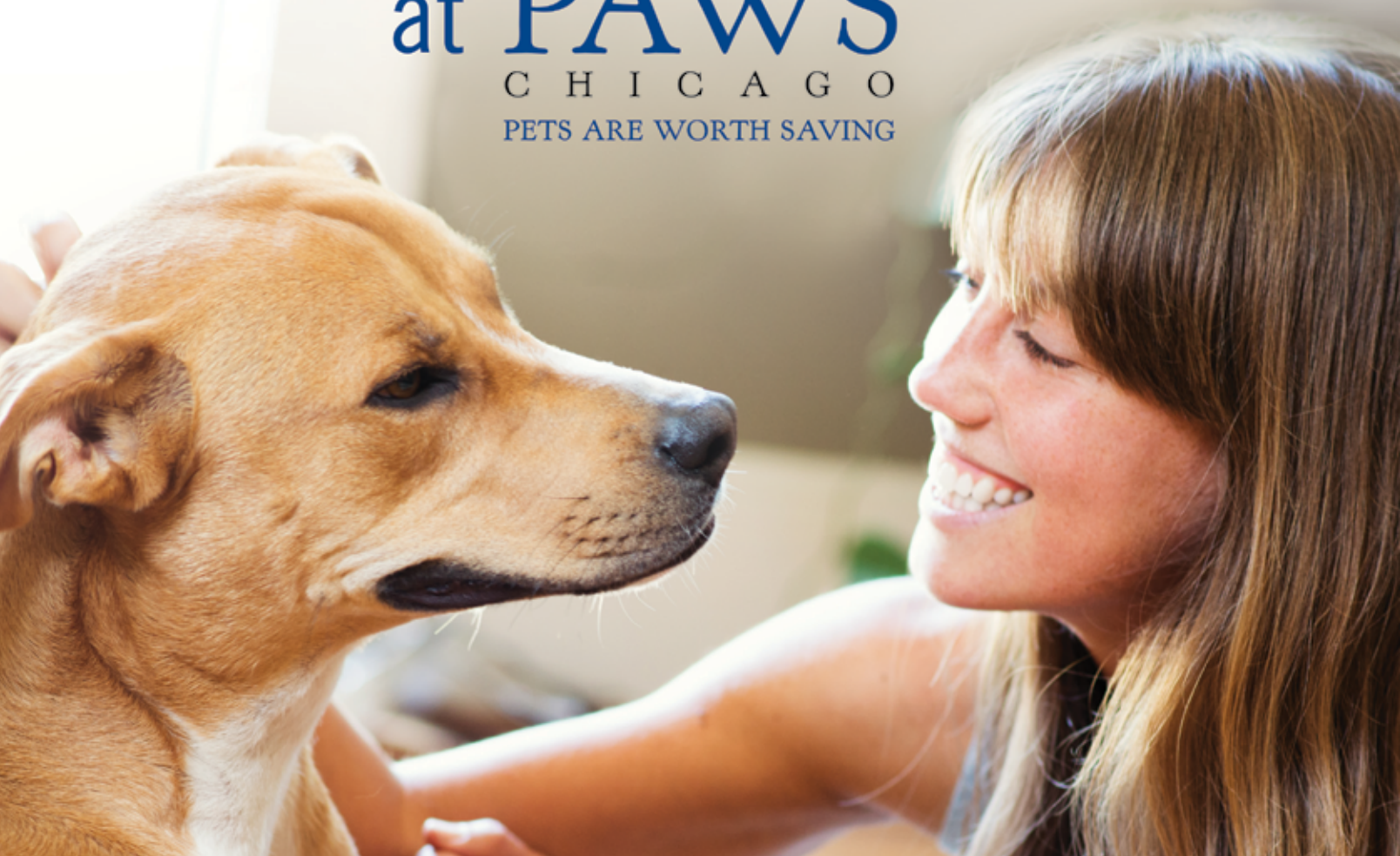
**PETS HAVE ALLERGIES, TOO**

**ALBERT &  
KRYSTAL  
ALMORA**

**Champions for  
Homeless Pets**

# Adopt a Pet Today!

at **PAWS**<sup>TM</sup>  
CHICAGO  
PETS ARE WORTH SAVING



With Every Adoption Get a **FREE VCA Wellness Exam PLUS FREE Follow-up Care\***

Berwyn  
**VCA BERWYN**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
2845 South Harlem Ave.  
Berwyn, IL 60402  
708-749-4200  
VCAberwyn.com

Burbank  
**VCA BURBANK**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
6161 West 79th St.  
Burbank, IL 60459  
708-599-3535  
VCAburbankil.com

Chicago  
**VCA CHICAGO NORTH**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
3631 N. Elston Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-267-1111  
VCAchicagonorth.com

Franklin Park  
**VCA FRANKLIN PARK**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
9846 West Grand Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-455-4922  
VCAfranklinpark.com

LaGrange Park  
**VCA LAGRANGE PARK**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
905 E. 31st St.  
LaGrange Park, IL 60526  
708-482-3226  
VCAlagrangepark.com

Bolingbrook  
**VCA BOLINGBROOK**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
570 Concord Ln.  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
630-759-5700  
VCAbolingbrook.com

Chicago  
**VCA LAKE SHORE**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
960 West Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60642  
312-738-3322  
VCAlakeshore.com

Chicago  
**VCA MISENER-HOLLEY**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
1545 Devon Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60660  
773-743-3322  
VCAmisener-holley.com

Highland Park  
**VCA CAIRO**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
1170 Park Avenue West  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
847-432-0157  
VCAcairo.com

Palos Hills  
**VCA WORTH**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
7727 West 111th St.  
Palos Hills, IL 60465  
708-974-3070  
VCAworth.com

\* Free wellness exam only available at a participating VCA Animal Hospital in the Chicagoland area within five days after adoption. Complimentary wellness exam must be performed within five days following adoption to activate complimentary follow-up care. Complimentary follow-up care limited to maximum of \$500 value. Emergency and specialty services not covered. Other terms and conditions apply. Contact a participating VCA Animal Hospital for more information. © 2015 VCA Inc. VCA Logo is a registered trademark of VCA Operating Inc.



AT VCA ANIMAL HOSPITALS, WE SUPPORT FOREVER HOMES

## ABOUT **PAWS**<sup>®</sup> CHICAGO

### PAWS CHICAGO'S NO KILL MODEL

PAWS Chicago is dedicated to building No Kill communities—starting with Chicago — where all healthy and treatable pets are saved. Since 1997 when PAWS Chicago was founded, the city has seen euthanasia drop more than 80 percent. These numbers are encouraging, but PAWS' work is far from done: thousands of animals' lives are still at risk. 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 inspiring people to action on behalf of homeless animals. Engaging and mobilizing individuals is what brings about real change.

Sitting atop the foundation of community engagement are the four mission-critical pillars that are essential components in solving the problem of pet euthanasia. PAWS Chicago has deployed each of these programs, which are bringing Chicago closer to No Kill:

### PREVENTION

With the majority of homeless pets originating in low income, under-resourced communities, the main tools to reduce overpopulation are spay/neuter and community outreach.

PAWS Chicago's 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 is preventing pet overpopulation. More than 60% of the reduction in euthanasia is from fewer animals entering shelters.

**2016: 17,236 animals spayed/neutered**

### ADOPTION

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

**2016: 5,125 pets adopted**

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR

No Kill means being a safe haven for animals, no matter where they come from or how much rehabilitation they need. Through PAWS Chicago's 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.

**2016: 98.41 percent saved**

### VOLUNTEERS

A dedicated team of volunteers is essential in every aspect of saving lives, including adoption, medical care, behavior rehabilitation, engagement, spay/neuter and outreach programs. Foster families provide nurturing, warm, stress-free environments that help homeless pets heal and develop socialization skills. Without this impassioned and charitable labor force, the scale and quality of PAWS Chicago's lifesaving work would not be possible.

**2016: Hours equivalent to 64 full-time staff**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### ADOPT

Meet pets in need of loving homes  
[pawschicago.org/adopt](http://pawschicago.org/adopt)

### VOLUNTEER

Donate your time. Volunteer or foster to save lives  
[pawschicago.org/volunteer](http://pawschicago.org/volunteer)  
[pawschicago.org/foster](http://pawschicago.org/foster)

### CONNECT

Become a part of our life-saving community  
[pawschicago.org](http://pawschicago.org)  
[facebook.com/pawschicago](https://facebook.com/pawschicago)

### DONATE

Help an animal in need today  
[pawschicago.org/donate](http://pawschicago.org/donate)



## DEAR FRIENDS,

How incredible that we have reached our 20th anniversary. What a milestone for PAWS Chicago! It is still shocking to think back on the state of Chicago animal welfare in 1997 and the fate of more than 40,000 innocent homeless pets being put to death in total silence. Today, looking through the pages of this magazine and seeing the pet-loving community in action for animals is a testament to how far the cause of animals has come.

Over the past 20 years, our community has reduced the number of pets killed in Chicago by 80%. Because of our robust spay/neuter and prevention programs, we are seeing fewer pets coming into our city pound each year. It shows the transformation that is possible when lifesaving programs are in place and people are engaged.

Albert and Krystal Almora on the cover of this magazine represent the next generation of animal welfare—passionate about doing good for animals and the community. Don't miss their story on page 22.

Sophia Bush, Torrey Devitto and the actors and actresses in NBC's 'One Chicago' television franchise (page 28) are also active with PAWS Chicago and saving homeless animals. And this magazine is full of stories of other heroes for homeless pets—from TEAM PAWS CHICAGO member Barb Cooke (page 34) to Joe and Laura Aguirre's touching senior pet adoption story (page 12) to hospice foster Ezequiel Garcia (page 37). These inspiring stories show the difference that each person can make in the lives of cats and dogs.

Every single supporter has been an indispensable part of PAWS Chicago's growth, making us the largest comprehensive No Kill organization in the country in just 20 years. It is the combination of support from volunteers, adopters, donors and staff that have put in place the programs that are required to save lives and are fulfilling our mission of a No Kill Chicago.

This year, you will see the first stages of our plan for the next 20 years. Construction is underway for our Underdog Enrichment Center (page 9) that will provide a special environment for the neglected, abused and under-socialized dogs in our care, giving them the confidence, love and training they need. We have also launched our campaign to expand our homeless animal Medical Center. This critical next step will enable us to save more lives of sick and injured animals (page 5). All of this designed to improve the quality of life and end the killing of homeless pets in our community and beyond.

Thank you for all you have done to help make PAWS Chicago what it is today.

Warmest regards,

*Paula Fasseas*

Paula Fasseas  
Founder and Chair

PS – Please send in your PAWS Chicago stories and photos to [pawschicago.org/mystory](http://pawschicago.org/mystory). We are looking forward to compiling our collective memories digitally and in our next issue of PAWS Chicago magazine, commemorating 20 years of lifesaving.

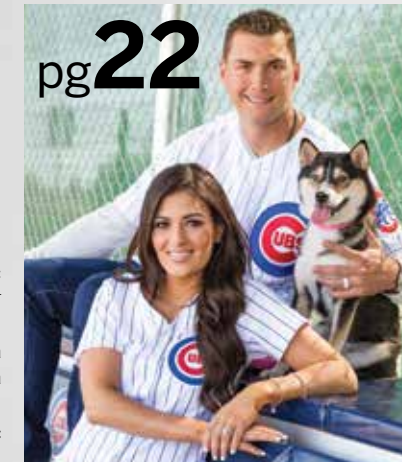
# PAWS CHICAGO

Spring/Summer 2017

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **All Things PAWS**
- 10 **Celebrating 20 Years of PAWS Chicago Lifesaving**
- 12 **Saving Humphrey**
- 14 **The Inspiring Tale of Patsy and Edina**
- 16 **Ask the Trainer**  
*Building a Better Bond*
- 18 **Ask the Vet**  
*Pets Have Allergies, Too*
- 20 **Saving Bella**  
*Adopting Pets with Allergies*
- 28 **'One Chicago' Franchise Celebs Making an Impact**
- 31 **Welcome Back Ned**  
*Shelter Alum Turned Television Star*
- 34 **TEAM PAWS CHICAGO**  
*Two Generations Running to Save Lives*
- 37 **Tender Loving Care**  
*Hospice Fostering Provides Homes to Animals with Incurable Illness*
- 38 **Special Report: Family Health**  
*Babies with Pets Dogged by Fewer Health Issues*
- 40 **International Spotlight**  
*Taiwan Adopts No Kill Legislation*
- 41 **PAWS Chicago Events**
- 44 **Who Saved Who?**
- 45 **Memorials & Tributes**

**Albert & Krystal Almora**  
*Champions For Homeless Pets*



**ON THE COVER:**  
Chicago Cubs outfielder  
Albert Almora,  
Krystal Almora  
and Luna

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
Stephen Green



**Saving the Sick & Injured**  
*PAWS Chicago Medical Center Expansion  
the Key to a No Kill Chicago*





**Chicago magazine**  
is a proud supporter of  
**PAWS Chicago**

Subscribe for \$14.95—a 25% savings  
off the regular subscription rate—and  
\$5 will go to PAWS Chicago.

Visit [chicagomag.com/subscribe](http://chicagomag.com/subscribe) and  
enter promo code "PAWS"

**CHICAGO**  
MAGAZINE

**MEDICAL CENTER CAMPAIGN**

**SAVING THE  
SICK & INJURED**

**PAWS CHICAGO  
MEDICAL CENTER  
EXPANSION  
THE KEY TO A  
NO KILL CHICAGO**



Each year, PAWS Chicago rescues more than 5,000 homeless cats and dogs whose first stop is the Medical Center, where all pets receive individual medical care, spay/neuter and vaccinations from experienced veterinarians. While many are healthy and ready for adoption, approximately 3,000 annually require more extensive medical treatment.

**Expansion Timing**

We are currently working to raise all necessary funds so that we can begin construction this fall and begin hiring and training additional medical staff. PAWS Chicago is so grateful to Maddie's Fund for making a lead gift of \$2.5 million and naming the Maddie's Homeless Pet Hospital.

PAWS Chicago is often the last hope for these animals, especially those suffering from illnesses and injuries that other rescues or shelters are not able to treat.

PAWS Chicago is the only shelter equipped with the medical resources and shelter medicine team to provide extensive, and often critical, medical care for sick and injured pets. These new plans to expand the existing Medical Center will expand capacity so that we can double the number of animals being treated at PAWS.

**Expanding to Save Lives**

The Medical Center expansion will build-out and remodel 20,000 square feet of existing unfinished and unconditioned space into a medical grade facility. This new Medical Center will enable PAWS Chicago to take in, treat and sterilize more pets. The expansion will also double our:

- Quarantine space
- Isolation space
- Foster space
- Suite space for homeless animals
- Canine play space for enrichment
- Surgical room
- Lobby area to accommodate more clients



Please consider helping us by donating to this important campaign at [pawschicago.org/medcenterexpansion](http://pawschicago.org/medcenterexpansion)

For donations of \$10,000 or more, room naming opportunities are available. Please contact Sheryl Lesch at [slesch@pawschicago.org](mailto:slesch@pawschicago.org) or 773.697.5203 for more information.



**The Most Trusted Name in Companion Animal Cremation.**

For Over 90 Years, The Most Beautiful Burial Grounds for the Interment of Your Pets in Illinois.



6400 South Bentley Avenue  
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527  
(630) 323-5120  
[www.HinsdalePet.com](http://www.HinsdalePet.com)



### HELP FAMILIES OF FALLEN AND INJURED OFFICERS WHILE BENEFITTING HOMELESS PETS

Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and PAWS Chicago have come together to launch a new public art installation and fundraising initiative called K9s for Cops.

Individuals can sponsor a dog sculpture for \$2,500. These art pieces will be on display July 23 through Labor Day along Michigan Avenue and Chicago's top hot spots.

All sponsor names will appear on the dogs. Please consider sponsoring a sculpture to support two great causes.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH THE CHICAGO POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

*K9 statues are available starting at \$2,500. To learn more, contact*

**Sheryl Lesch at [slesch@pawschicago.org](mailto:slesch@pawschicago.org) or 773.697.5203.**



### RESCUED PETS FROM DEVASTATING LOUISIANA FLOODS

At PAWS Chicago, we can't ignore the suffering of animals anywhere. That's why, following the devastating floods in Southern Louisiana in August, we sent two vans, a veterinary team and volunteers on a 13+ hour journey to save dozens of dogs and cats.

These animals were already in shelters or had been relinquished by their owners. By bringing these pets to Chicago, PAWS opened up valuable space in overcrowded shelters, enabling them to assist the dogs and cats displaced by the floods.

The team transported dozens of pets back to the PAWS Chicago Medical Center. Each pet was given complete medical care, vaccinations, microchips and spay/neuter surgeries. Many of these animals were also suffering from heartworm which, if not treated, can cause long-term damage to the dog's heart and lungs or even death.

Once medically cleared, each Louisiana animal found its new home through PAWS Chicago!



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EMERGENCY RESCUE EFFORTS AT [pawschicago.org/disasterresponse](http://pawschicago.org/disasterresponse)**

### WHAT'S BETTER THAN PUPPIES AND CANDY?!

On a sunny day in September, PAWS Chicago and Dylan's Candy BarN, the nonprofit organization created by Dylan Lauren, hosted a dog adoption event to increase awareness, save lives and help animals in need find good homes. Attendees mingled with Dylan herself as well as dozens of adorable pups sniffing out potential adopters.

The family-friendly event united 32 dogs and puppies with new families. In addition to finding a loving companion, lucky adopters received a Dylan's Candy jar to fill up with their favorite sweets!



PAWS volunteers with Dylan Lauren

### CLEAR CHANNEL HELPS FIND HOMES FOR CATS AND DOGS

In September, PAWS Chicago ads took off at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, thanks to a generous advertising donation from Clear Channel Airports. The ads, placed in and around select gates and on monitors in baggage claim, feature cats and dogs looking for loving homes.

Be sure to look for PAWS the next time you travel!



**NEW LASER HELPS SICK AND INJURED PETS**

Thanks to the support of our generous community, PAWS Chicago recently purchased a laser to be used for therapeutic and surgical needs. This device can do a number of things, from helping seniors with arthritis to expediting healing and alleviating pain after major surgeries like amputations. During each painless treatment, laser energy increases circulation, drawing water, oxygen and nutrients to the damaged area. This reduces inflammation, swelling, muscle spasms, stiffness and pain.

Lio was one of PAWS' first laser patients. When she entered our program, our veterinarians quickly identified a mass growing on her leg as a soft tissue sarcoma, a cancer that was penetrating deep into her muscle tissue. Lio's only chance at a healthy, quality life was amputation. Following her surgery, Lio quickly adapted to life on three legs. And after a few weeks at our Medical Center, where she received laser treatments, she was ready to go to her new, loving home.



HELP ANIMALS RECEIVE THE CARE THEY NEED  
[pawschicago.org/donate](http://pawschicago.org/donate)

**BUILDING THE FUTURE**

**UNDERDOG ENRICHMENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS**



This summer, PAWS Chicago is launching its newest expansion to save lives. The Underdog Enrichment Center will open next door to the Phippen Fasseas Adoption Center in Lincoln Park. It is a specially designed environment where PAWS Underdogs—those who are fearful, shy, under-socialized and behaviorally challenged—will receive the care they need. These dogs have often survived abuse or neglect and need confidence building, reassurance, structure and love.

In most shelters, these dogs would not be given the training and socialization they need to become well-adjusted family pets, but PAWS Chicago's No Kill commitment means every pet is given the individual treatment and rehabilitation needed to not just survive but thrive.

Underdogs tend to be overstimulated in the bustling Adoption Center, where there is a constant buzz of activity with dogs and people frequently passing by their suites. In many instances, this action inhibits their socialization and prevents progress. Because of their challenges, it takes longer to find the right adopters, so they are often at PAWS for six months or longer.

The new Underdog Enrichment Center will give these special guests a quiet environment away from Adoption Center crowds. Inside the Center is the Real Life Room, which simulates a home environment to help our Underdogs acclimate and socialize to family living, as well as private play space and larger housing areas.

Under the direction of PAWS Director of Canine Training & Behavior, Joan Harris, and Head Trainer Sharon Cierniak,

each Underdog receives an individual behavior modification plan taking into consideration history and needs. The daily training and socialization regimen is implemented by our trained Level 3 volunteers.

"Diamonds in the rough" is what volunteer Wayne Gailis calls them. "After nine years of experience in Dog Town, I appreciate and love these dogs," said Gailis. "They are Underdogs because of what people have done to them or not done for them.

In spite of the fact that they have been neglected and abused, they are forgiving, and given the right environment with people who are willing to train and work with them, they become some of our most loyal, loving companions."



ROOM NAMINGS ARE AVAILABLE  
 contact Sheryl Lesch at  
[slesch@pawschicago.org](mailto:slesch@pawschicago.org) or 773.697.5203



Huge Outdoor Open Play Area

Climate - Controlled Boarding



Transportation



Training & Exercise Programs

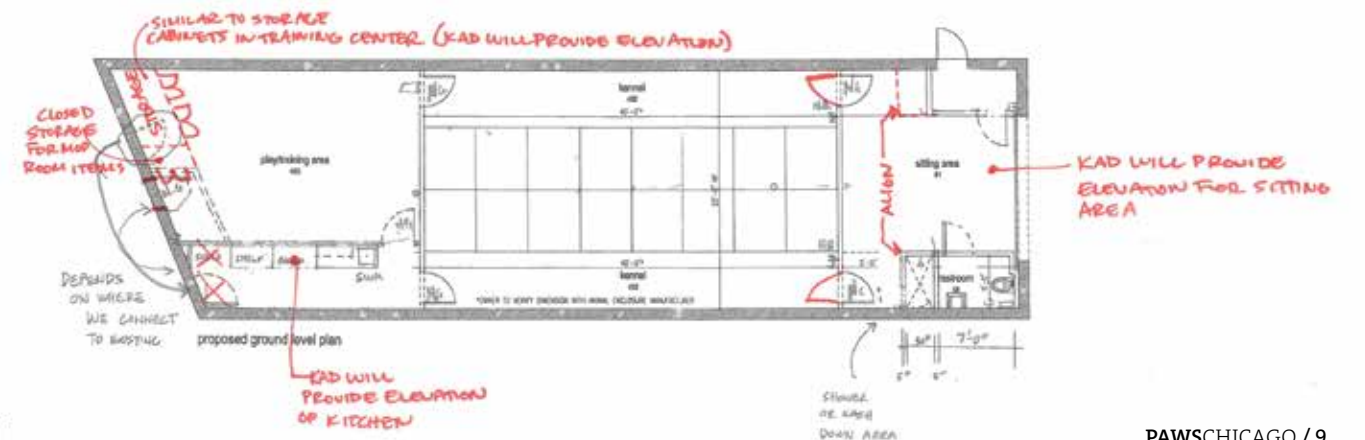
Small & Large Dog Indoor Play Areas



All Breed Grooming



24- Hour Staff



K9 University Chicago  
 2945 West Lake Street  
 773-533-5959  
[K9UChicago.com](http://K9UChicago.com)



# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PAWS CHICAGO LIFESAVING

## WHERE IT BEGAN

In 1997, PAWS founders came together and crafted a vision to usher in change for homeless animals. That year, more than 42,000 cats and dogs were put to death in Chicago animal shelters. It was a horrific secret. Euthanasia was the status quo. Killing was the way it had always been.

PAWS Chicago launched publicly on Michigan Avenue and Oak Street in May 1998. Showcasing sweet and hopeful cats and dogs whose lives were at risk made an immediate impact. Chicago media came out in full force. Chicago citizens came forward to get involved.

The underlying premise: pets are worth saving.  
The mission: building No Kill communities.

## A NEW NO KILL MODEL

Over the next 20 years, PAWS Chicago built a No Kill model for lifesaving that is referenced across the United States and around the world. It is the largest comprehensive No Kill animal organization in the country, operating:

- high-volume subsidized and free spay/neuter and prevention programs, targeted to at-risk communities where the majority of unwanted pets originate
- state-of-the-art medical and behavioral rehabilitation programs to treat sick, injured, fearful and neglected pets
- proactive adoption programs to unite pets with loving new families
- robust volunteer programs to bring thousands of people into the cause

All of this lifesaving programming is supported by a community engagement engine that is dedicated to raising awareness and bringing people together to become part of the solution to end pet euthanasia.

More at [pawschicago.org/aboutus](http://pawschicago.org/aboutus)



84% fewer pets killed annually in Chicago  
220,000+ pets spayed/neutered  
50,000+ homeless pets adopted



## THE IMPACT

Don't miss the next issue of *PAWS Chicago Magazine*—a special feature issue that will tell the story of the first 20 years. Relive the evolution, the growth, the lifesaving and the transformation.



## Tell Your PAWS Chicago Story

We want to hear from you! How has PAWS Chicago impacted you, your life, your family, your experience? Be part of our 20 year family album. Submit your memories and photographs to: [pawschicago.org/mystory](http://pawschicago.org/mystory)

# SAVING HUMPHREY

# Just What the Doctor Ordered

By Alison Martin



**Sometimes love finds you, especially at PAWS Chicago Adoption Centers. Humphrey, a 12-year-old Chihuahua with kidney failure, walked right up to Joe Aguirre and pawed at his arm. Joe lifted up his shirt sleeve. He too had kidney failure and was on dialysis. Humphrey then curled up on Joe's chest and nearly fell asleep, leaving Joe and his wife Laura little choice but to take him home to Streamwood.**

For many homeless pets with special needs, PAWS Chicago is their last chance. These pets require extensive and sometimes ongoing medical care that not every shelter can or will provide. But at PAWS Chicago, each pet is treated as an individual and given the care he or she needs, regardless of age or condition.

As a senior dog, Humphrey has a few other problems that come with age. He is partially blind and has poor depth perception. He can barely hear, and he also doesn't have any teeth. Despite his challenges, Laura and Joe make Humphrey comfortable. They like taking him on car rides, and when it's nice out, they'll take him for half-mile walks, although Laura says they often end up carrying him home.

Laura calls Humphrey a "snuggler" and says he's always nearby when she's working from home. Although he sleeps and rests for nearly 20 hours a day, Humphrey loves to dance and play. His favorite time of day is when Joe comes home from work—he loves to greet him. When his tongue hangs out the side of his mouth, Laura says her heart melts. "He just wants to be loved," she says.

Humphrey found a family who understood him better than anyone else could. And the Aguirres are head over heels in love. "Adopting Humphrey was the best thing we ever did," Laura says.



*Humphrey's Adoption*

**FIND OUT IF AN OLDER PET IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU**  
[pawschicago.org/maturepet](http://pawschicago.org/maturepet)

**Professional, Compassionate, and Personalized Veterinary Care.**  
*We understand how significant your pet is to your life.*

773.935.2311  
 1401 W. Webster Ave., Chicago, IL 60614  
[www.familypetanimalhospital.com](http://www.familypetanimalhospital.com)

**FAMILY PET**  
 animal hospital™

*Proud Supporters of PAWS Chicago*

AAHA ACCREDITED  
 The Standard of Veterinary Excellence

Cat Friendly Practice  
 By the American Association of Feline Practitioners

GAGE Diamonds... Engagements middle name  
**Pet Friendly, all dogs welcome!**

Enjoy the luxury of our 0% interest financing!  
 Visit [www.GAGEDiamonds.com](http://www.GAGEDiamonds.com)

**GAGE**  
 DIAMONDS



# The Inspiring Tale of Patsy & Edina

## DISABLED PAWS KITTENS THRIVE WITH LOVE & THERAPY

By Megan Craig

**As all social media connoisseurs know, there's no cure for the blues like cat videos. Meet your next salve for feline therapy on Instagram @patsyandedinagotorehab.**

Their names are more formal than their playful kitten antics would suggest: Patsy and Edina. Drama, adorableness and underdog inspiration abound in video and photographic form, making this dynamic duo a must-see for cat lovers.

Patsy is 'the inspector' — curious, independent and sassy, she checks her surroundings thoroughly and is constantly on the move. Edina (Eddie, for short) is the sweeter, mellower sister, who loves being held. Had it not been for PAWS Chicago, these special kittens surely wouldn't have made it.

Rescued from a hoarder at four weeks old, they came to PAWS as part of a litter of six very weak and vulnerable kittens. When PAWS veterinarian Deborah Link performed a detailed examination, she found that they were underweight, had poor hair coat, and generally were failing to thrive.

Three of the kittens had severe upper respiratory infections, and something had caused the kittens' muscles and tendons to severely contract. They also



showed abnormal neurological symptoms, which worsened to the point where they couldn't walk or even hold themselves upright, Link said, but she didn't know a cause. "Their case was very puzzling and concerning. I have never seen anything like it before or since," Link said.

The smallest of the litter didn't make it, and the two surviving kittens needed love, nurturing and support to accommodate their disabilities, which were so severe they couldn't walk, much less make it into a litter box or run and play as most kittens do.

In most shelters, these kittens would have been considered unadoptable and euthanized. But PAWS Chicago's No Kill mission attracts animal loving heroes. Denise was the perfect foster mom for these special needs kittens: she works at MedVet Chicago Rehab, a facility that specializes in animal rehabilitation.

Denise asked Dr. Beth Ellen McNamara, a former PAWS veterinarian who now runs the rehab clinic, to examine the kittens and provide a plan for their therapy. "Dr. McNamara not only examined them and provided all care pro bono, but also allowed me to bring them in for therapy daily, take equipment home and worked on them herself," said Denise. "Soon enough, they became part of the Rehab team!"

That's also where some of the cutest kitten videos come into play — after all, what's more heart-warming than watching kittens learn to swim, scoot around in assistive devices and, best of all, help each other?

Denise took the lead in their care, staying after work to use the ultrasound machine and working with the kittens at home. But their therapy was a team effort. "Everyone would work with the kittens as their schedules allowed," she said.

Patsy always had more strength, mobility and drive than Eddie, so she progressed more quickly to the active exercises and swimming. Now, she can walk and use the litter box without assistance.

"Patsy is very motivated to play and explore, so in a way it has been easier for us to rehabilitate her because she is very independent," said Dr. McNamara.

Eddie still needs some help getting into the litter box, but she's getting stronger. She can scoot around and has taken a step or two. Kaufman said they're working on strengthening her front legs so they'll be strong enough to hold her when she tries to stand up.

"Eddie was sicker longer and is also content to lay in your lap and purr, so in a way she has been more of a challenge," McNamara said.

McNamara helped Denise design and build an exercise cart for Eddie and "basically continually tweak our plan based on how they are doing," she said. She holds out hope that Eddie eventually will become independently mobile like her sister.

On Instagram, you can watch Eddie scoot around in that cart, play with toys, and cuddle with humans and her sister. The girls swim, nap, wear adorable sweaters, meet other animals and even explore the lakefront, and it's all captured in pictures and video.

"They will always likely have disabilities, Ed more so than Pat, but their quality of life under the care of Denise is good," Link said. "They are playful, affectionate cats."

Denise said watching the kittens grow and progress has given her persistence, teaching her to never stop trying.

Saving the lives of homeless pets and treating their individual needs often takes a village. From the PAWS medical team to their rehabilitation family to the loving and dedicated foster home, Patsy and Edina showcase what's possible when we come together for homeless animals.



At PAWS Chicago very sick and vulnerable



Edina's custom built exercise cart



Patsy and Edina's therapy swim team

For more pictures and video go to [instagram.com/patsyandedinagotorehab](https://www.instagram.com/patsyandedinagotorehab)

**SHARE YOUR LOVE FOSTER**  
[pawschicago.org/foster](https://pawschicago.org/foster)



Rick

ASK THE TRAINER

# BUILDING A BETTER BOND

by Alison Martin



Joan Harris with Watson

Every dog lover has experienced the rewards of the unparalleled human-canine connection. When we break down the elements of this bonding, we see a mutual level of trust and respect. A dog that trusts you knows what to expect from you. A respectful dog listens and responds to you. For more on bonding, Joan Harris, PAWS Chicago's Director of Training and Canine Behavior, sat down for a Q&A.

**What are some great ways to bond with a dog?**

**JH** Dogs as pack animals want a leader. By sticking to your priorities and boundaries, your dog will understand you and feel secure in what your response will be. Dogs who don't know the rules or don't know what to expect from you because of inconsistency are more insecure and they will not trust you the same way.

And be sure to have fun! We often see that people do not engage in enough play with their dogs, especially at the beginning. By being too serious about obedience and all the things you want from your dog, you can be creating avoidance behaviors.

**What do you think is the biggest misconception about bonding with dogs?**

**JH** People often think, "If you just love your dog, they will love you back." And yes, dogs are an incredible source of unconditional love. But dogs need a lot of other things. They're physical animals, and they're going to like the person who interacts with them and has fun with them and does the things that they enjoy. It is nice to sit on the couch and relax with your dog, but I think most dogs really bond with the person who interacts with them the most.

**How does training help you bond with your dog?**

**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 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 fear imprint periods, during which anything that frightens him could be much more lasting or even permanent.

**How can bonding over time improve your dog's life?**

**JH** All dogs look to bond—it's part of their pack dynamics. In absence of a bond, you'll see a nervous, insecure dog that doesn't really know what to do next. Bonding makes them feel secure and it's an enjoyable part of having a companion pet.

**What actions weaken bonding?**

**JH** Being too harsh, not recognizing fears that the dog has (seen by observing body language), forcing them to do things that they're afraid of, and inconsistency are the main things that will diminish or destroy a bond.

**If your dog has never had training, what is the best way to start?**

**JH** Start out by interacting with them in a playful sense with food, then start to add small bits of obedience. Keep everything very short and try to end it while they're still having fun with it. Start out slow and make it fun.

Check out the PAWS Chicago Training Center Facebook page for video tips on playing with your dog.

[facebook.com/pawschicagotrainingcenter](https://facebook.com/pawschicagotrainingcenter)

**SIGN UP FOR TRAINING!**

*From puppy school and basic manners to sport and enrichment, PAWS Chicago offers a range of innovative classes for your pup.*

Learn more at [pawschicago.org/training](https://pawschicago.org/training)



ASK THE VET

# PETS HAVE ALLERGIES,

# TOO SCRATCHING, ITCHING, SNEEZING?

by Alison Martin



**WHEN POLLEN SEASON ROLLS AROUND, YOU MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY ONE SNEEZING AND SCRATCHING. YOUR PET MIGHT BE, TOO.**

Dogs and cats develop allergies in the same way as humans, says Dr. Barbara Royal, PAWS Chicago board member and owner of the Royal Treatment Veterinary Center. She says most dogs develop skin allergies while cats often have both skin and lung problems.

But dogs are more likely to develop allergies, Royal adds, because they move in and out of the house frequently while most house cats never leave their favorite pillows. "Dogs are just exposed to so much more," she says.

In her practice, Royal sees allergies in dogs and cats with certain characteristics. Short-nosed pets such as Bulldogs, Pugs and Persian cats have a "decreased capacity to filter because of their nose." They also have more skin folds that can catch dirt and debris.

## How to Diagnose an Allergy

Most vets, including Royal herself, uses the process of elimination to determine a pet's allergy. Vets will first rule out fleas, ticks and any hormones that could be causing allergy-like symptoms.

Next, your vet will do environmental allergy and saliva testing. Your pet could be allergic to a number of things in the environment, such as dust mites or cleaning products. You may try vacuuming, cleaning air vents and dusting more frequently, or switching to a different cleaning product in your home. Washing toys can also make a big difference, Royal says.

Saliva tests identify certain foods or chemicals your pet may be allergic to. Both dogs and cats can be allergic to ingredients such as wheat, soy or dairy products. "I'm finding it's not food allergies as much as the body saying it's the wrong food," Royal says.

## Treating an Allergy

Once you and your vet have identified what your pet is allergic to, your vet will help you develop a regimen to keep allergies at bay.

For food allergies, Royal recommends getting pets off high-carb, wheat and potato diets, as they are inappropriate for a carnivore. She also recommends adding Omega-3 fish oil, fatty acids and hemp seed oils to a pet's diet. "I think the most important decision you can make for an animal is nutrition," she says.

Royal cautions against excessive bathing — she recommends no more than once every six weeks — and says dogs can go a year without a bath and be perfectly healthy. Too many baths will wash away the body's oils that help the skin. Unless there is a real clinical problem, spot treat, but don't over-bathe, she says. Topical ointments may work for environmental factors that cause itchy skin.

Shampoos also can be an irritation to animals already suffering from allergies. Detergent shampoos strip away those important natural protective oils, but Murphy's Oil Soap is inexpensive and makes a great natural alternative to dog shampoo.

"Just look at the label and the ingredients," Royal says. "It shouldn't look like a list of chemicals."

In her practice, Royal uses acupuncture and massage therapy to help pets with allergies. Some vets may also recommend medications, if appropriate.

When a pet has an allergy, it's important to take it seriously. An allergy is the body's way of telling you that something is wrong, and it works the same way for pets.



## Allergy Symptoms in Cats and Dogs

**Royal considers allergies to be an emergency, so it's important to be on the lookout for potential allergy symptoms. The sooner you identify an allergy, the sooner you can help your pet.**

### Some of the most common symptoms:

- \* Increased scratching, especially around the head and temples for cats
- \* Sneezing
- \* Constant licking
- \* Swollen paws or frequent paw chewing
- \* Itchy or runny eyes
- \* Red, moist or scabbed skin from itching
- \* Vomiting
- \* Diarrhea



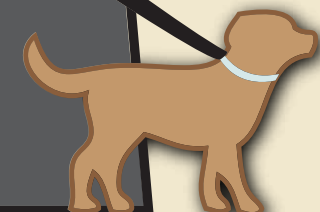
**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PETS AND ALLERGIES**  
[pawschicago.org/dogallergies](http://pawschicago.org/dogallergies)  
[pawschicago.org/catallergies](http://pawschicago.org/catallergies)

# CHICAGO DOG WALKERS!

[www.chicago-dogwalkers.com](http://www.chicago-dogwalkers.com)

- SAME DAILY WALKER
- INDIVIDUALLY WALKED
- NO CANCELLATION POLICY
- RESCUE DISCOUNT
- INSURED AND BONDED
- CREDIT CARDS WELCOME

Proud supporter of  
**PAWS Chicago**



# SAVING BELLA

ADOPTING WITH ALLERGIES

by Megan Craig



**BEFORE HE MET RESCUE DOG BELLA, DAN MAURO KNEW HE WANTED A FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER. HE'D GROWN UP AROUND THE BREED AND KEPT AN EYE OUT AT PAWS CHICAGO FOR DOGS BEARING SIMILAR FEATURES.**

Soon enough, Bella came to the facility. Dan suspects she is half Flat-Coated Retriever, half Border Collie — a great mix, and just the dog he hoped to find.

"I've never met a dog that has such little idea of personal space, and I mean that in a good way," Dan said. "You bear hug her and she'll give you a kiss. She never wiggles away. She just wants to be right there with you."

But Bella didn't look exactly as Dan expected her to. When she came to PAWS in 2009, she was 90 percent bald and had scratched herself to the point of bleeding because of severe allergies.

PAWS had taken her in despite not having room in its medical facility because "they knew if she'd gone anywhere else, she'd likely be euthanized because her allergies were so severe," said Anita Mauro, Dan's wife and Bella's co-parent. "But her personality was off the charts, so they had to figure out a way to take her in."

The Mauros weren't deterred. They took Bella right away, first as a foster, and worked with a veterinary dermatologist to determine whether her allergies were food-based or environmental. They experimented with different diets — fish-based foods and different types of grains — before determining that she wasn't allergic to foods.

Then came the scratch test to find environmental factors. Suddenly, the Mauro family had answers for beloved Bella.

"Dust mites, fleas, pollen, grass — she's allergic to pretty much everything," Dan said.

They noticed an improvement during winter, but when spring came around, Bella's allergies flared up again. Allergy shots allowed some relief, and a new drug had just come on the market that cured the rest of her allergy symptoms.

"It was a miracle," Dan said of the drug, Apoquel. "It doesn't cure the actual allergies, but it blocks the itching sensation, and if she doesn't feel the itch, she doesn't have the compulsion to itch and scratch and bite at it."

“

*You bear hug her and she'll give you a kiss. She never wiggles away.*

— Dan Mauro

”

In addition to finding the medication, the Mauros went above and beyond to ensure Bella's allergies wouldn't get the best of a great dog. They feed her a fish-based diet because the fish oil in the food helps coat her fur to keep allergens away from her skin. They also try to keep her away from certain grains, which have been shown to trigger other allergies.

Their house is also allergen-proofed as much as possible. Anita uses a pet-safe dust-mite spray on the couches and area rugs, and she washes Bella's bedding regularly. Bella's baths include a special shampoo with an antihistamine and special moisturizing features.

On top of all that, the Mauros decided they would live better without their wall-to-wall carpet, which can trap allergens in the home. They replaced that carpet with flooring made from recycled plastic cutlery in another effort to make their house into Bella's forever home.

"I don't want to make it sound onerous because I wouldn't want people to be discouraged from adopting a dog with allergies. It's not hard or expensive — it's all pretty easy stuff. We just took some extra steps," Dan said.

Anita calls Bella "the biggest love in the world" who is totally worth the small extra steps the couple took to treat her allergies.

"She looks like a totally different dog now," Dan said. "People ask, 'What happened to your old dog? The bald one?' This is the old dog! She's just that much improved."



## FINDING ANSWERS

The Mauros, along with their veterinary dermatologist, experimented with different diets and a scratch test to determine the source of Bella's allergies.



---

# ALBERT & KRYSTAL ALMORA

---

## Champions for Homeless Pets

by Alexis Fasseas

**The eyes of a nation were on him, as was the accumulated pressure of an event 108 years in the making, a billy goat curse and generations of hopes, fears, upsets and 'wait-til-next-year's.**

It was extra innings in Game 7 of the World Series. After a 17-minute rain delay, the Cubs were at bat in the top of the 10th. They had lost a 6-3 lead in the 8th inning. Cub fandom was collectively holding its breath. Would this team overcome the weight of history, or would the trend continue in what had become classic Cub fashion—devastation and heartbreak?

That's what pinch runner Albert Almora was contending with as he ran over to first base after Kyle Schwarber had just led off the inning with a single. "As soon as I stepped foot on first base, I shockingly felt relaxed," Almora said. "I tried to take it all in and really understand the magnitude of the situation."

*continued on next page*

*Krystal, Albert and Luna at Spring Training*



continued from page 23

Kris Bryant was up and hit a deep fly ball to center. Most base runners would have trotted out half-way to second to be in scoring position in the event the ball hit the wall. But Almora's savvy baseball intellect translated to reading the ball's trajectory and Indians center fielder Rajai Davis' body position, as well as taking into consideration Davis' arm strength and accuracy. Almora made the gutsy call to tag up. He advanced to second base in what Chicago Tribune sportswriter Steve Rosenbloom called "the savviest baserunning play of the season."

That play forced the Indians to intentionally walk Anthony Rizzo. Ben Zobrist was at the plate. "When Benny hit that line drive down the line, I knew I was going to easily score a run. I wanted to make sure I stepped on every base, especially home plate, so I could go crazy with my teammates in the dugout," Almora said, reflecting on that moment.

He was the go-ahead run. The Cubs ultimately went on to win 8-7. History was made. The crowd was wild, the city of Chicago erupted. "Chicago fans are insanely powerful. We feel their intensity and support day in and day out," Almora said. "They are true fans and in my opinion are the best in baseball!"

For Almora, it was quite the capstone to complete his rookie season.

#### WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

That moment of greatness was set in motion in 2012. It was June, just months after Theo Epstein left Boston to become President of Baseball Operations for the Cubs, and it was draft time.

Seventeen-year-old Albert Almora was Epstein's first draft pick with the Cubs—the sixth player selected overall in 2012. Thinking back to that moment, Almora said, "I was really excited to potentially have the opportunity to play for Chicago and experience the atmosphere at Wrigley Field."

He had been named USA Baseball's Player of the Year in 2011 and tied a record for playing on six national teams while in high school. But his baseball lineage goes much further back. His father, Albert Sr., played baseball in Cuba before defecting to the United States more than 30 years ago. Albert Jr. began training with his father when he was just three years old.

Albert and Luna at Spring Training

“

*Chicago fans are  
insanely powerful.  
We feel their  
intensity day  
in and day out.*

– Albert Almora

”

Almora emblemized what was important to Epstein as he set out to build the team that would become World Series champions. In scouting notes from 2012, Cubs Scouting Chief Jason McLeod said, "If you look at the total package of Albert, he has the ability to no doubt play in the major leagues, but it's also the makeup and work ethic, how he carries himself and the leadership he's shown. It's what we're looking to do here with the Cubs — to bring in somebody that will be an impact player and to impact those around him."

Almora's work ethic, his 4.3 GPA in high school and his dedication to working out with his dad constantly all factored into his draft selection. "It goes back to the evaluation of him as a player on the ability, but even more on the makeup side," McLeod said. "He's driven to succeed and be the best. It will be about him and what he does for this franchise moving forward. We feel he will handle it well because of who he is and what it means to him to be great."

That solid makeup continues today. When asked about what he would say to young kids who want to pursue the dream of baseball, Almora said, "My go-to advice is to always work hard. Don't let anyone tell you, you can't do something. Work harder than everyone else, have a lot of confidence in yourself and your abilities. And most important, have fun!"

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

### MORE THAN BASEBALL

In 2016, Almora's milestones transcended the field. He and his now-wife Krystal celebrated their nuptials and welcomed their son, AJ, to the world. And, to top it off, his father successfully fought cancer and is in remission.

"Family is everything to me," Almora said. "They are my biggest critics, but also my biggest supporters. Now that I am a father, I honestly look at life in a different perspective. I can have a bad game and come home and just be a dad."

In addition to AJ, Albert is father to Luna, a Shiba Inu. Both the Almoras grew up with pets in their lives. They brought Luna home just before the passing of Dro, a Bully Breed dog who was found wandering the streets. "Having Dro by my side through some of the hardest times in my life meant everything to me," Krystal reminisces. "The little things he did like licking my face and making me smile when I got home is what it's all about."

Krystal fills with emotion when reflecting on Dro suffering from ACL surgery, subsequent infection and a spine injury. "We were told he wouldn't be able to walk again, but I knew he had more time on this earth. We dedicated everything we had to get him mentally, physically and emotionally healthy and walking again." And, through love, determination and persistence, they succeeded. He lived another three years.

"The journey we had in the end was incredibly difficult but worth every second," Krystal said. "I want to get involved in animal welfare because I have love for every animal. The memories I had with my pets who helped and loved me through challenging times is something I want others to experience and embrace. It's important to get involved and give back to our pet community."

*Albert and Luna heading for home*



*We want to increase the odds for shelter dogs.*

*– Albert and Krystal Almora*



### THE ALMORAS' INTENTIONAL WALK FOR HOMELESS PETS

Next up, the Almoras will be partnering with PAWS Chicago to engage the community in helping homeless animals through their Intentional Walk campaign. "Chicago definitely feels like my second home," Albert said. "This city treats my family very well, which is something I will forever be grateful for." And now he is looking to give back.

"It makes me happy to know I can make a difference in saving an animal's life by raising awareness for pet adoption," Krystal said. "I want to contribute to something close to my heart, which is why Albert and I look forward to teaming up with PAWS Chicago for The Almoras' Intentional Walk."

The Almoras are looking to help raise awareness for homeless animals. "We want to increase the odds of winning for shelter dogs by encouraging people to volunteer at local shelters to walk and interact with dogs," Albert said. "We understand many people want to help pets but are not in the position to adopt or foster an animal, so we wanted to launch a program that will encourage pet lovers to find time to walk a shelter dog."

"Pets are important to me," Albert said. "They make a family whole and can bring so much happiness. There's nothing like that feeling of coming home after a long day to be greeted with a big kiss."

Now Albert, Krystal and AJ will share that love with homeless animals and PAWS Chicago.



*Rally and Volunteer*



*Kiara and Volunteer*



*Missy and Volunteer*

### INTENTIONAL WALK CAMPAIGN

For more information on how to get involved in the Intentional Walk campaign visit [pawschicago.org/intentionalwalk](https://pawschicago.org/intentionalwalk)

# 'CHICAGO' FRANCHISE CELEBS MAKING AN IMPACT

## MEET THE PAWS CHICAGO ADVOCATES, ADOPTERS & FOSTERS

by Danielle Gordon

Photos by Paul Octavious

Dick Wolf's 'One Chicago' franchise has not only taken the city to the world—it has brought celebrities here like never before. These actors are not only adding flair to Chicago's fine dining and local hot spots—they are also supporting community causes, including helping PAWS Chicago raise awareness for the city's homeless pets.

In addition to individual cast members **Sophia Bush, Torrey Devitto, Patti Murin, Monica Barbaro and Yuri Sardarov** adopting, volunteering and fostering for PAWS Chicago, NBC hosted its 'One Chicago' Day at Lagunitas Brewing Company and invited homeless pets. The event brought cast members together to celebrate the four Windy City shows and PAWS brought six dogs in need of homes to meet and get their photos taken with the talent to shine a spotlight on the importance of pet adoption. These lucky homeless pups got lots of love from animal-loving stars, spreading awareness about homeless animals.



Tamarin taking a break on set



**Sophia Bush – Chicago P.D.**  
PAWS Chicago Foster and Adopter

"I can't encourage people enough, please don't buy animals," she told People magazine. "Please, please adopt. I think it's ridiculous to support over-breeding, puppy mills, cruelty in any avenue, when there are thousands of dogs a day getting put down because no one wants them. And rescue dogs are always nicer than purebred dogs, anyway."



**Monica Barbaro – Chicago Justice**  
PAWS Chicago Foster

"My boyfriend and I had the incredible opportunity to foster Nectarine with PAWS Chicago. She was sweet as could be at about two years old, but no one would adopt her because, like many homeless dogs, there wasn't any history about how she might behave in the home. We took her in and learned instantly that she was highly trainable and, once comfortable, completely housebroken. We fell in love but weren't in the best position to take on the responsibility of adopting a dog at the time. We said a tearful goodbye to her at PAWS and were so grateful to find out that the very next day she was adopted by the perfect family. The whole process was the most rewarding volunteer experience I've ever had. We still talk about Nectarine and how happy she must be in her forever home. I can't wait to foster again."

**Torrey Devitto – Chicago Med**  
PAWS Chicago Kitty City Volunteer

"Animals to me represent the purity and innocence that's inside all of us that at times gets lost. There is nothing like the companionship of an animal. They are such great reminders that love trumps all prejudices. A cuddle with an animal can literally turn around an entire day."



**Yuri Sardarov – Chicago Fire**  
PAWS Chicago Adopter

"About a year ago, I adopted an adorable Terrier/Dachshund named Lola Bunny from PAWS Chicago. She got her name because she hopped around with her stubby legs and puppy energy. Lola is very special and has a lot of love to give."



continued on next page

FOLLOW THESE ADVOCATES FOR HOMELESS PETS ON INSTAGRAM

@sophiabush

@torreydevitto

@monicabarbaro

@yursar



from previous page

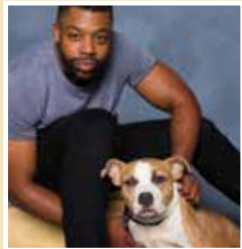
**Jason Beghe – Chicago P.D.**

“My wife Angie and I have a ranch with seven dogs, three horses, chickens, ducks, cats and even turtles. We’ve used the ranch to rescue and foster hundreds of animals. One of our dogs, a Pug named Daisy, was a fantastic award-winning therapy dog who helped an autistic child speak his first word. She was an amazing dog.”



**LaRoyce Hawkins – Chicago P.D.**

“I fell in love with LoveBug and I’m proud to say we helped this amazing animal find a home with some loving owners!”



**Rachel DiPillo – Chicago Med**

“I love all animals but dogs take the cake for me. Everyone loves dogs. They’re so loyal, happy, emotionally intelligent and easy to please. Historically, they were bred to protect us. And I believe they often do what a human wouldn’t.”



**Oliver Platt – Chicago Med**

“My dad was a diplomat. We moved around a lot and weren’t able to have pets. But today, I have two dogs: Noodle and Waffles, who I adore. I think both dogs would be perfect Chicago Med cast members. Noodle would work in the ER while Waffles, my more sensitive pup, would be more of a therapy dog.”



**Eamonn Walker – Chicago Fire**

“I grew up with a Mynah bird who knew all kinds of catch phrases, some of which I can’t repeat. I love animals but due to my busy shooting schedule, I can’t have a dog right now. When you have a dog, it’s a serious relationship, one I’d like to have in the future.”




**Colin Donnell – Chicago Med**

“My wife (Patti Murin from Chicago Med and a PAWS Chicago volunteer) and I have two rescue dogs: a Jack Russell mix and a Rat Terrier/Greyhound mix. They provide total companionship and unconditional love. Plus, they give us an excuse to walk and be active every day. We joke that we are ‘covered in puppies’ when the dogs decide it’s cuddle time. If you follow me on social media, you’ll see that 90 percent of my posts are dog related.”

**Patti Murin – Chicago Med  
PAWS Chicago Dog Town Volunteer**

“I chose to volunteer at PAWS because the incredible work they’ve done with homeless animals is so obviously reflected in the numbers and statistics of euthanized animals in the Chicago area. Seeing how drastically that number declined since PAWS was established made me want to be part of the mission to get that number to zero. I will do anything for animals, and finding a community like PAWS, where everyone feels exactly the same, is uplifting and inspirational.”

 Follow the 'One Chicago' family on Instagram #onechicago



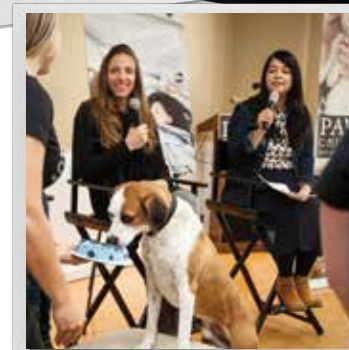
ON MAY 10, 2017, PAWS CHICAGO WELCOMED OUR VERY OWN ALUM TURNED TELEVISION STAR, NED, AND HIS *DOWNWARD DOG* CO-STAR, ALLISON TOLMAN for an exciting press conference event. The event served as a special reunion for Ned and the staff and volunteers who worked with him during his time at PAWS, as well as a celebration of his television debut. The celebration concluded with a birthday cake for Ned, who turned four, and an announcement that *Downward Dog* would sponsor adoption fees for dogs and cats in Ned’s honor.



Left to right: Danette Chavez, AV Club  
Joan Harris, PAWS Chicago Director of Training  
Allison Tolman, Downward Dog Co-Star  
Nicole Handley, Ned’s Trainer and Owner



Greeting PAWS foster mom



Happy Birthday Ned



# ALL PAWS ON DECK.

— CLIMB ABOARD MERCURY'S CANINE CRUISE —

Give your dog a special treat this summer aboard Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline. Our 90-minute Canine Cruise offers you and your pup a unique way to see the city and to meet some new friends. Tours depart Saturday and Sunday mornings.

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT [MERCURYCRUISES.COM](http://MERCURYCRUISES.COM)  
OR VISIT OUR DOCKSIDE BOX OFFICE



Departing from Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive on Chicago's Riverwalk • 112 E. Wacker Drive

# BLUM ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Proud Supporter of PAWS Chicago

— Experience the Difference —

- 🐾 complimentary physical exam for all newly adopted PAWS pets  
(exclusively for newly adopted pets and new patients of Blum Animal Hospital)
- 🐾 celebrating over 60 years of veterinary services
- 🐾 voted *Chicago's Favorite Pet Hospital*
- 🐾 compassionate, high quality medical care and superior customer service
- 🐾 conveniently located with complimentary parking



3219 N. Clark Street

[www.blumvet.com](http://www.blumvet.com)

773.327.4446

## EXPERIENCE... a community for new and old friends

We're sure both you and your pet will make many friends at Luther Village. Our Villa and Courtyard homes offer great access to walking paths and are the first choice for many dog owners.

- Low Monthly Fees and No Second Person Fee
- Maintenance-Free Living

*Experience the Luther Village difference!*



LUTHER VILLAGE  
offered by Shaw Realty Services

[www.LutherVillage.com](http://www.LutherVillage.com)

1220 Village Drive, Arlington Heights, IL • 847-506-1919

Luther Village is a non-denominational development of The Shaw Company managed and offered by Shaw Realty Services.



AN ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITY WITH PLEASANT STUDIOS • SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOMS • DELIGHTFUL VILLA & COURTYARD HOMES





# TEAM PAWS CHICAGO

Two Generations  
Running to Save Lives

**Barb Cooke** has run the Chicago Marathon with her daughter twice in support of TEAM PAWS CHICAGO. But her daughter, Jennifer, only remembers the 2016 Marathon: Barb competed in the race in 1985 unaware that she was pregnant!

The 2016 marathon was one of the nine times Barb has taken on the 26-mile challenge. But this time, mother and daughter got to celebrate their 'second run' together.

"Can you believe this?" Barb asks after the race. "In my own small way, I am passing this experience on to her. I hope you find it as wondrous as I do." Jen has already taken after her mother, working as an Adoption Counselor for PAWS.

"I felt emotional when we got to mile 25," Jen recalls. "For the past several years, I stood around this point as a spectator and waited for my mom to run by me. I often yelled her name. A couple of times, I jumped on the course and stayed with her until the end of the race. Now, I knew how it felt to be her."

After the marathon, Barb told her daughter: "While you will forget the pain in your legs and will be bounding down stairs again by the middle of this week, the vivid and exhilarating memories of crossing that finish line will never fade. You are an official marathon runner! You did it!"

Barb and Jen's stories are just a few of the thousands of memories created by TEAM PAWS' 4,000 participants. From pounding the pavement on an icy winter morning, to sweating after a long run in afternoon sun, TEAM PAWS athletes walk, run, bike, swim and hike in events from 5Ks to Ironmen.



## HERE FROM THE TEAM

In the past 11 years, members of TEAM PAWS CHICAGO have saved more than 12,000 homeless animals. And with TEAM PAWS' support, the number of homeless dogs and cats killed each year in Chicago has dropped 80 percent since PAWS' founding in 1997. Three of our members share what being on the team means to them.

**Lora Martyn** "Running a marathon in a TEAM PAWS singlet is magical; with so many people shouting encouragement at you and thanking you, it's hard not to get choked up."

**Kyle Knezovich** "Enriching the lives of my two rescues has made me a better person and I am proud to support the PAWS mission by raising awareness for the program while helping other cats and dogs find loving homes."

**Kim Cozza** "I never considered myself to be a runner, but my love for animals quickly outweighed any doubt that I could run. I joined the team to challenge myself physically while also raising money for a cause dear to my heart, and I haven't looked back since."



Lora Martyn



Kyle Knezovich



Kim Cozza



**JOIN THE TEAM**  
Registration is now open at  
[teampaws.org](http://teampaws.org)



# Cat Hospital of Chicago

Colleen Currigan DVM  
Elizabeth Czerwonky DVM  
Mariah Foose DVM  
Daphne Thompson DVM

773-539-9080

[www.cathospitalofchicago.com](http://www.cathospitalofchicago.com)

2851 W. Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60618

- ▶ Comprehensive internal medicine, surgical, and dental care
- ▶ Recognized **Gold Standard** Cat Friendly by the American Association of Feline Practitioners
- ▶ Tranquil, cat-exclusive environment
- ▶ Free parking lot
- ▶ **STATE OF THE ART MEDICAL CARE**
- ▶ **100% LASER SURGERY**
- ▶ **100% DIGITAL RADIOLOGY**
- ▶ **THERAPEUTIC LASER THERAPY**
- ▶ **ACUPUNCTURE**
- ▶ **BEHAVIOR CONSULTATIONS**

\$15 off your initial visit (new clients)

PLUS

\$15 donated to PAWS Chicago (all clients)

limit 1 per household  
coupon must be present at time of visit



# TENDER LOVING CARE

Hospice fostering provides homes to PAWS animals diagnosed with manageable, but incurable illnesses

by Allison Ledwon

**FOSTER PARENTS SAVE LIVES. NURTURING FROM BIRTH UNTIL WEANED; HEALING FROM SURGERY OR DISEASE; NOURISHING THE UNDERWEIGHT; CONDITIONING THE OVERWEIGHT.** These heroes, who temporarily open their homes to animals in need, are essential to PAWS Chicago's ability to help more than 5,000 homeless pets each year.

But there is a special breed of foster families who know their foster pet will not go on to live out their years as a spoiled and loved family member. Welcome to the world of the hospice foster, where the joy of life, however short it may be, overshadows anticipated loss.

Hospice fosters give homes to PAWS animals diagnosed with manageable, but incurable illnesses that require extra care for the remainder of their lives. In traditional shelters, these animals would be euthanized, but thanks to PAWS Chicago, its advanced shelter medicine program and its network of hospice fosters, these dogs and cats are given the gift that every pet deserves: a chance to live the remainder of their lives in a comfortable environment with people who love them.

Ezequiel Garcia is a registered nurse who adopted from PAWS before becoming a foster. When asked why he decided to work specifically with the hospice foster program, he credited his profession. "I see so many things in the hospital, and I figured that I could give animals who have their last

weeks or days or months something," Ezequiel says. "I'm a positive person and I could give them the best days of their lives for what they have left. I have the room and the time."

Ezequiel currently is fostering two-year old Siamese Mikos, who has been diagnosed with Feline Leukemia, or FeLV, which can cause cancer, blood disorders and a weakened immune system. There is not a cure for FeLV, but it can be managed through treatment.

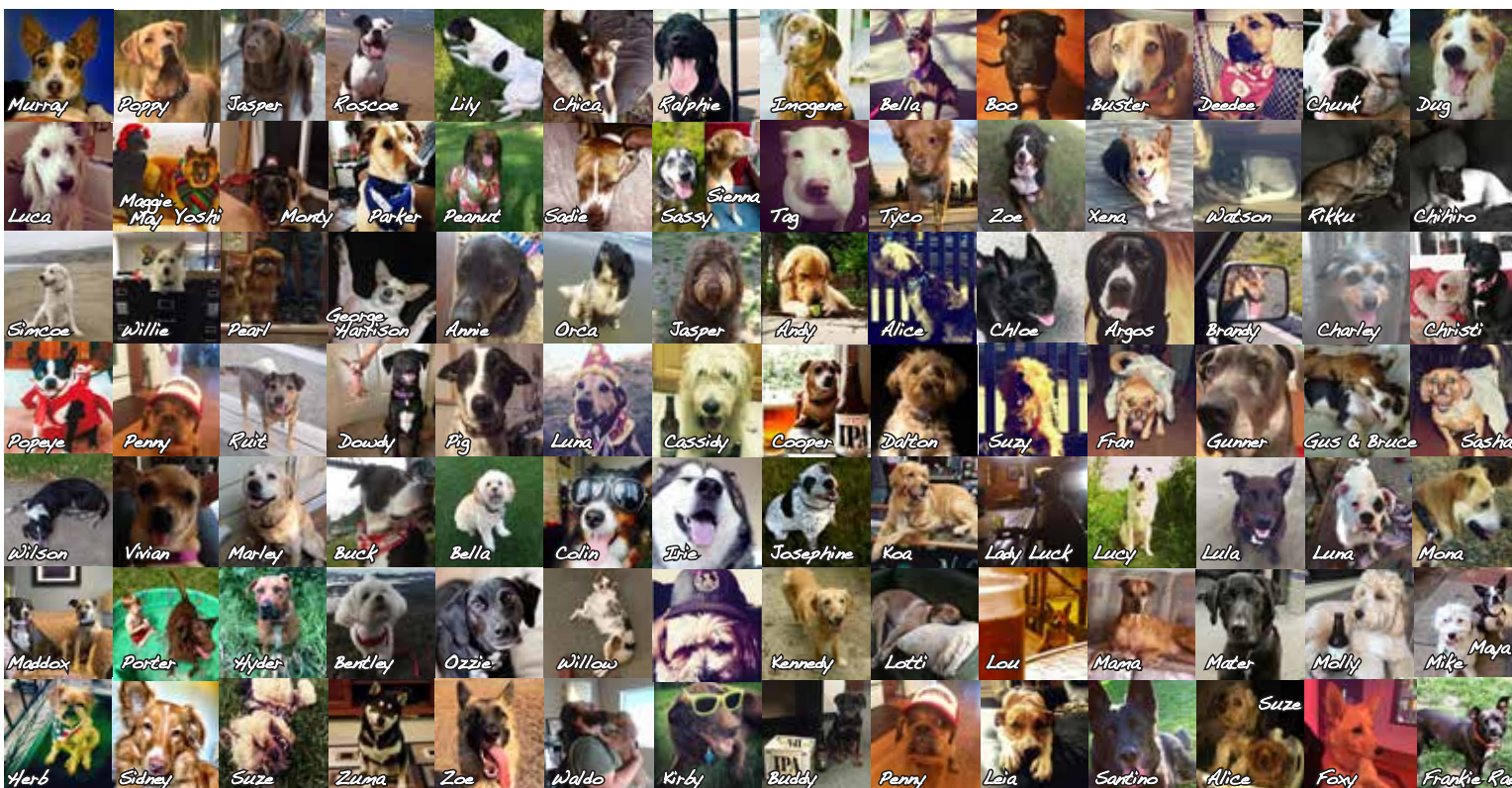
This disease certainly does not mean that Mikos is any less of a rambunctious cat. Ezequiel says Mikos will be sitting quietly at his side on the couch and then suddenly zoom throughout their home to find his dog Jewel and proceed to nibble her ears. "She's awesome. You would never know that she's ill. She's a joy to have, and is actually bringing me joy," says Ezequiel. He says he even enjoys Mikos' attempts to sleep on his head.

It would seem that fostering a pet with an incurable illness would take an emotional toll, but Ezequiel says he manages. "I know what to expect," he says. "I just tell myself every day that I'm giving her the best time of her life here with me. She can run around, I can show her a lot of love. To me, that's what makes it easier."



Ezequiel and Mikos

INTERESTED IN FOSTERING? VISIT [pawschicago.org/foster](http://pawschicago.org/foster)



**LAGUNITAS**  
BREWING COMPANY  
2607 W. 17TH ST., CHICAGO, ILL. • LAGUNITAS.COM

JUST A FEW OF THE BREW PUPS THAT CALL US THEIR OWN...

#BeerSpeaksDogsDrool @lagunitasbeer

# Babies With Pets Dogged By Fewer Health Issues?

by Mary Bittel



Maisie with PAWS Alum Wendell

**FEW THINGS ARE MORE HEARTWARMING THAN WATCHING PETS AND KIDS INTERACT. FURRY FRIENDS PROVIDE ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN, EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZATION. THEY CAN ALSO TEACH LASTING LESSONS ABOUT COMPASSION AND RESPONSIBILITY. NOW, A RECENT UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (U OF A) STUDY SUGGESTS THAT THE EARLY COMPANY OF DOGS AND CATS MAY EVEN HELP MAKE CHILDREN LESS PRONE TO VARIOUS HEALTH ISSUES, TOO.**

Researchers found that exposing babies and expectant mothers to household pets — 70% of which were dogs — seemed to be associated with increased development of two gut bacterial strains: Ruminococcus and Oscillospira. Each strain is linked to a lower risk of allergies and obesity, respectively.

The study, published in the journal *Microbiome* with an editorial appearing in *Nature*, analyzed fecal samples from babies registered in the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) research initiative. It was led by Anita Kozyrskyj, a U of A pediatric epidemiologist considered one of the world's foremost researchers on gut microbes — microscopic organisms residing in the digestive tracts of animals and humans.

Kozyrskyj and her team discovered that in-home pet exposure appeared to positively affect babies in the womb, and up to three months post-delivery. The immunity-boosting dynamic even occurred in conjunction with antibiotics during birth, absence of breastfeeding, and C-section versus traditional delivery. Kozyrskyj's previous

work found that all three of these scenarios were linked to reduced immunity. Study results also indicated that the presence of household pets was associated with a decreased chance of group B Strep (GBS) transmission during birth.

"The abundance of [Ruminococcus and Oscillospira] were increased two-fold when there was a pet in the house," summarized Kozyrskyj. "There is definitely a critical window of time when gut immunity and microbes co-develop; and when disruptions to the process result in changes to gut immunity."

Interestingly, Kozyrskyj's research supports certain previous studies suggesting that pet exposure may help protect infants and young children from various health conditions.

Reporting in the journal *Pediatrics*, for example, Finnish researchers found that babies who grow up in homes with dogs or cats appeared less likely to get sick than children in pet-free households. This study, led by Kuopio University Hospital pediatrician Dr. Eija Bergroth, suggested that young children in homes with pets were 44% less likely to develop ear infections and 29% less likely to receive antibiotics. Here again, Bergroth's study seems to illustrate the significance of early exposure.

A paper originally published in the British Medical Journal in 1989 proposed what has since come to be known as the "hygiene hypothesis." This premise suggests that young immune systems mature most effectively when exposed to an optimal balance of germs. Too many germs are unhealthy — but so is an overly sterile environment.

It's therefore at least theoretically possible that early exposure to pet dander and fur-based microbes may help 'train' developing immune systems to combat daily allergens and infectious agents. In the case of Kozyrskyj's study, pet exposure may modify the expectant mother's own microbes in some way. These changes could be passed along during birth, then directly transferred during very young childhood through direct contact with pets and household surfaces.

The underlying mechanism is still unclear. So until more is understood, it's important to maintain appropriate perspective. Bringing a pet into the home when a child is already asthmatic or sickly, for instance, may actually do more harm than good. But thought-provoking findings like these will likely encourage researchers to investigate further, exploring the critical questions of 'why' and 'how' in greater detail.

Until then, evidence continues to suggest that animal companionship may be beneficial to many humans on a multitude of levels — even at incredibly early stages of life. Just one more reason, perhaps, to become a lifelong pet lover.

**Children in homes with pets were**

**44%** less likely to develop ear infections and

**29%** less likely to receive antibiotics.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PETS AND BABIES**  
[pawschicago.org/baby](http://pawschicago.org/baby)



OPEN 24 HOURS		
WEBCAMS		
ALL-SUITES		
AIRPORT PARKING		
DAYCARE		
BOARDING		
SPA		
TRAINING		



**25% OFF YOUR FIRST STAY\***

**Two Chicago Airport Locations**

Chicago O'Hare (ORD) and Chicago Midway (MDW)  
 847.678.1200 | [Paradise4Paws.com](http://Paradise4Paws.com) | [f/Paradise4Paws](https://www.facebook.com/Paradise4Paws)

\* See website for terms and details on new client special. Expires 12/20/17.

# POOCH HOTEL

OPEN 24 HOURS
WEBCAMS
DAYCARE
BOARDING
SPA
TRAINING
PICK-UP/DROP-OFF SERVICE

**FREE FIRST DAY OF PLAY\***

**Two Chicago Locations To Serve You**

<b>West Loop</b> 1214 W. Monroe St. Chicago, IL 60607 <b>312.243.2700</b> info-westloop@PoochHotel.com	<b>Lincoln Park</b> 2228 N. Clybourn Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 <b>773.348.2646</b> info-lincolnpark@PoochHotel.com
--	---

[PoochHotel.com](http://PoochHotel.com)

\*See website for terms and details on new client special. Expires 12/20/17.

# TAIWAN ADOPTS NO KILL LEGISLATION



Shelter animals in Taiwan have received a permanent stay of execution after the country's parliament passed a law banning euthanasia for animals not adopted from shelters. Instead, the legislation encourages owners to spay and neuter their pets and encourage the adoption of homeless animals.

This progressive legislation has roots in a 2013 documentary, *Twelve Nights*, a story of dogs forced into cages, mistreated and ultimately killed in one of Taiwan's animal shelters. Although parliament passed the Animal Protection Act in 2015, the euthanasia provision didn't take effect until February after a two-year 'sunset provision' designed to allow shelters time to prepare for the ban.

Stray animals have plagued Taiwan since the 1980s, when an economic boom led to a dramatic rise in ownership of pets. By the mid-1990s, official estimates put the number of stray dogs on the island a little larger than the state population of Massachusetts at 666,590.

Public outcry erupted in 1998, as campaigns by activists revealed that municipal governments were starving, drowning or even burying alive their stray animals. In response, the government updated its animal protection law and expanded its system of shelters. The law allowed for the killing of animals kept in shelters "that are not claimed, adopted or properly disposed of over 12 days following a notice or public announcement" of the animal's availability.

A Taiwanese animal rights group, Life Conservationist Association, estimates that more than 1.2 million



animals not adopted from shelters in Taiwan have been euthanized since 1999. (For comparison, estimates show that about 2.7 million animals not adopted from shelters in the United States are euthanized every year.)

"Animal protection in Taiwan has moved toward a new milestone," Life Conservationist Association executive director Ho Tsung-hsun said in a statement posted to the group's website.

But Taiwan's Council of Agriculture said the ban could lead to poor quality in the country's existing shelters. The council warned that surging intake without a massive uptick in the number of adoptions would mean overcrowding and less focus on each animal's welfare.

"It's impossible for there to be no problems," said Wang Chung-shu, deputy chief of the animal husbandry department, according to the *China Times*.

Even before the Animal Protection Act came into effect, Taiwan's euthanasia numbers had dropped steadily, down to a 12.38 percent euthanasia rate from 26.45 percent in 2014.

Taiwan's 'zero euthanasia' policy will be watched closely to see its lifesaving effectiveness.

**TWELVE NIGHTS DOCUMENTARY**  
is available to watch on YouTube



## WALK OR RUN FOR THEIR LIVES

[pawschicago.org/5K](http://pawschicago.org/5K)

The 16th annual PAWS Chicago 5K welcomed more than 3,000 participants and their best furry friends to walk and run to save the lives of homeless pets on July 24, 2016. Funds from the event helped save the lives of more than 1,300 animals.

Participants enjoyed live entertainment, food, beverages and pet friendly vendors. Special thanks to FOX 32's *Good Day Chicago* reporter Jake Hamilton and traffic reporter Jenny Milkowski who emceed the event.



### WHAT INSPIRES OUR LEAD FUNDRAISERS



#### Elly Greenspahn

*I am a long-time volunteer for PAWS Chicago and have fostered nearly 70 homeless cats and kittens. I am passionate about PAWS' mission for Chicago to become a No Kill city. Through hundreds of volunteer hours and membership on the Development Board, I know that this mission can only be accomplished if funded. PAWS Chicago's 5K Walk/Run offers me a vehicle in which I can effectively raise funds. It's become an annual tradition and each year I strive to raise more than the previous year, all in an effort to help save more lives.*



#### Frank Coco

*I've been an animal lover ever since my first dog, Jacob, an Alaskan Malamute, came into my life more than 40 years ago. I support PAWS Chicago's No Kill mission and want to be a voice for the homeless cats and dogs who need our help. To do that, I've been raising money for PAWS Chicago's 5K Walk/Run for the past 16 years. Through this effort, I know that I've helped to save countless lives and made a difference in Chicago.*



#### OFFICIAL SPONSORS

- Hinsdale Pet Memorial Services
- MedVet
- Duke Animal Hospital
- South Loop Animal Hospital
- Pets First Veterinary Clinic
- ComED
- Tito's Vodka
- Lagunitas
- White Claw Hard Seltzer

#### PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

- Blum Vets
- Animal Care Center of Chicago
- Royal Treatment Veterinary Care
- Walmart
- Carmax Foundation
- Poop 911
- Moe's Southwest Grill
- Canine Cruise
- Mobile Health and Wellness
- Burrows Moving and Storage Co.
- Pupstars Pet Care

# PAWS CHICAGO FUR BALL

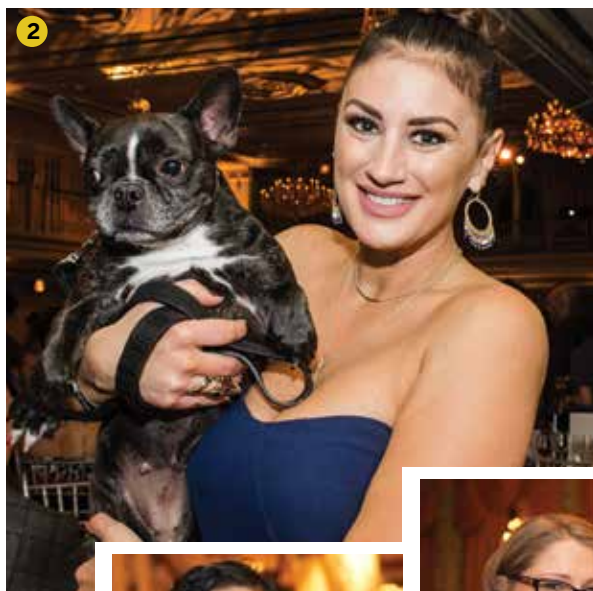
On November 18, 2016 PAWS Chicago hosted the 15th Annual Fur Ball gala at the Drake Hotel. Over 700 guests and many of their canine companions attended the sold out event, where they walked the red carpet, danced to live music, and enjoyed delicious food and drinks — even the dogs had their own buffet to dine from during the evening.

The Fur Ball is the most important evening for Chicago's homeless animals, raising almost 14 percent of the annual funds required to operate PAWS Chicago's adoption and subsidized spay/neuter programs. Through the generosity of the event sponsors, attendees, and other supporters, the Fur Ball raised over \$1.5 million.

This year's event was co-chaired by Victoria Magnus and Corey & JP Marchetti, alongside honorary co-chairs Judy & Howard Tullman.

The evening was presented by A. Marek Fine Jewelry, Scoutahead, and The Drake Hotel, while Bonnie & James Spurlock contributed \$30,000 to cover the cost of kitten vaccinations for the year. Barbara Bradford & Robert Sherman and Edie & Joseph Dombrowski donated \$25,000 each toward the spay/neuter program, with additional donations received from Raj Fernando, Nancy & Michael Timmers, Melissa & Michael Canning, and so many other generous guests.

We cannot thank our supporters enough for making the 15th Annual Fur Ball such a success!



*A. Marek*  
FINE JEWELRY

Scoutahead

The Drake  
REAL CHICAGO

SAVE THE DATE

16TH ANNUAL FUR BALL  
NOVEMBER 17, 2017

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

Janice & Philip Beck | Bartlit Beck  
Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP  
Barbara Bradford & Robert Sherman  
Melissa & Michael Canning  
Rita & John Canning  
Paula & Peter Fasseas  
Lynne Cooper Harvey Foundation  
Magnus Charitable Trust

## SIGNATURE PATRONS

Susan & Michael Frank  
Adam Grosch & Kasey Weber  
Hart Schaffner & Marx  
Beth Hayden  
Nancy & Bernie Labovitch  
Lagunitas Brewing Company  
Oak Ridge Investments  
Paragon Manufacturing

## GOLD SPONSORS

BMO Wealth Management  
Barbara Bradford & Robert Sherman  
Business Valuation Group, Inc.  
Pam & Ed Carey  
Deborah & Bruce Crown  
The Fasseas Family  
Sheryl & Donald Lesch  
Joanna Mallers  
The Marchetti Family

Anne Pramaggiore  
Ann Pharmakis Rosenbaum  
Ms. Jesse Sallerson  
Lauren & Dominic Sergi  
Mitch Serrano, JD  
Maria & Bill Smithburg  
Bonnie & James Spurlock  
Surgi-Connect LLC

Anne Marie & Murray Peretz  
Brenda & Jack Pickleman  
Robert & Mayari Pritzker Family  
Foundation  
Suzanne J. Prysak  
Muriel & Joseph Sachsel  
SF Foundation  
Nancy Timmers & Richard Ditton  
Julie & Lawrence Weisler

Thompson Coburn  
LLP  
Tito's Handmade  
Vodka  
Cody Phipps &  
Sarah Tyler-Phipps  
Vistage 429  
Walton Street  
Capital  
Mark & Heather  
Yeager

## GRAND PATRONS

Aon  
Clack Foundation  
Coyno | Markwalder | Kremer Veterinary Services  
McKinsey & Company  
Merrick Pet Care, Inc.  
Emily & Andy Mullen and Julie Scott & Susan  
Betteridge  
Petco Foundation  
Alicia & Shelby Stephenson

DÉCOR  
KEHOE DESIGNS

MEDIA SPONSOR  
MICHIGAN AVENUE MAGAZINE

- 1 The Canning Family
- 2 2016 Fur Ball Grand Ballroom Emcee Angie Taylor with Suge
- 3 Anne Marie & Murray Peretz with Chabon & Franzen
- 4 2016 Fur Ball Co-Chairs, Victoria Magnus, Corey & JP Marchetti
- 5 2016 Fur Ball Presenting Sponsor Raj Fernando of Scoutahead
- 6 Edie & Joseph Dombrowski
- 7 2016 Fur Ball Honorary Chairs Howard & Judy Tullman
- 8 Susanna Homan & Alison Victoria with Gus & Wally
- 9 2016 Fur Ball Presenting Sponsors, Robert Sherman & Barbara Bradford of A. Marek Fine Jewlery
- 10 Cody Phipps and Sarah Tyler-Phipps
- 11 Bonnie & James Spurlock
- 12 George and Amy Burin with Olive Oil and Addison Kacey
- 13 Michael & Nancy Timmers

# WHO SAVED WHO?

## PAWS RESCUE DOG RESCUES ADOPTER

by Danielle Gordon



**CHERYL FRONCZEK BEGAN FOSTERING FOR PAWS CHICAGO AFTER THE PASSING OF HER ROTTWEILER, OSA,** but little did she know that she would find a hero and a best friend. Cheryl fostered several PAWS dogs before fostering Kiah, then known as Twinkie, in October 2012. She had no idea that this little Cattle Dog mix would quite literally save her life.

According to Cheryl, about six months after she adopted Kiah from PAWS, she awoke to barking and a frantic dog jumping on top of her. Cheryl assumed that Kiah needed to go outside, although she never had needed to do so in the middle of the night before. Cheryl also noted that even when she would need to go outside, Kiah never acted like she did that night. As she walked out of her bedroom into the kitchen, Cheryl was hit with the strong, unmistakable smell of gas. It was the oven. The gas had never shut off when Cheryl turned off the oven a few hours earlier.

"I have a very, very small house and considering my alarm wouldn't have gone off for another six hours, I

“

There are places I never thought I'd go and people I would have never met if not for Kiah and I truly believe we were meant to find each other.

– Cheryl

”

have serious doubt I would have made it," Cheryl wrote. After opening all the windows quickly, Cheryl and Kiah stood outside in their yard for 20 minutes as the small house aired out.

"I was shaking so bad thinking of what could have happened," Cheryl wrote. "You hear these stories every once in a while and I was always amazed, and now I am not only amazed but so grateful."

Cheryl says this lifesaving wake-up call obviously makes Kiah a hero, but there is so much more to Kiah's heroism.

"There are places I never thought I'd go and people I would have never met if not for Kiah and I truly believe we were meant to find each other," says Cheryl. "Kiah is something very special and we have a connection and understanding of each other."

**FIND YOUR HERO**  
[pawschicago.org/adopt](https://pawschicago.org/adopt)

## Memorials & Tributes

IN MEMORY OF **ANN GERBER**



An illustrious career as a gossip columnist, Chicago icon Ann Gerber passed away on November 15, 2016, at the age of 90. Glamorous and witty, Ann was a force to be reckoned with and always first to get the scoop.

Ann's Chicago newspaper columns were must-read fodder for the city's politicians and socialites, but she also used those columns to bring awareness to the causes she cared deeply about.

Her extensive career spanned more than 65 years. She wrote for Lerner, Leader newspapers, the *Sun-Times*, *Pioneer Press*, the *Wednesday Journal*, and before retiring, for Inside Publications, the current owner of the former Lerner Newspapers.

"We competed against her [and her newspapers] for years... decades before taking over the old Lerner newspapers," said Inside Publications publisher Ron Roenigk, Ann's most recent employer. "I had hired several people to try and do in our newspapers what she did and we never got close to being that good. For such a small lady she was a giant. She was quite unique, always a surprise and could not be stereotyped. I miss her dearly."

"Ann always adopted her dogs, and animal welfare was one of her most heartfelt causes," added PAWS Chicago Founder & Chair, Paula Fasseas. "She was very supportive of our No Kill mission and I know she would be honored by the gifts given to PAWS in her memory."

"Some wore bikinis. Most were nude," she once wrote in her column, playfully describing the dogs in attendance at the PAWS Chicago Beach party. Ann loved attending all of PAWS Chicago's galas, but the elegant black-tie Fur Ball was easily her favorite.

Her beloved husband of 50 years, Bernard J. Kaplan, died just a month later, at 100 years old. Both Ann and Bernard are survived by Bernard's son, Jeffrey. Ann will be missed by all.

IN MEMORY OF **BERNICE PINK**



"I'm one of the lucky ones" may have been Bernice Pink's slogan, but everyone lucky enough to know her shared the same sentiment.

A tireless advocate for animal rights and social welfare organizations, Bernice took that luck, combined it with her love of animals and humanity, and spent a lifetime paying it forward. A longtime Chicagoan, Bernice was active in the philanthropic community, working for DIFFA, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House and the Alliance on Mental Illness. She also spent countless hours advocating for animals and was a founding board member of PAWS Chicago. Bernice proudly served as the Honorary Co-Chair for the 2nd Annual Fur Ball gala in 2003.

"Bernice had such a long history of being involved in animal welfare," said Paula Fasseas, founder and chair of PAWS Chicago. "She was part of our history from the very beginning. We shared the most incredible experience of my lifetime when we visited Animal Care & Control for the first time in 1997. PAWS Chicago was born out of that visit."

Bernice died peacefully at home on December 28, 2016, at the age of 88.

A well-loved line of dogs — Brutus, Jake, Jacamole and Pica — preceded Bernice's beloved Chihuahua Picatoo, a PAWS alumnus who now lives with Bernice's longtime housekeeper. Bernice's companion dogs all had wonderful, long lives full of travel and treats.

Bernice is survived by her children, Tom (Christina), John (Karen Schmidt) and Michael (Sharon) Pink; Carol Mendelsohn; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two nieces; and, of course, her dog Picatoo. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chester A. Pink and sister, Leah Liebman.

"Bernice was a role model for so many of us on how to grow up gracefully and fully enjoy life," adds Paula. "Always ahead of her time in every aspect of living, whether it was the arts, fashion, gardening or animals, she always advocated and made a difference. Her life force will be missed by all of us."

PAWS Chicago was honored and grateful to have been chosen to receive donations in Bernice's memory.

### MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Honor people, pets or special occasions with a lifesaving donation to PAWS Chicago. Call **773.475.4242** or visit [pawschicago.org/tributes](https://pawschicago.org/tributes)



# Memorials & Tributes

## IN MEMORY OF RACHEL WHIDDEN



Rachel Whidden always knew that her life might be short. Diagnosed at birth with cystic fibrosis, an incurable and unpredictable disease, she worked as an advocate for other CF patients while also advocating for animal rescue. Sadly, Rachel passed away from complications of cystic fibrosis on December 13, 2016.

Rachel Whidden, 25, of Park Ridge, shared her journey with cystic fibrosis and communicated with others living with the disease through her blog, "Living Fast, Dying Young." She also received inspiration from Nighthawk, a three-year-old Jack Russel Terrier- Chihuahua mix who she fostered then adopted from PAWS Chicago. In return, Nighthawk became her constant companion, providing her with love and support during long medical procedures. Nighthawk stayed by Rachel's side for hours at a time, giving her the energy to continue fighting toward recovery. And Nighthawk was there when she needed him the most. Rachel died in her sleep, with her beloved dog curled up in her arms.

Rachel was an inspiration to everyone around her and her memory lives on, in part through Nighthawk who now provides unconditional love and comfort to Whidden's sister, niece, nephew and parents.

## IN MEMORY OF JENNIFER LYNN TERRELL



Jennifer Terrell's love of animals allowed her to create family with many shelter cats over the years: Jenn, Velvet and Bruiser were especially bonded. Losing them all close together is heartbreaking.

As an adult she knew the benefit of rescuing two cats together. Jenn's lifelong love of different animals fed her spirit and nourished her gentle soul. Wherever they are now we believe it's a place of beauty, wonder and love. Sher Marin & Jeff Terrell

## IN MEMORY OF WAWA SFARNAS FASSEAS



### Wawa, small but mighty. Forever in our hearts.

Wawa might have weighed a mere three pounds, but she had a towering presence. No dog was big enough, no stranger threatening enough to dampen her spirit. Wawa was a giant stuck in a teacup.

But things had not always been so promising. When first seen at the city pound, she was a quivering, bald, neglected Chihuahua, awaiting an already proclaimed fate in the euthanasia room. PAWS Chicago whisked in to save the day and founder Paula Fasseas fostered her.

A simple daily application of cream treated her yeast infection, her spirit returned with her fur, and Paula's 84-year-old mother, Ione, fell in love. Wawa enjoyed sharing plentiful meals and generous portions, as well as burrowing under the covers with Ione. They were twins for many years, inseparable and the best of companions. When Ione went into assisted living, Wawa enjoyed her spot as the leader of Paula's pack, prancing and dancing with excitement at the sight of people she knew, issuing fair warning to those she did not.

Wawa was a force of nature that would only subside when the candle burned out at the end of a long and well-lived life. Her devotion, enthusiasm, affection and spirit will forever be missed.

## IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE RASKIN



Charles Raskin (February 26, 1999 – February 8, 2017) had a life filled with love, happiness and great devotion. Charlie was blessed with strength, good looks and an enormous appetite. Most impressively, his ability to leap effortlessly across great distances was awe-inspiring. His brother Zach and sister Maddie preceded him in death. Together, they made a wonderful trio who taught their dad endless lessons on the meaning of unqualified love and acceptance.

Charlie was the sweetest of kitties, never once complaining (even in the last few years of four times a week fluid infusions) and speaking (loudly) only when hungry, usually at 6:30 and 10:30 in the morning, noon, 3:00 in the afternoon, then 6pm and 10 pm at night. He was an independent sort, generally not all that interested in play time or cuddling. He chose his own special times to express affection, jumping onto an occupied chair or bed to cuddle and purr. He had the most unique and wonderful personality. And he was our champion: living into old age, a great observer of life, a constant presence in good times and bad, and a provider of boundless joy. Oh how he will be missed.

## IN MEMORY OF MOLLY MAZIARZ



• Molly 6/29/2001-3/10/2016 •

We adopted Molly and her sister Cassie in August 2001. They were the first pets that we've ever had. Molly loved to cuddle and would look into our eyes while we pet her. Molly was a super jumper and we would find her on top of our entertainment unit frequently. She loved "helping" with laundry and paperwork by sitting on the clothes and papers. We miss Molly every day. We are happy to support PAWS Chicago in her memory.

## IN MEMORY OF MICKEY JORDAN



Photo by Karen Morgan

Dearest Mickey,

Sixteen years was not enough. I posted pics of you always watching me and now I feel so empty and alone. I open every door hoping to see you there with your oversized nose and undersized ears. I know the pain will lessen as time marches on, but for now, our hearts are completely broken. I hope you're happy and pain-free and I hope you're receiving unlimited food. When you were with us, I was sure you could have eaten an entire bag of dog food even though you only weighed 9 pounds. I miss your demanding ways. I miss your lumpy little body nestled next to me in bed too. I miss everything about you. Until we meet again, I hope you're still peeking at me from above.

Love always,

Your adoring, lonely family, Candace, Chuck & Rooney Jordan



IN MEMORY OF BENTLEY LAWRENCE



IN MEMORY OF SIMON GLICKMAN



IN MEMORY OF LOGAN ZOLNA-PITTS



IN MEMORY OF DAISY HENRY

## contributors

Mary Bittel  
Megan Craig  
Danielle Gordon  
Allison Ledwon

Alison Martin  
Sarah McDonald  
Julia Poukatch

## photographers

Martin Aspera  
amstaphy.com

Dan Busta  
danbusta.com

Genevieve Lauren Burruss  
genevivelauraen.com

Ashley Fischer  
aefischer.com

Stephen Green  
sgreenphoto.com

Andrea Harney  
andreaharney.com

Kylie Larson  
kylielarson.com

Caitlin Lisa  
caitlinlisa.com

Penelope Martinez  
penelopemartinez.com

Alena Nicholson  
Paul Octavious  
Tina Smothers  
tinasmothersphotography.com

Sebastian Sparenga  
chicagopetphotography.com

## editorial team

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Alexis Fasseas

**Art Director**  
Colleen Barkley

**Editor**  
Julie Mazzola

**Graphic Designer**  
Nicole G'Francisco

## contact

**Advertising and Sponsorships**  
advertise@pawschicago.org | 773.475.3315

**Editorial**  
Julie Mazzola  
jmazzola@pawschicago.org | 773.475.3320

**Media**  
media@pawschicago.org

**PIPPEN FASSEAS  
ADOPTION CENTER**  
1997 N. Clybourn Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614  
773.935.PAWS

**GLENN L. FELNER  
NORTH SHORE  
ADOPTION CENTER**  
Located inside Petco  
1616 Deerfield Road  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
224.707.1190

**BLAZER BUILDING  
AND TRAINING  
CENTER**  
Training, Communications,  
Special Events and  
Development  
1933 N. Marcey Street  
Chicago, IL 60614  
773.475.4242

**MEDICAL CENTER  
AND LURIE CLINIC**  
Spay/Neuter Clinic,  
Admissions Program  
and Hospital  
3516 W. 26th Street  
Chicago, IL 60623  
773.521.SPAY

## Board of Directors

**Paula Fasseas, Executive Chair**      **George Karcazes, Secretary**  
**Pam Carey, President**              **Alexis Fasseas, Treasurer**

Janice Beck  
Barbara Bradford  
Melissa Canning  
Michael Canning  
Bruce Crown  
Charles Day  
Lisa Dent

Prof. Mark Duggan  
Peter Fasseas  
Glenn L. Felner  
Raj Fernando  
Sonia Florian  
Suzie Glickman  
Suzanne LeMignot

Amy Mack  
Mayari Pritzker  
Dr. Barbara Royal  
Bob Sherman  
Maria Smithburg  
Michael Sweig

## Development Board

**Chicago Chair**  
Victoria Magnus

**North Shore Chair**  
Julie Miller

**Professional Board Liaison**  
Katie Jones

**North Western Suburbs Chair**  
Melissa Canning

**Ambassador Co-Chair**  
Wayne Gailis

**Hospitality Co-Chairs**  
Bonnie Spurlock, Nancy  
Sterling & Judy Tullman

## Development Board Members

Donald Allerton  
Nancy Baird  
Sharon Bergen  
Dustin Bertram  
Erica Bishaf  
Aileen N. Blackwell  
Lynn Block  
Renata M. Block  
Robert Block  
Benjamin Bornstein  
Nicole Brown  
Jennifer Burg  
Jessica S. Canning  
Pamela G. Carey  
Lindsay Carlton  
Deborah L. Chapman  
Tara Clack Bell  
PJ DeCamp  
Angie DeMars  
Jackie Donnelly  
Tracy Drake  
Elaine Duffens  
Matthew Evan Duvall  
Rick Eddington  
Alexis Fasseas  
Paula Fasseas  
Candace Fates  
Steven Fatora  
Virginia L. Follmer-Stafman  
Susan Frank  
Laurie Gentle  
Kimberly Gleeson  
Suzie A. Glickman  
Christine Gnutek  
Deb Gold  
Alison Victoria Gramenos  
Merle Gross  
Elly Greenspahn  
Ramona Griffin  
Margie E. Habermann  
Amy Halstead  
Lauren Hamlin  
Meda Hatcher  
Gary Haut

Beth Hayden  
Frances C. Henkel  
Stephanie Henry  
Virginia H. Holden  
Kathryn Hopper  
Robert Hovermale  
Holly Hunt  
Shari Johnson  
Candace Jordan  
Robert Kabakoff  
Susan L. Karkomi  
Erica Kelly  
David M. Klaskin  
Dr. Tony Kremer  
Michelle Koss  
Claudia Langman  
Cheri Lawrence  
Suzanne LeMignot  
Sheryl Lesch  
Hannah Levine  
Leigh Levy  
Nancy MacIntosh  
Joanna Mallers  
Christine Mallul  
Elaine Markoutsas  
Anita L. Mauro  
Daniel P. Mauro  
Kristina McGrath  
Thomas McGuire  
Irene Michaels  
Amy Mick  
Kurt Miller  
Michele Mistovich  
Robert Montgomery  
Rita Moore  
Pam Myerson-Gratz  
Saq Nadeem  
Esther Newman  
Scott Newman  
Dawn O'Neal  
James O'Neal  
Nancy Officer  
Maria Pandolfo  
Anne Marie Peretz

Ashley Pettit  
Pamela G. Phillips Weston  
Stephanie Prousis  
Suzanne Prysak  
Ashley Quicksilver  
Laurie Randolph  
Barbara Rinella  
Sharon Rosenthal  
Jennifer Rosner  
Robin Ross  
Rebecca Sanchez  
Regina Savage  
Haley Schulman  
Mitch Serrano  
Stan Siuta  
Maria Smithburg  
Peggy G. Sorenson  
Patricia S. Spratt Bauer  
Fred Steingraber  
Lynne A. Styles  
Edmund Sweeney  
Lesley Sweeney  
Jo Ann Sweig  
Robin Tennant  
Nancy Timmers  
Andrew Tobin  
Howard A. Tullman  
Amy L. Turk  
Mallory Ulaszek  
Mark VanGorder  
Laura Wallace  
Carol Walter  
Julie Weisler  
J. Patrick Welch  
Michelle Welton  
Dori Wilson  
Heather Yeager  
Mark Yeager  
Wesley Yee  
Michael Yetnikoff  
Amy W. Yu  
Christopher Zachary

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE  
HAS ONE CONDITION:  
*Feed Them The Best.*

MERRICK IS PROUD TO BE THE  
EXCLUSIVE FEEDING PARTNER OF

PAWS<sup>®</sup>  
CHICAGO



# PAWS<sup>®</sup> CHICAGO

1997 N. CLYBOURN AVENUE,  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614  
773.935.PAWS  
PAWSCHICAGO.ORG

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HENRY, IL  
PERMIT No. 6

## Always a loving Home.

### Leave a legacy to the animals you love.

Planned gifts ensure that PAWS Chicago can continue to save the lives of homeless pets for years to come. Guardian Angels are friends of PAWS Chicago who have committed to leaving a legacy of financial support through a bequest or other planned gift. Including PAWS Chicago in your estate planning will mean shelter, food, veterinary care, medication and loving new homes for homeless animals long after your lifetime.

For more information and sample language, please call 773.475.4242 or visit [pawschicago.org/guardianangel](http://pawschicago.org/guardianangel).

*PAWS Guardian Angel  
Daniele Roberts with Tresor*

**Guardian Angel**  
Society



### A TRADITION OF NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE

With no financial support from government agencies, PAWS Chicago relies on our generous donors to save the lives of homeless pets. Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator, has consistently given PAWS Chicago its highest four-star rating, placing the organization in the top 1 percent of charities in the nation.



PAWS Chicago magazine is printed on recycled paper using environmentally friendly processes. Please recycle this magazine.