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27 Years Finding Great Homes for Pets



ANIMAL ADOPTION CENTER'S Quarterly Newsletter



# aac NEWS



## Race to Rascal's!

### 3rd Annual Rascal's Run

Since we started this event it has grown in both scope and in participation. This year, we expect it to grow even more, and we'd love for you to join us.

Timber Creek Park will be abuzz with action when AAC takes over on September 8th. This chip-timed 5k has become popular with area runners, and this year, we've added a few new wrinkles to the race by adding some special participants. (cont'd on pg. 5)

### 3rd Annual Rascal's Run



September 8th @ Timber Creek Park

## Commitment to our Mission

*Our goals have always been simple!*

Since our inception nearly 30 years ago, our mission has been simple: save the lives of dogs and cats and find them wonderful new homes. Our board, staff and army of dedicated volunteers are committed to accomplishing that mission every day.

Saving lives is at the heart of what AAC does every day. Each dog and cat that we take in has its own story and its own experiences. No two are the same and those stories shape the pets that we save.

No matter what's happened to them in the past, we're committed to making sure that they're healthy and safe as soon as they walk through our doors. It's our responsibility to ensure their well-being until they find new homes. Sometimes it only takes a few days, but in some cases, like the ones you're going to read about in this issue, it takes a little longer.

From time to time, they get overlooked. Why they get overlooked is always a mystery; a mystery that we'll continue to try and solve. They might bark or meow to get



attention, and that behavior can often be misconstrued as an undesirable trait.

Other times, they may just get ignored because they're not as outgoing, or as young, as their neighbors so they inevitably get passed over. No matter how long they're with us, our commitment to them is the same and will continue to be the same.

Despite the challenges that sometimes accompany our dogs and cats, our dedication to them never wavers. They are with us until we can find them new homes, no matter how long it takes, and we try to make their stay as comfortable as we can. As you're reading through this issue of the newsletter, you'll see that we don't just talk about our responsibility to them, we act on it every day to make sure they lead happy, healthy lives.

Please Note: All supporting donors will be listed and acknowledged in our Annual Report.

## Alumni Corner: Nene

By: Chris Harris

Too often, we encounter tough situations, situations when a dog or cat has been injured and just left to fend for itself or die. It's a reality that we face more often than we'd like to admit, but we face these circumstances nonetheless.

We've taken in dogs with gunshot wounds, broken bones and all sorts of desperate injuries. We've done the same with some of our cats, as well. Some conditions required that a cat have his eye enucleated because it was incapable of producing tears. We've helped puppies with parvo, kittens in upper respiratory distress and a host of different conditions. This issue's alumna, Nene, has a story that is similar to these.

During the winter of 2016, one of our rescue partners happened upon a severely injured cat. The cat had most likely been hit by a car as her injuries were consistent with significant blunt force trauma. She was laying on the sidewalk, unable to move. She had developed frostbite on her two front paws and was in danger of passing away if she couldn't be rushed to a vet.

When we got the call about Nene, we knew that we could help. We also knew that her recovery wouldn't be short, but that didn't deter us from taking her in and ensuring that she was healthy, happy and safe. In no time at all, she came out of her shell, and her personality started to shine.

Despite all of the progress Nene made with her health and personality, she sat here with us for a year with little to no interest from potential adopters. We wanted to give her the chance to be seen, so we took her to one of our offsite locations at PetValu and a few short weeks later, Nene met her new family. She has a very patient new mom and two new human sisters to share her life with now that she's home. She's still not a fan of being picked up, but she absolutely loves to get petted as often as she possibly can. It may have taken her over a year to find a home, but she just needed someone to give her the chance to complete a family, and complete a family she did.

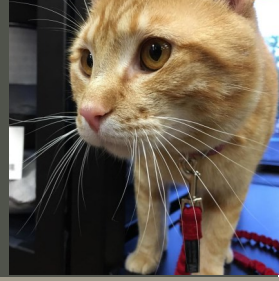


Help make stories like Nene's possible by donating today: [www.aacnj.org/donate-now](http://www.aacnj.org/donate-now)





# Happy Tails



## Sandra Dee



Sandra Dee is one of our happiest success stories! She was with us for almost two YEARS, and we never gave up hope that we would find her the perfect home.

She came to us from an overcrowded local shelter on January 6, 2016. From the beginning, she always seemed to have a great big smile to go along with her great big personality! She also absolutely LOVED people and became a staff favorite since we could all see what a great dog she was! Sadly, she was adopted twice, and returned twice, through no fault of her own.

Sandra Dee also spent four months in a foster home where a volunteer worked with her on obedience training. When she returned from the foster home, Sandra Dee had blossomed into a great family dog, well-behaved and ready for her new home. But, she sat. And sat. Fortunately for her, one special volunteer visited her almost every single day for months and months. Staff said they knew when this volunteer drove up because Sandra Dee would get excited, having learned the sound of the volunteer's car. Undoubtedly, this daily interaction helped maintain Sandra Dee's cheerful personality for the day she would find her forever home. And find it, she did.

Two and a half years after we met her, the perfect family came in. They had kids! They had a one acre fenced-in yard! They had love to share! It was a match made in heaven! We receive frequent updates on her new life, and she is one lucky pup. It took a while, but she never gave up hope, and neither did we!

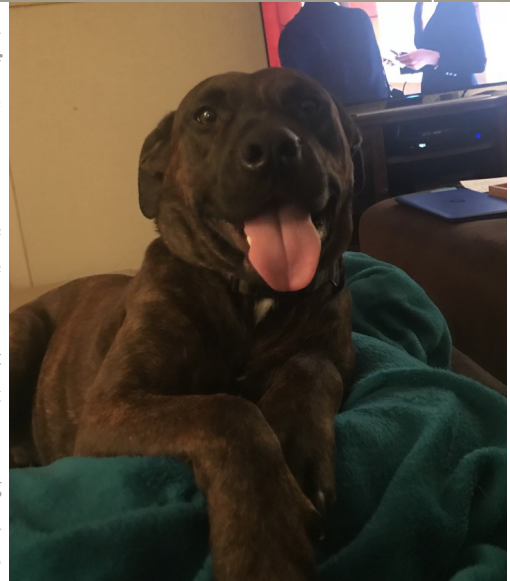
## Zack

Zack came to us on October 23, 2017 and quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite. He had such a sweet and goofy personality and made everyone laugh with his antics. But, as our staff can attest to from when putting the dogs to bed each night, he was also super happy when he had a lap to lay his head on at the end of the day.

Incredibly, Zack spent nine long months with us before his forever family came along. Given his personality and ability to get along with other dogs, we all thought his stay with us would be short-lived. Given his puppy-like exuberance and sociable nature, we were hoping for an active family that ideally would have a playmate for Zack. Finally, it happened.

Zack was adopted when a family came in looking for a second dog. They already had a pet at home but wanted to open their hearts again for another animal in need. Zack was a perfect fit for them and their dog, Piper!

They sent us an update that made everyone so happy for Zack, reporting that "Zack is doing FANTASTIC in his new home and with his new sister, Piper. They are getting along so great and have really formed a bond already. They love running around the yard, barking at the UPS man, and racing up and back along the fence with our neighbor's dog! Zack is a super sweet dog who loves cuddling at night when we have our family couch time. I want to thank you guys for letting us take him home to be a part of our family to give him all the love he deserves!"



Every one of our pets goes home. To a great home. No matter how long it takes.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE OUR HAPPY TAILS POSSIBLE



# Happy Tails



## Athena



We pulled sweet, affectionate Athena with the strikingly beautiful face from a local, overcrowded shelter on April 3, 2017. Very few people inquired about Athena in the more than 14 months that she resided with us, in part, no doubt, because she barked to get potential adopters' attention, but her behavior was misinterpreted as aggressive. She became a staff and volunteer favorite, and one volunteer made a video with her and took her to be showcased on a web cast. And still she sat.

Until one day, when a couple was walking down the center aisle of the kennels, and the man looked into Athena's kennel, stopped, and said: "I don't need to see any more dogs. I want her." The instant connection appeared to be reciprocal. When the gentleman came back to pick her up, people who watched them drive away reported that Athena was sitting in the front passenger seat, leaning to the left as much as possible so she could touch her new Dad. Today, her Dad reports: "She loves playing with her tennis balls, and then she likes to shred them apart. She also has been enjoying Netflix shows and going for long runs."

Please donate today so that we can continue to find homes for our longer-term-

resident dogs and cats, no matter how long it takes.

## Deb

Sweet Deb is another wonderful dog who was with us for over a year, having come to us on an April 9, 2017 transport with other dogs from overcrowded, high-kill county shelters in Georgia.

Unlike Athena, Deb did not bark to get attention from potential adopters – she made no sound at all or otherwise draw any attention to herself. Plus, Deb was a fearful dog, the fear manifesting itself into aggressive tendencies toward other dogs.

Enter one of our very experienced volunteers, who took an interest in her and worked with Deb twice a week for months, concentrating on teaching her basic commands and socializing her with other dogs. Gradually, Deb became less fearful and more social, gaining confidence by learning commands and, ultimately, being able to engage in small play groups with other social dogs.

She was adopted by a wonderful couple who let Deb settle in on her own timetable. Today, she "is completely spoiled," spending her days going for walks and enjoying her very own spot on the sofa, watching TV and cuddling with her family.







Animal Adoption Center  
**5K Run**  
**5K Run w/Race Chair**  
**2-Mile Walk**  
**1-Mile Dog Walk**  
 Register at [www.runsignup.com/rascalsrun5K](http://www.runsignup.com/rascalsrun5K)

(CONT'D FROM PG 1)

Join Us After the Race! Enjoy: Music • Food • Local Vendors

This year, we've added vendors and race options. In addition to the timed 5K, Rascal's Run will also include a 1-Mile Dog Walk, a 2-Mile Fun Walk and a 5-K Run with a Race Chair. This year, we're partnering with the wonderful folks at Ainsley's Angels to provide a race option for athletes with special needs. This is the first time we're partnering with Ainsley's Angels, and we're all very excited to have them join us.

The run isn't the only part of the event, though. As this event has grown, so too has the participation of a variety of local vendors. We have about 50 vendors joining us this year with products ranging from pet-related snacks to custom, handcrafted jewelry. Back with us again this year is The Pop Shop A Go Go food truck, which will provide event attendees with their signature burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches and fries. They also provide vegetarian and vegan options. The Serene Bean Espresso Catering will also be back with us this year, bringing with them their amazing espresso, iced and hot lattes, frappés and Italian sodas.

Our 3rd Annual Rascal's Run event kicks off at 9AM on September 8th at Timber Creek Park. If you're interested in running in the event or donating to one of the running teams, you can do both at [www.runsignup.com/rascalsrun5k](http://www.runsignup.com/rascalsrun5k).

## Donations vs. Sustained Support

Recurring donations provide monthly revenue we can count on, and we save money by making fewer requests. Help us use more dollars for saving lives by visiting our website to make your sustaining contribution today!

- \$10/mo = \$120/yr = 480 lbs of cat litter
- \$15/mo = \$180/yr = treat a heartworm pos. dog
- \$25/mo = \$300/yr = 100 combo vaccinations

## SHELTER STORIES



### Sammy

After spending a little bit of time with Sammy, you'd never know that he's 9 years old. At the moment, he's the mayor of our community room and also holds the title of Director of First Impressions. He greets everyone who visits our room of free roaming cats and helps us keep everyone around him happy and playful. He's an outgoing guy who would be a wonderful addition to any family.

## Happy Tails from Spring & Summer!

Nothing beats seeing a dog or cat meet their family—it's one of the best parts of the job! Here are some of our adorable animals with their new forever families.

Like us on Facebook where you can see Happy Tails: [facebook.com/animaladoptioncenter](https://www.facebook.com/animaladoptioncenter)



## SHELTER STORIES



### Gordon

Two-year-old Gordon has the energy to keep up with the most active of families. He would love to bring you all of his toys and keep you entertained. Gordon is very social and would love nothing more than to play with other dogs, kids, adults and anyone else who needs a four-legged friend for hours of fun.



# YES, I want to help save animals and change lives!

FALL  
ISSUE

Use this form and the enclosed self-addressed envelope to make your gift today! You can also donate online at [www.aacnj.org/donate-now](http://www.aacnj.org/donate-now), or call the shelter to make your gift over the phone: **856-435-9116**.

**One-time Gift:**  \$35  \$75  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Check Enclosed

**Monthly Gift:**  \$10  \$15  \$25  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Bill My Credit card

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