



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
JOHNSON CITY  
ANIMAL SHELTER

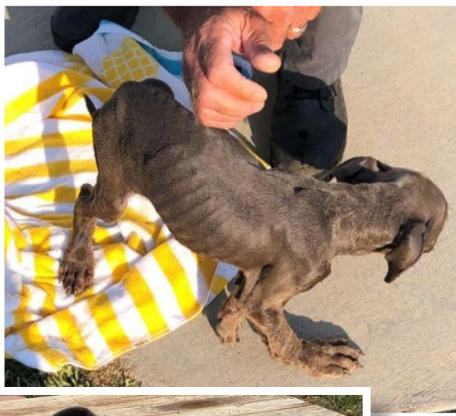
January 2020 - June 2020

# PAWS & TALES

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

## Serena, named after a fighter who never quits.

BY BRITTANY EBERHARDT



On Saturday, June 1, 2019, officers received an anonymous call to check the welfare of a blue pit-bull puppy. When we arrived at the house, I was stunned by what we found. A tiny, emaciated puppy was stumbling around the driveway searching for food. She was caked in her own feces, had open sores from her neck to her tail and walked with her paws flat on the ground. We discovered that the breeders, who had been unable to sell the puppy, confined her to a cat carrier 24/7 in the garage, in the summer heat. A male puppy was also found dead in a cat carrier in the garage. The day we arrived they had accidentally left the door open to the cat carrier of the female puppy. She had no food or water. The carrier was so small that she was unable to stand up and had to lay in her own waste resulting in the sores. She was immediately taken to the WCJC Animal Shelter and received full medical care.



We visited her every day for a month until she was strong enough that she could be fostered. I became her foster mom. She gained weight quickly, but her muscles were not strong enough to hold her, which led to her developing Ricketts. For the next 4-6 weeks, I wrapped the joints on her front paws and did physical therapy with her until she could walk again. I named her Serena, after Serena Williams, a fighter who never quits.

Despite the horrible conditions she suffered during her first 14 weeks of her life, I've never met a happier, more loving dog in my life. Although Serena now weighs 55lbs, she will not relinquish her role as a lap dog. She took to my three other rescue pups immediately, although she has yet to make friends with the cat (granted, that's the cat's choosing).

SERENA



In October 2019, Serena was officially awarded to the shelter and her breeder was convicted of animal cruelty. We were then able to go back and seize Serena's mother and brother, both of whom were solely being used for breeding. While I have successfully fostered before, Serena became my first foster fail! 😊 She's spunky, wild, and absolutely ridiculous, but I wouldn't have it any other way. My living room is their park/rest area and the yard their perfect location for Zoomies (explosions of energy that dogs have on occasion, including running in circles). Serena and I are both grateful for everyone who played a role in turning her life around.

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

*Mahatma Gandhi*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**GREETINGS!** Even through these unprecedented and difficult times, the animals in our community continue to need our support, perhaps now more than ever. With the shelter having to close to the public except for scheduled visits and adoptions, it has been a difficult time to help some animals in our care find their forever home. However, the wonderful staff and volunteers at the WCJC Animal Shelter have been diligent and unrelenting in their quest to find each and every animal that we take into our care a forever home. So, if you have been considering adding a fur-baby to your family, please consider adoption first. Both of my shelter adopted pets, Whiskey (Pitty-mix) and Benjamin (Shih Tzu mix) have stolen my heart. I couldn't imagine my home without them in it! We have so many wonderful cats and dogs that would love a home for the holidays!

Covid-19 has also greatly reduced our ability to have fundraisers. So more than ever, we continue to need your support in the form of donations and supplies. During this upcoming holiday season, please keep our shelter pets in your heart! A contribution in any amount is always greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a safe and joyous holiday season!

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



## FRIENDS OF THE SHELTER

### Help Save the Lives of Animals

Financial support needed! Friends of the Shelter provides direct backing to programs that improve the welfare of animals in our community, including: spay/neuter; adoption services; food & supplies; medical care; and feral cat population control (feral cats are caught, spayed or neutered, and released). These contributions assist ongoing programming, allowing us to expand critical lifesaving work. Please help to make a positive impact on the lives of animals in our community as these contributions aid to rescue and improve the lives of thousands of animals in Washington County and Johnson City.

### Friends of the Shelter Membership

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.



▲ Pin provided to Friends of the Shelter members.

**TO ENROLL, VISIT [wcjcanimalshelter.org](http://wcjcanimalshelter.org)**

# MEDICAL Update



Hi! My name is Hijinx the Tripod. My family calls me Jinx as well as Feisty Cat, Little Tiger, Purr Monster, and Tiny Mean Thing. I was a shelter cat but not for long. I arrived to the shelter with an injury to my front right leg. A veterinarian took care of me and removed the whole leg. I spent a few days at the shelter afterward. Mom says I am spoiled rotten because the nice people at the shelter took such good care of me after my surgery. I think I am just feisty-rotten because I was born that way.

My dad works for WJHL. He and Mark Reynolds come to the shelter each week to film *Tails and Paws*. About a month ago, they came to the shelter to shoot the segment. My dad saw me and fell in love. He texted my mom and they immediately had a plan to pick me up that same day! It was love at first sight.

I have been in my new home with the other cats and dogs for over a month. Everyone is a shelter animal! Folks are surprised at how well I get along with the others. I am even friends with my sister Roswell who is a 14 year old Chihuahua.

I am doing great. My stitches are out. I have a cool scar on my shoulder and have learned to hop-walk. I can run just as fast as the other cats and I play twice as much. Mom says I have extra purrsonality to make up for the missing leg. I love sleeping on the bed, bird watching on windowsills, cuddling with my big dog Feeny, sitting on shoulders, chasing anything that rolls, and wrestling my brother Rocket.

Mom and Dad say I might have been someone's throwaway kitten, but I will never be alone again. I like that. It is really nice to have a home and I am purrfectly happy right where I am.

You can follow Jinx on Instagram. [www.instagram.com/hijinxthetripod](http://www.instagram.com/hijinxthetripod)

*Thank you! Kitty Michael*



## MEDICAL EXPENSES

JANUARY 2020 -  
JUNE 2020

TOTAL  
MEDICAL CARE ALL  
ANIMALS

**\$33,699.36**

TOTAL SPENT ON  
SPAY/NEUTER

**\$43,944.08**

## Message From the Director



Each year it is estimated that more than one million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized in the United States, simply because too many pets come into shelters and too few people consider adoption when looking for a pet. The number of euthanized animals could be reduced dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them. When you adopt, you save a loving animal by making them part of your family and open up shelter space for another animal who might desperately need it. Most shelter

pets end up in a shelter because of a human problem like illness or death, a move or a divorce, not because the animals did anything wrong. Many are already house-trained and used to living with families.

Shelter pets have a way of putting a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Caring for an abandoned animal can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment as well as lessen feelings of loneliness and isolation, which is very much needed during COVID-19. If you're interested in adoption please visit [wcjcanimalshelter.org](http://wcjcanimalshelter.org) to see availability. Although the shelter is currently closed to the public, adoption appointments can be made by completing the online adoption form at the same web address.

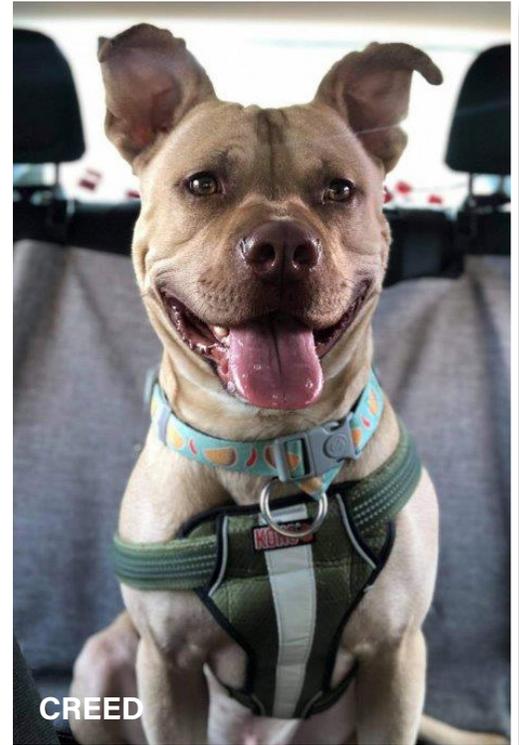
**Tammy Davis**

*Director of the Washington County Johnson City Animal Shelter*

# RECENT *Rescues*

I follow multiple shelters on Facebook, and one day the WCJC Animal Shelter posted a terrified dachshund for adoption. My heart broke! I had to go shelter, but by the time my boyfriend and I got there, the dachshund was adopted. While there, we saw a beautiful blue pit bull puppy playing in the meet and greet room. We went into the room to ask about the pup and met Michelle, who was actually fostering it. We explained about looking for a certain dog that had already been adopted, and that my boyfriend's pit bull had passed away at the age of 14 exactly one year prior. We were open to any dog. She quickly took us back to see the dog in the kennel that she sponsors. We walked up to the kennel and saw this adorable pit bull, named Creed. It was love at first sight for me, but he looked scared, defeated and lonely. Very shy at first, when we took him outside, he changed instantly. Smiling, happy, running around, as though he was a completely different dog. We put in an application and the following day received the call that Creed was approved to go home with us. We were ecstatic! Flash forward to today and Creed is living his best life. He is king of the house and gets absolutely whatever he wants. His favorite things to do is to go on car rides and sleep! He is my best friend and I do not know how I ever lived without his sweet soul. He is the biggest mama's boy! I wouldn't have it any other way. Shelter dogs are the best dogs! Adopting Creed is the best decision we have ever made. He is the missing piece we did not know we needed.

*Regards,  
Chesnee Hammons*



**STUART**

I adopted a rescue dog in 2017. Stella became queen of the house, and even though she had a tough previous life, she quickly learned to trust others and work through the things that triggered bad memories. Earlier this year, I began thinking that, maybe, it was time for Stella to have a sibling. I really was not sure how she would take to sharing daddy-time with another dog but I was ready to give it a try.

This past Valentine's Day Weekend I stopped by the Washington County-Johnson City Animal Shelter. The moment I saw Stuart, I knew he was the one. He was scared, shaking and was very thin, but we connected immediately. A friend who was with me began petting him through the cage and Stuart snuggled up close to the cage. When it came time to leave, Stuart cried, and of course I did too. I filled out the application and much to my surprise I got a call from the shelter the next day saying I had been approved to adopt him.

We arranged a meet/greet with sister Stella and it went very well, much to my surprise. The shelter made the arrangements for him to be neutered at Blue Ridge Animal Hospital. The staff were wonderful and we have established Stuart there as a patient.

I am so thankful for the Washington County-Johnson City Animal Shelter for rescuing Stuart and for facilitating the adoption process. The staff and volunteers were so supportive and gave me wonderful advice on integrating a second dog into a territorial one-dog home. It has gone very well, and we are looking forward to Stuart having his first fall and Christmas season in his forever home.

*Sincerely,  
Joe Smith*



In May of 2019, I saw a PUURRFECT calico cat posted on the Washington County Animal Shelter's Facebook page. I was going out of town but thought if she was still available when I returned that I would go pay her a visit. At first glance she was beautiful, but very grumpy. Her family had recently moved from the area dropping her off at the animal shelter. She was a 15-year-old senior. I decided to give it a try. I have three other cats so was unsure if she would get along with my other cats.

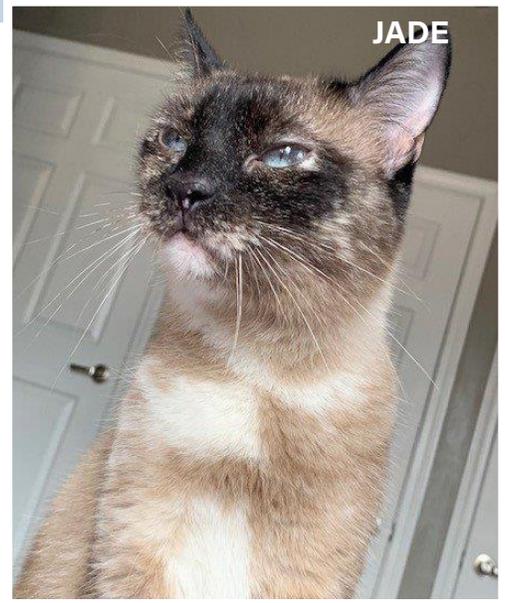
I took Fluffy home in June of 2019. It was NOT love at first sight. She didn't like me. I did not want to take her back to the shelter so decided to be patient. Fluffy's name was Savannah from her previous family. I quickly learned that she did not like her name. I began calling her Fluffy and her behavior and attitude improved. I had to keep her in her own space for a while until we got familiar with each other. At first, Fluffy would growl when I attempted to pet her or pick her up, but as time went by things got much better.

Unfortunately, after about six months, I learned that Fluffy was in kidney failure, so I began treatment. Then at the end of May 2020, I discovered a bump on her neck and on her shoulder. I took Fluffy to the vet. The vet stated that they could be cancer or cysts, however, the only way to know for sure would be to conduct further testing. I asked how they would treat it if the bumps were cancer and the vet advised surgery; but given that Fluffy was in kidney failure then surgery was not much of an option. I decided not to put Fluffy through any tests or surgery because of her age and her kidney failure.

The bump on Fluffy's neck grew rapidly, so I took her back to the vet. Both vets stated that it was likely an aggressive cancer and that they would not be able to remove it without performing surgery; which was not really an option for dear Fluffy. As time passed, I could tell that Fluffy did not feel well. The vet gave her medicine to keep her comfortable. I was relying on God to let me know when it was time to lay dear Fluffy to rest.

On the morning of 8/20/20, I noticed that Fluffy had gone downhill during the night. I called the vet. Miss Fluffy's prognosis was not good. I went ahead and allowed her to cross over the rainbow bridge. Northridge Veterinary Clinic took amazing care of Fluffy while I had her. Miss Fluffy was a wonderful and sweet soul. I miss her terribly. Please give senior animals a try. Fluffy turned out to be a wonderful pet. Like all of us, the senior pets sometimes just require a little patience and understanding.

Regards,  
Stephanie Lane



It was "Love at First Sight": The moment we saw our curious and sassy pal Jade (formerly Sadie) on the WCJC Animal Shelter Facebook page, we fell in love. We had been following the page closely for a couple of years and thought that having a cat would be very exciting, and we were finally ready to adopt. After seeing Jade's beautiful blue Siamese eyes online, we realized it was time. When we placed our application to begin the adoption process (mostly digital due to COVID-19), we were disheartened to learn that another family wanted her as well, but we knew deep down that she belonged with us. After an anxious week of waiting, we heard that our application had been approved! Upon meeting Jade for the first time the next day, she immediately ran to us, curled her tail around our legs, and was extremely loving. She was as ready to go to her forever home as we were to take her. Not surprisingly, Jade is incredibly entertaining; she is so playful and loves to chase paper balls! Siamese kitties are great and provide lots of love and comfort. Adoption saves lives!

Warm regards,  
Ivaniel Vallejo  
and Jordan Adams

## SHELTER STATS

### JANUARY 2020 - JUNE 2020

# of Adoptions – Dogs	465
# of Adoptions – Cats	542
# of Reclaims	187
# of Incoming – Dogs	640
# of Incoming – Cats	732

# FEATURED FROM Shelter

## Chapo, The Longest Resident



My name is David, and I have been volunteering at the Washington County/Johnson City Animal Shelter for four years. People tell me they can't go to the shelter because it is too sad; they want to "take them all home". So do I, but I can't. That is why I volunteer. I go to the shelter to see those "sad" faces and try to make their lives in the shelter better and help them to become more adoptable. I have seen many successful adoptions with happy-endings. Unfortunately, not all are success stories. The shelter has a lot of faces and ongoing stories. Here is one of those stories.

This handsome boy is named Chapo; he was relinquished to the shelter on April 6, 2018. We estimate him being 1 ½ to 2 years old when he came to the shelter. Chapo didn't get the attention or training that he needed before coming to the shelter, so he was a handful. At around 70 pounds, he couldn't be taken out of his kennel by everyone. Chapo's first strike against him came when I was walking him and we passed one of our Animal Control Officers. With no warning, Chapo lunged at him and nipped his arm. It sounds like I am downplaying the bite by referring to it as a nip, but I didn't realize he had made contact until later. My explanation is that this officer was the one who picked up Chapo and brought him to the shelter, or he doesn't like uniforms. Either one is no excuse.

About five months later, I started working with Chapo. He started to calm down when he realized that his current "outing" in the play yard or walking trail was not a one-time thing. He started sitting calmly with me on the bench outside. He loves to play ball and tug on a rope. Other workers started pairing him up with other dogs for "play time".

Chapo's next setback came when a woman was talking to a volunteer outside Chapo's kennel. The lady stuck a finger inside and Chapo bit her. I have no rational explanation for either party's action. I don't know why she put her finger in through the fence or why Chapo bit her, but the result was ten days in isolation for Chapo. Regardless of the

strides accomplished in teaching Chapo how to behave, they were all but forgotten because he just "bit" someone. Determined that Chapo's story will have a happy ending, I stuck with him.

Chapo goes on field trips like downtown Johnson City to Founders Park, walks at Willow Springs Park, and Winged Deer Park. He has been to PetSmart, several WCJC Animal Shelter fund raisers and to birthday parties. In all of Chapo's adventures he has greeted other dogs and people graciously.

Finally, Chapo had a meet and greet with a woman, her two sons and their dog. The meeting went well; Chapo found a home. He was adopted on May 19, 2020. Chapo had been at the shelter for two years and a month.

I visited Chapo twice at his new home. At each visit I would question how he was doing. They commented on how smart Chapo is, how fast he learns and how calm he had gotten in the first month of him being at their home. I asked how he reacted to strangers that come to the house, and I was told he had not encountered a stranger. Chapo liked to lay in the sun outside at the front door. While tied outside in front of the door, the sister-in-law came. Chapo had never seen her and barked. She put out her hand for him to smell and Chapo bit her, resulting in an emergency room visit. Animal Control came and got Chapo the next day and he was brought back to the shelter and placed in isolation.

Chapo spent his ten days in isolation at the shelter and was spared being put down due to the circumstances of the incident. Currently, I am still working with Chapo. He is much calmer since spending time with the family, but doesn't seem to understand why he left. Some of the "fire" is gone from his eyes. We still go on field trips. He loves to ride in the car and on occasions we stop for ice cream. He is going on three years at the shelter and I am still waiting for the happy ending.

# HELPING Hands

## 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 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.



### TRIBUTE SOCIETY

Our building is finished, but the needs of the animals continue. Assist our ongoing fundraising efforts with a beautiful tribute.

#### Brick | \$120

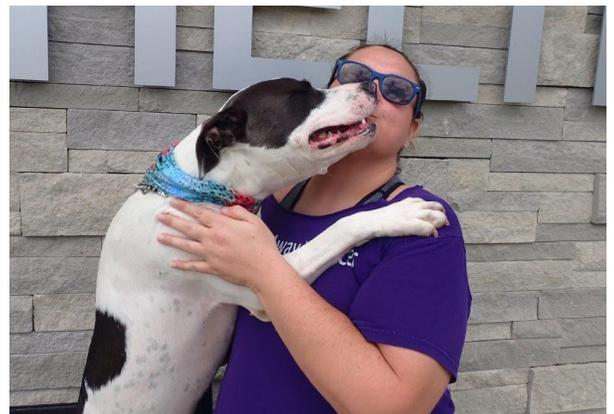
Commemorative bricks can be inscribed to honor or memorialize a loved one, pet, or person. Each brick is engraved using state-of-the-art laser technology, ensuring durability and resistance to the elements. Your commemorative brick will help pave the exterior walkway outside the Washington County/Johnson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



# 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.

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## BE AN ANGEL TO THE RESCUED

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

## Health Benefits of Pets

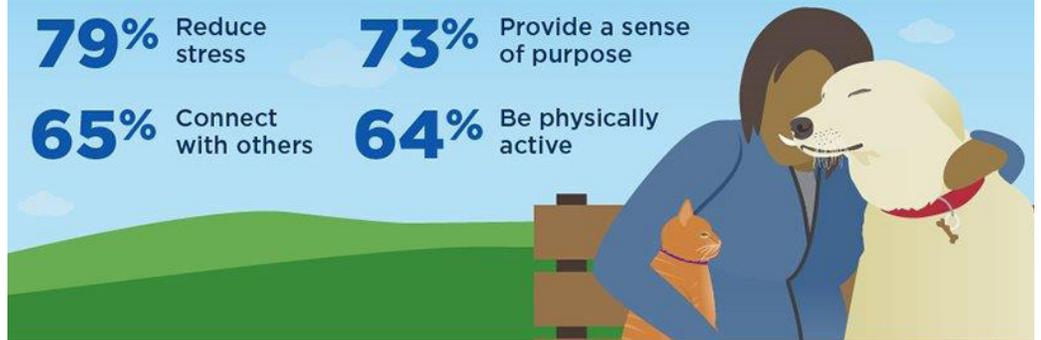
REPORTED BY PET OWNERS AGE 50-80

79% Reduce stress

73% Provide a sense of purpose

65% Connect with others

64% Be physically active



April 2019 Report: How Pets Contribute to Healthy Aging



It's not what we have in life, but who we have in our lives that matters



## Newsletter Rescue 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](mailto:masonb@etsu.edu) or snail mail to: Attn: Newsletter, WCJC Animal Shelter, 3411 N. Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37601