

# Pawprints

PUBLISHED BY PAWS, INC.

P.O. BOX 149 • MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042 • WWW.PAWSMONTCLAIR.ORG

December 2022 Update



Dear PAWS Supporter:

These past few years have been especially tumultuous times for everyone, and we thank you for your continued support. Without you, PAWS would not be able to do our work, rescuing many dogs and cats as well as serve our local community. This Pawprints wraps up 2022 with our accomplishments, continuing the mission of animal rescue and serving the community. PAWS focuses on rescuing some of the most at-risk animals which, in turn, can take more work and

time to ready these deserving rescues for their forever homes. They are all good, adoptable animals, but some may get overlooked elsewhere, perhaps because of age, looks, health, breed, or size. We pull animals from overcrowded shelters, the streets, and urgent death row situations by responding to pleas from rescue partners from other shelters, and we need to take the time required to get to know them and their true personalities so we can best match them with their human companions where they will be able to thrive. Our foster families, volunteers, kennel, sanctuary, and financial supporters enable us to rescue animals in need and provide them with veterinary care and a safe place to stay during this time. We do many private dog and cat adoptions through our website and Facebook inquiries, and many kitten and cat adoptions through our cat rescuers with whom we work.

Our veterinary and sheltering expenses far surpass what we receive in fees, so we rely on donations. Every donation – big or small – helps us save lives. There are many ways to give, including:

- becoming a monthly donor,
- making a single annual membership donation,
- sponsoring a pet who is waiting for adoption, and
- including PAWS in your estate plans.

You can find additional information on the back page of the newsletter. Please also stay connected with us through our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), [Instagram](#), [twitter](#) and [email](#).

If you haven't already, please take a moment to go to our website or Facebook page and subscribe to our mailing list. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who continue to support us. We wish everyone a happy, safe, and healthy 2023!

Carole Michales  
President, Board of Directors

*Photo: Carole with Cash (dog)*

## *In this Newsletter*

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## Support PAWS with AmazonSmile

### *How does AmazonSmile work?*

During your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization. Simply select PAWS Montclair.

From then on, whenever you plan to shop on Amazon, go to **smile.amazon.com** and with every eligible purchase, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to PAWS.

You pay the same price, receive the same Amazon service — and the animals benefit.

## Adoptable Dogs



We cannot understand why **Kiki** (left) is still waiting for someone to give her a chance at her forever home! Sure, she is a big girl with a big personality, but living in a kennel is not her dream, nor is it ours for her. She is such a good girl who just needs a chance

to land in a great home with someone who has large breed experience so she can finally learn to relax. She's a character for sure, but a lovable one and if you give her a chance, she will keep you smiling. We go on car rides as well as walks and she loves being out and about. She is joyful when she's with you! *Photo courtesy of Andrea Ullon*

**Starla** came to us from an inner-city pound facility. The poor girl was suffering from entropion, a condition where the eyelids curl into the eyes causing irritation and pain. Thankfully, RBARI, a rescue/shelter in Oakland, took care of her eyelid surgery and spay! Starla is one of the sweetest dogs ever. She is about 5-6 years of age, very food motivated, responsive and loves her people. She will be some lucky person's best friend, walking partner, and couch potato companion. We adore Starla!



Good Samaritans found **Lucy** (below) wandering the streets alone, so they brought her into their home where she stayed for almost two months. Already with two dogs of their own and a 4-year-old child, they reached out to us when they started renovations on their home. Space already

was tight and they just couldn't keep Lucy. They had reached out to several local shelters, but were worried that because of Lucy's



age, she would not find a home quickly enough. Shelters were full, and we had just had an adoption, so we met Lucy and knew she was a good girl whom we could help. She is smart, great with other dogs, people, pretty much anyone and anything. She is an independent gal, but loves her people. She has a lot of pep in her step, and loves walks, playing in the yard, and just hanging out. She will carry the ball the entire walk if she feels the need.

Lucy also detected an infection in one of our other rescues. While on a walk, she consistently nosed the area of her companion dog and alerted us that something was wrong. We were able to get the dog to the vet and treated and all turned out well. Lucy is medium sized and easily handled, knows basic commands, and is just waiting for that special person to bring her home and let her shine.

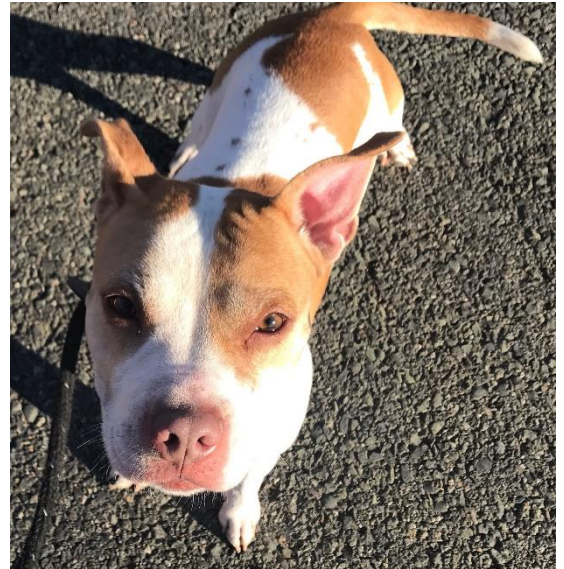




**Cash** (left) sat in a very full shelter for about 4 months when we rescued him. He is a big boy, about 75 lbs., and very silly. He adores playing in the yard, fetching objects and bringing them back to you. He will throw the object down at your feet and immediately sit waiting for a treat. He knows “down” and “paw” as well, and loves to roll over, for which he waits for treats. Cash takes meds for a hypothyroid condition, which is quite common and is easily treated without any big expense. Cash also has a limp caused by a “bum elbow” most likely due to trauma he experienced at some point in his life. He takes a supplement and an anti-inflammatory to ease any discomfort he may have, though he never displays any signs of pain. Cash is about 7 years of age, and has been waiting a long time to find his forever home. He’s fun, silly and responsive, and just needs someone to fall in love with him as we all have.

anxious. She’s estimated to be about 2-3 years old, is only about 40 pounds, and sweet as can be. This poor darling is having quite a time trying to settle. She is a “velcro dog,” wanting to be right by her person, and stressing out if she can’t be close. We have started treating her for her anxiety and have a great trainer coming to work with her to bring out all the goodness in this petite little girl. She’s friendly, gorgeous, and really needs an understanding, calm person to help her decompress and work with her, let her feel safe and loved.

**Miley** (right) was a stray found clean and in good condition, in an inner-city, but very



## Adoptable Cats



**Vivian** (above) is a sweet and sassy 3-year-old kitty, rescued from Paterson when she was heavily pregnant with 10 kittens! Her kittens are long gone and she is ready for a home of her own. She is very affectionate and good around cats and teenage kids/adults. She is fully vetted, up to date on vaccines and negative for FIV and Feline leukemia. Vivian currently is being fostered in Garfield NJ and is excited to meet you!



**Mia** (above) is a kitten born to a rescued stray. Mia is shy at first, but really warms up once she feels comfortable. She's a quiet, clean neat girl with a healthy appetite.



Meet Fabulous **Frankie**! (above) PAWS rescued loveable Frankie from a hoarding situation in Jersey City. He was one of a household including 27 cats, a pug dog and two birds. He was the most timid cat at first and the oldest of the rescues in the house where he lived. Frankie is a simple guy. His only requirements in life are to have a sunny spot to sleep in, delicious canned food and lots of petting. He never has had a family of his own where he wasn't one of dozens. He does enjoy other cats, and very much deserves a buddy to hang with and a safe, clean home of his very own. Currently Frankie is in a foster home in Garfield, NJ.



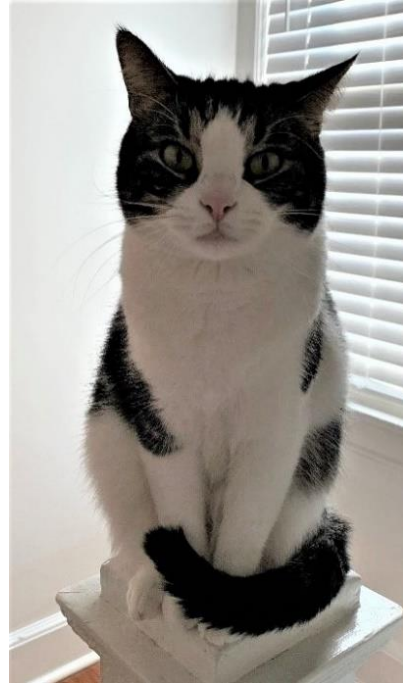
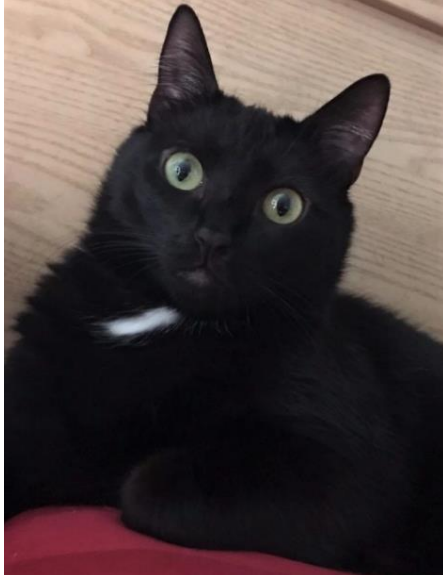
**Tia** (left) was trapped for TNR in Livingston, but was far too sweet to go back. A nice couple purchased a house that came with a backyard surprise: three unvetted cats, left behind by previous owners. Tia is extremely gentle and purrs nonstop when you give her pets and attention. She is an 8-year-old gorgeous long-haired kitty (don't be fooled by her summer hair cut), is up to date on vaccines, fiv/felv negative and spayed. She loves other cats but is no fan of dogs or very loud noises. She enjoys playing in cardboard boxes, eating temptations treats and sleeping in her cat tree.

Adorable cuddle bug **Nori** (below) got her name after being rescued during a Nor'easter, living as a stray on the streets of Newark. Nori is gentle but a little shy. She loves to snuggle in bed and to be petted, but because of her rough start she gets nervous in loud or chaotic situations. Her ideal home would be with one or two other cats, a couple/single person with time to give or a family with teenage/college aged children.





**Hannah** and **Romeo** were rescued from the streets of Newark in 2017. They're both very friendly cats. The black one is Hannah—she does have a spot of white on her chest. Hannah is very loving and Romeo has such an outgoing personality and almost acts like a dog. Unfortunately, they can no longer stay in their home as their owner's child is severely allergic. They are 5 years old and fully vetted. We would like to keep them together.



## Happy Dog Tails

**Dolce** (right) came to PAWS from a full NJ shelter in the late summer, and she just warmed the hearts of everyone she met. We had many responses to her posts and applications came in, but when we got Ray's application, we had a feeling it would be the right home for Dolce. Since she was great with people of all ages and dogs as well, Ray's extended family proved to be a perfect match for Dolce. She has a great life now, and we are so happy for the whole family!

**Danika**, (below) a young 2-year-old dog who had been living in a crate 16 hours a day and basically ignored by the people who had



gotten her from a backyard breeder, is what we were told. Luckily, a concerned individual who saw that Danika was not in a good situation,

stepped in and tried to find her a new home. Without much luck, they contacted a liaison to an inner city shelter where she was brought and put out the word about Danika needing a new home. We met Danika and immediately knew she was coming with us. After posting, the application came in from Ilya and Gabby and their three daughters, they came to meet Danika and it was a great match - they welcomed Danika into their loving home.





# Happy Cat Tails





## *Featured Foster Animals*

Our long-term fosters...We have a soft spot for the seniors The reality is that when we take in a senior who's at the older end of that broad category, we know placement into a permanent home may be hard to find. Many times, it's a medical issue that will need to be addressed, or just the regular downsides of "gettin' old." But to have the compassion to take a senior dog or cat into your home is priceless, and in some situations, we need to rely on a foster home that can commit to keeping an animal for an extended period of time, often for the lifetime of that pet. We are so grateful for these special fosterers.

In this quarter's newsletter, we highlight **Hemi**, fondly renamed as "**Hamilton**" or "**Hamz**" by his foster mom, Christina.

Hemi had been surrendered to the Newark shelter at 15 years of age, intact and with a mass on that area. Good natured, but dealing with other normal aging issues, Hemi touched the hearts of all who met him. As soon as PAWS rescuer Carole was introduced to Hemi, there was no question he was coming with her so our veterinarians could treat him. He had to go into the kennel initially, and the staff there all fell in love with him.



He slept so soundly that they often worried if he was still with us... and then, a wonderful thing happened Christina contacted us about possibly fostering Hemi after losing her cherished pit bull at age 15. She and her daughter, Adrianna, missed their dear Roxie and wanted to honor her memory by fostering a senior pittie in need. And so Hemi had the great fortune to land in their home, and there he has stayed. He successfully underwent the surgery required to remove the mass, as well as neuter, and he immediately stopped having the bleeding issues he had been experiencing.

Christina has taken the very best care of Hemi, respectful of his quirks as seniors often exhibit, and giving him everything he needs and more. There have been a few applications for Hemi, but none have been good matches. Christina and Adrianna are committed to give Hemi the best life possible. Thankfully for everyone,



Hamz has been relatively healthy and happy, and we are so very grateful for the care Christina and Adrianna are providing this sweet senior. They have a great time taking these adorable photos of “Hamz” so please enjoy!



**Bobby** is our featured cat for this newsletter. He recently came to PAWS after his pet parent lost their home and he was not able to go with her. Health issues have plagued him for some time now. He has been dribbling urine with some blood in spite of appropriate treatments. Recently, he became critical and was taken to an emergency and referral veterinary hospital where he was examined and treated. He made some improvements but will require continued care which may include surgery. His medical costs are rising; thus, we are making a plea for special [donations to help with his medical care](#). In addition to donating at that link, here's QR code for mobile devices:



We are hopeful that with continued medical care Bobby will return to normal.

On a related note: urinary issues are common in cats. Infections (UTIs), crystals and bladder stones are most common. Male cats are particularly prone to becoming blocked by the accumulation of crystals, small stones, and/or other debris. When your cat is blocked, you will see signs such as urinating only small amounts mixed with blood or making frequent but unsuccessful trips to the litterbox. Obstructions are painful for cats, and they are often life-threatening. When you see the first signs that your cat is blocked, you must get them to the veterinarian as soon as possible.

### **The Critical Role of Foster Homes**

Fostering is very important for an organization like PAWS to rescue animals in need and to find their forever homes. Fostering increases the chance of animals to be adopted by improving their social skills. Fostering provides a safe and healthy environment for animals who need to heal, grow, or get some extra TLC while they look for homes. Fostered animals benefit from exposure to the caregiver's friends and family. The caregiver can offer trusted and enthusiastic assessments of the animal's personality and needs to better match them to a potential adopter. Fostering creates more space for animals outside of shelters. ***In a nutshell, fostering saves lives.*** We are very grateful to the people who foster for us. Please contact us if you would feel you are able to foster a dog or cat for us.



## Highlight on Partners & Volunteers



THANK YOU, CARMEN RIVERA!



Carmen Rivera has fostered for PAWS for several years. This year she served as our main cat foster, even going out in the field for us to trap cats that were in danger. Not only does she hold them in the comfort of her home, she does all the transporting to the vets and hosts the meet and greets. We couldn't ask for a better foster and we wanted to honor her in our holiday newsletter.



Our sincere thanks to all who have helped PAWS this year! Our supporters include rescuers, fosterers, volunteers, donors, veterinarians, local businesses, and other rescue groups with whom we network. We can't list everyone individually, but everyone of you is appreciated more than you know. Here are some additional 2022 thanks we'd like to highlight.

L&B Healthy Pet Markets have been great and so supportive of us, not only donating food and other items, but providing space for adoption events and other fundraising events at their store, donating proceeds to PAWS. Marc and Mike have been amazing.

Venture Studios Caldwell has also partnered with L&B Healthy Pet Markets in these events, and have donated their awesome photographers at events as well as provided us studio time with our rescue dogs to get the most amazing shots of these dogs! They have a great space and very animal friendly staff, and our dogs all had a great time each photo session.

A special thank you to Lisa Sharkey, Donna Petronella and Eileen Mallor and the entire fundraising team for their hard work in planning fundraisers these past two years. They had to be creative since the pandemic struck, and their efforts afforded PAWS some much needed funds for the care of our rescues.

Thanks to Elisabeth Poliacoff for her dedicated work running our PAWS collection cans.

Additional thanks to Shannon Gessler for her continued support with working the different fundraisers.

Thanks to Gail Ingalls, our Dog Adoptions Counselor, for her help with interviewing applicants for the dogs. She has been doing this with Carole for many years, and she is very intuitive in passing along those applicants whom she feels will provide great homes.

To Barbara Litwinka, our Treasurer, thanks for your help in getting/keeping our financials in order.

THANK YOU also to these wonderful volunteers who work both at public events and behind the scenes:

- Cynthia Billitz for participating in fundraising events by donating the proceeds of her jewelry sales to PAWS.
- Sheila Caulfield, for her very generous contributions. She always is willing to jump in and help out for whatever needs to be done.



- Neil Davidson for his continued, wonderful work as our Webmaster. He is responsive, talented, proactive and we are so very grateful for his support.
- Eileen Mallor, for her great work in getting emails and the online newsletters out as well as working with Neil, Lisa and Donna in putting together the online fundraisers.
- Courtney Motylinski of Smart Paws Dog Training, Montclair, for her help in fostering and working with our rescues, along with doing meet and greets and adoptions. Courtney has helped rehome some of our more “challenging” rescues with her professionalism and expertise, and comes to the kennel to meet and form individual plans for many of our newcomer rescue dogs to get them readied for adoption.
- Christine McGowan of Wise Canine Training LLC, who started out as a fosterer for us years ago and went on to become a certified dog trainer as well. She has helped us with well over 60 rescue dogs and has helped us rehome most of them over the past ten years.
- Roberta Fisher for jumping in to support us wherever she is needed, always with a smile and a kind word.

**Cat Care:** We would like to spotlight Carmen Rivera as our main cat fosterer this year! Cat Sanctuary Care: Thanks to Valerie Slamka for all her tireless work, continued care and housing of many PAWS cats, as well to Margie Fittin, Beata Kulikowski, Dr. Steve Stefanski, Greg Michales, and Jessie and Roger Vellecamp for all their work caring for cats, supporting operations, and maintaining the sanctuary.

#### **Dog Care:**

Dog foster homes: Thank you to our dog foster homes, without which we could not rescue dogs. Christine McGowan and family, Rich DeMartin, Deirdre Johnson (who has adopted her sweet foster, Hugo!), Christina Bellini, Patty Zirul and family, Alexandra and John Zappala (who have adopted their sweet foster, Chloe!), Jillian Haid and family, and Devon Keeley, who has fostered several PAWS dogs while continuing her college studies.

Every day, I (Carole) take the ride to the kennel we use for many of our dogs for whom fosters are not available, to get each one out and spend time with them. I would like to thank Danielle and staff at Elizabeth Ann Kennels in Stirling for the dedicated care they provide our dogs. Their help, kindness and compassion are most appreciated. We have made many friends there including other rescues whose dogs come to board there while waiting for new homes.

We also have two amazing volunteers, Vance Bailey and Joanna Gaebele, who spend hours each week with our dogs helping Carole get them out, walked, and spend time with them, playing, cleaning, whatever is needed. Their help is priceless. It enables us to walk the dogs together which we, and they, so enjoy. Life away from the kennel environment is enriching and calming, and we are so very grateful for these two very compassionate people.

**THANK YOU To Our Awesome Veterinarians & Staff:** A huge thank you to our participating veterinarians, Dr. Danci Mock and Dr. Jeana Stanisci and staff at West Caldwell Animal Hospital -- they not only treat our dogs and cats, but they have been kind and generous in their help providing some of our dogs extended stays while waiting for their forever homes; Dr. Liz Houston of Cameron Animal Hospital, PetCure Oncology for their amazing care of Chloe, our little pittie mix who needed a course of chemotherapy to keep mast cell tumors at bay, Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners in Paramus for the great care they give our dogs and cats.

These past two years have been very tough on these dedicated animal care specialists. Pulling everything together and running in and out of the building in all kinds of weather to get information and bring the animals into the building to be treated. Veterinarians making phone calls to the owners waiting in their cars to get all the necessary information to make the best diagnoses and treatment plans brought a new dimension to all their jobs -- veterinarians, vet techs, and reception all had juggling acts to manage. All done with grace and professionalism, and we are grateful for them all.

## *News, Events, & Thanks*

During October, The Montclair Foundation and Van Vleck House & Gardens held their community handcrafted Scarecrow Exhibit in the Gardens. Scarecrows were created by scout troops, nonprofits, local businesses, families, classes, and individuals, and visitors cast their vote for the best scarecrow in each category. The prize for each winner was \$500 to donate to their charity of choice.

A big THANK YOU to the **Montclair Brownie Troop 20478** for choosing to support PAWS, and hand-delivering a check for \$500 to us in November. *Much needed and much appreciated!*





And Big Thanks to **L&B Healthy Pet Markets** in Montclair and **Venture Studios** in Caldwell for supporting PAWS with Pet Pictures with Santa on November 19.

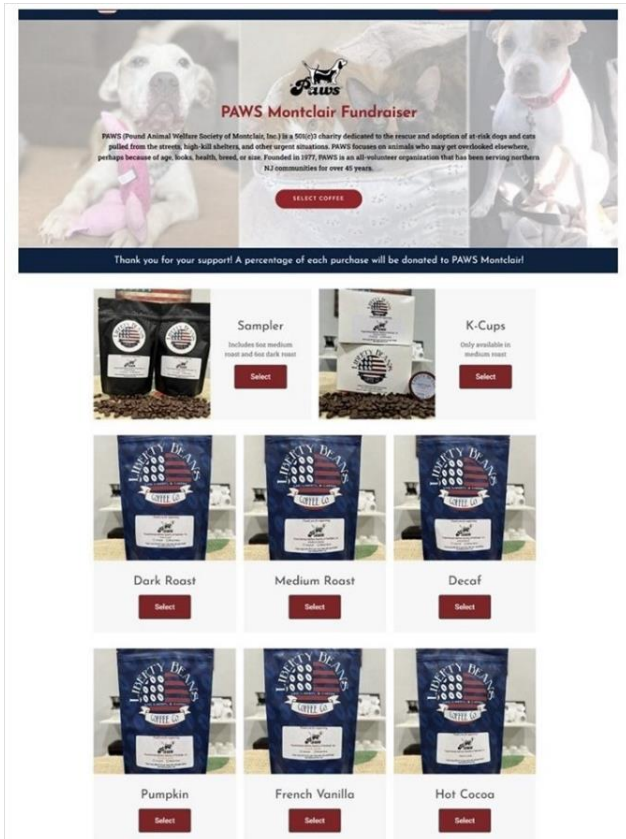


*Photography courtesy of Richard Milner, Venture Studios*

***Ongoing through the holidays...*** Please check out our coffee fundraiser [here](#). Be sure to shop from this page, selecting coffees with the PAWS Montclair label, and PAWS will receive 33 percent of each order. ***These coffees also will make great gifts for the holidays.***



We are grateful to again be recognized as a trusted nonprofit with the following awards from [Candid](#) (formerly GuideStar) and [Great Nonprofits](#)

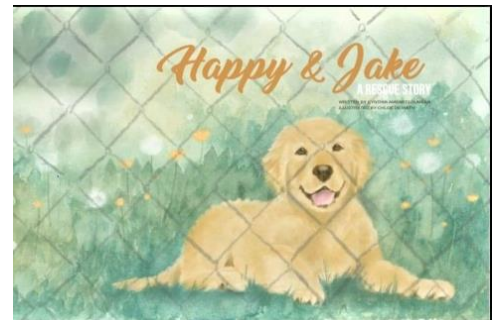


# Holiday Shopping & Other Ways to Support Our Work

Our veterinary and sheltering expenses surpass what we receive in fees, so we rely on donations. *Every donation – big or small – helps us save lives. There are many ways to give.*

When doing your holiday shopping this year—or any time you shop, here are some ways to support us:

- Shop Amazon via [AmazonSmile with PAWS](#) as your designated charity
- [Shop through iGive](#) and a part of your purchase amount will be donated to PAWS. *There are 1700+ online stores to choose from* in the iGive Mall. You may already be shopping from these sites, but now you can help PAWS at the same time!
- Participate in our online fundraisers. Currently, we have one for highly-rated coffee you can purchase [here](#). Be sure to select coffees with the PAWS label from this page rather than the site's general shopping tab.
- Maybe someone on your list would enjoy a dog storybook by a local author. Montclair author, Cynthia Ambartsoumean, has written a rescue storybook, and is donating a portion of the proceeds to PAWS. Cynthia works for [Rocklin Opticians](#) in Montclair. Rocklin has books available for sale in the store.



## Other Ways to Give

- Purchase supplies for us from **our wish lists** at [Chewy](#) or [Amazon](#).
- [Become a monthly donor](#)
- [Make a single annual membership donation](#)
- [Help defray our medical costs.](#)
- Set up an online PAWS fundraiser for your birthday.
- Donate in memory of a beloved pet to our [rainbow bridge memorial](#)
- Include PAWS in your estate plans
- Join our volunteer fundraising team—[communications@pawsmontclair.org](mailto:communications@pawsmontclair.org)
- Participate in cash for critters recycling







### \$\$ CASH FOR CRITTERS \$\$

Collect empty ink jet and laser cartridges, and old cell phones. PAWS will be paid up to \$4 (\$2 for most ink jets). Based on styles, PAWS will be paid \$1 - \$12 for laser cartridges. Please, no already recycled cartridges. Cartridges may be dropped off to volunteer. Please email [communications@pawsmontclair.org](mailto:communications@pawsmontclair.org)

*And there's always good old fashion checks in the mail...*

### YES! I would like to join / renew my annual PAWS membership

(Pound Animal Welfare Society)

Please enroll me as a member for one year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Contribution Only

☐ New Address

#### AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

☐ Student .....\$15.00 ☐ Corporate .....\$150.00

☐ Member .....\$35.00 ☐ Benefactor .....\$250.00

☐ Supporter .....\$50.00 ☐ Sustaining .....\$500.00

☐ Patron .....\$75.00 ☐ Lifetime .....\$1,000.00

☐ Sponsor .....\$100.00 ☐ Sr. Citizen .....\$5.00

☐ Other single contribution \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Recurring monthly amount \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PAWS • P.O. Box 149 • Montclair, NJ 07042

Or go to [pawsmontclair.org](http://pawsmontclair.org), and click on **DONATE**

### TO DONATE

You can mail a check to:

**PAWS, P.O. Box 149, Montclair, NJ 07042,**

or to donate online, visit our website where you can donate with PayPal, credit or debit card. You can make a single or recurring monthly contribution. We cannot continue our work without your help. Thank you for your support!