



House with a Heart

2020 END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER



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Special Thanks to our Volunteers, Donors, and Spectrum Printing, for making this newsletter possible!

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Greetings from Sher

Our Annual Newsletter serves as a reminder for us to reflect upon the past twelve months. Needless to say, it's been a crazy year and quite the ride...

But with all of the challenges and heartache, I've been incredibly fortunate to have YOU by my side this entire time. Because of YOU – our incredible supporters, social media friends, our family and volunteers – we can honestly look back at a lot of positivity for House with a Heart in 2020.

We were pleased that our K9 and Kitty Medical Miracles Program, working closely with our rescue partners, helped to save 22 senior and special needs pets this year from shelters and owners who could no longer care for them.

Our Buster's Buddies Foster Program cared for numerous kitties and one very special dog – Cookie. With your support, we were able to help them transition from being left behind to starting a new life with loving families.

A new and very successful project for us this year – the "Feed Fido and Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry – grew out of a need to help struggling families feed their pets during COVID-19. Our Treasurer, Jacquie, came up with this idea at the start of the pandemic and helped us make it a reality.

When the stay-at-home order was lifted, our volunteers came back on a limited basis, and continued to help with keeping the Sanctuary, the grounds, and the resident dogs and cats all well cared for.

During these difficult times, YOU have been the Beacon of HOPE and the confirmation that there is Good in the World, and we CAN be that Good. As always – Thank You – with all my heart, I believe that Love Lives Here.

Blessings to all, and wishes for a bright new year!

Sher Polvinale



K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles



22

Pets Saved from
Jan-Oct 2020



23

Rescue Partners
Across the U.S.



\$24,000

Amount Granted
Jan-Oct 2020

This year our project includes KITTIES, so we are now the K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles! In our third year of the program, we added five new Rescue Partners, and we'll continue to increase our partnerships so we can save even more dogs and cats that need medical care in order to find new homes.

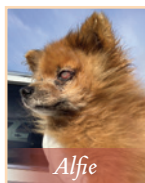
In 2020, we provided 22 Medical Grants that helped to move some wonderful dogs and cats from being left behind to being LOVED.

With your help we are now ready to help even more senior dogs and cats in 2021! These pets often need extensive medical care to prepare them for adoption or foster care.

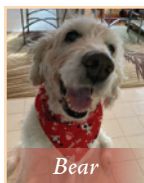
Saving these senior and special needs pups and kitties is ONLY possible because of YOUR support. THANK YOU!

K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Update

Here are the lucky pets who received a second chance in 2020 because of our K-9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Fund, and a few of their stories.



Alfie



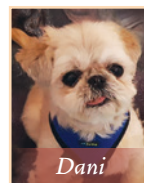
Bear



China



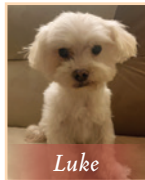
Cookie



Dani



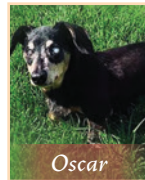
Dixie



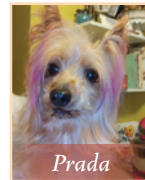
Luke



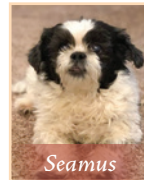
Maggie



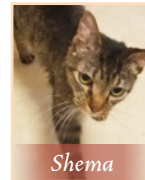
Oscar



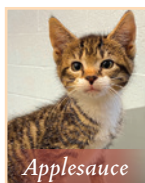
Prada



Seamus



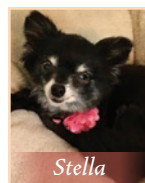
Shema



Applesauce

In June, staff at the Humane Society of Carroll County found a wet and scared kitten (later named Applesauce) abandoned in a carrier

in their parking lot. Both of her hind legs were deformed. LovePaws, our local rescue partner, agreed to take Applesauce, and our Medical Miracles grant paid for her medical expenses. In July, Applesauce came to HWAH for foster care. After just a few weeks, LovePaws found the perfect forever home for Applesauce with another kitten and two dogs to play with, and two loving parents.



Stella

Stella came to Leashes End, a local rescue partner, when she was 16 years old. She was nearly blind with nuclear sclerosis,

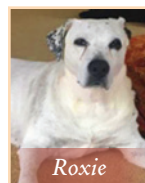
limps because of a luxating patella, and her teeth were so rotted the vet feared extractions would cause her jaw to deteriorate. Leashes End reached out to us for a grant to help pay for Stella's dental surgery, and we were happy to oblige! One year later, Stella has acclimated to life at Leashes End and this adorable spitfire is a perfect fit with her high-energy Chihuahua pack.



Midnight

Midnight's elderly owner passed away and family members were not able to give him a home. Frederick Friends of Our County

Animal Shelter was touched by his story and took him in even before there was a foster available. Our grant helped them provide a senior wellness exam and microchip, bloodwork, vaccines, and treatment to heal an abscess on his head. Midnight was adopted within a couple weeks.



Roxie

Roxie, a 12-year-old Dalmatian mix, had a rough life before being rescued by Gray Face Acres. When she arrived, she had fluid

on her lungs, a heart condition, and evidence of a BB and bullet on her x-rays. Our grant helped provide a cardiology consultation as well as the medications she needs. Roxie's foster mom fell in love, adopted her, and this adorable pup is now thriving with her forever family, including several dog friends.

Events

We always enjoy seeing our supporters in-person at events, but this year we had to switch gears and focus on "social distancing" and connect with you virtually! As always, we relied on you to pull us up, and you did not let us down!



Giving Tuesday Now

[May 5] On this global day of giving, our virtual fundraising event focused on helping families with pets who are unable to feed them during these challenging times and beyond. Generous donations of food and funds from friends near and far enabled us to launch the "Feed Fido & Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry.



We were humbled by the generosity of so many friends and followers who donated the essential supplies we needed to take care of our residents at the beginning of the pandemic. Your generous support led us to believe that with your assistance, we could also help needy families feed their pets during this difficult time. And so, the "Feed Fido and Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry was born!



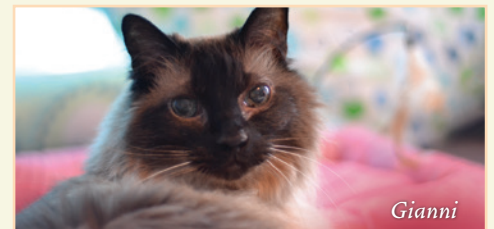
We connected with organizations in our area already delivering groceries to shut-ins and families in need, and they added a pet food option to their delivery. On May 6, our first distribution to these local food banks was 200 lbs. of kibble, and more than 150 cans of dog and cat food, and we soon doubled our distribution.



With the help of some of our rescue partners (Gray Face Acres Senior Dog Rescue, LovePaws, Brew Beagles, PetConnect, K-9 Lifesavers, and others), we were also able to provide food to many low-income pet parents. As your donations continued to come in over the summer, we expanded the program to assist seniors and disabled folks living in low-income independent living facilities.

"Go for the Win" Contest

[July] Our Annual "K9 & Kitty Medical Miracles" fundraiser may have been online, but the race between contestants (HWAH residents) Piper, Raja, Tillie and Gianni brought us together with our supporters for several days of fun! The leaderboard changed several times, but in the end Piper received the most donations and was declared the champion (and cover model for our 2021 HWAH calendar). Thanks to you, we raised \$16,500 and will continue to provide medical grants to help save senior and special needs dogs and cats.



House with a Heart is no longer accepting residents, but Piper wanted to be sure that we always practice Love Lives Here and Kindness Counts.

So, when we are able, we offer assistance as needed to owners with special circumstances. These pups belong to their owners but hang out with us here at the Sanctuary – and they are Piper's Pals!

You... HWAH Supporters, Volunteers & Donors make Great things possible!

In a year that felt flipped upside down, your love and support for senior and special needs cats and dogs remained.

When the pandemic struck, you stepped up and made sure HWAH had the essential food and supplies to care for our residents.

When the community needed a helping hand, you donated dog and cat food to launch the "Feed Fido and Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry, helping to feed pets at risk.

And when our in-person fundraiser had to be canceled, your virtual donations enabled HWAH to continue its medical grants through the K9 & Kitty Medical Miracles Program.

We Celebrate
the incredible work you
helped us accomplish
in 2020!

K9 & Kitty
Medical
Miracles

Buster's Buddies

Feed Fido
&
Fluffy
HWAH PET PANTRY

Piper's Pals

Saying Goodbye

No matter how we try, we never can prepare for the loss of one of our beloved residents. Given the work we do at the Sanctuary, you'd think we'd learn to take death in stride. But it never happens! Please join us in remembering the cherished residents we have said goodbye to this year. They will always remain in our hearts and we are eternally grateful for the time we had them in our lives.



BooBoo

In 2016, we received an email appeal from a rescue in North Carolina after a family abandoned their little blind poodle at a shelter and the pup was not doing well. We had space available and plenty of love to give, so I immediately sent out a call for help to transport BooBoo to HWAH. Nancy, one of our volunteers, met the transport from North Carolina and brought the little guy right to our door. Eventually Nancy and her husband Mark became BooBoo's Forever Foster family. Sadly, BooBoo passed on July 13th, 2020, with Nancy and Mark loving him until the end.



DAPHNE

Daphne, an adorable Chihuahua, was rescued from a puppy mill and taken to a local shelter. Daphne broke her leg while in foster care, and when the shelter wanted to amputate her leg or euthanize her, we brought her to HWAH. Luckily, Daphne's leg healed and she became queen of the Sanctuary! She reigned over all the new pups and grew more loving as the days went on. We had to say goodbye to Daphne on September 13th, 2020 at the tender age of 16 after she developed kidney failure.



FLUFFY

Fluffy was a part of HWAH from our very beginnings, and she lived a good long life. At 13 years old, our feisty girl went from eating well and playing with her laser light, begging for treats and hating her hair being brushed to being quiet, complacent and lethargic. She was suffering from severe kidney failure and due to COVID-19, Dr. Handel and his wonderful team at Kentlands Vet Hospital made Fluffy comfortable as she passed with dignity and care on April 20th, 2020.



GIANNI

Gianni, a dashing Balinese, came to HWAH along with his "brother" Giorgio, now passed. These two beautiful boy kitties were deeply loved by their family, but when a family member developed severe allergies, they came to live at HWAH. Although Gianni lost a leg after a bad bone break, it never slowed him down! He loved getting on his kitty perch and the bed as well as into any lap available. This 20-something, calm and sweet cat began to have a difficult time with colon issues that were too much for him to bear and we didn't want him to suffer. We said goodbye to Gianni on September 30th, 2020. Gianni was an absolute favorite with everyone who met him.



GIDGET

Gidget was a sweet Lhasa Apso who came to HWAH in Spring 2017 through the Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland. We are so thankful Gidget was able to live the good life with her Forever Foster parents Nancy and Mark, and their other little foster pup, BooBoo. Nancy and Mark celebrated Gidget's 15th birthday on November 12, 2019. Sadly, Gidget suffered medical setbacks over the next couple weeks, and they had to kiss their girl goodbye on Thanksgiving night. Nancy held her sweet girl in her arms while she peacefully passed.



JENNY

Jenny, our beautiful 16-year-old Portuguese water dog was rescued from a hoarding situation. She had been placed in two foster homes that were unable to rehabilitate a dog that was so emotionally shut down. During her years at HWAH, Jenny slowly made progress, walking on a leash and eventually taking a treat from your hand. HWAH volunteer Frances took special care with Jenny, and we were so grateful she was feeding Jenny her favorite cheeseburger treat as she passed peacefully on February 7th, 2020.



ROCKY

Rocky was brought into the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS) in early 2018 in heartbreaking condition. This poor pup was emaciated, had entropion in both eyes, a small mass on his right eye, severe dental tartar, a small cyst structure on his left scrotal sac as well as a ruptured mass on his anus. When Pet Connect and BARCS reached out for a home for Rocky, we raised our hands! After gaining enough weight he was able to undergo the needed treatment to make him comfortable. He was a favorite with several volunteers, especially Lisa who helped nurse him back to health following his surgery. We wish we had more time with this gentle giant with a sweet spirit. In Lisa's loving arms, Rocky left us way too soon on November 9th, 2019.

House with a Heart Pet Sanctuary

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Love them for their Lifetime!

www.housewithaheart.com

Email: housewithaheart@gmail.com

240.631.1743

CFC Donation Code 69166

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.
- HWAH is a 501c 3 non-profit organization so your donation is tax deductible.
- Purchase items that appear on our Wish List in the "Shop HWAH" section on our website.
- Sponsor a HWAH pet of your choice.
- Donate to our "Feed Fido & Fluffy" HWAH Pet Pantry to help feed hungry dogs and cats. If you prefer, purchase pet food for needy pets on our Amazon Wish List.
- Shop at smile.amazon.com and select House With A Heart Pet Sanctuary as your charitable organization.
- Help us promote our mission! Purchase HWAH apparel from the "Shop 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.

