

Our mission...

...is to act on behalf of unwanted and abandoned pets in order to achieve the following: provide a safe clean environment, provide needed medical treatment, and give healthy pets the opportunity to be adopted. We also encourage sterilization by providing a portion of the cost when possible to low-income, current pet owners, and we educate young people about the satisfaction associated with responsible pet treatment.

Big-hearted Huntsville Students



Carla Taylor's 4th-grade class collected items for the pet shelter instead of exchanging Christmas presents in December. These are some big-hearted kids. All the doggies and kitties at the shelter said Thank you, thank you!

Shelter receives award



Photo courtesy of the Madison County Record

The Huntsville Area Chamber of Commerce presented Paws & Claws Pet Shelter with a Star Award at their Jan. 28 awards banquet. That award is for each of you, too, because we can't help the homeless dogs and cats without you. Thank you!

Mobile Spay-Neuter Clinic Scheduled for February 20

\$20 for dogs



\$20 for cats

Through the generosity of the Humane Society of the Ozarks and SpayNWA, Paws & Claws Pet Shelter is able to offer its second one-day, mobile spay-neuter clinic for the pets of qualifying Madison County pet owners.

Surgeries will be done Saturday, Feb. 20, at Studio 407, 444 N. Parrott in Huntsville (next to Garibaldi's). The cost is \$20 for both cats and dogs, whether spayed or neutered. The surgery must be paid for at Paws and Claws Pet Shelter on or before Wednesday, Feb. 17. Optional services are available, too, at \$10 each. They include microchipping, rabies vaccinations, parvo/distemper vaccinations for dogs, and FVRCP for cats. Call 479-738-1505 to schedule.

Friends' Connection is published each February, June, and October.

Contact us at **479-738-1505** OR at www.thepetshelter.org,

OR Anne Greene, editor, at mcpsfriends@gmail.com

OR at Friends of the Shelter, Paws and Claws Pet Shelter, 2075 Madison 6555, PO Box 364, Huntsville 72740

Raffle Winners, And a big Thank You to all participants!



Spay AR Helps Paws & Claws



Spay Arkansas is our region's premier low-cost spay-neuter clinic, located at 1909 Huntsville Ave. in Springdale.

In January, the Spay Arkansas board generously voted to subsidize through 2016 the spay-neuter surgeries of Paws & Claws Pet Shelter's dogs and cats.

Spay AR's generosity will also allow us to present special offers to Madison County pet owners. Watch our website and Facebook page.

SpayAR serves pet owners in our region. Most, but not all, services of SpayAR are income-sensitive. Income limits start at \$33,350 for a household of 1 person. To learn if you qualify or to learn of special programs available to everyone, go to spayarkansas.org or call 479-756-1100.



The Chase Family Foundation of Springdale—established in 2008 by Susan Chase to honor her parents Rex and Glada Chase—made a generous gift of \$2,000 in December. **Many thanks to them!**



Paws & Claws' Wish List

We can always use these things at the shelter:

Bleach
Paper towels
Kitty litter
Leashes
Dog collars
Towels
Blankets
Sheets

30- and 13-gallon garbage bags
Sandwich & gal. sized Ziploc bags
High-efficiency laundry detergent
Dryer sheets

P&C Amazon Wish List

Donations to Paws and Claws through Amazon's Wish List Registry are always welcome, too. Visit:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist>

In the *Find a Wish List or Registry* box, type **paws & claws pet shelter** or **mcpshelter1@gmail.com** and ship to the shelter at 2075 Madison 6555, Huntsville AR 72740.

Support P&C through Amazon Smile

When you sign up to shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), you shop as usual, and Amazon gives 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Please select us as your choice. Search for either Paws and Claws Pet Shelter or Madison County Pet Shelter, Huntsville AR, for an easy way to help the homeless dogs and cats.

Top to bottom: Rugar winner Rachel Ritchie; YETI Roadie winner Jason Cook; YETI Tundra winner Lea Anne Johnson. Congratulations to the winners. Everyone who bought a ticket helped the dogs and cats. Thank you!

Dogs help our health

Here's the summary of a new publication by Harvard Medical School. It's always nice when research confirms what we already know.

There are many reasons why dogs are called humans' best friends: not only do they offer unparalleled companionship, but a growing body of research shows they also boost human health. Owning a dog can prompt you to be more physically active — have leash, will walk. It can also:

- help you be calmer, more mindful, and more present in your life
- make kids more active, secure, and responsible
- improve the lives of older individuals
- make you more social and less isolated

Just petting a dog can reduce the petter's blood pressure and heart rate (while having a positive effect on the dog as well).

Get Healthy, Get a Dog, a new Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School, details the many ways that dogs can improve the lives of humans.

The health connection is often a two-way street. People who are overweight and sedentary tend to have dogs that are overweight and sedentary. In fact, obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the canine community — affecting more than half of dogs — just as it has among humans. So if you have an unhealthy, overweight dog, that may be a red flag that you're unhealthy yourself.

Get Healthy, Get a Dog offers healthy lifestyle changes for both you and your dog to further boost the benefits described above. If the two of you already exercise together, it offers ways to expand your activities.

If you don't own a dog but would like to adopt one, *Get Healthy, Get a Dog* guides you in choosing a companion that will suit your lifestyle. It also covers the role of service dogs in the lives of humans and ways to benefit from contact with canines if you don't own a dog. It also includes a special section on optimal dog nutrition, plus a chapter on exercise, so

you know exactly what your dog needs to stay healthy and fit.

Although dogs are wonderful motivators for getting moving, they are not just a means to a healthier end. Adopting a dog is a commitment that will last for many years, and you must be ready and willing to take on that responsibility. If you do, it's likely you will be richly rewarded with one of the most satisfying, loving, and active relationships you'll ever experience.

<http://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/get-healthy-get-a-dog>

Gracie's odyssey, a happy tail

In early 2015, Gracie's owner moved and abandoned her. This tough little dog took to the highways and byways and lived on her own for 7 or 8 months. She was seen by many but could be touched by none. During her odyssey she appeared to have had pups, she lost weight, and she lost her right rear foot. And she kept on going.

Shonna and a crew of persistent volunteers decided to capture her. Some said, "No way that'll happen." But, guess what? It did, and it's one very happy tail. Here's her very abbreviated odyssey in pictures. (Clockwise from top left: on her own, 3-legged; trap being readied; recovering at shelter; and finally at home, adopted Jan. 11.)

Generous donations to our special-needs fund helped us help Gracie. Thank you!



Suggs estate planning includes pets

We have some big-hearted donors, and we appreciate every one of them. But Tommy and Karen Suggs are unique because their philanthropic planning extends not just to our shelter before and after their passing, but it also extends to their pets.



Tommy and Karen Suggs with their beagles Sami (in foreground) and Eddie, after our May 2015 Fun Run.

As part of a planned estate gift to Paws and Claws Pet Shelter, the Sugges have ensured the future care of their pets, which currently includes three cats and two elderly beagles, Samantha (Sami) and Eddie.

When the time comes that neither Tommy nor Karen can care for their animals, the dogs and cats will be transported to our no-kill shelter. Our shelter will match them with the best possible home. These guys will be missing their people, no doubt, but they will be living in a safe, loving environment.

Our companion animals give us loyalty and attention for years, but few of us who are elderly ourselves think about providing for the welfare of our pets when we are not there for them. The Sugges gift to the shelter and to their pets is thought provoking. It shows a unique compassion and serves as an example to all of us.



The Cats' Champion

Mark Twain was a great fan of cats. He wrote, "When a man loves cats, I am his friend and comrade, without further introduction."

Valentine's Day Special

Flower & Sweetie wanna know...



...Will you be my Valentine?

Visit us Feb. 11 and Feb. 13 to find the next love of your life. All adoptions on the 11th and the 13th are \$14. You won't regret it! ♥

An artist's touch



Joana, above, donated her artistic talent and time in December to freshen the look and atmosphere at the shelter. Come by and see her work. It's fun! Thank you, Joana.

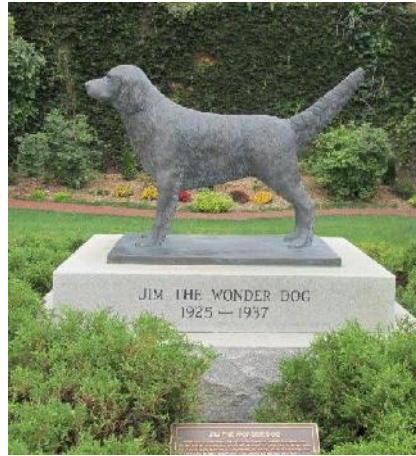
They're all special, but Jim was a Wonder Dog *by Abby Burnett*

All towns should be blessed with a famous dog, living or otherwise. Marshall, Mo., has both a park and a museum to honor its most famous canine resident, Jim the Wonder Dog. This Llewellyn Setter (1925 – 1937), famed for his psychic abilities, was a tourist attraction in his day and continues to draw visitors to an annual Wonder Dog Day each May, and to Jim's grave in Marshall's Ridge Park Cemetery.

Quail hunter and hotel manager Sam VanArsdale bought Jim, as a pup, for \$12 and discovered the dog's uncanny abilities on a hot day. "Let's go over and rest a bit under that hickory tree," he said, conversationally, to his dog – and was amazed when Jim trotted straight over to the hickory. With further questioning, the dog went to a walnut, a cedar, a stump, and even a tin can on demand. This was the beginning of big things.

Jim is credited with having correctly predicted the winner of the Kentucky derby seven times in a row, and the winner of the World Series in 1936. He could be sent out to the street to identify a car by its make, color or even license number, and was said to correctly follow commands in foreign languages – even in Morse code.

Such abilities got the attention of psychologists, the director of the state's School of Veterinary Medicine (who pronounced Jim "possessed



with occult power"), even a joint session of the Missouri legislature which convened just to see a demonstration of the dog's powers. He was written about in numerous magazines, and was featured in a Ripley's Believe It Or Not column.

When Jim died, his owner sought to have him buried in the VanArsdale family plot, but was denied. Jim (embalmed and buried in a specially made casket) was interred outside the cemetery fence but, in later years, an expansion meant that the fence was moved. Today Jim's grave lies inside the cemetery, and his is the most-visited burial there. School children have worn a path to the spot, where they leave coins and small gifts on the dog's headstone.

Jim's home at the Ruff Hotel (yes, really) was eventually demolished; today Jim the Wonder Dog Memorial Garden stands on the spot. It includes beautiful plantings, a water feature, and a life-sized bronze statue of the dog, created by Andy Davis in 1999 that provides a shady

napping place for local cats. The Marshall Welcome Center and Jim the Wonder Dog Museum are next door to this park.

Every town should have a famous, celebrity pet. Marshall, Mo., has one – and a town motto to go with it: "Come. Sit. Stay."

Information about Jim's life, May's Wonder Dog Day (with balloon dogs for children and a dog adoption event), and merchandise containing Jim's picture may be found at: www.jimthewonderdog.org

Pet Cemeteries

If a visit to the grave of Jim the Wonder Dog leaves you interested in seeing where other pets are buried, there are a lot of cemeteries to explore. Animal lovers should be warned, however: the inscriptions on some of the markers are guaranteed to cause tears. "You left paw prints on my heart," and "Who rescued who?" are only the beginning.

America's first pet cemetery was created in Hartsdale, N.Y., in 1896, the work of a sympathetic veterinarian whose client was not allowed to bury her beloved dog in a cemetery with humans. Now such places exist across the country. Some, like the Ken Underwood Coon Dog Memorial Graveyard (aka the Coon Dog Cemetery), established in 1937, have even made it onto the big screen, serving as the location for a pivotal scene between Reece Witherspoon and Josh Lucas in *Sweet Home Alabama*.

Springfield, Mo., has two large pet burial grounds. Friends of the Family Pet Memorial Gardens is located on 1900 N. County Road 123; across town is Lakeland Pet Cemetery, on 4500 S. Lone Pine. Closer to home is Rest Haven, at 3800 W. Walnut in Bentonville. All three use markers that are flush with the ground which, though small, still leave room for heart-felt inscriptions and even photographs of the deceased pet.

To see large, elaborate memorials to by-gone pets, visit Mount Auburn, outside Boston, Mass. Though historians for this historic cemetery maintain that no animals were ever buried there, family plots sport life-sized marble statues of long-lost Irish setters and bull dogs, and cameo portraits of other beloved pets are to be found on their owners' stones.

Donate your old vehicle to Paws & Claws Pet Shelter



Call the Center for Car Donations today!

Our partner, the Center for Car Donations, will pick up your vehicle, sell it, send the shelter a check, and send you an IRS 1098 or acknowledgement. Your vehicle doesn't even have to be running, though you must be the legal title holder.

Give them a call at 877-411-3662 or visit their website:
www.centerforcardonations.com/paws-claws-pet-shelter.htm

\$ Upcoming Online Fundraiser \$

April 7, 2016

Arkansas Gives Day, where your gift grows



On April 7, **Arkansas Gives Day**, from 8AM to 8PM, donations given to Paws & Claws Pet Shelter through this effort will be partially matched by the Arkansas Community Foundation. Your gift will be enhanced and will help us help them even more.

Watch our website (www.thepetshelter.org) and Facebook page for details as April 7 approaches.

A unique link will be available. **Paws & Claws Pet Shelter** will be listed as a participating nonprofit, so when you choose us, your gift will be increased.

Caring for hundreds of living, breathing, eating, and etc. animals costs money. We are solid in our conviction that it is money well spent for both the animals and for Madison County. We think you agree and hope you can take advantage of this 1-day chance for your donation to receive the Arkansas Community Foundation match. Thank you!

Join Friends of the Shelter, ensure your receipt of *Friends' Connection*, and help us help them. Thank you!

Supporters receive this newsletter each June, October, and February. Your yearly donation helps us care for and find homes for homeless Madison County dogs and cats.

We find homes for homeless pets.

Yes, please count me (or us) in as a Friend of the Shelter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email address? _____

(Send newsletter via email? Y___ N___)

We ask that you send at least \$12 a year. Your ongoing support touches not only the dogs and cats we care for, but many families.

\$12 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____



Help us help them.

Please make checks payable to PCPS Friends of the Shelter and mail to POB 364 Huntsville 72740

Please encourage all pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. Thank you for your support!

See us on Facebook – Visit our webpage: www.thepetshelter.org