

# The Good News Network

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League November 2009

## Adoption and Rescue Center News Special Reporter: Dante, ARC Cat



We're very excited at the Adoption and Rescue Center (the ARC) because we are getting new flooring. The new flooring will be easier for the volunteers to clean and keep sanitary for our health and general wellbeing. Volunteers measured our rooms. It was very interesting watching them play with the tape measure. Luckily for them, there were plenty of curious cats available to help.

In other news, our rescue veterinarian has recommended new food for us, chicken and rice formula. Thanks to SMAWL friends and supporters, we get only the best at the ARC. Volunteers have started to slowly change our food so our bellies will get used to the new food. We need to stay healthy while waiting for our furever families to find us.

If you are curious as to where else your donation dollars go at the ARC, we've had to address a lot of medical issues lately. I myself had one visit recently to the vet, and I got to eat wet food for five days! Amber Lee also went to the vet, as did Galaxy. We have special volunteer drivers who drive us wherever we need to go. Thank you, Judy C. and Kim.

The good news is that Sassafra is letting the volunteers brush and pet her. That's progress.

We ARC cats would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our rescue journey.

## Message from the President

Barb Whipkey

Dear Members and Friends,

When I first became active with SMAWL, I was given the nickname "The Energizer Bunny." That was seven years and many animals ago. Just as the Energizer Bunny's batteries will some day run out, mine also are running low. This is the perfect time for me to step back and let those who are energized take the reins.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers and Board of Directors. With the team currently in place, I am confident that SMAWL will continue the forward momentum we have gained over the past few years.

Some of the accomplishments that I am most proud of during my time on the Board of Directors are the implementation of the use of microchips, creation of the PETCO program, the development of a partnership with Animal Control, and establishing a database for the tracking of our animals.

SMAWL will be forever in my heart, and I could never walk away completely. As I take my place on the volunteer roster, I'd like to leave you with one message:

Have you ever wondered if there are ways for you to be more involved with SMAWL? I assure you there are. Contact any Board Member and ask what you can do to become more involved. Together, working as a team, we will continue to make things better for the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community.

On behalf of the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community, thank you for your continued support of SMAWL.

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## Contact Us

smawl@yahoo.com or 301-373-5659

# The Good News So Far

Thanks to our good friends and supporters such as you, as of early November, we have found loving, furever homes for 64 dogs, 43 cats, and 1 horse so far this year. We're right on track to match or surpass last year's adoption total of 128: 57 dogs, 70 cats, and 1 horse.

More good news is that we helped to vaccinate approximately 725 of the community's animals at our monthly, low cost rabies clinics. Yet this impressive number does not even include the animals we vaccinated within our own rescue and adoption program. Every SMAWL animal brought into our rescue and adoption program is spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. These numbers reflect your donation dollars at work.

By now, you've probably received our Fall Appeal letter. The Fall Appeal targets the prevention of pet overpopulation through spay and neuter. In 2008, SMAWL issued 232 *SnyderShare* grant certificates to local residents for spay or neuter for the prevention of pet overpopulation. Through our Fall Appeal, we hope to match our annual Snyder Grant gift through donations. Our goal is \$7500. Matching the Snyder Grant gift with donations could essentially double our impact in 2010.

Through spay and neuter, we're keeping thousands of animals from ever hitting government shelters where they face time limits and euthanasia. Through adoption, we're taking hundreds of animals off of the streets and putting them into homes and warm beds.

The SMAWL membership now consists of over 1,250 supporters and over 200 volunteers. We are doing good work together. To all of you, we wish you blessings for a wonderful fall and a peaceful holiday season.

## McKAYS \$60,000 Community Rewards Giveaway

McKAYS community rewards giveaway is back in action. This community program allows SMAWL and other local non-profits an opportunity to earn a share of the \$60,000 giveaway based on your Gold Card purchases.

It's an easy way to help the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community. Go to [www.mycommunityrewards.com](http://www.mycommunityrewards.com) and select McKAYS to register your gold card to benefit SMAWL.

# SMAWL Legacy Society and Planned Gift Arrangements

The SMAWL Legacy Society is a special donor recognition society which honors our supporters who have invested in the future of SMAWL through bequests and life income gifts, such as through a will or trust.

If you are interested in leaving a gift to SMAWL and the animals in our care, we recommend that you discuss the option with your family and with your attorney, accountant, insurance agent, or financial planner, as may be appropriate. Your attorney may ask for the SMAWL tax ID number to be included in any bequest. This important number is 52-1679412.

Once you have made your decision to leave a lasting gift of care for the animals who will need us in the future, please follow the two simple steps listed below so that we may include you in the SMAWL Legacy Society and acknowledge your charitable intent.

Step One: Include a gift to SMAWL in your will or estate plan. Common ways to do this are through a bequest in your will or trust, a designation of all or a portion of your retirement assets, a life insurance policy beneficiary designation, or a charitable remainder trust or a charitable lead trust.

Sample terminology used when drafting your bequest might include:

*"I give, bequeath and devise to the St. Mary's Animal Welfare League, Inc., a Maryland tax-exempt nonprofit organization whose address is PO Box 1232, Leonardtown, Maryland, 20650, (\_\_\_% of the residuary estate OR the sum of \$\_\_\_) to be used for its general operating purposes (or other purposes you wish to designate)."*

Step Two: Inform SMAWL that you have made planned gift arrangements and wish to be included in the SMAWL Legacy Society. The easiest way to inform us of your charitable intent is through our SMAWL Legacy Society enrollment form. The form requires only your name and signature.

To have a form sent to you via email or mail, please contact us at [SMAWL@yahoo.com](mailto:SMAWL@yahoo.com) or through our phone message system at 301-373-5659.

For more information about this lasting way to invest in the future of SMAWL, please email Melissa Carnes at [carnesmd@md.metrocast.net](mailto:carnesmd@md.metrocast.net).

## We Need a Furever Home

Visit all of our wonderful animals waiting for a home at [www.smawl.org](http://www.smawl.org). Or come to one of our adoption events held the first and third Saturday of every month at the PETCO in California, 10am-2pm. Email [smawl@yahoo.com](mailto:smawl@yahoo.com) for more information.



Black cats are usually the last to be adopted—but you can change that for me! I'm **Espresso**. I'm looking for a home to call my own. I am a very friendly male kitten who loves to play. I get along great with other cats; just ask my four brothers! If you'd like to have me home for the holidays, email Jen at [furrballzone@yahoo.com](mailto:furrballzone@yahoo.com).



My name is **Windy**. I've been with SMAWL longer than any board member, over ten years, but my age is deceiving. If you saw me playing, you would think I was a kitten. I know that my special family is out there somewhere just waiting to show me what a real home is. After such a long wait, I am ready. I am currently in a foster home practicing for family life. I live with other cats, children, and a dog. Every morning, I greet my foster mom with purrs.



My name is **Marshmallow**. I'm a calico-Siamese cat with gorgeous blue eyes. I love humans, and I get along with small dogs and children. I want to be your shadow because everything you do fascinates me. Do you have room for me in your home and heart?



Hi! My name is **Demi**. I'm a beagle-mix puppy with sweet brown eyes, and I would love a furever home.



My name is **Ida**. I was rescued from the local shelter, injured and pregnant with nine pups, just in time. I have been an attentive and nurturing mom, but now it is my turn to find a furever home of my own. I am quiet and good natured, excellent on a leash, and I love everyone I meet. I am a sweet girl who wants to give all of the love in my heart to someone. Could it be you?

## Congratulations on Your Adoption!

These animals have recently found furever homes:

Dogs: Mighty Max, Ginger Snap, Lucy, Taffy, Sammy, Cody, Buddy Boy, Benny, Iggy, Hunter Jr., Maggie May, Lulu, Daisy Mae, Ellie Mae, Tank, Bitsy, Zora, Mango, Rocco, Tanner, Tucker, Blitzen, Madison, Heidi, Mumble, Snickers, Lixie, Picolo, Punk, Tango, Bentley, Tye Bo, Isis, Allegro, Adagio, Barkley, Nym, Dozer, Harley, and Rebel.



Above, Rocco visits the vet after his adoption.

Cats: Jazzy, Rosebud, Nessie, Ziggy, Salem, Twitter, Jorge, Squirrely, Piper, Nicco, Friday, Bubba, GiGi, Jena, Ricco, Irwin, WhyBee, Amber, Herby, Stanley, Toro, Orion, Hallie, Draco, Coop, Bingley, Bolt, Eli, and Emo.



Above, Rosebud enjoys the good life in her new home.

## Volunteer Appreciation Night, 7pm Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Please join us in a night of celebration for you, the volunteers who make SMAWL rescue a success. At 7pm, the SMAWL board would like to honor our volunteers with an evening of snacks, holiday music, and socializing.

If you are a rabies clinic volunteer, a PETCO poop scooper, an adoption event dog handler, an ARC volunteer, a newsletter folder, a bottle feeder, a cat laundry person, a foster parent, or serve SMAWL animals in any capacity, please join us in Leonardtown at **22835 Washington Street** in a beautiful setting, the renovated church across from Father Andrew White School, next to the *old* Bell Motor Company's used car lot. Let's get together and bask in the good news that we have made together.



Above, adoption event volunteers help homeless SMAWL dogs find their furever families at the Dog-Gone Tiki Bar Family Pet Day in October. It is in honor of volunteers such as these that we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Night.

## Report Animal Cruelty

St. Mary's Animal Control encourages all of our animal friends to report animal cruelty and neglect. You can report suspected cruelty and neglect anonymously. To report, please call 301-475-8018.

To report an animal emergency, such as an injured animal or a trapped animal, please also call 301-475-8018.

If you are calling to report an animal emergency after 4pm on weekdays or on a weekend, please call 301-475-8016.

## Happy Endings, New Beginnings

Letters from home:



"I just wanted to let you know that **Ellie, Daisy,** and I have been very happy since we last spoke! Here is a photo with their Halloween costumes on. They love their crates and their backyard. We are still trying to get adjusted to being around other doggies, but I had about twenty-five people here last night for Halloween, and they were just great! Also, I wanted to know...does SMAWL have any car decals?"  
—Michelle



"I love my new home, where as you can see, I'm queen of the roost. My new sister **Nessie** thinks she's all that, but everyone knows, I'm "The Cats Meow". My new family takes good care of me. I get fresh food and water every day, and every once in a while I find treats in the bowl. But I have to be careful, not to lose this fantastic figure. I'm up to 7 lbs.

"I get to sleep wherever I want. My favorite place is my big sister Bethany 's closet. But, Mom and Dad's bed works too. I love playing chase—and attacking the covers. Although every once in a while dad jerks his foot when I do it....I wonder why. I'm so happy here, and while I miss all my SMAWL friends, I have a home.

"My sister and I can sit at the front door for hours wathing the world go by."

—Rosebud



"Just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how **Snickers's** first night is going. So far, she seems to be doing rather well. She whined a little when Phil left to do an errand, but then I guess she defaulted to me and was okay.

"Snickers hasn't eaten but half a cup of food at dinner time, but she drank some water. I think she is a little homesick for her foster mom. She has been sleeping on the couch with Phil and is rather cuddly.

"I think Snickers is going to be a fine addition to our household, and I think I am going to keep the name Snickers too, as she really is this sweet little chocolate thing (she might be a little part nuts too, I guess we'll find out). I'm really pleased with the way things are turning out. I will be sure to keep you updated on Snickers periodically. Snickers has some good training in her. I think you have definitely played a part in that, so thank you. I have no doubts that when she goes to Petco Obedience school she will succeed.

"Thank you for what you do in helping these dogs. It takes a lot to foster a dog and keep an open heart. Thank you for giving us our first dog. It means a lot."  
—Angela

## Recent Event Photo Gallery



Above, adoption day at the Tiki Bar on Solomons Island.



Above, the All Animal Pet Parade at the SMAWL Animal Fair.

Below, King and Queen candidates line up for treats and recognition during the Animal Fair.



## Good Samaritan Spotlight: Josh Bayer



In October, 8-year-old Josh Bayer presented a \$1,200 check to SMAWL president Barb Whipkey during the Dog-Gone Tiki Bar Family Pet Day. The \$1,200 represents SMAWL's share of the proceeds from the sale of his *M-M-Monster* book which he wrote and illustrated to benefit animal rescue.

Josh and his family are no strangers to SMAWL and animal rescue. The Bayer family's Great Dane-Lab mix, Cooper, was rescued by SMAWL. Yet Josh did not stop his rescue efforts there. He decided to write and illustrate a book that tells the story of saving creatures as a family choice, rather than harming them.

Josh's book tells a story about monsters taking over a house. Yet, despite being initially scared, the fictional family learns to live with and accept the monsters through acts of kindness and understanding.

*M-M-Monster* sells for \$10. All proceeds from the sales go to benefit SMAWL, the Humane Society of Charles County, and the ASPCA. *M-M-Monster* is available for purchase at Pepper's Pet Pantry in Solomons Island, Josen's Fine Jewelry in La Plata, All Kinds Veterinary Hospital in Callaway, Forrest Hall Farm in Mechanicsville, the Charles County Humane Society in Waldorf, and Josh's website at [www.bayerhouse.com/monsterjoshbook](http://www.bayerhouse.com/monsterjoshbook).

Josh has also been attending some local adoption events for book signings.



**In Memory of the Beloved Furbabies who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:**

- Sandy Koslofsky
- Wyatt
- Q Terry
- Aspen Gray
- Toby Burroughs
- Largo Lynam
- Reese SMAWL
- Bailey Light
- Micah and Maddie Smith
- Cappuchino and Steve Johnson
- Chester Mayshark
- Harley SMAWL
- Jody Kinslow
- Mitzi Ewing
- Elmo Whipkey
- Dundee SMAWL
- Cheesehead SMAWL



Hi! My name is **Lyra**, My foster mom calls me a "diva" because I'm just too cute for my own good. I'm looking for a special home because I was born with a heart murmur. It doesn't slow me down one bit though. I still love playing with my brothers and sisters and my foster mom's little dog.

## Veterinary Rescue Partners

The SMAWL board of directors and all of our rescued animals would like to thank the local veterinarians who work with us in a rescue partnership: **All Kinds Veterinary Hospital** and **Tidewater Veterinary Hospital**. The generosity of these veterinarians helps your donation dollars reach more animals.

All Kinds Veterinary Hospital oversees the medical care of the animals in our foster and adoption program, and they spay and neuter SMAWL's homeless animals—all at a "rescue rate." This generous contribution of time, supplies, and surgical space makes rescue possible for SMAWL. Yet, most importantly, all of our animals are treated with love and kindness at All Kinds. Once inside the doors of All Kinds, our animals are no longer society's cast-offs. They are special.

Tidewater Veterinary Hospital participates in our spay and neuter voucher program which offers spay and neuter at a discount rate to the public. Their generosity is helping to curb the pet overpopulation problem in our community.

From the St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Board:

Sandy Burroughs, Melissa Carnes, Trish Cole, Jennifer Hunt, April Mattedi, Bev Norris, Barb Saylor, Katie Werner, and Barb Whipkey.

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## St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Quarterly Membership Forums

The SMAWL Board of Directors would like to invite all members and volunteers to join us at our quarterly Membership Forums which will be held the second Monday of the following months: February, June, September, and December.

At the December forum, the SMAWL Board will host its annual Volunteer Appreciation night.

The February forum will serve as the SMAWL annual meeting. Board of Director nominations and voting will take place in this open forum, as well as any voting to change the organization's bylaws.

The quarterly forums will open to members and volunteers at 7pm. Come join us and be a part of the good news!

All Membership Forums (excepting December) will be held in the Garvey Senior Center in the Leonardtown Governmental Complex.

# Membership Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

The enclosed tax-deductible contribution is donated to support SMAWL in its work for the animals:

- Membership Dues            \$ \_\_\_\_\_            (Family - \$25, Individual - \$15)
- Snowflake Society        \$ \_\_\_\_\_            (Membership - \$15)
- Feral Cat Program        \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Shelter Building Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Where it's needed most    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in:    \_\_\_ volunteering with the animals    \_\_\_ fostering dogs    \_\_\_ fostering cats

**Please mail to: SMAWL, P.O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, MD 20650**

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