



2023 Annual Newsletter



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As another year ends, we want to express to you our heartfelt and immense thanks for your generosity, support, and compassion. Without all of you, we would not have been able to find homes for **hundreds** of homeless and unwanted animals in our area, secure critical and sometimes life-saving medical care for them, and provide pet food to pet families in our community that are struggling financially.

In addition, we cannot thank our fosters enough. Without your selfless kindness, opening your homes to our rescued animals, we simply couldn't say yes to so many cases and save so many little lives! If you are unable to adopt, but are looking for a meaningful way to help, our greatest need is still [foster homes](#). It is an act of kindness that makes a tremendous impact in an animal's life.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful team of volunteers, who are the heart and soul of [CLAWS](#). From transporting animals to caring for cat colonies, giving medicine to working adoptions, setting up fundraisers to working the phones; from the mundane to the life-saving, every effort and every volunteer is what truly makes our work possible and we are eternally grateful. If you are interested in becoming part of our team (especially fostering, grant writing, data entry, law expertise, even driving) please let us know, as it truly takes a village.

We continue to feel the disruptions from the pandemic, especially with a reduction in spay/neuter availability, which means a lot more pets in need of food, shelter, and medical care. We continue to run weekly adoptions at [Donna's Pet Depot](#) in Northvale, and with your generous support and our volunteers, we surpassed our adoption numbers from years past, finding forever homes for more than 350 animals this year!

We are always and forever grateful for any monetary [donations](#) you are able to give to cover our needs: the medical care of our animals; vital spay/neuter efforts; food, medicine, supplies, and so much more. We are an all-volunteer organization, so every dollar you give goes directly toward our efforts!

On behalf of all of us at CLAWS, we warmly wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy holiday season, and we hope to see you in the new year!

-Your friends at the [Closter Animal Welfare Society](#)

2023 Happy Tails

Esme came to us by way of the Atlantic County Animal shelter. She had been dumped there with a horrible skin condition and couldn't even put weight on her feet, it was so painful to walk. To top it off, she had seemingly recently given birth! We took one look at her and saw what a sweet girl she was. We got her all of the vet care she needed and then placed her with one of our amazing foster homes who nursed her back to health. She is now happy, healthy, and living with her new forever family!



Armani & Amora are lovely little brother and sister Shih Tzu mixes. Living out of her car and wanting only the best for her dogs, their owner turned to us for help. We took both dogs and found them wonderful new homes, and even took a collection amongst us volunteers to help their original owner get back on her feet. We've stayed in touch and are happy to know the woman has found a job and is moving forward in life. A happy ending for dogs and humans!



Darcy came to CLAWS back in May. She was about 8 weeks old but only weighed 1lb! Someone had trapped her so that she could be taken to the vet, but the mother cat tried to "save" her by pulling her out of the trap. Unfortunately, in doing so, it ripped a part of her ear off and left a deep gash in her neck. Over *many* weeks, we slowly nursed her back to health and got her weight up so she would be ready for adoption! Sadly, she was overlooked at adoption events because she wasn't "pretty." Luckily, her foster family was able to see how special she is and ended up adopting her!

Nettie found her way to us after a backyard breeder deemed her "un-sellable." This little German shepherd puppy has vestibular disease, which causes her head to tilt, but that didn't matter to her forever family! Luckily, they couldn't wait to welcome this adorable, loving girl into their home with open arms. They're so happy they found each other and Nettie is thriving in her new home!



Training for Success



A special thank you to Devon K! She has helped, as both a foster and a trainer, with many of the dogs that have come into our care. She knows that one of the best ways for a dog to successfully find their forever home is through training. Not only is it beneficial for their new family, it also gives the dog clarity in their new home. Luckily for our adopters, Devon is local and offers discounted rates to CLAWS adopters!

Let Devon help you and your pup get off on the right foot! You can call her at 845-729-3526.

And when you're welcoming a new dog into your home, don't forget

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In the first **3 days**, your dog will likely feel overwhelmed and unsure, and may want to be alone and not feel like himself.

In the first **3 weeks**, she will start to settle in and figure out her environment and learn her routine.

In the first **3 months**, he may start to realize this is his forever home and start building trust and a bond.

Of course, these are just guidelines. The key is patience and understanding, and knowing that your dog is getting used to you, too, and can't wait to feel settled in her new home!

#GivingTuesday

Thank you to everyone that supported us on Giving Tuesday. Through your generous support, which was then matched, we raised over \$14,000, our most successful Giving Tuesday EVER! Thank you for making this possible!

Adoptable Cuties

Is this the next member of your family?



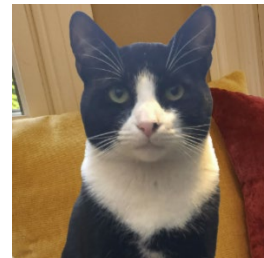
Genie is our cute little senior! She's 15 years old and a Miniature Pinscher mix. Although her sight is very limited and she's arthritic, she is a happy little girl who loves to nap and go for nice strolls outside in her little red coat! She's fine in a home with other dogs and cats, which makes her a wonderful addition to your pack. She is fragile, but easy to care for. We are looking for a quiet home for her to begin her retirement and live out her golden years.

Poseidon is our 10-month-old special needs boy from Texas. He is deaf, but that doesn't slow him down at all! This sweet boy came to us at 5 months old, and the search continues for his forever family. He's good natured with other dogs, and very gentle with the cat in his foster home as well. He loves to be with people and play with squeaky toys (even though he can't hear them). We'd love for his new family to bring him to a trainer to help work with his deafness, and to help him establish a relationship with his new people. Nothing would make us happier than to see Poseidon start the new year with a family of his own!



Lilac was found outside in Mahwah and has turned out to be a super sweet and affectionate little lady! She would probably do best as the only cat of the household. Lilac is under a year old and ready for her forever family!

Mr. Pink was found outside, limping on one of his front paws and one of his back paws. We scooped him up and immediately got him to the vet to be checked out. We got to see how lovable he is and think he could do well with some cats. This sweet, shy boy has now fully recovered and is ready for his forever home!





Come find the next member of your family

Saturdays 11am - 3pm

or

Sundays 12pm - 4pm

at [Donna's Pet Depot](#)

271 Livingston St, Northvale, NJ



What does it take to be a foster?

Love animals but can't commit to adopting?
Want to experience something rewarding
and help CLAWS at the same time?
Fostering is for you! It may sound daunting
and possibly overwhelming, but we are here
to support you!

Since we are not a shelter, our abilities to help animals rest solely on our foster network. We cover the costs, you supply the love.

Are YOU ready to answer the call??

Email us at clawsadopt@yahoo.com.

Thank you for helping us make a bigger impact!

Animals come to us from all kinds of places!



Dillinger gets out of jail

The local police station called CLAWS with a dog they had found on the street. A jail cell was the only place they had to contain him, but the jail cell needed to be readily available for humans! It was late at night, but we went to meet him and started reaching out to our foster network. Luckily, we knew of an amazing dog lover who had bailed us out of a jam like this in the past. We called him and he sprang into action to come pick up the pup, now named Dillinger.

Despite being found on the street, Dillinger was very well socialized and loves people and dogs. But he needed some work in the training department. He couldn't contain his excitement when seeing people and other dogs. So we set to work over the summer! Though his training would be ongoing, his foster dad did a great job getting him ready for his forever home. And we found the perfect home for him! Dillinger won over this loving family who give him all the attention he needs and have all the outdoor space he needs.

Nuts, bolts...and cats?

Our volunteer, Mary, got a call from a hardware store that had just trapped a kitten in their basement. The poor kitten was suffering from infection and malnourishment and we weren't sure she would make it. But, fortunately, when we got her to the Vet, we were told that with a lot of medicine and care, she



would pull through. This first kitten was a little tortoiseshell that we named Vivian (named after the Veterinarian that tirelessly worked on her straight out of the trap.) But Vivian hadn't been alone at the hardware store, and a second kitten was trapped, who we named Tesha. Unfortunately, Tesha was equally as sick as her sister.

The kittens were about 3 1/2 months old and had had no human contact up until this point. They were terrified of us. So through their recovery, we socialized them and looked for loving, understanding homes. Paul and Val, two of our supporters, graciously offered us their home during this process, and even ended up adopting Tesha. Our volunteers worked tirelessly morning and night to get the two sisters ready for adoption. Now they are both living their best lives thanks to our amazing network!

In Memoriam



Joan Louise Zimmer-Keating, past President of Claws, passed away on July 1, 2023, at the age of 90. Joan was head of the Cat and Kitten Department at CLAWS for many years. She was a nurse and used those skills in caring for our sick and injured animals, bringing them to good health. In the summer, Joan would host pool parties at her home for CLAWS fosters and board members, which were very enjoyable team builders. Joan's favorite dog breed was Collies and she was very proud of her Kelly and Chipper. Joan volunteered so much of her time to CLAWS and to the animals, and we were very fortunate to have her as part of our organization.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to leave your legacy, please consider CLAWS in your estate planning.

Fun for a Cause

This year's events gave us a chance to raise funds for our animals, win great prizes, and have a great time!



Lots of fun and prizes at this year's tricky tray



Howl-o-ween with Port Imperial Pooches



Braving the rain at Subaru Loves Pets



Ready to win at Pocketbook Bingo



Pet photos with Santa



What's better than yoga? Yoga with kittens!



Adoption event with
Maverick's K9 Mission & Dog Training

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our various fundraisers and events this year. We look forward to seeing you next year!

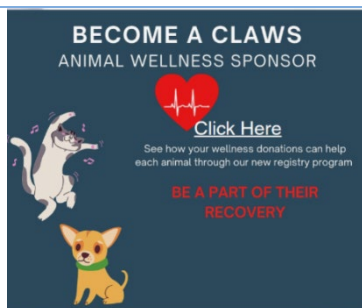
Looking for the perfect gift for any occasion?

Send a donation to CLAWS in the name of a friend, family member or loved one. Your monetary gift will go directly towards a foster animal in our care.



Just tell us where to send the card to your loved one to let them know!

More Ways to Help



See an animal you love but can't adopt? Want to choose what your donation is for? Shop the CLAWS [registry!](#)



Are you interested in supporting our network of foster homes but aren't able to foster? Check out our Amazon [wishlist!](#)



DOUBLE
your
IMPACT

Don't forget to put your dollars to work!

Does your employer match donations or donate for service hours?
Find out and double your impact!



What Is CLAWS?

The Closter Animal Welfare Society (CLAWS) is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to helping animals, and those who help animals, in our area. We also run a pet food pantry for those in need of assistance feeding their pets. We encourage the public to spay and neuter their pets to reduce the number of unwanted animals in our area. Founded more than 50 years ago, CLAWS is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, meaning every dollar we raise goes directly to our efforts. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to Mary LoPonte for her help with this year's newsletter.

[Donate Now](#)

[Contact us today](#)

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