



# PAW TALES



Volume 12 | Summer 2018

## A Mid-Year Review of the Numbers & 2018 Capital Grants

Written by: Amy Starkey



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**Helping Hungry, Hurting  
and Homeless Animals**



This year is shaping up to be HPAN's greatest year yet! As we prepare to celebrate another anniversary, we are amazed when we consider how many animals have been impacted by our assistance. For the first half of this year, we have provided sponsorship for the betterment and wellbeing of 363 animals. Take a look at these numbers:

#### Metrics - January 1 – June 30, 2018

Number of animals sponsored – 163

Additional animals sponsored through clinic supplies – 200 (100 spay/neuter kits and 100 vaccines)

Sponsorship total - \$17,745.83

Capital improvement grants awarded for local rescue organizations - \$3,440.29

Income from monetary & material donations – \$19,772.94

We anticipate the last half of 2018 to be even better and are expecting great success at these upcoming events:

September 2-16: Facebook Auction

October 6: Pet Fest & Blessing at Grace Lutheran Church Oak Ridge

November 28: Employees' Club Holiday Craft & Gift Show at ORAU

December 1: Jackson Square Holiday Market

End-of-year success impacts the amount of capital grant money we can award each year. Last year's boost enabled us to award two deserving non-profit rescue organizations: At Risk Intervention (ARI) in Knoxville and the Campbell County Animal Center (CCAC). We were able to fulfill ARI's need of kennel and gate supplies to extend holding space for animals that need short-term sheltering in between rescue and transport and during specialized medical treatment/rest, as well as for animals that have been pulled by local rescue and need a quick place to stay for a short period of time while fosters are found. For the CCAC, we helped outfit their brand new spay/neuter clinic with two surgery tables and 100 spay/neuter kits. The clinic's primary use will be for shelter animals that will be altered before they leave the shelter. It will be sustained by the public who purchase low-cost spay/neuter services from the clinic. It's a win-win for the community.

None of this could be possible without support from you! Following are ways you can help all year long:

1. Sign up for payroll deduction, which is our greatest need! Just \$5-\$10 per pay period makes a huge difference to us, but you won't miss it. We currently have 36 donors contributing \$5-\$30 per pay period, which ensures we can help at least three animals per month. If interested, please contact Amy.Starkey@orau.org.

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# Why do Dogs That Weren't Abused Develop Fear/Anxiety?

Submitted by: Patti Bradam

When a rescue dog is afraid of certain people or objects, it is often assumed that he was traumatized by a similar thing in his past. While this could very well be true, there are other dogs who've been raised from puppyhood and still develop irrational fears, despite being loved their entire lives. This can get pet parents upset and frustrated, wondering, "Did I do something wrong?"

If this sounds like you, don't be hard on yourself. The fact is, having infinitive love for your dog and making sure all his needs are more than met isn't always enough to prevent some fears and anxieties from manifesting. One loud noise that frightens your dog as a puppy or one altercation with another pup at the dog park can leave them traumatized. You can't always prevent scary accidents from happening, but luckily, there are things you can do to help ease your dog's anxiety!



## 1. The Fear is Getting Rewarded

When you try to comfort your trembling canine, you may actually be accidentally rewarding their fear. According to Caesar's Way:

*By comforting a fearful dog, you are rewarding what it's doing in that moment: being scared. You cannot explain to a dog why it shouldn't be scared, or tell the dog that the frightening thing won't hurt it or is going away soon — they do not have the cognitive abilities to understand those concepts. What they do understand is, 'I'm terrified and it's getting me a reward. My human wants me to do this.'*

## 2. They Need a Calm Leader

The site also explains that, because our dogs are so closely bonded with us, they often mirror our example. If they see us being calm in the situation they find scary, they are much more likely to follow our lead. On the contrary, if we are panicked and nervous, chances are, they will reflect those emotions.

## 3. Genetics Play a Role

A dog may be predisposed to anxiety because of his or her genetics. PetCareRx explains that certain breeds, particularly those that are intelligent and energetic, are more likely to suffer from anxiety (including separation anxiety). The site says:

*Dog breeds that are most disposed to canine anxiety include: Bernese Mountain dogs, Basset Hounds, Cocker Spaniels, German Shepherds, Dalmatians, Great Pyrenees, Pekingese, Siberian Huskies, Standard Poodles, and some Terrier breeds.*

## 4. Lack of Socialization

This may be the most common culprit to irrational canine fear. The best time to socialize dogs is between 7 weeks and 4 months of age, a time when they are impressionable and learning about the world. Your dog may be apprehensive around certain people (for instance, lots of dogs are afraid of men) or objects (such as the vacuum), simply because they weren't familiarized with them at a young age. The fear grows and solidifies; when they avoid those certain people or objects, they remain safe, right? At least, that's what makes sense in the mind of your dog.



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## Fear/Anxiety

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### How You Can Help

#### 1. Don't Reward Fear

It's our natural instinct to soothe those around us who are anxious, but as mentioned earlier, it can encourage fearful behavior in dogs by rewarding it. Often, we say "it's okay" to calm others who are nervous, even our dogs. But unlike humans, our pups start to associate this phrase with scary things, since you always say it when their trigger is around. That's how hearing "it's okay" can make your dog more anxious.

It may be a difficult habit to break, but ignoring your dog's fearful behavior and giving them clear instruction (see below) is the best course of action.

#### 2. Be a Leader

Your dog looks to you to guide them. They need a strong leader who shows them that everything is going to be fine. First and foremost, you should always remain calm in the situations that invoke fear in your dog. Giving an assertive instruction can help, too; for instance, if your dog fears other dogs you pass on your walk, keep him at a distance where he's comfortable and instruct him to "sit." This way, he has an alternate behavior to practice instead of panicking, and he knows you've got everything under control.

#### 3. Socialize

If you're reading this and just got a puppy or are planning on adopting one, you're in luck: this knowledge will help you socialize your pup and encourage them to grow up to be confident and well-adjusted. When socializing, it's important to let your dog have positive interactions with people of all sizes, ages, genders, ethnicities, etc., so they don't develop irrational "fears of the unknown." (This may mean only bringing them around people and pets you trust at first so you can make sure they have good experiences.) It's also wise to introduce them to many different settings and objects, where they learn that new things are fun and interesting. But if your dog is already grown, it's not too late; you can still socialize your adult dog.

#### 4. Change the Association

When you've narrowed down your dog's fear, you can work on changing the association in your dog's mind. Men are nice. Vacuums aren't scary. Car rides are fun. Start with your dog at a comfortable distance from the fear stimulus, and give him treats. Over time, keep moving him closer; no fear reaction leads to more treats! If he starts to show signs of fear, back up again until he's comfortable. Save special treats and toys for instances that make your dog nervous, like being left home alone or getting a bath.

*Source: iheartdogs.com*

## Mid-Year Review

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2. Mail donations to 969 Oak Ridge Turnpike, #304; Oak Ridge, TN 37830.
3. Donate items for our September auction. Contact Amy.Starkey@orau.org.
4. Link your Kroger Plus Card to Helping Paws Animal Network here. You lose nothing. Note this has to be done every August.
5. Choose Helping Paws Animal Network when you shop AmazonSmile, iGive, and Chewy. Find all the links here. You lose nothing.
6. Shop the HPAN store on our website. We have t-shirts, "In memory of" certificates, and "In honor of" certificates.
7. Join the Network! (Contact any board member: Amparo.Atencio@orau.org, Betsy.Ellis@orau.org, Eboney.Johnson@orau.org, Christina.Kelley@orau.org, Amy.Starkey@orau.org, or Susan.Wells@orau.org to plug in or just be in the know.)

All donations are tax-deductible. THANK YOU for helping us achieve our vision of **ending animal suffering, one rescue at a time.**

# **Scouting for Scout**

*Written by: Nancy Hall and Amy Starkey*

Animal abandonment is a crime. Sadly it is not an uncommon occurrence to see a dog or cat dropped out on a rural road and, when it happens in a county where there's no animal control or shelter, the outcome is often bleak. We want to tell you about a dog that found himself in this type of predicament in Morgan County. He had been abandoned on a stretch of road where there are no houses, on a road leading to a water tower. Nancy, a foster with Roane County Paws, first spotted this lovely white pit bull mix in July 2017, lying in the middle of the road. When approached, he took off and he wasn't seen again for several days. The next time she saw him, he was sitting on a gravel side road, waiting for someone to come for him. It was sad to know he was out there every day and every night all alone. People who saw him sitting there would stop and feed him. Nancy stopped every day on her way out and on her way home to make sure he was fed. She said he started watching for her car from a hill beside the gravel road. He had been scouting for her as much as she had been scouting for him, so she named him Scout! Every day he ran down the hill to meet her and eat his fill, but she could never get within arm's reach of him. This went on for many months, and no one could catch him. As cold weather approached, it became more important to get this boy. A dog house was donated for him. Nancy nestled it in a safe area, so he would have a place to stay out of the wind. When temperatures dropped to dangerous levels, a trap was set to no avail; Scout was too smart for that. Every time Nancy drove off, it broke her heart to leave him there and to wonder what could have happened to cause him to be so untrusting and wondering if coyotes would see him in the night. Plans



were being made to lace his food with a sedative and set up watch, but on January 16, 2018, the coldest night of the winter and during the year's first snow, Nancy opened her back door, and Scout was standing on her patio! He had traveled over two miles and found her! Scout was safe and ready to be a part of a family! He quickly learned, with the help of her other dogs, that things were going to be OK. Roane County Paws agreed to take Scout into their program and find him a home, with Nancy as his foster. HPAN agreed to sponsor Scout's vaccinations, heartworm test, and neuter. Once he was healed and ready for adoption, it didn't take long for Nancy and Scout to know that he was already home. Scout is growing more trusting every day, and is a sweet, content, and happy boy, never more to roam, hope, wait, or scout for love. He has it every single day.

## **HPAN Sponsored Rescue Feature: Campbell County Animal Center**

*Written by: Patricia Siwinski, Center Director*

The Friends of the Campbell County, TN Animals (FCCA) non-profit organization was formed in October 2012, for the purpose of improving the lives of companion animals throughout Campbell County. At that time, the municipal animal shelter had a very high euthanasia rate, at approximately 97%. One of the main goals of FCCA was to positively affect this percentage in a variety of ways: 1) by working to facilitate low-cost spay/neuter services; fewer unwanted animals would be present in the county, 2) through the use of a community food bank; assistance to low-income families would help keep animals in their homes, and 3)

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## Sponsored Rescue

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by working to establish strong bonds with animal rescue organizations; animals housed at the center might have greater opportunities to find committed and loving homes. Due in large part to the effectiveness and popularity of the FCCA within the community, in July 2015, Campbell County officially relinquished the management and daily operation of the Campbell County Animal Center (CCAC) to the organization. Since that time, the euthanasia rate has dropped to a historically low, single-digit percentage, with zero animals being euthanized for the sole purpose of creating space. Additionally, in November 2017, the FCCA voluntarily accepted the responsibility of animal control within the county.

Since the time of the organization's inception, the members of FCCA have worked tirelessly toward meeting the objectives outlined in our mission statement. Originally, a goal of 100 spay/neuter surgeries per month was established. This number was to include owner-paid services, as well surgeries scheduled through financial assistance programs, and the mobile PAL clinic. Due to the enormous success of the low-cost spay/neuter programs, there has been an evolution of the original goal. The FCCA is currently working toward the implementation of a permanent, low-cost clinic to be located at the Campbell County Animal Center facility.

In 2017 and 2018, Helping Paws Animal Network (HPAN) provided the CCAC with invaluable support, including several donations to assist with medical, special needs cases. In addition, in 2018 HPAN awarded the center with a capital improvement grant for the purpose of helping the center reach the goal of providing in-house spay/neuter services. With this grant, the center was able to purchase medical instruments for the surgery packs to be used in the clinic and two surgery tables for the surgery suite. This relieved a huge burden of the project, and brought the center one step closer to realizing this dream.

We are a small but mighty group; the CCAC is equipped with 20 adult canine runs as well as an additional 12 puppy kennels. For felines, we have 29 adult/kitten kennels and a recently added enclosed, indoor-outdoor "catio." Currently, the center intake is approximately 275 animals per month, of which 65% are successfully placed with partner rescues for adoption into permanent homes. This excludes animals that are adopted directly from the center by local families, and/or through adoption events. The center staff is comprised of three full-time, as well as two part-time, paid positions. All FCCA personnel, including the Center Director, are unpaid volunteers. We rely on county reserves, membership dues, fundraising efforts, grants and donations to fund all of our operations. Without the support of groups like HPAN, we simply could not do all of the amazing things that we do.



***Surgery tables purchased by HPAN as part of a 2018 Capital Improvement Grant***

## Thank You Corner

"We thank everyone at HPAN for all of your help this year; we are so very grateful!!!!"

~ Carla, Fighting for the Bullys Pit Bull Rescue

"Thank you SO much. You guys are angels!" ~ Holly, The Stray Connection

"Thank you so so so much!!!!"

~ Cindy, Roane County Paws

"Thanks so much, sweet critter angels."

~ Kimmey, Loudon County Friends of Animals

"Thank you! Bless y'all for everything y'all do to help rescues in the local area."

~ Amy, Pet Path

"My thanks to the HPAN team for sponsoring our dogs' veterinary care."

~ Steve, Sweetwater Valley Dog Rescue

"I'm overwhelmed. THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!"

~ Cyn, At Risk Intervention

"Thank you oodles and oodles from everyone at the shelter."

~ Patricia, Campbell County Animal Center

"You guys are amazing! I don't know what we would do without you. Thank you all so much!"

~ Angela, East Tennessee Miniature Horse & Donkey Rescue

"Yahooooo!!!! Thank you!"

~ Annette, Almost Home Animal Rescue

"Thanks for all you do!"

~ Sophie, Young-Williams Animal Center

"Thank you so much for helping us give Jackson a better life!"

~ Lauren, For the Love of Paws, Inc.

"You all are awesome! Thank you so much!"

~ Melia, Slumdog Rescue Crew

"Thank you so much. I am very grateful for all your help and everything you do for all the animals."

~ Stacey, Roane County Animal Shelter

"Bless you!"

~ Vanessa, Smoky Mountain Animal Rescue of Tennessee

"Thank you! I don't know how we do this without awesome people and groups like yours."

~ Michelle, A Chance for Champ

"On behalf of Frederick, Ali, and Sierra, a big thank you to all of you with HPAN."

~ Judy, Almost Home Animal Rescue

"We all want to thank HPAN again for helping fund Jackson's leg amputation. After 2 months with no interested adopters, we decided to send him to the Wisconsin Humane Society where we felt he'd have a much better opportunity to find the perfect home. We were over the moon when we recently found out Jackson was chosen to participate in the PAL (People & Animals Learning) program at WHS. I just know Jackson will do great in this program. We knew he was a special boy. Thanks to everyone at HPAN for helping us save him so that he could go on to an ambassador for people and animals. YAY JACKSON!"

~ Lauren, For the Love of Paws



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT ON HEARTWORM PREVENTION!