

PAWS & Tails



Shoals Pets Are Worth Saving – April/May 2009 News and Events



Barkley is a cute little boy, and he weighs less than 30 pounds. He is a sweet, happy boy, good with dogs and loves people, too.

Barkley is a perfect gentleman, walks wonderfully on leash and is housetrained! He is very gentle, quiet and loving.

He will be a perfect companion for an older person or couple. Won't you please give Barkley his chance at a forever home? For more information on Barkley, call PAWS at 383-0690.

Family opens heart, home to Sassy

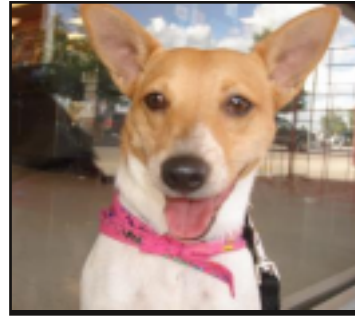
Last Thanksgiving, Susan and Frankie Minor of Russellville discovered a special reason to give thanks — they adopted Sassy.

Sassy is a 2-year-old Jack Russell/feist mix. She came to PAWS in

August 2008 when her original owner was forced to surrender her due to financial problems.

Sassy was placed with a foster family and remained in their care until November. That's when Sassy's photo was featured in the *Courier-Journal*, and it caught the couple's attention. Sassy was adopted by the Minors just in time for Thanksgiving.

"She is just as you described her, a lap dog who loves to be loved," Susan says of their newest family member. "She has fit into our family



from the start, and we hope that we will be together for many years."

In the three months since her arrival, Sassy has truly become a loved member of the family.

"Sassy is doing great and we love her so much," Susan said. "She is just what we wanted. Thank you so much for choosing us to be her parents!"

"She has fit into our family from the start, and we hope that we will be together for many years."

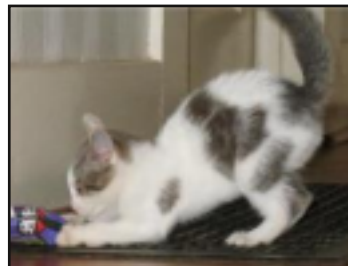
Susan Minor,
Sassy's 'mom'



Callie, a petite girl, is a beautiful 1½-year-old Calico kitty with short hair and yellow eyes. She is extremely loving, and her true purpose in life is to become a great lap cat for her new owner! Callie is spayed, up-to-date on shots, and she is Feline Leukemia and FIV negative. Purr-fect! Call 383-0690.

Fleabee is a sweet and playful girl. What a gorgeous baby face! Check out her beautiful tabby markings. Fleabee is a one-of-a-kind baby, and the photo doesn't do her justice. She would love an indoor home where she could be your little angel. Come meet Fleabee today! You will fall in love! Fleabee is spayed, up-to-

date on shots, microchipped, and is Feline Leukemia/FIV negative. What's not to love? Call 383-0690 to adopt her today.



Pets by the numbers

13 Spay/neuter assists in February

8 Helped by Trap/Neuter/Release Program in March

13 Spay/neuter assists in March



Layla is a friendly girl who would *love* a home to call her own! She loves people and is great with dogs. Layla is very cute, and weighs 30 pounds. Please bring home sweet Layla today! Call 256-383-0690.

Tricia is a rat terrier and Jack Russell terrier mix, and she's a super sweet little girl! She is house trained and good with other dogs! She is spayed and vetted, and ready and waiting to go home with you! Call 256-383-0690.



Yard sales raise needed funds for Trap/Neuter/Return program

Thanks to the efforts of many people, two PAWS yard sales raised more than \$2,000 for the TNR (trap/neuter/return) Program.

Judge Jackie Hatcher graciously allowed PAWS to host the yard sales at her "log cabin" property in Tuscumbia on 2nd Street between Main and Dickson. The March 14 sale netted around \$990, with about \$145 made from selling

spay/neuter merchandise. On the following Saturday, more than \$1,100 was earned in yard sale proceeds, \$108 was made from spay/neuter merchandise, and \$19 was donated in the emergency medical donation jar.

PAWS would like to thank the many volunteers and everyone who donated to the cause. Your support makes it all possible!

"Just a Dog?"

From time to time, people tell me, "Lighten up. It's just a dog," or "That's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent or costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed with my only company being "just a dog," and not once have I felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about with "just a dog." In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise." "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure, unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of "just a dog," I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

For me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog." It's an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday, people will understand that it's not "just a dog." It's the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man or woman."

So, the next time you hear the phrase, "It's just a dog," smile, because they "just don't understand."

— Author unknown



Ally, a pit bull mix: www.shoalspaws.com

Join PAWS and help save animals

PAWS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible. We rely on the generosity of people like you to continue saving animals throughout the Shoals. Won't you please consider becoming a member?

Dues are: \$25/Individual, \$45/Family, \$50-99 Sponsor, \$100-249/Benefactor, \$250-999 Patron, and \$1,000 or more/Founder. For \$250, business memberships include a listing on our Web site.

You may join PAWS via our Web site, www.shoalspaws.com, or mail a check to: **Pets Are Worth Saving, 2701 Mall Road, PMB 277, Florence, AL 35630.**

We also welcome donations of supplies! For more information, call 383-0690. Thank you for caring about animals!



Sallie was rescued by a good Samaritan after having puppies at a local plant. The employees took care of her and her pups until the puppies were old enough to be adopted. Now, it's Sallie's turn to find a forever home! Sallie is hound mix who weighs around 45 lbs. She is spayed, up to date on shots, and heartworm negative. She gets along well with other dogs and appears to be housebroken. Adopt Sallie today! 256-383-0690

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, May 17:** Board meeting, 3-5 p.m., Muscle Shoals Public Library, 1918 Avalon Ave.
- **Saturday, May 23:** Adoption Day at Petco in Florence, noon.-4 p.m. Setup begins at 11 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help PAWS find forever homes for animals.

Boo is 5 years old, 22 pounds, neutered, and up-to-date on shots. He is heartworm positive and will require monthly doses of Ivermectin (1-year supply given with adoption). He will need an indoor home that will keep him from over-exhausting himself. He had been an outside dog until he entered foster care, so he needs patience with house-training and learning to trust new people. He is excellent with dogs, cats and children!

To adopt Boo, call 383-0690.



Wear your beliefs on your sleeve (or wrist)!

Let the world know how you feel about animal cruelty while supporting PAWS at the same time! These "I'm Tired of Animal Cruelty" bracelets are just \$10, and can be purchased from PAWS.

The bracelets are made from recycled tires, with a cylindrical recycled metal bead with "I'm Tired of" embossed on both sides and "Animal Cruelty" on top. These are available in women's/youth and men's sizes. If you have a large wrist, you may want to order the men's size, because the women's/youth size runs a little small. To order, call 383-0690.

Vote online and PAWS may win contest and cash

Help PAWS receive funds to help animals with a few clicks of a mouse! Just go to www.theanimalrescue.com and choose the "Shelter⁺ Challenge" tab down the right-hand row of tabs. Then, just follow the directions to vote for PAWS. The grand prize is \$20,000, and smaller prizes are also awarded. Vote once per day through July 26. Petfinder co-sponsors the contest. Weekly winners are announced online each Wednesday.

Can you lend a hand to help animals in need?

Following is a brief description of various areas where PAWS is in need of volunteer support:

- **FUNDRAISING:** Work with other volunteers to raise cash donations, supplies, etc. Plan events and sales ideas to raise much-needed money for veterinary bills and animal care.

- **FOSTER CARE:** Provide temporary housing for animals awaiting adoption. We need homes for healthy animals who just need a temporary place to stay where they will be cared for and loved, as well as special needs animals (such as sick or injured animals or bottle-fed kittens).

Foster homes may choose to foster only healthy, ready-to-adopt animals or may choose to be trained to care for special-needs animals.

- **ADOPTION EVENTS:** Volunteers needed to participate in adoption events (Please check schedule for exact dates and times). Part-time help is welcome. Volunteers are needed to set up and maintain cages, provide attention to the animals, work the merchandise table and clean up after the event.

- **NEWSLETTER/GRAPHICS:** Work with other volunteers in creating and publishing newsletters, brochures, flyers for

special events, and scrapbooks of adoptable animals.

- **TRANSPORTATION:** Animal transport to/from veterinarians, foster homes, adoption events, etc. hauling pet food and other supplies from donation centers. (Truck or large van required).

- **SHELTER:** Volunteers needed to work at shelter, socialize dogs/cats, clean kennels, help with adoptions (primarily on Saturdays).

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of animals, call 383-0690, or fill out the volunteer application online at www.shoalspaws.com. Thank you!

Why do cats do that? And how do I make them stop?

“Cats are getting into my trash.”

Explanation: Cats are scavengers and are looking for food.

Quick Solutions:

- Place a tight lid on your trash can. Exposed trash bags will attract other wildlife as well.
- See if neighbors are feeding the cats. If they are, make sure they are doing it on a regular schedule.
- If you find no



regular feeder, start feeding the cats yourself – at a set time, during the daylight hours, in an out-of-the-way place. Feeding cats regularly and in reasonable quantities, which can be consumed in under 20 minutes, will help ensure they don't get so hungry that they do through the trash.

“There are cat paw prints/scratches on my car.”

Explanation: Cats like to perch on high ground.

Quick Solutions:

- Discourage cats from climbing on cars or other private property by gradually moving their shelters and

feeding stations away from such areas into more secluded places.

- Purchase an appropriate cover for the car or other vehicle.

This has been known to put an immediate end to complaints.

“I smell cat urine.”

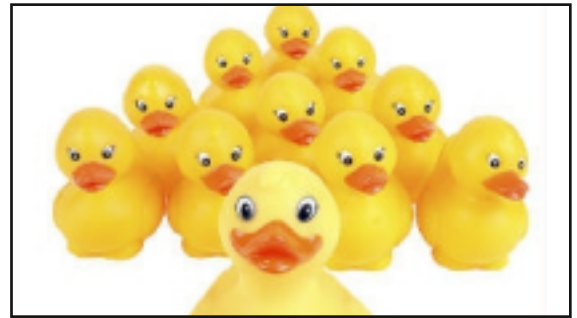
Explanation: Tomcats spray to mark their territory as part of their mating behaviors.

Quick Solutions:

- Spray the area thoroughly with white vinegar or with nontoxic products available at pet supply stores.

• The permanent solution is to ensure that the cats are neutered. It will reduce their urge to mark territory and make their urine less pungent.

— *Courtesy Alley Cat Allies*



The race is on to win prizes, benefit PAWS

It's Lucky Ducky Derby time again!

The 5th Annual Lucky Ducky Derby is scheduled for June 28, and adoption papers are available right now from PAWS.

Here's how it works: A lucky duck (a rubber duck, actually) can be “adopted” by making a \$5 donation to a participating nonprofit organization. (May we suggest Shoals PAWS?) Then, on June 28, all adopted ducks will be launched into the pond at Spring Park in Tuscumbia during the Helen Keller Festival. The duck that crosses the finish line first will win its adopter the first-place prize, a living room/den makeover valued at \$3,100. Other prizes will be awarded according to the order of finish. There's even a chance to win \$1 million. See the form for details.

Adopt five ducks for \$25 and receive a sixth duck for free, plus a large, one-topping pizza from Pizza Hut. To make sure your purchase of ducks will benefit PAWS, contact Nancy Shulman at 256-710-0549 or NancyPS@aol.com, or call PAWS at 383-0690. This fundraiser supports PAWS' foster care system.



Larry says: Just look into my eyes! I'm a gorgeous gray tabby, and I love to chat. My favorite thing to do is cuddle. I'm around 3 years old, and I'd really love to find my forever home. I love my foster mom a lot, but it's time for me to have my own place. Wouldn't YOU like to take me home? I don't know what it means, but I heard my

foster mom say I've been “fixed.” Huh. I didn't know I was broken!”

More info on Larry: Larry is medium-sized, up-to-date on shots, and he is feline leukemia and FIV negative. By the way, he has been fixed/neutered, but you don't have to tell him that.

For more information about Larry, please call 383-0690.