

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.

Our shelter hours...

- ♦ 10AM-5PM
Tues. Wed. Thurs.
- ♦ 10AM-2PM
Sat.
- ♦ Closed:
Fri. Sun. Mon.

Care, Compassion, and Persistence Built the Madison County Pet Shelter



Some of you will remember the group of people in the late 1980s in Madison County who worked together to do something positive for the unwanted dogs and cats in our midst.

Jim MacLean DVM was in the forefront as the group worked to raise money through yard and bake sales. They would earn a little money and save it. Then repeat—again and again. That group's persistence was a real blessing for today's stay pets.

Linda MacLean helped with those sales, too, and stored things in the couple's home and took minutes at early meetings and supported the overall effort. Thank you Dr. Jim and Linda, from all the dogs and cats at Paws & Claws!

(left) Jim MacLean and Linda MacLean worked together for years to ensure shelter for unwanted dogs and cats.

Over 30 years, Dr. MacLean shepherded the idea of a pet shelter in Madison County from dream to reality

How does an idea become reality? Through communication, buy-in from others, and lots and lots of work. In 1987 a core group of people who cared about strays and animal welfare had formed the Madison County Pet Shelter Committee, of which Dr. Jim MacLean was a member. They promoted their goals in schools and local groups. They held animal fairs, raffles, bake sales, and yard sales. Cheryl Crowder, Sue Graber, Betty Sherman, Debbie Whorton, Judy Malish, Doug MacLean, Pat Hodge, Polly Potter, Bonnie Rodgers, Judy Goodwin and *many* others worked toward the goal of a shelter for years. (Please forgive me; I know I am leaving names out!) But the one name that remained constant from the late 80s on is Jim MacLean, even while he was working full time (and more) operating the Huntsville Vet Clinic. Dr. Jim had been on the shelter's board from the beginning. He resigned his position in January, but will remain a much valued volunteer. You'll see him at the shelter's bingo and maybe at a pet shelter booth now and then. His steady, kind guidance over the decades made Madison County a better place to live—for people *and* pets!

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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

Dogs love to be useful, and therapy dogs are!

by Abby Burnett



Coley's dog Winston listens intently as a child reads to him.

Buckminster the beagle has never met a stranger. He greets adults enthusiastically and doesn't mind toddlers tugging on his floppy ears. Wouldn't he excel as a therapy dog, brightening the lives of patients in hospitals, hospices, or nursing homes with his furry friendliness? Read on and find out.

The world of therapy animals is divided into three categories: **emotional support animals, service animals, and therapy dogs**. The first group, also called comfort animals, is not governed by rules or regulations, so if you think your Galapagos tortoise calms and comforts you, then it's an emotional support animal, and various websites will be happy to sell you an ID card and a special vest for your animal to wear.

Because emotional support animals receive no training, they are not deemed to be service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act. True service animals are specifically trained to assist one individual, disabled owner. Some examples: guide dogs for the blind, "signal dogs" for the hearing impaired, dogs aiding veterans with PTSD, and dogs trained to recognize an oncoming seizure or other medical condition in their owners. (ADA laws are specific to dogs, but in certain cases specially trained miniature horses qualify as service animals.) The law governs the rights of handlers to take their service dogs into public places, schools and jobs,

and onto all public transportation.

Buckminster the beagle, on the other hand, falls into the third category: therapy dog or therapy pet. "The difference," says Cheri Coley – whose therapy dog Stormy, and son Kyle's dog Winston regularly take part in Sit, Stay, Read programs in local schools – "is that *these* animals are for the good of other people, not the handler." That's significant.

The Sit, Stay, Read program pairs dogs and their handlers with younger children who need reading practice. While the handler sits nearby, the child reads aloud – often from a dog-themed book – to the patient canine, which gives the child confidence. "Children get to read about a dog, see a dog, and touch a dog – an experience that leads to true and lasting learning," according to the program's Chicago-based website. According to Coley the need for dogs and handlers is great, and local schools have waiting lists of kids wanting dogs to read to.

Arkansas Hospice and the Fayetteville Veterans Administration are just two local organizations that regularly use therapy dogs with their clientele. To participate, contact a hospital, hospice, oncology facility, assisted living facility, nursing home, or school where you are interested in volunteering to find out if they use therapy dogs and to learn the facility's requirements.

The first step is having your animal certified as a Therapy Pet, which usually means contacting Therapy Dogs International, the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, or Pet Partners.

Pet Partners' website states that while 94 percent of therapy animals are dogs, they will certify eight other species, including cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, and birds. (Age and other requirements vary for the smaller species.) The site includes a quiz ("Is your animal suitable?"), a zip code search to locate other volunteers and volunteer opportunities, a webinar, program requirements, and policies and procedures.

(Continued on Pg 3)

Therapy Pet Certification online

Therapy Dogs International
www.tdi-dog.org

Alliance of Therapy Dogs
www.therapydogs.com

Pet Partners <https://petpartners.org>

Consultations, training, group classes, private lessons

Amanda Henry
Dogtastic
515 N. Cato Springs Rd.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 422-1299
[Dogtastic on Facebook](#)
www.mydogtastic.com

Laws governing service animals

Americans With Disabilities Act
<https://adata.org>

Requirements to certify a therapy dog include:

Age & Owner	Dog must be at least 1 year old and must have lived with its owner at least 6 months.
House training	Dog must be reliably house trained.
Vaccinations	Dog must have current rabies vaccination.
Diet	Dog is not being fed a raw protein diet.
Temperament	Dog has no history of aggression and has good obedience skills, e.g., walks on loose leash, follows "sit," "off," "come," and "leave it" commands.

(Therapy Dogs, continued from Pg 2)

Perhaps it goes without saying that a dog must be comfortable interacting with strangers. Its handler must know the dog well enough to read signs of stress or anxiety and able to redirect an animal's attention, guiding its interactions with others. Once an animal is certified, the next step is learning the rules of the organizations where you wish to volunteer – for example, some require that a dog be bathed, brushed, and have claws trimmed prior to each visit.

"I've been reading since age six," says Coley, "so when I heard about the Sit, Stay, Read program it was a logical thing to want to help with." It's a matter of finding the organization that's the best fit for you and your animal. In Buckminster's case, it's an opportunity to extend a helping paw.

The Huntsville Vet Clinic performed x-rays on sweet Samantha and discovered that her pelvis was broken. Samantha is almost ready to find her forever home. She's walking and she's the best cat. She loves to catch bugs and get belly rubs.

Buddy came to Paws & Claws after we received a call that someone found a dog that was shot in the leg. Sure enough, he had a terrible gunshot wound. X-rays revealed that the bone was splintered. Buddy was nothing but kind; he was so sweet while we were treating his wounds over many weeks. Dr. Chris France donated laser treatments and Buddy responded well to treatment. Buddy is currently in his forever home, and they love him so much.

Your support helps us save lives. Thank you!

Shonna Harvey, shelter director

A Place of Safety, Love, and, yes, even Healing



Paws and Claws Pet Shelter brings its mission to life by saving lives. Just ask Samantha and Buddy, two pets who were brought back to health through the shelter's

Medical Fund.

Samantha arrived at our shelter with a broken pelvis. We think she was tossed from a car. Samantha couldn't use her back legs, and she cried in pain.



Pssst. Spread the word.
Spay Arkansas is our region's premier low-cost spay-neuter clinic. Learn more: spayarkansas.org
479 756-1100

Every gift—large or small—helps us save the lives of homeless dogs and cats.

Our shelter's wish list...

... always includes

- bleach,
- paper towels,
- kitty litter,
- leashes & collars,
- pee pads,
- garbage bags (30- & 13-gal.),
- Ziploc bags (sandwich & gal.),
- laundry detergent & dryer sheets.
- We really appreciate cat and kitten food, too, especially canned!

We can also put your old bath towels and blankets to good use.

Remember our Amazon wish list...

...that you can find by searching for **paws & claws pet shelter** at:

[amazon.com/gp/registry/search/ref=nav_wishlist_find](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/search/ref=nav_wishlist_find)

Plus if you shop on Amazon Smile...

...through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.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. Us!



And we are now part of ...



<https://thepetshelter.networkforgood.com/>

Paws and Claws' 2017 calendar,



features shelter animals.

Available for \$10 at
Paws & Claws Thrift Cottage and the shelter.

Donate your old car through Center for Car Donations



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.centerfordonations.com/paws-claws-pet-shelter.htm

When you're in these businesses, look for our donation jar!

► Beaver Lake Liquor

► Granny's Restaurant

► Huntsville Vet Clinic



► Paws & Claws Pet Shelter

► Paws & Claws Thrift Cottage

► Surplus City

► The Y

Ways to help through eBay

As a **SELLER**

Any eBay seller can sell an item on eBay and donate from 10% to 100% of its final sale price to support Paws & Claws.

eBay for Charity credits the insertion and final value fees back to the seller, equal to the percentage donated.

Choose **Madison County Pet Shelter** in your seller's form.

As a **BUYER**



Choose to make a charitable donation to **Madison County Pet Shelter** at checkout.

Look for items sold by seller name **pawsclawsthriftcottage** on eBay—100% of sales proceeds go to the shelter.

Learn more at this link: charity.ebay.com/about/

Population Report, 2016

Pets IN, 2016

Owner Surrender	County Stray	H'ville Anim. Control	H'ville Residents	Born at Shelter	Dumped at Shelter	Other
45	211	85	18	16	16	30

Pets OUT, 2016

Adopted	Transfer to Rescue	Return to Owner	Died at Shelter	Euthanized	Trap-Neuter Release	Other
297	71	36	8	7	1	0

