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### **ABOUT**

# **PAWS CHICAGO**°

### PAWS CHICAGO'S NO KILL MODEL

PAWS Chicago's lifesaving success is rooted in the No Kill model, which can be replicated and scaled in any community. Since 1997, when PAWS Chicago was founded, the city has seen euthanasia drop by more than 90 percent. Much of this advancement is attributable to PAWS Chicago's innovative and solutions-oriented programs directed at eliminating pet overpopulation, saving lives and ensuring that pets not only survive but thrive.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The foundation of all lifesaving is community engagement. By raising awareness about pet homelessness and engaging people in lifesaving efforts, we are making lasting change for animals.

### LIFESAVING PROGRAMS

PAWS Chicago's mission-critical programs—our No Kill pillars—sit atop this foundation. These are the robust programs that are necessary to build a No Kill community.

#### **PREVENTION**

The majority of stray, feral and unwanted pets originate in low-income, under-resourced communities. Through prevention efforts like high-volume free and low-cost spay/neuter and community outreach in underserved communities, PAWS Chicago directly reduces pet overpopulation.

15,000+ animals spayed/neutered annually

### **ADOPTION**

Rescuing homeless pets and uniting them with their new, loving families is at the forefront of saving lives.

5,000+ pets adopted yearly

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR**

No Kill means being a safe haven for animals, no matter where they come from or how much rehabilitation they need. Through PAWS Chicago's state-of-the-art shelter medicine program, each pet receives full medical treatment and rehabilitation.

98+ percent saved

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are essential to saving lives. Without this impassioned and charitable labor force, the scale and quality of PAWS Chicago's lifesaving work would not be possible. Volunteer work provides the equivalent of 70+ full-time employees.

140,000+ volunteer hours



### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

### **ADOPT**

Meet pets in need of loving homes.

pawschicago.org/adopt

### **VOLUNTEER**

Donate your time. Volunteer or foster to save lives.

pawschicago.org/volunteer

pawschicago.org/foster

### **CONNECT**

Become a part of our lifesaving community.

pawschicago.org
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### **DONATE**

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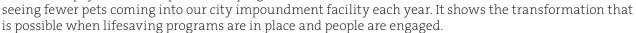
### FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends.

This past year has brought so much change, but one thing remains constant: our community's open-hearted commitment to the animals who need us. We have seen record numbers of people step up to open their homes, both as fosters and as adopters. Our team of volunteers and staff have not stopped their work on behalf of homeless pets. Our supporters have been so generous in uncertain times. This passionate engagement continues to inspire us in the face of the unique challenges that surround us. And it serves as a reminder of how far we have come as a community.

It's still shocking to think back on the state of Chicago animal welfare when we founded PAWS Chicago in 1997— a year when more than 42,000 innocent homeless pets were put to death in our city. Glancing through this issue, you will see how much has changed in our animal-loving community.

Over the past 24 years, our community has reduced the number of pets killed in Chicago by 91 percent. Because of our robust spay/neuter and prevention programs, we are



This issue of *PAWS Chicago* magazine takes a heartfelt look to the future. Torrey DeVitto on the cover of this publication represents the next generation of animal welfare—passionate about doing good for animals and the community. Don't miss her story on page 18.

This issue is full of other heroes for homeless pets—from those who united to save 15 French Bulldog puppies from deportation (page 8), to legislative hero Congressman Quigley and Alderman Hopkins making an impact on the legal status of animals (page 7), to all-star adopters like Stephanie Miksche and Kevin Connaghan (page 28) and our brilliant medical team (page 12). These inspiring stories show the difference that each person can make in the lives of cats and dogs.

This year, we lost a very dear friend to PAWS Chicago, a personal friend who was there with me from the very beginning. You will find our memorial to Jamee Field, one of our earliest and most impassioned supporters, on page 32. PAWS Chicago and the landscape of pet homelessness in Chicago would not be where it is without her lifetime of dedication to animals. Her memory continues with every spay/neuter in the Surgical Suite and every adoption in Dog Town—lifesaving places at PAWS that bear her name and continue her legacy.

In the coming months, you will see the future of No Kill with our state-of-the-art Medical Center fully open, expanded outreach efforts in underserved communities through our PAWS for Life program, and our focus on challenged animals who would have faced euthanasia had we not stepped in to save their lives. We will also continue to be agile responders to the challenges our society faces, to ensure that every animal gets the chance they deserve to not only survive but thrive.

Thank you for your dedication to animals—they need all of us.

Warmest regards,

Paula Fasseas

Founder and Executive Chair

Paula Farsias

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We believe pets are worth saving. We also believe in giving back to our community because we're not just in it; we're part of it. That's why we're proud of our partnership with PAWS Chicago, one of the nation's leading animal welfare organizations located right here in our area. It's just one of the ways we're able to give back to our community and protect the four-legged friends who enrich our lives every day. And, many of our bank locations are pet friendly, so stop by for a treat and see how you can open an account today!

# Chicago

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# **PAWS** CHICAGO

Summer/Fall 2021



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### **PAWS Opens In Englewood**



Filling a gap in a pet-resource desert, PAWS Chicago officially cut the ribbon on the Englewood Outreach Center, creating a permanent pet-resource presence in Englewood.

The Center is another step for the PAWS for Life program that provides basic veterinary care to sick, injured and suffering pets who would otherwise never see a veterinarian. PAWS for Life staff, volunteers and interns canvas Englewood, West Englewood and Back of the Yards, offering pet resources and free spay/neuter surgeries and transportation to the Lurie Clinic. While 95 percent of the families met by PAWS for Life have unsterilized pets, 83 percent of those end up spaying or neutering their pets for free at PAWS.

The Outreach Center also features a Pet Food Pantry, GusMobile spay/neuter days and vaccination clinics, volunteer orientations, feral cat shelter building assistance, Trap-Neuter-Return support, educational sessions and more. With the new Outreach Center, PAWS is able to do even more directly in the communities that most need support.

Above: Coleman Foundation's Michael Hennessy cuts the ribbon at the opening of PAWS Chicago's Englewood Outreach Center, joined by (right to left) PAWS Chicago Founder and Executive Chair Paula Fasseas, PAWS for Life client Jacqueline Leonard, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Pastor Henry Raven, 16th Ward Alderman Stephanie Coleman, PAWS Chicago Director of Community Outreach Laurie Maxwell

# **ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET**Prince Edward Honors PAWS Volunteers

Four extraordinary young PAWS Chicago volunteers, Maria Overgaard, Neha Gupta, Elisabeth Mullen, and Ariana Wilson, received royal recognition for their work as recipients of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA, which is the world's leading youth achievement award. Being recognized is a global honor.

Paula and Alexis Fasseas were invited to greet Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and his entourage, and proceeded to tour the Prince through the PAWS Chicago Adoption Center, concluding on the Rooftop Deck, where the Prince graciously connected with volunteers and some of Chicago's homeless pets.

"It was a great honor to spend time with such inspiring young people, hear about their award journeys, and celebrate their achievements," said Prince Edward, the youngest of Queen Elizabeth II's children.



Paula Fasseas with Prince Edward

### ANIMALADVOCACY



Who Let the Dogs Out PAWS Party Bus

# TRADING DOLLARS FOR DECIBELS

Open your hearts and cover your ears. That was the message for two weeks in November 2020, when a PAWS Chicagothemed VW Party Bus took to the streets rallying dog and cat lovers by blasting the ultimate earworm, "Who Let the Dogs Out" by the Baha Men.

"It was a difficult year to raise money for charities, so we had to get extreme," said Norm Bilow, Managing Director of The Escape Pod, who donated their time, talent, and wheels on this creative, ear-catching project.

The Party Bus was sponsored by Merrick Pet Care, PAWS Chicago's exclusive feeding partner. Media sponsor 103.5 KISS FM helped spread awareness of the bus rolling through town with social media and on-air promotions.

# GOOD HOUSEKEEPING'S SEAL OF APPROVAL

In November, PAWS Chicago was named by *Good Housekeeping* as one of the "50 Best Charities to Give to Right Now!"

# PAWS VOTED CHICAGO READER BEST OF 2020!

PAWS Chicago won "Best Pet Adoption/ Shelter" and "Best Animal Rescue Organization" in the recent *Chicago Reader* Best of Chicago 2020 poll! Thousands of votes were cast and PAWS was chosen as Chicago's top animal shelter and rescue organization.

Visit pawschicago.org for news and events.

### **Chicago Continues the Fight to End Puppy Mills**

By Julia Poukatch

### **A Major Win Protecting Vulnerable Pets**

April 21, 2021 was a triumphant day for pets when Chicago City Council voted to pass Ordinance 2827. Introduced by Alderman Brian Hopkins, this ordinance closes the Puppy Mill Loophole that three pet stores exploited to continue selling commercial pets in violation of the intent of the 2014 Chicago Pet Store Ordinance.

The objective of the 2014 Ordinance was to prohibit the sale of commercially raised dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores, but permitted pet stores to "sell" rescue animals. Three local pet stores instituted fraudulent "rescues" that acted as middlemen between the stores and puppy mills.

The passage of this amended ordinance closes the loophole in the current pet store law, preventing these pet stores from misleading consumers and selling dogs bred and kept in inhumane conditions and often with little to no veterinary care and socialization. It goes into effect immediately to protect Chicago's pets.

### **Continuing to the State**

HB 1711, the Humane Pet Store Bill, has passed the Illinois House and Senate and is on its way to Governor Pritzker's desk to be signed into law. Thanks to all who helped voice their support of this bill and the senators and representatives who championed this cause, puppy mill breeders can no longer rely on selling the animals born in their care for profit in Illinois pet stores.



For updates on State legislation visit pawschicago.org/endpuppymills

Special Thanks to: Alderman Brian Hopkins for leading the charge on this amended ordinance; co-sponsors Aldermen James Cappleman, Ariel Reboyras, Daniel La Spata, Nicholas Sposato, Andre Vasquez, Jr., Maria E. Hadden, Byron Sigcho-Lopez, Scott Waguespack, James M. Gardiner, Harry Osterman, Matthew J. Martin, Michele Smith, Matthew J. O'Shea, Gilbert Villegas, Debra L. Silverstein, Anthony V. Napolitano, Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez, Michael D. Rodriguez, Brendan Reilly and Roberto Maldonado; and the Humane Society of the United States, Chicago Animal Care & Control, and the Puppy Mill Project for their work on this important legislation

# SWEET FIFTEEN

Bulldog Pups Captivate a Nation and Prompt Legislation to End Illicit Trafficking

By Alexis Fasseas



Discovered. Rescued. Rushed to medical care. Ordered to be returned overseas. Public outcry. Intervention at the highest levels of government. Quarantined at PAWS Chicago. Now ready for permanent homes.

There, in 35 words, is a summary of the twists and turns of 20 puppies that rival a mystery novel and expose the underbelly of the illicit international dog trade.

But this story needs to be told in full. And we need your help to ensure this does not happen again. It was Monday, August 31, 2020. A group of puppies was found in a warehouse by O'Hare International Airport. They had been placed, two-to-a-cage, since Friday without food or water, sitting in their own urine and feces. One was deceased.

The Chicago Police Department immediately stepped in and ensured the still-living dogs were cared for. Eventually 15 French Bulldog puppies made their way to Chicago French Bulldog Rescue and others went to Chicago Animal Care & Control for care.



With fraudulent paperwork, the 20 dogs were denied entry to the United States at O'Hare International Airport. The crime: they had not received the legally required vaccinations to enter the United States. Without the rabies vaccination, they were deemed a risk.

As seized property, they were taken to the warehouse. Just another stop in what had already been a roller-coaster. They were born to breeders in Russia, then flown in cargo to Jordan where they transferred flights to Chicago. Reportedly, their ultimate destination: multiple unaffiliated "breeders" in Chicagoland.

Once Customs and Border Patrol and the Center for Disease Control got involved, the "breeders" located in Chicagoland who had purchased the animals relinquished their ownership rights. The puppies then belonged to Jordanian Airlines, and federal agencies ordered them to return the puppies to Jordan. But the puppies had never belonged to anyone in Jordan. Where would they to go?

More than 200,000 people signed a petition to keep the French Bulldogs in the country. PAWS Chicago Board Member Tinsley Mortimer was one of them. She was dismayed at what was happening to these dogs and reached out to PAWS Chicago Founder and Executive Chair Paula Fasseas to see what could be done

"I reached out to the attorney with the Chicago French Bulldog Rescue organization to see how we could help. The situation was quite desperate at the time," recalls Fasseas. "Learning that Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) was in control, we began to reach out to our PAWS Chicago network, and we received immediate response. Our board members reached Congressman Mike Quigley and Senator Tammy Duckworth, who immediately offered their support publicly. And we contacted our longtime friends at Social Compassion in Legislation who have a national legislative network."

It took a village of support. Congressman Quigley said, "As a dog lover, when I learned about the situation these French Bulldogs were facing, I felt compelled to act. In these particularly trying times, I felt that if I could not take the time to help these animals, I would not be doing my job to the best of my ability."

It was Louise Linton and Judie Mancuso of Social Compassion in Legislation who directly worked with Brian Harrison, Chief of Staff at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. Linton was the critical link in securing the Bulldogs' safety.

Because of the recent completion of the Quarantine Pavilion in the expanded PAWS Chicago Medical Center, Homeland Security made an exception to federal law and permitted the puppies to stay in the country, so long as their month-long quarantine was at PAWS Chicago and they were not handled by anyone without rabies inoculation.

On September 28, the puppies were brought to the PAWS Chicago Medical Center where they received additional treatment and vaccinations while fulfilling the legal quarantine requirement. During the four long weeks that followed, PAWS Chicago veterinarians

were the only individuals able to socialize the puppies, as rabies vaccinations are required for veterinary licensure.

The puppies were housed in same-sex pairs (to prevent potential breeding) in large suites with relief rooms. Each day, PAWS Chicago veterinarians took them into the play space for much-needed socialization and fun. But four weeks is a long time for puppies to be in quarantine.

"We were so relieved when these adorable pups were at last safe in our new Medical Center," Fasseas said. "We built the Isolation Pavilion in our new Maddie's® Pet Hospital because of serious situations like this. We are grateful for everyone that came together to protect the lives of these innocent, vulnerable animals. We need national legislation to prevent this kind of suffering from happening again."

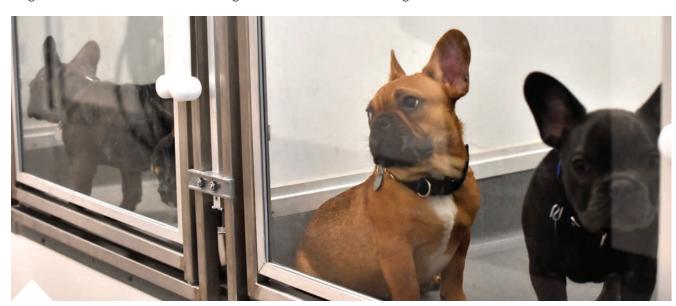
After their quarantine period expired, the puppies returned to Chicago French Bulldog Rescue, who planned to unite them with new families. A happy ending for these Sweet 15. Others are not so fortunate.

How many animals are trafficked to the United States each year? How many are too young for legal entry? How many die in harsh cargo conditions?

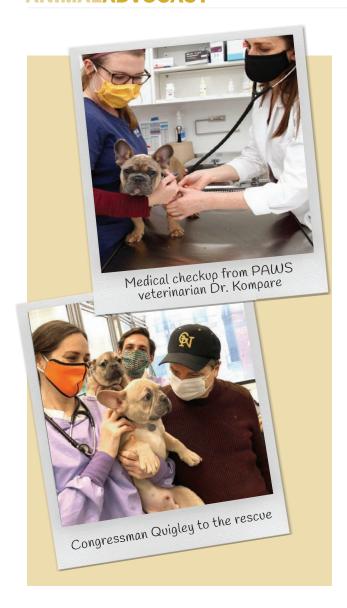
Two pups of the four who were transferred to Chicago Animal Care and Control were ordered to be returned to Jordan and, as a governmental agency, CACC had no choice but to immediately comply. Where did those dogs go?

We will never know the answer to these troubling questions. But the high-profile nature of this case has brought the issue to the attention of animal advocates.

For the one puppy who died and the two shipped back to Jordan and others whose fates will never be known, it is time to take action to change animal trafficking laws.



15 surviving French Bulldog puppies safely quarantined in the Isolation Pavilion of the PAWS Chicago Maddie's® Pet Hospital



"We know that one of the most important things we can do to stop this from happening again is to simply raise awareness about the impacts of irresponsible breeding."

- Mike Quigley Congressman, Fifth District Illinois



### A Humane Future For All Pets

Congressman Mike Quigley's team is digging deep into the laws surrounding animal trade. The layers of agencies and responsible parties adds complication.

- Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) are responsible for everything at ports of entry.
   Live animals are considered merchandise legally and processed similar to other goods of trade.
- Bonded warehouses are private buildings that contract with CBP to be holding facilities.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) inspects all live animals, which is why they are held in bonded warehouses.

"After becoming involved in the Bulldogs' rescue effort and learning about the condition the puppies were found in, I want to be absolutely certain that this never happens to any other dogs again. There are several steps we can take that I am working on to ensure it doesn't," Congressman Quigley said. "One of those steps would be to require all major airports to have quarantine centers like the one at JFK Airport so animals can be quarantined and cared for if or when they arrive in the United States."

The ARK at JFK Airport is a shining example of a bonded warehouse properly designed for animals, but sadly, it's the only one in a nation with 328 ports of entry. The ARK launched in 2015 and is the facility at the airport that manages all animals that come through JFK, ensuring every animal detained by customs has a safe place to rest while decisions are being considered regarding its entry into the United States. But there are more than 1,300 bonded warehouses in the United States that are designed for goods, not live animals. The 15 French Bulldogs know how true that is.

An anonymous witness on site in the Chicago bonded warehouse when the bulldogs were discovered: "These warehouses take better care of flowers and plants than animals. The care and control of these animals seems to be completely disregarded. It's not a stuffed animal you can stick in a warehouse for three days. Something needs to change."

Congressman Quigley is looking at solutions, which include replicating the ARK model at O'Hare at a minimum, improving regulation of all bonded warehouses, and adding accountability for the treatment of animals throughout transport. He said, "First, we want to make sure that all agencies involved in the dog importation process are working together effectively. We have been communicating with the USDA, Customs and Border Patrol, and the CDC to ensure that they're aware of the issue that occurred and also to understand what went wrong. One of the major issues we discovered was that the USDA has limited oversight and accountability authority over registered transport handlers."

Ultimately, he believes that the ideal solution would assign legal responsibility for animals' welfare during transport. "The CBP's job is to protect the border. The CDC to protect human health. Bonded warehouses are responsible for property. But no one's job is to look out for animal welfare!" he said. "We believe that the USDA must be able to regulate who can handle animals and make sure that anyone who violates the Animal Welfare Act is held accountable. We're still in the process of determining whether legislation or adjusting USDA guidance would be the most effective way to solve these issues."

But there is a role beyond legislation. In fact, uneducated consumers are partially responsible for funding these international trafficking companies. Congressman Quigley understands this importance. "The most important thing is something we can all do to stop it from happening again—and that is to adopt from a local shelter like PAWS Chicago whenever possible and, if you must use a breeder, make sure you use a reputable American breeder," he said.

For the Congressman, this is personally impactful. "I have always been concerned about animal welfare issues, but as a life-long dog lover and a proud dog-dad, the safety of dogs and pets hits particularly close to home," he said. "Since we know that one of the most important things we can do to stop this from happening again is to simply raise awareness about the impacts of irresponsible breeding, I also feel responsible for using my platform to spread the message."

Thank you to Congressman Quigley and all of the public officials who are taking action to ensure the safety and protection of animals, and for raising awareness in your constituencies about what has, for too long, been a hidden tragedy.

To read more about the Bulldogs and their rescue, visit: pawschicago.org/frenchbulldog



It has always been difficult to profit from breeding animals. This is at the heart of why puppy mills and other large-volume breeders typically house animals in deplorable conditions. As animal welfare advocates have successfully introduced higher standards of care for breeders in the United States, costs increase, driving profit-motivated breeders out of business.

While solving one travesty, we have created another. Countries with lower costs and lower standards are now seeing lucrative opportunities to ship high-demand puppies to the United States, with disastrous consequences. The French Bulldog puppies are one example of what international news is showing to be a broad-scale crisis.

In late September 2020, more than 5,000 dogs, cats, and rabbits were found dead in cardboard shipping boxes at a logistics facility in Central China. They died of suffocation, dehydration, and starvation. Only 250 survived.

That same week, another batch of animals were discovered in the nearby village of Dameng. This time, half of the animals, or around 1,000, survived. Tragically, China's mass-breeding industry is thriving at the expense of animals.

Unsuspecting consumers looking for a family pet are inadvertently supporting inhumane international dog trafficking. More than ever before, adopting from reputable shelters and rescue groups is the only way to ensure you are supporting humane practices.



The state-of-the-art Medical Center gives homeless pets like Marine (above) and Bertie (below) a second chance at life

In 2015, the vision was born. "So many at-risk, sick and injured homeless animals needed us, but our Medical Center was always full," remembers PAWS Chicago Founder and Executive Chair Paula Fasseas. "Our 30 isolation suites designed for contagious animals were revolutionary in Chicago, but it was no longer enough. Every day, requests would come in from rescues and shelters around the country, but when we were full, we simply couldn't take more in. And those animals had no place else to go that would give them the comprehensive medical treatment that PAWS is committed to providing for every pet we take in."

Though PAWS Chicago was already one of the few shelters able to treat thousands of sick and injured animals each year in medical-grade isolation and quarantine areas, more animals needed PAWS and PAWS had the capacity to find homes for more animals.

To address these challenges, PAWS began putting into motion the grand vision to build the most advanced homeless pet hospital in the nation, a project that would triple isolation and quarantine capacity to treat sick and injured animals.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE NEED**

PAWS Chicago leadership could also see where the industry was heading. With PAWS' high-volume spay/neuter program targeting underserved communities where unwanted pets originate, pet overpopulation in Chicago has dramatically declined. At the same time, shelters and rescue groups have been saving more animals. But the ones left behind and at risk of euthanasia are increasingly sick and injured, in need of advanced medical care.

"The closer we get to No Kill, we see that the remaining pets require more medical care, behavior modification and socialization to heal from physical and emotional trauma," Fasseas said. "Tripling our Medical Center was the next necessary step in our mission to build a No Kill Chicago, and continue saving pets in need, no matter where they are from."

### **FINDING THE RESOURCES**

As with all PAWS Chicago projects, the animal-loving community answered the call. Fundraising began with the launch of this project and many incredible supporters in the PAWS Chicago community stepped forward to usher in a new future for sick and injured animals. To date, \$9 million has been raised, fully covering the construction costs. The goal of raising an additional \$3 million will establish a reserve endowment to provide ongoing revenue for the increase in medical staffing, supplies and maintenance.

### **BUILDING THE DREAM**

Construction officially began in early 2019 under the oversight of Todd Lesser, PAWS Chicago's Vice President of Special Projects. Lesser joined PAWS in 2017 with 35 years of experience in operations at companies such as Baxter Healthcare and PharMEDium Services. His first objective was creating standardization of protocols in the existing Medical Center to optimize operations. The 5S system he implemented was instrumental in beginning to identify the operational and design requirements of the new Medical Center.

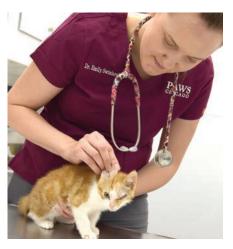
Eighteen months of design and development planning before construction, including schematic designs and construction documents by Michael Matthys and Chris Tokarz of Linden Group Architects, ensured that this important initiative would address all anticipatable needs of homeless animals. Hiring a contractor with expertise in animal hospital construction was essential to such a specialized project, and RWE Design Build, under the leadership of Jason Sanderson, Mike Jurkovic and Tim Burke, exceeded all needs and expectations.

The expansion not only converted 20,000 square feet of raw space in the same building as the current Medical Center into a state-of-the-art, medical-grade facility, but also fully modernized and updated the existing 10,000 square feet to the same high standards. All of this with one purpose in mind: treating, quarantining and caring for animals in need.

"We were able to keep the building fully operational despite the construction hardships," Lesser said. He developed a phased approach to ensure lifesaving would continue during the two years of construction. The entire PAWS Medical Center team provided valuable input throughout the process.

"There have been significant improvements to the work environment for PAWS staff and volunteers, but more importantly, we developed a substantially healthier environment for all the animals at the Medical Center," Lesser said. "We now have additional state-of-the-art kennels, a new surgery suite, additional exam rooms, more sophisticated medical and lab equipment, enhanced lighting, improved flooring for cleaning, new HVAC equipment with 100% outside air, and much more. This allows the team to provide better and more productive care to the animals from a cleaning, feeding, enriching and medical care perspective.

Continued on page 16







Left: Dr. Emily Swiniarski examines a new arrival at the Medical Center, Middle: Todd Lesser reviews architectural plans for the Medical Center, Right: Dr. Carrie Walter prepares Cesar for a specialized heart procedure

### FIRST FLOOR THE JUDITH WHITE INTAKE & TRIAGE CENTER



### **FIRST FLOOR**

- 1 PFK Family Foundation Office Center
- 2 The Irving and Phyllis Millstein Foundation for Animal Welfare, Ltd. Special Operations Surgical Suite
- 3 Jamee and Marshall Field Family Surgical Suite
- 4 Kyle Beecken Foster Welcome Area
- 5 Raskin, Harris, Kocourek Intake Wards
- 6 Spay/Neuter Clinic Lobby

### The Judith White Intake & Triage Center

Is the first stop for every newly rescued animal coming to PAWS Chicago. Last year, long-term supporters Miles and Kim White made a generous \$1.5 million gift to memorialize Miles' mother, an animal welfare advocate and rescuer. It houses all non-contagious animals, including those waiting for or recovering from surgery. Judith White committed so much of her life to helping animals—now thousands each year will be cared for in the center bearing her name.

### SECOND FLOOR THE MADDIE'S® PET HOSPITAL



The Maddie's® Pet Hospital is where ill and contagious animals receive treatment in the nation's premier hospital for homeless pets. Founded by the Duffield Family, Maddie's Fund has transformed animal sheltering, providing leadership and funding to the No Kill movement. They recognized PAWS Chicago's leadership and vision with a generous \$2.5 million gift, truly giving the most needy and at-risk homeless pets a second chance at life. Comprising the Medical Center's second floor, the Maddie's® Pet Hospital includes Quarantine and

Isolation Pavilions, exam rooms, lab, pharmacy, and play spaces along with a best-in-industry medical team.



### **SECOND FLOOR**

- Petco Foundation Canine Pavilion
- 8 Medical Lab
- 9 Michael & Melissa Canning Feline Maternity Suite & Healing Room
- 10 Critical Care Pavilion
- Canine and Feline Isolation Pavilion
- Bailey's Healing & Rehabilitation Ward and Play Space

### **SPECIALFEATURE**

### Continued from page 13

Dr. Emily Swiniarski credits the new Medical Center as one of the reasons she decided to join PAWS Chicago as Chief Medical Officer in February 2020. "Having a state-of-the-art facility means that all animals who are treatable can be treated with high standards of care," she said. "PAWS will be able to accommodate animals with illness and injury that other shelters in Chicago cannot. I am looking forward to creating high standards of care that can be demonstrated to other shelters as not only possible but feasible."

With the expansion, sick animals will have their own space, not only separated by species to mitigate stress, but also separated by ailment. This detailed design will not only help the animals, but it will also help the medical staff to care for them more effectively and limit the spread of disease. Tripling the number of isolation suites means tripling the number of sick and injured animals that can be saved. Adorned with spacious suites and playrooms, the animals will enjoy stability, socialization and premium care.

Swiniarski is already seeing incredible advances in PAWS Shelter Medicine with the new building. "We have been able to contain infectious disease that very commonly spreads within shelters, including parvovirus, thanks to our many isolation and quarantine wards." She continued with a wide list of benefits: "Dogs and cats that are anxious or distressed are now given a place to recuperate away from other animals, so they are better able to cope with the shelter environment. Medical staff can respond more quickly and address urgent concerns and injuries accurately with our new laboratory and radiograph equipment. Ill animals are healing more quickly and moving to adoptions."

Downstairs in the Lurie Clinic, an additional surgical suite enables separation of surgical and dental suites, increasing the number of daily procedures that can be performed. The faster an animal heals, the faster they are ready for adoption and can be united with their new families, and the faster PAWS can rescue more animals in need. Speeding up the surgical process directly translates into more lives saved.

Lesser said, "Looking to the future, the renovation of the Medical Center helps PAWS Chicago come closer to achieving its vision of making Chicago a No Kill community by improving worker productivity, expanding animal capacity and increasing throughput while simultaneously enhancing the well-being of the animals and PAWS staff and volunteers."

"PAWS is able to accommodate animals with illness and injury that other shelters in Chicago cannot".

- Dr. Emily Swiniarski PAWS Chicago's Chief Medical Officer



### **PREVENTION IS PROGRESS**

It's not the first thing visitors notice among the shiny new space and array of technology at the state-ofthe-art PAWS Medical Center. But in an emergency, a fire suppression system can save more human and animal lives than any medical technology.

That fact was important to Anne Rea and Ken Bigg, long-time PAWS Chicago supporters who helped to fund the system. So was seeing progress in the number of pets saved.

Anne, an attorney, and Ken, a former Chicago police lieutenant, got involved with PAWS when Ken said the decrease in the number of stray animals roaming the streets in Englewood was noticeable.

"Something's working. If we just keep at it and keep working hard, it will continue to go our way," he said.

Providing for people and pets in case of emergency just made sense as well. In a way, critical-but-oftenunseen is the perfect description of Anne and Ken, too.

"Ken's dad always taught Ken and his brothers to do good and disappear," Anne said.

Their goodwill over the years has helped PAWS Chicago provide services such as free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines and pet care to the underserved neighborhoods Ken worked in as an officer.

Seeing results only strengthens the couple's resolve to continue helping homeless pets.

"We just want to do what's best for PAWS," Anne said.

### **Sponsor a Medical Miracle**

The new PAWS Chicago Medical Center will save thousands of animals each year, helping Chicago take a dramatic step toward becoming a No Kill city. Will you be part of this miracle for homeless pets? To make a donation visit: pawschicago.org/sponsorapet

For large gifts or room, pavilion and building naming opportunities, please call or email Betsy Moore at **773-475-3320 or bmoore@pawschicago.org** 



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**Doctor on TV, Animal Advocate in Real Life** 

# TORREY DEVITTO

Actor Torrey DeVitto Treats PAWS Dogs and Cats with an Abundance of Love

By Ann Cutaia

It's 3 p.m. on a Saturday, but she's already been hard at work for seven hours. As has become common for her since being cast in a lead role as Dr. Natalie Manning on NBC's *Chicago Med*, Torrey DeVitto is wearing protective medical scrubs, but this time she's not acting. She picks up a syringe, filled with moist cat food, and gingerly holds a handsome, young, orange tabby in her arms. DeVitto has been involved with PAWS ever since she began her role on *Chicago Med* in 2015. "I wanted to spend



more time around animals and give back," Torrey said.

"I just love PAWS' philosophy and how many lives they are able to save."

# "The thing that's really struck me today and about PAWS in general is just how transparent they are."

### -Torrey DeVitto

Torrey's interest in animal welfare began long before she was saving lives on NBC and before her partnership with PAWS. It commenced, fittingly, with her first pet—a dove given to her as a child by musician Stevie Nicks.

Nicks is longtime friends with DeVitto's mother, who quickly realized that you kind of just go with it when Stevie Nicks gifts your daughter a bird of peace.

This loving gift planted a seed in Torrey's heart that blossomed into a deep love and appreciation for animals.

"Since I was very young, rescuing animals and being mindful of the treatment of animals has always been very important to me," Torrey said. In fact, her first rescue animal was an impromptu but inspired effort to save a neglected love bird from the home of a new violin teacher—who quickly became her old violin teacher!

"She kept the bird in a covered cage on the floor and kept kicking the cage and telling the bird to be quiet. I was so horrified that I asked my mom to help me save the bird. We walked back up to the house and said, 'If you hate your bird so much, do you mind if we take it?' I was so happy when we carried that bird home!"

DeVitto's acting career involves a similar touch of serendipity. At age 15, when Torrey's mother enrolled her in an acting class in Orlando as a confidence builder, she immediately knew it was the career she wanted to pursue full-time.

Since then, Torrey has built an impressive resume of acting credits in both TV and film. A winding road, which began with the role of "Girl #1 on *Dawson's Creek*," later found Torrey living and working in Chicago, representing the city on *Chicago Med* as Dr. Manning, before recently ending her run on the show to join the cast of upcoming film *Skelly*.

"I love my character," DeVitto said when speaking about her role on *Chicago Med*. "I love how well the writers write for her. I really feel that through my character, I get to speak on so many important topics. My character has spoken on gun violence, immigration, women's rights, and more. I am always so proud to be on this show."

Torrey's excitement is transparent when she talks about not only the writing of *Chicago Med*, but also the setting. She fell in love with the backdrop of the show. "The city definitely feels like home now."

### **TORREY'S PACK**

Helping Torrey settle into her adopted city are her three adopted dogs, Beau, Homie, and Twiggy. Torrey adopted Beau, a senior Chihuahua mix, at an adoption event in Venice, California. Later, she adopted Homie, a stray poodle-terrier mix in need of a loving home after barely surviving being hit by a car.

At PAWS Chicago's 2019 Fur Ball, Torrey fell in love with yet another poodle mix named Twiggy! It was love at first sight for the pair, and 12-year-old Twiggy settled in nicely with Torrey's pack at home. When DeVitto adopted the senior dog, the pup had been suffering from extensive medical issues, including surgical removal of multiple masses.

"My dogs mean so much to me!" Torrey said. "I don't know what I would do without them. They are the little loves of my life. They have been through every up and down with me. Anytime I am sad, it's like they know, and they know exactly what to do to cheer me up. They are the absolute best."



Torrey playing Dr. Natalie Manning on NBC's Chicago Med







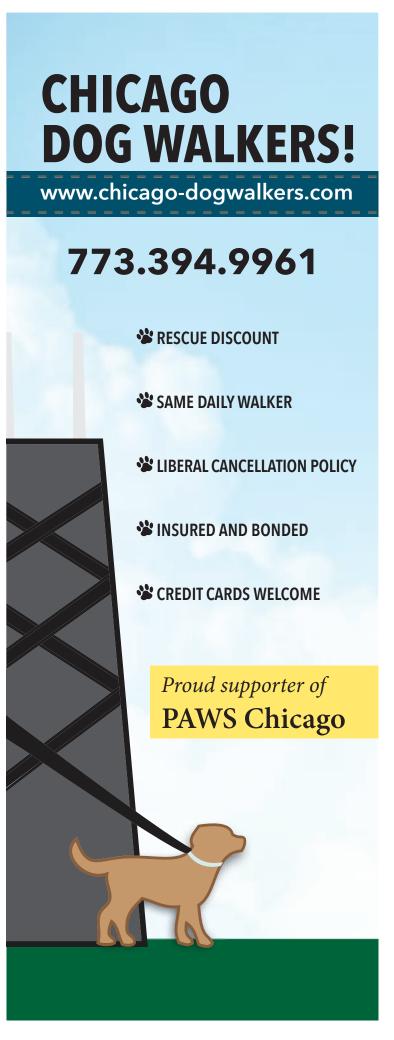
Torrey's adopted pets: PAWS alum Twiggy (top), (from left to right) Beau and Homie

Torrey is a strong animal welfare advocate, and she knew she wanted to continue her philanthropic work in Chicago. She identified PAWS Chicago as an organization with which she could volunteer.

She found PAWS and immediately connected with the mission and work. "The thing that really struck me today and about PAWS in general is just how transparent they are," she said. "You know, you hear about a lot of shelters who maybe have a different face that they show to the world, and the inner workings are just really sad and kind of bring you to your knees because they don't really give a lot of animals the chance that they deserve. And here at PAWS, there's nothing hidden. It's very light and bright," she continued.

Her role at PAWS has been critical in fundraising to make Chicago a No Kill community, but she's more than just a face on the cover of a magazine. She also comes in to do the work. This clean-eating vegetarian isn't afraid to get her hands dirty if that means she's aiding in our lifesaving pursuit. "I just love PAWS' solutions-based approach and how many lives they are able to save," said DeVitto.

Inspiring those around her, DeVitto shares PAWS Chicago's goal when it comes to animals—save every healthy and treatable pet.





# Join Torrey in becoming a monthly Lifeline donor!

Just \$15 per month (50 cents a day) makes a tremendous difference in the lives of homeless pets like Winona, Almond and Viola. Please visit pawschicago.org/lifeline

# Lights Camera Donation

# Another day in front of the camera is a Lifeline to homeless pets

The camera follows surgical scrubs as they're draped dramatically across her strong shoulders. It tracks latex gloves pulled slowly to her wrists. A heartbeat echoes ominously in the background as she pushes through double doors into a modern surgical suite.

No, Torrey DeVitto isn't reprising her role as Dr. Natalie Manning on NBC's *Chicago Med.* She's shooting a television commercial promoting PAWS Chicago's Lifeline Monthly Giving Program.

DeVitto knows that every dollar she helps raise means more animals get a second chance at life. And that those contributions work even harder month in and month out when they're part of a recurring giving program. Her commitment to homeless animals is why she spent her precious free time away from her day job, laboring on another set, in front of another camera, caring for more patients.

"These animals deserve a second chance. They deserve to receive the top medical care PAWS Chicago provides, to heal in comfort and safety, to find a family who'll love and care for them forever. If I can help raise awareness, and a little money, I'm honored to lend a hand," DeVitto said.

PAWS Chicago doesn't receive any government funding, depending entirely on the generosity of supporters. Each gift makes a direct impact on the life of an animal, but recurring gifts made monthly through the Lifeline program increase that impact exponentially.

You don't have to be a famous celebrity to qualify. Gifts of \$15—50 cents a day—do more than just help save lives.

Long-time Lifeline member, Michael Dolesh, liked the idea of helping animals every day. The Lifeline Monthly Giving Program simply made it easier.

"My wife, Diane, and I have been donating to PAWS monthly for many years, as well as volunteering in person on occasion. We've adopted several PAWS dogs, two of which have passed on now. Our monthly donations are a way to say thanks for the wonderful dogs we've had and thanks to PAWS for all the wonderful work PAWS did to provide us with these special dogs," Dolesh said.

A regular gift made over a longer period of time stacks up in terms of total impact. These dedicated donors understand that their regular and predictable support allows organizations to fund their operations and predict their future cash flows better, leading to a better overall organization.

"Our Lifeline supporters know they're helping save lives today and helping us plan for tomorrow. They're like a crystal ball. By committing to that donation automatically each month, they help make it possible for us to create long-term plans for the lifesaving work we do," said Paula Fasseas, Founder and Executive Chair of PAWS Chicago.

Homeless animals "come in here sick and injured, broken and in pain, often clinging to life," DeVitto says in the ad. "But these patients are lucky. They'll get everything they need to get well."

These homeless animals are indeed lucky. They have Torrey DeVitto—as well as hundreds and hundreds of other Lifeline donors—on their side, giving them a second chance at life.



Actress Torrey DeVitto donated her time and energy filming a TV spot promoting PAWS Lifeline Monthly Giving Program

# **Everyone should experience** the love of an animal

### Kate Harder



Kate with her dogs, Samson and Ruby

"I just want everyone that can to experience how joyful it can be to have an animal," said Kate Harder, who has been a Lifeline donor for an incredible 14 consecutive years.

"I feel like the way PAWS does it, where [the animals] are in rooms, usually with another dog or cat, you see that they're happier than in a typical shelter," said Kate.

Kate feels that the impact PAWS Chicago has had on the city's euthanasia rate is a key piece of why she is such an ardent supporter. "When I look at the statistics, when I read the magazine, and you see from 1997 to now how many lives have been saved over the years, it just gets better and better," she said. "To me, it shows how much work PAWS does. Without [PAWS], I don't think it would have been anywhere near as great of a change."

The Lifeline Monthly Giving Program is Kate's preferred way to offer support because she said it makes it simple to take part in saving lives. "I don't have to think about it."

Thank you Kate, and all of our monthly donors, for being a Lifeline for pets in need.

### **ASK THE TRAINER**

# ACCLIMATING YOUR DOGS TO A POST-COVID LIFE

THE KEY TO TRANSITIONING YOUR DOG TO MORE TIME ALONE IS... MORE TIME ALONE.

By Julia Poukatch

COVID-19 changed things in our society suddenly, leaving many people working from home or even out of work altogether. With extra hours spent together, people's relationships with their dogs changed: they went on more walks, spent more time going from room to room as a team, and solidified a consistent schedule that may not have existed previously. The time at home with fewer obligations gave many people an opportunity their previously busy schedules didn't allow for: adopting (or fostering) a new best friend.

But now, people are going back to a more "normal" lifestyle, leaving their houses once again. Where will that leave your dog? And how can you best prepare for it?

We spoke with PAWS Chicago's resident expert dog trainer, Joan Harris, about how you can prepare your best friend for—gasp—more time apart.

# What do you think has happened in the lives of dogs due to COVID-19?

Joan Harris: This has been a good opportunity for a lot of people who couldn't housebreak a puppy or provide training to a new dog. The time together has gotten them on more stable, consistent schedules. The problem will become the adjustment once the people are not there.

# How will dogs be affected when people begin spending more time out of the house?

**JH:** Psychologically, the dog will want you around. We always have to remember that dogs are pack animals; they prefer to have people or other dogs around them at all times. If dogs & puppies don't learn to be alone, they can suffer anxiety or destructive behavior, like chewing or barking. Dogs love to have consistent schedules.

## How can you make the transition more comfortable for your dog?

**JH:** Prepare them for the schedule ahead of time, just like if you're bringing a baby into the home. If they're going to start daycare, start it before you go back to work and slowly build up the number of hours they're away from you. We have been recommending to fosters and adopters, who have



Joan Harris with Watson

adult dogs in particular, that they work on alone exercises: crate training, going on walks by yourself for 30 minutes to an hour, and slowly getting dogs used to being alone so they don't have a shock when it suddenly changes to 8 hours a day.

# What can people do for their dogs when they're not home?

**JH:** People should remember to always leave something for their dog to chew on. Interactive puzzle toys are also great because they keep dogs busy longer. Stuff toys with food items so the leaving process can become a pleasant experience. And make use of the resources that are out there, such as daycares and dogwalkers.

# Have there been any surprising upsides to COVID-19?

**JH:** So many people stepped up to foster, it was incredible. Having more of our long-term dogs in foster made us realize how much training we can do with Zoom. We can see what the dog's behavior is like in a home environment as well as at the shelter, and we can address both.

# What should someone do if they notice their dog is exhibiting signs of separation anxiety?

**JH:** They should contact a Veterinarian Behaviorist, trainer, or veterinarian as soon as they see the initial stages so they can get the resources they need to help them manage the issue ASAP.

As you make plans to head to the office or spend more time outside the home, consult our Return to Routine resources for must-do tips on crate training, introducing independent breaks, providing enriching activities for your dog, and preparing your feline friends. Learn how to make the transition smooth for you and your pet at:

pawschicago.org/ReturnToRoutine

# Compass is a proud sponsor of PAWS Chicago's Animal Magnetism event

Thank you to our pet-friendly agents for supporting the local Chicagoland community.



Joanne Nemerovski



Barbara Stone



**Eudice Fogel & Jayme Slate** 



Cindi Sodolski



Scratching serves important behavioral, physiological, and social functions for cats, but the behavior can be a major nuisance if claws happen to wander over a favorite piece of furniture.

In the past, a common recommendation to solve the problem was to "simply" declaw your cat. But in truth, the procedure is neither simple nor are its effects limited to just the claw.

Unlike human nails which only attach to skin, the claws on cats and dogs attach to bone. Claws have blood vessels and nerve endings and perform a variety of essential functions.

While declawing used to be erroneously perceived as a "nail trim," it is in fact a much more invasive, dangerous, and cruel procedure. Rather than merely trimming your cat's nails, declawing usually amputates the entire bone segment at the end of each toe—akin to cutting off the tips of your fingers at the second knuckle.

The surgery can leave cats with pain, infection, and potential tissue necrosis. As digitigrade walkers, cats naturally walk on the tips of their toes. With their toes amputated, declawed cats have to walk unnaturally, leading to additional short- and long-term discomfort.

Dr. Emily Swiniarksi, PAWS Chicago's Chief Medical Officer, gives an insider look at the practice with an informative Q&A.



# What is the recovery period after a declawing?

**Dr Emily Swiniarski:** The recovery is casedependent, but it is usually very long. The longest portion of the recovery period is pain control. This is a major point of

contention among veterinarians and practitioners—whether there is ever adequate pain control post-operatively. Pain control can last up to a month after surgery. Then at least two more weeks of antibiotics and covering of the toes to make sure that no litter or dirt are getting into the wound that could cause infection.



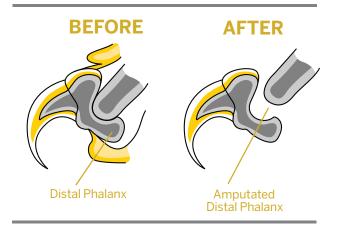
### What are alternatives to declawing?

**ES:** First and foremost is to provide suitable scratching outlets. What I often relay to clients is to use multiple textures. This is a natural behavior that cats are going to do. The number two thing I recommend is trimming the cat's nails. Starting young, I always recommend going to the vet the first few times, so owners can see it done properly.



### How can you prevent scratching?

**ES:** Essentially, there is no way to prevent scratching, period! Cats are designed to do this. It's a form of communication, stress relief, and entertainment.



### PREVENT THE ITCH TO SCRATCH

Cats are naturally deterred by certain scents and will most likely stop scratching furniture and plants that are doused in said odors. Citrus, rosemary, eucalyptus, and dish soap can all help to dissuade your scratching cat, but don't use them all at once! Choose one recipe and stick with it. If your chosen recipe doesn't work, switch it up. Luckily for you but unluckily for your feline friend, cats are put off by an array of aromas.

Give your cat lots of other scratching options with positive reinforcement when they utilize their personal posts! Some cats will prefer a standing post and others will fancy a carpet-like scratch pad.

A stress-reducing facial hormone spray will help greatly if your cat is scratching out of stress. However, even a happy cat will scratch! Gel caps for cat nails are another potential alternative.

However you choose to manage your cat's scratch, remember to give them praise when they participate in alternative scratching methods!



Make clipping more enjoyable for your cat by using the proper tools and treats

Thankfully, as awareness of the full consequences of the procedure spread, fewer cats are declawed each year and an increasing number of countries and states have banned the practice entirely. In the United States,

Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Denver have already banned declawing, as has the entire state of New York. More cities and states are beginning to take up the issue in their legislative process.



# Underdog to Wonderdog

By Ann Cutaia

### **Loving Owners Transform the Lives of Second-Chance Dogs**

Sometimes dogs arrive at PAWS Chicago disadvantaged and written off by others because of their challenges. But we at PAWS will defend, protect, and nourish these pets, preparing them for the homes they deserve.

Some of these dogs come from broken pasts: discarded, neglected, and unfortunately, even abused. Some come from stable beginnings that were usurped by life changes, like unexpected moves or unforeseen medical issues that their original owners were unable to manage. Some have been in the shelter for so long that they've grown tired.

No matter the circumstance, these are the pups that are at highest risk for euthanasia. These are the dogs who deserve a second chance. These are the dogs we must save to reach our goal of a No Kill Chicago.

### What makes a Wonderdog?

There are three parts to the Wonderdog recipe. One part is the medical care they receive at PAWS Chicago, where they are treated with kindness for possibly the first time in their lives. The second part is the unconditional love that is promised to them from their adopters. The third part is the time and commitment that their families provide in order to understand these dogs' needs.

"Diamonds in the rough" is what volunteer Wayne Gailis calls them. "They are underdogs because of what people have done to them or not done for them. In spite of the fact that they have been neglected and abused, they are forgiving, and given the right environment with people who are willing to train and work with them, they become some of our most loyal, loving companions."



# Ellie

### **Ellie's Journey**

When Stephanie Miksche first adopted Border Collie mix Ellie, it became glaringly apparent that the spirited dog had never lived in a stable home, and she had certainly never stepped paw in a house before she was fostered.

During her first week in her new home, Ellie jumped four feet straight up into the air onto the counter, like a cat. Stephanie realized she had a skilled athlete on her hands!

It didn't take much to correct Ellie; all she needed were firm boundaries from a loving owner like Stephanie. Now, Stephanie said, "she won't even hop over a baby gate. She is completely capable, but she understands the intent is to set a limit, and she won't cross it."

Stephanie knew that adopting Ellie was going to be a journey. Prior to adoption, Ellie had been placed in multiple foster homes. She had reportedly had trouble with housetraining, but as it turned out, Ellie just needed patience and guidance.

Stephanie sat with Ellie every day as she drank from her bowl, and then immediately escorted her outside. Stephanie soon realized that housetraining wasn't the issue. Ellie fully understood the concept; she was simply afraid that her new owner would abandon her.

Recognizing Ellie's fears, Stephanie quelled her anxieties by waiting outside with her until Ellie felt safe and calm enough to urinate in the open air. After just a few rounds of praise, Ellie was house trained!

Ellie also struggles with anxiety. Stephanie assuages her angst by taking Ellie on long walks and runs. Stephanie said, "It took time for her to understand that I would keep her safe, but now that she gets it, our walks and runs are a lot easier."

# "It took time for her to understand that I would keep her safe, but now that she gets it, our walks and runs are a lot easier."

### -Stephanie Miksche

Like other previously abandoned adult dogs, Ellie's traumatic past made it hard for her to trust her newfound security and balance. Stephanie continued to look for common ground, realizing her new dog was not only a fellow athlete but also a complete brainiac.

Ellie has a talent for remembering human names. "She is one of the smartest dogs I've ever met. If I ask her to give a certain person a hug, she'll be in their lap in a matter of seconds," Stephanie said.

When Ellie first arrived in the Miksche household, she was skeptical of hugs, wriggling her way out of human arms. Initial wariness of affection is typical for a dog with her past. A few months later, she had warmed up to the idea, responding to hugs better than treats! Now, she hugs her humans back, wrapping her paws around their arms.

Ellie likes to show you that she's participating in the hug, too. "It's like her exclamation point to tell you that she really loves you," Stephanie said.

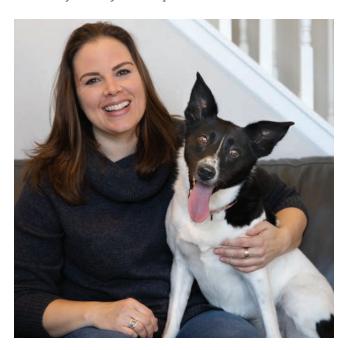
# **A Wonderdog Blooms** found each other.

It's been over two years since Ellie and Stephanie

Stephanie is currently building an indoor agility park in her basement for her sporty pup to practice the skills they learned in training classes at PAWS.

Owners like Stephanie are key to transforming a pup from Underdog to Wonderdog.

Stephanie had this to say to folks thinking about adopting an underdogdog: "I would definitely encourage you to go for it! Understand that some of these animals have some trauma in their past, so when they join your family, it might take a little time for them to decompress and settle in. Be patient with them, though, and remember they'll always work just as hard as you to understand what you're trying to teach them. The hard work is so worth it—the love they give back is priceless!"





Stephanie Miksche and Ellie who literally jumps through hoops to show her appreciation for her new home



A young Yori at PAWS Chicago Lincoln Park Adoption Center

# Yori

### **Yori's Medical Mystery**

At just a few months old, Yori, a Cattle Dog mix, was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, a cancer of the blood vessel walls, and given four to six months to live. He had already been abandoned by his first owner and was back at the shelter for the second time.

Yori underwent a lengthy surgery to remove the cancer. Healing from surgery and with a terminal diagnosis looming over his head, Yori's odds weren't great. But, a Wonderdog beats the odds when they're stacked against him.

The silver lining at this point in Yori's story was his foster parent, Kevin Connaghan, who made the decision to keep Yori as a hospice foster so Yori could live out his last days in the comfort of a home.

Kevin and his family prepared to give Yori the best life possible, even if it was short. Something strange happened, though.

"Month by month, Yori grew ever the larger. From a 20-pound youngster to the over 100 pounds he is today," Kevin said. Yori continued, week after week, month after month, to outlive his expiration date.

After 18-months of surviving his terminal diagnosis, the vets did an ultrasound to check the mass. To everyone's surprise, it came back clean. Yori was satisfyingly stripped of his hospice title!

The Connaghan family continued to take Yori to the Medical Center for a checkup every six months, but more than two years later, Yori is still growing, "happy and healthy as can be," Kevin said.

After living with the Connaghans for almost fourteen dog years, they decided to make it official and adopted Yori nearly two years after he wiggled his way into their hearts.

### **Yori's Second Chance**

Yori's family tries to "remember to live each day like it's our last," Kevin said.

Yori is thriving today thanks to the loving family who never gave up on him. Kevin said, "We're so glad to be failed fosters!"



Kevin and a strong, hearty Yori during one of their frequent outdoor adventures

### ADOPT AN UNDERDOG (OR CAT)!

You might be a perfect fit for an underdog, or for another special pet. If you're looking for a dog who has just as much heart as they have history, or a cat who needs a gentle, experienced adopter, please consider adopting. In the shelter, these pets may seem anxious, fearful, or restless, but when given the warmth and love of a home, they bloom into the Wonderdogs they are meant to be. Just like us, they need the proper tools to be their best selves: love, support, and resources.

Will you fight for the underdog? Join us in our mission to give every animal a happily ever after. Visit: pawschicago.org/underdog

# Celebrating Jamee Field, PAWS Pioneer

Devoted and nurturing mother, grandmother, wife and dog mom, passionate friend of conservation and homeless animals—it is with a heavy heart that we celebrate the life of Jamee Field.

Twenty years ago, a handful of Chicagoans declared that the status quo mass euthanasia of homeless pets was no longer acceptable. Jamee was a leader in this group of visionary animal lovers, committed to a future where homeless pets would no longer meet their fate by the thousands in gas chambers but be given life—the opportunity to survive and thrive in loving families.

"Without Jamee's friendship, support and commitment, PAWS Chicago wouldn't be the organization it is today," said Paula Fasseas, Founder and Executive Chair of PAWS Chicago. "As a passionate animal lover, she was one of the first people to come on board who really bought into the idea of spay/neuter being the first and most important thing we could do to stop the horrific pet overpopulation in Chicago. Jamee understood the root cause of pet overpopulation and encouraged us to move forward with opening the first high-volume free and low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the Midwest."

Jamee knew that the overpopulation of pets was not something that the city could adopt its way out of and that it had to be managed at a different level. She and her family named the Jamee and Marshall Field Family Surgical Suite at the Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic, which opened in 2000. To date, more than 270,000 spay/neuter surgeries, and thousands more special operations on homeless pets, have been performed in that surgical suite.

"Jamee's passion inspired so many people to get involved in the cause of homeless animals in the early days of PAWS when we didn't yet have a track record of success. I would talk to her frequently in those days, and her encouragement gave me the confidence to move forward," Paula said.

Spay/Neuter was only the beginning of Jamee's support of the No Kill mission. In 2007, as PAWS Chicago was launching its next major initiative, the Lincoln Park Adoption Center, the Field family once again was a leader in PAWS Chicago's fundraising initiative, naming the Marshall Field Family Dog Town. Marshall and Jamee were also Honorary Chairs at the 2009 PAWS Chicago



Fur Ball, recognized for all they have contributed to the PAWS Chicago organization and to animals in the city.

Jamee's passion to save animals was clear and, once the Lurie Clinic had reduced pet overpopulation in Chicago, she helped further PAWS Chicago's mission of rescuing animals at high risk of euthanasia beyond Chicago. In 2018, she donated a transport van that is used specifically to transport animals from Okeechobee County, Florida, an extremely high-kill area, directly to PAWS Chicago. She toured high-kill shelters with Paula Fasseas, offering hands-on help whenever she was able. This included adopting several dogs from PAWS, including Lola and Smarty Pants.

Born in 1947 in Chicago to Lee and Edith Jacobs, Jamee grew up in the city, but she left for New York to attend college and begin her career as the Assistant Fashion Editor at *Town & Country* magazine. In 1972, she married Marshall Field V, part of the lineage that revolutionized merchandising and retail with the Marshall Field and Company department store, founded in 1881.

Beyond animal welfare, Jamee was very committed to land conversation and helped restore numerous acres of natural habitat in Illinois and Florida. She served as the first female Board Chair at Lake Forest Country Day School and served as a Life Director and Governor of Lake Forest Open Lands. She and her husband, Marshall, also served on the board of trustees at The Field Museum.

Hers is a lasting legacy. Jamee's love for animals has been passed on throughout her family. Her daughters, Jamee Jr. and Stephanie, are animal welfare advocates. Stephanie Field Harris is a member of PAWS Chicago's Board of Directors and was the Honorary Chair of the Fur Ball in 2018, recognized for her many years of avid support of the shelter medicine program, including naming the Stephanie, John, Charlotte and Henry Harris Canine Intake Ward at the newly expanded Medical Center. And this passion for animals has been passed to the next generation as well with Jamee's granddaughter, Charlotte, planning to sign up as a volunteer with PAWS this summer.

Jamee passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on September 19, 2020. She will be missed by many and will always be remembered as a friend to animals in need and as a key contributor in ending the killing of homeless animals in Chicago and beyond.



### IN MEMORY OF DORI WILSON

Trail-blazer. Innovator. Lover of people and animals. PAWS Chicago mourns the loss of Development Board member Dori Wilson

This beautiful Hyde Park High School/Roosevelt University graduate quickly rose to the top of Chicago's modeling scene as the city's first Black runway model in 1964. She hosted her own public affairs talk show called "Memorandum" on WMAQ-TV and even served as the prototype for the first Black mannequin in Marshall Field's.

She became a favorite subject of internationally acclaimed photographer Victor Skrebneski in a time when it was rare to see African-American imagery cast in national advertising campaigns or on the runways.

Dori worked for several ad agencies in marketing areas and in 1980 launched her own firm—Dori Wilson Public Relations. "When I opened my business (I) was judged by my color," she said in a recent interview. "But again, I didn't let it stop me...I just kept at it."

The animal-loving Chicago publicist and model was a familiar face at Chicago's charitable events; but one of the nearest and dearest charities to her heart was PAWS Chicago. Dori loved the work of saving animals



and recognized the need in our city to help create a No Kill humane organization that would work in all our communities.

As a Development Board member, Dori volunteered to support PAWS Chicago's first large float at the Chicago Gay Pride Parade and wore her boas well. She attended many PAWS events, volunteered at Angels with Tails on Michigan Avenue, and supported her friends in adopting homeless pets.

Our hearts have been broken with the passing of this kind and loving woman; but know her legacy will live on.

### Memorials & Tributes

#### IN MFMORY OF KIM WHITE



Kimberly White's gentle, compassionate and kind demeanor was felt by all who were fortunate enough to meet her. Her legacy is marked by her commitment to family and friends, her life work with children and her connection with animals.

Kim was born in Richland, WA, the only child of Jeanne and Robert Hastings, and married Miles White in 1977. She had a successful 10-year career in advertising

before opening the children's bookstore Crocodile Pie in Libertyville in 1989. Her love of culture and philanthropy led to her serving as the President of the Women's Board for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, the Field Museum, and the Joffrey Ballet.

She was one of the leaders in developing "Share Chicago," a field trip program through the Boys & Girls Clubs, dedicated to enriching the lives of Chicago children and providing them access to Chicago's cultural institutions and other unique opportunities. In recent years, she brought children to PAWS Chicago to learn about pet homelessness and connect with the animals

Kim and her family have left a lasting impact at PAWS Chicago, naming a room at the opening of the Lincoln Park Adoption Center in 2007 and adopting their beloved dog, Peanut, from PAWS in 2015. In 2020, she and her husband made a significant gift, naming the Judith White Intake & Triage Center, the first floor of the PAWS Chicago Medical Center, after Miles' mother.

Our favorite memory of Kim occurred in the waning hours of a PAWS Chicago Fur Ball. Kim was seated on the floor of the Drake Hotel, her gown spread around her, pups surrounding her with wiggles and kisses. She had the biggest smile on her face and exclaimed, "This is the best black tie I've ever been to!"

Those who knew her will forever miss that smile, but her legacy is permanently engraved in our community and in our hearts.

### IN MEMORY OF LINDA JEAN HAVLIN



Linda Jean Havlin shared her heart with her loving family and her rescue dogs.

From the time Linda was a child, dogs were an important part of her life. And she was an important part of theirs. She volunteered with PAWS Chicago, working long hours to selflessly save homeless pets because she believed in the No Kill mission and understood the intrinsic value pets contribute to families and neighborhood life. She served on PAWS Chicago's Development Board and as a volunteer in a variety of capacities and her absence is impossible to replace.

Linda was taken from us too soon on a beautiful spring day when she was tragically struck by a car while walking her beloved Cavalier, Louie. Her final hours were spent in the presence of her greatest achievement and love of her life, her son Todd W. Boulis, as well as being comforted throughout by a number of caring friends and her former husband of 34 years, Paul Boulis.

### IN MEMORY OF DR. KURT M. MILLER. DVM



Dr. Kurt Miller lived a life marked by kindness, generosity, and compassion for people and pets alike.

From a young age, he found his calling to help those who needed help most and at the University of Missouri, dedicated his life to veterinary work. In 2007, he opened Winnetka's first veterinary hospital and quickly became one of the most well-respected veterinarians in the North Shore.

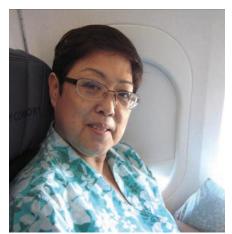
The longstanding support of Kurt, his loving wife, Julie, and their children, Nolen and Grace, truly moved PAWS Chicago's No Kill movement forward. Both he and Julie chaired the 2011 Fur Ball alongside Nancy Timmers and, for almost 10 years, sat on the PAWS Chicago Development Board. They even welcomed a PAWS-rescued cat, Anabella, into their family.

Nolen and Grace inherited their parents' passion for animal welfare. A heartfelt article published by *Pioneer Local* states that the whole Miller family contributed to the 9,100 volunteer hours worked in 2011. Together, Julie and Grace built a program that allowed Grace and her then-high school peers to support PAWS. Julie has since served as the North Shore Development Chair and remains an active member.

Throughout his years of volunteer service, Kurt's support stretched into every corner of PAWS. He underwrote surgeries and medical care for the sick and injured animals rescued by PAWS, shared his knowledge as a contributor to the *PAWS Chicago* magazine, and sponsored numerous Angels with Tails adoption events and community engagement opportunities.

"Kurt was always there for the animals when they needed him. His soothing disposition and gentle touch would put the most nervous pet at ease. His expertise and generosity helped so many animals in their time of need. He is greatly missed by all of us at PAWS, humans and animals," said Paula Fasseas, PAWS Founder and Executive Chair.

### IN MEMORY OF KATHRYN MIYAMOTO-WIER



Kathryn J. Miyamoto-Wier loved pets and painting so much that she left her career in pharmacy to craft a successful career in art, creating Japanese themed artwork and painting pet portraits.

Kathy loved to travel (Egypt was a favorite destination) and loved animals. She loved animals of all kinds, but she didn't like zoos, believing strongly that the animals should be free.

She had two cats, one a rescue and the other a Valentine's Day gift from her husband, Dennis Wier, whom she met in pharmacy school. Kathy was constantly protecting and appreciating animals, feeding birds, squirrels and the feral cats around her apartment. She shared a passionate belief with so many in the PAWS Chicago family that no pet should suffer or die unnecessarily. Today her absence is missed by so many people and pets.

#### IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW "MATT" KAROLCZAK



Matthew "Matt" Karolczak was a loving son, cherished brother, adoring uncle, beloved nephew and cousin, and steadfast companion to Sadie, his Golden Retriever. Matt earned an engineering degree from Purdue University and went on to work as a systems engineer. His time outside of work was spent with his many family members and their canine companions.

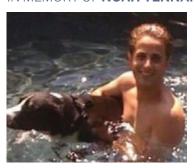
Matt could be found snowboarding in the winters and passed his enjoyment of sports down to his younger relatives. The best part of his day was spent relaxing on the couch with Sadie stretched out across him. Matt, always looking out for those in need, was working towards training Sadie to become a therapy dog.

Matt's generosity and compassion continues to this day. As an organ donor, more than 20 people were given the chance at a better and longer life.

In his honor, donations were given to PAWS in lieu of flowers to help homeless dogs and cats in need.

Matt's life and legacy will live on forever in the hearts of his loved ones and all who were lucky to know him.

### IN MEMORY OF **NOAH TENNANT**



Noah was known for his gentle, kind soul and unique personal charm. He loved animals and his PAWS dog, SOX. Noah was a volunteer and worked with senior dogs at the PAWS Chicago Lincoln Park Adoption Center. He always stood up for the "underdog," his family, friends and, of course, the animals.

### In Tribute

THE KLASKIN WEDDING



IN MEMORY OF SHARON STEFFEN



IN MEMORY OF RALPH BRILL



IN MEMORY OF ZACHARY KOKOMOOR

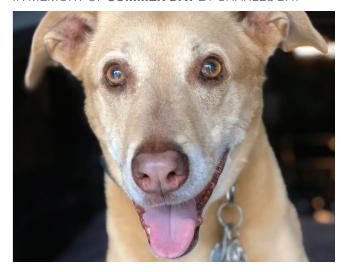


IN MEMORY OF **ANNE BRESINGHAM** 



### Pet Memorials

#### IN MEMORY OF **SUMMER DAY** BY CHARLES DAY



I met Summer volunteering at PAWS Chicago's Angels with Tails adoption event and was entrusted with finding this manic but stunningly beautiful girl a home.

Summer was a two-and-a-half-year-old adventurer with a troubled past, always eager to greet the next person and explore the next open door.

It was four months before Summer became a permanent part of our family—a torturous process that first saw her adopted and then returned .

I attended many adoption events with her, posted flyers advertising her, hired behaviorists and trainers for her, and reached out to everyone who might be interested in adding 50 pounds of unfiltered love to their lives. In the end, there was only one taker. Me.

Her joy for life was infectious, and when Summer was with you, the world seemed more hopeful, her corner of it filled with curiosity and possibility.

Life with Summer was not a straight line and she did not always make it easy. But she lived and loved and laughed like no other spirit I have ever met, and I am grateful beyond expression to have found her and that she chose me to love. There is no greater gift.

#### IN MEMORY OF **SANDRA DEE** BY ALEXIS FASSEAS

Sandra Dee was the most open-hearted bundle of love and joy. She came to us reminiscent of a swamp creature, a matted ball of grime indistinguishable as a dog. Afraid and incontinent, with rotted teeth and a bad heart, the best-case scenario was six months of life.

She was very senior in age but had the spirit of a spry pup. Though the smallest of packages, she had the strongest presence. With everything she went through, she showed nothing but love and nurturing. One little squeak and she'd jump to attention. She would play for hours if she could. Yet she had such a gentle, sweet disposition, no matter the situation. And she wasn't ready to go.

Six months stretched into six years. The time came to say good-bye to our sweet Sandra Dee, royal highness of squeaky toys and the most pure, loving presence you've ever felt. In her last six years, she gave and received more love than in most lifetimes.

She is now at peace. But there is a void where her strong, steady stream of love flowed to us all. We love you, Dee Dee! Until we meet again.



Inset: Sandra Dee upon her arrival at CACC

## IN MEMORY OF MOOSE PRITZKER



IN MEMORY OF MOCHA CAREY



IN MEMORY OF COSMO CROWN



IN MEMORY OF FRANZEN PERETZ



IN MEMORY OF JACK CUMMINGS



IN MEMORY OF **BOO AND BUDDY** 



IN MEMORY OF LUCKY BEAUMONT



IN MEMORY OF IRIS AND PRISCILLA ARMSTRONG



IN MEMORY OF **AUGIE LANGMAN** 



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IN MEMORY OF **MAGGIE WAWRZASZEK** 



IN MEMORY OF **SUSIE KWAN** 



IN MEMORY OF **DESMOND SPRATT** 



IN MEMORY OF LILY DENT



IN MEMORY OF **ONLIE WELCH** 



IN MEMORY OF CISCO MOORE



IN MEMORY OF **ALLY DAY** 



## IN MEMORY OF **ERNIE TIMMERS**



IN MEMORY OF **PENELOPE TIMMERS** 



#### IN MEMORY OF GENNY CHOI



As soon as we brought Genny home in October, she captured our hearts with her sweet soul. We fell in love with her each day until we had to heart-wrenchingly say good-bye only two weeks later due to feline infectious

peritonitis (FIP). Genny was a gentle, loving kitten who forever wanted to be held while looking into our eyes and softly purring. Although her time with us was short, she will forever be part of our family.



Our sincerest condolences to all who have lost a loved one.

Memorialize or pay tribute to a special person or pet in your life.

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# "I am a voice for these animals. Forever."

-Wayne Gailis

for animals in need."

"I have seen first-hand the lifesaving success that PAWS has achieved with donor gifts, including during times of worldwide economic hardship when so many other organizations were unable to keep their doors open. As a volunteer, I know PAWS' commitment to No Kill and making the best decisions for the animals and I have confidence in PAWS' longevity.

Sustainability is so important to me—I know that PAWS will always be there

Wayne arranged for a planned gift to PAWS Chicago, joining the Guardian Angel Program. His legacy gift will help ensure that PAWS Chicago can continue to save the lives of homeless pets for years to come.

Contact us for more information on including PAWS Chicago in your estate plan. (773) 475-4242

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