CATIFICATION
Finding Your Cat’s Mojo

Animals Grieve Too
Understanding How Pets Cope with Loss

You’ve Retired, Now What?
Finding Camaraderie and Purpose in Your Golden Years

PHIL RASKIN
The Ever-Innovative
and His Legacy for the Animals
If we could, we’d give it a thumbs up.

Some things are a natural fit. Like Subaru owners and their four-legged copilots, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and confidence on the road, and the proud partnership between Subaru retailers and PAWS Chicago. Because anyone willing to give pets a little love deserves some back. Love. It’s what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.

Schedule a test drive today at your local Subaru retailer.

About
PAWS Chicago
Pets are worth saving

Adoption
PAWS Chicago has revolutionized the shelter of Chicago’s homeless animals through its capless, No Kill Adoption Centers in Lincoln Park and the North Shore. These Centers, in tandem with innovative adoption events and enrichment programs, enable PAWS Chicago to find new homes for thousands of animals each year.

Comprehensive Shelter Medicine & Behavior Enrichment
As a No Kill shelter, PAWS Chicago is a safe haven for animals. Through a state-of-the-art Shelter Medicine program, each rescue receives full medical treatment, regardless of its condition, while a comprehensive Animal Behavior program provides social and behavioral enrichment. Each pet is treated as an individual, ensuring that he or she receives the nurturing care, treatment and rehabilitation needed to live a healthy, happy life.

Spay/Neuter
PAWS Chicago’s Lura Clinic – the city’s largest provider of free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries – and its mobile extension, the GusMobile Spay/Neuter Van, work tirelessly to bring its lifesaving services to neighborhoods challenged with pet overpopulation.

In 2013 alone, nearly 18,000 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered through these two PAWS Chicago programs. This reach is attributed to the strategic location of the clinic and targeted mobile destinations at the heart of the problem – the city’s most at-risk and under-resourced communities. This focused approach to reducing the number of stray and unwanted animals born is just one more step toward making Chicago a No Kill community.

Volunteers
Volunteers are the life-force behind PAWS Chicago. This dedicated workforce is made up of thousands of impassioned community members who make it possible to provide homeless pets with the quality care and love they deserve.

Community
Saving lives truly is a community effort. PAWS Chicago is focused on extending its reach and impact through its commitment to sustained community engagement. It is because of supporters like you that PAWS Chicago is able to make a difference. Thank you!

Lincoln Park
Adoption Center
1997 N. Clybourn
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 935-PAWS

North Shore
Adoption Center
Located inside PETCO
14165 Deerfield Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
(847) 831-0152

Lurie Clinic and Medical Center
Spay/Neuter Clinic, Admissions Program & Hospital
3516 W. 26th Street
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 521-SPAY

Blazer Building
Development, Communications & Special Events
1933 N. Maryae Street
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 475-3302

Training Center
1933 N. Maryae Street
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 475-3302

3,107 Transfers From the City Pound

Vaccinations, Microchips & Blood Tests
98,001

Volunteer Hours =
47

Full-Time Employees

51,250 Pounds of Pet Food

Spay/Neuter Surgeries
17,767

5,872 Adoptions

39,043/Year or
110/Day
Jackson Galaxy

A cat behaviorist with more than fifteen years of experience—and the host of Animal Planet’s hit show “My Cat from Hell”—Jackson Galaxy specializes in helping individuals whose “out of control” cats are ruining their lives and homes.

As the Director of Communications for PAWS Chicago, Keri Buscaglia works daily to lead her team in helping educate and engage the public in the No Kill mission. Being able to focus daily on two passions—storytelling and animal welfare—is not a job but a gift.

Emily Marron

Emily Marron is a lifelong animal lover and works as a creative copywriter in advertising. She currently fosters dogs for PAWS Chicago and is an advocate for going cruelty-free. She is pictured with previous foster dog, Jordie.

Susanna Negovan

Susanna Negovan is the editor and publisher of PALETTE, a style magazine distributed inside Chicago-area Prince publications. She, and her PAWS Chicago adopted dog Gus, are dedicated advocates for homeless animals and are frequently seen at PAWS Chicago events.

Dr. Barbara Royal, DVM, CVA

Dr. Barbara Royal is a nationally published writer and international lecturer whose own practice, The Royal Treatment Veterinary Center in Chicago, is a center for Complementary Veterinary Medicine and Physical Rehabilitation. She recently published a new book, The Royal Treatment: A Natural Approach in Wildly Healthy Pet.

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PAWS CHICAGO
contributors & photographers

Kaitlin Allen

Kaitlin Allen is the Director of Development for PAWS Chicago, focusing on community building and fundraising for PAWS Chicago’s No Kill mission. In her free time, she is at the beck and call of her adorable and energetic Border Collie, Fijiya.

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Abby Callard

Abby Callard is a journalist based in Chicago. She has lived in Missouri, Spain, Washington, D.C., India and Milwaukee, but she’s happy to have settled down in her hometown with her husband and PAWS Chicago alumni, Ogi.

Lewis Cohn

Lewis Cohn, a retired attorney and an Adoption Counselor at PAWS Chicago. He has taught Negotiation Skills at Northwestern School of Law and the Gestalt Institute of Chicago. A graduate of the University of Chicago School of Law and the Gestalt Institute of Chicago.

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Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your continued support of homeless animals and for your interest in their wellbeing. We hope that you find this issue of PAWS Chicago magazine to be an interesting blend of deeper insights into our companion animals, from how they grieve (page 18) to their remarkable sense of smell (page 40) to insights into their behavior (pages 15 and 36.)

At PAWS Chicago, we are constantly learning about animal behavior and implementing programs that help us enrich the lives of the homeless animals in our care. After all, happy, well-adjusted pets are the first to be adopted! Of course, we never really know the stories of where they come from. Many of our pets arrive scarred from past experiences, which display themselves in a variety of ways, including fear of loud noises, anxiety about new circumstances, wariness of other animals, and sometimes even being terrified of new people. These experiences can manifest themselves in actions like protecting food, possessions or their new family from strangers to leading their new pack by dominating family members or other animals to fear of new environments or going on walks.

This year, we have focused on expanding and deepening our behavior resources to help more animals. We are so excited to announce that our new Training Center is now open and we have added two full-time behavior experts as permanent PAWS Chicago resources! This focus on behavior has already helped our homeless dog population tremendously. Routine enrichment and training is critical to transform our more challenged animals into well-adjusted family members, and we can see the benefits in our population! At the beginning of 2014, we had 60 Gold Star dogs (dogs that require more experienced volunteers and adopters because of behavior challenges.) With the special attention of our Training team, these animals are getting the rehabilitation and enrichment they need to be seen by prospective adopters as the great pets we know they are, and as a result, we are down to 25 Gold Star dogs.

We are also focusing on better understanding the behavior of our feline friends. We were so honored to have a visit from Jackson Galaxy, the cat behaviorist host of the “My Cat from Hell” television series on Animal Planet. We are working with him to find ways to turn our homeless cats into Mojito Cats. (Find out what that means in his article on page 15.) By raising more awareness about cat socialization and encouraging people to understand feline behavior, we are hoping to expand our universe of cat adopters.

In closing, I encourage you to read about our dear friend Phil Raskin who graces the cover of this issue. His concern, not just for his own animals, but for the most needy animals in Chicago has prompted him to make an endowment gift to PAWS Chicago. His generosity will create a fund to cover expenses for external medical costs for puppies and kittens in perpetuity.

We are so indebted to Phil for thinking about PAWS Chicago’s sustainability. While we spend most of our time focusing on getting Chicago to No Kill, we must equally focus on how to sustain it. Other cities have reached the much-coveted No Kill status, but then returned to killing because of new management, new focus and diversion of resources from lifesaving programs like spay/neuter. We must remain razor focused on both getting to No Kill and maintaining the programs to sustain No Kill. Otherwise, our hard work is in vain and animals will continue to die.

The need is there for us to continue to save homeless animals and provide under-resourced communities with spay/neuter services. But to grow, sustainability becomes an important focus of our organization so that we can grow prudently. With friends like Phil Raskin, I am optimistic that people will consider leaving planned gifts to ensure that PAWS will always be here for Chicago’s homeless pets.

Phil, your vision and commitment to animals makes you a hero for homeless animals and for all of us at PAWS Chicago. Thank you!

Warmest regards,

from the chair

Paula Fasseas
Founder and Chair
SAVING DANNY

At just 11-weeks-old, Danny was already a survivor. When we met him, he was suffering from massive swelling on the side of his face, a sprained leg and signs of neurological damage. Danny had been intentionally abused and he was in pain.

Our veterinarians gave him medications to relieve his pain, placed him on crate rest and gave him raised food and water bowls so he didn’t have to bend down to eat. Once stable, Danny was placed in a foster home where he could relax and focus on healing his wounded body.

Thanks to our medical intervention and the time given for him to heal, Danny made a full recovery. Once at our Adoption Center, this cuddly boy was quickly welcomed into his new home.

SAVING CORVETTE

Corvette is just one of the hundreds of kittens we take in each year from Animal Care & Control. She was sick with a highly contagious virus that attacked her respiratory tract with ulcers on her tongue, mouth, nose and eyes.

We took Corvette to our Medical Center and provided her with the intensive care she needed to beat this life-threatening virus. Thanks to our community of supporters, Corvette received the second chance at life she deserved and is once again a happy, bouncing kitten in her new home.

Calling All PAWS Adopters

Send us photos and updates of your adopted PAWS Chicago animals and you might see your pet in our next issue!

> Email your high-resolution photos to design@pawschicago.org

If you're interested in fostering pets like Corvette, visit pawschicago.org/foster.

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Don Allerton, Adrienne Savrin, Debra Turner

Veterinary Corner
Massage & Acupuncture for Health
Massage Therapy in Action with Pam Kasper

1300 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 564-4570
www.animalsense.com
The “TODAY” Show chose to honor PAWS Chicago Founder Paula Fasseas as TODAY’s ‘Amazing Woman’ in its inaugural segment to launch its ‘Powerful Yet Gentle’ contest. For the first segment in a series that will feature ‘Amazing Women,’ co-hosts Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Griffin highlighted the unique model of PAWS Chicago and its strength as a national leader in the No Kill mission. “It’s all about solutions,” says Kotb regarding PAWS’ No Kill model. “That’s what it’s all about. It’s a solvable problem and we are working with shelters across the country to train and teach them,” says Fasseas.

PAWS Chicago Magazine Goes Viral!

Thanks to you, our readers, the summer issue of PAWS Chicago magazine featuring Billy Corgan and his rock n’ roll cats, went viral, reaching an international audience of more than 26 million people and catching the eye of some high-profile media. Thanks goes to Billy Corgan and our dedicated supporters for helping to raise awareness of the plight of homeless pets and our No Kill mission!

X-RAY ROOM

Beginning in November 2014, PAWS Chicago’s sick and injured pets no longer have to travel to external veterinary clinics for a simple, yet diagnostically critical X-Ray. The PAWS Chicago Medical Center debuted its new X-Ray Room, all thanks to many generous and compassionate supporters. We now have the capability to take and process X-Rays and diagnose sick and injured animals on-site at our Medical Center, saving precious time and relieving stress for our most critical patients.

Training Center

NOW OPEN!

The PAWS Chicago Training Center opened its doors on June 1, 2014. The new facility serves as a space for an innovative dog training program headed by Joan Harris, Director of Training and Canine Behavior. In addition to training, the space hosts New Volunteer Workshops and Special Events and serves as a second foster pick-up location. Learn more at pawschicago.org/training.

TELL WINTER TO TAKE A HIKE

High-tech protection from salt and cold keeps paws warm, dry and clean. Anatomical design goes on easy and stays on. Available in select pet stores or online at www.saltsox.com

Chicago Shows its PRIDE!

PAWS Chicago Pride was one of the largest and most popular floats in the 45th Annual Chicago Pride Parade on June 29! Mascots Pepe and Happy and a host of volunteers decked out in official PAWS Chicago Pride t-shirts greeted onlookers and supporters by distributing PAWS Pride buttons and spreading awareness about our No Kill mission.
Saving the Most Vulnerable

by Kaitlin Allen, Director of Development for PAWS Chicago

It was a Thursday afternoon in July when we received the phone call. An epidemic of feline panleukopenia, an incredibly contagious and often deadly virus that attacks a cat’s gastrointestinal tract similar to parvovirus for dogs, was sweeping through the population of cats and kittens at the city pound. Traditional shelter management means euthanasia for entire banks of both the sick and those who were healthy but had been exposed to illness.

A photo was snapped on a cell phone and forwarded on. Tumbling kittens, round eyes and soft limbs–all of them, slated for death. PAWS mobilized, sending staff and volunteers down to the pound to take in as many cats and kittens as we could help.

Foster families were notified of the incoming influx of felines, and asked to open their homes to the animals that did not need medical supervision.

In addition to the pound outbreak, PAWS Chicago began seeing outbreaks in its own population, with most cats coming to PAWS from the pound. It reached a crisis point when 19 cats and kittens were undergoing major treatment at the same time. The volume and medical need surpassed PAWS Chicago’s well-equipped and well-staffed Medical Center. In order to dedicate the time and resources to saving these helpless animals, additional supplies and personnel were needed. The PAWS Chicago community, we showcased our wish list and asked for financial donations to purchase the needed equipment. Additionally, we made a plea for foster families to open their homes to cats and kittens who were in recovery mode in order to free up space for the most sick cases. The response showed the best of human nature as individuals responded with compassion and generosity. In all, 44 cats and kittens were treated and PAWS Chicago was able to save a remarkable 73 percent from this virulent disease.

I tell this story because it illustrates so vividly that saving lives is a community effort. The PAWS Shelter Medicine program cannot successfully exist in a bubble—it needs the support of families who can foster the pets when our Medical Center is at capacity, volunteers who provide animals with care and attention as they recover and donors who provide the funds for medicine, veterinarians, and medical equipment. We were able to respond as a community to the summer panleuk epidemic. We know that there will very likely be another crisis for the unprotected homeless animals of Chicago but, with the community’s support, we know that we will be able to help.

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PAWS Chicago Chief Operating Officer Theresa Softcheck comes from the world of business intelligence, which she says is a fancy way of using data to inform business decisions and improve overall performance. At PAWS Chicago, data has a special meaning. “When we are talking numbers at PAWS we are talking lives saved,” she says. “This is truly inspiring to me.”

Prior to joining PAWS, Softcheck spent 14 years at Verizon Wireless supporting national call centers, finance, marketing, and retail and sales departments in a variety of roles. After 14 years, she took a job as the Director of Business Intelligence for US Foods where she oversaw the logistics department. “The employees and culture at PAWS are great — everyone is so passionate about their roles and the vision for PAWS,” she says. “I love that our employees really understand the organization. Softcheck has always had a soft spot for animals, especially rescued animals. About five years ago, she learned more about the animal euthanasia rates in the United States and began to volunteer with various shelters in the suburbs, helping with intake, fostering, adoption events and adoption counseling. Softcheck has three of her own pups at home: Fred, Buster and new addition, Cece. She’s excited to work with each and every employee at PAWS. “I believe that everyone here plays such an integral role in PAWS Chicago’s operation, helping build the No Kill model,” she says. “From our front line volunteers to the leadership team, each person has a hand in our success.”

WHAT IS CAT MOJO?

What is it that motivates cats? What makes them tick? The answer is confident ownership of territory and the instinctive feeling of having a job to do in that territory. This is cat mojo. When a cat really has his mojo on, he will carry out his daily activities of hunting, catching, killing, and eating his prey, followed by grooming and sleeping, all with confidence. Cat mojo is something all domestic housecats, whom we call family members, inherited from their wildcat ancestors—it’s the Raw Cat in all of them. Cat mojo is part of who cats are and has a significant impact on how they experience the world. In the Raw Cat’s universe, mojo in action is the key to survival. A confident cat is proactive, while an unconfident cat is reactive. Confident cats have objectives and tasks to complete, while unconfident cats are simply reacting to things happening around them. In short, a mojo-tastic cat is a portrait of confidence in motion.

THE MOJITO CAT

(A.K.A. THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST)

First we have the confident owner of territory; the Mojito Cat. This is the cat that walks into a room, chest held high, tail in the air, with a relaxed posture. She comes right up to you, gives you a little head butt, weaves in and out of your legs, and gives you sweet eyes—she’s a portrait of territorial confidence. If that cat was human, and you arrived at her house for a cocktail party, she would greet you at the door with a tray of drinks, saying “Welcome to my house! Help yourself to a mojito. Twist of lime? Come on in and I’ll give you a tour!” The Mojito Cat represents the essence of cat mojo because she is owning her territory actively, confidently, and in a relaxed way. Her confidence comes from her knowing that everything she has is safely hers.

THE NAPOLEON CAT

(A.K.A. THE OVEROWNER)

Next we have the Napoleon Cat. When you encounter this guy, his ears are forward, he’s glaring at you with eyes zeroed in on just a little; and he’s crouching down in an offensive, sometimes even aggressive posture. His initial thought is, Who are you, and what are you here to steal? Perhaps he’s even lying down across the doorway of the house to ensure you’ve got to step over that line. Sometimes the Napoleon Cat pees on things because he doesn’t trust his ownership of the territory—he needs to mark it. All beings, whether they’re people or animals, who don’t confidently own their territory, overthrow it instead. Think of...
gangs who “tag” walls with graffiti—they need to tell competing gangs (and the world at large) that this wall, this block, this neigh-
borhood belongs to them ... and don’t forget it. The Napoleon Cat is anti-mojo, anti-confidence, because overowning by definition is 
reactive, not active.

THE WALLFLOWER CAT (A.K.A. THE DISAPPEARING ACT)

While the overowner is lying across the doorway and the mojito 
cat is walking around shouting, “Hey! How you doing?” there 
remains the cat hanging back against the wall, never walking across 
the middle of the floor. The Wallflower Cat is saying, “I don’t own 
this. You must be the owner. Okay, fine, I’m not looking at you, I’m 
just going to the litter box over there. I’m just leaving. Don’t mind 
me. Good-bye.” And, just like that, the Wallflower disappears. Like 
the Napoleon Cat at the other end of the confidence pendulum, the 
Wallflower Cat is also anti-mojo because hiding is reactive, not 
active. It doesn’t matter whether or not the threat is real or 
imagined—it still deserves her full attention and prompt action.

We want all cats to be their version of mojito cats; in other 
words, not conforming to what we think confidence should look 
like but acknowledging their tendencies and easing their anxieties 
to make them the best Mojo Cat they can be. If your cat is a 
Wallflower, you’ve got to bring them out a little bit. If they’re an 
overowner, you’ve got to pull them back a little bit. Why? Because 
we want all cats to own their territory with confidence—and we 
believe it’s a completely attainable goal.

continues from page 15

C atification is all about creating an environment where 
your cat is confident and comfortable. Cats assess territory 
in its entirety; that is to say, they see the entire world, both 
horizontal and vertical, as space worthy of ownership. Even if 
your cat is a Napoleon Cat or a Wallflower Cat, you can be sure he 
finds confidence somewhere.

When your cat walks into a room, where is he most confident? 
Remember, it’s all about cat mojo, that inner sense of having a job 
to do, and, of equal importance, knowing where he does that job 
best. So if your cat is expressing confidence in his environment, 
he will be actively surveying the “confident where” of the territory. 
Somewhere from floor to ceiling you will find him stalking his 
prey, grooming, or resting. Remember, hiding or becoming small 
does not signify confidence. The key to confidence is spotting 
proactivity as opposed to reactivity.

We’ve broken the confident where into three basic places. 
When a cat expresses his mojo in one of these places, we call it 
dwelling. Dwelling equals owning with confidence, and that’s 
when your cat is confident and comfortable. Cats assess territory 
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dwelling. Dwelling equals owning with confidence, and that’s 
what you want to see your cat doing. Let’s take a look at the 
three types of dwellers.

THE CONFIDENT WHERE

The Confident Where is the bible for designing a happy and 
stylish home for you and your cats.

The Confident Where is the bible for designing a happy and 
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THE BUSH DWELLER

Like the Bush Dweller, the Beach Dweller is also down on the 
floor, with all four paws planted firmly on the ground; however, 
Beach Dwellers are sending a clear message to you and the other 
cats in the house that the center of the floor is their territory. 
They’re trying to disappear or get away. Here are some anti-
dwelling behaviors to look out for:

CAVING - Caving is a term for cats that are hiding away out of 
fear. They are trying to do nothing but vanish. When a cat is 
caving, he is trying to disappear into a dark, enclosed space 
where no one can find him. We can allow cats to be tucked away in 
sealed areas, but we need to control where these places are.

FRIDGING - This a cat who hides on top of the fridge, or in 
another place that’s up high, to get away from other cats or 
people in the house who are tormenting him (it doesn’t mat-
ter whether the torment is real or perceived.) He’s not coming 
down because he only feels safe up where he can disappear. It 
becomes our very important job as guardians to show him that 
safety does not equal confidence.

CATIFY

Of course you want to help your cat transition from caving 
to bush dwelling, and from fridging to tree dwelling. How 
do you do that? First and foremost, you Catify. You allow the 
territory to become his ally. You add features that allow your 
cat to move around with confidence first in his “comfort zones,”
and then, over time, encourage him to come out and join the 
rest of the world. If your cat is displaying the unconfident—fear 
and the urge to disappear and be small—it’s your job to gently 
push his challenge line, demonstrating to him that he can, with 
relative ease, move from that place of fear into a confident 
world that is set up for him step into his greatness.

THE UNCONFIDENT WHERE

If your cat is under the bed, making himself small and 
invisible, or cowering on top of the refrigerator, this is not 
expressing confidence. This is not dwelling. Rather, this is 
exhibiting fear; it is anti-dwelling. Unconfident cats are in a 
place of hiding because there’s nowhere else for them to be. 
They’re trying to disappear or get away. Here are some anti-
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place of hiding because there’s nowhere else for them to be. 
They’re trying to disappear or get away. Here are some anti-
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THE ANTI-DWELLER

If your cat is under the bed, making himself small and 
invisible, or cowering on top of the refrigerator, this is not 
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dwelling behaviors to look out for:
Grey Areas In Grief
What we understand about grief is a human emotion and the idea that animals feel emotions in the same way as humans can cause controversy. Behaviorists, who rely on quantitative data, believe if you can’t measure it, you can’t prove it. On the other side, those who believe that while we can’t ask our pets how they feel, there’s enough qualitative data to know something is going on. Observations of changes in behavior prove our pets are feeling something. This is the viewpoint of many veterinarians and the one taken in this article.

What Causes A Pet To Grieve
There are two main triggers that cause pets to grieve. The first is the loss of a companion, human or animal. Examples include the death of an owner or another family pet. The second is a loss in consistency. Pets can grieve even if their owner hasn’t passed, but they experience a social loss or a change in environment. Common examples of this are moving to a new home or a pet being surrendered to a shelter.

How Pets Grieve
There’s no easy or right way to describe how pets grieve. Ask a psychologist about the human grieving process and they’ll often tell you things like “we’re all different” and that there’s “no right or wrong way to grieve.” The same applies to our pets. Animals tend to grieve differently, even within the same species. The main sign of grief to look for is a change in your pet’s behavior. Some common signs include decrease in appetite, lethargy and loss of interest in activities.

Every dog or cat is different. A Basset Hound whose natural behavior is on the sedative side might exhibit an increase in activity. This could be a sign he is looking for whomever is missing. Your retriever who you thought would never lose interest in fetch may not even lift his head at the sight of a tennis ball. The same cat that used to curl up in your lap every night might now spend most of his time alone. Usually the grieving period lasts around a month, until the dog or cat adjusts to the loss and the changes that come with it.

Dr. Sara Bennett, DVM, DACVB, Veterinary Specialist at VCA Berwyn Animal Hospital, points out that at times, changes in behavior following a loss can be a sign of an additional problem. For example, if a home has two dogs and one passes, the owner may discover that their dog has separation anxiety that has been kept under control by the presence of another dog. When this happens or any change in behavior lasts longer than a month, it is best to reach out to a professional for advice in addressing the new behavior.

What We Can Do To Help
Dr. Bennett says, “The most important thing you can do for a grieving animal is keep his environment and routine as consistent, predictable and as close to unaltered as possible.” This means keeping things like feeding times, walks and other interactions as they were prior to the loss.

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO FOR A GRIEVING ANIMAL IS KEEP HIS ENVIRONMENT AND ROUTINE AS CONSISTENT, PREDICTABLE AND AS CLOSE TO UNALTERED AS POSSIBLE.”

- Dr. Sara Bennett, DVM, DACVB, Veterinary Specialist at VCA Berwyn Animal Hospital

Since 1926, we’ve helped Chicago area families provide a dignified farewell to four legged family members. We provide compassionate and ethical cremation and burial services directly to pet parents and to Chicago’s most progressive veterinary hospitals. In your family’s time of need we will be there.

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Willowbrook, IL 60527

Visit petcemetery.org for more information on hospice and in home euthanasia.
In the case of location change, bringing something with the familiar smells of the old environment, like bedding that hasn’t been washed or a favorite toy, can help a dog or cat transition. Cats are even more attached to their environment and may experience a higher level of stress with a move.

PAWS Chicago sees pets experiencing both types of loss at once when an owner has passed, leaving the pet homeless, or when the animal has been relinquished. Either way, the pet is experiencing the loss of their owner along with the stress of changing environments. In these situations, PAWS often relies on a network of foster homes to help these animals transition. Usually these pets don’t have the benefit of bringing a familiar item with them into their new environment. The best thing the new caregiver can do is keep the new environment as low stress as possible and do their best to manage noise and interactions.

Concluding On Consistency

When we lose a pet, there are multiple aspects of our life that remain unaltered. We still live in the same home, get our food from the same sources and find comfort in the people we know and love. When a pet loses a loved one, not only are they going through a time of grief, but often a period of change. It is up to us as caregivers to help keep pets’ lives as consistent and low stress as possible as they adjust to change brought on by loss.

We first met Hannah and Harlie in August 2012 when they were given up by their owner. Though it is often difficult to find adopters who are able to take in two bonded dogs, it only took these adorable Shepherd-Husky mix sisters two weeks to be matched with a loving home. Tragically, they experienced loss a second time when their adopter passed away little more than one year later. With a Lifetime Guarantee, the girls were welcomed back to PAWS Chicago.

In their five years of life, Hannah and Harlie have experienced multiple rounds of loss. Their bond has been the only consistency in their lives. That is, until they met their perfect match this September! We congratulate their new family and wish them a lifetime of love and companionship.

There are so many cats and dogs whose stories echo the loss that Hannah and Harlie experienced. Help these pets find a similar happy ending by fostering or adopting a homeless pets in need.

The PAWS Chicago LIFETIME GUARANTEE

One of the most important components of PAWS Chicago’s No Kill commitment is our Lifetime Guarantee to every pet who comes through our doors. No matter what, we are a safety net for our animals from the moment they come to PAWS, regardless of their age, their medical conditions or other issues they may face. Pets are returned for many reasons, ranging from death of an owner to a new baby to personal financial crisis to behavior challenges. Our medical and behavior teams are on hand to work with and rehabilitate and find them the optimal home.

Learn more about PAWS Chicago’s No Kill commitment at pawschicago.org/nokill

FOSTER pawschicago.org/foster-care or 773-475-9464
ADOPT pawschicago.org/adoptions or 773-935-7297 (PaWS)

Saving Hannah & Harlie

Two Dogs, Bonded by Loss

The PAWS Chicago LIFEtiME GUARANtEE

Continued from page 19

Four-year-old Cocker Spaniel, MiMi, from PAWS Chicago’s Crisis Care Foster Program, taking comfort in the familiarity of a tennis ball.

The promotion of $2 off small, $3 off medium and $5 off large bags of Merrick!

Offer expires March 31st 2015

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Saving

Hannah & Harlie

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YOU’VE RETIRED, NOW WHAT?

How, after retirement, I found a way to feel useful, alive, be happier and do good all at the same time!

by Louis Cohn

RETIREMENT. That magical word that conjures up visions of sleeping in, perpetual holidays and - if we are very lucky - being able to travel to new and exciting places. However, what happens when you realize that after retirement there is something still missing in your life? Writing from my own experience, I believe I have the answer!

A few years after I retired, I was often asked by my friends who were still working, “So, how’s retirement going for you?” I would usually answer “OK” but I knew that it was not like I thought it would be. Like so many of us who are retired, I was missing that part of my work life that revolved around my “work family” and the people I interacted with every day. I missed meeting new people and being part of a process that usually made them happier. And, I missed the feeling that I had done something very, very worthwhile. For me, the solution was at a place I drove past every week on my way home - PAWS Chicago.

If the studies about longevity are correct and people who volunteer live longer, then there’s no time like the present to start your volunteer training at PAWS Chicago. Having become a “father” again late in my 70s to Daisy, our furry, four-legged adopted Australian Shepherd, I realized how many of my daily smiles were directly related to having a dog. I went online to the PAWS Chicago website to find out what volunteer opportunities were available. The idea of becoming an Adoption Counselor seemed like an ideal role for me.

I signed up for basic orientation and started the process of becoming a PAWS volunteer. I knew how to walk a dog and was good at it. However, what happens when you realize that after retirement there is something still missing in your life? Writing from my own experience, I believe I have the answer!

I was missing my work life that revolved around my “work family” and the people I interacted with every day. I missed meeting new people and being part of a process that usually made them happier. And, I missed the feeling that I had done something very, very worthwhile. For me, the solution was at a place I drove past every week on my way home - PAWS Chicago.

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People describe my affection for Gus, my PAWS adoptee of the last 18 months, as a little obsessive. It’s true, but when I brought him home at 39 years old he was my first pet (unless you count the frog I caught in Wisconsin when I was 9). Enjoying his pure and innocent love has been an awakening, and I can’t imagine spending another moment of my life without him. So, he comes everywhere with me. On a friend’s boat in the Bahamas. To dinner parties. And, since I’m the editor and publisher of a style publication, he joins me when I’m shopping. I’ve discovered that many stores in Chicago are dog-friendly – provided you do a little planning.

Here are a few of my favorites:

**THE SHOPS AT NORTH BRIDGE**  
520 N. Michigan  
It’s no surprise that dogs of all sizes are welcome throughout the mall; marketing manager Erica Strama is a dog lover and PAWS supporter. Two “pet comfort” stations (on floors 1 and 2) offer treats, water and baggies. Staffers recently starting posting Instagram pics of visiting dogs with the hashtag #dogsofnorthbridge. (Another reason to visit the North Bridge shopping district: A Neiman Marcus Last Call is opening on Ohio Street soon.)

**BLOOMINGDALE’S**  
900 N. Michigan  
Gus and I recently emceed a fashion show in the 900 Shops’ flagship – and he was surrounded by loving staffers and encouraged to walk around. Though other parts of the mall do not allow pets, Gus and I have gone through Bloomingdale’s to visit another dog-friendly shop in the building, Azeza US (a women’s boutique on the 5th floor owned by my friend Azeza Khan). There, he slurps water from a crystal goblet and plays with her fluffy Pomeranian ZsaZsa.

**WATER TOWER PLACE**  
835 N. Michigan  
While the mall only allows dogs in carriers (or that can be carried) to ensure escalator safety, they have a charming holiday tradition: weekly “pet nights” for cats and dogs including pictures with Santa on Mondays starting at 6 p.m. November 17 - December 1.

**HERMES**  
25 E. Oak  
I swap tips with other pet parents at my neighborhood dog park, and recently learned that my friend Cara often brings her giant Rhodesian Ridgeback into Hermes.

**LULULEMON**  
2104 N. Halsted  
While all of the chain’s stores are dog-friendly, street-front locations are particularly so, offering water, treats and occasional “doga” (dog yoga) classes.

**HOME DEPOT**  
1232 W. North  
One of the easiest places to shop with a dog due to wide aisles and friendly staff. Gus and I can spend hours there, and sometimes we do.

**CVS**  
344 W. Hubbard  
This one may surprise you, but I’ve been bringing Gus into my local CVS for months. He’s allowed inside his carrier (and they don’t require that I zip him in, so he can pop his head out). This doesn’t help those of you with larger dogs, but it makes me much more likely to shop there.

Find discounts on products your dog will love!  
20% off your first purchase with code PAWSLUV

### THE SHOPPING OPTIONS

#### AROUND TOWN

**GUS + SUSANNA**

Susanna Negovan is the editor and publisher of SPLASH, a style magazine distributed inside Chicago Sun-Times publications.

**Photo Credit:** Ramzi Dreessen.
Phil Raskin
&
His Legacy for Animals

by Alexis Fasseas

From creating advertising for some of the world’s most iconic brands to innovating in the philanthropic sector to forging a life dramatically divergent from his roots, Phil Raskin has created a legacy all his own—a legacy that places significant emphasis on aiding homeless pets.

Discovering the Arts

Raised in a suburb of Kansas City, Raskin never was exposed to the arts.

It was in college at Princeton University and his first job as a copywriter at Leo Burnett in Chicago that piqued his passion for creativity. “These early experiences opened my eyes, touched me and developed my love of theatre, music and art,” Raskin said. “Advertising uses your awareness of all aspects of culture in your work. Burnett asked him if he’d be interested in adopting some kittens from her cat’s litter, an opportunity presented itself.

When he went to meet the new kittens, he immediately gravitated to Zach. After being encouraged to take two cats, he selected Maddie. Charlie ran after them on the way out the door and Raskin could not leave him behind.

Raskin remembers, “Here was, fairly late in life, having traveled the world and already experienced so much and something as simple as a little kitty so quickly changes your whole point of view.” He eloquently describes the sentiment that cats lovers share: “It’s hard for non-cat people to understand. Cats love the same, they just don’t show it like dogs. Dogs are so happy to see you. Cats don’t do that. They’re completely nonchalant; they find their own time and way to be affectionate.”

Raskin is reflective on the impact his three little balls of fluff have had on him. “In some ways, the greatest emotional lessons of my life have been experienced through my pets. I’m not a patient person; they taught me patience. I’m not, by nature, accepting; they taught me acceptance. I wasn’t comfortable with expressing love; they taught me love,” he said. “Everyday, I cherish their role in my life and feel like I need to spend whatever gain I’ve received on helping animals in return.”

Embracing the Cause of Animal Welfare

Though he was a late arrival to the pet parent party, Raskin has not only fully embraced pets into every aspect of his life, but their welfare has become one of his primary charitable activities. He heard about Paws Chicago during Hurricane Katrina and wanted to help. He toured the 26th Street Lurie Clinic and Medical Center. “No Kill really really struck a chord with me,” Raskin said. “I couldn’t conceive that animals would be put down simply for not having a home.” He wanted to play a larger role in Paws Chicago and joined the Capital Campaign Committee for the Lincoln Park Adoption Center. He became a founding donor, funding the Raskin Treatment Center. “I became a big advocate of Paws Chicago,” he said. “There are many people doing many great things, but few I’ve ever met as dynamic and impressive as Paws Founder Paula Fasseas.”

Earlier this year, Raskin approached Paws Chicago with the desire to make a lasting impact on homeless animals. After several conversations with Fasseas, he decided that he wanted to endow a program that would support the medical treatment of animals into perpetuity. His philanthropic priority is impacting lives. “Phil is the first Paws supporter who came to us wanting to establish a specific endowment to help homeless animals,” said Paws Chicago Founder Paula Fasseas.

Later this year, Raskin will endow 400 animals. “I have a vision of becoming a recluse surrounded by 400 animals,” Raskin said. “I need an intervention,” Raskin laughs. “I’ve told my friends that they are not permitted to let me go to Paws any more for fear that I’ll bring them all home. I have a vision of becoming a recluse surrounded by 400 animals.”

Meet THE RASKIN PACK

Since his original three kitties—Zach, Charlie and Maddie—Phil Raskin has saved many other pets in need. It started with Sebastian, who was rescued from a shelter he volunteered at 12 years ago. “I cleaned out Sebastian’s cage, put him on my shoulder and he fell asleep. That cliched it; he was mine,” Raskin recalls.

Then he saved Miles, a bed bug detection dog who was living in a cage without affection as the pest control company thought human contact would ruin his training. Miles in turn rescued Ginny who was found in a grate at the Drake Hotel one winter night. She was wet, bleeding and so malnourished that she couldn’t even stand up the first few days. After losing Maddie in early 2014, Raskin found himself “sitting, brooding, incessant, depressed and not knowing what to do. Even though I had four other wonderful animals, I felt alone. I saw Henry on TV with Paula on the “TODAY” show and I acted instinctively. Henry the cat now rules the Raskin roost. And then, only a month later, Raskin found George, a terrier mix. “I happened to be at PAWS with a friend who was adopting a dog. I saw George running around the Treatment Center. And that made seven!”

“Phil’s generosity, we will not only be able to cover the costs of treating puppies and kittens in need of extraordinary medical care beyond what we can provide at our Medical Center for the next few years, but he is establishing the Raskin Specialized Medical Endowment for Puppies and Kittens that will fund this care into perpetuity. Support like this will enable us to continue to grow our
In early 2014, Raskin’s beloved Maddie passed away at age 15 from FIP—Feline Infectious Peritonitis—a terrible disease that typically kills kittens who do not yet have developed immune systems. Phil was stunned to learn that there is no cure and it was an immediate death sentence. Nothing could be done. She was diagnosed on a Friday and by Tuesday she had passed.

“I was desolate that I couldn’t help her. I went into a long period of mourning. I honestly didn’t know if it was worth having pets because the pain of loss was so enormous,” he recalls, but he has come to accept the loss and reflect instead on her life.

“The first thing is always to remember how much they brought to your life, to celebrate that and thank God that you had them, however briefly,” Raskin said when recounting his path to healing. “The second thing is that it takes time. She’s never far from my mind. I miss her like hell. But you go on. The scar heals.”

In Maddie’s memory, Phil has funded six years of FIP research at UC Davis in California, the leader in work on this feline disease. “Current thinking is there will never be a cure, but they can and will find anti-viral drugs that will keep it under control, like AIDS in humans. In the pecking order of research, most charitable giving supports humans and dogs. Cats are a distant third, so the folks at UC Davis were very receptive to my funding of research into this dreadful disease.”

“I’ve always had a soft spot for animals and, as I grew older, I was increasingly aware that they helped me define my own concept of love. I had to accept them for who they are and not what I wanted them or expected them to be. It was probably the most important lesson of my life. In them I found a purity of emotion: they love me no matter what and I love them no matter what. How wonderfully uncomplicated!”
Just over a year ago, Debra Turner was searching for value in her life. She was recovering after the loss of several family members, including her cat Baskin, who died of Polycystic Kidney Disease. Turner and her husband weren’t ready to adopt another cat, and Baskin’s bonded mate Duncan was still at home.

But Turner had picked up skills she knew would be valuable in a shelter: giving fluids and administering medications. She found PAWS Chicago, and decided to volunteer at the Lincoln Park Adoption Center. “PAWS brought me back to life,” she says. Turner started volunteering her time at the Adoption Center, but decided to start fostering even though she was afraid of “failing,” meaning that she would love the foster too much to give it back. But Turner and her husband enjoyed fostering, so they continued to do it and eventually began fostering mother cats and kittens, after finding out they were the hardest to place in foster homes.

And the first mother-kitten foster experience taught them a lot, Turner says. She remembers the first night Penny and her two kittens arrived: “She was so emaciated that I wasn’t sure she would make it through the night. I stayed up all night with her making sure she ate and drank.” The road to a forever home for Penny was a long one and she remained with Turner and her husband for a few months. But eventually, a potential adopter came by to meet her and it was a perfect match. “It was extremely emotional to see her go, but I loved knowing she was going to be in a forever home,” she says.

Turner and her husband are now fostering their fourth family of mama and kittens. “It is so rewarding to see the babies grow and achieve milestones in their short lives and allow the mama to relax and raise her babies,” she says. “It is extremely hard to say goodbye, but I send them on their way knowing that they have been given the best upbringing and are prepared to meet their new family.”

But there was one foster Turner and her husband couldn’t say goodbye to: Wrigley. Wrigley started in their home, but he was waiting to begin the adoption, away. But he got so much more. 14 year-old Wheaton Terrier had passed minutes later, the couple came running back to adopt him, “he says.

At her day job at the Lincoln Park Zoo, PAWS Chicago volunteer Adrienne Savrin uses software to model animal populations and recommend actions to improve the sustainability of zoo populations. “My job allows me to pursue my passion for conservation, but my current position does not involve direct animal care,” she says. “By volunteering at PAWS, I can fulfill my passion for hands-on animal care.”

Savrin says. “Yes, I do see cute little puppies and kittens and animals which will be quickly adopted out into loving homes, but I also see animals who were abandoned, animals who have been adopted and returned, animals saved from euthanasia and animals who have chronic illnesses and injuries,” she says. “I volunteer because every animal deserves a home, a family and to be loved. And volunteering helps them be loved.”

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Savrin has been a volunteer with PAWS Chicago since May 2014. Volunteering helps put life in perspective, Savrin says. “I enjoy how much I’ve learned in the veterinary field by working directly with the vets and vet techs, including vaccinations, common illnesses, proper handling and animal care.”

Savrin saves some of her love for her animals at home: a big-boned cat named Slim Shady and 14-year-old Chocolate Lab, Bosco.

Debra Turner

**“PAWS BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE.”**

Savrin assists vets and vet techs with the animal exams at the Medical Center on Saturday mornings. One of her favorite experiences was helping a dog who was suffering from a condition that made it difficult for him to digest his food. He had to be held vertically and bounced like a baby for 30 minutes to clear out any air pockets so he didn’t choke. “I’m glad to spend the time with him and you can tell how happy he is and how much he loves the attention,” she says.

The work Savrin supports at PAWS Chicago impacts lives each day. “I keep coming back because there are more animals and more work to do,” she says. “By volunteering at PAWS Chicago, I can fulfill my passion for hands-on animal care.”
If I told you that you were going to pay for a therapeutic massage for your dog you might think I was crazy. (Or you might think, “not until I get a massage myself!”) But therapeutic techniques like massage and acupuncture are becoming more commonly used in veterinary healthcare. And the big news is that they are incredibly effective tools.

As alternative and integrative medicine is becoming more mainstream, owners are seeing the clear advantage of more noninvasive and practical methods to treat many conditions. There are many dramatic health improvements documented from therapeutic massage that pets couldn’t get from any drugs or surgery. And the ancient secrets of acupuncture have become noninvasive and practical methods to treat many conditions. There are many dramatic health improvements documented from acupuncture for health and well-being.

**Tail**

Massaging around the top part of the tail base just where the back meets the tail can improve circulation and health of tightly adhered tails, tails that curl excessively, and tails with heavy fur. Provide some gentle traction on the spine by pulling gently along the tail. This puts mild tension on the fascia around disc spaces, improving circulation and fluid flow around the spine.

**Spine**

Long neck/long back?
Make small circles with one or two fingers on either side of the spine. Massage a circle about every 1-2 inches down the back of a long-backed dog or cat. They may be predisposed to spinal arthritis, neck instability, inflamed discs, or disc disease. Help the body clear inflammation with this massage.

**Face**

Extra skin folds? Massage in tiny circles around the face to improve lymphatic drainage and circulation and to avoid skin fold infections.

**Legs**

Dragging or knuckling, mild incoordination, stiffened gait? Gently squeeze the feet and pull gently on each toe a few times (as long as your pet is amenable to this) to restablish nerve pathways between the feet and the brain. If inflammation or circulation is compromised along the spine, the brain loses its quick connection to the feet. A foot massage can rekindle neurologic pathways from the feet to the brain.

**Ears**

Heavy, floppy ears? Chronic ear infections? Take the ear flap and circle it like a windmill to open up the ear canal’s crenulations, improving air flow and circulation. This creates a less hospitable environment for yeast and bacteria.

**Why is canine massage important?**

Dogs have muscles just like people, so they too get sore and stiff. Massage can relieve muscle and joint pain, boost the immune system, increase circulation, release toxins, promote relaxation and speed healing after surgery. For an animal who is fearful of touch, a session may simply consist of breathing calmly with the dog and letting him know that it’s safe to be in a room with a human. We can slowly build up to tender touch with positive reinforcement.

**What is the impact of your work with these dogs?**

Many shelter dogs need to de-stress and learn to trust people; massage is a great way to help them reduce anxiety and become comfortable with humans. A dog that is pain-free, relaxed and people-friendly has increased chances of adoption. I love when volunteers tell me how different the dogs are after their sessions: calmer in the hallways, people-friendly has increased chances of adoption.

**Why do you volunteer at PAWS Chicago?**

I have a special place in my heart for shelter dogs - I have four at home! Before I started volunteering at PAWS, I honestly wondered if I’d feel the need to adopt all the dogs I worked with. But that’s the great thing about working with dogs at PAWS Chicago: I see first-hand how well they are treated and cared for…and how quickly they are adopted!

**Continued on page 34**

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**VETERINARY CORNER**

**DR. BARBARA ROYAL, D.V.M., C.V.A.**

Massage Therapy in Action

Certified Canine Massage Therapist Pam Kasper understands the benefits the practice of massage can have on a dog’s anatomy and behavior. Several times each month, Kasper brings her expertise to the PAWS Chicago Lincoln Park Adoption Center to volunteer her services.

**What do you do for the dogs at PAWS Chicago?**

When I work with PAWS Chicago dogs, each session is different. Some dogs need pain relief, some need stress relief, some need trust building, and some need all of the above!

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Acupuncture is ostensibly about needles, but what the needles help is circulation, by sending a message to the body. Using needles, I am in communication with the body. I receive information and answers from the body. I am aware that even as I place needles into an am treating the problem at hand. At the same time, I work wonders – It'll make for a happy pet.

What is Acupuncture Good for?

• Arthritis*, disc disease, post-op orthopedic surgery, and many musculoskeletal conditions
• Seizure disorders*
• Anxiety*, behavior problems, and other neurological conditions
• Allergies, autoimmune diseases, inflammatory intestinal conditions, immune system disorders
• Asthma, kidney*, liver, and heart disease, and other systemic diseases
• Cancers – to boost the immune system and to mitigate side effects of chemo
• Dermatitis, lick granulomas, hot spots
• Incontinence: bladder stones and chronic infections, urologic diseases

As the Volunteer Program Manager for PAWS Chicago’s Adoption and Humane Center, Meg Damato oversees volunteers in Dog Town, Kitty City, Family Services, and Administrative programs. “My job is to make sure we are always fully staffed to help care for the animals and assist potential adopters,” Damato explains.

Volunteers are an integral part of PAWS Chicago, a sentiment that Damato feels passionately about. “We would not be able to save as many lives as we do without the help and dedication of our volunteers,” says Damato. “All of the wonderful animals that we rescue are a huge inspiration and I am honored to work on their behalf.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree from Valparaiso University, Damato received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. During her time there, she worked as a legal policy intern with the Humane Society of the United States and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Prior to coming to PAWS Chicago she worked as a Community Outreach Director at the Hyatt Corporate Office.

Damato’s lifelong love for animals inspired her to volunteer for PAWS in 2011, in Dog Town and special events, for about a year. “I have always been an animal lover and growing up as an only child, I always felt a special connection with animals,” she says. She officially joined the organization in July 2012. Damato works closely with volunteers to continue the effort of finding homes for animals every day. She recently launched a new mentorship program for new volunteers and enhanced the overall training program for all of the Adoption Center’s level 1 volunteers. “I hope to provide opportunities for volunteers so that they can grow their skills, create leadership roles and also provide recognition for all of their hard work,” Damato says of the new programs.

In addition to opening her home to two rescue dogs and three rescue cats, Damato has also participated in summer fun runs organized through PAWS Chicago to run with some of the high energy dogs. “It’s great for the pups and a lot of fun!” The fun run is a great way for the dogs to release energy while running with staff, volunteers, TEAM PAWS members and professional board members by the lakefront.

“I am always really inspired by all of our volunteers and how we can always count on them,” she says. “I honestly cannot think of a better place to work than PAWS Chicago and I am still a little bit in disbelief that I get to work here!”

MEG DAMATO
Volunteer Program Manager

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MEG DAMATO
Volunteer Program Manager
PREY DRIVE

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING THE PREY-DRIVEN DOG

by Keri Buscaglia

The first time one of my dogs brought me a bird, I ran away from him with my arms up in the air yelling, "Drop it! Drop it!" As you may imagine, my reaction and calm delivery of these commands did not yield the result I was hoping for. Instead, my hunter just looked at me with excitement in his eyes, patiently waiting for me to gush over this gruesome gift.

It’s been years since this inaugural experience with a prey-driven dog and yet I react the same way every time a dead animal is gifted to me. Just last weekend, my two dogs were prancing around the yard with their latest victim and I ran away from them, arms waving and yelling for them to drop.

In addition to the poor chipmunk victim, we have birds, squirrels, deer, raccoons, possums and skunks, all of which we and a German Shorthair Pointer, pursues with enthusiasm. She’s even taken our German Shorthair Pointer, pursues with enthusiasm. She’s even taken

Dog breeds are prancing around the yard with their latest victim and I ran away from them, arms waving and yelling for them to drop.

BREEDS WITH STRONG PREY DRIVE


THE WORKING SEQUENCE OF PREY-DRIVEN ANIMALS

Border Collie
Will use the search, stalk and chase sequence while working sheep on a farm.

Labrador Retriever
Will use the search, chase, bite and hold sequence while retrieving a duck.

Terriers
Will use the full prey drive sequence for vermin control.

A healthy dose of prey drive in our pets is exactly what’s fun about our relationship with our dogs because it’s what they rely on to play fetch, Frisbee or tug games, said Harris. “But if left unchecked, it can also be the source of stressful behavior like chasing after running children or anything else with fast movement.” Harris added that inexperienced pet owners or those with small children may be wise to stay away from adopting a dog that shows signs of having a high prey drive.

THE STAGES OF PREY DRIVE

There are five stages of the prey drive: the search, the stalk, the chase, the catch and the kill. Harris said that not all dogs show all five stages or with the same intensity.

“Parts of the prey drive sequence are useful when working dogs are concerned, but can be more of a problem for the average pet owner,” she said, emphasizing that we as pet owners, shouldn’t reprimand our dogs for exhibiting prey drive, but rather, redirect their attention.

“There are training methods that work to distract high-prey dogs and can help them ignore the stimulus that triggers certain phases, like ‘the chase,’” she said.

“High prey drive can be a problem for pet owners, shouldn’t reprimand our dogs for exhibiting prey drive, but rather, redirect their attention.

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Continued on page 36
ENCOUNTERING OTHER PETS — IN AND OUT OF YOUR HOME

Having a high-prey drive dog in the same house as other pets is a challenge, and sometimes impossible. Success depends on the dog’s history. If a high prey drive dog is brought into a home as an adult and has a history of chasing other species, this behavior may be too engrained to reverse. However, if the dog is young it can be conditioned to behave well with other pets, this means no stalking, staring or chasing them.

Even so, it’s critical to always make sure that your other pets have an escape route and someplace to hide where your dog cannot reach them. And never leave them alone together or let them out unsupervised in the yard at the same time.

One habit that is good to get into is learning to scan your surroundings for possible prey your dog might want to chase, Harris suggested, and that means taking mental notes of the route you take on walks to see where the squirrels are or the yard with a dog that elicits a reaction.

“When you see a prey stimulus, engage your dog so that you get eye contact and then hold that eye contact until you pass the animal,” she said, “Using high-value treats will help establish that your eye contact is much more desirable than the chase.”

Another training strategy involves developing a strong recall – or having your dog come quickly when called. Begin in a controlled environment and then work your way up to practicing in places that present various prey stimulus.

Next up, your tone of voice. I filled Harris in on my approach; yell until they drop and as anticipated, she wasn’t a fan. “That actually feeds into the excitement of it all,” she said, “Yelling at your dog is just going to get them more energized and ramped up about the hunt and the chase. Happy and playful will get you a better response.”

In addition to training, Harris suggests engaging your dog in activities that are mentally challenging and stimulating.

“We want to try and replace that desire to hunt and chase with something that will employ their brains and insticts the same way, things like swimming, searching for hidden treats or toys, or even you work to tire them out physically as well as mentally,” Harris said, “One of our most popular classes at the PAWS Chicago Training Center is our nose work class. It’s a great way to develop those senses, challenge your dog and work on controlling its prey drive.”

The most important takeaway from Harris was more of a reminder than a tip and it’s this: once a dog with a high prey drive, always a dog with a high prey drive.

“Your dog is who he is and so your best bet is to find outlets for that high energy,” she said, “That means daily physical activity to burn it off and maintain a stable, healthy mind, which is equally important.”

Continued from page 36
We’ve all seen the videos. We’ve all read the stories: pets performing amazing feats to help humans. Man and his best friend have a long history of working side-by-side and perhaps no image is more powerful than the one of Ohlin, the search-and-rescue dog captured working alongside rescue teams on 9/11; sniffing through rubble for scents that signaled signs of life.

The nose of a dog is powerful - 100,000 times more powerful than a human’s - to be exact. Recently, researchers have found reason to believe that these sensitive sniffer dogs could be the key in detecting ovarian cancer, before it’s detectable by clinicians or current testing methods.

Each year about 22,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with ovarian cancer; most are discovered at an advanced stage because unlike other cancers, there is no early detection test for ovarian cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, about 14,000 women will die from the disease because they didn’t know the signs or symptoms. Enter Ohlin Part II, a Labrador Retriever and one of five dogs in a new program at the University of Pennsylvania that is working to change those odds and the lives of women. Ohlin and his team are being trained to hone their acute sense of smell to detect this deadly gynecologic cancer, so that it can be caught earlier and when treatment has better odds of working. Specifically, they are being trained to learn the scents of chemicals emitted by tissue and blood samples, odors that are altered in the earliest stages of ovarian cancer.

“Our goal is not to put a dog in every hospital, but to help refine the technology by using the exquisite ability of the dog’s nose,” said Dr. Cynthia Otto, who runs the program at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center. According to Dr. Otto, the goal is for the dogs to be trained to narrow down a specific odor so that an inexpensive and a minimally invasive blood test can be developed within the next two years, which can catch ovarian cancer, while it’s still treatable.

So far, the dogs have proven to be more than 90 percent accurate in their detection work which is exactly the odds that Valerie Szymanski, executive director of the Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization (OSCA), a Chicago-based nonprofit sponsoring the training of Ohlin, ("Ohlin) is an engaging and tangible reason to learn more about this disease’s silent and often-missed symptoms,” said Szymanski, who co-founded the OSCA in 2010 in an effort to educate the public about the silent and deadly symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Recently, researchers have found reason to believe that these sensitive sniffers could be the key in detecting ovarian cancer, before it’s detectable by clinicians or current testing methods.
Standing Out
Raising Enough to Save 9 Lives

People love the standard navy blue and white TEAM PAWS singlet, but red has become the rage. Fundraisers on the team who raised $3,000 or more were gifted with a standout, cherry-red singlet and were inducted into the elite “9 Lives Club” and decorated as a top fundraiser. As a group, the 49 9 Lives Club members raised $203,219.

Team PAWS 2014 is one for the record books. With 475 members, this group of life-saving athletes has raised enough funds to save the lives of more than 2,500 homeless pets. Athletes join TEAM PAWS to be inspired to bring their best to their race, knowing their hard work and dedication is literally giving homeless pets on death row a second chance. Beyond the race, TEAM PAWS athletes develop lasting friendships with teammates around the world.

Transamerica Chaser Drew Thomson

TEAM PAWS athlete Drew Thomson was selected as the 2014 Rock ‘n’ Roll Chicago Half Marathon Transamerica ‘Tomorrow Chaser.’ With this honor, Drew started at the back of the pack of nearly 20,000 racers and Transamerica pledged $1 to PAWS Chicago for every runner that Drew passed. In total, he raised $8,027 for homeless pets.

Drew’s story is inspirational. He is committed to running because, as a child, he suffered from severe asthma. “I spent years pushing myself physically to break away from the restrictions asthma has put on my life and eventually grew healthy enough to play like the rest of the kids,” Drew said. Drew chose to join TEAM PAWS because he believes in the mission of rescuing homeless pets. “I relate to the underdog that is often negatively labeled. Drew continued, "I give gratitude to every run I go on and am forever thankful for a second chance at living life as I knew it could be.”

What does racing for TEAM PAWS and raising enough to save 9 Lives mean to you?

“I’m a big supporter of PAWS and love animals. Knowing that I am helping saves nine cats or dogs through my fundraising means a lot to me. I have three rescues myself and knowing I was able to help others in need, in a small way, warms my heart.”

Patty Crawford
9 Lives Club Member

“I was encouraged to join TEAM PAWS because my friends Angi Taylor, morning show co-host at 103.5 Kiss-FM, and her husband, Jason Prinzo are members and have two PAWS rescue dogs, Dre and Suge, who they love so much. After hosting the 2013 Animal Magnetism gala with Angi, I started to get really into the organization and supporting animals.”

Jerry Azumah
Chicago Bears Cornerback (1999-2006)

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In Memory of Jacob Klepacz

Jacob was an animal lover in every sense of the word. Whether it was feeding his family’s pet bird as a child, riding horses, or caring for and playing with the numerous dogs he owned throughout his life, Jacob’s compassion and kindness shined through. Jacob cherished his animals into his volunteer work at PAWS Chicago.

He often said that he enjoyed being around animals more than people (and that says a lot because Jacob loved people). He was excited about his work there and truly believed in the mission of PAWS. It was not uncommon for him to stop by and share stories about his story and express sympathy to his Facebook page “Justice for Jacob” to learn more about this kind and generous soul when Jacob’s life was cut short by an unspeakable act of violence. This world lost a kind and gentle soul when Jacob’s life was stolen from him. Please visit his family’s Facebook page “Justice for Jacob” to learn more about his story and express sympathy to his loved ones. His family asks that you share his story to help raise awareness about the kind and generous person that he was.
IN MEMORY OF HEATHER

My beautiful golden baby rescue with her best rescue friend. We both miss you every day.

~Kenney

IN MEMORY OF AMBER CAREY

Pam & Amber Carey at Amber’s 15th birthday party

RIP sweet, gentle Amber

IN MEMORY OF JACOB HAWLEY

“Would What Jackson Do?”

As a human being I tend to come unglued when I feel I lack knowledge that life is short and each day is a gift, I tend to get caught up in the planning, plotting, waiting, and shuffling that accompanies a busy existence. Jackson was more than a pet. He was a reminder of my need to simplify things, and an instructor on how to do so. Jack kept our eyes open, teaching me to listen and appreciate beauty while being surrounded by noise and passing scenery. Jack was unconditional love.

He was friendship, hope, honesty, and joy. He was the spirit of adventure, and the strength of laughter. He was a blessing above all else. He could not have known how much his wagging tail, or his loving bark made me a better human being. When I feel stuck, or am faced with a tough decision, I ask myself “what would Jackson do?” The answer is usually simple: for something to happen on our terms. Jack would be loving, unselfish, and kind. When I try to act in that way, my life is better. Even though Jackson is no longer alive, the lessons he has taught me are very real. I know that when he taught me things to live life more simply- showing kindness and love without expecting anything in return.

~Heather Hawley

IN MEMORY OF MAX PAYNE

Dog Max, I miss your toothy smile, although others grossly misunderstood it for a menacing snarl. Whenever you smiled, you would dance with your body wriggling all over when guests visited. Of all visitors, Jane was your favorite neighbor, who fed you kitty treats, and for whom you had a special snack. You enjoyed your favorite foods, alongside stovetop popcorn and whipped cream.

Although you knew your boundaries in the house, with age, you tried to redraw your own boundaries. You went from your normal spots to rooms you weren’t allowed. Remember that one time when you scarred the dogwalker when we were gone? She checked the usual spots, and you, being funny, decided to sprawl out on a bed upstairs. We didn’t see that one coming.

We are constantly reminded of you by the dirt trail circling the house, which you forged from chasing cars and wildlife. While you were a fierce defender of the house, you also befriended visitors bearing treats. Once, you snuck into a plumber’s truck when he went inside to drop off some supplies. Upon returning, you saw your fuzzy little body wedged in truck, looking out, waiting for more treats.

You were my best friend. I could tell you anything and you would listen to me like I never judged me. You were the happy, furry face I would come to at the end of a stressful day. You would sniff my face with your big, wet nose, and curl up next to me whenever I was sick. You were there for me, just as we were there for you in sickness and in health. We will forever miss you, and you will always remain in our hearts. You will always be our dog, Max.

~Sara Payne
In Memory of Scratchy

In Memory of Calvin Walter Carlton

In Memory of Rania Chapman

In Memory of Charlie Chase

In Memory of GUS BECK

Gus Beck certainly made his mark in animal welfare. He was rescued in Cedar Rapids by PAWS Chicago volunteers after the Iowa floods in 2008. Poor Gus was found swimming in the flood waters by rescue workers and brought to the local humane society. Nobody claimed him so he was brought to PAWS Chicago. He was immediately adopted by ardent PAWS supporters Jane and Phil Beck. For nearly six years he has been an adored member of their family, which included two other Golden Retrievers, Henry and Betsy. He enjoyed living life in canine paradise between Winnetka and Aspen. Gus was also a regular attendee of the PAWS Chicago Fur Ball.

Their love for Gus inspired Jane and Phil to make a special gift in his honor to help decrease pet homelessness. In 2011, the Beck Family donated the ‘GusMobile,’ a mobile spay/neuter van named after Gus. The GusMobile is a state-of-the-art spay/neuter van that enables PAWS Chicago to provide free spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations in the most impoverished neighborhoods in Chicago.

Gus is deeply missed by the Beck’s and all his friends at PAWS Chicago. His memory will live on in our hearts and through the GusMobile, which is paying a critical role in transforming Chicago into a No Kill community.

For my Nikki:
Into each of our lives, a ‘great’ cat comes along. You were that cat, that one in a million. You brightened my life. We understood each other perfectly and along. You were that cat, that one in a million. Y ou brightened my life. We understood each other perfectly and weathered our various crises together. Caesar (companions cat) and I miss your disposition. We loved you very much.

~Sandra Bass

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• K9 NOSEWORK
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PAWS Chicago Training Center
Put your dog’s nose to work, enrich them with agility, put their muscles to the test or work on basic manners! Whatever your interest, the new, state-of-the-art PAWS Chicago Training Center in Lincoln Park has a wide array of classes to stimulate you and your pooch. You can also volunteer and partake in enrichment classes for our PAWS Chicago homeless dogs, or sign up to foster and pick up your temporary resident at our Foster Hub. 1933 N. Macey (entrance on Clifton)

PAWS Chicago North Shore Adoption Center
The much anticipated North Shore Adoption Center is officially open at 1616 Deerfield Road, Highland Park inside the Petco. Bring your whole family to meet loving dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in need of homes. Volunteers and foster families are always needed!
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— Bethany and Nick Burge

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