



Winter 2013

“In order to keep a true perspective of one’s importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.”

*~Dereke Bruce, Author and World-Renowned Chef*

## GREETINGS, PET LOVERS!

Happy Holidays, everyone. Many of you have been following the Prattville Autauga Humane Society’s activities via Facebook. Did you know that we have nearly 2,700 “likes” and that number is growing daily? Our Facebook page is the place to find photographs of adopted pets, Pet of Week, online links to animals available for adoption, a calendar of upcoming events, posts from the public of lost pets, pictures of staff and volunteers helping our animals, and information pertaining to fundraising needs. We encourage you to visit and like our page!

Though not a new initiative, PAHS would like to remind folks of our “Better with a Buddy” adoption program for kittens six months old and younger. This is a year-round offer and commonly taken advantage of during the summer months, but it is always worth mentioning when



we have multiple litters of kittens at the shelter. If you adopt a six-month old kitten for \$80, you can adopt a “buddy” for him or her for \$40. Not only are you saving two lives,

but a solitary kitten can become lonely. In addition, they burn off energy together, have fewer behavior problems, and will remain friends for life! Please keep this in mind as spring approaches and litters of kittens come to the shelter.

## PAWS ON THE PULSE

Despite the foggy weather and our need to reschedule the event due to a rainout on September 21, the Hot Roddin’ For Hounds car show was a success. We were able to raise nearly \$1,200 for our

“No Room for Rover” kennel expansion project. Everyone who contributed to and attended this event exhibited their desire to help animals in need, to give back to the community, and to further our mission; these actions are not only appreciated, but will also make an immediate difference in the lives of shelter animals. All participants walked away with fabulous door prizes donated by local businesses. We hope to see these car enthusiasts next fall!



During the month of October, supporters of PAHS were very busy out in the community! Friends of Prattville Animals and others organized a Halloween-themed Pet Palooza and a Haunted Maze held at Pratt Park on October 18-19. Pet/Owner costume contests were held, and local vendors sold homemade items and snacks. Children’s games and the Chinese auction were big hits, as well. These groups raised \$2,000 for our building project.

PAHS also participated in the most anticipated, well-attended event of the year: The Spinner’s Park Arts and Crafts Show on October 26-27. PAHS adopted out some lucky dogs to forever families over the weekend; in addition, we earned \$1,300 through raffle tickets/items, silent auction baskets full of gifts, and lovely, homemade crotchéd animals by

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one of our very talented volunteers, Delilah Syperda. It was a beautiful weekend and we appreciate you all coming out!

Along with monetary donations to PAHS waves of supply donations have come in, as well. A supply drive at the Prattville Wal-Mart on November 2



allowed patrons to contribute massive amounts of cleaning supplies, dog and cat food, and cat litter to the shelter.

Between 9am-1pm, we had gathered roughly 15 shopping carts full of supplies and \$900 in cash donations. Autauga County residents, you continue to overwhelm us with your your generosity. Local school groups and children also recognize the importance of giving supplies to the animal shelter. Several of their families have adopted from PAHS or taken in strays. Students in the Prattville Elementary After-School Program collected numerous items for over a month, and the Prattville High School Beta Club contributed a carload of supplies during a week in December. We are thankful for these young people and their appreciation of giving and supporting non-profits at a young age!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month: Prattville Petsmart Dog and Cat Adoptions, 11am-3pm.** PAHS staff and volunteers bring adoptable animals to offer folks a convenient location to come by and see these little guys! In addition, if you adopt a puppy or a cat (always available in the Cat Adoption Center), you receive a large booklet of coupons for various pet supplies courtesy of Petsmart.

**Bark in the Park 2014:** Our annual Bark in the Park fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 with a

rainout date of April 27. It will take place, as always, at Cooter's Pond Park.

**Vote in Shelter Challenge!** In less than two weeks (December 22nd) the shelter challenge will end. Many thanks to all of you who are voting and sharing with friends the voting information and instructions. Please continue to do it until December 22nd. Winning \$1,000 will mean so much to our shelter and the "No Room for Rover" kennel expansion fund! If you have not voted before please click on the link and enter our zip code 36067. Voting instructions will pop up. THANKS so much! <http://www.shelterchallenge.com/>



### PAHS CELEBRATES AN EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER

The volunteers who contribute countless hours to Prattville Autauga Humane Society are one of our most important assets and do an outstanding job helping to take care of the animals, keeping the shelter and Petsmart Adoption Center clean and tidy, taking pictures of the animals to place on adoption websites, collecting much needed supplies, and socializing dogs and cats. This month we want to profile Cathy Savage.

Cathy Savage has lived in Prattville for four years. Her husband's managerial job with Winn Dixie brought her and her two children, Natalie and Noah, here from



Florida in 2009. Cathy has been an integral part of PAHS since April of 2013; she cleans and maintains the Cat Adoption Center at the Prattville Petsmart one morning per week. This involves scooping litter boxes, providing clean food/water bowls for the

cats, washing dirty dishes, and providing much-needed playtime for the cats housed at Petsmart.

While Petsmart is very close to her house, when asked what Cathy loves about her specific volunteer niche she says, "I like getting to play and love on the cats. I want to get to know them so I can help find them homes. I love

all animals and just want to make their lives better. I don't have a lot of spare time, but what time I have I want to spend with animals." The above photograph shows Cathy holding her cat, Spike, whom she adopted from Petsmart two years ago. Cathy is always jolly and has a bright smile and a positive presence. When she is not helping at Petsmart, She is home tending to her four cats—Coco, Spike, Star, and Blackie—her three dogs, and a large freshwater fishtank. Cathy, we appreciate all you do for our animals and love your kind and joyful spirit.

### SHELTER NEWS, NEEDS, AND NOTES

Our “**No Room For Rover**” building project is still in full swing. In fact, the majority of the money raised during our fundraisers goes to this project. Since 2011 **we have raised roughly \$72,000**. The building is estimated to cost approximately **\$150,000**. The new construction will include the following additions: 18 indoor/outdoor dog runs, a small dog/puppy room, a cat room, a feeding/bathing/work space, a medical examination area, and a storage room. If you would like to donate you can do so in person at the shelter, via mail (mail to PAHS, P.O. Box 680697, Prattville, AL 36068), or online through PayPal on our website. Please specify that the donation is for “No Room for Rover.” **All donations are tax-deductible!!**

<http://www.ataugahumanesociety.com>.

While monetary gifts are always welcome, PAHS also accepts supply donations. Here is a list of our current needs:

- Bleach, Fabuloso, dish and laundry soap
- Cat litter, canned/dry cat food, cat toys
- Dog/puppy canned and dry food, dog toys
- Hand sanitizer, Band-Aids, Peroxide, Neosporin
- Toilet paper, plastic trash bags, dryer sheets, towels
- Office supplies, copy paper, black pens, Sharpies, scotch tape
- Gift cards to Wal-mart, Target, Lowe's, K-Mart, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Petsmart, Office Depot, etc.

### Foster Ambassadors

PAHS is always accepting applications for Foster Ambassadors. Fosters are important to every non-profit shelter organization. Fostering an adult dog, a mother cat and kittens, or puppies is a rewarding experience. Adoptable dogs that are sent to out-of-state rescue organization must be in foster care for two weeks before they are transported. This type of short-term fostering is feasible for many people. If you are interested, contact our Shelter Manager, Claudia Rigsby, at 334-358-2882. An interview process and home visit will be required.



### Holiday Tips

The holiday season is a wonderful time to make new memories with your family. That includes furry family members too! Just be sure those memories aren't the kind made while waiting anxiously in an emergency veterinary clinic. Here is a list of important things you should watch for to help keep your pet safe during the holidays.

Christmas trees and certain decorations can be dangerous to pets. Christmas trees need to be secured. Puppies and dogs have been known to knock them over and kittens and cats often try to climb them. Ornaments can be knocked off and broken or eaten. Keep wires out of reach. Also, be aware that the tree water may contain fertilizers or bacteria that could make your pet ill if it drinks the water. Some holiday plants including holly, poinsettia, and mistletoe can be toxic if ingested.

Certain foods including chocolate, grapes, onions, and certain sweeteners are toxic to animals while others can cause unpleasant symptoms or illness. If you suspect your pet has ingested a poisonous substance, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Extra people and noise in the home may stress pets. Provide them a safe place to be during the

festivities. If you have a pet that likes to meet and greet, inform guests not to feed him treats and make sure Fido or Kitty doesn't get out when people come and go.

### Holiday Wishes from the PAHS Staff



The staff who work each day at the shelter have difficult, but rewarding jobs. These kind men and women should be recognized and appreciated for

taking care of our shelter animals by keeping their areas clean and comfortable, helping with adoptions, and maintaining a welcoming spirit at the shelter. They are integral to our success!

Other folks who we want to thank publicly are our foster families who take in animals in need of foster care or temporary homes, the people who provide transport to rescues, and the rescues themselves. PAHS sends adoptable pets to rescues in other states, and these organizations are just as crucial in finding homes for many of our furry friends. Thank you all so much. The end result of all of this hard work? **We have had 800 adoptions this year!!**  
**What a reason to celebrate!**



### A LETTER FROM THE PAHS BOARD PRESIDENT

As I sit here with my pack, I am saddened while thinking of the ten dogs brought to the shelter from an alleged dog fighting ring. While three of my dogs have known life as strays, none of them have never been placed in a box by humans and forced to fight for their lives. None of them have been used as bait, to train dogs to fight. My heart breaks for these ten dogs, for the two that had already crossed over the Rainbow Bridge when the sheriff's department arrived on the scene, and for all the dogs not yet rescued.

As sad as this is, the ten surviving dogs now have food, water, shelter, and, more importantly, love for the rest of their lives. We are hopeful that most of these dogs, if not all, will be considered adoptable and know what it like to live in a loving home as a cherished family member. How awful that some of these dogs may have to be destroyed because they were forced to fight for the enjoyment of humans!

Having ten dogs brought to the shelter has highlighted another topic discussed in this newsletter: our "No Room for Rover" kennel expansion project. It is a known issue we have been working to change since 2011. If each family in the county donated \$5.00 we would quickly reach our goal and even exceed it. My prayer is that you will find it in your heart to make a donation to our "No Room for Rover" campaign this holiday season.

Many thanks to the Bama Bully Rescue group of volunteers that helped with these dogs. One thing is for sure, the dogs brought in two weeks ago are in a better place than they were. That makes my heart happy.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~Sheree Ward