

COMMUNITY SHOUT OUT

This shout out goes out to our amazing VOLUNTEERS! Even with the ongoing global health crisis, our volunteers have continued to show up every day to care for our adoptable dogs and cats. Every day they are sanitizing our shelters to make them safe for our animals and our fellow volunteers.

And of course, a massive thank you to all of our fosters who have really stepped up and made the best of their “work from home” time to take in dogs and cats that either needed a break from the shelter or a little extra TLC.

Thank you, thank you, to our wonderful team of helpers!

Humane Society of West Alabama

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Cat Adoption Center
2430 36th Street, Northport
Open by appointment only
during COVID-19

Dog Adoption Center
By Appointment Only



UPCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to either cancel or scale-back our usual Spring, Summer, and Fall events. Due to the stay-at-home order, both Bark in the Park and the Druid City Arts Festival were cancelled. We are currently looking into a scaled-back version of the Canine Classic 5K that is scheduled to happen on September 12th, 2020. With so many unknowns, we are doing our best to proceed as cautiously as possible in these uncertain times and will continue to keep our supporters up-to-date on what we're up to through our social media channels.

Of course, many of these events act as fundraisers for the Humane Society of West Alabama. Because we don't receive any government funding or have any financial ties to large national organizations, such as the Humane Society of the United States, we rely solely on donations from the public and fundraisers like the Canine Classic 5K to help with our veterinary bills and the upkeep of our shelters. Since we are 100% volunteer-run, our administrative costs are, fortunately, very minimal.

If you had plans to attend any of these events and it is still within your means to do so, please donate to the HSWA. All donations are tax-deductible. We can only do what we do because we have your support, so thank you!

2021 Calendars

It's only May, but we're thinking about 2021 already! Thanks to the success of last year's calendar that was photographed and designed by Wags to Riches Photography, we are looking forward to creating another great keepsake for your wall or office in 2021.

Stay tuned to social media for upcoming deadlines and more information. You'll be able to support the HSWA by having your pet featured or you can sponsor a long-term resident of our shelters to have an adoptable dog or cat included too! Watch Facebook and Instagram (and of course our website) in the coming months for more details on how to get involved and when they calendars are available for purchase throughout the Tuscaloosa area.

PAST EVENTS

#GivingTuesdayNow

Due to the coronavirus, the organizers of #GivingTuesday (which is normally held in December) decided to put together a second day of global giving to help charities, such as ours, raise money to cover some of the expenses lost due to cancelled springtime fundraisers.

On Tuesday, May 5th, through social media, we were able to raise a small amount of funds to help with the veterinary bills that are mounting because of the influx of kittens at this time of year. Kitten Season is a notoriously expensive time for animal rescues such as ours, so we are very appreciative of everyone who was able to donate to us and to those who sent us a kind and encouraging word of support during these busy times.



Follow us on social media!

Facebook: facebook.com/humaneswa



Instagram: @humanesocietyofwacats & @humanesocietyofwadogs



Wag Rag & Cat's Meow

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MICROCHIPS: TINY BUT MIGHTY TECHNOLOGY

One of the easiest ways to have peace of mind when it comes to your fur-baby is to have your pet microchipped! If your dog or cat is ever lost or stolen, the microchip is a great way to increase your chances of being reunited. We highly recommend all pets be microchipped, even if they are indoor only, because there is always the chance of a “great escape.” Unlike tags and collars that can break or fall off, microchips are permanently inserted under the skin and registration of the chip lasts a lifetime.

Any time Animal Control or a kind citizen finds a stray dog or cat, the first thing that is done, or recommended, is to have the animal scanned for a chip. This can be done at any shelter or vet clinic for no cost. It's a wave of a wand between the shoulder blades. If the scanner picks up a microchip, a unique code within the chip will reveal who to contact. A quick reunion is ideal for the owner, the pet, and the already-crowded animal shelters.

At only the size of a grain of rice, microchips are easily and quickly injected by a veterinarian between the shoulder blades. No anesthetic is required and with no internal “power” source (like a battery) there is no upkeep required. Once your pet has the microchip on board, it's important to remember to register your chip. It is also critical to make sure you update the registration every time you move or change phone numbers. Oftentimes, we hear about a dog or cat being found with a microchip, but the phone number affiliated with it is out of order, rendering the microchip useless.

One more fun bonus about microchips: are you struggling to feed one pet a special diet but not the other? Check out microchip feeders! They “read” the chip and open only when that pet is right in front of the bowl. So no more fighting with Fluffy to stay away from Fido's expensive prescription food! To learn more about microchips, call your vet clinic today.



Wags to Riches
Photography

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ON THE COVER

Jax is a handsome terrier/ Shepherd mix who is ready to watch Alabama Football with you this fall!

Thank you to **Wags to Riches Photography** for the adorable pictures of Jax (cover) and Sugar (page 2). Wags to Riches photographs shelter animals in hopes of helping them find new homes by showcasing their true personalities. To learn more about the work this group does in Alabama, check them out on Facebook and Instagram.



Sugar is just as sweet as her name suggests.

ADD A LITTLE SWEETNESS TO YOUR LIFE

Sugar just “celebrated” her one-year anniversary with us at our Dog Shelter. For a full year, this beautiful Labrador/terrier mix has been looking for her chance to bring a little sugar into someone’s home.

Just like her name, she is a big ol’ sweet baby. She loves to run and play, chase tennis balls and bees, and chew on our tough Nylabones. She is often overlooked at our shelter because she’s a large dog at nearly 60 lbs, but that is 60 lbs of pure sweetness.

Although she originally tested negative, on her recheck we found out she

was positive for heartworm disease. She went through the full treatment like a champ and has been given a clean bill of health.

Sugar is up-to-date on her vet care, spayed, and is microchipped. She is on heartworm and flea/tick prevention. She is also fully crate trained.

This beautiful girl just wants someone to shower with affection; could that be you?

To read her full biography and to learn about how to adopt Sugar, visit **humanesocietyofwa.org**.

*“A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself.”
- Josh Billings*

HAPPY TAILS: GOOD DOGGIES FIND THEIR FUREVER HOMES



Happy tails and congratulations to these beautiful dogs and the many others who were able to find their homes recently! And an extra special congrats to Markie (bottom center) who was at our Dog Shelter for over one and a half years!

If there has been a silver lining to all of the safer-at-home rules and regulations, it has been that we have seen a significant increase in dog adoptions.

Our thanks to all of the families and individuals who have opened their hearts and their homes to these pups and have given them a second chance at love.

To see the dogs in our care that are currently available to bring some joy into your life, visit the “Adoptable Dogs” section of our website, humanesocietyofwa.org.



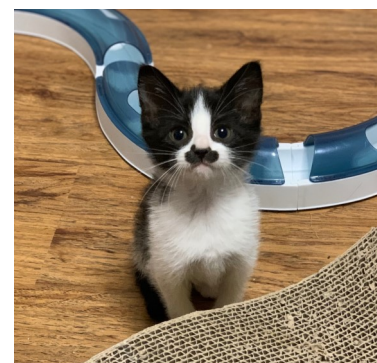
How many more days, weeks, months, or years will these girls have to spend at our shelter?

LONG-TERM RESIDENTS: INDIA AND PANSY

We’ve done the math on how long India (the tortoiseshell) and Pansy (the calico) have been at our Cat Shelter and the numbers are not great. Combined, they have been with us for over 5,400 days. These girls are as bonded as they come, so they must be adopted together. Unfortunately, they are shy around strangers. Pansy loves to be pet, but she sometimes forgets until you touch her and then she starts purring up a storm. India is very hand-shy, but she is food-motivated so she could easily learn to trust someone with some patience. Since they see different people every day, it’s hard for them to learn to trust; however, that wouldn’t be an issue in a home of their own. They love to chase each other, play with catnip toys, and then cuddle up together in a bed that is two sizes too small. They are very low-maintenance cats just looking for a quiet place to learn how to love again. Visit **humanesocietyofwa.org** and click on “Adoptable Cats” to see their full profile and more pictures of them snuggling!

IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: KITTEN SEASON!

Kitten Season always comes fast and furious and this year has been no different. With so many spay/neuter clinics and TNR efforts suspended because of COVID-19, there are more kittens being born this year than in years past.



Excuse me, sorry to interrupt, but I mustache you a question...

Did you know that kittens are best adopted in pairs? No, really! For their continued well-being, many animal rescuers recommend making sure kittens have a buddy. Studies show cats with companions tend to be healthier in the long run. It also helps with socialization and keeps them happier by making sure they have a playmate at a young age. If you’re interested in adopting a little friend (or two) this year, fill out the adoption application at **humanesocietyofwa.org**.

WHY WE NEVER GIVE UP

After waiting *six years* for someone to give her a chance, Boots has finally found her home.

She was always a sassy lady at the shelter, but some days she would come across as downright mean. We knew her tummy troubles were part of why she was upset, but we also suspected it was because she didn’t like being surrounded by the other cats at our shelter. Not many people are willing to take a chance on a cat like Boots, but one day a young new volunteer named Anna met her. She convinced her family to give this chonky queen a shot at happiness in their home and the rest, as they say, is history! She may not be a “purrfect” cat, but she makes them laugh with her antics, like when she begs for human food or “sings the song of her people” at 2am.

Many tears were shed by our volunteers when she went home, but we are over-the-moon happy for our beautiful Boots. Congratulations!

