

COMMUNITY SHOUT OUT

Our sincere thanks to **Wags to Riches Photography** for taking the time to make our dogs and cats look glamorous in professional photoshoots.

Wags to Riches is made up entirely of volunteer photographers who use their free time to take high-quality pictures of shelter pets in our area to help improve their chances of being adopted. It is a free service offered to rescues like ours and we are so grateful! You can see their pictures throughout this newsletter, on our PetFinder, social media, and, of course, on their Facebook page: **facebook.com/Wags2RichesPhotography**

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

Cat Adoption Center
2430 36th Street, Northport
Open Saturdays 10am-2pm
(or by appointment)

Dog Adoption Center
By Appointment Only



UPCOMING EVENTS

DRUID CITY ARTS FESTIVAL: APRIL 5-6, 2019

Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports is pleased to announce their 10th Annual Druid City Arts Festival. With the Decade of DCAF comes many improvements, including an extra day! This year's festival will kick off Friday night with incredible musical performances and excellent art. Making the festival two days is just a start to the exciting tweaks we are making to our event. That includes the addition this year of The Humane Society of West Alabama. The HSWA will have an information booth at DCAF, along with several dogs, to create awareness, provide education, take donations, and sell merchandise for the organization.

By strengthening Tuscaloosa as a destination market for the arts circuit, Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports' goal is to position DCAF as a quality arts and music festival, while also educating, engaging and inspiring youth and adults about arts and humanities within Tuscaloosa's community. Not only has DCAF had rich success in introducing new music and visual artists to Tuscaloosa's community, DCAF has also provided a **free** day of fun and entertainment for everyone.

Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports is looking forward to seeing everyone at the 10th Annual Druid City Arts Festival on April 5-6, 2019 at the Government Plaza! Visit **druidcityartsfestival.com** for more information.

BARK IN THE PARK: APRIL 13, 2019

The 6th Annual Bark in the Park fundraiser event will be at the Will May Dog Park on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The purpose of the event is to raise money to provide much needed maintenance and park improvements for this very popular community green space and dog park. Annually, we have approximately 3,000 attendees at this very popular community event. Over \$18,000 was donated to the Will May Dog Park in 2018 from the proceeds of the event.

Bark in the Park 2019 will include a police K-9 exhibition, live music, dog washing, food trucks, opportunities to adopt a pet, a puppy photo booth, a pet parade, fantastic vendors, and, of course, tons of dogs in attendance!

But best of all, this event is entirely **FREE to attend!** So bring your pup and show your support for Tuscaloosa's canine community.

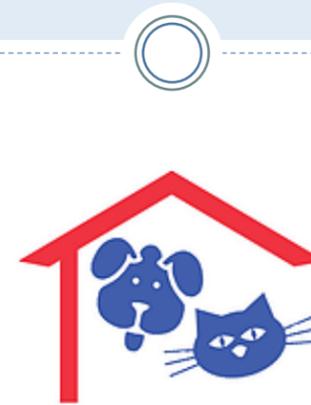


Follow us on social media!

Facebook: [facebook.com/humaneswa](https://www.facebook.com/humaneswa)



Instagram: [@humanesocietyofwacats](https://www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofwacats) & [@humanesocietyofwadogs](https://www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofwadogs)



Humane Society of West Alabama
BECAUSE WE CARE

Wag Rag & Cat's Meow

Spring 2019; Volume 7, Issue 1

INTRODUCING A NEW PET INTO YOUR HOME

One of the most common things we hear from people who are hesitating to adopt another pet is that they are worried about how their current pet may react to having a new furry companion introduced into the home. Luckily, there are plenty of resources out there to help make the transition smooth.

The Humane Society of West Alabama offers "trial adoptions" (particularly with dogs) to help alleviate some of the stress people may feel at the prospect of upsetting their current fur-babies. Trial adoptions run very similar to regular adoptions in that adopters must still be pre-approved for adoption, but there is a no-pressure one week (or longer if needed) trial period in which people can see if the new pet is a good fit. This is particularly important for those with children, other pets, and people who live in apartments. Our mission is to help find the best home possible, so we want adopters to feel comfortable in knowing that if it isn't a good match, it's okay to say so.

With our feline friends, the benefit of adopting from the HSWA is that we are a cage-free shelter, so all of our kitties are already used to regularly interacting with and adjusting to new cats. Plus, our volunteers spend a lot of time getting to know the pets in our care, so we can help point you in the right direction of one that would be perfect for your home. We also recommend watching Jackson Galaxy's tutorials (jacksongalaxy.com) on how to introduce new pets. He is a cat behaviorist and has some great tips! The easiest way to introduce new pets is to keep them separated at first and to feed them on opposite sides of a door or a baby gate. That way, the two animals learn to associate each other (and their smell) with rewards like food and treats!

If you have any questions about bringing a new pet home, we're here to help!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hey Joe!	2
Lila is a Growing Girl	2
Teddy Knows Love	2
TNR in Tuscaloosa	3
Senior Siblings	3
A Triple Adoption!	3
Druid City Arts Festival ...	4
Bark in the Park	4
Wags to Riches	4

ON THE COVER

Gibbs is the last of his litter remaining at the Cat Adoption Center. He is a skinny minnie kitty, so here he is looking fab in a fuzzy coat to help keep him warm. He has a gentle purrsonality that would make him a great addition to any home.

*Photo credit:
Wags to Riches
Photography*



Kisses are free at Joe's Kissing Booth.

DOGGY SMOOCHES WITH JOE!

Meet Joe! He is one of the sweetest dogs you could ever see with a cute little stubby tail. This boy will give you all the love and kisses you could ever want! He loves walks, fetch, and has a very impressive nose (he can follow scents like the best of 'em!).

He is a 1 1/2 to 2 year old Beagle/terrier mix and has a thick black, rust and white coat and floppy ears. Joe weighs about 35 pounds now and has plenty of energy so he makes a fantastic walking, running, and/or hiking buddy! Or all of the above!

He is playful and energetic yet settles

down and chills once some of his energy has been expended.

Joe would make a great family dog in that he should be fine with kids ages 6 and up. He will need a fenced-in yard if left outside unattended. He seems to get along well with other dogs. We have started on his crate training. Joe is up to date on his vet care, neutered, heartworm negative, on flea/tick/heartworm prevention and is even microchipped.

To learn more about Joe and our other adoptable animals, visit us at:

humanesocietyofwa.org

*“Unconditional love is as close as your nearest [animal] shelter.”
- Unknown*



TEDDY LEARNS WHAT LOVE IS

Once a part of a hoarding situation, Teddy didn't grow up with the benefits of consistent love. The HSWA fostered him at Hot Diggity Dog Day Camp to help him learn about affection, gain confidence and to be house trained. His new mom works at a doggy day care, so he goes to work with her during the day and is spoiled rotten at night with his other furry family members! Happy Tails to you, Teddy!

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

This sweet young lady is Lila; she is a nearly 1-year-old retriever/Labrador mix. She has a pretty tan, almost blonde, and white smooth coat with radar ears! She has some growing to do yet, but will probably get to about 45 pounds when she is full grown (which would make her a bit too big for an apartment). If you can believe it, this cutie pie was dropped off as a stray at our local animal shelter and no one came to claim her, so we took her into the HSWA and have loved learning about her ever since!

Lila is a very happy, loving dog that is so friendly and so wants to be with you! She has a lot of puppy energy but will settle down nicely. She loves to play with toys and would make a great walking/jogging partner. Lila does seem to play well with other dogs and tends to be the more submissive dog. Because of her size and energy-level, she will require a fenced-in yard if left unattended outside. Lila should be fine with children 10 and older, but not younger just due to her still being a bit jumpy and energetic.

To make an appointment to meet Lila, please contact us: humaneswa@yahoo.com (205) 554-0011



“What did you just say about my ears?”

Photo credit: Wags to Riches Photography



Pete (short for Peter Pan) has his left ear tipped, but he's still beautiful inside and out.

(EAR) TIPS APPRECIATED!

Sometimes at our shelter, but much more often on the streets, you'll see cats with the tip of their left ear missing. That means the cat has been “TNR'd.” TNR stands for “trap-neuter-return” and it is a huge asset to communities with large feral cat populations, like ours. The Tuscaloosa Spay and Neuter Incentive Program (TSNIP) works tirelessly in our area to help control feral and stray cat colonies. The benefit of having the ear tipped is that trappers and rescuers can easily identify cats that have already been fixed and focus on those that haven't.

Some cats, however, are trapped and turn out not to be feral at all; they've likely just been living in a feral colony to survive! We work with TSNIP to help find homes for these kitties, like Pete (above), who are perfectly adoptable.

To find out more about TSNIP and how to help, visit tsnip.org.



SENIOR SWEETIES

Sweet Pea (L) and Zora (R) are litter-mates who have been together for 14 years and came to us after their owner passed away. They want nothing more than to snuggle in your lap and have no problem pushing their way in to make it happen. They're impossible to resist!

In late 2018, we discovered a tumor on Zora's liver. Because of her age, we decided not to put her through invasive tests, but it is likely cancerous. We lovingly refer to her as our “little hospice patient” and if you didn't know any different, you wouldn't think anything was wrong with her. Sweet Pea takes such good care of his sister, but has no qualms about leaving her side if your lap is open for cuddles. **Zora and Sweet Pea are available for a double adoption only.** We would love for them to live out their remaining time (however long that may be—it could be years!) in a home of their own. If you want to be their hero, please fill out the adoption application found at humanesocietyofwa.org or come give them on a cuddle on Saturdays (we're open from 10am until 2pm).

A TRIPLE WHAMMY!

We always love a double adoption, but every once in a while we get blown away by a *triple* adoption.

Just before Christmas we had a visit from a potential adopter and her daughter to pick out a new cat for their home. We were running a “two-for-one special” at the time so one cat quickly turned into two, when sisters Truvy (below) and Shelby were chosen. But imagine our surprise when Curley, ALSO got chosen to go home with them! Needless to say, there were a lot of tears of joy from our volunteers. It is the BEST bittersweet feeling when this happens.

We get regular updates and the trio are doing great in their new home. They reportedly go everywhere together and have filled the home with more love (and fur!) than anyone thought possible. Congrats to our Christmas Miracle kitties: Truvy, Shelby, and Curley!

