

PawPrints Newsletter



www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org



Introducing the
2023 HSOW Board
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SCENES FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

November 17, 2022



Our 2022 Annual Meeting was well attended with both new and familiar faces at the Elks Lodge in Wilkesboro. We took care of business with the

Adoption, SNAP, and Shelter committee reports, elected our 2023 Board of Directors, and approved two revisions to our By-Laws. (The proposed changes to the By-Laws were detailed in the November 2022 newsletter.)

One of the special events of the evening was President Jeff Hill's presentation of a plaque of appreciation to founding member Dr. Sylvia Smith. Dr. Smith, former co-owner of Wilkes Veterinary Hospital, was one of the original board members who established the HSOW in 1996. We were also hoping to express our appreciation to Dr. Steve Jackson, another original board member, but he was unable to attend. The plaque will be presented to him soon. We were also honored to have Margie Edgerton with us at the meeting, an original member and frequent donor, who has remained a member in good standing since 1996.

We wrapped up the meeting with drawings for door prizes, fellowship, and lots good food!



Introducing the 2023 HSOW Board of Directors

One of the required agenda items at each Annual Meeting is the formal election of the next year's Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee seeks and reviews candidates, then presents their nominees to the Board. Our By-Laws allow up to fifteen members on the board, and fourteen nominees were presented to the members for approval—twelve members of the 2022 board were reelected and two new members were also elected at the Annual Meeting.



Ashlyn Reece

Our newest members are Dr. Ashlyn Reece and Jennifer Mathies. Ashlyn is a veterinarian at the Animal Hospital of Wilkes. She earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, VA. She is also known for rescuing and caring for special needs cats and is planning to open her own cat rescue soon. We will benefit greatly from Ashlyn's experience!



Jennifer Mathies

Jennifer Mathies comes to the board from the Foster-Adoption Committee. She has fostered about a hundred dogs and cats since she joined the HSOW in March 2021. She bottle-fed 25 kittens last year! She has a thorough understanding of HSOW adoption policies and procedures and is a great communicator. She lives with her husband James Mathies and two children, Maleigha Mayes and Malcolm Mathies. Jennifer brings her amazing energy to the Humane Society of Wilkes!

At the first Board meeting in January, the board elected the 2023 executive officers: President, Jeff Hill; Vice President, Ed Parsons; Treasurer, Mary Elmore; Secretary, Susan Allen; and PR Officer, Blair Hancock. HSOW committee chairs include Foster-Adoption chair, Katie Parsons; Membership and Shelter Committee chair, Mitzi Combs; Fundraising co-chairs, Susan Allen and Alison McCormick; Spay-Neuter Assistance Program chair, Melissa Nunn; Education Committee chair, Donna Huffman; and Newsletter chair, Blair Hancock. Other returning board members are Kim Hatfield and Barbara Pendry.

With the support of our members, the HSOW Board of Directors is looking forward to helping the homeless animals of Wilkes County in 2023, including continuing our efforts to build a new shelter!



Donors

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

Below is a list of those who have made financial donations to the Humane Society of Wilkes from October 22, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Special thanks also go to all those who donated in these other ways: our Amazon and Chewy wish lists, collection jars and boxes, merchandise purchases and participation at fundraising events, adoptions, online promotions, and providing supplies for our foster pets! We're sorry that we do not currently have a system for collecting and publishing all your names, but we have received and deeply appreciate your donations of all kinds and amounts. If you want to confirm your drop-off or wishlist donation was received, please email info@humanesocietyofwilkes.org and we'll let you know. The donations of our members and supporters are what keep us going. Thank you so much!

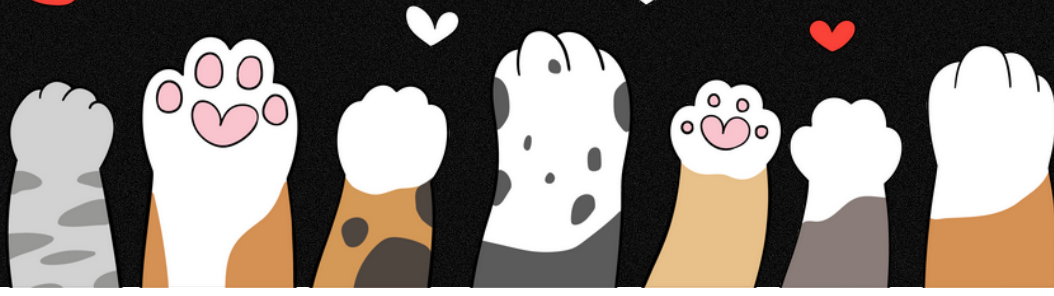


Joyce Anderson
Jeffrey Bauguss
Linda Beck
Deborah Beckel
Marianne Bereza
Belva Billings
Jane and Johnny Billings in memory of Ronnie Wyatt
Matthew and Patty Black in honor of Donna Huffman
Teresa Blevins
Leslie Boyd-Long
Rebecca G. Browne
Stephen and Jeanette Bumgarner in memory of Dessie K. Harrold
Laura Chadwick
Margaret Chadwick
Debra Carr
Ronald Cate
Sabrina Caudill
Kelly A. Church in memory of Sandra Kaye Foster
Rebecca Church in memory of Sandra Kaye Foster
Birgit Clager
Ginger Coates
Nancy Coffey
Ida Collins
Mitzi Combs
John and Susan Corey
Country Club Internal Medicine in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Diane Gregory
Bill and Claudia Crane in memory of Phyllis D. Gregory Allen
Davis
Terri Delbridge
Holger and Beth Ebert in loving memory of Muriel Turner Bryant, one of the sweetest people ever
Margie Edgerton in memory of "Mitzi"
Claudia Eller-Tobey in memory of "Hollyanna," her 4th and last greyhound
Elaine Eller in memory of Sandra Kaye Foster
Gregory Faw
Debbie Ferguson
Susan and William Foster in memory of Sandy Foster and in honor of Jodi Foster
Martha Fry
David and Elaine Goforth
Barbara Gregory in memory of Muriel Bryant
Ted and Jacquelyn Hall
Blair Hancock

Brenda Haynes
Louise Hanville
Jeanette Jacob in memory of Kate Anthony
Patricia Johnson
Teresa Johnson
Cathy Kolstad
Arnold and Rebecca Lakey in memory of Dessie K. Harrold
Erica Lelle
William McElwee III
David and Connie McNeil
Joan McReynolds
Sarah Miles
Angela Minton in gratitude for the adoption of "Pretty Girl"
Martha Morphus
Ann Nichols in honor of "Fletch"
Brenda Osborne
Joan Osborne
Pauletta Parker in memory of Margie Edgerton's beloved dog "Mitzi"
Barbara Pendry
Ned Pierce in memory of Betty Pierce
Kasey Pinkerton
John and Sally Pridgen in memory of Jean Alvis
Margaret Ramey
Michael Roope
Jeff Rowe
Stephen Russell
Robert Michael Sale
Montgomery and Diane Shaw in honor of "Buddy"
Chris Sheets
Tom Silvey
Kevin Smith in memory of Skye
Beverly Story, in memory of Claudia Eller's beloved dog "Hollyanna"
Rosie Summers in gratitude for the work of the Humane Society of Wilkes
Jerry and Diane Swaim in memory of Jessica Gambill's beloved dog "Tripp"
Anne Totillo in gratitude for the adoption of "Mars," now "Suga"
Michael Tribble
Hughes and Gretchen Vandervort in memory of John Vandervort
Patricia Vick
Joan Wagoner
Lisa Warren in gratitude for the adoption of "Ripley"
Karen Watts
Patty Whittington in memory of Margie Edgerton's beloved dog "Mitzi"
Franz Yale
Zion Hill Baptist Church Women on Mission Group in memory of Lester Dale West



2022 Annual Reports



2022 Foster Pet Adoptions



Cats Adopted: 491



Dogs Adopted: 369



Rabbits Adopted: 4



Guinea Pigs Adopted: 3



2022 Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (Snap) Vouchers

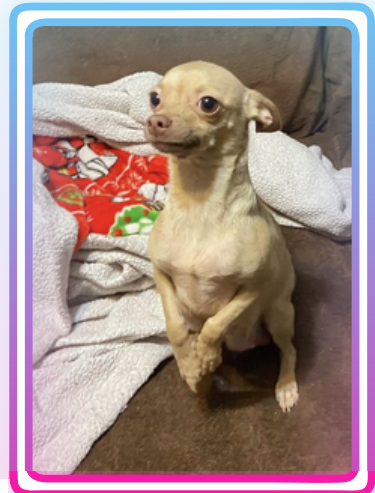
Vouchers Issued: 427

For more information on the SNAP program, visit
<https://www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org/spay-neuter/spay-neuter-assistance-program>

**Welcome New Members:
November 2022 – December 2022**



- Karl & Teri Birkland
- Martha Beech Fry
- Kim Waddell Johnson
- Allison O'Neil
- Joan Osborne
- Kris & Lauren Schultz
- Ellen Stroud

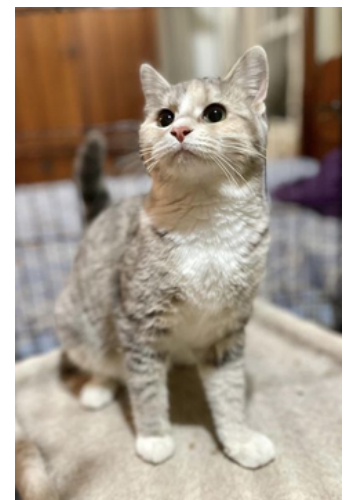


Status Update on the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)



Spay & Neuter Assistance Program
Responsible Ownership, It's a SNAP!

At our January 6, 2023, SNAP registration event, we discovered to our surprise that Animal Ark of Elkin would not give surgery appointments to holders of SNAP vouchers, including the ones we had already issued that day. When we called, we were told that Animal Ark could not take our vouchers for now, but we should check back with them for an update in February. We got in touch with everyone who had gotten vouchers for Animal Ark that day and worked out alternatives or returned their payment. As of January 6, only Wilkes Veterinary Hospital is taking the SNAP vouchers at their full intended value, although new clients are now required to arrange a preliminary "wellness exam" for their pet(s). This ensures that pets are vaccinated and healthy enough to undergo spay or neuter surgery. Riverview Animal Hospital will accept the vouchers as "coupons" from their current clients only. Pet owners are responsible for the remainder of the cost of the surgery at Riverview. All pet owners who get SNAP vouchers must show their pets have a current rabies vaccine or plan to get one at the time of surgery for an additional charge, regardless of which veterinarian does the surgery. There is a shortage of veterinarians in Wilkes County, and with fewer veterinary offices taking the vouchers, surgery appointments at Wilkes Vet are backed up for a month or more. Therefore, the HSOW SNAP committee has decided we must cancel the February SNAP registration event to allow our participating vets to get caught up on the backlog of appointments and to give us time to try to work things out with Animal Ark-Elkin. Eligible pet owners who do get appointments at Wilkes Veterinary Hospital or Riverview Animal Hospital before the next scheduled event are encouraged to contact us at spayneuter@humanesocietyofwilkes.org, and we will arrange to get a voucher to them. Program information and event updates are posted on our SNAP webpage.



HSOW Shelter Project Update



On January 17, 2023, the Wilkes County Commissioners approved a lease agreement for the county land on which we will build our new shelter. They have generously agreed to lease the land to us for only one dollar a year for 50 years, which Commissioner Stoney Greene immediately donated to us. The agreement also allows two years for us to continue to raise funds and get permits and another two years for construction. We are grateful to the Commissioners and to Attorney John Willardson who assisted us with the legal aspects of the lease agreement. The land leased to the Humane Society of Wilkes for a shelter is on Call Street, Wilkesboro, across from the Wilkes County Animal Shelter.

Upcoming Events



Adoption Fair
Saturday
January 28
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
PetSmart

Board of Directors
Meeting
Monday
February 13
6:30





HSOW
Fundraising at
the
BROC/WCAC
Christmas
Bazaar



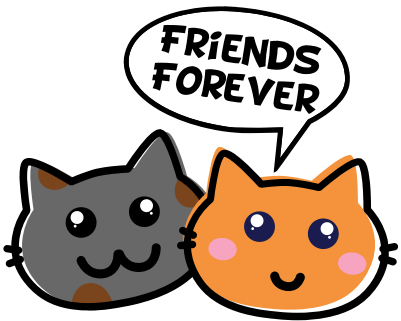
Sales Team: L to R Susan, Blair, Alison, Mary, Barbara



Dr. Smith & Dr. Bloise Visit Us at the Bazaar



The HSOW Van at the Wilkes Christmas Parade



Best Friends National Adoption Weekend
December 9-11
10 cats and 18 dogs were adopted!



“Ordinary” Dogs and Cats Need Homes!



When HSOW foster homes have small dogs, young puppies, purebred dogs, Siamese cats, and non-shedding dogs available for adoption, they are often overwhelmed with emails and applications from local residents and often from across the country. Chihuahuas, dachshunds, Shih Tzus, poodles, Yorkshire terriers and their mixes are extremely popular choices for those eager to adopt a dog.

Some people have severe allergies or other situations that limit them to certain pets, but often adoption is an aesthetic choice for people. “How beautiful” and “how gorgeous” are typical comments we see for pretty pets like Siamese cats with their piercing blue eyes or newly groomed adorable Yorkies or Shih Tzu mixes. They are indeed pretty, but if we are ever to achieve a no-kill status here in Wilkes County, or anywhere else, more people must be willing to adopt the “ordinary” pets: large- and medium-size dogs, dogs that shed, homely dogs, energetic and untrained dogs, domestic cats, and special-needs pets. And, of course, everyone needs to spay or neuter pets whose offspring are not likely to find homes.

Every day, we get at least one message from someone who wants us to take a dog or cat they no longer want or puppies and kittens they can't find homes for. We refer them to the Wilkes County Animal Shelter, and our dedicated foster-adoption team regularly meets, evaluates, and selects as many homeless pets from the shelter as we have foster space for. However, there are always more animals than we can pull, and if we take the dogs and cats who are least likely to get adopted from the shelter, they may stay in our foster homes for months before they are finally adopted, limiting our ability to save others.

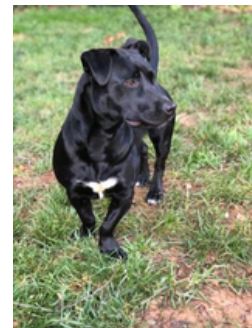
So, we appeal to you, our members, to encourage your acquaintances to consider a broader range of options when they decide to adopt a pet. There are so many great pets who just get overlooked. Here are some of our great foster pets who have been waiting for months to be adopted. We also post photos of the dogs and cats at the Wilkes County Animal Shelter on our website, under the Adopt tab, along with our own foster pets. There are so many great adoptable pets just waiting to be noticed. If you or someone you know truly wants to “rescue” a dog or cat, consider the beauty of the ordinary, like these wonderful pets!



Mazie
3 years 11 months
Female



Zuri
1 years 9 months
Female



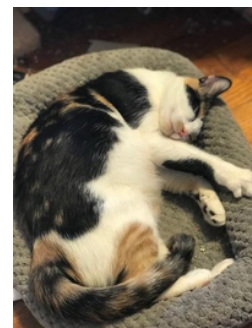
Lucy
2 years 7 months
Female



Stella
9 months
Female



Norman
7 years
Male



Mummy
1 years 2 months
Female



Newsletter January 2023 Contributors

- Mitzi Combs
- Mary Elmore
- Blair Hancock
- Lauren Johnson
- Katie Parsons



As a reminder,
everyone can find
copies of current and
previous newsletters
on the website:
[https://www.humane
societyofwilkes.org/a
bout/newsletter](https://www.humane.societyofwilkes.org/about/newsletter)



Happy Tail Updates!



Smokey is
doing great
in his new
home and
loves
playing in
the creek.



S'mores is doing great! We changed her name to Abigail. She's very poised and such a little lady. She's still getting used to our dog, but does great with our other cat! She's getting more confident and trusting us more every day. She loves attention and follows us around the house. She's precious!!

