



House with a Heart

2018 END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER



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Special Thanks to our Volunteers, Donors, and Spectrum Printing, for making HWAH's Annual Newsletter publication possible!

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www.housewithaheart.com

Greetings from Sher

As you know, HWAH is a Senior Sanctuary dedicated to providing a safe and loving place for senior dogs and cats to live out their lives.

When my husband Joe and I started HWAH in 2006 we were middle aged and thought we had many years of rescuing seniors ahead of us! Now my Joe is in heaven and I am over 70 so that brings some worries. I know that I have to provide for the Sanctuary residents in case something happens to me. I have made sure to identify volunteers who will help if I am sick. I have also purchased life insurance that will be used to care for any dogs and cats that would outlive me.

When I was younger I was focused on accepting residents who would need medical care and love. Currently, we have 30 critters that rely on our HWAH volunteers, foster parents, supporters and me. Every day, at some point, I have a moment of worry about what will happen to them if I am not here.

My life would truly have no meaning if I wasn't devoting myself to saving senior pets. However, it would be unacceptable to keep bringing in residents when my time to be here for them is getting shorter. Hence our K9-Medical Miracle Fund and our new program to save Seriously Senior dogs from shelters was conceived. This program partners us with other Rescues. These rescue partners provide adoptive or foster homes for senior dogs pulled from shelters. With the help of our Supporters, HWAH provides Medical Grants to prepare these pups for adoption, or for a comfortable and quality Hospice care experience.

As we move forward, I am hopeful for another 15 years caring for the current HWAH residents and Forever Fosters, and sharing with you the success stories of the many seriously senior dogs we will help each year with our K9-Medical Miracles program. This will be a joint effort because without YOUR support, we could never complete our mission.

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Meet the Newbies



COCO [12 YO] came to us when her owner could no longer care for her. She was suffering from dental disease, bladder stones, and tumors on the back of her legs. We got Coco the surgeries she needed. But she had been in pain for so long, and was hesitant to be picked up. Unfortunately, Coco was not used to being around humans, and is very fearful of human touch. She gets along with other dogs, but would rather be left alone to sleep in her bed all day. We are working hard to get Coco to trust people, and will keep trying until she knows she is loved.

MARLIE [12 YO] & **DIXIE** [13 YO] have lived their entire lives in a local community of Sisters. Unfortunately, the sisters were unable to keep their beloved pups so they searched for a safe place for Marlie and Dixie to live out their lives, and found us. Dixie is a beautiful female Rat Terrier. She is friendly and incredibly loving! Her companion Marlie is a handsome male toy Australian Shepherd. He is a very dedicated, affectionate, and faithful boy. Both were very shy when they first arrived, but soon realized that they were safe, and are now very sweet pups who love to greet everyone who walks in.

ROCKY [10 YO] was brought to us by BARCS through Pet Connect following an Animal Control violation by the original owners. His condition was heartbreaking. This poor pup was very emaciated and needed surgery on both eyes. He had severe dental disease as well as a ruptured mass on his rear. Once he gained enough weight he was able to handle all the surgeries needed to make him more comfortable. Rocky makes us laugh at all his silly positions when he sleeps! He is a sweet boy and will live out his life in comfort and love now.

Welcome to Our K9-Medical Miracles Program

We have embarked on a new way to help Senior and Special needs dogs. By partnering with local Rescues who will pull a 13+ year old dog from a shelter, we will provide a Grant for the necessary medical care to make that pup ready for their new forever home.

Often when a rescue group goes to a shelter, they only look for young healthy dogs, even though many people are now considering a Senior or Special needs dog when deciding to adopt. Our goal is to encourage rescues to sometimes choose a senior knowing that HWAH and its supporters will help with the expensive medical costs associated with an older dog.

K9-Medical Miracles 2018 Update

All of us at HWAH are thrilled that with your support 2018 has been a successful year for our new K9-Medical Miracle Fund. HWAH working diligently along with our Rescue partners was able to save 13 senior or special needs dogs that had little chance of adoption because of their age and medical conditions.



Diamond Before



and After

One shining example of the success of our program was Diamond, a 13 year-old Shih Tzu, who was surrendered to a shelter and in need of rescue due to a yeast infection covering her body. Her heart was enlarged and she needed to see a Cardiologist and

we now know that she will require heart meds the rest of her life. *It Takes a Village*, a rescue in North Carolina saved Diamond from the shelter and asked for our help with her medical care. *It Takes a Village* had planned on keeping Diamond in hospice care because of her medical issues, but they found a family willing to adopt her and give her love in her final years! Diamond is living the high life now.



Tator Before



and After



Tiny Tim Before



and After

Other pups saved because of your generosity this year were:

- Animal Hearts Animal Rescue – Elmer
- Gray Face Acres – Blossom, Cash and Gabe
- It Takes a Village – Diamond, Glenda and Peanut
- Pet Connect – Taco, Tiny Tim, Rocky, Tator and Marco
- Tomorrow Promise – Merry



Elmer



Cash



Glenda



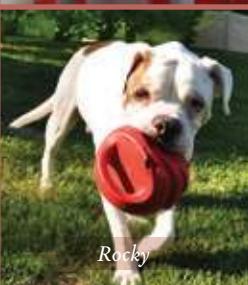
Marco



Peanut



Blossom



Rocky



Gabe



[Continued from page 1]

In our newsletter you will find an envelope addressed to HWAH. Many folks use that envelope to send us a donation. For that I am incredibly grateful. **HOWEVER**, I have an additional request for the envelope this year! This December I will be turning 72 and I know that someday in the not too far off future I will be sitting in a rocking chair remembering the years that I spent loving and caring for the older pups and kitties. I'm not much of a knitter, but I am an avid reader. It would be wonderful to be reading notes from you about your experiences and stories about your beloved pets. Tell me about what you have done to make the world a better place or even what your plans might be for the future. I can see myself with a basket beside my chair filled with notes from you to pull out and read each day, with a kitty in my lap and at least one dog at my feet, sometimes a huge smile on my face and sometimes tears in my eyes from reading **YOUR** stories!!!!

Blessings to all,

Sher Polvinale

TATOR [8 YO] was rescued by PetConnect Rescue from a hoarding situation. They asked for our help to evaluate him as he was pooping and peeing in his crate. Tator spent his life in a crate and this was normal for him. So we have been very patient to teach him to poop outside. Tator is extremely shy, and would run and hide when anyone walked in the door. Slowly but surely, Tator has started venturing out when people arrive. He has even started letting some people hold him and pet him! Tator has come a long way from the scared little man he was. We are thrilled to see him thrive with our pack.

TINKER [16 YO] was a tiny scared Chihuahua at the local shelter, and was suffering from an enlarged heart and heart disease. Knowing that she didn't have a good chance of being adopted, we couldn't leave this old girl in the shelter. Tinker was very snarky when she first arrived. We had to pick her up with a blanket to avoid the damage this petite cutie could muster up. Finally, Tinker has warmed up to us and will allow everyone to pet her. Tinker does NOT like sharing human affection with the other dogs and is very vocal about wanting all of the attention.

MARCO [12 YO] was at the PG County shelter when space was limited. Marco was listed as a fear biter. He had horrid dental disease, but was otherwise in good health. He was transported to HWAH and we scheduled dental surgery and a good grooming. We kept him in a pen to evaluate his behavior. We discovered that Marco is a sweet loving dog. If someone is sitting down, you can guarantee that boy will be in their lap. He will let you know LOUDLY whenever he sees his favorite people! Marco is a very happy, silly pup and quite the snuggle buddy.

CASEY [16 YO] & WRIGLEY [15 YO]: One of our rescue partners, Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland approached us about a bonded pair who were living at the local animal shelter. Casey and Wrigley: Casey was 16 and Mom to Wrigley who was 15. They needed to stay together. The loving pair arrived at HWAH. Casey loved to play peek-a-boo with her blankie and she was a talker with many opinions that she loved to share. She was never far from Wrigley and you would often find them cuddled together. Sadly, Casey passed away in September but not before charming all of us for many months. Wrigley has transitioned nicely into the pack now that he no longer has his Mom. He may not have any teeth but that doesn't slow down his love of treats or meals. He does enjoy being held in your lap and we all try to give him extra attention.



They Will Not Go Quietly

They will not go quietly,
the pets who've shared our lives.
In subtle ways they let us know
their spirit still survives.
Old habits still can make us think
we hear them at the door
Or step back when we drop
a tasty morsel on the floor.
Our feet still go around the place
the food dish used to be,
And, sometimes, coming home at night,
we miss them terribly.
And although time may bring new friends
and a new food dish to fill,
That one place in our hearts
belongs to them...
and always will.

– Author Unknown

Successful Events



Olney Winery—Sips for Senior Dogs Fundraiser

wonderful company, tasty hors d'oeuvres, music, and raffles. All money raised goes directly to our K9-Medical Miracles Fund. We are so thrilled by all of the support we got from our Facebook family by sharing and spreading the word. It was a Sell Out!

Piper's Walk

[JUNE 23] HWAH was on hand for the first Piper's walk to raise awareness for canine safety in cars; and to raise money for the Center for Pet Safety to launch another round of car restraint crash testing. HWAH was invited to share their message about saving Seriously Senior and Special needs dogs.



Thank you for your contribution and support:

- Rock and Roll Revival Outdoor Concert in June
- Not Your Average Cause – Every Tuesday in July at Not Your Average Joe's in Gaithersburg
- Bikram Yoga Rockville – Special class events in August
- Legal and General America in Frederick selected HWAH again as their 2018 Fund Raiser
- Volunteers from The Carlyle Group for coming seasonally to help with the grounds
- Supporters who are choosing House with a Heart for an online Birthday fundraiser



GIN GIN

If ever a pup could make us laugh, it was this plump little Chihuahua. She was about to be left behind in a vacant apartment when a marshal took her to a shelter who then contacted us. Gin-Gin spent months burrowed under a blanket, snarling and terrorizing anyone who attempted to coax her out. But at mealtimes, she regularly made an appearance. Over time, Gin-Gin became more social and playful. Her heart just finally wore out, and we let her go in March 2018.

CASEY

Casey came to HWAH with her son Wrigley. She and Wrigley spent all of their time together. Casey was a good and loving Mom to her 15 year-old son. Even though she looked great she began to suffer from Kidney disease and became lethargic and no longer wanted to eat. It was finally determined that there was nothing else we could do to keep her comfortable. In September, Casey crossed over peacefully in the loving arms of our volunteer, Frances.

COPPER

Copper came to HWAH when his owner could no longer care for him. He was a quiet, unassuming pup who kept to himself, but always enjoyed time outside, treats and mealtime. Copper just slowly seemed to fade away and no longer have joy in his life. He would have been 24 in January 2018! As his heart and lungs were beginning to fail, we decided to let him go in early October 2018. Copper passed peacefully in the loving arms of our volunteer, Chris.

CAYMAN

Cayman was a senior Lhasa Apso who suffered from Dementia and blindness. He barked a lot and walked in circles. With lots of love and lots of attention, Cayman was doing much better. We had several wonderful months with Cayman, and then he succumbed to a horrible cancer in his mouth. There was nothing to be done and we did not want him to suffer, so sadly we had to say goodbye to him in November 2017.



In Memoriam

THE MANY WAYS TO HELP HOUSE WITH A HEART SENIOR PET SANCTUARY



While we were truly blessed this year, we need your continuous support to cover our costly veterinary expenses, purchase food and supplies, and make improvements that benefit our senior residents and forever fosters. You can contribute by:



- Making a one-time, occasional, or monthly donation.
- Choose HWAH (#69166) as a designated nonprofit in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area.
- Make a donation to HWAH (#20-5291492) via the Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) for state employees.
- HWAH is a 501c 3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible.
- Sponsor a resident of your choice.
- Purchase items for the Sanctuary that appear on our Wish List in the "Support HWAH" section on our website.
- Shop at smile.amazon.com and select House With A Heart Pet Sanctuary as your charitable organization.
- Help us promote our team spirit and our mission! Purchase HWAH apparel from the "Support HWAH" section on our website.

HWAH is a non-profit and volunteer supported organization. Situated in a house on two acres of fenced property in Gaithersburg, HWAH fills a need for its dogs and cats by providing a sanctuary for them. These senior pets at HWAH are there as a result of becoming homeless or were in the process of losing their homes for a variety of reasons. Unlike most other rescues, HWAH does not seek adoption for its residents. Instead, HWAH provides a safe and loving place for its residents to live out their full lives so they will never lose their home again. HWAH relies solely on donations to cover its expenses. In addition, HWAH's volunteers are instrumental in daily operations and upkeep of the sanctuary.

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