

PAWS and Effect

2011



The annual report: January – December, 2011

PAWS of Hertford County, NC



The mission of PAWS of Hertford County is to make our community a more humane place for homeless, abused, and neglected animals through increased spaying and neutering, high-quality sheltering, conscientious adoptions, education of the public, and animal welfare advocacy.

A message from the PAWS Chairperson

Dear Friends and Partners,

We all remember as young children going on long trips. How many times did we ask, “Are we there yet?” and “How much longer?” I have asked myself numerous times over the last six years. IS PAWS THERE YET? HOW MUCH LONGER?

Let’s talk about the journey of PAWS. I suppose now is as good a time as any to fess up. In the beginning, it was more often a journey of blind faith. When our early small group of PAWS volunteers went to the commissioners to ask for permission to go into the Hertford County Animal Shelter to organize an adoption program, I had never set foot in an animal shelter. I assumed my past experiences and background would be plenty to lead this journey. Heck, I had worked for years as a volunteer doing all kinds of things. I thought being a trained EMT and a life-long pet owner put me somewhere in the ballpark. I quickly found out I might not even be in the same time zone. I knew nothing of the deadly and painful disease called parvovirus that strikes unvaccinated puppies. What did I really know about worms other than they are gross? My pets have always been given preventatives and vaccines. In the whole scheme of things, I knew very little. Thankfully there were volunteers that had knowledge about some of these diseases and ailments. I spent a lot of time asking veterinarians questions and advice.

We found out how to prevent many of these problems. There is an array of medications and vaccines that can prevent and treat. We can stop these bad things from happening at the shelter except we had no money with which to buy these medications. I recall we had around \$200 which was just enough to open up a checking account. I knew about the 501(c)3 nonprofit status, but I didn’t realize that grantors do not award grants to organizations unless they have this nonprofit status. PAWS had to get one, and get it quickly. It wasn’t until a year and a half later before PAWS was able to get the long, complicated paperwork completed and granted its 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

When we started working in the shelter every single cat was put to sleep. There were no accommodations for keeping cats. It did not matter if little “Fluffy” had on a diamond collar, she was put down. No place for cats! This journey has been personally difficult watching puppies die a slow painful death from parvovirus or cats and dogs being put to sleep because they had health issues that could be corrected if we had the money to pay for it. My personal worst was on Thursdays when the vet came to euthanize. I had to walk down the hall in the shelter and help the Animal Control Officer decide which dog had to be put down because it could not be readily adopted. This could be due to some

Message from the PAWS Chairperson - continued

minor medical issue or the misfortune of being born a plain, ordinary looking dog, unremarkable in appearance. Room had to be made for others needing to come into the shelter. The adoption program was just getting off the ground. I will be forever adversely affected by having to choose life or death for these dogs. I will never, ever go on that journey again.

We have come to many crossroads and intersections. Sometimes we have gotten lost and had to back track or regroup. The success of this journey has been made possible by loving, caring and dedicated volunteers that work solely for the betterment of the animals. It is truly amazing when given a problem how this group goes immediately to task, coming up with the best solution that is most beneficial to the animals at the best cost possible. I have the greatest respect and utmost confidence in these volunteers. I feel personally blessed to have the privilege to work beside these people. They have taught me much.

Early on we were only able to care for the animals at the shelter. Due to the vision of the volunteers and the kind generosity of our benefactors, PAWS has been able to serve needy pet owners far and wide. We are able to offer extensive services to pets outside the shelter and out into the communities.

The road we chose can be daunting at times. There is no question PAWS volunteers are totally committed to the highest level of care that we can provide. There will be no sitting back on cruise control. Fundraising, grant writing, adoptions, spaying and neutering, as well as staying abreast of the medical needs of shelter animals are only a few tasks that are fundamental to the heart of the program. There are potholes, but the trip is a much more pleasant now. There is no more arbitrary killing, no more sick and needy animals without medical attention, no animals leaving the shelter unaltered. No longer is there suffering at the Hertford County Animal Shelter. There are hundreds of dogs and cats living in their forever homes, riding in cars, playing fetch with their little boys and girls, and sleeping in the beds of their loving families.

Over time this quest has been equipped with the finest volunteer "GPS" system available to man. PAWS of Hertford County is a fine, well-oiled machine with the reputation of being strong, efficient and most reliable. The answer to the question, "ARE WE THERE YET?" is

Yes, we are PAWSITIVELY there!

Follow our progress on Facebook and on our website (pawsofhertfordcounty.org). You can be continuously updated on our monthly successes by reading our newsletter. To subscribe, please send an email to pawsofhertfordcounty@yahoo.com. If you need to reach me or PAWS, please call 252.642.7297.

Our success should be considered your success.

With Our Sincere Gratitude,



JoAnn Jones
Chairperson, PAWS of Hertford County

***“The question is not, Can they reason? Nor, Can they talk?
But, Can they suffer?”***

- Jeremy Benthan, Philosopher



Financial Report

Income (Donations & Fundraisers)	Amount
Adoption Fees	\$21,820.40
Personal Donations	\$6,708.24
In-memory Donations	\$3,945.00
Albemarle United Way	\$789.75
PAWSFEST Fundraisers	\$17,580.75
Mission Fish	\$17.55
IL Tool Works	\$450.00
Food Lion	\$261.64
PetSmart	\$2,630.00
Watermelon Festival	\$591.00
Yard Sale	\$394.38
Scentsy Fundraiser	\$146.50
Yankee Candle Fundraiser	\$168.50
TOTAL	\$55,503.71

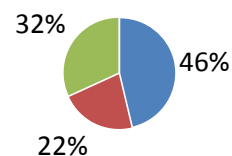
Grants Awarded	Amount
Tony Stewart Foundation	\$5,000.00
Pedigree Foundation	\$891.00
Greg Biffle Foundation	\$3,400.00
North Carolina Community Foundation	\$500.00
LBS Biological	\$1,032.00
Ryan Newman Foundation	\$3,000.00
Pitt Bull Rescue	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$17,023.00

Veterinarian Expenses	Amount
PETA (spay and neuter clinic)	\$7,130.00
Spay Today (spay and neuter clinic)	\$5,705.00
ABC Clinic (spay and neuter clinic)	\$3,060.00
Ahoskie Animal Hospital	\$437.26
Powellsville Pet Clinic	\$4,815.42
Shelton Vet Clinic	\$250.00
Gates County Animal Hospital	\$12,294.95
TOTAL	\$33,692.63

Vaccines and Medicines	Amount
Jeffers	\$6,329.97
Roadrunner Pharmaceutical	\$1,920.45
IDEXX Lab	\$3,805.16
Drugstore.com	\$129.90
Allvet Med	\$209.90
Foster and Smith	\$395.99
Lambert Vet Supply	\$1,734.70
Webster Vet Supply	\$1,394.54
TOTAL	\$15,920.61

PAWS SHELTER EXPENDITURES

- Percent of Income Spent on Vet Care
- Percent of Income Spent on Vaccines and Medicines
- Percent of Income Spent on Other Items and Operations



**"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights.
That is the way of a whole human being."**

- Abraham Lincoln



Shelter Improvements

In 2011, PAWS secured the following items and grants for the Hertford County Animal Shelter:

Acquisitions - Solicited and Unsolicited Donations Plus Donations from PAWS Members	Value
Ford passenger van for transporting animals to spay/neuter clinics	\$15,000
Full-size refrigerators (2) for storing vaccines and medicines	\$1400
Storage barn	\$6000
Washer and dryer	\$800
Shelter deck and railing	\$2529.87
Vaccines grant from <i>Petfinder</i>	\$1000
Canine calming shirt donations from <i>Thundershirt</i> (40 shirts)	\$1590
Dog food, cat food and wire crates from <i>PetSmart</i>	\$2000
Dog food from <i>National Pet Food Bank</i> (2800 lbs Kibbles n Bits)	\$2000
Monetary donations and fund-raisers	\$34,860.73
Dog bath sink	\$500
Lawn mower	\$500
Skirting around mobile units	\$804.26
Storage shelves and bins	\$580
Trash bins from <i>Rivers Correctional Institute</i>	\$300
Laptop, printer, and copier	\$250
Office copier	\$750
Total Value of Acquisitions *	\$70,865.00
<p><i>*This figure is not all-inclusive. The cost of fuel was not included. The figure does not include the value of labor donated by various individuals and businesses to the Hertford County Animal Shelter.</i></p>	

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

- Vince Lombardi



Partnerships & Services

PAWS provides the equivalent of 4 full-time positions to the shelter. In a conservative assessment, PAWS members spend a total of at least 800 hours per month in direct contact with shelter animals and their care. This translates to over 9600 volunteer hours per year or 4.6 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in personnel. If the work was valued at \$12 per hour, PAWS has provided at least \$115,200 of labor to the Hertford County Animal Shelter.

Our organization consists of 26 "PAWS Members", 45 "Friends of PAWS Members", and 6 "Student Members". PAWS members establish strong and sustained relationships with humane societies, rescue agencies, adopters, citizens, and those using social media (including over 1200 Facebook friends) who frequently make monetary and item donations. This has resulted in many animals being rehomed in other parts of North Carolina and in other states.

Volunteers have been trained by behaviorists at the Wake SPCA, vet technicians, dog trainers, Pitt County Animal Cruelty Investigators, and the NC Department of Public Health. PAWS partners have also assisted volunteers with vaccination and animal care/treatment protocols so the Hertford County Animal Shelter provides the highest level of care and operates in compliance with North Carolina's regulations for municipal shelters. PAWS also has a very small network of approximately 5 foster families for dogs and cats who need transitional time or who need to be removed from the shelter environment so they can become more adoptable. PAWS members voluntarily take formal classes for certification in areas which will assist the shelter and community. Among PAWS members, 2 are Certified Rabies Vaccinators, 2 have been trained to be Animal Cruelty Investigators, and 2 hold license to humanely euthanize animals. As a result of strong partnerships, good animal health care while at the shelter, creativity, and persistence, PAWS has developed internal skill/capacity for much of the county's sheltering work and has placed many dogs and cats in quality homes along the east coast of the United States.

PAWS Rabies Clinics are held in partnership with Hertford County Animal Control (under the supervision of the Office of the Sheriff) and local businesses. This is a targeted program with free vaccinations offered to the community with special emphasis on serving the underprivileged families in the county. PAWS funds the shots and provides volunteers for this public service. Pet owners can bring their dogs and cats to the clinic for their one-year rabies vaccination. North Carolina rabies law requires that all owned dogs, cats and ferrets must be currently vaccinated against rabies by four months of age (NCGS 130A-185).

Due to the economic downturn, PAWS willingly accepts the surrender of animals due to owner's loss of income, relocation, or downsizing due to economic situations. In all of these cases, PAWS helps the citizens of Hertford County by accepting the animals who they can no longer keep and housing their pets at the shelter after the owner surrenders. All animals are examined by vets, completely vaccinated, and spayed/neutered. The dogs and cats are then rehomed into families who want them and who can give them proper every-day and vet care. The outcome is loving pets can be offered a second chance at life.

“Nature is cruel, but we don’t have to be.”

- Temple Grandin



Reducing the Number of Unwanted Animals

PAWS’ vision of a community with fewer homeless dogs and cats can only be realized if local spay and neuter program(s) are successful. In 2011, PAWS sponsored 51 trips to spay and neuter clinics. The drive ranged from 18 to 140 miles roundtrip. One or both PAWS vehicles were used and PAWS subsidized the cost of fuel. Each trip was made by one or more of the 6 volunteers on the spay/neuter team and most spay and neuter "runs" lasted from morning until nightfall. This population control initiative resulted in the spay or neuter of 371 dogs and 343 cats. This included 51 cats and 16 dogs spayed or neutered at the local veterinarians. Among those spayed or neutered were 167 dogs who belonged to local residents and 149 cats who belonged to local residents. Each citizen who participated paid minimally for the transportation and spay/neuter surgery. This is due to PAWS' grants and special low-cost arrangements PAWS made with the clinic or vet partners. The average cost of a spay/neuter operation for a cat is \$40 and \$60 for a dog. *If each animal were not sterilized and each animal had a litter of 5 puppies or kittens, there would have been 3,570 additional homeless animals born this past year. Spay and neuter is a clear and quantifiable solution to the problem of strays and overpopulation.*

PAWS actively seeks grants for the low-cost spaying and neutering for shelter animals and for animals of the citizens in our community. Due to the grants awarded and increased emphasis of spay and neuter for the public’s pets, PAWS had a 73% increase in the number of Spay and Neutered animals in 2011.

Grants Awarded for Spay and Neuter	Value
Greg Biffle Foundation	\$3400
Ryan Newman Foundation	\$3000
Tony Stewart Foundation	\$5000
Pitt Bull Rescue	\$500
Total Grant Amount Awarded	\$11,900

PAWS paid \$9226.20 for spay and neuter surgeries in 2010. The amount increased to \$19880.00 in 2011. This was a 115% increase in the amount of PAWS funds and grant funds expended for spay and neuter surgery because PAWS firmly believes that early spay and neuter surgery is a key strategy to reducing the number of unwanted animals in our county. With community education and spay and neuter programs, fewer un-wanted animals will be born to roam in Hertford County and fewer will need to be housed at the shelter. Our community members who participate in spay and neuter programs will have fewer animals who are breeding or unhealthy due to lack of vet care. Research has shown that active spay-neuter programs decrease the shelter’s intake numbers over time.

“I am different, not less.”

- Temple Grandin



PAWS Adoptable Dogs and Cats

PAWS has a high standard of care which impacts our adoption program. Due to PAWS' Safety Assessment for Evaluating Rehoming (SAFER) testing, all PAWS dogs are temperament tested and determined to be safe for adopting into a family. This extra effort in 2011 has resulted in more dog adoptions and fewer returned animals. By making decisions based on behavior assessments and health, rather than breed – PAWS rescues all breeds and has a great deal of success with rehoming adult dogs including members of hard-to-rehome “bully” breeds.

All of PAWS' adoptable dogs and cats are spayed or neutered, current on their core vaccinations, current on their rabies vaccination, given dewormer and flea treatment, tested for heartworms, ehrlichia, lyme disease, feline leukemia, and feline immunodeficiency virus, as appropriate. This comprehensive treatment prior to adoption assures that the adoptive family is getting a healthy pet from the PAWS and the Hertford County Animal Shelter. Consequently most of the funds raised by PAWS and donated to PAWS are used for illness or injury treatments and preventative health care. regardless of the animals' adoption status – all animals are treated humanely and taken to the veterinarians for medical care if necessary.

PAWS Adoptions 2011	
Dogs	Cats
286	171
= 457 Adopted	

PAWS Transfers to Other Adoption Agencies 2011		
Agency	Dogs	Cats
Wake SPCA	50	59
Norfolk SPCA	141*	
K-9 Justice League	25	
Rescue Waggon	11	
Lab Rescue	10*	
German Shepherd Rescue	2	
Blind Cat Rescue		1
Pointer Rescue	1	
Boxer Rescue	1	
TOTAL	241	60
<i>* all are documented counts except for those with asterisks</i>	= 301 Transferred	

“Adoption is PAWSOME!”

- PAWS 2012



PAWS' Future Focus

In closing:

Human beings took on a tremendous responsibility when they made the decision to domesticate animals. Some 15,000 years later, in 2005, two Hertford County women took the responsibility to improve the dismal conditions and extremely high rates of death at the Hertford County Animal Shelter. From their vision, PAWS of Hertford County was born. In six years time, thousands of community dogs and cats have been spayed or neutered and several thousand more shelter animals have been fixed and subsequently adopted into nurturing and responsible homes. As a result of our beautiful website and high quality public relations, adopters have come from a distance spanning New Jersey to South Carolina. Animals that were once killed by shooting or gassing, now live in humane shelter conditions, receive all vaccinations, parasite preventative, and other appropriate veterinary care on intake. These animals are spay/neutered and temperament tested for responsible adoption placement.

As a result of the many diligent volunteer hours and successful county collaboration, the rates of euthanasia have steadily decreased. North Carolina State euthanasia rates hover at around 70% (Sirakos, 2011), and Hertford County, which averages at 35%, is lower than the State's. In fact, the Hertford County euthanasia rate for dogs was only 16% in 2011. Amazing!

Look at what a small group of volunteers alongside compassionate supporters have accomplished with the serious county problem of pet homelessness -- in only six years. Imagine what lies ahead for the future. PAWS has celebrated a series of small successes, experienced growing pains, enjoyed larger successes, and has worked to educate the community about the humane treatment of animals and the necessity of altering their pets. We have also provided low cost spay/neuter options and transportation for the community at a quarter of the cost of an animal hospital.

PAWS' long-term vision is a community with fewer homeless cats and dogs, a low-need shelter for short stays and high demand for our healthy adoptable animals resulting from community education, improved animal welfare laws, and responsible attitudes toward animals and pet ownership.

For the year 2012, our goals are:

- To increase the number of citizens served with our low-cost spay/neuter program, thus further reducing pet homelessness in the county.
- To provide educational materials and presentations on the consequences of chaining out or penning dogs and allowing pets to breed.
- To provide education about the facts of Bully (Pit-type) breeds, and debunk common myths that result in their abuses and deaths.

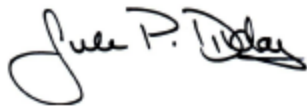
Sirakos, K. O. (March 2011). Euthanasia in North Carolina Companion Animal Shelters: Interviews with Decreased Rate Facilities and Comparative Analysis. University of NC at Chapel Hill. Retrieved from <http://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/Katie%20Sirakos%20Capstone%20Paper%20without%20Appendices.pdf>

PAWS' Future Focus - continued

- To create and implement *Operation Feral Freedom!*, which is a trap, neuter and release program for feral and community cats. This program is a humane alternative to killing, which will allow the animals to thrive in their natural habitat; ultimately leading to a greatly reduced feral cat population, as well as a reduced death rate for homeless cats, which is currently 53% in our county.
- To develop and fully implement *Diamonds in the Ruff*, which involves the implementation of behavior modification plans for under socialized or otherwise “unadoptable” dogs and cats. This program will increase our adoptions and reduce euthanasia rates.
- To develop a closely interdependent relationship with the County Sheriff’s office including quarterly meetings to address challenges, collaborate on resolutions, and discuss progress towards goals.
- To reduce the number of animals tethered for more than 3 hours per day.

Working together, we can help our community to value the lives of their own pets, as well as previously unwanted community animals. As our community rises to a higher level of consciousness, we can one day be members of the new No-Kill Revolution that has already taken hold in some European countries, and making itself known in our own. Our humanity requires it.

With high hopes for the future,



Julie Parker Dilday
PAWS Vice-Chairperson

2012 Officers:

JoAnn Jones, Chairperson
Julie Dilday, Vice-Chairperson
Cheryl Snyder, Secretary
Mary Etta Flowers, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Catherine Allen	Carol Andrews
Allison Briggs	Amy Brown
Stephanie Holt	Carol Lang
Sarah Nesbit	and all officers



PAWS of Hertford County
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