

PAWSCHICAGO

pawschicago.org

magazine

Winter 2016

SPECIAL REPORT
BULLY BREEDS

Chicago Bears'

MATT FORTE

**A Force for
Bully Breeds**

**KATRINA REFUGEES
10 YEARS LATER**

**LONGEVITY FOR DOGS
GO RAW AND OTHER TIPS**



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ABOUT PAWS[®] CHICAGO



LINDSAY Adopted August 2015

PAWS CHICAGO IS DEDICATED TO BUILDING NO KILL COMMUNITIES—STARTING WITH A NO KILL CHICAGO—WHERE ALL HEALTHY AND TREATABLE PETS ARE SAVED. Since our founding in 1997, the number of homeless dogs and cats killed annually in Chicago has dropped 77 percent. But with nearly 10,000 homeless pets still dying in our city each year, there is more important work to be done. PAWS Chicago focuses on engaging the community to help solve the pet overpopulation problem. Involving the public in the cause of homeless animals and providing them with the information to make lifesaving choices is the only way to build a sustainable No Kill community. When people find out what pets are facing in our current sheltering system, they are inspired to adopt, volunteer, donate and spread the word about the importance of spay and neuter. It is the power of community engagement that fuels our lifesaving efforts and our four core programs:

PREVENTION

The main tools for reducing the birth of unwanted animals are spay/neuter programs and community outreach. The majority of stray, feral and other homeless pets originate in low-income, under-resourced communities. With the PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic and the GusMobile Spay/Neuter Van, which brings lifesaving solutions directly to neighborhoods most in need, we perform more than 18,000 spay/neuter surgeries each year.

ADOPTIONS

A robust and visible adoption program is essential to building a No Kill community. Thanks to our adoption centers, offsite events and innovative programming, more than 6,000 animals find loving homes each year. Our Adoption Center in Lincoln Park redefined animal sheltering. PAWS' first satellite adoption facility—the Glenn L. Felner North Shore Adoption Center—opened in December 2014 and represents an important step in our mission to expand lifesaving and build No Kill communities.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR

Our No Kill commitment means that we give every pet the individualized treatment and rehabilitation they need. Our shelter medicine program helps pets with illnesses and injuries. Our behavior programs provide enrichment and training for pets who have challenging pasts, either suffering mistreatment, abuse or lack of socialization.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life force behind every aspect of our lifesaving efforts, from supporting our adoption, medical, spay/neuter, outreach and education programs to serving as foster parents, welcoming pets into their homes. Volunteers dedicate more than 100,000 hours of service each year, fulfilling the work of 50 full-time employees. Without this impassioned labor force, PAWS Chicago would not be possible.



A TRADITION OF NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE

Charity Navigator, the country's premier independent charity evaluator, has ranked PAWS Chicago the best performing charity in the nation in the Animal Rights, Welfare and Services category. They have also awarded PAWS Chicago their highest 4-star rating for 13 consecutive years. That's something less than 1 percent of charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have ever received.

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PAWS CHICAGO

Winter 2016

ON THE COVER:
Bears player Matt Forte
(page 24) with PAWS
Chicago's dog Heidi, who
has since been adopted into
a wonderful, new home
(page 16).

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Andy Barnes



SPECIAL REPORT: BULLY BREEDS

- 24** **Chicago Bears' Matt Forte**
A Force for Bully Breeds
- 27** **Can You Pick Out the Bully Breed?**
- 28** **Profiling Bully Breeds**
- 30** **Tough Odds**
- 32** **Ask the Trainer**
- 34** **PAWS Bully Breed Alumni**

FEATURES

- 8** **The Canine Flu Impact**
- 12** **Englewood's Community Cats**
- 16** **Meet the Featured 5**
- 20** **Katrina Refugees**
10 Years Later
- 38** **Longevity for Dogs**

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4** **All Things PAWS**
- 37** **Live Good**
- 42** **PAWS Around Town**
- 44** **Memorials and Tributes**

contributors

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DEAR FRIENDS,

With the tremendous support and advocacy of the Chicago animal-loving community, we are seeing incredible results for homeless animals in our city.

In 2014, the number of homeless animals euthanized in Chicago fell below 10,000 for the first time, and the positive trend looks to continue. In 2015, while final data is not yet available for all Chicago shelters, it appears the number will remain below this threshold. For example, euthanasia at Chicago Animal Care & Control (CACC), the city pound, was cut by 18 percent.

These numbers represent immense progress, especially when compared to the stunning 42,561 homeless cats and dogs who were killed in Chicago in 1997. That year, we founded PAWS Chicago in an effort to bring to light this horrible epidemic of animals dying simply because they didn't have homes.

But these numbers also show how far we still have to go to become a No Kill city.

Every day, we still see the faces of those dogs and cats that have been left behind, pleading to be rescued. These pets are often the elderly and sick who have been dumped at shelters, animals with the scars of past abuse and those that are never even given a chance.

These animals require focused efforts designed to help reduce the number of dogs and cats that end up in shelters in the first place, and additional strategies to save those who would not otherwise make it out alive.

In this issue of the *PAWS Chicago Magazine*, we are highlighting some of the programs we have introduced to help these animals, from our project to spay and neuter

FROM THE FOUNDER

feral cats in Englewood (see page 12), to our Featured 5 initiative designed to increase the exposure of animals who have been with us for a longer period of time and deserve their own homes (see page 16). Because these pets need special adopters who can provide them with specific lifestyle and health care, they have often been overlooked.

We devoted our cover and the main section of our magazine to the bully breed challenge, which requires both a long-term plan and immediate adoption opportunities for those animals already in the shelter system. Special thanks to Matt Forte for being a voice for these at-risk animals (see page 24). His passion in dedicating his time and attention to helping the Chicago community is truly inspirational.

In 2016, much of our focus will be on expanding our Medical Center. The city pound does not have the space to treat many hurt or ill animals. As we get closer to reaching our goal of a No Kill city, more of the animals we rescue will be sick or injured. And with the Canine Influenza Virus still present in Chicago, many dogs and puppies are being left behind (see page 8). To address these needs, we are planning a massive expansion of our medical facility that will triple our capacity to treat animals in desperate need of help.

We want to thank you for supporting our programs during 2015, and ask you to continue to help us in the coming years as we try to rescue the most vulnerable animals who are still suffering and dying in the shadows of our city.

Thank you for all you do for homeless animals.

Warmest regards,

Paula Fasseas
Founder and Chair

‘FOR THE PUPPY MILL INDUSTRY, CHICAGO IS OFFICIALLY OFF LIMITS’

With these words, Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza announced that a lawsuit filed by the puppy mill industry to block legislation to end the sale of puppy mill animals in the city had been dismissed in federal court. “This is a victory today for people who believe animals should be treated with compassion. Profiteering from systematic animal abuse is unacceptable in any form,” she wrote in November 2015, ushering in the Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance.

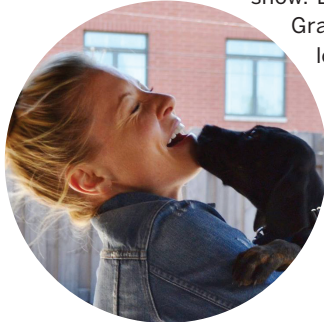
This law blocks retailers from selling cats, dogs and rabbits obtained from large breeding operations. Instead, retailers can sell animals coming from shelters, rescue organizations or humane societies. “This is a very important change for pets in Chicago,” says PAWS Chicago Founder and Chair Paula Fasseas. “It will mean so many more dogs and cats get rescued and fewer die because they don’t have homes. It also means puppy mills

no longer have a market in the city.” Chicago joins at least 70 other municipalities in the United States and Canada that have instituted retail pet sale ordinances.



EMPIRE STARS VISIT ADOPTION CENTER

You may know them as Rhonda Lyon and Anika Calhoun, two women vying for the spotlight in *Empire*, FOX’s number one TV show. But actresses Kaitlin Doubleday and Grace Gealey are also active animal lovers. They took time off from their busy taping schedules with the drama series to visit the Lincoln Park Adoption Center in July 2015. Grace and Kaitlin used the opportunity to pose for some pictures with PAWS pets Puffin, Grey Goose and Amelia.



Kaitlin Doubleday and Grace Gealey with PAWS dog

‘AJ’S ANIMAL AVENGER COLLECTION’ BENEFITS PAWS

Former WWE Diva AJ Brooks and the designers at Beautiful Disaster Clothing partnered with PAWS to come up with a line of shirts promoting rescue dogs. Beautiful Disaster donated the proceeds to PAWS, and AJ’s PAWS alumni dog Larry (at left) was featured in the design. AJ and her husband, UFC fighter CM Punk, adopted Larry in February 2015. Check out the clothing collection at bdrocks.com.



PAWS alumni Larry



AJ with homeless PAWS dog Ariel

NORTH SHORE ADOPTION CENTER NAMED

In September 2015, PAWS Chicago supporters gathered for the official naming of the PAWS Chicago Glenn L. Felner North Shore Adoption Center, and to celebrate the legacy that Glenn is providing for Chicago’s homeless dogs and cats. Glenn’s love for animals has been a constant theme throughout his remarkable life, which includes landing at Normandy six months after the D-Day invasion and helping to liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp.

The Glenn L. Felner Center, which opened in December 2014 inside the Highland Park Petco, is PAWS Chicago’s first satellite adoption center. PAWS opened the facility to help find more homes for pets who need them—especially large dogs popular with suburban families—and to bring our progressive sheltering practices to a new community of adopters. We adopted 622 animals into new homes in 2015 through the Center.

Learn more about the Center at pawschicago.org/northshore.



Glenn L. Felner

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO TEAM PAWS

Members of TEAM PAWS are paving the way toward a No Kill Chicago. TEAM PAWS is celebrating its 10th anniversary, with nearly 600 animal lovers taking strides to support PAWS Chicago. Over the past decade, the team has coached about 3,850 members, logged hundreds of thousands of miles and raised critical funds for homeless animals.

The Rock ‘n’ Roll Chicago Half Marathon and Bank of America Chicago Marathon are a few of the team’s featured races, but members are encouraged to represent the team in any event of their choice, in any city or country. In 2015, 448 runners took on the Chicago Marathon wearing PAWS Chicago singlets.

TEAM PAWS is comprised of runners from all walks of life. Our youngest member was an 11-year-old who ran a Disney Princess Race and our eldest was a woman from the Bahamas in her late 70s. Members have joined from just about every state, and from the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Mexico and Switzerland.



Arith Ruggio

SIGN UP FOR TEAM PAWS 2016

Join PAWS Chicago’s charity racing team and run to save the lives of homeless animals in Chicago. Our team raised enough money to rescue 2,789 animals in 2015. This year, our goal is to save 3,000 lives. Help us by making your miles matter. Join the team today and enter discount code **MAGAZINE** to save \$10 on any registration option. Visit teampaws.org to sign up.



Ken Gasper with Lyla G.

“MY FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON TEAMS PAWS IS MEETING SO MANY AMAZING NEW PEOPLE WHO SHARE SIMILAR BELIEFS”
– TEAM PAWS member Ken Gasper

YOURNAME INLIGHTS
Fancy a bit of public recognition for your giving? Here's what it'll cost. —KATE FLAHERTY

- Gift \$50**
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Your name goes On the back cover of a CD from Cedille Records, a local non-profit classical music label
- Gift \$20,000**
Your name goes On a "cat condo" at PAWS Chicago's Lincoln Park Adoption Center
- Gift \$100,000**
Your name goes On the gear house that opens the Michigan Avenue Bridge (part of the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum)
- Gift \$1 million**
Your name goes Into the official name of the Special Collections department at Loyola University's library
- Gift \$1.5 million**
Your name goes On the 606 bridge that crosses over Milwaukee Avenue (the most biked road in the city)



PAWS Chicago
pawschicago.org
2014 spending: \$10.6 million
Percentage spent on programming: 91

In 1997, when this grassroots organization was founded, more than 42,000 dogs, cats, and other pets were euthanized in the City of Chicago. Last year, fewer than 10,000 were. The credit for that huge drop goes largely to PAWS, which runs the largest pet adoption and foster programs in the city. (Here, volunteers bathe canine friends on the rooftop of the Lincoln Park Adoption Center in late September.) With its Lurie Clinic and mobile surgical van, PAWS also spayed or neutered 18,290 pets in 2014, offering nearly three-quarters of the procedures free of charge.

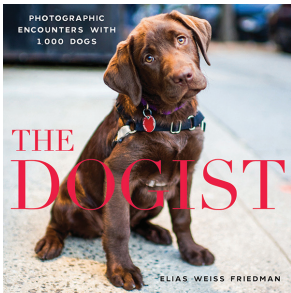
CHICAGO MAGAZINE NAMES PAWS TOP 20 CHARITY
PAWS Chicago was recognized among the top 20 Chicago charities to support in 2015 by *Chicago Magazine*. With the help of Charity Navigator, *Chicago Magazine* narrowed down its choices from 18,000 local nonprofit organizations to 71 that received Charity Navigator's top ranking of four stars. From that list, nonprofit consultants and community leaders helped rank the best charities by category based on the impact each organization has on the city.

OTHER HONORS
PAWS Chicago was named best charity by the *Chicago Reader* for the fifth year in a row and was recently selected as a "Shelter of Excellence" by Animal Planet.

BEST CHARITIES IN CHICAGO

THE DOGIST FEATURES PAWS PUPS
Elias Weiss Friedman, also known as The Dogist, is the creator of a wildly popular Instagram feed, with 1.7 million followers, that captures the beauty of dogs. He photographs dogs in shelters and on the streets of cities across the world.

The Dogist made an appearance in October 2015 at Anderson's Bookshop in suburban La Grange to promote his new book and to speak on how photography can make a difference in a pet's life. To coincide with his visit to the area, The Dogist featured PAWS dogs Sedna and Brian on Instagram, both of whom have since been adopted. Follow The Dogist on Instagram at @thedogist.



Brian
(top right)



Sedna
(bottom right)





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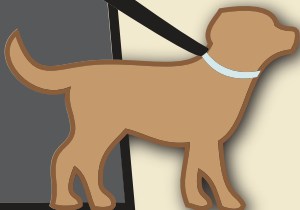
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THE CANINE FLU IMPACT

by Jake Van Heel

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY A YEAR SINCE THE NEW STRAIN OF THE DOG FLU, OR CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS (CIV), FIRST STRUCK THE CHICAGO AREA. While it started in dog boarding and daycare facilities, it is now impacting Chicago Animal Care & Control, the city pound, most severely.

Because of the large populations of animals exposed to one another and a lack of isolation facilities, virtually every dog at the pound has CIV, which means some rescue groups and shelters had to cut down or stop taking in dogs. CIV-exposed animals need to be quarantined for up to 30 days to avoid spreading the virus. All CIV-infected dogs require isolation and some also need advanced medical attention for secondary infections like pneumonia.

“Before CIV, we could take in a dog and have it spayed or neutered and ready for adoption within a week,” says Sue Davis, PAWS Chicago Executive Director. “Today, we need to quarantine CIV-positive dogs for up to 30 days. As you can imagine, we’ve had to adjust our operating model.”

PAWS CHICAGO CIV RESPONSE

PAWS Chicago has been able to continue to save CIV-positive dogs from the pound by utilizing the Medical Center on 26th Street to quarantine infected animals. The Medical Center has a large, previously unused space that has been converted into a CIV ward for the infected animals.

The PAWS Chicago Medical Center is the only facility in Chicago equipped to take in a large volume of CIV cases. In 2015, PAWS treated more than 300 animals with CIV and currently has about 60 in quarantine with the illness, along with many others in foster homes.

To increase capacity to save more dogs with CIV, PAWS recently launched the Foster First program. Families without dogs are able to foster a dog during the isolation period in order to open space at the Medical Center to save more CIV-infected animals. Once the foster dog is medically cleared, the foster family can adopt the dog.

MEDICAL CENTER EXPANSION

While the CIV crisis hit Chicago particularly hard, it is only one in a long list of infectious diseases that continually impact shelter populations. The limitations of the current Medical Center, particularly isolation space, have created a bottleneck in PAWS’ ability to take in more animals.

In addition to treating sick animals, the Medical Center is the first stop for every pet rescued by PAWS. Each animal is given a complete medical exam, dentistry and spay/neuter surgery.

Dealing with the volume of CIV-positive dogs has brought sharp focus to the need for PAWS Chicago to expand its Medical Center in 2016, with the goal of tripling its capacity to treat animals in need.

“As we get closer to No Kill, we are seeing a larger percentage of homeless cats and dogs who are either sick or injured,” says Paula Fasseas, PAWS Chicago Founder and Chair. Currently, more than 75 percent of incoming animals are treated for a medical condition beyond the standard protocol. The organization is able to save greater than 97 percent of the animals brought into its program, even while taking in a vulnerable population of animals.

But there’s more to be done. “Expanding our capacity to treat sick and injured animals is essential to reaching our goal of building a No Kill Chicago,” Fasseas says. ■

CIV: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

H3N2, the particular strain of CIV that was found in Chicago in April 2015 has never before been seen in the U.S., making it highly contagious. It is not known how the virus made its way to the city but it has since spread to 24 states. Animals in shelters and kennels are at special risk of catching this virus.

CIV is a flu, not a life-threatening disease. Dogs with CIV typically have a persistent and lingering cough, fever and runny nose. They may be lethargic, depressed or have a decreased appetite. The virus itself is not a risk, but it can cause secondary infections, like pneumonia, particularly for dogs with weakened immune systems or those who are very young or senior.

Because most dogs have not had any exposure to CIV, they do not have immunity to the disease. This means that many dogs will be susceptible and get sick. A dog can be contagious and shed the virus, which could spread to other dogs, for up to 30 days. CIV is airborne, so direct exposure to other animals must be limited.

While CIV is highly contagious, in most instances dogs improve within a week of showing symptoms. Since antibiotics are not effective against CIV, treatment is primarily care to bolster the immune system and alleviate symptoms, though antibiotics may be prescribed if there is concern of a secondary infection.

Learn more about:

CIV at pawschicago.org/civ

The Foster First program at pawschicago.org/fosterfirst

Medical Center expansion at pawschicago.org/medicalcenter

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* Free wellness exam only available at a participating VCA Animal Hospital in the Chicago area within five days after adoption. Complimentary wellness exam must be performed within five days following adoption to activate complimentary follow-up care. Complimentary follow-up care limited to maximum of \$500 value. Emergency and specialty services not covered. Other terms and conditions apply. Contact a participating VCA Animal Hospital for more information.
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PAWS HELPS ENGLEWOOD'S COMMUNITY CATS

by John Caruso

HIS NAME IS CAT-DOG, AND HE BELONGS TO NO ONE AND EVERYONE. He is one of many community cats roaming Englewood, a Chicago neighborhood with little access to veterinary services. Cat-Dog got his name because he is friendly, engaging, and loyal: qualities many residents associate with dogs. He's also been known to chase his share of neighborhood dogs.

"He's always there, ready to jump in someone's car or sleep on a porch," Margaret, a resident of Englewood, told PAWS Chicago Community Outreach Manager Laurie Maxwell. "He looks like a cat, but acts like a dog."

Cat-Dog is one of more than 1,000 cats spayed or neutered by PAWS Chicago in Englewood with funding from PetSmart Charities over two years. The program focused on cats who live outside, including stray and feral animals.

Some of these cats are fed and watched over by the entire neighborhood. They provide companionship and often serve utilitarian purposes such as controlling rat populations. Before this program, they also were continuing to have kittens.

PAWS focused on Englewood because it is one of the most underserved areas of the city, and community members

face significant barriers to accessing spay/neuter services, including poverty and a lack of transportation.

In the two years prior to the launch of the PAWS Englewood program, 212 cats from the area received spay/neuter surgeries at the PAWS Lurie Clinic in Little Village.

"THE CAT GOT OUT ONE TIME AND SHE CAME BACK PREGNANT."

Only 10 percent of pets in Englewood are spayed and neutered, compared with the national average of 85 to 90 percent. Because of the high number of unaltered animals, even the best efforts to keep a cat indoors can fail. A common lament is, "The cat got out one time and she came back pregnant."

The PetSmart project is part of a larger PAWS outreach effort in Englewood, called PAWS for Life, aimed at creating lasting change in the community. By having a consistent presence in the neighborhood—going door to door—PAWS for Life is able to provide resources to pet owners who would not otherwise have access to these services.



◀ *Cat-Dog loves riding around in Englewood resident Margaret's car.*

Since the PAWS for Life initiative began in November 2014, community members have been enthusiastic about the benefits of spay/neuter and readily participate. "We have been overwhelmed by the positive response from the Englewood community. Ninety percent of the unaltered pets we meet end up getting spayed/neutered through our program," Maxwell says.

If PAWS' staff and volunteers hadn't been active in Englewood, then stories like Margaret's—and Cat-Dog's—may have ended very differently. Margaret, an Englewood resident, developed a particular affection for Cat-Dog when he began showing up at her home for a meal or companionship. He would wait on her porch, but always declined invitations to come inside. Then one cold fall night, Margaret looked outside and saw Cat-Dog curled up in a ball on the porch chair. "I knew he was cold. So I opened the door for him, said 'Come on kitty' and he ducked in the house so fast! He's been coming in my house ever since."

When PAWS staff met Margaret, she explained she would like to give Cat-Dog a permanent home inside, but all attempts she made were futile. Cat-Dog wanted his freedom. PAWS arranged free neuter and veterinary care for Cat-Dog through the PetSmart grant. The hope was that once he was neutered, Cat-Dog would acclimate better to indoor life. However, Cat-Dog still chose to come and go.

Margaret made peace with this arrangement, but does whatever she can to keep him safe. "If I don't see him I worry about him. I worry about him like my kid. I go out looking for him if he doesn't come back," she says. "I'm his mom. He knows he can always come home, get some sleep, have a good meal. He knows he's safe here and no one will mess with him here."

And when Cat-Dog is away from Margaret's home, he is definitely not adding to the feline overpopulation problem. He has been vaccinated. He is healthy. And he has people who are looking out for him. ■

ABOUT TRAP NEUTER RETURN

PAWS Chicago spayed and neutered 4,867 community cats during 2015 across the Chicago area. The PAWS Chicago Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program provides a humane approach to outdoor cat control and a proven method for reducing the number of homeless animals.

Working closely with volunteers and community members, PAWS traps community cats and provides them with spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations and microchipping. Their ears are also tipped to indicate they have already been spayed or neutered. If cats are not tame enough for adoption, they are returned to where they were living, where

community caretakers and volunteers continue to feed them, provide shelter and keep an eye on their well-being.

Ultimately, TNR results in healthy and well-cared for colonies, while gradually diminishing the overall number of cats because they are no longer reproducing. There also is an immediate reduction in complaints about behaviors associated with unsterilized cats, including spraying and fighting. And by having a controlled cat colony, there will be significantly fewer rodents in the neighborhood.

Learn more about this program at pawschicago.org/tnr.

Cannings Helping Feral Cats

The plight of Chicago's homeless cats and kittens inspired Development Board member Melissa Canning to get involved with PAWS Chicago in 2012. Once she visited the city pound with the PAWS team and saw the magnitude of the cat overpopulation problem, she couldn't stop thinking about how she could make a difference.

Michael Canning saw his wife's passion and commitment. As a businessman, he also saw that PAWS Chicago's Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program was a tangible solution. For Melissa's birthday that year, together they founded the Melissa Canning Community Cat Prevention Program through PAWS.

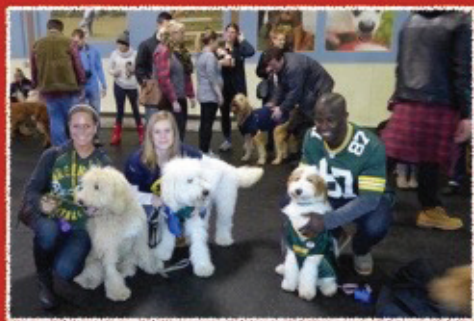
This dynamic couple has continued to support the Program each year since it started. In 2015 alone, the



Melissa Canning

Program funded 371 surgeries and the purchase of 60 humane feral cat traps for the PAWS TNR volunteer force. It also provides microchips, ear-tipping and vaccinations for the cats.

"The Cat Prevention Program is set up to tackle a large problem in the city," says Melissa. "Hopefully, through these programs, we will one day greatly reduce the number of feral cats and unwanted kittens born in the city of Chicago."



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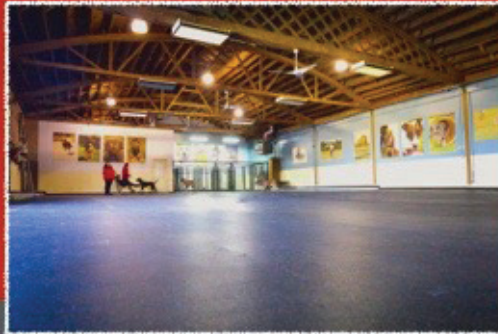


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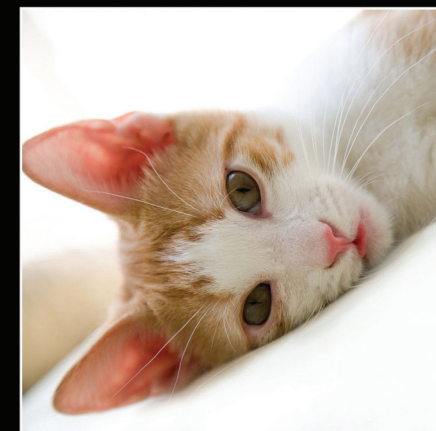
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MEET THE FEATURED 5

by Sam Bautista

WHILE PAWS CHICAGO FOUND LOVING HOMES FOR NEARLY 6,000 PETS OVER THE PAST YEAR, certain cats and dogs sometimes get overlooked and need a little extra exposure. A pet requiring a specific type of home may end up at the PAWS adoption centers for more than a few weeks, or even months.

PAWS Chicago’s commitment to helping every pet find a loving home led to the creation of the Featured 5 Adoption Program to help potential adopters with the special care or needs that come with their new family member. Under this Program, cat adopters receive a year of Merrick Pet Care cat food and wellness care, including blood work, heartworm tests and vaccinations. Dog adopters receive a year of Merrick Pet Care dog food, a year of wellness care and a year of training at the PAWS Chicago Training Center.

COVER GIRL HEIDI ▶

You may have noticed the pretty bully breed posing with Bears player Matt Forte on the cover of the magazine. That cover girl is Heidi, a 5-year-old, one-eyed American Staffordshire mix, and one of the Featured Five dogs adopted into a wonderful, new home in November 2015. “Heidi’s doing great and we all love having her,” adopter Sarah says. “She’ll cuddle up with anyone and everyone. She even gets recognized during walks.”

Meet the Featured 5 at pawschicago.org/featured5.



LILITH
Two-year-old Lilith enjoys quality playtime, although she suffers from a rare condition known as subvalvular pulmonic stenosis, which restricts the flow of blood to the heart. Lilith knows her limitations and will rest as needed. She does require ongoing medication, but she doesn’t let her condition get her down.



PERSIE
This 2-year-old Hound mix would make a great workout partner for an active adopter. Persie is full of energy and gets along well with other large dogs who share her rough and-tumble play style. She is an intelligent pup who can make a game out of anything. When the day is done, she will be your snuggle buddy.



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— HEIDI’S ADOPTER, SARAH

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KATRINA REFUGEES

10 YEARS LATER

by George Castle

Storm

Storm, a black Lab mix, had a number of scratches and scars on his face from flying debris during Katrina when Stefan adopted him. “I have been a dog owner since I was a teenager and now I am an old guy. Storm was the best dog I have ever owned. We had seven-and-a-half great years together. I have loved all my dogs but only one dog’s photo is framed next to my bed, and that dog is Storm, the greatest dog of all time.” — *Stefan*

IN FALL 2005, AFTER SEEING HEART-WRENCHING IMAGES OF TERRIFIED ANIMALS AND DESPERATE FAMILIES TRYING TO SURVIVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF ONE OF THE WORST HURRICANES AND FLOODS IN U.S. HISTORY, a five-vehicle convoy of PAWS volunteers and staff left for the Gulf Coast. They returned 31 hours later with 70 animals, helping clear crowded shelters to make room for more and more incoming pets. The dogs and cats arrived in Chicago, exhausted but safe, and in desperate need of new homes.

Word about the Katrina animals spread across Chicago, and when the pets were fully vetted and available for adoption a few days later, more than 500 people turned out to adopt. In the first day of adoptions, more than 55 animals impacted by the storm found their new families. PAWS made return trips in the following weeks and months, helping save more than 200 animals and uniting them with the most wonderful adoptive families.

As the years have gone by, some of the Katrina animals have passed away. Others remain healthy and happy. Many still show small but lingering signs of their trauma: an aversion to water, a fear of thunderstorms or loud noises. But overriding these memories is their basic resilience, promoted by the lasting love of their adoptive families and returned with compounded interest.

“We will know it is heaven when we see her again,” wrote

PAWS Chicago Board Member Charles Day, after his dog, Maude, passed away in November 2014. “The wind that brought her to us blew up from the south nine years ago. Along the way, it picked up a terrified 3-month-old puppy in Louisiana and dropped her into the PAWS clinic. Which is where we met her, huddled and catatonically afraid in a small crate.”

“WE ALL FELT HELPLESS AND WANTED TO DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING TO HELP RELIEVE ANY SUFFERING.”

— *SALLY SPRINKLE*

No animal or adopter came away from Katrina unchanged. “Maude never fully recovered from the hurricane. Found wandering the streets around New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina, the efforts to trap her scarred her for life. Until the last of her days, the arrival of a stranger sent her into a panic, a fear hardwired so deeply that only a handful of people made it all the way through her defenses,” Charles says. But “to do so gave you access to the unbridled joy that defined her when she felt safe. She didn’t run to you, she bounced. She didn’t wag her tail, she thumped it, the sound loud enough to fill a home.

**“WE WILL KNOW
IT IS HEAVEN
WHEN WE SEE
HER AGAIN.”**
— *CHARLES DAY*



“The fear that held her back from every stranger meant that her love, when given, was as precious as any breath.”

The rescue worked both ways for Sally Sprinkle. Her black Lab adoptee, Cajun, was Sally’s emotional savior in 2009 as her marriage ended, she was laid off in the Great Recession, lost her home, and then relocated cross-country from LaGrange, a suburb of Chicago, to the San Francisco area.

Sally recalls watching the Katrina devastation unfold on television. “We all felt helpless and wanted to do something, anything to help relieve any suffering, be it human or animal, that we could.”

She decided to adopt a Katrina dog. “I went down on a very hot Chicago day and took my lottery number. It was 68, and at the time I was convinced that my number was so high that all the dogs would certainly be gone. When I finally got in, I wandered through the different rooms until I found a small black Lab puppy curled up in the back of his cage looking scared. I asked if I could take him out and see him. He climbed high up on my shoulder and put his head down,” she says. “It was love at first sight.”

Sally’s voice begins breaking up as she talks about Cajun, who died three years ago at the age of 7 of an intestinal illness. She remains inspired by her Katrina dog. “I am now involved with Lab rescue here in Northern California and have fostered five dogs in honor of the best dog a girl could have ever had, my Cajun!”

In Island Lake, teacher-activist Jan Belzer adopted Louie, who was named after New Orleans’ Louis Armstrong. He’s a senior now, but “Louie looks like he hasn’t aged a day,” Jan says.

She came down to PAWS and “was one of the first 10 people in line and he was in the first vanload of dogs brought up from the affected area. He had been put in a cage in the

first room off the reception area. I walked in and pulled the tag on his cage. At the time, I was unaware that his leg was broken and that he had a buckshot wound on the back of his neck,” Jan says.

“Louie has been a complete blessing. He runs and jumps like a puppy and entirely enjoys living on Island Lake and being the center of attention.”

Louie truly came to the right household. In 2005, as head of a Palatine elementary school district teacher’s union, Jan spearheaded the raising of about \$30,000 for Katrina victims, an amount matched by the McCormick Foundation.

The condition of the Katrina rescue dogs traveling from a way station in Arkansas to the PAWS Chicago Medical Center following the storm are still difficult for then-PAWS volunteer Kylie Gordon to recount.

“The hardest part emotionally was how sick and sad and vacant the animals were when we picked them up. They were very frail. I wanted instantaneously for them to be better. At least I knew it was a step in the right direction.”

The greater good of saving innocent lives made the exhausting and dirty conditions in which the volunteer found herself well worth it.

Now relocated to the San Francisco area, Kylie says that the arduous journey has increased in value through the years as she hears about Katrina rescues thriving in loving homes in Chicago and beyond.

“I think it’s the adoptive families who are the heroes here, who took the time to be patient and rehabilitate the animals and give them the kind of home they deserve,” she says. ■

Meet some of PAWS’ Katrina pets on page 22.

10 YEARS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

Below are a few stories of animals PAWS rescued following Katrina and the incredible impacts they had on their families.



BUZZ

"I couldn't believe when PAWS called to say he'd be mine. Buzz is a perfect fit for me. He kept my Dad company while I went to work each day. My favorite memory/moment with Buzz was watching him with my Dad, who has now passed away."

— Carol Ann Dvorak



DAISY

"I can't imagine my world these last 10 years without my girl. We are two peas in a pod. I never tire of seeing her run up and down the hall as I get home greeting me as if we haven't seen each other in years."

— Amy Callahan



ELLE

"We couldn't imagine a life without Elle never having been in it. She's the third leg of our tripod, our third amigo, a human in a dog's body. Elle is a constant source of comfort, a constant companion, not to mention my best pal."

— Pat Tomasulo



MOOKIE

"When I drove off with her from the Petco, all 40 pounds of her jumped into my lap as I was driving. She almost seemed to be saying 'Thanks!'...She's much better with water now and enjoys swimming! Mookie's been my best friend for 10 years and has made me smile every day."

— Molly Roche



LUCY

"Lucy brought us so much joy. She was also a bit of a celebrity. Several times when we walked her around town, people stopped us and asked if she was one of the Katrina dogs. She was the most protective pup, and she always stood guard over [my children's] strollers. We lost Lucy last winter and miss her very much."

— Nicole Cready



RODNEY

"Rodney has now been a member of the family for 10 years! And what a 10 years it has been. During that time, we've added three children to our family. These days, he is content to lounge on the bed in the sunshine while the kids are at school and then he follows them around the house at night while they are home. He's very protective of all of us."

— Kathy Farrow and Rachel Hegarty



SAKI

"Saki was truly our first 'baby,' and we didn't mind helping her overcome her fears. We planned our weekends around trips to the dog park and walks in our neighborhood. Saki became a regular at doggy daycare when we went to work and quickly made friends with other dogs in our building. Slowly, her fears became less and less, though she never would go out onto our fourth floor balcony."

— Samantha Riggi



HONUS

"Honus has been a joyous addition to our household. He follows me everywhere and, although my sons have suggested that he is angling for food or a walk, I am pretty sure that it is really because he is hopelessly devoted to me! His favorite thing to do is eat and his second favorite thing to do is...eat. We love Honus and our love is returned warmly every day."

— Jane Donaldson



OTIS AND MIA

"I can't believe Otis and Mia are now 10 years old! I had just bought a new condo in 2005 and living on my own for the first time, I knew I wanted to adopt a couple of cats. I can't imagine the space without them, and the best part of coming home is having them greet me at the door."

— Paty Schintgen

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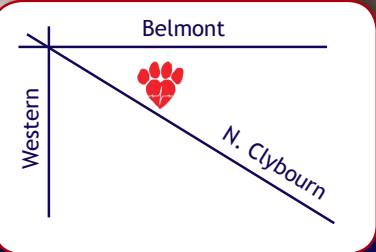
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Chicago Bears'

MATT FORTE

A Force for Bully Breeds

by Maggie Hendricks

CHICAGO BEARS RUNNING BACK MATT FORTE, ONE OF THE BEST RUSHERS IN THE NFL, IS STILL NOT FAST ENOUGH TO WIN RACES AGAINST HIS DOG, ALI.

Forte has been a force on offense during his eight seasons in Chicago, and is one of the top rushers in the National Football League. He is known for tough workouts, but he hasn't become one of the NFL's best rushers on his own. Forte gets help from 3-year-old bully breed, Ali.

Forte often works out at The Hill, a spot in Arlington Heights that Bears Hall-of-Famer Walter Payton used for notoriously difficult workouts. When Forte heads out to The Hill from his home in River North, he brings Ali, who joins him on sprints up and down The Hill.

"I used to win, but he's gotten a lot faster as he's gotten older," Forte says. "Sometimes I let him run around and chase me like I'm dodging defenders."

Ali has brought much more to Forte than help on the football field. The dog lives with Matt; his wife, Danielle; their 2-year-old daughter, Nala; newborn son, Matthew Jr.; and their 5-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, Taz. Ali is a big and much-loved part of the Forte family.

As Matt and Danielle talk about life with their dogs, Ali sits quietly while Nala climbs all over him. The Fortes know that Ali will be protective of their newest family member.

"Ali would never sit with his back toward Nala. He would always face her, no matter where she was. She would be sleeping, and every 15, 20 minutes, he would sniff her, check on her, and go sit back down by her," Forte says.

Taz was the first dog the Fortes brought home. Matt and Danielle knew they wanted to have children, so they didn't make choices lightly when it was time to add a second dog. They wanted a family-friendly pet. Forte says before he brought home Ali, his family worried because of the bad reputation of bully breeds.

Photography: Andy Barnes

Continued on page 26

“WHEN I’M NOT AT HOME, I KNOW THAT HE IS PROTECTIVE OF THE FAMILY. IT’S GOOD TO HAVE A DOG WHO CAN DO THAT AND ALSO BE GENTLE WITH KIDS.”
 – MATT FORTE



Continued from page 25

“Everybody thinks bully breeds are mean, vicious dogs, which they aren’t. So they were kind of concerned when we first were getting one, asking, ‘What about when y’all have kids?’ But we told them and sent them some of the research about the dogs,” Forte says.

The Fortes found Ali to be the perfect addition to the family, but they were sure to find out what their dogs needed to be happy and healthy.

“All dogs need a certain amount of exercise and all that, and it’s good to be informed whether you’re getting a dog or not. Just to know, and not discriminate against them,” he says.

They had made the decision to get a bully breed, but hadn’t yet found the right one. Matt surprised Danielle when he picked her up from the airport. Ali was in the backseat. While Taz was trained at a kennel, Matt took on the task of training Ali himself.

“I put him in the crate right next to my bed, and he got it right away. He would bark early in the morning—it was kind of like having a baby—at like five o’clock in the morning. Then I’d put him in the grass, so that he would correlate the grass with using the bathroom. He learned from there, and I taught him to sit, and everything came pretty quick with him.”

With Ali and Taz trained, Forte now has a more playful relationship with his dogs. He sometimes brings Ali to Halas Hall, where the Bears train, and Ali knows how each dog he sees there likes to play.

“I like to get Ali all riled up. It’s good exercise for him. Taz is hilarious because he likes to just sit there and watch. He’ll go and try to sneak one of the toys away when Ali’s not looking,” he says.

Forte is usually the one in charge of the dogs’ care, including walking, feeding and discipline. “When I say their names, if I say it too loud, they know. Daddy’s home,” Forte says.

Forte has to balance his time with his dogs with the demands of a professional football player. During the season, he gets just one day off a week. He travels for at least

eight away games, and spends much of the late summer in Bourbonnais, Illinois, for Bears’ training camp.

Forte is also very active in the Chicago community. He founded the What’s Your Forte? Foundation in 2013 to help at-risk kids in the Chicago area by providing mentoring and scholarships. He also spends many Saturdays in the Englewood neighborhood, coaching a flag-football team and teaching kids about teamwork. In 2015, Forte was nominated for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, which recognizes players for their community service.

When Forte is away from home, having Ali with his family gives him some peace of mind. “When I’m not at home, I know that he is protective of the family,” Forte says. “It’s good to have a dog who can do that and also be gentle with kids.”

Bully breeds are becoming more popular for families, and Forte says, he would like to see more people consider them. “Read up on them. Get informed about the breed of dog and that there’s many types of bully breeds. Don’t put your mind on what everybody always says about them. Just make it up for yourself by reading on the dog and experiencing them for yourself,” he says. “Obviously owning a pit is a large responsibility, so make sure you’re able to take care of the dog, and provide for it.”

Because of his love for dogs, Forte has become the latest bully breed ambassador for PAWS Chicago’s Adopt-a-Bull events. Created to dispel myths, raise awareness about the plight of bully breeds in shelters and encourage adoption, Adopt-a-Bull events have become an important way to reach large audiences. Hosted by bully-breed-loving celebrities, the Chicago community is invited to learn more about these dogs and meet bully breeds available for adoption. Visit pawschicago.org for details on Forte’s hosted Adopt-a-Bull event in 2016.

“Matt is a wonderful ambassador for bully breeds. He has such a big heart for kids and animals, and he uses his fame to impact the lives of others,” says PAWS Founder and Chair Paula Fasseas. “You can just feel the love for his family and his dogs. It’s special to see.” ■

CAN YOU PICK OUT THE BULLY BREED?

Visually identifying a bully breed isn’t easy, according to Dr. John Ciribassi, of Chicagoland Veterinary Behavior Consultants. “A large number of breeds and mixed breeds have that same body type. To the untrained eye, a lot of dogs look the same.”

Terms such as “pit bull” and “bully breeds” are used to describe a number of breeds, including the American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Terriers and Bull Terriers. Many mixed breed dogs also are included, based only on how they look.

Studies show that even people who work with animals often cannot correctly identify bully breeds. Research by Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program and the University of Florida compared the DNA for 100 shelter dogs with visual identifications from more than 5,000 dog breeders, trainers, veterinarians and shelter staff.

Breed identification was considered correct if a breed representing at least 25 percent of a dog’s genetic makeup was selected. The study found that respondents correctly identified a prominent breed an average of 27 percent of the time.

Test your ability to accurately identify breeds. All the mixed-breed dogs shown here were given DNA tests. A particular breed was considered “significant” if it made up 50 percent or more of the dog’s genetic makeup and “distant” if it made up 12.5 to 24 percent. If the dog was found to be between 25 and 49 percent, it was labeled as having “some” trace of that genetic background.

CREDIT: National Canine Research Council



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1. Significant Boxer with some Bulldog **2.** Distant traces of Smooth Fox Terrier **3.** Significant Chihuahua with some Cocker Spaniel **4.** Some Rottweiler and Boston Terrier **5.** Some German Shepherd Dog and distant traces of Affenpinscher **6.** Some Chinese Shar-Pei and distant traces of Rottweiler **7.** Some American Staffordshire Terrier and Australian Cattle Dog **8.** Distant traces of Basset Hound, Dalmatian and Pug **9.** Significant American Staffordshire Terrier and distant traces of Boxer **10.** Some German Shepherd Dog and distant traces of Basset Hound, Norwegian Elkhound and Samoyed **11.** Distant traces of Basset Hound, Dalmatian, Glen of Imaal Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and Wire Fox Terrier **12.** Some Rottweiler and distant traces of Clumber Spaniel, German Wirehaired Pointer and Newfoundland **13.** Some Boston Terrier and distant traces of Bulldog **14.** Distant traces of Borzoi, Brussels Griffon, Dachshund, English Cocker Spaniel and Samoyed **15.** Some Boxer and distant traces of Bernese Mountain Dog, Briard, Dalmatian and Welsh Springer Spaniel



Profiling BULLY BREEDS

by Megan Craig

IN POPULAR CULTURE, PIT BULLS AND BULLY BREEDS ARE PORTRAYED AS VICIOUS, UNPREDICTABLE, DANGEROUS ANIMALS. And virtually any solidly built dog with a broad jaw is lumped into this category, regardless of actual breed. The stereotyping of an entire group of dogs based on appearance has had dire consequences: These dogs are the most commonly euthanized in shelters today.

The pit bull has become “the only American dog that people bother to name,” writes Tom Junod in *The State of The American Dog*. “When a Cocker Spaniel bites, it does so as a member of its species; it is never anything but a dog. When a pit bull bites, it does so as a member of its breed. A pit bull is never anything but a pit bull.”

But the terms “pit bulls” and “bully breeds” can be confusing and often misleading. These names are used to describe a group of breeds, including the American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Terriers and Bull Terriers. But many mixed breed dogs also are lumped into this category, often wrongly, based purely on their appearance.

FROM WAR HERO TO MENACE

While critics of bully breeds argue that they are involved in a disproportionate number of attacks against people, studies show that these dogs have no more incidence of aggression than other groups. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, “Controlled studies reveal no increased risk for the group blamed most often for dog bites, ‘pit bull-type’ dogs.” Reporting biases and misidentification led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop tracking breed information in relation to bite statistics in 1998.

Some experts argue that when breeds are identified in controlled studies, some bully breeds are actually slightly less aggressive than other breeds. Of the 870 American Pit Bull Terriers tested by the American Temperament Test Society, 86.8 percent passed. Mixed breed dogs passed 86.6 percent of the time, higher than the Border Collie (81.5 percent) and Golden Retriever (85.2 percent).

Bully breeds were not always demonized. The nation’s first war hero dog, Sgt. Stubby, was a short brindle Bull Terrier mutt who may be labeled a bully breed today. *The Little Rascals’* dog, Petey, also was a bully breed, as was Helen Keller’s therapy dog, Sir Thomas. An account of Keller’s first meeting with the dog said, “He rubbed his nose on her skirt, and when she knelt down, put his chin on her knee.”

“IT’S REALLY A DOG-BY-DOG THING, NOT A BREED-SPECIFIC THING, WHEN YOU’RE TALKING ABOUT BEHAVIOR.”

— ADAM BOYKO, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Bully breeds can be traced back to 19th century England, where people bred Bulldogs with Terriers, some for use in animal fighting, but also for many other jobs. When these dogs came to America, they had a variety of roles, including working on farms or serving as travelling companions and family pets. According to the United Kennel Club, which was the first registry to recognize the American Pit Bull Terrier, any “aggressive behavior toward humans is uncharacteristic of the breed and highly undesirable.”

But fortunes changed for bully breeds in the 1980s as a minority of these dogs were bred and used for dogfighting. During this period, media coverage of dog bite incidents created a myth of bully breed unpredictability, according to Karen Delise, founder of the National Canine Resource Council. “It was the great misfortune of the pit bull to be the new ‘fad’ dog and thus the new dog found in incidents of attacks at the very same time when the media stopped reporting triggers or events which precipitated an attack.”

As bully breeds were accused more often than other dogs of deadly attacks, some municipalities enacted breed-specific legislation. These regulations ban or restrict the keeping of dogs by breed and typically target pit bulls.

Although some states specifically ban breeds, Illinois’ Animal Control Act requires that “vicious dogs shall not be classified in a manner that is specific as to breed.” But breeds



are still banned in some Illinois towns and cities because of a home rule provision in the Illinois constitution that gives some municipalities the power to override state laws.

Cities and towns with existing breed-specific bans or restrictions include Addison, Buffalo Grove, Golf, Lincolnwood, North Chicago, Markham and Maywood in the Chicago area. The Chicago City Council decided against breed-specific bans a few times in the last 15 years, instead focusing on licensing and penalties for owners.

IF NOT BREED, THEN WHAT?

Critics of breed-specific legislation point out that they ignore the relative popularity of particular breeds over time; reporting biases in the media, which may over-represent certain incidents; the likelihood of a particular type of dog having been abused or mistreated; and breed misidentification based on the appearance of the dog.

They argue that dogs should be evaluated as individuals, rather than based on breed. “It’s really a dog-by-dog thing, not a breed-specific thing, when you’re talking about behavior and temperament,” says Adam Boyko, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Cornell University.

Instead of concentrating on breed, the American Veterinary Medical Association found that a number of factors related to the dog’s environment were present in most dog bite fatalities. Four or more of these factors were found in more than 80 percent of deadly incidents:

- No able-bodied person present to intervene (87%)
- Victim having no familiar relationship with the dog (85%)
- The dog’s owner failing to neuter/spay the dog (84%)
- Victim’s age or compromised physical condition (77%)
- The dog having little positive human interaction (76%)
- The owner’s prior mismanagement of the dog (38%)
- The owner’s abuse or neglect of the dog (21%)

But even as research shows that the labeling of particular groups of dogs is inaccurate, the bad reputation of bully breeds is not easily overcome. “The intense and persistent media and political attention given to pit bull attacks has skewed our perceptions so dramatically that we no longer have a balanced view of the dangerousness of a very few dogs against the extreme tolerance and contributions that millions of other dogs provide,” Delise wrote in her book, *The Pit Bull Placebo*.

“For every pit bull that attacks someone, there are tens of thousands of his brethren that tolerate all the conditions humans place them in, from loving homes to horrific conditions of abuse.” ■



Waffle Sundae and her puppies Cotton Candy, Kettle Corn, Funnel Cake, Cheese Curd, Caramel Popcorn and Fried Snicker

TOUGH ODDS

HALF THE BULLY BREED DOGS WHO END UP IN THE CHICAGO CITY POUND DO NOT GET OUT ALIVE.

by Danielle Gordon

TWO 10-MONTH-OLD CHOCOLATE BROWN DOGS TENTATIVELY STEPPED OUT OF A VAN IN THE PARKING LOT OF CHICAGO ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL (CACC), THE CITY POUND.

Sage, the smaller of the dogs, crumbled to the ground, too scared to move. She had to be carried inside the building. Her brother, Gio, resisted all the way, his owner requiring assistance to control him as they entered the facility.

Once in the reception area, the elderly man who had brought the dogs to CACC sat on a bench filling out paperwork. Sage stood close by, looking to the man and to her brother for reassurance. She was the runt of the litter, brown with a thin white line down her nose.

Why, on a sunny August afternoon when other dogs were at home or out on walks, were Sage and Gio being relinquished to the pound? The man said he already had two pit bulls at home, and couldn't handle four dogs. He was suffering from renal failure. His friend, who had come along to help get the animals to CACC, added he had his hands full and "already has one foot in the grave."

Sage and Gio's parents should have been spayed or neutered, the men agreed. But they also explained they had neither the money to pay for nor the information on who to contact to arrange for low-cost surgeries.

Left at the pound, Sage and Gio faced tough odds. The fact that they had not been well-socialized was their first strike, and that they would be classified as bully breeds or pit bulls was their second.

Bully breeds remain the most likely to languish and die in shelters. Their mistaken association with aggression toward people and their sheer numbers mean a smaller

percentage of them are saved. An average of 45 bully breeds were euthanized at the city pound each week during 2014, according to data collected by CACC.

Progress is being made. In the first half of 2015, 50.8 percent of bully breeds survived the pound; up from 39.2 percent in the first half of 2013. But even with this increase in lives saved, bully breeds are 2.8 times more likely to die at CACC than other types of dogs.

At the city pound, after their owner left, Sage and Gio were placed in separate cages in long cement block pavilions. Some dogs, like Gio, stand at the front of their cages and bark at passing visitors; others, like Sage, plaster themselves against the back walls, avoiding eye contact.

Gio was found to be aggressive and was euthanized for "untreatable behavioral" issues on August 22, 2015, two days after arriving. Sage got sick while at the pound, likely suffering from the canine flu that hit Chicago earlier this year. She was fearful, urinating when spoken to, lunging at strangers and growling in retreat. She was euthanized for severe illness on August 28, but it would have been unlikely for her to have found a home when so many friendly and sociable dogs are still dying.

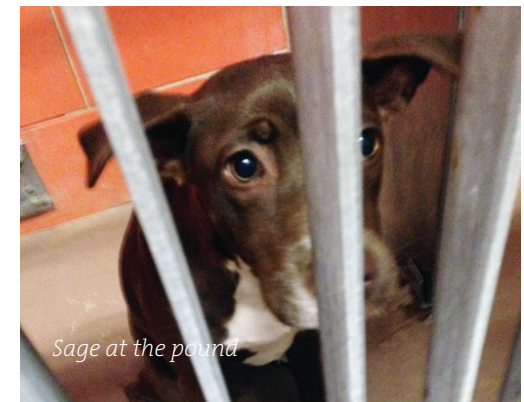
'PREVENTION, PREVENTION, PREVENTION'

Like Sage and Gio, many bully breeds end up at the pound because owners lack access to spay/neuter or animal care resources. In 2015, nearly 47 percent of all the dogs at CACC were picked up as strays, 32 percent were given up by their owners and nearly 10 percent were confiscated by authorities.

To decrease the number of unwanted animals ending

"PEOPLE ARE NOT BREEDING PIT BULLS AS PART OF DOGFIGHTING. MOST LITTERS I SEE ARE JUST ACCIDENTS."

—LAURIE MAXWELL, PAWS OUTREACH MANAGER



Sage at the pound

up at the shelter, PAWS Chicago started the PAWS for Life Outreach Program in Englewood in November 2014. PAWS staff and volunteers go door to door in Englewood, bringing spay/neuter and vet services to families. The biggest obstacles to these services in Englewood are a lack of finances, transportation and information regarding options, according to Laurie Maxwell, PAWS Outreach Manager. But when these barriers are lifted, about 90 percent of owners sign their pets up for surgery.

"People are not breeding pit bulls as part of dogfighting," Maxwell says. "Most litters I see are just accidents. The message is simple: prevention, prevention, prevention." PAWS data shows that out of 427 dogs encountered in Englewood, only 11 were intentionally bred. About 45 percent of the dogs in this neighborhood are bully breeds. "There's simply an oversupply of these dogs. It's not people actively looking to get a pit bull, it's just that they are readily available."

Maxwell points to Juanita as an example of how PAWS can help reduce the number of accidental litters. Juanita's dogs Princess and Lucky had given birth at least five times. "No one she knew ever had a dog who was fixed and she didn't know where to turn to seek assistance," Maxwell says. "She lacks transportation and even a reliable phone."

Maxwell was able to set up spay/neuter appointments and transportation for every dog in Juanita's building. "She was so thrilled and relieved," says Maxwell. "She told me, 'My dogs are my family. They eat when I eat, they sleep when I sleep, they watch TV when I watch TV! I love them more than anything.'"

Once in a while Maxwell meets a person who resists the idea of spaying and neutering their dogs. In response, she points out some of the advantages of getting a dog fixed, including reduced aggression, marking and roaming. Changing minds takes listening and patience, Maxwell says. But once it starts, and as long as resources are available, it has a ripple effect across a community. "People tell friends and family, and they start coming to us asking for spay/neuter services."

THE CURRENT POPULATION

Once a dog enters the city pound system, the primary way out is through a private rescue or shelter. In 2015, about 37 percent of all dogs were transferred out of CACC to private groups, nearly 14 percent were returned to their owners and 6 percent were adopted directly from CACC.

PAWS takes in the most bully breeds from CACC, and is the pound's largest transfer partner. "We look for a variety of dogs. We are not a breed-specific rescue," according to PAWS Founder and Chair Paula Fasseas. The number of dogs who can be brought into the program also depends on available space in PAWS Medical and Adoption Centers.

In July 2015, PAWS rescued Waffle Sundae, who came to CACC as a stray. She gave birth to six puppies at the pound. Two-year-old Waffle and her puppies were suffering from ringworm. They were treated at the PAWS Medical Center. After they recovered, all the puppies were quickly adopted.

But Waffle is still awaiting adoption. This 61-pound American Staffordshire mix is affectionate, energetic and loves long walks, according to volunteers who work with her. Waffle currently is in a special program for PAWS dogs who need additional training, where she's working on socialization and her leash manners. PAWS is looking for a home for Waffle that does not have small children or other dogs.

The number of families interested in adopting bully breeds like Waffle has been growing, Maxwell says. "There's been a recognized shift in perception over the past 10 years." Still, there are obstacles for potential adopters, including a shortage of pet-friendly housing and breed-specific bans in some communities.

In April 2015, PAWS started holding Adopt-a-Bull awareness events to address the misconceptions surrounding bully breeds. The History Channel's Danielle Colby was PAWS' first bully breed ambassador. Colby adopted her dog, Vida, from PAWS. "The bully breed has been mislabeled and widely misunderstood for too long," says Colby. Chicago Bears player Matt Forte will be PAWS's next bully breed ambassador (see page 24). ■

ASK THE TRAINER

BULLY BREED EDITION

by Emily Marron



Joan Harris with Watson

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE MEDIA PORTRAYS BULLY BREEDS DIFFERENTLY, but when it comes to owning one, how different are they from other dogs? Is there anything potential adopters and dog lovers need to know? I sat down with Joan Harris, the Director of Training and Canine Behavior at PAWS Chicago to find out.

Q Is there anything people need to consider when meeting a bully breed on the street?

A Not any more than any other dog. My feeling is if someone is walking a dog on the street, then you always ask if the dog can be approached before you dive in and approach it.

Q What about when out on a walk with their own dog?

A It's always proper etiquette for anyone walking his or her own dog to give a wide berth to any other dog. Most of the problems happen when everyone assumes that every dog can be approached. Most dogs can't be approached on leash and it doesn't have anything to do with breed. Of course a larger, stronger dog could cause more damage if you made the wrong choice. However, a lot of the little dogs are extremely reactive and vocal, and will bite a dog who comes up. All dog owners should be aware that not every dog wants to be approached.

Q Do potential bully breed adopters need to know and/or do anything prior to adopting?

A First, keep in mind that it's a big, strong breed. Bully breed temperaments come in a wide range, so you might go in for a bully breed and have the most sweet, mellow, easy dog that doesn't fit the general standards of a powerful, active dog. Whenever you look at a particular group of dogs you want to make sure that it's the right fit for you.

Second, consider whether you have the right space for the dog. A lot of housing is prejudice against bully breeds. Generally that's the biggest barrier for a lot of people. So it is important to check housing rules or limitations.

Finally, think about the temperament you're looking for. Are you an active person who loves to walk a lot? Are you a person who's kind of sedentary and wants a couch potato? Are you home a lot? How much do you want to invest in training? All those questions should be answered, and then you can go in and look for the dog of your choice.

"IT WOULD BE REALLY GREAT IF PEOPLE COULD LOOK AT DOGS INDIVIDUALLY AND NOT STIGMATIZE BREEDS."

— JOAN HARRIS

Q What sort of training classes or techniques would you advise someone adopting a bully breed to take?

A If you love bully breeds, it's especially important to have a well-behaved dog because of the stigma and scrutiny they are under. By ensuring your dog has good obedience and is under good control, you are showcasing an ambassador for the breed.

Like any dog, bully breeds can do many different types of training including agility, nose work and high levels of obedience.

Q What other advice do you have for people looking to adopt or who have adopted a bully breed?

A It's training and making sure your environment and personalities fit. But I would advise them not to get caught up in the stigma of the breed because there's really good representations of all breeds. Bully breeds are going to be bigger and stronger than many dogs. If they're looking for a little tiny couch potato breed, they're not going to be happy with a bully breed of any sort, even a lazy or low-key one. So, make sure that their personality fits a dog of that size.

Q What are the strengths and things to pay attention to when considering adopting a bully breed?

A Strengths: Bully breeds tend to be extremely people-oriented, so adoption could be a good choice if you're looking for a companion to give you a lot of personal attention. They are also often that way with strangers. The sociability of the breed is amazing. If they've been well-socialized and brought up to love people, they just love all people. Also, if you're an active person they can keep up with you.

Pay attention: You want to make sure they're social with other animals. If you have an environment where you're taking them all over the place, make sure that's tested beforehand because if they haven't been socialized well, they can develop prey drive or aggression towards other dogs. The other negative is people's attitude towards them can affect things. How they're perceived is important and people are sensitive to that, but I think the benefits outweigh the negatives. ■

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PAWS CHICAGO'S BULLY BREED ALUMNI

by Emily Marron

MANY BULLY BREEDS
HAVE PASSED THROUGH
PAWS ON THEIR WAY TO
LOVING, PERMANENT
HOMES. WE CHECKED
IN WITH A FEW TO SEE
HOW THEY ARE DOING.



RED OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Seven-year-old Red tried to protect his owner when burglars invaded his home in 2009. His owner was beaten and Red was shot in the back, losing the use of his hind legs. The wounded owner was unable to care for Red and he landed at the city pound. PAWS couldn't let this hero perish and took him in, knowing it would be challenging to find the right family. But in 2012, Dawn, the perfect adopter, came forward. At 13, Red is thriving and

loves to play in his huge fenced yard. Red recently made a surprise appearance at a PAWS volunteer appreciation party, where he kept himself busy greeting everyone and hustling around looking for cake crumbs and affection. "Our family loves him dearly and I am eternally grateful to PAWS for allowing me to adopt such a wonderful soul!" Dawn says.

CHIEF THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

On Christmas Eve 2014, a bully breed puppy was found wandering the streets of Chicago. That same night, Karina was giving her fiancé a "dog package" filled with toys and treats, letting him know she was ready for their first dog, something he'd wanted for a while. About a week later they received their first foster email from PAWS, and there was Chief. It was meant to be. Chief had pneumonia from being out in the cold and needed a foster home as soon as possible. Karina and her fiancé stepped in, and they've been one happy family ever since, adopting Chief in January 2015.



Follow Chief on Instagram at @chiefofthechi.

PIGLET & KINGSTON A FAMILY MATTER

Joanne and David came into PAWS to adopt a dog and left the proud owners of Piglet, named after her adorable snorting. The couple heard that she had a puppy available for adoption, and after some "wouldn't it be crazy if..." discussions, decided they had to meet him. Piglet's puppy, Kingston, is a beautiful white bully breed who had to have both eyes removed due to a serious condition present at birth. It didn't take long for them to realize they were going to be the proud owners of two bully breeds. It's been over a year now, and the family of four couldn't be happier. Kingston loves to follow his mom around and even nap right on top of her. Piglet is a loving mother who helps guide Kingston and give him the extra confidence he needs. "Today, we have two amazing best friends, cuddle monsters and our daily reminder why rescues are the best dogs in the whole world," Joanne and David say.



Follow them on Instagram at @pigletandkingston.

BUBBLE HAIRLESS TO HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

In October 2014, Bubble was found in a trashcan, hairless from a bad skin infection and weighing a mere 5 pounds. After he was diagnosed with severe Demodex mange, a treatable, noncontagious condition that can take months to heal, the PAWS shelter medicine team and his foster mom, Maggie, ensured that Bubble received the love and socialization he needed. Today he's a happy 1-year-old who loves romping around on the beach with his dog buddies. His foster family was won over by his happy demeanor and sweet temperament and couldn't let him go: "He was literally picked up out of the trash and given a shot to live. He really does live every day like he is so happy to be alive," says Maggie. His happiness is evident to everyone he meets, dogs and humans alike. While it's too cold to swim now, keep an eye out for a smiling Bubble on the beach this summer. "The love he has to give is just so special. It's truly amazing to own such a wonderful pup!" Maggie says.



Follow Bubble on Instagram at @bubble_the_pitbull.

NABBI SURPRISE, YOU HAVE A PIT BULL

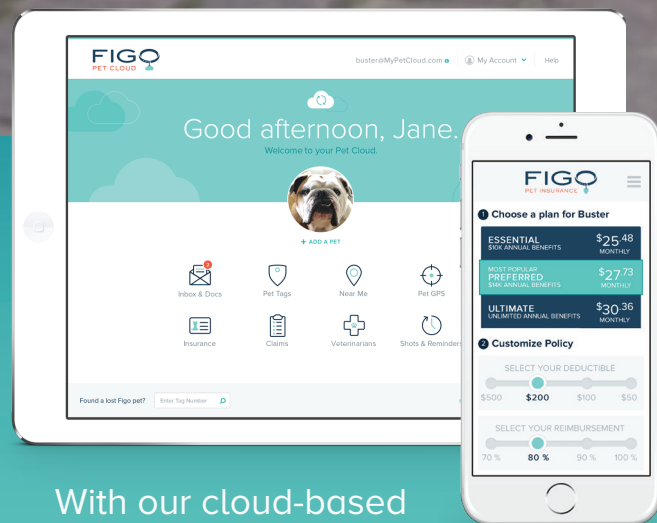
Nabbi's family knew she was the dog for them the moment they saw her. They adopted Nabbi from PAWS in January 2014, after losing their 14-year-old dog to a brain tumor. It wasn't until a couple months and one DNA test later they discovered their sweet, gentle dog was half pit bull. This came as a shock to Nabbi's mom, Gina. Like many others, she had been led to believe pit bulls were aggressive and dangerous. "I had always been terrified of the breed because of the stereotypes I was led to believe. Nabbi changed every perception I ever had about pit bulls," Gina says. "She is the best dog we have ever had. I thank God that we walked into PAWS that day and found her." Gina and her husband have developed a love for the breed and have opened their home to three more rescued pit bulls, including a three-legged dog named Larry and another dog who was surrendered at the city pound and was scheduled to be euthanized. And it's all thanks to Nabbi. "Nabbi is the opposite of everything I thought pit bulls were!" Gina says.





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LIVEGOOD



COLLEEN FRY HELPING OTHERS WHILE HEALING FROM LOSS

by Julia Poukatch

COLLEEN FRY WANTED TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE. When Charley, her Wheaten Terrier, passed away two years ago from cancer, she found a way to honor his memory at PAWS Chicago. "I walked into PAWS for the first time to donate Charley's toys and blankets, and realized I could volunteer," she says. Colleen came to PAWS to heal from the loss of Charley, but her relationship with PAWS has just kept growing.

Colleen has lived in Chicago for nearly 40 years, but grew up in the southern suburbs. She went to college in Iowa and moved to the city to pursue a career in acting, working with a musical trio called Stardust. After getting married and having children, she became a meeting planner for a group of interior designers.

Now retired, Colleen loves being a PAWS Adoption Counselor. "It is incredibly rewarding to see pets find their forever homes," she says. "What really moves me is when the older dogs or dogs with physical challenges go home. Everybody loves a cuddly puppy but when the dogs who might have missing teeth, or are blind, maybe they are getting around on three legs when they go home, well, it just makes me so happy. I love it when people see past the challenges and fall in love with their dog. It truly is a perfect match."

Colleen is also a mentor to new volunteers. "What I am signed up for includes anything that needs to be done," she says. And her support of animals and PAWS doesn't stop there. She and her husband, Chip, are generous supporters, helping provide funds for PAWS Chicago's operations through the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.

Involvement with PAWS came full circle when Colleen and Chip also became PAWS adopters, opening their hearts and their home to Lily, a Cockapoo mix. "In September 2014, I was leaving a volunteer appreciation party at PAWS. I was taking a walk past the dog suites and there was this little white and cream dog. I picked her up, she put her head on my shoulder and that was it." Lily is a "delightful, really smart little dog," Colleen says, adding she's also a very good soccer player and loves to chase squirrels.

Colleen considers herself fortunate to have found her place at PAWS, and we know the animals she has helped are lucky to have her here. "I think as you get older and you have raised your family, you're retired, you think OK, what's next?" she says.

"If you're lucky like I am with PAWS, you find an organization or cause that you believe in and can contribute to. I am constantly learning things at PAWS about different breeds, body language of dogs, different training techniques. It is fascinating. One thing I do know is that when you have the love of a dog, it is a hard bond to break. And why would you? They are amazing, loyal, loving beings." ■



PAWS alumni Lily



LONGEVITY FOR DOGS

GO RAW, AND OTHER TIPS FROM DR. BARBARA ROYAL

by Monica Ginsburg

WANT TO CURE WHAT AILS YOUR AGING PET? START BY USING FOODS THAT PACK A HIGHER NUTRITIONAL PUNCH, SAYS DR. BARBARA ROYAL, owner of The Royal Treatment Veterinary Center in Chicago and a pioneer in integrative veterinary medicine.

In her practice, Dr. Royal says she regularly sees how better nutrition can improve an animal's overall health, reduce inflammation and ease symptoms of chronic diseases like arthritis. "Aging is not a disease," she says. "You should be functional until you go." Here's what else she has to say about the importance of wild nutrition, food no-no's and why your dog could use a massage, too.

Q Tell us what's new in the field of antiaging and longevity for pets.

A The latest news is actually the oldest: Better nutrition is the number one thing we can do to combat aging. Improve the diet and you'll see an incredible amount of resilience, even in a very old body. I see lots of animals come in with chronic ear infections, arthritis, vision problems or animals who are overweight. Many noncommunicable diseases are entirely based on nutrition.

Q How can we improve our pets' nutrition?

A We need to look at things we already know from nature. The GI tract of a carnivore does not expect processed grains. I see dogs come in with what the owner says is a sensitive stomach. Dogs are scavengers. They should never have a sensitive stomach. Usually it's the body saying it's getting the wrong food. We've created a diet of carbohydrate-rich food that is quick, convenient and easy to store, instead of food that will actually make a body healthy.

By far the best option is raw food, which is closest to what dogs would eat in the wild. Prepared raw food come in a variety of meat sources and is packed with vitamins,

minerals, and supplements to make a complete and balanced meal. They typically come in frozen patties and nuggets, which you thaw before feeding to your pet.

A good-quality canned food would be better than dry kibble. It's not as highly processed and it doesn't need the same carbohydrate level to keep it shelf-stable. The protein in canned food is closer to its original form, which makes it easier for the body to assimilate in an appropriate way.

And don't forget to look at the label. The five foods to avoid—corn, soy, wheat, white potato and peanut butter—are off-limits because they are carbs and inflammatory. They are present in many varieties of kibble and treats.

“BETTER NUTRITION IS THE NUMBER ONE THING WE CAN DO TO COMBAT AGING.”

—BARBARA ROYAL

Q We know diet and exercise go hand in hand. What about older dogs who have trouble walking?

A Movement is your friend! If your pet hasn't had a lot of exercise, start with short, frequent, low-impact exercise. Older dogs with arthritis often benefit from walking in water. Walking in any water at armpit level is a low-impact way to encourage movement. When you're on a walk outdoors, don't take the easiest path. You want your pet to get the full range of motion rather than shuffling along on the sidewalks. A prewalk rubdown of your dog's feet is an amazing massage therapy to increase circulation. Massage is also excellent to start with younger pets and it's great for bonding with your dog.

Q What about people who are scared of raw?

A There's a perception that raw food is too rich for some dogs or that raw food carries a risk. There's a risk with any meat product you bring into your home, and you have to follow manufacturer's instructions for freezing, thawing and preparing. Percentage-wise, there's more risk and recall associated with dry and canned food than with raw food.

Q How about an older dog who may be ill or nearing the end of its life?

A I never underestimate the healing power of the body. My optimism is eternal. There's never a good reason not to get an optimal diet for your pet. ■

DOG-FRIENDLY CHICKEN BROTH

When you're sick, nothing does the trick quite like a bowl of chicken soup. Your pet may feel the same way. Here is Dr. Royal's recipe for chicken bone broth, which will help soothe congestion and cough. She recommends using fresh, organic ingredients when possible.

Ingredients:

- 1 whole organic chicken carcass or other raw bones
- Assorted fruits and vegetables including carrots, kale, celery, cut lemon, cut apple. Note: do not add onions or garlic as they are toxic to dogs and cats.
- 1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar, optional
- 1 tablespoon turmeric*
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon basil
- Juice from two lemons
- Organic chicken pieces

Cover chicken carcass or bones with water in a large pot. Simmer for 8 to 12 hours (you may start offering small amounts after two hours if needed).

Strain broth in a colander.

Add herbs, spices, lemon juice and chicken pieces.

Feed 1/2 cup warm (not hot) broth 4 to 6 times daily for a 30- to 50-lb dog. Broth will keep in the refrigerator for 3 to 5 days, and will last one year in the freezer. You can freeze broth in an ice cube tray and use as a healthy treat.

**Turmeric is a great anti-inflammatory ingredient. The other herbs have antiviral and antibacterial properties and also support the blood and immune system.*

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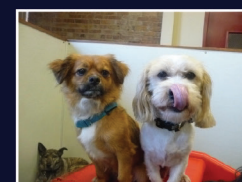
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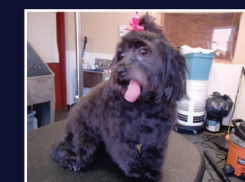
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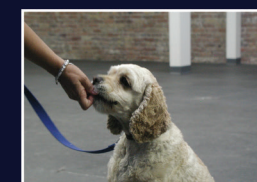
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PAWSAROUNDTOWN



Thousands of people and their canine companions braved the rain to participate in the 15th annual Run for Their Lives on June 14, 2015. While getting off to a wet start, this event was all sunshine for the homeless pets saved during a record-setting year for fundraising. Thank you to Unleashed by Petco for presenting the event and to Zoetis for sponsoring the VIP post-race party, where members celebrated their life-saving efforts.

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Beach Party



More than 400 animal lovers and their dogs boarded the Castaways ship deck on July 23, 2015, for the 13th Annual Beach Party. Guests soaked up the sun, danced the night away and raised money to save homeless pets. Thanks to the generosity of all of our sponsors, guests, donors, volunteers and vendors, the event raised critical funds needed to continue the PAWS mission to make Chicago a No Kill city.



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IN MEMORY OF STANTON COOK

Stanton R. Cook, former CEO of the Tribune Company, died September 3, 2015, at the age of 90. Cook, who is credited with increasing the company’s independence and public influence, had a wide variety of interests and a voracious appetite for knowledge.

But Cook is particularly remembered by family and friends for his compassion for animals: “We used to say that if we were reborn, we’d like to come back as one of Stan’s dogs because he treated them so well,” former Tribune colleague Byron Campbell said in a 2008 interview.

Following Cook’s death, his family suggested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Cook’s honor to the Leelanau School, a boarding school in Michigan, or to PAWS Chicago. “Dad always had dogs,” Cook’s son Doug says. “He loved watching them interact with each other, and he loved seeing them grow up.”

As Cook got older, he no longer had his own dog. Instead, he often came by Doug’s home to “borrow” Bo, Doug’s Rhodesian Ridgeback rescue dog. “Dad and Bo were best of friends,” Doug says. “He would come and pick up Bo and they would go to his Michigan home for weeks—it was like Bo was away at camp.”

And Cook loved travelling to New Mexico to visit his daughter, Nancy, his grandchildren and their menagerie of animals. Those visits, and being surrounded by all the kids and animals, was “like going to Disneyland for him,” Doug recalls.

Cook was born in Chicago in 1925. He grew up in Park Ridge, served in the military during World War II and received a degree in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University. Cook started at the Tribune in 1951 and rose through the ranks, becoming publisher in 1973. “His is the classic bootstrap story. Nothing was handed to him. He was a Midwestern guy whose heart was in Chicago. He had a great range of talents and interests, but he also flew under the radar,” Doug says. “On one hand, he was the guy who ran the Tribune, but he was also the goofy guy who loved to spend time talking to his dogs.”

For his 90th birthday, Cook said he wanted to have a party. The family celebrated the day in July at Cook’s Kenilworth home. “So many people showed up—it showed what an influence he had had on so many people’s lives,” Doug says.

Cook is survived by five children and seven grandchildren.



Stanton Cook with Coco



Stanton Cook with Maya

IN MEMORY OF DIANE COLE

PAWS Chicago lost a great volunteer, supporter and friend when Diane Cole passed away. Through her countless hours as a Dog Town and Kitty City volunteer, she selflessly gave love and encouragement to hundreds of PAWS dogs and cats. What they will never know is how much their unconditional love and companionship meant to Diane, through the best of times, and eventually, through her battle with lung cancer.

Susan Frank, Diane’s fellow volunteer and longtime friend, recalls that Diane found joy in snuggling, hugging and caring for every PAWS pet she met. When asked why PAWS held a special place in Diane’s heart for so many years, Susan replied, “I know it was the highlight of her day, the highlight of her existence in life—animals were. She just loved them dearly and related to them. They gave her so much love and strength and compassion.”

Diane felt a deep sense of connection and responsibility for our canine and feline friends. As a Guardian Angel, she generously included PAWS Chicago in her estate plans, providing resources to continue PAWS Chicago’s No Kill mission. While Diane is no longer with us, her decision to leave a generous legacy secures the lives and the future for so many pets.



Diane Cole with Roxie



IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA CALLEN



IN MEMORY OF SYL AND MARY ANN WEISSENSSEL

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Honor people, pets or special occasions with a lifesaving donation to PAWS Chicago.

To make a tribute or memorial donation, call **773-475-4242** or visit pawschicago.org/tributes.



Rita and John Canning with Smokey

IN MEMORY OF SMOKEY

John and Rita Canning’s dog, Smokey, passed away in November 2015, a few months shy of his 13th birthday. The 135-pound black Labrador Retriever “was a gentle giant who tolerated being adored,” the couple recalls.

After joining the family as a puppy, Smokey helped guide them throughout his life. Smokey’s favorite activity was riding around in the family’s Lexus. He would sit on the backseat with his paws on the front arm rest. “The three of us would be shoulder to shoulder,” John says. “He wanted to look out and make sure we were all going in the right direction.”

For Rita, Smokey was a constant companion who would follow her from room to room, even when she told him to stay where he was because she’d be right back. “We would lock eyes and I could look into his soul,” she says. Rita took care of Smokey in his later years. As he got older, and started to suffer from diabetes and seizures, Rita would get down on the floor with Smokey. “I would be there with him and he would provide great comfort to me.”

In his youth, Smokey was renowned for his athleticism. He could jump off a diving board into the family pool, and catch a Frisbee before hitting the water, John remembers. “He’d make us laugh every day.”

John’s fondest memory is of Smokey falling asleep on top of his feet, contentedly snoring loudly as John watched television. Smokey even knew about Christmas and picked out a gift for himself from under the tree each day leading up to the holiday. “He only wanted one gift a day, but he would be so proud he’d carry it around. We would go for a walk and he would bring his new big bone for everyone to see,” John says.

For Rita and John, it is still hard to walk around their Inverness neighborhood because everything reminds them of Smokey. Even their kitchen, where Smokey had his bed, can bring back their sharp sense of loss. “I still wake up thinking I need to take Smokey for a walk before work,” John says. “And then I remember he’s gone.”

Smokey will be greatly missed by Rita, John, and their six children and 10 grandchildren. The couple are active supporters of PAWS, as well as a number of other charities in the areas of poverty, education, domestic abuse and health care. Rita opened WINGS Safe House, the first domestic violence shelter in the northwest suburbs. Working with the Big Shoulders Fund, John raised more than \$100 million for Chicago parochial schools. He is also cofounder and chairman of the Chicago-based private equity investment firm Madison Dearborn Partners.



IN MEMORY OF SAMMI

Sammi came into my life in the midst of the Chicago Cubs ill-fated, 2003 playoff run, and as her brother was named by PAWS staff after outfielder Moises Alou (who in a fit of irony was also the man involved in the botched fan-interference play that many still say cost those same Cubs a world title), she too was christened, quite brusquely at that, after slugger Sammy Sosa. This at least partially explains how the adopted pair became Mr. Thom and Sammi instead; if only to erase the stain of my regret.

From the first Sammi was both quiet and shy, her lone concern being that of the welfare of her brother. But somewhere around 2 years of age she’d find her voice with me, and in commandeering our home she let it be known that her every opinion and feeling was worth hearing. And by this I mean to say that I came to respect her place among us as equal to my own.

For Sammi’s empathy was robust and no less wrung forward than a true heart. Vigilant, restive, and rather timely when needed most, I learned appreciation for the kind of magic that was in this spry sphinx, so much so that when I lost her, and suddenly too in the midst of her 12th year, and I far from home on a world tour, I cried and cried over my own impending impoverishment. Sammi having understood all along that one should never hold back, not even for a second’s pause, from those that need of you most.



William Corgan
(pictured at right with Sammi and Mr. Thom)

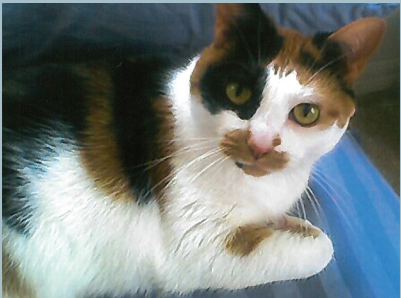


IN HONOR OF THE WEDDING OF CHRISTIAN RICCI AND KERI GATHMAN

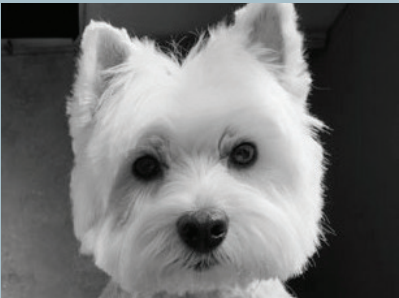


IN HONOR OF ROMINA PLINER

“A big part of a Bat Mitzvah milestone celebration is completing a tzedakah (charity project) and I chose PAWS Chicago. I raised money by asking my guests for monetary contributions in lieu of gifts and then donated the money to PAWS. My family has been supporting PAWS’ No Kill mission for many years; our beloved kitty Schrodinger was adopted from PAWS last Christmas. I wanted to do something for other animals who have not yet found their forever families, but needed a happy, safe place to stay. I also just began volunteering for PAWS Family Service, which is another great way for me to help take care of rescued animals and make more people aware of how great PAWS is!”



IN MEMORY OF JAX CANNING



IN MEMORY OF JIMMY MALLUL



IN MEMORY OF ROCCO BRINDELL



IN MEMORY OF SCRUFFY AGNE



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Attend our special events and mingle with fellow animal lovers while raising funds for homeless pets. See our events calendar at pawschicago.org/events.

MAKE A DONATION

It is through the generosity of our community that PAWS Chicago can save the lives of homeless pets. There are many ways to support PAWS. Learn more and donate today at pawschicago.org/donate.

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Through the PAWS Chicago Guardian Angel program, Robert Kabakoff has made a lasting commitment to homeless animals.

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Robert Kabakoff Leaves a Legacy for the Animals

When Robert Kabakoff adopted his first dog, Zydeco, from the city pound in Phoenix, Arizona, the state of homeless animals left a lasting mark. "The sadness that I felt from seeing the living conditions motivated me to do all that I could for animals in need," says Robert. "I truly wish that I could have been able to take all of the orphaned animals home that day but promised myself that I would do more throughout my life to promote animal adoption."

After becoming involved with PAWS Chicago—as a volunteer, donor, fundraiser and Development Board member, Robert worked with his attorney to plan a trust which included a gift for PAWS Chicago through its Guardian Angel program so that homeless pets would be taken care of if he were no longer around to do so.

According to Robert, "The process of setting up my trust was very easy with the help of my lawyer. Including PAWS Chicago in my trust took only a matter of minutes."

Through PAWS Chicago's Guardian Angel program, Robert takes comfort in knowing that he will continue to help create a No Kill Chicago, even after he is gone.

"Katie and I don't have any children of our own and we really want to make a difference with such a wonderful cause," says Robert. "I couldn't be happier to help provide food, shelter and foster care until homeless pets can find their forever home. I hope my gift will provide an even better environment for homeless and sheltered animals as they wait to be adopted."