

PawPrints Newsletter



Spring 2025



www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org



Check Out How
We're Helping
Community Cats
in Wilkes - Page 4

Spring Into Fundraising!



Spring is a busy time for Humane Society of Wilkes fundraising volunteers! We had two big events this spring—bingo in March and our two-day yard sale in April.

Our bingo event, which included a silent auction, food and merchandise sales, and a raffle for MerleFest tickets, was a big success. This year, we played bingo in the Central Wilkes Middle School cafeteria, where we had plenty of space. (Our last bingo event had people sitting on the floor.) Terry Rodriguez did a great job as the bingo emcee and caller. We were also very grateful to The Scarlet Hen for donating the proceeds from their BBQ sales to us and to all those who donated prizes and sale items. (See the list of bingo prize donors on page 2.)



As soon as we wrapped up bingo, we were hard at work on the annual yard sale. Once again, we had a new location—the former Dodge City Steakhouse/Fast Lane on US 421—with plenty of space for what turned out to be a huge sale. We're thankful to everyone who donated items for the sale, everyone who purchased items at the sale, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it a success. Unfortunately, we won't be able to use the same location again next year, so if you're aware of any place we might be able to use for future yard sales, please let us know!

Special thanks also go to our VP Alison Collins and the HSOW Fundraising Committee for planning and coordinating these events. Our next big fundraiser will be at the Brushy Mountain Peach and Heritage Festival on Saturday, July 26.

We'll need some volunteers.
Come see us!



Thank You to Our Bingo Prize Donors

We are grateful to the many local businesses and individuals who supported our bingo fundraiser by donating prizes, services, and/or sales items. We couldn't help the animals of Wilkes County without you!

6th & Main Restaurant, Bar & Catering
Applebee's Grill + Bar
Bojangles
Brushy Mountain Smokehouse and Creamery
Chick-fil-A Wilkesboro-
Chile Verde
Coach's Neighborhood Grill
Dom Bakeries North Carolina
Friendly Wholesale Tires, INC.
McDonald's
MerleFest
Midtown Garden Market
Olive Garden
Peek-a-Boo's Pet Sitting, LLC
Plaza Del Sol Wilkesboro NC
Subway
Taco Bell
Tilley's Auto Sales
The Laser Forge
The Scarlet Hen
Vernon's Cake Carousel

Waggles Pet Supply and Dog Wash, LLC!
Wendy's
Wilkes County Hardware
Wilkes Wags and Wiggles
Wilkes Print & Ship
Susan Allen
Mitzi Combs
Kim Hatfield
Evelyn LeFever
Selina McNeil
Lauren Sparks
Lauren Queen
Gretchen Vandervort
And special thanks to our caller, Terry Rodriguez



Donations February – May 2025



Below is a list of those who have made financial donations to the Humane Society of Wilkes between October 2024 and January 2025. If you donated and do not see your name in this list, please contact Blair at blair.hancock@humanesocietyofwilkes.org. 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 food and supplies for our foster pets! The donations of our members and supporters are what keep us going. Thank you so much!

- Amanda Adams
- Rhiannon Adams
- Joyce Anderson in memory of “Pauley”
- Heather Baker
- Peggy Barnes & Amillia Smith in memory of Courtney Somer
- Jeffrey Bauguss
- Ashley Billings
- Y Bowers
- Leslie Boyd-Long
- Jeanine Brushwood in memory of Scotty Sr.
- Rebbeca Burgess
- Cynthia Campbell in memory of Nellie M. Prebor
- Kathryn Daniel Charles
- Cynthia & Lam Chu in memory of Clayton Porter
- Karen & Hayden Church in memory of Tommy Minton
- Marcia & Chad Clifton in memory of Carlee Frazier
- Vickie Combs
- Meredith Comer in honor of Buddy
- Richard & Theresa Cook
- Paula & Scott Curry
- Elaine Davidson
- Kenny Eastridge
- Margie Edgerton in memory of “Ozzie” and “Pauley”
- Monica Elizondo in memory of Scott McLain
- Deborah Elliott
- Francis Finlay
- Kendall Forester
- Chris Gaddy in memory of Scott McLain
- Benton Garrett in honor of Mia
- Suzanne & Michael Griffin
- Julia Golden
- Denise Greene
- Gail Hamby in memory of Annie and Phyllis Foster’s Daisy
- Carolyn Harris
- Richard & Frances Hayes in memory of Dusty (D) Rhodes III
- Brett Henson in memory of Dusty (D) Rhodes III
- Anna & Ed Holland in memory of Dusty (D) Rhodes III
- Sarah Howell in memory of Dusty (D) Rhodes III
- Linda & Alvin Huffman in memory of Scott McLain
- Charles Jackson in memory of Jim Poteat
- Charlene & Joel Laster in memory of Tommy Minton
- Little Rock Baptist Church in memory of Ricky Williams
- Chasity Lovetter
- Michael Marshall
- Rhonda McDonald in honor of Spanky and your Zoey
- Harold McManus
- Dawn Michael
- Mulberry Elementary School in memory of Lanelle Harrold Elledge
- John Oliver
- Sherry Olmsted in memory of Pat Doby
- William & Lee Pelon in memory of Scott McLain
- Sarah Perdue
- Larry & Barbara Pendry in memory of Tommy Minton
- Raymond Ned Pierce
- Foy & Regina Pratt/Stonegate Farms in memory of Mike Duncan
- Beverly Reid in memory of Bill Hayes
- Marcia & Rex Reynolds
- Bethany Ritch
- Joy Ritenour
- Anne Romanello in memory of Joanna Cates
- Kelly Rominger
- C. A. Rubio in memory of Terri Varela
- Heather Salley
- Mary Severt

- Sherry Shumate-Winant in memory of Scott McLain Thomas Silvey
- Skyline Membership Corp. in memory of Clayton Porter
- Sandra Smith in memory of Tommy Minton
- Patrick & Shari Smith in memory of Tommy Minton
- Cindy Smithey in memory of Scott McLain
- Victoria Stanley in honor of the incredible work of Mary and Katie Parsons
- Larry & Diane Stone in memory of Scott McLain
- Pat & Susan Stone-Hawkins in memory of Scott McLain
- Walter & Doris Stroud in memory of Scott McLain
- Denise Sturdivant in memory of Susan Whittington
- Stewart Sturkie in honor of Dusty (D) Rhodes III
- Jeffrey Swofford in honor of Scott and Dexter McLain

- Lori Todd
- Anne Totillo
- H. Hughes & Gretchen Vandervort
- Victor & Teri Varela
- Jimmy Vick
- Cindy Wagner
- Karen Watts
- Women's Service League of Wilkes
- Frances Yale



Thank You for Helping Community Cats in Wilkes County

In April, we made an appeal to our members and Facebook supporters for funds that would allow our Community Cats team to help about 30 unaltered feral cats at a Wilkes County location where the property owner is unable to contribute to the cost of the cats' surgeries. As is so often the case, you were beyond generous, and the work has begun!



So far, we have trapped, neutered, and returned (TNR) eleven cats at that location and removed four kittens. We will take kittens into our foster program when we have space and/or transfer them to another rescue if they are young enough to be socialized and adopted. We want everyone to know that we do not endorse or create feral cat colonies—we are just trying to reduce and limit the ones that already exist. As most of you know, when feral cats are taken to the Wilkes County Animal Shelter, they are often euthanized. Whereas, if we can prevent an existing colony from growing by limiting their reproduction, the colony will gradually decline. The cats in that colony will also endure less of the suffering caused by fighting and complications of pregnancy and birth. We plan to continue to trap there this summer. We can't predict exactly when it will be complete. We are trying to trap there at least twice a month, but it depends on such factors as the number of appointments available for spay/neuter surgeries and how many cats actually enter the traps we put out. We have already helped another individual with 21 cats, and we continue to trap at that home. The generous donations we received in April will help offset the costs of this project, as well.

Arlene McGrane and Denise Greene coordinate the program and do most of the hard work of trapping, transporting, and returning the cats to Wilkes County colonies. They asked that we extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to and supported the TNR program! We have set a goal of trapping 400 cats this year and are on track to meet that goal!

We could not do it without the support of our community.

To achieve our goal of significantly reducing the feral cat population in Wilkes County, we also need more volunteers, especially those who would be willing to drive cats that have been trapped to the Foothills Animal Clinics in Hickory and Claremont and then return them to the HSOW building in Wilkesboro. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at tnr@humanesocietyofwilkes.org or call 336-838-9588 and leave a message.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org/spay-neuter/tnr-community-cats-program>.



Community Cats/TNR Special Campaign Donors April 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated to help our Community Cats team trap, neuter, and return (TNR) the feral cats at a large colony in Wilkes County.

- Leigh Barnes
- James Brown
- Rebecca Browne
- Madison Bryan
- Karen Bumgarner
- Laura Bumgarner
- Laura Byrd
- Deborah Caudill
- Sabrina Caudill
- Mark Chipman
- Birgit Clager
- Yvonne Cook
- Elaine Davidson
- Caren Hartley
- Susan Hayes
- Sally Healy in honor of Bubby & Chiado
- Christopher Hill
- Emily Jenkins
- Alexandra Johnson
- Maggie Johnston
- Kathryn Junge in honor of Lexy
- Julie Koch
- Susan Losey in memory of Selin, Mittens, Ava, Shenanigans, Myrtle Margaret, Pierre, and Galileo
- Laura Love
- Mary Marlow
- Carmen McGee
- Joan McReynolds in honor of Buster and Tootie
- Samantha O'Grady
- Brenda Osborne
- Tyler Pait in honor of Walcott
- Katelyn Porter
- Amber Roark
- April Royall
- Alley Shumate
- Gail Taylor
- Melissa Walker
- Benson Wills
- Carole Wingler
- Ashley Yates



Welcome New Members February – May 2025

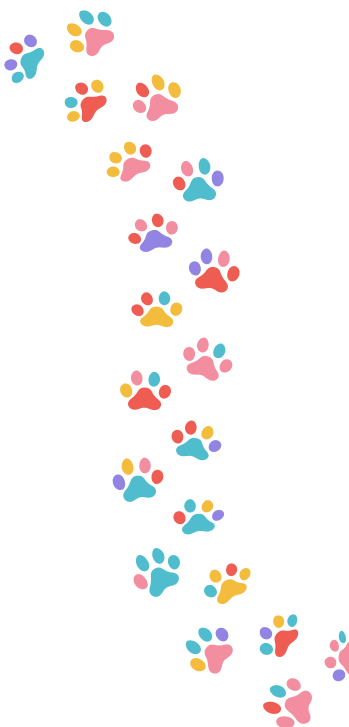
Welcome to our new members who joined between February and May 2025. We are also very thankful to all of you who have renewed your memberships!

- Karen Ashley
- Lee Black
- Leah Bishop & Timothy Sharp
- Scott & Paula Curry
- Donna Poe & Jazmine “Marie” Phillips
- Denise Sturdivant
- Lori Todd



**March & May SNAP Mobile
Spay Neuter Clinics**
Special thanks to Dr. Welch & April Chovan

Just a few of the many donations we received from our members and supporters. Thank you so much! If you'd like to donate supplies or pet food, you can use our Amazon and Chewy wish lists. (We love gift cards too!)



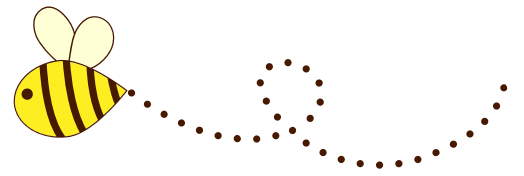
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/10EO8DP3ZIAWO/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

https://www.chewy.com/g/humane-society-of-wilkes_b76848504





Recent Events



Education: HSOW volunteers Donna and Scott Huffman presented at West Wilkes High School's World of Opportunity Conference in March.



Volunteer Spotlight: Thank you to Hughes and Gretchen Vandervort--members, supporters, and volunteers!

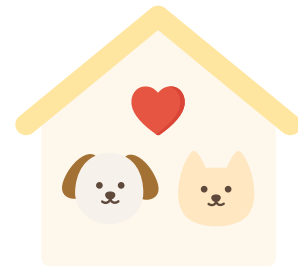


Well Deserved! HSOW volunteer Denise Greene wins the Merlefest Ticket raffle!



Contributors

- Lauren Johnson
- Blair Hancock
- Denise Greene
- Mitzi Combs
- Sherrie Sentell
- Susan Allen



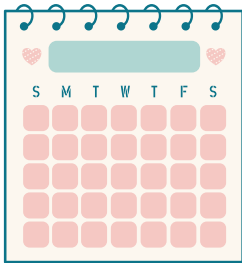
Adoptions: January - May 2025

Cats: 134

Dogs: 193

**Other: 2
(rabbit & bearded dragon)**





Upcoming Events



HSOW Pet Adoption Fair

June 14, 11 am - 3 pm
PetSmart, Wilkesboro

PetSmart National Adoption Week

July 21-27
(fairs TBA)



NBCUniversal's Clear the Shelters

August 1-31, 2025
(fairs TBA)

SNAP Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

July 7



Brushy Mountain Peach & Heritage Festival

July 26
downtown Wilkesboro



You're invited



Denali

Denali is a wonderful addition to our family, thank you for all you do for these animals.



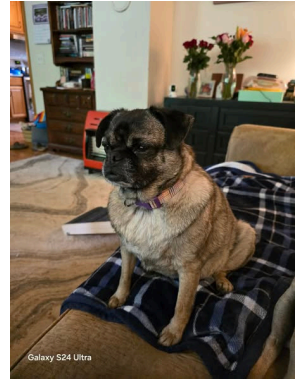
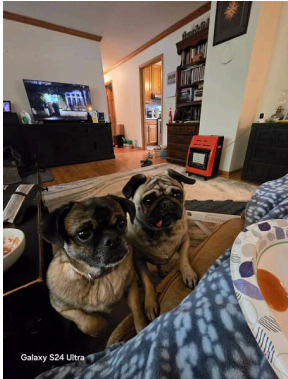
Bear (Emsley)

Emsley is now Bear and is doing well in his new home.



Zoey

Zoey has slotted into the pack like she has lived here forever. She loves walks and mealtimes, knows exactly what time dinner is, and will remind you if you are a few minutes late. She no longer suffers with being anxious about food. Her allergies are improving; we have discovered she cannot eat anything with grain as it flares her skin up. We love her sparky nature and are so grateful we were picked to be her forever home. Thank you for the wonderful work you do saving lives.



Happy Tail Updates

