

The WAG Rag

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

Once More Around the Block

As we roll into our second year, WAG continues to grow. With that growth come more opportunities to help the people and pets of Walton County.

Last year we rescued nearly 150 dogs and cats from the Walton County shelter before their time ran out. Unfortunately, in these tough economic times owners are surrendering pets in increasing numbers and the shelter still needs our help finding homes for as many animals as possible.

With spring just around the corner, the usual bounty of puppies and kittens will soon be flooding the shelter. WAG's Anti-Mothers Day sterilization program will target spaying springtime "mama" cats before a second litter can come along.

A Petapalooza Party

On Saturday, April 25, WAG will host an adoption event at Petapalooza, held at Boss Brothers Country Store, 3084 Highway 78 in Loganville from 9 am—3 pm.

Petapalooza is a whole day dedicated to pet owners. Vendors offering pet related services will be on hand, along with information on pet nutrition, health and behavior.

A professional photographer will be available to take portraits of furry family members. Low-cost vaccination services will be provided by Paradox Spay/Neuter Clinic from 9 am—2 pm.

Petapalooza will also feature our yearly "Fleas Market," with tables loaded full

One thing is obvious—many owners want to sterilize their pets, but finances won't allow it. In 2008 we paid for 100 surgeries for pets of low-income owners. Our goal is to increase that number by at least 20 percent this year, helping even more families.

Our newest offering is a pet food pantry, offered in cooperation with Faith In Serving Humanity, Inc. (FISH), a local outreach organization. Qualified pet owners receive dog or cat food donated by WAG.

Community donations can be made to the pet food pantry. Buy an extra bag of food at a local retailer or veterinary clinic. Check our website for participating locations or call WAG at (770) 207-1896.



of great items. Donated pictures, decorative items, kitchenware, furniture, books, lamps, DVD's, kids items. If it's in good condition and we can haul it up there, we'll sell it. The sale starts at 9 a.m. Best of all—proceeds benefit our adoption and spay/neuter programs.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- *Cats sleep 18 out of 24 hours.*
- *The oldest goldfish on record was Freda, age 41 years when she died.*
- *The largest recorded dog litter was 23 puppies.*
- *The world's heaviest dog was an English Mastiff, Moose, who weighed 286 pounds.*
- *A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.*
- *Basenji's are the only breed of dog that doesn't bark.*
- *Whippets can run as fast as 32 mph.*

News and Views

Changes are a'coming!

On the government front, Walton County Animal Control has a new office building and is awaiting construction of the new kennel area. The current kennels are packed to capacity and relief is several months away. Please visit the shelter when looking for a new pet and help keep their kennels empty.

The shelter recently expanded their public hours to better accommodate working residents. The new viewing hours are Monday through Friday 10-5 (closed Thursdays), and Saturday 10 am- 2 pm. The "money order only" policy has been discontinued and other forms of payment are now accepted.

We've had preliminary talks with officials in the Walton Co. Parks and Recreation Department about rolling out the welcome mat for pets in county parks. The current "No Dogs Allowed" signage doesn't exactly encourage use of the facilities.

Although ball fields remain off limits, other areas of the park can be enjoyed by pets and their owners. Hopefully signs will soon change to reflect that policy. We've also discussed the need for dog parks in populated areas of the county. Would you like a dog park? Tell your elected representative! How else will they know you're interested?

Remember, your support is the engine of our organization. So as a small token of our appreciation, we've started a monthly donor appreciation program to recognize those who help us move forward. Each month a donor will be chosen from the list of that month's contributors. Winners receive a surprise gift, compliments of our local retailers. Food, gift cards, or free items—it's just a small way to thank our contributors for putting WAG and the local animals on their list of charitable recipients.

Congratulations to our March Special Donor, Tara Hagelthorn of Loganville!

Helping Hands

Kids and animals just seem to go together. So naturally when we asked students in Walton County schools to help collect items to help rescued pets, they enthusiastically jumped into the project.

The young pet lovers filled boxes with items like bags and cans of cat and dog food, kitty litter, leashes, collars, toys, and bowls.



Loganville Middle students



Walker Park Elementary students

Our thanks to Ms. Young at Walker Park Elementary and Ms. Daniel at Loganville Middle School and all their students who worked so hard. The dogs and cats thank you, too!

Giving Thanks

As always, we are indebted to those who support our programs. A heartfelt thank you to the following pet lovers:

Sponsors: *Steve and Susan Brown, Baccus Pest Control, John Drillot, James and Diane Marston, Bob and Sherree Klein, Carole Bossy, Bob and Shirley Guhl, Edward and Angela Laposki, Jim and Madeline Burgess, Deborah Milligan, Tim and Nancy Schnabel, Monroe Veterinary Clinic, Robbie and Sara Thomas, David and Penny Keener, Michael and Robin Newsom, Gina Mohler, Mark and Lynn Garrett, Carol Wrape, Doris Davis, Roy and Mary Jane Mallady, Jim and Catherine Stuff.*

Alex and Diane Kliros, Bob and Barbara Summers, Pam Passadino, Animal Medical Center of Monroe, William and Cheryl Roberts, Michael and Marlena Wald, Gloria Preston Cox, Tara Hagelthorn, Lamar and Sherry Mask, David Terry, Peggy and Lucinda Wiseman, Judie and Larry Farmer, Joanne Cox, Richard

and Ann Harris, Scott Fuller family, David and Karen Riser, Deanna Vanderheijden, Keith and Rachael Nilsen, Erin Brown Thompson, Barbara Postlewaite, Carolyn and Raymond Long.

Donors: *Robert and Nell Mitchell, Teresa Pruitt, Jayne Rogers, Elaine Arrigoni - The Confetti Shop, James and Jennifer Bradford, Gene and Sandi Ussery, David and Sandra Sorrells, Dale Cordell, Anne Wood, Sandy Van Deusen, Linda Jessen, Lynn Able.*

Lee Udell, Robin Arnold, Sharon Donnan, Sandy Bryant, Lisa Smith, Jo King, Kathy Hill, Brenda Vostreys, Stephanie Campbell, Wanda Kirk, Freda Whiten, Donald and Dianne James, Barb McKee, Jessie Romer and Nancy Holdren, Cindy Hames, Larry and Vickie Cornell, Thelma Rivette, Michael and Laura Harris, Chip and Candace Morris, Crista Carrell, and Joseph and Betsy Hamilton.

Remembrance Donations



Helping local pets and the pet community is a wonderful tribute for family, friends or a beloved pet.

We gratefully acknowledge the following honorary or memorial contributions.

Individuals

Honoring Meredith Farmer—Crista Carrell
In memory of Grant Posey—Edward Laposki
In memory of Jo Terry—David Terry

Pets

In memory of Cherokee—Carolyn Long
In memory of Dega—Wanda Kirk
In memory of Schotze—Deanna VanderHeijden
In memory of Zoe and Meeliz—Marlena and Michael Wald
In memory of Abby and Possum - William and Cheryl Roberts
In memory of BB and Bennett—Richard Harris
In memory of Champahne—Jo King
In memory of Beau—Brenda Vostreys
In memory of Rebel—Barbara McKee

Business Partnering

Individuals donors are the backbone of our organization. But the support of our local businesses runs a close second. By promoting WAG and our programs, our retail partners broaden our reach. A few of our

Currently we're holding regular public outreach events at the Monroe Walmart from 11 am—2 pm on the first Saturday of each month. The second Saturday of each month you'll find us at the Loganville PetSmart offering information on WAG programs. Come out and say hello!

Boss Brothers Country Store remains our Kitten Headquarters this year. Plenty of furry babies will be available for adoption, plus everything needed to get kitty off to a healthy start. The staff at Boss Brothers were our retail adoption champion in 2008, adopting over 100 kittens during the year. Susan Boss, Pam Barton, and the staff do a tremendous job caring for the kitties.

Boss Brothers is also a drop-off site for the items for the Pet Pantry. Or choose from the quality pet foods available in the store.

The new Loganville PetSmart opened in early March with a cattery full of beautiful adult cats available for adoption. This is a much-needed opportunity for visibility for cats, who traditionally don't fare well at outdoor adoption events.



Over one dozen adult cats have been adopted from the cattery since the store opened in early March.

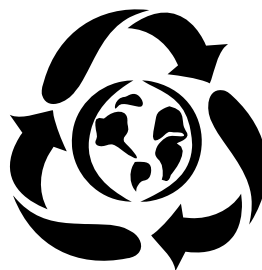
We've already rescued a higher number of cats from the shelter than last year.

WAG Goes Green

Do you want to save animals and the planet at the same time? Join our recycling efforts!

We're collecting working and non-working electronics: iPods, laptops, digital cameras, digital video cameras, cellphones. Items can be dropped off to us at our monthly tabling event at the Monroe Walmart on the first Saturday of each month.

Toner and inkjet cartridges are also on our recycling wish list. This is a perfect non-cash opportunity for businesses to contribute. Items ordinarily tossed in the trash are used to help local



families and pets.

Join with our other business partners, like Alliance Fire Protection and Bank of America, and watch the benefits multiply. Cartridges stay out of landfills, WAG benefits financially, more dogs and cats are spayed or neutered, and adopted and the world is a better place. Sounds like a Disney happy ending.

We'll provide permanent containers for your location and pick-up products on a regular basis. To get in on the recycling efforts, give us a call at (770) 207-1896 or email wagfundraising@yahoo.com

Happy Tails



We rescued this sweet terrier from the Walton County shelter in early November. And for some strange reason, months went by and

no one noticed her at adoption events. But finally her luck changed.

The Faint family from Jefferson fell in love with her. Soon “Allie” was in her new home, playing ball with the kids and enjoying life. She even accompanied the family on a recent trip to Florida in a motorhome. According to the Faint’s, she loved the beach and has become the perfect pet. Way to go Allie!



Take a look at Trooper, the Lhasa Apso. Barbara, a groomer at the PetSmart in Conyers, spent three hours working on this guy, who was so badly matted that burrs caught in the fur became embedded into his skin.

His name came from his wonderful attitude, as Trooper seemed to instinctively know Barbara was helping him. This bouncy boy has now found a great home. Our thanks to Barbara for her time and efforts giving Trooper’s story a happy ending!

The Perfect Gift

Looking for a gift for that hard-to-buy for animal lover? How about a donation helping animals in their honor?

WAG has Happy Birthday cards, plus Mother’s and Father’s Day cards commemorating donations to WAG. There’s even a selection of cards for pets to thank their “Mom” and “Dad” for donating to WAG.

Drop us an email at wagwalton@yahoo.com or call (770) 207-1896



Some favorite P.A.L.S (*Pets Aching for Love*)

Schatzi has been waiting for a home much too long. We rescued her from the shelter last October and she’s been in a kennel ever since. A persistent stomach bug kept her away from adoption events for awhile, but she’s fine now. So why is she still homeless? We don’t have a clue.

She’s quiet at adoption events—maybe she doesn’t stand out among the cute wiggling, furry puppies. She doesn’t bark to get attention—perhaps the yappy terriers distract adopters from her.



The only fault we can find is that Schatzi is a bit particular about who her friends are. She can be somewhat bossy around some, but not all, dogs and prefers to dine alone. But that describes a lot of people we know, too.

Please give us a call about Schatzi. This girl needs to trade a concrete floor for a loving home with a warm bed and hugs.

Sponsor Spotlight

Want to get involved in a good cause, meet interesting people, and help animals at the same time? Come visit us at a meeting or event and see what's up for 2009. The animals could use your help, whether only one hour per month or several hours per week. We even have cyber volunteer opportunities, so you won't need to venture far from your computer screen.

Here are the 2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Meredith Farmer—Fundraising/Promotion
wagfundraising@yahoo.com



Alexis Burton—Spay/Neuter
wagwalton_alexis@live.com

Karen Dean—Adoption
wagwalton@yahoo.com

Cheryl Reynolds - Education
wageducation@yahoo.com

We have a year filled with adoption events, pet shows, festivals, and plenty of other opportunities to meet other pet lovers and expand WAG's mission.

For more info visit our website at www.wagwalton.com or call us at (770) 207-1896.

Calendar of Events

04/04/09	Public Outreach—Monroe Walmart
04/11/09	Public outreach—Gunter Hall, Social Circle Easter Egg Hunt 1 pm— 3 pm
04/18/09	Loganville Spring Festival 10 am—5 pm
04/21/09	General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monroe-Walton Library, Monroe
04/25/09	Petapalooza Pet Extravaganza WAG Adoption and Yard Sale Boss Brothers Country Store Hwy. 78, Loganville 10 am—3 pm
05/02/09	Public outreach—Monroe Walmart
05/03/09	Spring Fling Pet Adoption at McDaniel-Tichenor House, Monroe 12 pm—3 pm
05/19/09	General Meeting 6:30 pm Monroe-Walton Library, Monroe

Snapshots

Proud new cat adopters from
PetSmart's grand opening



MORE WAG SPONSORS!



*Dr. Dawn Delong of the
Animal Medical Center of Monroe*



*Baccus Pest Control
Lisa Shaffer, Lee Sisk, Linda Baccus*



Jim Stuff of BodyWize Therapy



Dr. William and Cheryl Roberts

**YES! I WANT TO HELP WAG PROVIDE A BETTER FUTURE
FOR ANIMALS IN WALTON COUNTY.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Here's my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to help the animals in Walton County:

I'd like to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____ (honoring) or (in memory of) my

(friend) (relative) (pet) _____. (circle appropriate term)

SPONSORS: Guardian \$50 _____ Patron \$100 _____ Bronze \$250 _____ Silver \$500 _____ Gold \$1,000 _____ Platinum \$2,500+ _____

Check if you are interested in helping with projects promoting any of the following animal welfare issues:

Spay/Neuter _____ Pet Health _____ Humane Education _____ Fundraising _____ Adoption promotion _____ Fostering pets _____

I'd like to offer my professional services: _____

Walton Animal Guild, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

**Visit our website
www.wagwalton.com**

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Walton Animal Guild, Inc.
P.O. Box 169
Monroe, GA 30655
(770) 207-1896

