

# The WAG Rag

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2010

## A New Billboard and More Food

It's hard to believe another year has passed, but the calendars seem to agree—2010 is here!

Our new billboards promoting spay and neuter are finally up—check out the photo on our Snapshots page. Thanks to Fairway Advertising for donating billboard space to our organization and huge kudos to WAG member Catherine Stuff for her tenacity in getting this project off the ground. Hopefully the billboard will make the public more aware of the pet overpopulation issue.

In late 2009 WAG established the first Community Pet Food Pantry in co-

operation with F.I.S.H., a local non-profit social service organization. With an ever increasing number of animals turned into the shelter because of economic woes, we hope the Pet Food Pantry helps pet owners keep their furry family members by their side in good times and bad.

If you'd like to help by holding a pet food drive in your school, church, or neighborhood, drop us an email. To make smaller donations, cans or bags of food can be dropped off at 700 S. Madison Ave., Monroe, from 9:00—11:30, Mon. through Friday.

## WAG 'n Walk Fun

On Saturday, May 8, 2010 WAG will host the first annual WAG 'n Walk, Walton's first pet-oriented festival.

We'll be gathering at the historic courthouse in downtown Monroe, Broad Street at Spring Street, for a array of pet-related fun.

First—the walk. Bring your friends, family and pets out for an easy 1.5 mile stroll through downtown Monroe and a local park. Walk by yourself, or in in “packs” of friends/family. The more, the merrier!

It's fun with a purpose—fundraising for our programs. The success of our programs like adoption and rescue, spay/neuter, and the Pet Food Pantry at F.I.S.H. rely on our ability to fund-raise. Help us do more for animals and the community!

After the walk, visit with vendors, see



the dogs on Adoption Alley, or let the kids bounce away in the Kidz Korner. It's a day of friendship, fun, and music, raffles and prizes. There will also be games for you and your pooch, vendors offering pet related services, along with information on pet nutrition, health and behavior. Plus, a photographer will be on hand to take pet photos.

So dust off your walking shoes and join us for a day of fun. Visit our website at [www.wagwalton.com](http://www.wagwalton.com) for entry forms and more info.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Warm Welcome	2
Mobile Opportunities	2
Finding Homes	3
WAG Awards	3
Event Calendar	4
Cheap Fun	4
Snapshots	5
Giving Thanks	5

### Here's what your support enabled to us to do in 2009!

- Rescued 226 cats and dogs from the shelter.
- Pay for lifesaving medical treatments for rescued pets. Amputations, heartworm treatments, eye surgery, parvo, and demodectic mange were just a few of the medical challenges the animals faced.
- Opened a pet food pantry in cooperation with F.I.S.H. in Monroe.
- Provided over 3,000 pounds of pet food to the pantry.
- Spayed or neutered 76 pets under our low-income or subsidized programs.
- Traveled to Connecticut for a 3-day adoption event in Connecticut and found homes for 136 cats and dogs.
- Purchased a used van for animal transport.

**Thank You!**

## A Warm Welcome

In August, 2009, Walton County Animal Control welcomed a new director, William Wise. Previously the superintendent of animal services in Newport News, VA, Wise is coming back to Georgia after years of experience in animal services, including a stint at Athens-Clarke County Animal Control.

By tossing out the welcome mat to an increasing number of rescues, the new director has made impressive gains in the number of animals leaving the shelter alive.

Let's hope the county government helps out by finally building the new kennels we've been hearing about for 2 years, so he and his staff can make even more progress!

## Mobile Opportunities

WAG is no longer incognito on the highways.

In March, 2009 our van, dubbed the "WAG-mobile," hit the road. Our thanks to Alliance Fire Protection in Loganville for the generous pricing that allowed us to purchase the 2000 Ford E-150, a former company work van.



The WAG-mobile transports three time more animals than our volunteer's minivan—a great help when rescuing animals from the shelter or going to adoption events.

Our thanks also to Signs by Lance, a custom sign and graphics company in Monroe, for their top notch work giving us an unmistakable appearance. Look out, road warriors, here we come!

## Ani-Meals on Wheels

It's just common sense—helping pet owners also helps the animals. WAG is offering some senior citizens a break from shopping by delivering pet food to their homes.

Living on a fixed income is a challenge, regardless of age, and homebound seniors face additional obstacles. Purchasing pet food can be costly. According to social service agencies, it's not uncommon to see seniors putting their dogs first in line for eating privileges.

Twice a month our volunteer delivers cat, dog and even bird food to grateful Walton County senior citizens. Although the Ani-Meals on Wheels program is currently offered in a limited geographic area of Walton County, we hope to expand as our sponsorships grow.



## Digs for Dogs

Every dog needs a home—and a house! Weather can be harsh for dogs and cats left to fend for themselves outdoors, but doghouses are expensive and out-of-reach for many owners.

WAG has teamed with Walton Co. Animal Control and the Walton Career Academy to put a roof over the heads of these pets. Through donations of used doghouses and several wooden doghouses constructed by WCA students, Animal Control officers can help pet owners who might otherwise face cruelty charges.

If you'd like to donate a used doghouse in good condition, call WAG at (770) 207-1896 and we can arrange for pick-up.



## Finding Homes

Ending euthanasia of healthy, adoptable shelter animals is our main priority. By helping owners keep pets through pet food programs, sterilizing to prevent unwanted litters, providing rescued animals medical care, we form a support network in pursuit of one goal—a loving home for deserving animals.

The usual methods—adoption events - are effective. Our December Home for the Holidays Super Pet Adoption found homes for over 50 cats and dogs. Recently the April Spring Adoption Extravaganza helped 18 animals find new families. Marketing these events in local media clearly increases event attendance and brings more exposure for the animals. More events are coming in 2010.

But adoption rates can also increase by finding homes for homeless animals outside our local area. WAG sends weekly emails with pictures and descriptions of “last chance” shelter animals through a vast

internet network of rescue groups and humane organizations across the country. The results have been encouraging.

Since January we’ve placed dogs in homes from Florida to New Hampshire, North Carolina to Kansas.

In fact, nearly one-third of the 46 pets rescued this year have been sent to verifiable, licensed out-of-state organizations.

As the transfer program grows, we hope it’ll provide a significant boost to the number of animals we can help save this year.



*Hogan is now a Minnesota resident thanks to our transfer program.*

## WAG Community Service Awards

Walton County is no doubt home to thousands of animal lovers helping homeless pets in a variety of ways. Picking up roadside strays, donating old towels to rescues, collecting pet food, or making a small monetary donation are just some ways available to offer aid.

WAG’s 2009 Community Service Awards were awarded in February to individuals making a difference.

**Tanya Dennis, Veterinary Professional of the Year** A vet assistant at Paradox Spay/Neuter Clinic, Tanya is very involved in local rescue and spay/neuter efforts.

**Cheyenne Clark, Young Animal Lover of the Year.** Cheyenne is a 16-yr old veterinary assistant at Countryside Hospital for Animals.

**Jessie Romer, Animal’s Best Friend**—A long time rescue advocate, Jessie recently started her own rescue, Bliss Animal Haven, with a focus on animal cruelty victims.

**Animal Services Professional of the Year, Kristy Womack** - kennel director at Walton County Animal Control.

**Cat of the Year—Walter**, an orange tabby who was brought to the shelter with a gunshot wound and fractured pelvis. Walter impressed the staff at Countryside Vet and his rescuers with his sweet, forgiving nature.

**Dog of the Year—Mercy**, a female German Shepherd, who was found with her back leg chewed off, possibly from being caught in a trap. Her will to live impressed all who meet her.

A memorial award was given to Michael Hughes, former director of animal who passed away in June 2009 after many years of dedicated service.

Nominations are open to the public and any county resident is eligible. The next award nominations will be held in fall 2010.

## How to Have Cheap Fun

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 2010. 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.

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](http://www.wagwalton.com) or call us at (770) 207-1896.



*Offering a helping hand at adoptions.*



## Calendar of Events

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 03/16/10  | General meeting 6:30 pm<br>Monroe-Walton library, Monroe   |
| 04/10/10  | Spring Fling Pet Adoption Extravaganza<br>Petsmart, Loganville   |
| 04/16/10  | General meeting 6:30 p.m.<br>Monroe-Walton library, Monroe   |
| 04/24/10  | Petapalooza Pet Expo<br>Pet Adoption, vaccination clinic, and more<br>Boss Brothers Country Store<br>Hwy. 78, Loganville<br>10 am—3 pm             |
| 05/08/10  | WAG 'n Walk<br>Dog walk, adoptions, games and fun<br>Held at the historic courthouse in downtown Monroe,<br>Spring St. and Broad St.<br>11 pm—3 pm |
| 05/11/09* | General Meeting 6:30 pm<br>Monroe-Walton Library, Monroe * Note date change—second Tuesday.  |

## Snapshots



*Community Service Award winners  
From right, Jessie Romer, Cheyenne  
Clark, Tanya Dennis, WAG Pres. Karen  
Dean and Dog the Year Mercy.*



*Our donated billboard!*



*Recognizing our founding donors; from left, Roy Mallady, Robin  
Newsom, and Dr. Elmer and Nancy Swartzmeyer*

Time for the  
2011 Community Pet  
Calendar contest!

**Check our website for deadline**

## A Note of Thanks

As always, we are indebted to those who support our programs. A heartfelt thank you to these recent donors and sponsors:

*Marlena Wald, Baccus Pest Control, Donald and Patricia Foster, Rebecca and Douglas Stringer, Alcovy Surveying & Engineering, Katherine Avallone, Tara Hagelthorn, JD James, Alliance Fire Protection, Barbara Jean Destefano, Rod and Laura Templeton, Joseph Bradford, Terry and Barb Greer, Sandy Bryant, Diana Evans, Lewis Frey, Jimmy Conner, Doris Davis, Bob and Shirley Guhl, S & C Repair Shop, John and Patricia Hybarger, Sandra Hatten, Carole Wrape,*

*Sybil Dickinson, Rona Watts, Jane Walldridge, Mary Wade, Michelle Meurer, Laura Gilbert, Jeremy Wade, Margaret Edwards, Janet Pope, Mickey Embleton, Catherine Stuff, Elmer and Nancy Swartzmeyer, Joan McMillan, Barbara McKee, Larry and Judy Farmer, Warren Furlow, Scott Fuller, Julie Watkins, Lynn Skelton, Martha Ann Highsmith, Karen McCarty, Byron and Katherie Melton, Theresa Walker, Graham and Lorrain Loews, TP McEearlean, Chip and Candace Morris, Julie Stein, Barbara Postlewaite, family and friends of Toni Whitley, Rev. and Mrs. James Bolton, Lynn Skelton, Tanya Witt, and the Walton County Foundation.*

**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.*

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

