



WASHINGTON COUNTY
JOHNSON CITY
ANIMAL SHELTER

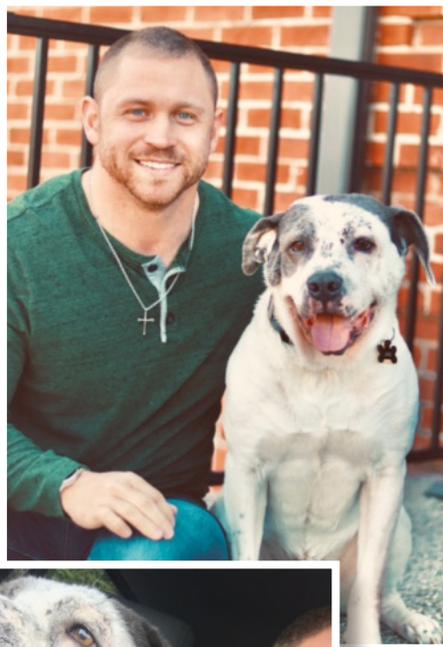
January 2019 – June 2019

PAWS & TALES

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

Anyone Who Says Money Can't Buy Happiness Has Never Paid an Adoption Fee

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GREEN



This hit me hard. Last June, I moved back to Johnson City, where I played baseball and went to college. I spent several months adjusting to my new home and job, but something was missing — that warmth that only a dog can bring to your home.

On a random day off, I headed to the shelter just to browse. I took several dogs out, but the connection just wasn't there. As I was leaving, I saw a pit mix named Jacks. His head lay on the floor, eyes drooped from defeat, face covered in scars. He wouldn't lift his head. I couldn't get Jacks out of my mind, so I went back in to meet him.

In the room, he immediately pancaked to the ground, scared and confused. I was heartbroken. He had clearly been mistreated and never experienced any kind of love. I spent 10 minutes with him and went to the next shelter.

I still could not get Jacks out of my mind, and when I went to see him again, I realized that God had sent me there to save him. I filled out an application and could not wait to give him the life every dog deserved. The next day, I returned with a collar, leash, and name tag with Jax on the front. A new name for a new beginning.

We drove off, not knowing how this adventure would go. He did not know how to go up stairs, how to get on a bed or a couch. He had never experienced a home. But we had an immediate bond, and within days, he would wake me up rubbing his head on my face, loving me, and thanking me for saving him. He was finally becoming a dog.

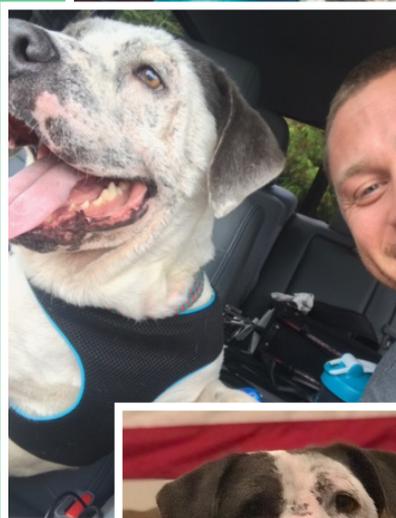
Jax would not leave the couch or my bed. He was sleeping off all the rough years. But every month, there was dramatic improvement. He went from not being able to walk more than 50 yards at a time to walking around the block. He was no longer scared of everything. He was experiencing life as a normal dog, experiencing love.

But this story isn't just about Jax. It's also about me and taking a chance. I took a chance on a breed that I grew up scared of. I took a chance on an older dog. I took a chance on a project. Every dog has feelings, needs to feel love.

Regardless of breed, Jax is hands-down the sweetest, most affectionate dog I've ever owned. Some just need more than others, and Jax was one of those dogs. He has shown me a type of love that I didn't know was possible. Good or bad days, I know one thing is constant, and that is my and Jax's love toward one another.

Take a chance and go with your gut. Never judge a dog by its appearance. If I had, I wouldn't have met my best friend. Taking that chance on Jax was the best decision I ever made. Take a chance on a dog that just wants to be loved — no matter how they look, how they act, or how old they are. It will change your life.

And most of all, don't let the word "pit" scare you. Any dog can be mean or aggressive. It's all about how you raise the dog, how you love the dog, and how you treat the dog. Pits are so misunderstood, and people are missing out on some of the best dogs you could ever ask for. They need your help. All they want is to be loved. Isn't that what everyone wants? To be loved?



JAX

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Without the services provided by our Animal Shelter, over 5,000 dogs and cats every year would not get the medical care, shelter, and the chance to find a new forever family. Through the generous support of many people in Washington County, our Animal Shelter has been able to provide a safe shelter, loving care, and medical attention for animals who are lost or abandoned.

Thanks to all who have come to the shelter to adopt, volunteer, and donate.

Within this Newsletter, you will read some heart-warming stories from people who have adopted from our Animal Shelter and how those dogs and cats have changed their lives. My hope is this Newsletter will help open your

eyes to the needs of our “furry friends”, open your hearts to adoption, and open your wallets to the financial needs of our Animal Shelter. While the Animal Shelter is partially funded by Washington County and the City of Johnson City, it relies on donations from all of us to provide the comprehensive care needed.

I hope you enjoy our first edition of the Paws & Tales Newsletter.

Marcy Walker

Marcy Walker
mwalker@hstdlaw.com
President of the WCJC Animal Shelter Foundation Board

RECENT *Rescues*

Although it was eight years ago, I still clearly remember the night that I learned of Kenzie (Lady). At the former Washington County Animal Shelter, a co-worker met Lady, a Golden Retriever mix described as gentle and sweet but considered too meek for her active sons. She texted me a picture of Lady peering through the kennel bars, and those eyes spoke to my soul.

I didn't feel ready to adopt, but I couldn't get her eyes out of mind. I had just lost three beloved fur babies within 11 months, and my mind said the time wasn't right. Yet Lady's beautiful eyes had cast a chain around my heart.

After two days of checking on Lady, I went to meet her. I knelt down and asked if she wanted to go home with me. Her look journeyed immediately into my heart, her gentle paw touched my shoulder, and she licked my tears. I knew that I had to adopt her.

After a checkup and a bath, an angel emerged. Renamed Kenzie and outfitted with a blingy pink collar and leash, she and I headed to PetSmart. Up and down the aisles, I had her select toys, a bed, and other items. Kenzie would never be unloved again.

A month later, from the stage at the Humane Society Dogwood and Cattails Ball, she looked out as if her dreams were coming true. My heart felt so happy for my Kenzie and other rescues.

I have watched Kenzie blossom into a fun-loving girl who enraptures strangers with her stare while moving closer for a head rub and back massage. She has her funny happy dance, and she loves to be dressed up, have her picture taken, and have her ears flying in the wind during car rides. Kenzie has served as a blood donor for other animals and as a therapy dog at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center.

You often hear "Who rescued who?" and it rings true. Since adopting Kenzie, I have more fully embraced life, actively supporting the Humane Society of Washington County and the new Washington County-Johnson City Animal Shelter; collaboratively spearheading a program to provide temporary care for animals while veterans without family support receive medical care, and encouraging community involvement in our shelter.

We can learn so much if we would just let animals teach us. Through Kenzie's example, I have found a greater light, a mission, a sense of freedom, and happiness.

*Thank you,
Dr. Mona Baharestani*



KENZIE

Newsletter Submissions

We love reading about your furry friends and we'd like to hear from you! If you would like to submit a letter AND photo of your WCJC Animal Shelter rescue, email the letter 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



GIDGET



SHELTER STATS JANUARY 2019 – MARCH 2019

# of Adoptions – Dogs	450
# of Adoptions – Cats	645
# of Reclaims	219
# of Incoming – Dogs	834
# of Incoming – Cats	1,064

My seventeen-year-old Blue Heeler was a rescue dog. We were inseparable. When it was time to say goodbye, I told everyone I'd need a year or two to be ready for another. A few months later, Petfinder sent me a photo from the WCJC Animal Shelter, a grinning little Red Heeler with sparkling eyes that seemed to say, "I'm yours." I held off for a month or two, though kept glancing at the photo: the smile, the eyes, those red speckles!

One June day, friends Erin and Francis posted her photo on my FB page simultaneously, "Come and meet Gigi!", "She's a great dog!" It was a Saturday and raining hard. I was grumpy. Give me a sign, I muttered, and within seconds a bolt of lightning hit very close, a real boomer that rocked the house. On my way to the shelter in the intense downpour (just to "see her"), I grumbled to myself that the lightning bolt may have meant, "Stay home, out of the weather!"

I went in, still uncertain. As it turned out, Gigi was in the windowed "Meet and Greet" area with a family, but I was welcome to wait. Just as well, I told myself as I wandered over. This part is hard to explain, but when I looked in and saw her there, all speckles and smiles, my immediate thought was, "That's my dog." I shook it off. Everyone looked happy. I could go on home. I waited and watched them. Ten minutes went by, twenty. Thirty. When at last the shelter worker came out with them, I whispered, "So, is it done? They want her?"

"They aren't 100% enthusiastic," he said. "You want to see her?"

Did!! When I entered the room with her, she grinned at me and rolled her eyes as if to say, "What took you so long?"

"I don't know," I whispered, and hugged her. "I'm yours," I said and she nodded. We've been inseparable ever since.

*Thank you,
Dr. Sandy Hiortdahl*

We got Kali and Shadow my first day of 7th grade. I remember walking into the kitten room and right as I walked by this black furball jumped out at me and started to meow like crazy! I looked at my mom and asked her if I could hold her and she said yes. The moment I got her out of her cage she started purring and meowing and I knew this was the cat that I wanted. My mom told me to put her back and go look at some others to make sure she was the one I wanted, so we walked into the main room. Our original plan was to only get one kitten, but then we walked by an amazing, friendly, sweet, and lovable calico kitten. I looked at her and thought she was really cute, but I still liked the little black furball better. But my mom on the other hand loved this kitten and long story short, we ended up bringing home two kittens that day! A year and a half later, the little black furball, who I named Shadow, is my cat, and the lovable little calico cat, named Kali, is my mom's. Although I love our two cats who we brought home, I still get sad when I think about the other almost four-hundred we had to leave behind.

*Thanks,
Lauren Lehrfeld*



SHADOW & KALI



CHARLIE

Our cat, Charlie, is a very special cat. He's special because he is a little love sponge, comedian, house decoration with his many statuesque poses, expert cabinet opener, and one of the sweetest cats I've ever known. But he is very special in another way. He is a male calico cat which is very rare, because only 1 in 3,000 calico cats is male. When the calico pattern exists in a male, it's because the cat has three sex chromosomes: two X, one Y (male). They are most always sterile, but we didn't take any chances and had Charlie neutered.

But Charlie doesn't really care about any of that...he just enjoys being a cat and has brought immense joy to our family. He keeps us entertained on a daily basis with his silly cat antics. He loves to wake me up several times every night to make biscuits on my chest. One of his favorite things is to watch the faucet drip after someone has had a shower. He is such a love bug and will reach for me with his front legs to be picked up for hugs and kisses. He knows he is not allowed in the basement, but every time I open the door to go down there, he appears out of thin air and races down the stairs only to roll around in the floor waiting for me to carry him back upstairs. I could go on and on about this wonderful cat and how much we love him, but that would turn into a book. So, I am thankful to the JCWC shelter for allowing us to adopt this special boy.

*Regards,
Mary Ann Snyder*

Through the combined efforts of the Humane Society and the Animal Shelter, I am the proud owner of a 3-year old Great Dane rescue. While her story was pretty grim, the next chapters in Rivers' life are full of hope and love.

My Airedale Terrier, Bella, and I had been mourning over the loss of our Great Dane, Zoey. I had just submitted an application to a Great Dane rescue in Knoxville, when I was notified at an Animal Shelter Foundation board meeting that the Humane Society had a Great Dane that they had rescued from one of the local mountains. It took them over 10 days to capture her. She was scared and starving. They finally were able to catch her by one of the rivers, and decided that is what they would call her.

River lived with a foster family for 2 months. During that time, she gained about 15 pounds but still needed to gain another 15 pounds to get to her target weight, she was also diagnosed with heartworms (and later with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever).

Within minutes of River visiting our home, Bella and River instantly bonded. Bella was so happy to have a new "big-sister" and I was ecstatic to have another "little girl" in my life. Through the next 8 months, we finished River's heartworm treatment and treatment for Rocky Mountain spotted fever. River has had to overcome illness, malnutrition and fear of people, but with patience and a lot of love, River has become a very happy and loving member of our family.

*Sincerely,
Marcy*

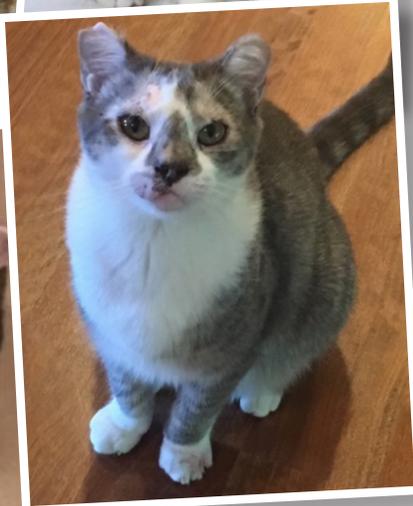


BELLA & RIVER

MEDICAL Update



BUCKY



Hello, I'm Bucky, aka Blister to most of you. My story begins with a heartbreaking picture of me when I was just a small kitten. However, because of those who care for even the small, I received medical care to help me heal from my injuries. I'll let my Mom take it from here.

When I saw Bucky's photo on Facebook of the WCJC Animal Shelter, my heart broke. Then I saw a Facebook update with a progress report that Blister was looking for his forever home. My husband and I discussed adopting Blister and set the wheels into motion.

My husband and I were at the shelter as soon as it opened. While waiting for the shelter to open I was in a conversation with the lady who was first in line at the door. We both were talking about Blister and we both wished for peace and love for him going forward.

When the door opened I waited at the desk for the employee to assist the lady in front of me. She was there to pay for his adoption fee and to see him and I was there to complete the application for adoption. She commented to the employee taking the payment that she thought I should be the one to get him. Our family was blessed to be chosen. Today Bucky lives with his older brother Spanky, mom, dad and a sister. Bucky is happy and growing. And, he will forever be loved.

*Thank you,
Lizz Bellamy*

MEDICAL EXPENSES

JANUARY 2019 – MARCH 2019

**TOTAL MEDICAL CARE
ALL ANIMALS**

\$20,743

**TOTAL SPENT ON
SPAY/NEUTER**

\$80,361

Meet the *Director*



I knew from a very young age that I wanted to spend my life saving animals. Growing up an only child, my pets were like my siblings. It is my lifelong dream to have a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the Tri-Cities area so that we can eliminate the number of unwanted pets born every year. I have been a Veterinarian Assistant for over 15 years and have an Animal Science/Biology

Degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I spent years in retail as a manager at Pets Mart and the head store manager at Bed, Bath & Beyond. When the Director position posted I knew I could make an immediate and "real" difference in the lives of the animals in our community.

Tammy Davis

Director of the Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter

FUN Facts



Your Cats Need *to* Knead

You're reading a newspaper when suddenly your cat jumps onto your lap, forcing her way between you and the current events. She's purring and begins to knead your lap, circling around and finding a perfect position to curl into. She is completely oblivious to your desires as she focuses on the push and pull of her front paws. She's your cat, and she has a need to knead.

WHY CATS KNEAD

The kneading behavior begins early in life, while kittens are nursing. As kittens knead their mother's mammary glands, oxytocin is released, causing milk to flow. Animal experts believe other reasons cats knead might include:

- To show affection
- To mark territory: Cats have scent glands between their toes on their front paws
- Separated from mother too early
- Normal behavior of a female cat going into heat

While controlled research on this topic is lacking, veterinary behaviorist Sharon Crowell-Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVB believes all of the above reasons are likely involved in a cat's need to knead.

Crowell-Davis believes that because kneading represents a period of comfort and safety for kittens as they snuggle up with their mothers and siblings during nursing, cats continue this behavior to display affection toward others later in life. It also serves as a self-comforting behavior,

bringing a feeling of contentment for adult cats. Similar to a child who sucks his thumb long after his mother has stopped nursing, a cat's kneading helps him to feel comfortable and bonded to you. It's his way of relaxing with you.

Crowell-Davis suggests that kneading helps to mark an area as safe. Cats have high-level olfactory senses, and like a feline aromatherapy, the cat is working to make your lap smell familiar and relaxing.

Crowell-Davis agrees that kittens who are weaned from their mothers too early (prior to 10 weeks of age) are more likely to display kneading behavior as adults.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR CAT'S KNEADING BEHAVIOR

Not a fan of your cat's kneading on your lap? Experts agree that you should NOT punish your cat if he kneads. If the kneading bothers you, try to redirect your cat to a soft surface nearby. When he begins to knead on your lap, gently move him to a soft blanket or pillow, pet him, and give him treats so he is encouraged to knead that particular soft surface.

While more research could clarify this topic for cat lovers, just like you have certain comforting behaviors, kneading is a normal, comforting behavior for many cats. So sit back, relax, and let your kitty make a comfy spot in that lap of yours.

Courtesy of the American Animal Hospital Association

THINGS TO Know

Food & Beverages Harmful to Your Pets

Many foods are perfectly safe for humans, but could be poisonous or potentially deadly to pets. To be safe, keep the following food items out of your pet's menu:

- Avocado
- Alcohol
- Chocolate
- Coffee grounds
- Fatty foods
- Garlic
- Grapes/raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Onions
- Tea
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Xylitol
(an artificial sweetener used in gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste)



Courtesy of the American Veterinary Medical Association

REGISTER FOR FREE PET FOOD RECALL ALERTS



Dogs at:
dogfoodadvisor.com

Cats at:
theidlecat.com

ASPCA

120°

Within 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to 120°.

102°

On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

90°

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

It's Hot Out!

Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!



Pets most at risk for overheating are young, elderly or overweight animals, those with short muzzles and those with thick or dark-colored coats.

A car may overheat even when the windows have been left open an inch or two.

Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun.

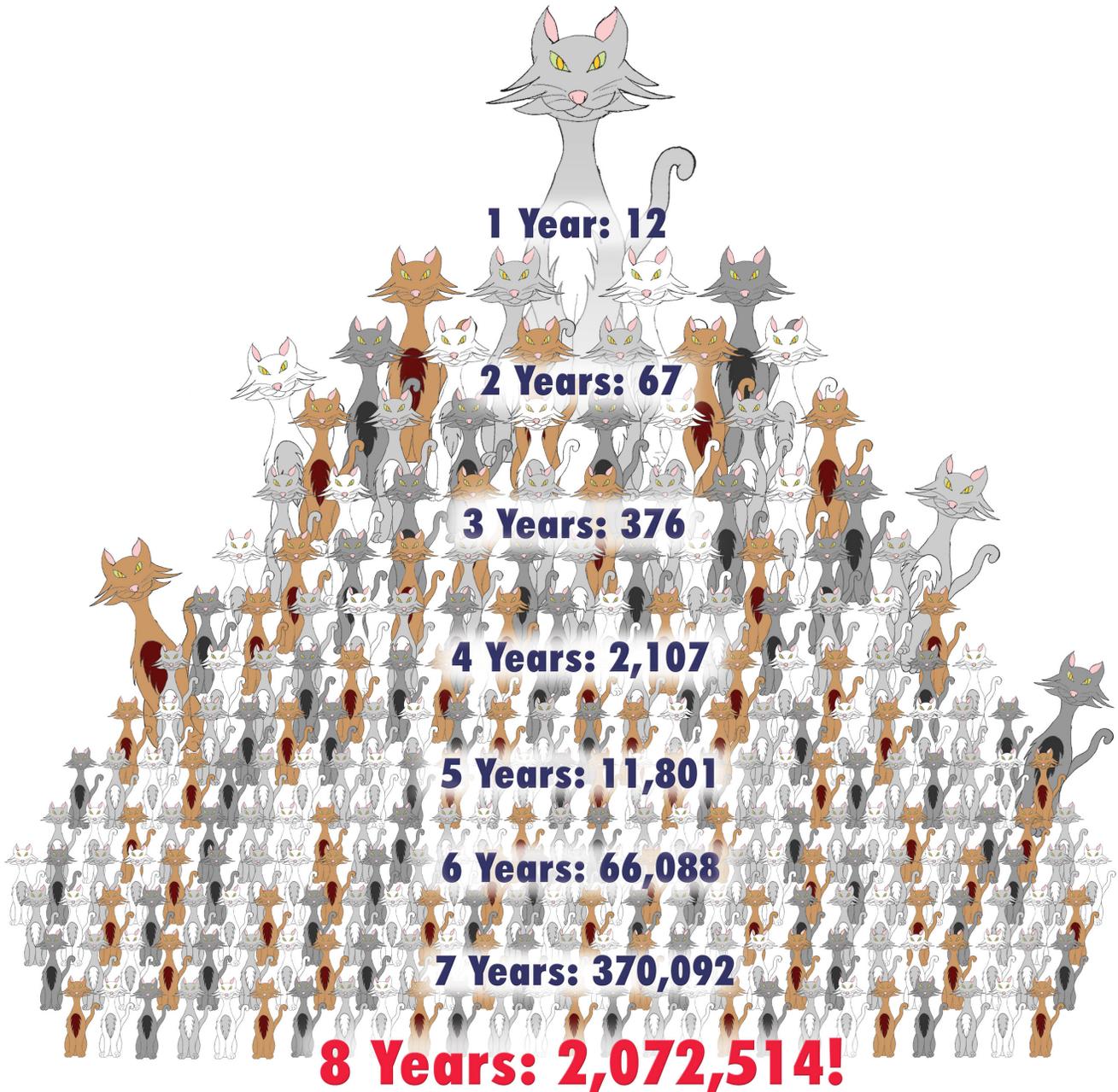


Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.



If you see an animal in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner, or call 911! Stay by the car until help arrives.

UNSPAYED/UNNEUTERED CATS & KITTENS



© 2011 North Shore Animal League America

By spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just 4 years – and more than 2 million in 8 years.

Prevent A Litter – Spay and Neuter Your Pets.

This chart is based on theory and the actual numbers of the lives saved could be more or less.

HELPING Hands



COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

– Kroger will help the Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter by donating a percentage of spending to the Washington County Johnson City Shelter Foundation. Simply visit www.kroger.com. Once logged into your Kroger account search for the Washington County Johnson City Animal

Shelter Foundation by name or by the non-profit number of JT909. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

THE TRIBUTE SOCIETY – Remember a loved one, donate to honor someone special for his or her birthday, or find a unique gift for that animal lover in your life. Your gift will help abandoned pets needing a second chance at life.

• **Bricks** – Commemorative bricks can be inscribed to honor a loved one, pet or person. The commemorative bricks will be installed outside at a new patio area on the north side of the building. **Bricks = \$150 each**



• **Tiles** – Tiles can be imprinted with a beloved pet's color photo and name. The commemorative tiles are permanently installed in the interior walls of our Adoption Center. **Tiles = \$250 each**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The WCJC Animal Shelter houses approximately 5,000 homeless, unwanted, neglected and abused animals every year. Our volunteers provide a valuable service by donating their time to ensure that our animals get the best care possible while they wait for their new forever homes. The first step to becoming a volunteer is to complete a volunteer application on line at <https://wcjcanimalshelter.org/volunteer/> or in person at the shelter. Volunteers needed for: dog walking, cat socialization, community outreach, laundry, sanitizing kennels, poop scooping, front desk helper, kitten foster parenting, adoption counselor and greeter, photography and dog bather.



▲ Girl Scout Troop collecting and donating pet food and supplies
Old Town Quilters donating handmade pet beds ▼





FRIENDS OF THE SHELTER – The Friends of the Shelter Program is the annual fund of the WCJC Animal Shelter Foundation providing direct support to programs that improve the lives of abandoned animals in our care.

Donation Levels of \$25, \$50 or \$100 can be set up on a monthly credit card donation. Or, by one-time payment.

Yes, I would like to support the Animal Shelter by joining Friends of the Shelter!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Charge my credit card one time per month in the amount of:

\$100 for 12 months commencing _____;

\$50 for 12 months commencing _____; or

\$25 for 12 months commencing _____.

Credit card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV Code: _____

Signature: _____

Charge my credit card a onetime per year for a one-year membership in Friends of the Shelter in the amount of \$1,200/\$600/\$300.

Instead of charging my credit card, enclosed is a check for a one-year membership in Friends of the Shelter in the amount of \$1,200/\$600/\$300.

I cannot commit to being an ongoing Friend of the Shelter, but please accept my one-time donation of \$_____.

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

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Mary Finucane (Treasurer)
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SHELTER EVENTS

- **GOAT YOGA**, July 11th, 7:00 PM at the WCJC Animal Shelter
- **PETS BREWS & TUNES**, Saturday, July 20th, from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM, at the Willow Tree Coffee House & Music Room.
- **THE DOG BOWL AND ALLEY CATS**, the Month of July, at Holiday Lanes. Bring in a bag of dry food or three (3) cans of wet food and receive your bowling for \$5 a person. 1-3 people get one hour and shoes. 4-6 people get two hours and shoes. Preferred NON dyed foods.
- **KITTY CONFERENCE** with Kitten Lady Hannah Shaw, Saturday, Sept. 21st, 10:00 AM, Northeast State Community College



BE AN ANGEL TO THE RESCUED

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

RECENT EVENTS

- Paint your Paws
- Purry Paws Kitten Shower
- Purrfect Paint Party
- Jeep Rally
- Goat Yoga
- Yard Sale & Easter Bunny Event



- Saint Patrick's Wreath Making
- Bidding for a Cause
- Summer in the Smokies