

## Fostering Saves Lives

**F**ostering an animal (or a few!) is one of the most rewarding experiences a person can have. You are able to play a very large role in the enrichment of their lives by providing them TLC and socialization and preparing them for their future forever home! Foster care is also an alternative for animal lovers who can't make a long-term commitment, but still want to help rescue animals.



The Humane Society of Alamance County is very excited about our increase in the number of foster homes in our foster program, which now total 29 homes

available to take in cats and/or dogs on a regular basis. We are constantly recruiting via social media (Facebook), email and word of mouth. This year, we have recruited 14 new foster moms and dads through Facebook! In order to stay in better communication with each other, the Humane Society also set up a foster group on Facebook (HSAC Fosters) for daily discussion about everything from sharing photos, vet appointments, pending adoptions, and general topics. We also now have a dedicated foster coordinator who recruits, makes vet appointments, and communicates with all of the foster families. Due to an increase in foster homes, we've also been able to rescue more dogs and cats. Our goal is to eventually have 100 or more foster homes ready so that in the event of a reduction of foster parents, we won't have to say no to taking in animals and

getting them off long waiting lists.

Foster parents are an important backbone to the Humane Soci-

ety. We rely on fosters to take in needy animals and provide

them with the muchneeded love and socialization to prepare them for their forever homes. Being a foster parent often requires a commitment of up to several weeks, but it can be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do.

Oftentimes, foster homes provide emergency medical care. An emergency foster home was needed for Jack Sparrow, who had an eye infection and who is now partially blind. He is receiving lots of TLC and socialization in his foster home. Two kittens (Homer and Sophia) required eye surgery, one of them becoming completely blind and the other partially blind.

Their foster home provided them the necessary medical attention following their surgeries and helped them adapt to life with limited sight. We are now happy to report both Sophia and Homer have been adopted by two separate families!

*Please see "Fostering Saves" on page 2*



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## *Fostering Saves* (continued from page 1)

A couple of neonatal kittens (Raja and Rocco) were rescued and required a nursing mama cat. One of our foster parents bottle fed the babies until we found a nursing mama cat (Boots) from a supporter to take over the job of feeding the babies. At the present time, Boots is still nursing Rocco and Raja. Another mama cat (Liza) and her four babies (Margo, Morgana, Edith and Agnus) required an emergency foster home when we took them in from the Burlington Animal Shelter. Liza is now ready for adoption and once her kittens are spayed/neutered, they will be ready for adoption too! There are quite a few cats in the program that wouldn't fare as well at the adoption center due to their age and personality, and thus are currently in longer-term foster situations. (These cats include Charlie, Cutie, Faline, Geronimo, Jasmine, Penny, Pretty Girl, and Sissy.)

### *Fostering options.*

We have a number of fostering options to meet the needs of our generous fosters. See the descriptions below to see how well these options fit into your home and lifestyle.

**Long-term fosters** are wonderful options for cats and dogs that require more nurturing and socialization. These animals may be fearful of humans or are un-socialized with other animals and need a quiet, patient environment so their social skills can be nurtured. Special needs animals may require experienced foster homes to help them develop into more adoptable animals. In such cases, foster parents commit to a certain time frame and would need to be willing to show their animals to potential adopters from their home or a specified location.

**Recovery Fosters** are usually limited-time commitments for ill or injured animals. It has been proven that cats and dogs recovering from an ailment heal faster in a home environment. All medical care and supplies (medicine, crate, etc.) are provided.

There are times the Humane Society may take in a litter of kittens or puppies that were recently born, along with their mother. Enter the **Puppy/Kitten Fosters**. Puppy/kitten commitments can range from one to seven weeks, but each situation is different. Many times babies are the only ones needing to be fostered, but sometimes we may also have the nursing mother who needs a place to keep doing her motherly job.

There may be circumstances in which the Humane Society takes in neo-natals that have been separated from their mother due to the mother's death or unwillingness to nurse the babies. This care is accomplished by our **Neo-natal Fosters**. Bottle feeding the neo-natals requires some training, but it is easy to learn. In some instances, we can find a nursing mother who has had another litter

of kittens and is able to be a surrogate for the neo-natals. The foster home can be set up with a dorm for the "mother" and neo-natals and the mother cat will do all the work.

We have heard many reasons why people don't want to foster; they believe they're too busy or they don't want to get attached to the animal they may have to give up in a month or so. Many people also don't realize that vetting, food and other supplies are provided to all foster animals. We want to give you some good reasons to consider fostering:

### *Why you should consider fostering.*

Fostering increases the animal's chance of being adopted because foster families find out first about the pet's personality and can also teach them basic house manners, making them more appealing to potential adopters.



*Please see "Fostering Saves" on the next page.*

## Fostering Saves (continued from page 2)



The foster parents' own pets will learn more social skills by being "foster" siblings. The more animals the foster family's pets come in contact with, the better they are at dealing with stress and getting used to strangers. The foster dogs and cats also provide fun playmates!

Fostering is a short-term commitment that will help you decide if you are ready for a long-term commitment. Maybe you want to foster a certain dog breed and see if you're ready to adopt one, or you want to see if adding a cat into your all-dog household will throw off the balance of your home. It is possible you may want a new pet now, but you are not sure what the future holds in five, 10, 15 or 20 years.

Fostering is only temporary. If you are fostering a cat, they only require minimal space and are

extremely low-maintenance, so they don't require a lot of time. If you have a dog already, it's not a big change to add another dog to your daily walks and potty break schedule. Having the foster animal with you for a short period and knowing it's only temporary will make it easier to find the time to take care of them, and it's also easier when it's time to give them up.

You have the extra space available for a foster. A spare bedroom, office, or screen porch is the perfect place for a foster pet. Even a bathroom is enough room for a kitten or puppy, and it's much larger than a cage in a shelter. A spare room sometimes is the only thing standing between an animal and euthanasia in an animal control facility or shelter.

Have a preference and only want to foster non-aggressive/low-anxiety dogs, or kittens, or adult cats, or puppies? Can't foster for more than a few months at a time? We can accommodate your schedule and at any time you have an emergency or scheduled vacation, we can place your foster animal in another foster home.

Fostering keeps animals out of shelters. Animal shelters can be stressful for animals and usually don't provide tranquility for cats and necessary training and exercise for dogs and puppies. Animals in foster care tend to be less stressed, better socialized, and have a lower chance of getting sick than animals in shelters.

You will make lots of new friends that share a similar interest! Most of all, you are saving a life.

### Expectations:

When you foster with the Humane Society, you're not alone caring for the foster animal. You can expect full support from us. We cover medical care and provide all food, litter and necessary supplies (crate, bedding, potty pads, etc.), and we will take the animal back at any time for any reason.

We do have some expectations from our foster parents, but the list is short and the tasks are simple. If you join us as a foster and your foster animal requires emergency care, we ask that you transport the pet. All veterinary costs are paid by us, but we are not always available for transport. You will also need to provide us regular updates with photos via email and/or our Fosters Group on Facebook, as well as be prepared to help us promote the animal at our events.

If you believe you are ready to become a new foster mom or dad, complete a foster application at [www.hsaconline.org/foster](http://www.hsaconline.org/foster)



*A very special thank you to  
Stephanie Grantham,  
Humane Society Foster Coordinator,  
for this article and photographs.*

## 22,000 Reasons

The Humane Society of Alamance County now has 22,000 reasons to be happy these days. The Sixth Annual Miles for Mutts, held April 12, earned us \$22,000 to help the animals of Alamance County.

We could not ask for a more perfect day for hundreds of bikers to come out and enjoy a ride through the county, which culminated in a party at Lucky's Saloon featuring live music from Sok Monkee. Every penny raised will help our spay/neuter program, which is a huge part of the Humane Society's mission.

We would like to thank the Compassionate Bikers of Alamance County and Lucky's Saloon for their support and for hosting this great event. Check out page 6 for photos from Miles for Mutts.



Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.

~S chopenhauer

## We Love Our Donors and Friends!

We sincerely appreciate every minute you volunteer with us, every kind word you say about us and every gift you donate to us. **Without you, none of the stories you read about in this quarter's Companion Quarterly would be possible.**

On the next page, you will find a listing of our most recent donors. In compiling this report, we have made every attempt to create an accurate and complete listing. However, should you find that your name is missing, we welcome your kind corrections. Please call (336) 438-2023.

*The following donations were made Feb. 2014 - Mar. 2014:*

Anna M. Lyons  
Charles & Kimberly Steele  
Sandra Daly  
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Mr. & Mrs. Rex Templeton  
Mrs. Hilda Brody, who helped found the Animal Protection Society of Caswell County. 'She saved many animals!' by Bennie Catoe  
Emma Carol Bunker Wheeler by:  
"Signs"  
Teresa & John McCauley  
Wanda Padgett  
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Mollie, beloved dog of Jeanie Haworth by Jean Cox  
Izzy, the dearest love of her life by Anita Butler with thanks to Cheryl Knox for her help  
Haley, beloved dog of Lorraine Moretti by:  
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Lark Johnson  
For Emily:  
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Sam & Vicky Hunt  
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Jeanie Haworth

**In Honor Of:**

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Melanie D. Moreschi  
Taylor Hube  
Rosalie Gardiner by Margaret Polo de Bernabe  
Jo McAdams by Karen Webb

**Special Thanks:**

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Atlas Lighting Products, Inc.  
Patty Vision Center OD PA  
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**Special Contribution**

We would like to recognize a substantial gift received through the estate of Joseph E. ("Joe") Wilson Jr. Joe's mother, Ellen, was an animal lover, and this gift was given to the Humane Society to honor her. The very generous gift of these funds by Joe will be used by the Humane Society of Alamance County to help many animals in many different ways.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

**Alamance County Sheriff Department of Animal Control:** (336) 570-6300  
**Burlington Animal Control:** (336) 578-1386  
**Burlington Animal Shelter:** (336) 578-0343  
**Wildlife Hotline:** (713) 468-8972  
**North Carolina Spay/Neuter Hotline:** (888) 623-4936



## *Wish List for the Animals*

We spend our days helping animals, but we still need your help! We need the following items to help us continue our work. Next time you're shopping, will you make us part of your list?

- \* Purina Weight Circles, found on bags of dry dog food. These little circles go a long way in helping us earn money for veterinary care, food for our foster animals and so much more.



- \* Portable dog lots.
- \* Office supplies, including envelopes, stamps and copy paper.
- \* Cat/kitten food (preferably Purina Pro Plan chicken).
- \* Dog/puppy food (preferably grain free).
- \* Puppy pads.
- \* Clumping kitty litter.
- \* Medium and large stainless steel or ceramic pet food bowls.
- \* Puppy chew toys and Pork Chomps chews.

- \* Revolution or Frontline flea and tick prevention.
- \* Small, medium or large pet crates.
- \* Puppy X-pen.
- \* Gift cards in any denomination to pet stores.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please call the Humane Society office at (336) 438-2023 or email [hsac@netpath.net](mailto:hsac@netpath.net). On behalf of the animals, thank you for your generosity!



## *We are*

a non profit animal welfare organization  
with a low-cost spay and neuter program.

## *The Humane Society of Alamance County Board of Directors*

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## *Contact Us!*

P.O. Box 5117  
Burlington, NC 27216

**Phone:** (336) 438-2023

**Email:** [hsac@netpath.net](mailto:hsac@netpath.net)

**On the web:**  
[www.hsaconline.org](http://www.hsaconline.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/hsac.page](http://www.facebook.com/hsac.page)

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[@hsalamance](https://twitter.com/hsalamance)

### Upcoming Events



- **First Saturday of each month:** PetSmart Adoption Fairs at the Luv-a-Pet Center in PetSmart’s Burlington location. Join us **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** to learn more about us and perhaps find your new fur-ever friend!
- **Save the Date!** Write it down, set a reminder and invite your friends! **Woofstock** is coming Saturday, Oct. 4 at Burlington City Park. If you thought last year was awesome, you haven’t seen anything yet! Stay tuned to *Companion Quarterly* for more details.
- **More to come:** Check out our Facebook page or sign up to be on our email list to learn more about upcoming Humane Society events near you!



### Help us Help Animals...Donate Today!

Please complete the form below and mail to **The Humane Society of Alamance County, P.O. Box 5117, Burlington, NC 27216.** An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Checks may be payable to *HSAC*.

You may also donate via PayPal with your Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Visit us at [hsaonline.org](http://hsaonline.org) for further details.

Thank you for your generosity!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like information on how to become a HSAC volunteer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to join the HSAC email list.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like information on how to include HSAC in my will.

**Please indicate the type of gift below:**

- |                                      |                                    |                                     |
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