

THE WAGGING TALES

By **Paws-Ability** 

2015: The Year in Review

So Many Activities—So Little Time

This has been quite a busy year. There have been many opportunities to participate in fundraising to help the pets of Brunswick County, but when you sit down and list them, the number of activities is pretty amazing. The following is a partial list, and some of them are highlighted in this newsletter with pictures.

- Bicycle Poker Run
- Mardi Gras for Paws
- Halloween Party at Sugar Shack
- Classic Car Show
- OIB Run
- Outdoor Living Show
- Workout for Wexler
- Spay-ghetti Dinner
- Yard Sale
- SSB Concert
- SSB Paddle Fest
- Leash and Collar Sales at BCAPS
- Pet Education Program for Brunswick County Schools
- Kennel Completion for Hope Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter
- Data Entry Project
- Build Cat Shelters for Winter
- Paws-Ability Christmas Cards
- Paws-Ability Christmas Tee Shirts
- Built 25 cat shelters for winter
- Pictures with Santa on OIB

Thank you to all the dedicated Paws-Ability volunteers who work so hard to benefit the animals of Brunswick County. The partnership between BCAPS, rescue groups in Brunswick County and Paws-Ability is making a difference. Working together has made a big difference we can all be proud of.

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Paws-Ability is a membership-based nonprofit organization. We raise funds to pay for medical expenses for animals in the care of rescue groups. We fund programs that improve animal welfare in Brunswick County, NC.

Paws-Ability works to promote responsible pet ownership and educate the public on legislative issues of concern to our community regarding companion animals.

Note From Janie

When I started Paws-Ability, in 2007, I had no idea where we would end up, but I knew we must change life for animals here. People joined the group, so I knew I had support. Over the years, Brunswick County rescue groups, BCAPS and people who have become Paws-Ability members and supporters have become partners in so many ways. The hands of government are often tied with restrictions but in working together, government and private sector have been able to make changes that we could only have dreamed about in 2007.

In 2012, Brunswick County operated animal control under the Health Department. They used a gas chamber to euthanize unwanted animals and allowed no volunteers to help the animals who entered this facility. The adoption rate was less than 1%. Brunswick County's treatment of animals was not something to be proud of. Rescue groups distrusted animal control and animal control did not want rescue groups around. Life for animals at Brunswick County Animal Control was pain, fear and suffering until they were put into the gas chamber.

In 2013, our animal control was turned over to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Ingram had never had the responsibility of animal control before. He called a meeting of volunteers from rescue groups, local veterinarians and Paws-Ability members. He said to us that he could not change this picture without us but we could not change it without him. He renamed the facility that was to become Brunswick County Animal Sheriff's Protective Service, BCSAPS. We needed each other and began putting the distrust behind us, all for the sake of animals who needed help.

When the year ended, we had done away with the gas chamber. We had made the shelter not only look better but become more efficient. Sheriff Ingram had created a shelter that welcomed volunteers. He had created a trust that had been missing and the changes made people want to come to the shelter to see for themselves. The adoption rate improved which meant that fewer animals were euthanized.

Intake in 2013 was 5,633. Thirteen percent of cats were adopted and 56% of dogs were adopted. We knew this was only the beginning.

In 2015, after less than three years of new management, intake was reduced to 2,739. Thirty-seven percent of cats were adopted and 64% of dogs were adopted.

We had fewer animals entering the shelter which meant we could better care for the ones we had. Rescue groups play a critical part in placing the animals who need time to become adoptable. This partnership has changed the lives of thousands of animals in less than three years. It has also changed the lives of animal advocates. We have system built on trust and respect. We each have our part and together we make it better. We intend to continue changes that improve animal welfare in Brunswick County.

What caused the changes? Volunteers, reduced intake due to spay and neuter programs, mandatory spay or neuter of all adopted dogs and cats. Cooperative effort and partnership work and we are proud to be a part of these changes. It is not a matter of who is more important or whose idea creates something better. Together we create a better Brunswick County, a better place for our people and our animals.

Boats, Wexler, Trixie, Kane and Bradley Pitt

Boats, Wexler, Trixie, Bradley Pitt and Kane are only a few of the animals Paws-Ability has helped this year.

Boats — Picked up as a stray, the little black dog at BCAPS looked very old, hungry and tired. He had no teeth, so his tongue hung out of his mouth, and he was nearly blind with dry eyes. He was pulled by R.A.C.E. and received much needed help. He was renamed to Black Bart, groomed by Melissa of Dog Daze Mobile Grooming, vetted and treated at the eye doctor. Eventually, he was adopted by a tugboat captain who took him to the boat every day. And lo and behold, he loved the boat and the water! Black Bart was renamed to Boats and he now has own lifejacket, and he greets tourists on the tugboat.



Wexler — Born with genetic defects that make it difficult to walk, Wexler was the only yorkie in his litter that no one wanted. He ended up at RACE after being kept in a cage outside for the first three months of his life. Medical costs to fix his legs were mounting, so Pam Batchelor organized a "Workout for Wexler." On January 31, Pam Batchelor and Nicole DePauw put us through our paces as we sweated, panted and huffed and puffed to raise enough money so Wexler could have his legs fixed.



Trixie — Trixie, a chi/terrier mix, was abandoned at animal control only days before her babies were due. Trixie was only about 2 years old, very tiny, scared and fragile. R.A.C.E. arranged for Trixie to be moved into quiet foster care where two puppies were born. The medical costs for Trixie and her puppies were covered by total strangers who purchased a "Cat Burger" or "Hot Dog" to honor their own pets at Beach Burgers in Ocean Isle Beach. The Bleu of Sunset Beach placed her story and a donation jar by their cash register to collect change from purchases. Trixie and her puppies remained in foster care until they found the perfect forever home.

Kane — This matted, dirty little guy ended up at a shelter as a stray. Unclaimed, he was pulled by R.A.C.E. and began a new life. We thought he was unable to walk due to severe mats, but Melissa Miller of Dog Daze Mobile Grooming discovered that he had a stub for a front foot. The stub had a dangerous sharp claw sticking out of the end that would have to be removed before he was adopted. But he's now one happy, sweet young Maltese mix who loves his new haircut and all the attention he's getting. Rescue again changed a life!



Bradley Pitt — Bradley Pitt was picked up on Highway 17 by Nicole DePauw. He was emaciated and very sick and at only a few months old, his skin told a story of daily pain and suffering with no hair on his body. Nicole brought him to R.A.C.E. and fostered him while in rescue. Bradley had demodex mange, a non-contagious, treatable skin condition caused by neglect and poor nutrition. The before and after pictures tell the story of what rescue is all about.



Bradley Pitt before



Bradley Pitt after

Paws-Ability Introduces Christmas Cards

Some special needs animals who benefitted from Paws-Ability funds are now famous! Their medical needs made it difficult for our rescue groups to afford their care without assistance from Paws-Ability.

This inaugural Christmas Card was introduced in November, and has been quite popular! The card was designed by Snyderneff.com of Wilmington with photos of these special needs pets from our local rescue groups and shelters. The pets on this card are real and their stories are important to tell. Read the stories of these special needs pets as they travel through surgeries, rehabilitation and special care required by each before adopted.

The stories of Leo, Wexler, Sadie, Kahlua, Harry, Rhett Butler, Potter, and Sooty the cat will touch the hearts of all who read about their journey.

Proceeds from these Christmas cards will help to fund the care of other special needs animals. Cards are available for purchase for \$2, 8 for \$10 and 25 for \$20. Cards may be ordered from the Paws-Ability website — www.paws-ability.org



Halloween Party at Sugar Shack To Benefit R.A.C.E.



Best Costumes



Most Creative Costumes

No Idea Is Too Small

Cathy Mendenhall had a brain storm last March and set out to find 2 locations to put donation jars out for St Patrick's Day. She cut out shamrocks, made a small poster and decorated a donation jar. The Shamrock program ran for about a month but when she went to remove the jars, she found that both businesses wanted to keep their donation jar!



Beaches Burgers in Ocean Isle Beach loved their donation jar, but Cathy knew she had to change the name since St Patrick's Day was over. She and Ellen Rothenberg came up with cut outs to allow donors to honor their cat or their dog with the Cat Burger or Hot Dog. Locals and vacationers continued to donate and honor their pet as names on the wall grew.

The Bleu, a new ladies boutique in Sunset Beach, kept their donation jar by the cash register, asking people to drop their change in the jar when making a purchase.

Never think a small idea will not matter! One idea, managed by a member, has resulted in \$742.16 in donations so far this year!

One child was so touched she dropped her only dollar in to help animals, simply because she recognized a need. We will never know her name and it is obvious she did not do it for recognition. She did it because it mattered to her.

Cruise Back to the 50's With Paws-Ability ***A Pawsitively Smashing Success!***

On June 9th, Doug and Chris Dressler, owners of Triple D's Hemi Haven, graciously hosted a "White Glove Tour" at their 1950's DeSoto Showroom sponsoring a fund raiser for Paws-Ability. A \$20 donation provided registered guests a tour with a question and answer period with Doug. In addition, Paws-Ability volunteers served appetizers and beverages to the many who cruised in for a step back in time. Approximately \$2,400 was raised at the event. Funds will be used for Paws-Ability programs that include spay/neuter, assistance with the extraordinary medical needs of our local rescue groups, Hope Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter pet protection program, and Petucation program to teach children about the responsibility of pet ownership and compassion for animals.



5th Annual Bicycle Poker Run

Paws-Ability's 5th Annual Bicycle Poker Run on Ocean Isle Beach on Saturday, October 10 was a great success.

More than 375 participants rode bicycles, golf carts, walked or ran to 12 sites on the island. Each site was sponsored by a local business with playing cards drawn at each site to form a poker hand or to collect points. Participants returned for the after-party under tent beside the Ocean Isle Beach Museum of Coastal Carolina. The rain began about 3:30 pm, but did not dampen the spirit of the participants as they enjoyed a great silent auction, food provided courtesy of Fibber McGee's Irish Pub of Sunset Beach, Papa John's Pizza, Seaside Bakery and Wine Shop and Food Lion. Emcee Dr. Ernie Ward entertained the crowd. The popular silent auction held items and services donated from Brunswick County businesses. Bill and Michelle Benson provided photographs from the day. Prizes were awarded to Don Masline for Best Poker Hand, yet challenged by Judy Caesar. They agreed to split the prize money. The prize for the worst poker hand of the day was awarded to Ed Hendricks. A raffle drawing for a bicycle donated by Island Hoppers Bicycle Shop was won by Sondra Lovette. The child's hand with the most points was awarded to Lila Lopez while Sydney Savage took the prize for the lowest points hand.

This popular event grows in numbers and popularity each year. We were proud to have 78 sponsors for this year's event. The Bicycle Poker Run is the largest fundraiser of the year for Paws-Ability and funds raised will be used to continue animal welfare programs that are changing life for animals in Brunswick County and making our community a better place to live.



Mardi Gras For Paws!

Pogies Waterfront Bar & Grill played host to Paws-Ability's Mardi Gras for Paws party on February 17, 2015 with 142 guests. Authentic Cajun food and Mardi Gras costumes helped to make the night a big success. Bark and Howl, the Hurricane-type drinks, were served in hand-painted glasses that guests took home as souvenirs. King Jerry Rothenberg and Queen Joy David handed over the coveted crowns to new Royalty as King Tim Eckert and Queen Cherry Cheek were crowned as 2015 Mardi Gras for Paws King and Queen. The beautiful king cake was provided by Seaside Bakery and Wine Shop complete with baby, dog and cat hidden inside for good luck. The raffle drawings awarded a \$500 visa card to Richard Saunders, Body Bliss Beauty basket to Maggie Driscol and a weekend stay at the Ocean Isle Inn to Janet Jonas.



Mardi Gras for Paws was chaired by Cindy Tarantino and Geri Esposito. Beautiful decorations, authentic Cajun food, great music and the crowning of a new king and queen made attendees think they had been transported to New Orleans.



Funds from the Mardi Gras for Paws built an attached kennel to Hope Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter that will safely house and protect the pets of a domestic violence victim as she seeks protection to rebuild her life.



Mardi Gras for Paws
King Tim Eckert and
Queen Cherry Cheek



Mardi Gras for Paws

2016!

SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 9, 2016 6-9 P.M.

AT POGIES WATERFRONT BAR & GRILL

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AFTER JANUARY 1 FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Paws-Ability and BCAPS

Paws-Ability continues to work closely with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Animal Protective Services. Volunteers walk dogs, play with cats, transport animals to vets and Fix A Friend, and participate in adoption fairs. Because of its partnership with Paws-Ability, R.A.C.E. and other rescue organizations, the adoption rate for cats increased to 37%, and the rate for dogs to 64% in 2015. This resulted in a savings of \$278,880 to Brunswick County taxpayers.

In less than three years, the partnership between Paws-Ability, rescue groups and BCAPS has been instrumental in the improvement in adoption rates for cats and dogs at the shelter as euthanasia rates have declined significantly. Government and private sector work together for improvement in animal welfare for Brunswick County that make us all proud.



Paws-Ability donates a year's supply of Frontline flea treatment to BCAPS. The funds for this program come in part from leash and collar sales at BCAPS. This program is managed by Paws-Ability member, Louise Moore. The Frontline product administered at BCPAS makes everyday life for a shelter animal more comfortable and has helped to increase adoptions. This program also helps make life easier for all rescue groups who pull dogs and cats from BCAPS.

Local Businesses Supporting Paws-Ability

Many of the services we provide for animals in Brunswick County would not be possible without the help of 100 local businesses. Recently, the total number of business members reached 100 for the first time. Michael Adcock, owner of Splish Splash Power Washing, has a rescue pet and believes in what we do and is proud to be business member #100!

When you frequent the businesses that support Paws-Ability, please tell them how much you appreciate their support.



Megan, Shannon and Sandy from Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce purchase hand-painted Halloween pumpkins from Pelicans Snowballs.



Kathy Meadows of Pelican's Snowballs in Shallotte presents a check to Janie.

Paws-Ability Helps Domestic Violence Victims' Animals

Many domestic violence victims have pets as well as children who need to escape a bad situation. To meet a very real need to help these animals, Paws-Ability stepped in and built a kennel at the back of the facility so the victims' dogs would be taken care of as well. Materials and labor were donated by Guy C. Lee Building Materials in Shallotte and Sherwin Williams in Ocean Isle Beach through Shallotte Rotary Club member Jerry Heister.

Also, Paws-Ability member Bobby Rains built two cat houses for the two strays who had taken up residence on the porch at Hope Harbor. After being vetted by Paws-Ability, the cats now sleep in the houses each night.

Not only are the victims of domestic violence helped, but animals also seek refuge there.

Thank You

The following is a thank you note from a Hope Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter client thanking Paws-Ability for providing shelter so she could her keep family and dogs together during her overwhelming difficult time:

"I can't begin to explain what Paws-Ability did for my children and myself when we had to stay in a domestic violence shelter for several weeks. We have 2 family dogs that are our dearest companions, comfort givers and playmates. Paws-Ability made it possible for us to keep our pets at the shelter with us. There really is no way to describe how much this did for us in a positive emotional way. The distress that would have been created if we had to give up 2 of our family members on top of everything else that led to our being in a shelter would have been overwhelming. My boys and I have the deepest gratitude and appreciation for what Paws-Ability did for us and made possible at such a difficult time in our lives."

Canine Fundraisers of the Year: Mandy and Gabe

Pet owners Jane Lanzillo and Frances Mayhew accept CANINE FUNDRAISING OF THE YEAR awards from Paws-Ability on behalf of their dogs Gabe and Mandy. Because of other commitments, the dogs were not able to accept the award themselves. Gabe and Mandy stood outside Belk many days to sell tickets for Belk's Charity Day. Both dogs were adopted from Brunswick County Animal Protective Services, and they remember what life was like in the shelter. They now do their part to make life better for other homeless animals.



Petucation

The objectives of the Pet Education program are to integrate the program with the schools' Character Development Program focusing on good judgement, integrity, kindness, perseverance, respect and responsibility. The program was developed and implemented by Paws-Ability and Moore County Animal Advocates. Funding assistance for the Brunswick County Program is made available by Sheriff John Ingram, First Bank, and Anita and Leon August. Shelter dogs from BCAPS participate in Lesson 6.

Paws-Ability completed the pilot for a Petucation program on May 20. The program was taught by Paws-Ability volunteers once a week for six weeks to all 4th graders at Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School. In 2016, the program will be expanded to other schools in Brunswick County.

The Petucation program teaches children how to be responsible, compassionate pet owners. The hope is that, by the time they reach adulthood, the mindset of how animals are treated in Brunswick County will be changed.

The 2015 finale of the program was an essay contest which was judged by Jackie Toriq, Editor at the Brunswick Beacon. Winners were Nicholas Nelsen-Sandler, Amber Richards, Dallas Russ and Bella Winston. Winning essays were published in the Brunswick Beacon on May 28, 2015.

Bella Winston's parents promised that, if she won the contest, she could choose and adopt her very own dog. Bella chose to adopt Lizzie, a dog from BCAPS, that visited Jessie Mae Elementary School on the program's Awards Day. Bella had learned to be a responsible pet owner and Lizzie was happy to go home with her.



BCAPS Adoption Van at Jessie Mae Monroe School
as Part of Petucation program

Paws-Ability 2016 Membership Application

New Renewal

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$50.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I have interest in or would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Fundraising Media Membership Internet/Newsletter

A check for your membership can be mailed to:

Paws-Ability

P O Box 6174

Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

Paws-Ability membership is a tax deductible expense.

Become a member to learn about our events first and how you can help!



“Like” us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Paws-Ability/115250108488829>

The Wagging Tales is published by Paws-Ability
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