



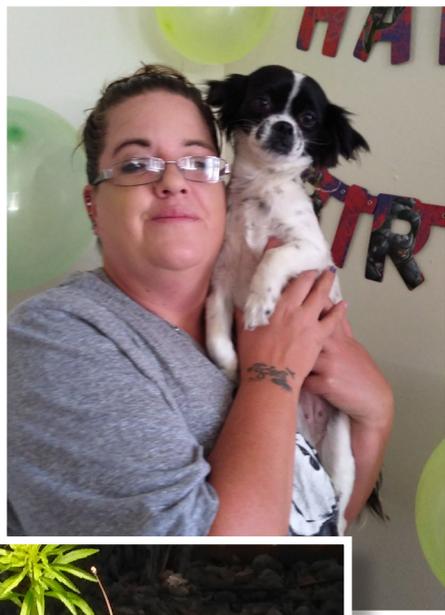
WASHINGTON COUNTY
JOHNSON CITY
ANIMAL SHELTER

July 2019 - December 2019

PAWS & TALES

Semi-Annual Newsletter of the
Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter

How Microchipping Saved My Dog



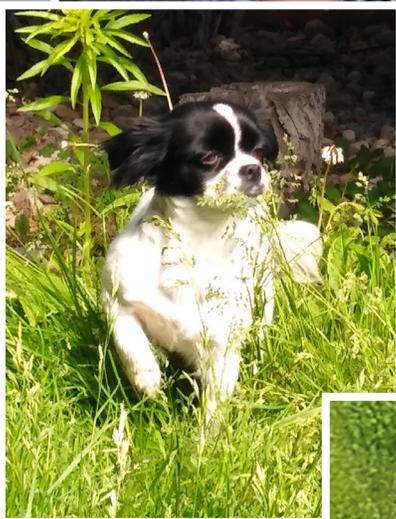
SUBMITTED BY CARMEN DAVIS, OWNER FROM COLORADO

On September 4th, 2018, I pulled into a truck stop in Fountain, Colorado for gas. I had just returned into town after a trip out of state. Patches, my little dog likes relaxing under the driver seat. Considering her small size, that's a favorite hiding spot for her. After paying for gas inside, a woman ran up to me screaming that someone had stolen my dog. I looked at the lady and said "No, she's hiding under the seat." That's when my nightmare began. Patches was gone.

I called the local police. I filed a report on her microchip. I used social media. Several months had passed when my brother contacted me. He found an ad selling my sweet Patches. I emailed the ad with no response. I never gave up hope.

Finally, a lady contacted me on Facebook. She said her ex-boyfriend had posted the ad. She also told me where I could locate Patches. It was an address in Johnson City, Tennessee. I called the police in Johnson City. I explained my story of how she had been stolen and that I needed for them to do a welfare check, and let them know that she was micro chipped. I had been searching for almost a year.

An officer returned my call two (2) hours later. Senior Animal Control Officer Wayne Thomas had my dog. He had saved my Patches. She was now safe at the WCJC Animal Shelter. I drove from Colorado Springs to Johnson City the next day, where I was greeted with open arms. Chipping her proved she belonged to me. Chipping brought my baby home. I want to send a special thank you to Officer Wayne and his wife for their kindness and support. I will always be grateful!



PATCHES



WE MICROCHIP – ONLY \$20

Microchipping provides an inexpensive and reliable proof of ownership in case of dog or cat theft, as well as, if your pet's collar breaks or is lost. See page 7 for information on microchip registration. The registration is FREE.

To have your pet microchipped, email info@wcjcanimalshelter.org or call 423-926-8769.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



WHISKEY

Greetings from your new WCJC Animal Shelter Foundation President! As I take the reigns of this wonderful Foundation, I want to first say thank you for a job well done this past year to our immediate Past-President, Marcy Walker, our Board of Directors, and especially to the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly every day for the animals in our community.

As a Foundation, we will continue to work towards being able to help each and every animal that finds their way to our animal shelter. Many of these animals have been on their own for some time and are found in various degrees of hunger, neglect and sometimes injury. The dedicated staff at our animal shelter does an amazing job each and every day to care for these animals. But we can't fulfill this mission without your continued support to our Foundation. Your contributions keep our doors open and allow us to provide necessary nutrition, medical, and surgical care.



I hope you find as much joy and inspiration as I have in the following pages of our semi-annual newsletter. Please help us get the word out about the wonderful stories happening each and every day at the WCJC Animal Shelter! Each animal adopted into a loving family is a "win" for us all.

Kind Regards,
Shelley Brouillette, DVM
President, WCJC Animal Shelter
Foundation Board

RECENT Rescues

While at the Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter, checking the status of a stray I found earlier that day, Ron & I decided to venture through to see the pups waiting on “someone”. Down the 3rd row of kennels, sat “Smokey” a red-nosed Pittie, who was labeled dog aggressive and been there almost 12 months. Not totally buying the label and then falling for his sweet demeanor, we decided to give him a chance to join our three rescues: Kona, a Belgian Shepherd; Kimber, a Pointer; and Ruger, a Pibble (rebranding name for Pitt Bulls).

After our second positive “meet and greet” with our pack, we loaded them all in the truck. Due to heavy rain we stopped in an empty parking garage. Who would have thought that less than an hour, Gunner was running off lead with the whole pack and without any issues. The enthusiasm he had was very evident and every day since has brought us great joy in seeing him flourish.

Now, several months post adoption, Gunner (aka. Smokey) has found his place in our home and hearts. He truly exhibits the loyalty, gentle demeanor, hard play and intelligence of an American Pitbull Terrier. His willingness to please, his ease to train, his confidence, love and snuggles is such a great addition to the pack.

He loves his daily runs with his family, sees a new friend in every human, young and old and every dog he meets, jumps to the heavens for his tennis balls, swims at the lake, kayaks and has joined Kimber (my paddle board captain) in manning the board with ease, grace and agility.

It just goes to show that labels mean nothing to a dog and no matter the past with enough patience, time and love, good pets are only a “walk a day” away. We urge everyone to “adopt” instead of “shop”!

Regards,
Norma J. Adams & Ron Hickman



GUNNER



GUNNER, KONA, KIMBER, AND RUGER



Newsletter Submissions

We love reading about your furry friends and we'd like to hear from you! If you would like to submit a story AND digital photo of your WCJC Animal Shelter rescue, email the story and digital photo (highest resolution you have) to masonb@etsu.edu or snail mail to:

Attn: Newsletter, WCJC Animal Shelter
3411 N. Roan Street
Johnson City, TN 37601



JAKE



It began with a post on the Washington County Animal Shelter Facebook page "old dog lovers, old lab lovers, these guys need you!". After 2,574 shares, Jake was adopted on June 30, 2019, and so our story begins.

We heard Jake was a ten (10) year old lab mix who spent his entire life tethered, wasn't good with young children, wasn't sure of his temperament with other dogs, probably anemic, and not knowing how much time this senior soul had left.

What we learned was Jake adapted to indoor life quickly, has a voracious appetite, loves car rides, long walks, getting wild during baths, loves playing with two young rambunctious girls, and continues to find great playmates along the way. We continue to discover his stubbornness beneath his loving and mellow soul.

So we decided to create a Facebook page dedicated to Jake called "A new leash on life for Jake". His first outing was to PetSmart where he promptly showed us the toy he wanted by yanking it out of the bin and dropping it on the floor at our feet. Joy rides to Cades Cove, marking his territory at Willow Springs Park, Fourth of July fireworks without even flinching, exploring the creeks of the Smoky Mountains and Limestone Cove, fishing at Watauga Lake, and meeting Mawmaw.

Going into the shelter we didn't know the kind of the dog Jake would become. We could tell immediately how much compassionate caring Jake received at the shelter and in return the kindness and warmth of this old soul that he shared with the staff and volunteers. Many tears were shed when Jake got adopted ... tears of happiness and elation as Jake was finally going to his forever home.

Take a chance on a senior. They too just wanna have fun!

Thank you!
Connie Farrington
& Daniel Honeycutt

SHELTER STATS JULY 2019 – DECEMBER 2019

# of Adoptions – Dogs	519
# of Adoptions – Cats	980
# of Reclaims	296
# of Incoming – Dogs	668
# of Incoming – Cats	1,612

Cats come and go through the doors of the WCJC Animal Shelter every day. Every now-and-then one cat steals your heart. For me that happened on 01/23/19. Stripes was supposed to be a TNR (trap-neuter-return method for feral cats) cat, but he kept making his way back to the shelter. After the second time I decided to keep him here and find him a new home. Stripes likely had spent his entire life outside so he was not accustomed to being petted and given attention. Every day for months, I would sit in front of his cage and give him treats. Eventually he trusted me and let me pet him. He was such a talker, when he would hear my voice he would meow for me. He was eventually moved to the adoption floor. When I met Vicki and showed her how he would carry on a conversation with me, she was hooked. Stripes was in the shelter 352 days before he got to go home. *Tammy Davis, Director of the WCJC Animal Shelter.*

I came in the shelter with a couple of co-workers to see the cats and kittens. As I was looking at all the beautiful cats, a striped cat caught my eye. When I went to his cage, he just looked up at me with these big green eyes. I fell in love! When I got home, I told my husband about him. That following Saturday I took my husband to meet Stripes. It took me several trips to the shelter, as I was worried if Stripes would get along with my dogs. It has worked out just fine. Stripes is now a part of our family. He is a very loving and affectionate cat.

Thank you!
Vicki Britt



STRIPES



MEDICAL Update



A female cat was brought into the shelter with an injury, so was sent to the vet immediately. She was started on antibiotics and received hydrotherapy every day. The vet advised that her tail would have to be amputated. However, the cat was in such bad health, we provided supportive care to get her stronger for surgery.

Unfortunately, the hydrotherapy caused the tail to sluff off and expose the bone even more. She was sent back to the vet and the surgery was performed. Chris Martin, a former WCJC Animal Shelter employee now works at the Veterinarian's office where the cat had surgery. *Tammy Davis, WCJC Animal Shelter Executive Director.*

Mira, a silver tabby was in very bad shape when she arrived at the WCJC Animal Shelter. Her tail was degloved (the skin had completely fallen off) exposing muscle and bone. Despite her serious injury, she was extremely friendly and wanted nothing more than to be loved. Her gentle cries for attention and nuzzles made me fall for her almost instantly. She had surgery to remove all of her tail except one vertebra which left just a nub where her tail had been. After surgery, she was the same as ever; loving and wanting attention. With her recovery, she became bolder and louder with her attention-seeking, melting the hearts of all that were around. It has been several months from surgery and she has all of her hair back and is completely healed. She lives with her two new brothers and a sister that have taken an extreme interest in this newcomer. They play and run around the house chasing and bopping each other. She became part of the family with swift ease. I am so happy that she is a part of my life and I can't imagine what life would be like without her.

*Sincerely,
Chris Martin*

MEDICAL EXPENSES

JULY 2019 –
DECEMBER 2019

TOTAL
MEDICAL CARE
ALL ANIMALS
\$38,325.80

TOTAL SPENT ON
SPAY/NEUTER
\$69,390.70

Message From the Director



Did you know spring kicks off a phenomenon known as "Kitten Season"? If you are like me and love kittens, this sounds like it would be the best time of the year. Unfortunately, if you work in a shelter or rescue, it is anything but that.

Typically, kitten season starts in May and runs through October.

A female cat can become pregnant at five months of age and have several litters of kittens each year. With each litter averaging 6-8 kittens, that can be 12-18 kittens per year from one female cat.

PLEASE SPAY/NEUTER YOUR CAT OR CATS!

Space is limited in any shelter; the huge increase of kittens during this time of year is extremely stressful on those involved. Fortunately, we have a foster program that helps reduce the number of kittens in the shelter. Kittens need to be fostered until they are over 8 weeks old and weigh more than 2 pounds. If you would be interested in fostering, please contact the shelter by emailing info@wcjcanimalshelter.org.

Tammy Davis

Director of the Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter



FRIENDS OF THE SHELTER

Friends of the Shelter provides direct support to programs that improve the welfare of animals in our community. They make important contributions for ongoing programming, allowing us to expand our critical lifesaving work. These members are our most valued supporters and leaders in making a positive impact on the lives of animals in our community.

Friends of the Shelter Funds our Future

Each member makes a monthly tax-deductible contribution of \$100, \$50, or \$25 over 12 months. Contributions may also be made in annual sums of \$1,200, \$600 or \$300.

Friends of the Shelter Save the Lives of Animals

Programs supported by Friends of the Shelter are designed specifically to save the lives of animals in our care.

How Will My Donation Help?

Friends of the Shelter contributions have helped save and improve the lives of thousands of animals in Washington County and Johnson City.

Some of the activities our Friends have funded include:

- Spay/Neuter
- Adoption services
- Providing food & supplies
- Medical care
- Feral cat population control
(feral cats are caught, spayed or neutered, and released)



◀ Pin provided to Friends of the Shelter members.

TO ENROLL, VISIT wcjcanimalshelter.org/friends-of-the-shelter/

THINGS TO Know

Microchips Help Reunite Families

Microchips greatly increase the chance that pets will be reunited with their families if they are lost or stolen. When an animal is found and taken to a shelter or veterinary clinic, one of the first things they do is scan the animal for a microchip. If they find a microchip, and if the microchip registry has accurate information, they can quickly find the animal's owner; but, a microchip only works if its registration information is accurate.

Once your pet is microchipped, there are three things you need to do: 1) make sure the microchip is registered; 2) ask your veterinarian to scan your pet's microchip at least once per year to make sure the microchip is still functioning and can be detected; and 3) keep your registration information up-to-date. If you have ever moved, or changed phone numbers or other contact information, make sure you have submitted updated information to your pet's microchip registry.

To check and update a registration, you'll need your pet's microchip number. If you don't have that easily accessible at home, your vet can scan your pet's chip for you. See www.petmicrochiplookup.org.

If you do not yet have your pet microchipped, there is no better time than now. Once chipped the registry is FREE. Please schedule an appointment with your vet.

DOGS

- 22% of lost dogs without microchips that enter shelters are reunited with their families.
- 52% of microchipped dogs are reunited with their families.

CATS

- 2% of lost cats without microchips that enter shelters are reunited with their families.
- 39% of microchipped cats are reunited with their families

NOTE: For microchipped animals that were not returned to their owners, most of the time it was due to incorrect owner information (or no owner information) in the microchip registry database – do not forget to register and keep your information updated!

MICROCHIP YOUR PET

Microchips don't replace a tag and collar, but they can make all the difference when it comes to getting your pet back.



Did You Know?



1 in 3 family pets will get lost



But only about 6 out of 10 microchips are registered



Microchipped dogs are more than twice as likely to be returned to their owners.



Microchipped cats are more than 20 times as likely to be returned to their owners.

Successful Reunions



Gidget, a dog from Pittsburgh, PA, was found more than **2500 miles** away in Portland, OR



George, a cat in California was reunited with his family after **13 years**

When a microchipped pet isn't returned home, it's usually due to incorrect or missing owner information in the microchip registry.

In 2015, HomeAgain reunited **227,274 pets**



To date, HomeAgain has reunited over **2,000,000 pets** with their owners



Register and update your pet's microchip!



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THINGS TO Know

Mental Health Benefits Of Having A Pet:

Playing with a pet elevates levels of serotonin

Reduce anxiety and depression

Helps add structure and routine

Fulfillment

Helps people socialize

Give purpose

Provide companionship



Provide sensory stress relief

They make you feel safe

Helps decrease blood pressure in stressful situations



@RealDepressionProject

HOW DOES YOUR PET FOOD RATE?



Dog Food at:
dogfoodadvisor.com

Cat Food at:
theidlecat.com

WHY SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET?

REDUCE SPRAYING & MARKING



REDUCE ROAMING

REDUCE AGGRESSION



LOWER RISK OF CANCERS



DECREASE OVERPOPULATION

© Planet Pet 2014

INCREASE LIFESPAN UP TO 3-5 YEARS



HELPING Hands

A PET'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT



*Rest in Peace Jax Deegan.
Miss you! Love you!*

Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, give their home and all they have to those they leave behind, if with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I would ask....

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give my happy home; my bowl and cozy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap, which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur; and the sweet voice that spoke my name.

I'd will to the sad, scarred, shelter dog or cat the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds. So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand." Instead, do find a dog or cat, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to them.

This is the only thing I can give...

The love I left behind.

- Author unknown



TRIBUTE SOCIETY

Our Building is Finished, But the Needs of the Animals Continue. Assist our ongoing fundraising efforts with a beautiful tribute.



Brick | \$120

Commemorative bricks can be inscribed to honor or memorialize a loved one, pet, or person. Each brick is engraved using state of the-art laser technology, ensuring durability and resistance to the elements. Your commemorative brick will help pave the exterior walkway outside the Washington County/Johnson City Animal Shelter.

Tile | \$250

Imprinted with a beloved pet's color photo and name, commemorative tiles are permanently installed on the interior walls of our Adoption Center, and serve as an everlasting tribute to the love and bond between animals and their families. Thousands of visitors each year will see these furry faces decorating our walls, and many will visit their own personal tile again and again to remember a special pet.

TO ORDER A TILE AND/OR BRICK, VISIT
www.wcjanimalshelter.org/tribute-society/

VOLUNTEERING ISN'T JUST GREAT FOR THE ANIMALS

Volunteering is the best possible kind of addiction 😊. Sometimes we expect to be at the shelter for just an hour, and soon realize that three hours have passed, and we are covered in ten (10) different dog's and/or cat's cat hair and are totally exhausted. At the same time, we are also the happiest we've been all week. This is our therapy.

WE NEED YOU! The first step to becoming a volunteer is to complete a volunteer application online at <https://wcjanimalshelter.org/volunteer/>. Volunteers needed for: dog walking, cat socialization, community outreach, laundry, sanitizing kennels, poop scooping, front desk helper, adoption counselor and greeter, kitten foster parenting and dog bather.



Birthday Party Adoption Event, by Harmony.
Harmony & Martha Sacher



OUR Mission

To create ongoing financial stability to ensure that the WCJC Animal Shelter can continue providing a safe haven for abandoned animals, including appropriate medical care and loving, permanent homes, and to increase community awareness on spay and neuter.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Shelly Brouillette (President)
docshelley@hotmail.com

Debra Deegan (Vice President)
dtwo1269@yahoo.com

Mary Finucane (Treasurer)
mlfinucane@firsthorizon.com

Tamara Marshall (Secretary)
marshall4149@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Mona Baharestani – baharestani@hotmail.com

Bryan Breeding – bryan.breeding@lpl.com

Jenny Brock (Animal Control President)
brockoj61@gmail.com

Betsy Browder – bbrowderc@aol.com

Robert Davis – rjdavis@ftb.com

Barbara Mason – masonb@etsu.edu

Tom Raymond – tom@freshairphoto.com

Marcy Walker – mwalker@hslaw.com

Lynda Wexler – lyndawexler@yahoo.com

WCJC ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTOR

Tammy Davis, tammy.davis@wcjcanimalshelter.org

EDITOR

Barbara Mason, masonb@etsu.edu

CREATIVE

Angelica Ares, angelica_ares@yahoo.com

SHELTER EVENTS



RECENT EVENTS

- New Year's Eve Fur Ball
- Moe's BBQ Halloween Party
- Maple Street Biscuit Company Fundraiser
- Barns and Noble Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular
- Century 21 Howl & Growl Trunk or Treat Adoption Event
- Wallace Subaru Return the Love Adoption Event
- Five Guys Fundraiser
- Dog-a-Palooza
- Kitty Conference with Kitten Lady, Hannah
- Barberitos Fundraiser
- DogaPalooza
- Pit Brews and Tunes
- Goat Yoga
- Dog Bowl and Alley Cats
- Winter Wonderland Event

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi



BE AN ANGEL TO THE RESCUED

Remember our furry friends through the WCJC Animal Shelter Foundation in your trust, or other estate planning documents.