

Warm hearts for cold noses

humane society of pulaski county

14600 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72210
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THE "CHANGE FOR GOOD" ISSUE

FALL/WINTER 2025

*"Because I knew you, I have been changed for good."
~ Stephen Lawrence Schwartz
From the song "For Good" from the musical "Wicked"*

Dear Caring Friend,

Ember was found in a shrub when she was only about two days old. The skin on her back had sustained such a serious and painful injury that survival was bleak. However, a naturalistic approach was used involving daily cleaning, application of manuka honey and topical pain relief. Her foster mom and our veterinary staff were miraculously able to save her and now she is healed and ready for adoption.



Ember

Thor is a large nine-year-old diabetic cat who went into foster care with one of our vet assistants nearly a year ago. Like most diabetics, he had to endure daily painful injections of insulin. Through living in a stress-free environment and a diabetic diet, he is now in remission and no longer requires daily insulin. Both stories involve alternative ways to save pets.



Thor

Although we are completing our 79th year of operations, celebrating saving the lives of animals in our area for many years, we are always looking for ways to improve. Because of your support we can do that. In this newsletter you will see innovative approaches to medical procedures, upgrades to our facility, and a move toward more integration of humane education with our volunteers, staff and the public.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Happy Holidays!
Debbie Howell
HSPC Board President

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Cold Weather Care For Dogs

As you prepare for winter, consider how your dog’s unique characteristics influence their response to colder weather. With a few simple adjustments, you can ensure that your pup stays warm, comfortable, and healthy throughout the season.



Breed, age, and overall health can impact the care your pup needs. When considering your dog’s cold-weather needs, think about the following factors:

COAT TYPE: The length, thickness, and texture of a dog’s coat all play a role in how well it protects them from the elements.

AGE: Puppies and senior dogs have a harder time regulating their body temperatures.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Dogs with short muzzles, short legs, and low body mass can have a more difficult time in cold weather.

HEALTH: Arthritis may worsen in cold temperatures and conditions that affect normal circulation like diabetes, kidney disease, and heart disease may impact a dog’s ability to keep themselves warm.

SMALL AND SHORT DOG CARE



Small breeds like Chihuahuas, Toy Fox Terriers, Whippets, Miniature Poodles, and Miniature Pinschers tend to get colder faster because they have a harder time regulating body temperature. This means they lose body heat quickly, even during short periods outside. Short-legged dogs like Dachshunds and Basset Hounds may also struggle, as their bodies are closer to the icy or snowy ground. To help dogs like this stay warm in cold weather: 1) Use coats or sweaters when outdoors, 2) Avoid long walks or outside playtime when temperatures are low, and 3) Provide warm indoor spaces like a heated bed or a cozy blanket for napping.



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Our Shelter Wish List

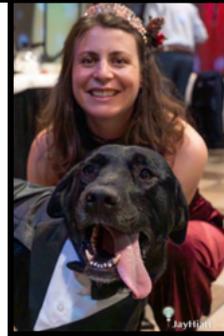
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Purina Chow Brand Food: Dog Chow - Green Bag Puppy Chow - Blue Bag Cat Chow - Blue Bag Kitten Chow - Yellow Bag Kong & Interactive Toys Chew Toys (No Rope Toys) Stuffed Toys (No Beads)</p> | <p>Leashes - Clip or Slip Collars - Dog & Cat all sizes Hand Sanitizer White Copy Paper Zipper Bags all sizes Bath Towels & Blankets (new or used) Odo Ban from Sam’s Club</p> | <p>Batteries all sizes Plastic Storage Containers Cat Grass Seed Milk-Bone Original Dog Treats (plain only), sizes mini, puppy, small and medium Tractor Supply Company Brand Equine Fresh Pine Pellet Stall Bedding (used in litter boxes) Monetary donations are always welcome!</p> |
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Amazon Wish List: Please go to [warmhearts.org/wish-list](https://www.warmhearts.org/wish-list) and click on “Amazon Wish List”

34th Reigning Cats & Dogs: Home For The Holidays



The 2025 Reigning Cats & Dogs: Home for the Holidays fundraiser wrapped up as another banner year for HSPC! Hosted by our amazing emcees from THV's The Vine Ashley King and Tracy Beene, the evening was filled with beauty and charm! Remaining true was our mobile bidding and our organizers. A special shout-out goes to our event chairs Debbie Howell and Julie Austin and a number of excellent volunteers. Our famous red-carpet event began with our 2026 calendar cover winner Zeus, escorted by his dads Barry and Dennis. Five amazing adoptable dogs dressed for an exquisite holiday party made their way down the red carpet as well and are still waiting for their forever homes. It was another successful event and we are looking forward to doing it again in 2026!



With Thanks To Our 2025 Reigning Sponsors

Cindy Conger ♥ Lyn & Bill Owens ♥ Lissenne Rockefeller

Jim Britt, DVM ♥ Tricia Brown ♥ Cecelia & Drew Kelso ♥ Tommie & Jay Marsh

Online Technologies—Phil Dively ♥ Natalie & Win Rockefeller, Jr.

Kate & Brantly Buck ♥ Dr. Barry Buckner ♥ The Chacko Group at Morgan Stanley ♥ Cici Conger-Portie

Sandra Dillon ♥ Ann & Bobby Gough ♥ Karen & Jerry Herbert ♥ Debbie Howell

Johnson Farms—Damascus Division, LLC ♥ Susan Marsden ♥ Marvin Moody, Mark Allen, & Ruby

Sharon & David Morris ♥ Nash Law Firm ♥ Wags & Whiskers ♥ Nancy & Bob Watkins

Laurie & Bobby Whitfield ♥ Many thanks to our Tom Cat and Lil' Cat sponsors too!

Focus On Training And Education

“Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.”
~ Wayne W. Dyer

HSPC believes that educating the people who work with our animals will result in better pets that are more adoptable. **Debra Martin**, our Shelter Manager, has always been diligent about training the staff to maintain a clean and safe environment. **Heath Nicholson**, our Volunteer Coordinator, has earned an additional title as Education Director. His role is to train not only the volunteers, but also our staff, to work with our animals. That training includes teaching people the skills which will make the animals easier to handle, building relationships, cutting down on shelter stress, and ultimately impressing potential adopters. Here are a few examples of that process in action.



Upgrades To Shelter Grounds And Dog Parks

Since our building just turned 25, we often see wear on equipment and facilities. Though we are frugal with our donation dollars, we occasionally are given the opportunity to upgrade. When our aging perimeter 8-foot privacy fence suffered too much damage from acts of nature including storms and falling trees, it was time to start over. At about the same time a couple came forward as executors of an estate from **Susan Congdon and Edwin Calva**. With the funds from this estate, we were able to have a new privacy fence installed with galvanized metal fence posts to allow movement rather than breakage with heavy winds.

Our dog park needed improvement as well. A berm was installed by a landscaping company to redirect water entering and flooding the park. We also reconstructed our watering stations that had rotted with age, and removed uneven pavers in our walkways and replaced them with safe gravel. We also had major repair work done to the lighting over the park, corrected some plumbing issues, ordered enrichment equipment for our dogs, and much more. This was funded by a matching grant provided by the **Windgate Foundation** and our own donors. \$40,000 was raised in total. There are more plans for future improvements which are expected to go into Spring.

In addition, our veterinary clinic discovered that using Dog TV (Cat TV is also available) could relieve stress for a dog that had to be confined with limited exercise for healing. Toby loved his TV and we are still looking for donations of small smart TVs for patients like Toby.



New Privacy Fence



Fence Dedication



New Berm To Redirect Water Flow



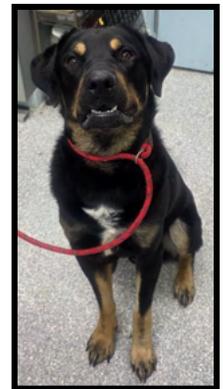
Watering Stations



Herding Balls
Large Storage Boxes For Toys & Grooming Supplies



DOGTV and Toby



Cuddle Couch

Enrichment Equipment From puppyplayground.com



Pit Ball



Pro Series Modular System

Cold Weather Care For Dogs (Continued From Page 2)



ADDRESSING COLD WEATHER RISKS FOR BIGGER DOGS

Large breeds, especially those prone to joint issues, such as Great Danes or Labrador Retrievers, may face unique health risks in winter. Cold temperatures can exacerbate joint pain and stiffness. While they may be better at regulating their body temperature than smaller dogs, their size alone doesn't protect them fully against the cold. Tips for protecting large breeds in cold weather include: 1) Limit strenuous outdoor activities like running on icy or hard, frozen ground as this can worsen joint pain, 2) Provide supportive bedding that keeps them warm and reduces pressure on joints, and 3) Monitor for signs of hypothermia. If they seem lethargic or are shivering, it's time to head inside.



SENIOR DOG CARE

Senior dogs often experience more joint pain, slower blood circulation, and a reduced ability to regulate body temperature—all of which make them more vulnerable to the cold. And they often have decreased musculing, especially in their hind legs, that can make them more prone to slipping on icy surfaces. They may also have existing health conditions that impact how they respond in chilly conditions. For older dogs, it's essential to provide consistent warmth and limit exposure to cold temperatures. Tips to keep senior dogs comfortable in winter include: 1) A heated bed or blanket can help keep joints warm and reduce stiffness, 2) Limit outdoor time and provide coats or sweaters to help maintain body heat, 3) Consider dog booties to help them get a grip on slick surfaces, and 4) Be proactive with vet visits to manage any pain or mobility issues, as cold weather can amplify conditions like arthritis.

BRACHYCEPHALIC BREED CARE

Brachycephalic breeds, like Bulldogs, Pugs, and Shih Tzus have short flat muzzles and may have narrow nostrils which constrict their airways. Breathing in cold air further constricts those airways, and that can lead to respiratory problems. To keep brachycephalic dogs comfortable in cold weather: 1) Limit outdoor time by keeping outings brief, especially on very cold days, 2) Use a warm jacket or sweater, but look for clothing that doesn't restrict movement or breathing, and 3) Watch for any signs of breathing difficulty like excessive panting or wheezing which may worsen in cold air.



CARING FOR DOUBLE-COATED BREEDS



Double-coated breeds, including Shiba Inus, Great Pyrenees, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and German Shepherds, have a natural advantage in cold weather due to their insulating undercoat. This dense layer helps them stay warm even when the temperature drops, and in the right conditions, these dogs can often enjoy longer periods outside than single-coated breeds. However, their double coat requires specific grooming to keep it healthy: 1) Brush regularly to remove dead hair and prevent mats, 2) Avoid shaving to keep their coat's insulating properties intact, and 3) Dry thoroughly after being outside in snow or rain to prevent moisture from being trapped close to their skin. While double-coated breeds are usually more cold-resistant, it's still important to monitor for signs of discomfort, especially in extreme temperatures.

HUMANE SOCIETY of PULASKI COUNTY™



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How we are funded: Our support comes from memberships, donations, fundraisers, and bequests. We receive no city, county or state funds - nor are we affiliated with any national animal organizations.

This newsletter was created with love by Board members Debbie Howell and Sharon Morris, with contributions from the HSPC Staff.



“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Captain is a brown tabby domestic shorthair kitten who was brought to us after being found as a stray. At first, he was very shy and standoffish because he had a serious injury to his eye that led to glaucoma issues. To relieve his pain, the eye was removed. What followed was a playful and curious little dude who loved snuggling and exploring. He was adopted soon after his medical release.

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM THE HSPC BOARD, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF!



This holiday season, we celebrate the changes you’ve helped bring to our mission, and we look forward to another year of saving lives together!