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35+ Years Finding Great Homes for Pets



**WINTER
ISSUE**

ANIMAL ADOPTION CENTER'S Quarterly Newsletter



aac NEWS



Ongoing Commitment

They're Always Family

Our commitment to our adoptable pets doesn't stop when they find new homes. It's ongoing for the entirety of their lives.

Various local rescue organizations reach out to AAC periodically to see if we're able to help alleviate overcrowding in their respective shelters. Part of our mission is focused on assisting the overall survival rate of all surrendered and stray pets in our local communities. We help when we are able and sometimes even when it seems we're not. We view our responsibility to the local community very seriously. When we take in a dog or a cat, no matter the source or circumstances, they're part of our family forever. We're here for them no matter what.

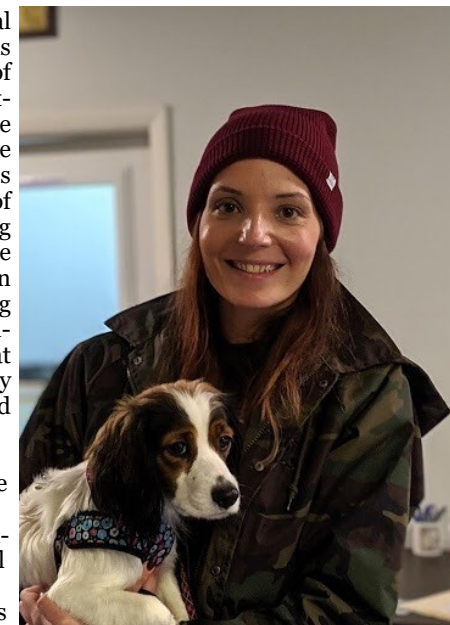
(Cont'd on page 5).



Making a Local Impact

Since its formation almost 30 years ago, Animal Adoption Center (AAC) has always made it a priority to make an impact on the local community. AAC strives to ensure that the surrounding communities have an outlet for assistance and a source of ongoing education and information when it comes to local pets.

This past fall, Animal Adoption Center was approached by one of our local rescue partners to see if we could assist in the remedy of a serious situation in one of the surrounding communities. One aspect of our mission focuses on assisting our local communities no matter what the challenge may entail, so we jumped at the chance to help



AAC made arrangements for the resident to surrender the dogs to us so that the staff could help the dogs begin the long road of rehabilitation and then find them the kinds of homes where they could thrive.

We were made aware of circumstances surrounding a hoarding situation. A local resident was breeding and housing dogs in a space that wasn't even big enough to comfortably house one person, let alone a person and 9 dogs. Each of the dogs was being kept in a crate, day and night. They weren't allowed out to eat or take care of their normal outdoor activities. This is no way for any pet to live, let alone 9 dogs who can't stand up for themselves.

Each of these beagle/spaniel mixes arrived at AAC scared and extremely shy. Dogs from hoarding situations present various challenges. First and foremost, they are very fearful of new dogs and people because they have not been socialized. They can also become aggressive when it comes to food because they have had to fight for it all of their young lives. Thankfully, the staff at AAC is trained to deal with dogs that manifest these and other behaviors and was prepared to give each of these dogs the time that they needed to settle in and, basically, learn how to be a dog. Some progressed faster than others, but AAC has found homes for each and every dog that we took in from that home.

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

Alumni Corner: Clover

By Chris Harris

One of the very first dogs to join the AAC family in 2019 was Clover. She had been found as a stray in Waycross, GA. Rather than risk her being needlessly euthanized at a small, underfunded open intake facility, we agreed to bring her to New Jersey so that she could start the process of getting healthy and finding her forever home.

When Clover arrived at AAC, we gave her a few days to decompress and then began the task of getting to know her and making sure that she was healthy enough to be adopted. She made a wonderful impression on each of us immediately. Despite having been found as a stray, she was an active, affectionate girl who wanted nothing more than to be next to you. She had an energetic personality that was on full display when she played outside in our play yard with staff and volunteers.

During her medical intake, it was discovered that she had been heartworm positive and treated just prior to coming to AAC. We also discovered that had AAC not agreed to take her in, that treatment would have been withheld until a rescue agreed to take her. If a rescue wouldn't take her, she would have been euthanized because, according to that shelter in Georgia, it was cheaper to euthanize her than it was to treat her.

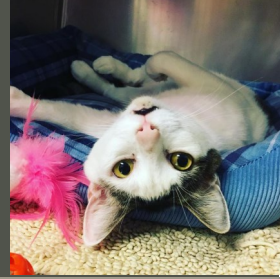
After a few weeks, we knew that Clover would make a wonderful new addition to any family, yet she stayed with us week after week, month after month. Whenever she was greeted by a potential adopter, she got very excited. That level of energy seemed to deter people from asking to meet her. Then one day, Jackie and Frank came in just to meet Clover. Because she's an active girl, we encouraged Jackie and Frank to take advantage of our Foster-to-Adopt program, which allowed them to foster her for two weeks while they all settled into their lives together. At the end of that period, they could adopt her or simply bring her back to the shelter. They didn't need two weeks. Within a week, they had finalized the adoption and Clover had a new home, a new family, and a new name: Zoe.

Help make successes Clover's possible by donating today: www.aacnj.org/donate





Happy Tails



 **Gibby**



We're lucky to meet and be able to care for wonderful dogs and cats every day. They come to us from different circumstances and, in many cases, different cities and states. We take seriously our job to care for and find homes for each of them, no matter how long it may take us. Some go home before we really get the chance to know them. Some stay with us for a few weeks, and the staff and volunteers get the chance to know them better. And some, like Gibby, stay with us a lot longer than anyone expects, through no fault of their own.

Our President of the Board of Trustees, Don James, has had the chance to see wonderful pets pass through our doors coming in and also as they go to their new homes. Additionally, he has had the opportunity to get to know some of our dogs better than most. He wanted to share one such story with you.

"The average length of stay for a dog at Animal Adoption Center ("AAC") is about three weeks. Unfortunately, we sometimes have what we call "long-term dogs," which we define as being at the shelter for six months or longer. In practically every case, there is not a single good reason for their lengthy stay. Currently, we have three such dogs, and Gibby, a roughly two-and-a-

half year old Pitbull terrier/American Bulldog mix, is my favorite.

Despite residing at our shelter for just over seven months, Gibby is one lucky dog. He was picked up as a stray in Georgia and taken to the Murray County municipal shelter, which is one of the worst shelters in Georgia with respect to living conditions of the animals and its very high euthanasia rate. Fortunately for Gibby, he was pulled by Animal Aid USA, the organization from which our shelter also receives its Georgia dogs, and transported to Last Chance Ranch in Quakertown, PA on February 10. On February 26, Gibby was attacked there by another of their dogs. A Pennsylvania law states that if a Pitbull type of dog gets into a fight with another dog, the Pitbull must either leave the state or be euthanized. Animal Aid USA reached out to AAC and asked if we would take Gibby, and we readily agreed. He has been with us since March 14. The dog that attacked Gibby is not a Pitbull or Pitbull mix and remained at Last Chance Ranch.

I love Gibby. I have taken him to two web casts, walked him, played with him, and made a video with him, which you can view on Gibby's page under "Adoptable Dogs" on our web site. He is a very sweet, very affectionate dog who loves everybody and who bonds with a person extremely quickly. He enjoys walks and is very good on a leash. He is highly treat-motivated, which should help with obedience training. When he smiles, which is most of the time, I think he looks like the Joker. And, if you scratch the little black dot on his butt, he'll be yours forever.

I know that Gibby will be adopted one day. We are a no-kill shelter and, eventually, every dog (and cat) goes home. I would just like Gibby to go home sooner rather than later. There is absolutely no reason why he shouldn't and, in my mind, he richly deserves it! "

Although Don is our board president, he is also a volunteer. All of the time that he's spent getting to know Gibby has been on his own time. Don's dedication to our mission is just one example of our overall commitment to saving the lives of each and every dog and cat that steps foot in our shelter. From our board members, staff and volunteers, our commitment to these pets is the same: find them good homes, no matter how long it takes.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE OUR HAPPY TAILS POSSIBLE



Happy Tails



 Jake



We work closely with our local rescue partners. It's important for AAC to be available to help out when we are needed. Jake (pictured in the right side of the photo) is the perfect example of that cooperation.

A local open admission facility reached out to us to see if we could take a five-year-old mastiff that they had taken in as a stray. They knew that our adoption process would help find him a home where he would be safe as opposed to possibly being used for fighting purposes. We picked up Jake and added him to the AAC family.

During our medical intake, we found that Jake was severely underweight, and he was also suffering from a pretty serious upper respiratory infection. It took us a good bit of time to get him healthy, but as soon as he was, he met Ragnor, who would go on to be his new brother. At a combined weight of well over 200 lbs, these playful mastiffs were immediately best friends.

Jake went from being a stray to having a wonderful new family to call his own.

Navi 

Even though we make every effort to help out local rescues when they're full, we also help our neighbors that might not be that close to us.

Every year, we take in over 100 cats from Cape May County Animal Shelter. As an open admission facility, Cape May always has to make space for incoming strays, even if that means euthanizing cats to make room for new intakes. That's when AAC steps in to help.

AAC takes cats, like Navi, into the rescue so that they can find new homes rather than be euthanized. Navi came to us early in 2019 from that very situation.

Navi was trapped and taken to Cape May County Animal Shelter as part of their TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program. Far from feral, Navi was transferred to AAC so that we could find her a good home. She only needed 10 days to find the home that we wanted for her. Her new mom says, "Navi is like a little puppy. She has a lot of energy so she plays all the time. I love the way that she loves us. The first night, she came up to our bed and slept with us. She loves being with us. Thank you so much!"



YOUR DONATIONS MAKE OUR HAPPY TAILS POSSIBLE



EVERYONE GOES HOME

(Cont'd from Page 1)

In 2013, a family adopted Kashmir, a lab mix, from AAC. All indications were that things were going well and that Kashmir had the kind of home we had envisioned for her when she was adopted. All of that changed when we received a call from a local open admission facility. After 6 years in a home, Kashmir had been dumped at a shelter. Our adoption agreement stipulates that our adopted pets come back to AAC should they have to be surrendered, but this family didn't seem to take it seriously.

When we reclaimed her in September, we learned that she had been surrendered because she had an unexplained growth on her side. The family couldn't afford to have it removed and possibly treated, so they left her at a shelter for strays. We had her examined by our vet, and he recommended having it removed and biopsied. The results of the biopsy revealed that the growth was a mast cell tumor. Moving forward, we have to keep monitoring her for any new growths, and if they occur, we will repeat the process.

Our commitment to Kashmir didn't stop when she was adopted and it definitely didn't stop when she was diagnosed with cancer. Kashmir is still with us and we'll do everything in our power to make sure that she's happy and healthy until we can find her a loving new home.

Donations vs. Sustained Support

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

\$10/mo = \$120/yr = 20 rabies vaccinations
\$15/mo = \$180/yr = 120 lbs of food
\$25/mo = \$300/yr = 50 microchips

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, 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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Animal Adoption Center

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BILLING ADDRESS

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CREDIT CARD NUMBER

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SECURITY CODE (CVV)

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- Yes, I have included AAC in my will.
- I have not included AAC in my will.
Please have someone call me.

Animal Adoption Center is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, Federal Tax ID: 52-1720581. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please complete all of the above information for credit card transactions. Thank you!



SHELTER STORIES



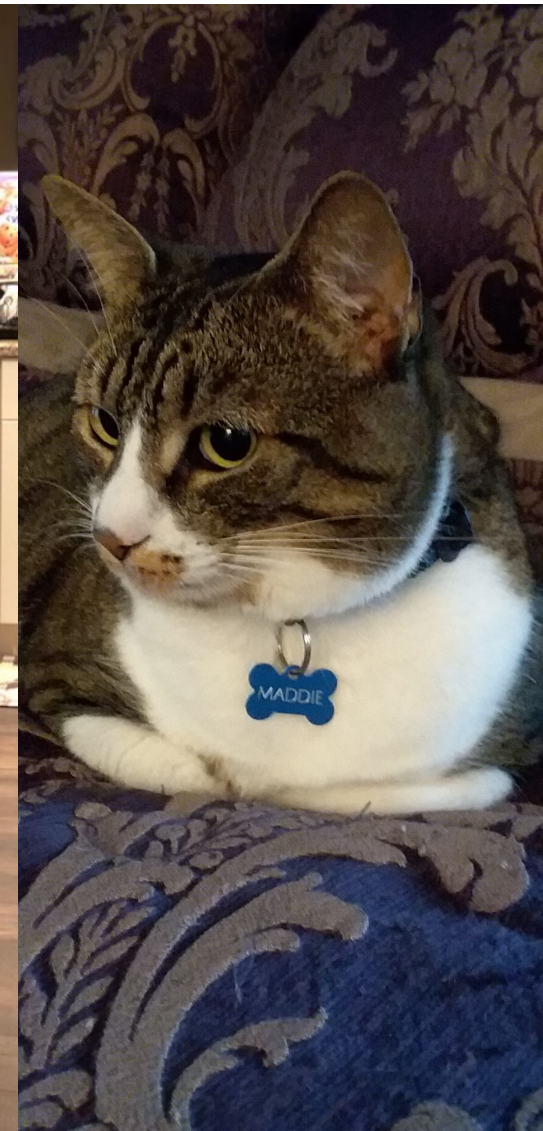
Floris

Floris is the widely accepted matron of our community cat room. At nearly 7-years-old, she has had quite the life. She came to AAC after having been found at the Boardwalk in Wildwood, complete with a litter of kittens. Cape May County Animal Shelter sent her to us to find a new home. She's a very well-adjusted girl who will thrive in any home, as long as she gets plenty of love and attention.

Happy Tails from Summer & Fall!

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



SHELTER STORIES



Toby

Toby is a reserved 2-year-old retriever mix who is just looking for a family to call his own. He can be shy when you first meet him. Don't let that dissuade you. After a short time, he will bring you his favorite toy and show you how to play. He will also show you his favorite blanket. He sleeps with it every night. Come meet Toby. You'll fall in love.