



THE WAGGING TALES

April, 2018
Volume 10, Issue 1

Stella “Touches” Local Pet Owners

Paws-Ability’s *Stella’s Touch* program, initiated in June, 2017, is designed to work with pets of owners who are experiencing physical or financial hardship. These pets need veterinary care or routine day-to-day care that the owner simply cannot afford or perform. These pets are often surrendered to a shelter or rescue group with the hope that they can be treated or rehomed.

Stella’s Touch was made possible with a donation from a family who wanted to make a difference in our community. They chose to name the program to honor their beloved schnauzer, Stella. This family recognized the importance of Stella in *their* lives and could not imagine a family’s pain when watching a pet suffer during a time of family crisis.

Paws-Ability has reached out to churches and service groups asking for assistance to find these pet owners asking their members to spread the word and encourage individuals to apply for financial aid to help with veterinary costs through the *Stella’s Touch* program. The program’s objective is to keep pets with their owners and support the animal-human bond.

To date, Stella to date has ‘touched’ 30 families by assisting with the care of their family pet. The situations incurred run the gamut of topics from sharing an owner’s cost of flea and heart-worm meds, leg amputations, and gum disease and tooth extractions. In some cases, the costs are shared between Stella and the pet owner. In addition, if the pet needs to undergo surgery and had not been spayed or neutered, Stella will fund that procedure also. Not only have the pets’ needs run the gamut, but also the owners’ personal situations.

We’ve supported both cats and dogs; little dogs and big dogs, and mother cats with their kittens.

There was the case of a veteran who had a family pet with a leg problem that required surgery. A local veterinarian told the family about *Stella’s Touch*, and they applied for assistance. The application was reviewed and accepted and surgery was performed. Both the dog and the family are now happy campers.

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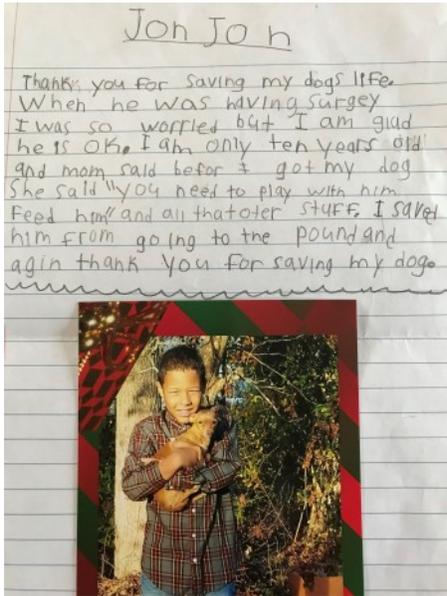


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Stella's Touch—continued

Another special case involves a family and pet both going through difficult medical challenges. The pet owner and mother of two was undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer. Their small dog was important to the family. When taken to the vet, the family learned that the dog had dental disease, the pain of which was preventing it from eating. A parishioner at the church where the family worships referred them to *Stella's Touch*. One child in particular was very attached to the dog, using it for emotional support as his mother was undergoing treatments. He sent a picture of himself and a personal thank you to the program that touched both ours and our benefactor's heart strings.



— Anne Von Der Heide,
Stella's Touch Coordinator

How You Can Help With Stella's Touch

You will be hearing and seeing more about Stella's Touch as we begin the **2018 Stella's Touch Challenge** to raise \$20,000 by October 1. Every dollar donated to the Program will be 100% matched by the original benefactor! Your donation is graciously accepted!

Shelter for Feral Cats

The shop students at Brunswick County Academy have built 14 cat houses so far in this growing program. Not only do the houses provide shelter and comfort to cats living in feral colonies, but the project helps students learn and hone their carpentry skills as well.



Paws-Ability member Christian Mayo helped his dad deliver cat houses to two locations.

Save the Dates!

2018 Band Fest
Sunday, June 3
Sunset Beach Park

Bicycle Poker Run
October 13, 2018
Ocean Isle Beach

OktoberFest
October 27, 2018
Ocean Isle Beach



PIZZA 30% OFF!

EXTENDED THROUGH 2018!

Order online at papa-johns.com and use the code PAWS30. Get 30% off your order and Papa John's will donate 20% of your order to Paws-Ability!

Offer good in Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

2018 Mardi Gras 4 Paws



Again this year, a sold-out crowd partied New Orleans style at the Paws-Ability Mardi Gras 4 Paws. Held at Jinks Creek Waterfront Grille on Ocean Isle Beach, music was provided by the fabulous Sea and Sand Band.

Our King Kyle and Queen Lisa Ann hosted a sell-out Mardi Gras crowd and passed their crowns onto new royalty at the end of the party. King Michael and Queen Connie will rein for the coming year and host next year's Mardi Gras 4 Paws party. Best costume prizes were handed out to Holly Robinson, Randy Lingerfelt, Dr. Anna Anderson and Dr. Lauren Gallagher. A fabulous king cake was donated by Seaside Bakery and Wine Shop of Ocean Isle Beach, complete with "good luck critters." Beth Abernathy, Betty DeFigio and Marilyn Johnston can look forward to a year of good luck after finding the critters in their pieces of king cake. Jenny Mutimer won the raffle prize, a summer package of Coaster sunglasses and two pairs of Margarita flip-flops donated by Surf Unlimited Mercantile.

In just a few short years, Fix a Friend Spay Neuter Clinic has completed more than 30,000 surgeries since its opening. As a result of the Mardi Gras 4 Paws, Paws-Ability was so very proud to present a check for \$5,000 to Jill Jones and Sherry Gloer of Adopt an Angel and Fix a Friend Spay Neuter Clinic. The monies helped to fund a \$25 special promotion in January and February during which the clinic completed nearly 1,300 surgeries — a record-breaking number for any low cost spay neuter clinic.

Spaying and neutering animals not only reduces the number of unwanted animals that enter our shelters and rescue groups, but also reduces the burden to taxpayers of destroying thousands of dogs and cats each year in Brunswick County. A single unaltered dog or cat can produce 4,000 kittens and puppies in a mere four years. Brunswick county alone will be forced to destroy more than 2,000 dogs and cats each year, simply because there are not enough homes for them. With fewer dogs and cats in our shelters, we can better care for those we have.

If you were a sponsor for Mardi Gras 4 Paws or if you attended the event, we thank you for your support.



Janie presents the check for \$5,000 to Jill and Sherry of Fix A Friend Spay Neuter Clinic.



2018 Royalty Queen Connie and King Michael



2017 Royalty Queen Lisa Ann and King Kyle



A Shelter Manager's Perspective

I think our society needs a huge "wake-up" call. As a shelter manager, I am going to give you a view from the "inside."

First off, all breeders/sellers should be made to work in the "back" of an animal shelter for just one day. Maybe if they saw the life drain from a few sad, lost, confused eyes, they would change their minds about breeding and selling animals.

That puppy they just sold will most likely end up in my shelter when it's not a cute little puppy anymore. There's about a 90% chance that a dog will never walk out of the shelter it is going to be dumped at, purebred or not! About 50% of all of the dogs that are "owner surrenders" or "strays" that come into my shelter are purebred dogs.

Odds are a pet won't get adopted and how stressful do you think being in a shelter is? Your pet has 72 hours to find a new family from the moment you drop it off. A pet will be confined to a small run/kennel in a room with about 25 other barking or crying animals. It will have to relieve itself where it eats and sleeps. It will be depressed and it will cry constantly for the family that abandoned it.

If a pet is lucky, I will have enough volunteers in that day to take him/her for a walk. If I don't, the pet won't get any attention besides having a bowl of food slid under the kennel door and the waste sprayed out of its pen with a high-powered hose. If a dog is big, black or any of the "Bully" breeds (pit bull, rottie, mastiff, etc.) it was pretty much dead when it walked through the front door. Those dogs just don't get adopted. It doesn't matter how

'sweet' or 'well behaved' they are.

If a dog doesn't get adopted within its 72 hours and the shelter is full, it will be destroyed. If the shelter isn't full and the dog is good enough and of a desirable enough breed, it may get a stay of execution, but not for long. Most dogs get very kennel protective after about a week and are destroyed for showing aggression. Even the sweetest dogs will turn in this environment. If a pet makes it over all of those hurdles, chances are it will get kennel cough or an upper respiratory infection and will be destroyed because shelters just don't have the funds to pay for even a \$100 treatment.

After a pet is euthanized, its corpse will be stacked like firewood in a large freezer in the back with all of the other animals that were killed waiting to be picked up like garbage. What happens next? Cremated? Taken to the dump? Rendered into pet food? You'll never know.

Between 9 and 11 *million* animals die every year in shelters. I do my best to save every life I can but rescues are always full, and there are more animals coming in every day than there are homes.

My point is: Don't breed or buy while shelter pets die!

I hope I may have changed one person's mind about breeding their dog, taking their loving pet to a shelter, or buying a dog. I hope that someone will walk into my shelter and say "I saw this and it made me want to adopt". THAT WOULD MAKE IT WORTH IT.

Avoid an Overload of Kittens This Spring!

Kittens are adorable, but you may not want a litter of them taking over your house! Get your female cats and kittens fixed right now to avoid unwanted kittens this spring and summer for \$50 at Fix A Friend. Fix a Friend is located at mile marker 35 on Highway. 17 in Winnabow.

By appointment only Monday–Thursday. Leave a message anytime: 910-253-8161.

See other services and prices at FixAFriendClinic.org or at Fix A Friend Spay Neuter Clinic on Facebook.

7 Ways to Help An Older Cat

1. Elevate the dishes. 
2. Help them get on furniture by using a stool.
3. Create an incentive to play. Fold up the ends of a cardboard toilet paper tube. Punch holes in the tube using a pencil. Put kibble in the tube so as the cat plays with the tube, the food comes out.
4. Help them with their grooming routine. Using sticky back tape, tape a pet brush onto the leg of a chair or table.
5. Replace a high-sided litter box with a low-sided box.
6. Use a night light as older cats may have trouble seeing at night.
7. Provide extra comfy places around the house with folded blankets and towels.



Paws-Ability is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that raises money fund animal welfare programs, assist rescue groups with funds for medical needs of the animals in their care and fund spay and neuter programs to reduce the number of unwanted animals. Paws-Ability also promotes responsible pet ownership and educates the public on legislative issues of concern to our community regarding companion animals.

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Have an article or an idea for a story you would like to see in *The Wagging Tales*?

Email it to:
info@paws-ability.org.

Visit us on the web at
paws-ability.org and on
Facebook.

Pet Education Program in Fourth Year

Paws-Ability's Pet Education program (PEP) began four years ago at Jesse Mae Elementary School and has grown to be a popular program with schools, students and with our own volunteers.

Students learn about respect, responsibility, compassion and safety around animals. Schools benefit, too, as this program is considered to be part of character development for students per the NC School Curriculum.

This program changes the way a child will treat animals for a lifetime and will affect the treatment of thousands of animals as we teach improved animal welfare.

Volunteers donate their time to organize and teach this program but, based on Jerri's comment following her class, it looks like these volunteers benefit too!

Thank you to Anne Overcash and Derrilyn Harbeston for their organizational work to grow this program to additional schools each year.

Also, thank you to our sponsors for this program: ATMC, BEMC, First Bank, Rotary Clubs of Shallotte and South Brunswick Islands and Grand Strand Realty.

We can't forget to thank you to our volunteers who give their time to teach our children about respect, responsibility, compassion and safety around animals.



"I had such a great time yesterday! I think we all worked great together and the kids were amazing. I could do this every week. Truly a rewarding experience."

Jerri Witten

The Man Behind the Camera

At nearly every Paws-Ability event, you may have noticed a tall man quietly taking photos. That man is Rick Barnard, and he volunteers his skills and time to document nearly everything Paws-Ability does.

Rick went to Photo "A" school after boot camp and was a navy photographer for four years.

After the navy, he worked for the Prince George County Fire Department and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission as a photographer.

Most of his working career, though, was spent in the printing industry in the Washington DC area and taking photos for fun. Rick retired from printing in 2008 and moved to North Carolina in 2010.

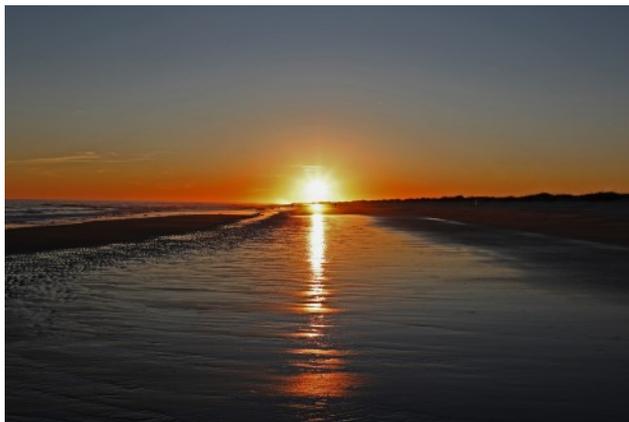
His other interests include golf and taking photos of wildlife and at the beach (mostly sunrise and sunset images).

Rick got involved with Paws-Ability through a friend and has enjoyed making and working with many new friends.

So, next time you're at a Paws-Ability event, look for "the guy behind the camera," aka Rick, and thank him for his work.



Photo by Rick at the end of the 2017 Bicycle Poker Run



Sunrise on Ocean Isle Beach

Volunteers Are the Heart of Paws-Ability

Paws-Ability couldn't exist without volunteers like Rick.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping with the Paws-Ability booth at events
- Publicity
- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Computer Work
- Newsletter
- Teaching/assisting with the pet Education Program
- Legal/legislative issues

If you're considering joining Paws-Ability, or you haven't decided how you want to help, see the application on the last page of this newsletter and share your talents with us.

You'll meet some dedicated people who are passionate about helping Brunswick County animals— and you'll have fun, too!

Brunswick County Spring Expo

Paws-Ability definitely had the best decorated booth at the Brunswick County Spring Expo!



Paws-Ability Loses a Dear Friend

It is with great sadness that we grieve the loss of a very special canine member.

Gabe Lanzillo has crossed the rainbow bridge.

Gabe and his human, Jane Lanzillo, have run the Belk charity day coupon sales program for several years. Funds raised by this project more than tripled under the watchful eyes of Gabe. He made so many new friends standing in front of Belks, talking about Paws Ability. He allowed children the opportunity to get to know the gentleness and sweetness of a large dog.

He allowed many people to see how wonderful a hound mix could be. Gabe was always a true ambassador for Paws Ability as he hosted Paws-Ability's antique car show in his famous tuxedo. He will be missed in so many ways.

Gabe was a hound mix adopted from animal control. He represented the abused and neglectful condition of many dogs who enter the shelter, especially hunting dogs. When these dogs are offered a chance to become part of a loving family, their lives change forever and the lives of their family also changes. Gabe was given the chance to shine and shine he did!

His "shine" was felt, not only by his family, but by the many who met him through Paws-Ability.

Gabe's family has requested that memorial donations for Gabe be made to Paws-Ability. These funds will be used to allow other dogs like Gabe the opportunity to show off their very own "shine".

We will all miss Gabe, and we send our condolences to his family. If you chose to send condolences to Gabe's family, you can do so through Paws-Ability, PO Box 6174, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469. We will see that Gabe's family receives any notes received.
—Anita August



Handsome Gabe at work at the Brunswick Business Expo



Gabe in his formal wear accompanied by "his driver" Jane Lanzillo.

Memorialize or Honor a Pet or Relative with a Gift to Paws-Ability

A memorial gift to Paws-Ability is a beautiful way to remember and honor the life of a pet, friend or relative — our kindred spirits. We will mail the family a personalized handwritten card acknowledging your thoughtful gift in memory of their loved one.

Paws-Ability, PO Box 6174, Ocean Isle Beach, NC

IN MEMORIAM

Paws-Ability sends its condolences to the families of the following fur babies who are now enjoying beautiful walks, good health, endless playtime and as many treats as they want:

Gabe Lanzillo
Molly Tyner
Potter Bachelor
Tai Lehrer
Daisy Mae Gillis
Honey



Paws-Ability 2018 Membership Application

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$50

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Media Publicity Fundraising Membership Computer Work
 Various Fundraising Events Legal Issues

Mail checks made out to Paws-Ability 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 and how you can help!

Other Ways to Help Paws-Ability and Brunswick County Animals

Shop at **AmazonSmile**: Every time you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Paws-Ability at no cost to you.

Buy pizza from **Papa John's**: Order online at papajohns.com and use the code PAWS30 to get 30% off your order *and* Papa John's will donate 20% of your order to Paws-Ability.

Donate to **Stella's Touch**: All donations will be matched 100% by benefactors.