

RESCUES HELP- ING RESCUES

Did you know the HSWA often partners up with other local rescues to find solutions to issues that we may not have the resources to resolve ourselves?

One such example is when people approach us about needing cats for pest patrol in their barns or warehouses. Since all of our adoptable cats are to be indoor-only, we now refer those individuals to the Tuscaloosa Spay and Neuter Incentive Program. TSNIP works on getting feral cats spayed/neutered, but they also often have perfect “mousers” available for adoption! Visit tsnip.org to learn more.

Humane Society of West Alabama

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PAST EVENTS

Be Cool Y'all: Shirts for Sale

Thank you to everyone who bought one of our “Be Cool Y'all” t-shirts! This was the first time we’ve ever attempted selling branded merchandise online and we were blown away by your support! If you didn’t get yours the first time around, the link to buy yours is always active and, coming soon, we’ll have tank tops available so you can show off your support (and your arms) in the summer months too! Find yours at:

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



Dog House Heroes



Recently, we told you about our new Dog House Heroes fundraiser. Our goal was to raise money so we could replace the runs at our Dog House that were in desperate need of repair after years of weathering the outdoor elements. We are thrilled to report that, with your support, we surpassed our fundraising goal! Not only were we able to replace the kennels, but we were also able to address some other repairs at the Dog House that we had put off for too long! Thank you SO much for your generous donations!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canine Classic 5K: September 18th

We are so excited to announce that we are working with the Tuscaloosa Track Club to bring the Canine Classic 5K back for the 2021 season! As you may know, we had to cancel the run in 2020 due to the pandemic, but with COVID vaccinations becoming more and more available, we are hopeful that 2021 will see the return of this great community event! Held annually in the middle of September, the Canine Classic 5K has been going strong for over 15 years. The Canine Classic regularly serves as our largest annual fundraiser, so while it was quite the blow to our organization to have to cancel it last year, we are hopeful this year will be bigger and better than ever to make up for last year’s loss. It’s a great day to come out and show your support for the HSWA by running or walking the course. Stay tuned to our social media, our website, and the local news in the coming months for how to sign up and get involved!



Wag Rag & Cat’s Meow

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REACHING A MILESTONE: 50 YEARS OF HELPING ANIMALS

The Humane Society of West Alabama is quickly approaching our 50th Anniversary! Founded in July 1971, our organization has continued to evolve over time to meet the needs of our community. Our volunteers work tirelessly, with the help of donations from the public, to house orphaned and stray animals while they await adoption into “paw”some new “fur”ever homes!

Originally known as the Tuscaloosa County Humane Society, we have faced many challenges over the years. As a newly-established 501(c)3 in the 70’s, we were responsible for performing the duties of animal control for both Tuscaloosa and Northport and housing those strays, all well continuing our functions as a non-profit humane society. Over the course of 50 years, we have had many ups and downs (including a temporary closure of our facilities due to a lack of funds). In 1994, we changed our name to the Humane Society of West Alabama and committed to being a 100% no-kill rescue. In the early 2000’s, we partnered with various organizations in town to form a cooperative venture to house hundreds of animals. This proved to be too expensive, so all the groups ultimately parted ways to focus on their singular missions. In 2019, we joined the Best Friends Partner Network to help in their efforts to make America a no-kill nation by 2025. Learn more about our story and how we have changed over the last 50 years at humanesocietyofwa.org/history.

We continue to strive to be a stable, long-lasting force in the rescue community. Without the support of our donors, our volunteers, our fosters, and our adopters, we would cease to exist. If you have adopted from us or volunteered with us over the last 50 years, we would love to hear from you! Send us your stories and pictures for a chance to be featured in our Summer Anniversary Special Newsletter (email HumaneSociety.WestAlabama@gmail.com).



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ON THE COVER

Denver is looking for his second chance at happiness! This smiling pup loves being outdoors and is ready to join you on all your summertime adventures! Whether it is hiking, swimming, playing at the dog park, or snuggles on the couch, Denver is up for just about anything!



Holly is tiny, but mighty!

LITTLE DOG, BIG HEART: MEET HOLLY

Holly is a 2-year old terrier mix who looks just like an overgrown Miniature Pinscher. Weighing in at 35 pounds, she was pulled from our local intake shelter because it was too overwhelming for her. Once in our care, she started to blossom into a social, playful, and loving dog!

We are not sure what happened, but Holly has some scarring on her back, so she is sensitive to being touched in that area. This pup has probably seen some trauma in her short life, but she is a spunky little thing who has a big heart, so she's ready to find someone who will love on her and treat her with kindness.

Holly would prefer a home without young children, but she has done really well with the other dogs she's been tested with at our shelter.

She is heartworm negative, fully vaccinated, spayed, and microchipped! Holly loves attention once she knows you and does great on a leash, so if you'd like to open your heart and home to her, please get in touch by emailing humaneswa@yahoo.com or call (205) 554-0011 (leave a message). **All adopters must be pre-approved, so please visit humanesocietyofwa.org and click on the "How to Adopt" tab for more information.**

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



STEVIE MAKES NEW FRIENDS

Stevie had a long road to recovery from pneumonia when he first came to us, but now he is living the good life! Adopted by the Brooks family, Stevie (now Jack) is living with fellow HSWA alum Huey (now Dudley). His family built him a little ramp to the yard so he could avoid the steep steps and this is where he met his new chicken buddy! Congrats to Stevie and his human, furry, and feathered friends!

TAREN IS JUST A BIG BABY!

Taren is a 5 to 6-year old American Bulldog/Shepherd mix with the biggest, pointiest ears you've ever seen! This gorgeous gal is currently thriving in her foster home, but she's still on the lookout for a true forever home.

Described as "extremely well-mannered" by her foster mom, Taren doesn't jump or bark often, and sleeps in her own doggie bed. When she came to us, she was slightly overweight at 70 pounds, but with regular exercise she has started to get closer to her ideal weight. Our vet has recommended that she be walked regularly (instead of just being left to sit in a yard alone), and already the benefits of those walks are showing themselves; Taren now has more energy!

As a fairly laid back dog, Taren would likely thrive as a single-pet or with another calm dog her size. She does great on a leash and likes car rides too, so we'd love to find her a home where she will be walked daily or perhaps taken to nearby trails for hiking trips.

If you're interested in adopting Taren, or any of our dogs, please get in touch by email or phone. All HSWA dogs are either at our Dog House or in foster homes. **All animals require an appointment to meet.**



Taren is ready to go for a W-A-L-K.

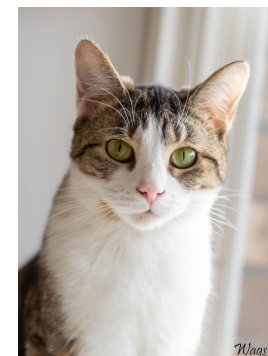


Arya (pictured) and her sister Maisey are two peas in a pod.

A TALE OF MANY TAILS

We are often asked by potential adopters why we insist upon everyone meeting with the animal (or animals) they are interested in adopting. While we can say "the cat picks you" until we are blue in the face, some people still think they can choose a new furry friend just based on a picture and a short biography alone.

So to best illustrate why it is so important to spend time with the animals first, here is a tale of many tails. Recently, on a Friday, a young woman came to potentially adopt a cat named Angelica. When she arrived, Angelica wanted nothing to do with her! But Bella, who has been in-and-out of our shelter since late 2017, was all over her, being uncharacteristically affectionate. So instead of Angelica, Bella was scooped up! The next day, someone else who was interested in adopting Bella came to meet Angelica instead (now that Bella had been adopted). Again, Angelica wanted nothing to do with her! But Arya and Maisey, who for months and months hadn't had anyone express interest in them, caught this young woman's eye. Those sisters were so funny and social during her visit, she took them home on the spot! But what about Angelica, you ask? A few days later, a young couple came to meet her, but this time they were warned she might seem a little standoff-ish at the shelter. We encouraged them to keep an open mind and that she may be different once she knew them in their home (because she was always friendly with the volunteers she knew). Well, imagine the surprise of our Adoption Counselor when Angelica was literally crawling all over them for attention and pets! Angelica went to her new forever home that very same day!



Bella chose her person!

The moral of this story, then, is to always take the time to meet everyone and make sure your new furry friend is the right fit for you AND for them!

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

It's not often that we declare two unrelated cats to be a bonded pair and it is even less often that we do that for kittens, but Arby and Gizmo broke all our rules when they formed such a strong bond while undergoing treatment for ringworm at our shelter that we couldn't stand to see them go their separate ways.

These boys played together, slept together, ate together, and even used the litter box together! We were on the hunt for the "purrfect" home for these cuties; we knew they were high-energy, but also incredibly gentle, so a home with children or other playful animals would definitely be the right fit.

Enter the Smith Family: Gizmo and Arby have been "exactly the kitties [their] family needed" and have already made fast friends with the resident kitty and their 4-year old daughter! Congrats, boys!

