SHOPPING FOR A **GOOD CAUSE**

With the holiday shopping season just around the corner, if you are planning to do some online shopping, remember to shop through Amazon Smile instead of "regular" Amazon.com!

By placing your orders through smile.amazon.com, you can select your charity of choice (might we suggest the Humane Society of West Alabama?) and a small portion of your purchase will be donated! There is no additional cost to you. If you feel safer shopping from home this year, this is a great way to still support a small, local charity from the comfort of your couch.

Humane Society of West Alabama

P.O. Box 70054 Tuscaloosa, AL 35407

Phone: (205) 554-0011 Fax: (205) 248-7019 humaneswa@yahoo.com humanesocietyofwa.org





CURRENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

Be Cool Y'all: Fundraiser Shirts for Sale

Do you want to look fashionable and support a good cause all at the same time? Then make sure to buy one of our new "Be Cool Y'all: Adopt Don't Shop"

shirts! This summer we held a contest on social media to design our new shirts and former cat-shelter volunteer Kaylin B. won with this "pawesome" design. The shirts come in five different colors and three different styles (short sleeve, long sleeve, and youth), so there is a shirt for everyone. To get in on the action, visit our online store and order yours today! We've already sold over 100 shirts, but with new colors made available regularly, we hope you come back for more. Find yours at:



https://www.bonfire.com/be-cool-yall-adopt-dont-shop/

2021 HSWA Calendars

The 2021 HSWA Calendars are nearly ready! We've been working behind the scenes with Wags to Riches Photography to have mini-photoshoots with our supporters' pets and our shelter pets to create our annual masterpieces. While COVID-19 has added an additional challenge in making sure our photoshoots are done safely, we're confident that our 2021 Dog Calendar and our 2021 Cat Calendar will be worthy of displaying on the walls of your home and office soon enough. Stay tuned to our website's Events page as well as social media for instructions on where to buy yours when the time comes! Make sure to save a space in those stockings for one of each!

#GivingTuesday2020: December 1st

The Humane Society of West Alabama will once again be participating in #GivingTuesday this year. Giving Tuesday was "created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past seven years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity" (givingtuesday.org). If you're interested in supporting our organization, check out social media in the days leading up to December 1st for great ways to get involved and donate. Whether it is through a monetary donation, running your own grassroots fundraiser (who doesn't love a bake sale?!), helping get the word out about our group, or volunteering, we look forward to, and rely upon, your support!



Follow us on social media! Facebook: facebook.com/humaneswa



Instagram: @humanesocietyofwacats & @humanesocietyofwadogs



Wag Rag & Cat's Meow

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WANTED: DOG HOUSE HEROES

The Humane Society of West Alabama has been running the Canine Classic 5K road race since 2002. This event has regularly served as our largest annual fundraiser, but, unfortunately this year, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel it. While we missed seeing everyone out to support us at Kentuck Park this September, we knew it was the right choice for the safety of the participants and our event volunteers.

Like so many people who are spending more time at home, we have been using the extra time afforded to us to make necessary repairs to our shelters. In the process of assessing our buildings, we realized there is a very large project looming at our Dog House; all of the outdoor dog runs need to be replaced! While the current ones have held up for a long time, there is only so much weathering wire fencing can take. The estimated cost of the repairs is \$4,000. In a year when our largest annual fundraiser had to be cancelled, discovering this was necessary was quite the shock. But this is where you can come in; we're looking for Dog House Heroes!

For a tax-deductible donation of \$500, a kennel will be named in honor of your family or company for the 2021 calendar year. When the dogs who reside in those kennels are featured in traditional or social media, you'll be named as our HSWA Dog House Hero who helped make these upgrades possible! As you may know, we receive no government funding, so if you'd like to get involved in helping our pups, please mail your check to P.O. Box 70054, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35407. Thank you so much for your support! We could not do what we do without YOU!



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ON THE COVER

Polly Peachum is ready for the pawlidays! Polly and her brother, Captain Macheath, are patiently awaiting their second chance at happiness. December marks their one-year anniversary at our shelter. (Photo courtesy of Wags to Riches Photography.)



Annabel wants a true "forever" friend.

ANNABEL'S SECOND CHANCE

Annabel is looking for her second chance at forever!

This beautiful 3-year old Mountain Cur mix was adopted from us, but was returned once it became clear that her new home was causing her too much anxiety.

We now know that Annabel's perfect home will involve a large fenced-in yard where she can run and play and have space to herself where she can be a happy, care-free dog! She just loves being outside, but also doesn't mind being crated at night after she's had a fun day outside being active. This sweet girl loves to love on people, but she just doesn't feel the need to be with humans all the time. She gets upset when she's around young boys, likely due to some past trauma, so probably a home without children would be best for her.

Annabel is heartworm negative, fully vaccinated, spayed, and microchipped! If you think you can give our girl a second chance at happiness, please get in touch by emailing humaneswa@yahoo.com or call (205) 554-0011 (leave a message).

"You won't change the world by saving an animal. But you will change that animal's world." - Unknown



BRENDA SUE: NOW AND THEN

Brenda Sue (now Phoebe) was one of the four dogs we rescued from the hoarder (see also: Stewie's story). It didn't take long for adopter Ashley, to see how great this beautiful girl is, despite all she's been through. Ashley states that when she saw sweet Phoebe's face staring back at her on PetFinder, she knew deep down in her heart that this was to be her new dog. Hey, when you know, you know!

STEWIE: "I'M A SURVIVOR"

Stewie was one of 29 dogs that were pulled by Animal Control from a dog hoarding case. We were able to take four of the dogs into our care to teach them what love really looks like by finding them great new homes.

Stewie is a 3-year old Labrador/terrier mix with the cutest pointy ears and a megawatt smile. He is a smart pup who knows commands, like "sit," and is eager to learn more. He loves showing off that grin when he knows humans are going to pay attention to him. This handsome guy is very playful, so we'd love to place him in a home that will allow him to expend all his fun energy.

Having come from a home with 28 other dogs, Stewie will require someone who will patiently help him get used to the big, wide world. Things like car rides and being outside alone are all new to him!

We know there is the right person out there for this loveable dog. To learn more about Stewie, you can see his whole profile under "Adoptable Dogs" on our website: humanesocietyofwa.org.

All HSWA dogs are either at our Dog Adoption Facility or in foster homes. All dogs require an appointment to meet.



Despite everything, he's still smiling.



 ${\it ChaCha\ (left)\ and\ Frenchie\ (right)\ are\ precious\ baby\ sisters\ who\ arrived\ in\ late\ October.}$

2020: THE NEVER-ENDING KITTEN SEASON

As was the case with so many businesses, when the coronavirus pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, local animal rescue organizations and veterinary clinics that work on low-cost spay and neuter surgeries had to temporarily close or scale back their efforts while new protocols and precautions were put into place to keep volunteers and employees safe.

This was a particularly awful time for the lockdown to hit because it was right as Kitten Season was ramping up! Countless cats who were due to be fixed had to go back home or to the streets and, inevitably, ended up pregnant.



Gizmo's Floof Level: 10/10

For a region of the country that is already hard-hit by Kitten Season because of the year-round warm temperatures, this year has been particularly bad because so many cats were not fixed when they should have been. Well into late autumn, shelters and rescues like ours are still fielding regular calls and emails from people asking for help with momma cats and their new kittens. Despite expanding our foster home system this year and having a record-setting number of adoptions in August, we still cannot keep up with the demand.

All kittens at the HSWA receive three rounds of vaccinations, dewormer, monthly flea treatments, spay/neuter, and microchips (and that's just for the perfectly health ones!). Add in food, litter, and cleaning supplies galore, Kitten Season 2020 has been a tough one not just on our volunteers, but on our bank account. With deep gratitude to all our financial supporters, fosters, volunteers, and adopters: thank you for all your help in a year when we know everyone is struggling. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

MADDIE LIVES HAPPILY EVER AFTER

As a part of our adoption contract, any of our animals are unconditionally welcomed back into our group if their new home doesn't work out. Holding the record for "longest time between adoption and return" is Maddie. She was adopted at 9 weeks old and returned after 18 YEARS when her owner's health began to fail.

Senior cats are notoriously difficult to find homes for, so naturally we were concerned about our sweet old granny cat Maddie.

Luckily, Maddie was in good health, loved being around humans, and was insanely adorable with her bobtail.

Maddie struck gold during the pandemic by finding her "purrfect" match with a librarian who was working from home and wanted some company. Now she gets to curl up wherever she likes and snooze her golden years away with someone who loves her.

