



WAG in 8th year assisting NH animals

From the President

This is our first newsletter since 2002. We plan to publish 3 this year. Our long-time newsletter editors, Fred and Pat Hummel, have had health issues and have not been able to continue to volunteer for WAG. We miss them very much. We wish them well and hope that they will be able to return to an active role with WAG very soon.

This past year was a very busy one for WAG. We literally answered thousands of calls; placed over 100 dogs and cats; and assisted many more through our network of resources.

While it was great that we were able to place a record number of animals, the bad news is we took in a record number of animals. We had to turn many away because we didn't have the room for them, which really saddens us, because who knows what happened to those animals? All the rescue organizations and shelters in the state have experienced this tremendous increase in animals surrendered.

There are numerous theories about why these increases are occurring but the economy tops the list. We've had many, many calls from people who had to take a second job or have experienced a drop in income and can simply no longer properly care for their pets.

Military deployments have also played a role and there are simply more people living in the area; therefore there are more pets overall which results in more animals needing help.

Whatever the reason, WAG has many animals that need a home, especially cats and please remember that all of our animals are from our area: WAG does not import animals from out of state or out of the country. We have found that there are plenty of animals in our corner of New Hampshire that need our help!

Dave Bowers, President

Trinket's Story:

Trinket came to WAG in the summer of 2003. She was the runt of a litter of ten mixed-breed puppies, and she couldn't be placed, like the rest of her littermates, because she is almost totally deaf and is also visually impaired. Talk about a challenge!



WAG placed her in a foster home, and her foster Mom worked with her to get her housebroken and to teach her how to learn.

It was a challenge to figure out how to communicate with this dog, who couldn't really hear or see. Her foster mom finally figured out that hand-signals that were up-close so Trinket could see them and that also utilized her sense of smell (which obviously was just fine) did the trick.

She worked for three months, and by the time Trinket went to her new home she was housebroken and was on her way to being trained.

A wonderful couple adopted Trinket. They renamed this sweetheart Angel, because she is one. She gives them so much love in return for the love and understanding they have for her. We are all thrilled for this cutie! And we'd like to thank her foster mom for the extra time and effort she put into our little canine "Helen Keller" - Trinket would have been virtually unadoptable without the great start that she got. We'd also like to thank the couple that adopted her: they took on an additional challenge - and we are so happy to report that they are getting additional rewards from this wonderful dog.

WAG extends a *very special* thank you to our supporting vets without whom we could not do what we do.

Foxbend Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Randall Snyder

Henniker Veterinary Assoc.
Drs. Robert Brust, Alyssa Brust & Jill Petronagio

Town & Country Animal Hosp.
Drs. Donna Chase & Sally Bertrand

Room in Your Heart

One of the things that makes WAG different from many other shelters is that we do not destroy animals because of advanced age or treatable health problems. We are dedicated to seeing that all of the animals we assist are cared for until they are adopted; no matter how long that takes.

About five years ago, we started a program to help us care for the animals that take a little longer to place. Called the "Room in Your Heart" program, we send out a mailing once a year, in the fall, and people can make annual, monthly, or quarterly payments. This money is used to care for these animals. Last year, our mailing brought in over \$5,000. Many, many thanks to all of the donors who made generous gifts to this program. Most of these animals are available for adoption and some do find homes.

Sweetie Pie, a cat who needs daily medication, went to a wonderful home this fall after spending more than a year with WAG.

Jake, an eleven-year-old Cocker Beagle cross, finally found the home of his dreams when he went to go live with a retired gentleman who was looking for a buddy to share his recliner.

There is Hannah; a senior long hair Chihuahua mix found abandoned this winter. She was found by a caring person who called WAG to assist. We took her in, and she is now living happily in a new home where she is giving and receiving much love.

But we still have many RIYH animals that are looking for homes to call their own, including Frankie.

Frankie is a Lab cross who came to us several years ago. We placed him in a loving home, but he had to be returned to us a couple of years later when his owner died suddenly. Frankie is a "poster dog" for what we are committed to here at WAG: Although Frankie is now ten years old, he is in good health and would make a wonderful companion for the right person.

He would be great for an older person or couple. He is the smartest dog we have ever seen at WAG: he can spell, is very mechanically minded in that we have to put a harness on him backwards or he will open the clip and take it off, and is trained to perfection.



He is the ultimate co-pilot, as he lives to ride in the car. He is unbelievable snuggly, affectionate and devoted, but he's been difficult to place due to his age and his aversion to other dogs and cats. Since he has never been with small children, we will not place him in a home with them. But we will keep looking for the right home for him as long as he lives, and we all hope that that next phone call is someone who would be a perfect match for him.

If you would like more information on Frankie or other Room in Your Heart animals, please call us at (603) 529-5443.

Recent Adoptions

Name	Breed
Abraham	Shepherd/Husky mix
Albert	Yellow tiger
Andy	Cocker Spaniel
Buzz	Grey Tiger
Charlie	Red Tabby
Chica	Whippet mix
Cooper	Wiemaraner
Davey	Lab/Shepherd mix
Elvira	Black Angora
Gambit	Yellow White Tiger
Gia	Brown Tiger
Hannah	Chihuahua
Harley	Beagle
Jake	Beagle/Cocker
Jamie	American Shorthair
Kasey	Basset
Klondike	American Eskimo Dog
Lilly	Italian Greyhound
Luke	Fox Terrier
Misty	Cocker/Brittany
Monty	Golden Retriever
Murray	Yellow Tiger
Patches	Border Collie
Pedro	Gray tiger
Penelope	Gray Tiger
Portia	Italian Greyhound
Riley	Lhasa-Poo
Ripley	American Shorthair
Sammi Girl	Basset
Scamp	Maine Coon/Persian
Sequoia	Malamute
Simba	Gray/White Shorthair
Simon	Red Tabby
Sirus	Himalayan
Spencer	White Tiger
Spencer	White Shorthair
Sweetie Pie	Brown Tiger
Tia	Red Golden mix
Winter	White Shorthair
Zeffa	Balinese
Zoey	AmStaff

Planned Giving to WAG

As you probably know, as a tax exempt (or 501(c)(3) organization, outright gifts of cash and property to WAG provide financial benefits to the donor in the form of income tax charitable deductions. However, other types of gifts can be made to WAG that also provide financial benefits to the donors, including gifts into trust known as charitable remainder trusts that can provide an income stream to the donor during his or her life, along with an income tax deduction, and gifts made in your will that can provide estate tax benefits upon your death. For more information please visit our website at www.wearewag.org or contact WAG.

Planning for Your Pet’s Future – Wills, Trusts, and WAG

Most of you probably know that a will disposes of your assets according to your wishes after your death. However, another importance function of your will is to make sure that your pets will be taken care of after your death. Because the law treats pets as property, you cannot leave money directly to a pet to be used to take care of him/her after your death.

One option for providing for your pet is to bequeath your pet to a friend or relative in your will along with a sum of money. This option, however, provides no assurance that your friend or relative will use the money to take care of the pet. Those looking for such assurances can choose to create a Trust naming a designated caregiver of your pet, who can receive funds from the Trust only to take care of your pet as you have defined in the Trust.

But what if there is no friend or relative you would like to name as the designated caretaker. WAG can help. We can be named as the designated caregiver while we place your pet. Alternatively, WAG can take care of your pet after your death in the manner agreed upon by you and WAG in exchange for a cash bequest to cover expenses related to caring for your pet.

No matter which option you feel is best for your circumstances, an attorney can draft the appropriate provisions in your will or estate plan to ensure that your pet’s needs can be met. If you need help finding an appropriate attorney, we can make a recommendation. Please feel free to discuss any of these options in further detail.

Tracy A. Craig is a senior associate in the Trusts & Estates Practice Group at Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP in Boston and a long time member of WAG. She can be reached at 617 248-7961 or craig@tth.com

Some recent adoptions



Angus



Duncan



**Chili
Pepper**



Coco



Luna & Rosie (formerly Lilly and Portia) with Merlin their new brother

W.A.G. Membership Form:

√ Please complete and send with your donation to:
WAG - PO Box 572 Weare, NH 03281.

Family- \$25.00 per year ____ Individual - \$15.00 per year ____

Junior - \$10.00 per year ____ (under 17 years of age)

Sponsor - \$45.00 per year ____ Guardian Angel Donation: _____

Pet Membership - \$5.00 per year Pet’s Name: _____

Memorial Donation \$ _____ In the memory of: _____

*** Newsletter sent to all members ***

Lady Gwendolyn

A couple of years ago, WAG got a call from a very nice family about a stray cat that had turned up on their doorstep, and they took her in. Although they tried to make it work, she had different ideas. Could WAG help?

WAG took the cat, and, sure enough, she has an attitude. She wasn't a feral cat, but she definitely had her likes and dislikes and wanted to be in charge, totally in charge. We despaired of finding her a home and were resigned to keeping her in the Room In Your Heart program in a permanent foster home.

Several months later, we got a call from a woman who was looking for a cat to keep her ailing mother company. The cat didn't need to be cuddly or affectionate; the woman just wanted a cat to hang around so her mother would have another warm body in the house.

We described this cat, with her attitude problems, and the woman said that would be fine. "I'm no picnic, either," was her reply. So we gulped and gave her the cat.

Everyone in the house came to an understanding, and all was well.

We received a report from Lady Gwendolyn, as the cat is now known, and as you can see, everything worked out perfectly:

Following is a part of Gwendolyn's report written in her own words.

"This is my human's kitchen (below). Whenever she is there, I am there. You never know.... Sometimes she wants me to try something... I rub my face on it and even though it may not be something I want, I don't want to discourage her."

"Her training is so slow.... It's not fair - I've got the brains and she has the thumbs."



"At Christmas, I got special kitty milk, in crystal, of course..."



I do not prefer to be watched and had just said that out loud when this picture was taken."

Signed

Lady Gwendolyn

This is just one of hundreds of stories to be told by the many cats and dogs placed by WAG. If you have a story to share, we would love you to share it with us.

More happy endings...

This is River, a very large Rotty mix that instantly fell in love with his adopted family. When we first met River, one board member said, "Given his size, I hope he is good natured" Turns out he is not only good-natured, he is a perfect companion and devoted family member.

When we took River to meet his new family, they were a bit awe struck by his size but they played it cool. River walked in to the house and immediately spotted Caitlin. She had to reach up to get her arm over River's neck. When river is standing, his head is looking over the counter tops.



Caitlin has grown in the last 5 years so she no longer has to reach up to hug him. Fortunately, River has not grown.

Our Mission

Founded in December 1996, WAG is an all-volunteer rescue and adoption organization based in central New Hampshire. We are dedicated to providing humane care and shelter for abandoned, abused, and unwanted animals, finding them suitable new homes, and increasing public awareness of responsible pet ownership. All WAG pets are current with shots, spay or neutered, and have been examined by a vet.

The WAG Difference:

While we work hard to make each placement permanent, we know that things can change in people's lives. WAG will take back any pet without question, regardless of how long the pet has been in the adoptive home. We are there for an animal's entire life, no matter what.

Volunteer Opportunities

Although we do not have a physical shelter we can still use help in many areas. We need people to assist with events, mailings, newsletters, and committees. You can find a volunteer form on our web site, www.wearewag.org or ask us to mail one to you.

WAG Auction – April 17th:

If you have items you would like to donate for the auction please contact us to arrange pickup. We are looking for items valued at \$25 or more in value new or like new condition. If you own a business you can donate a product or gift certificate for services. Cash donations are always welcome. Hope to see you there. A special thank you to Paul Willmot our auctioneer.

2004 Calendar of Events

Bowl for the Animals

Sunday - March 21 – 1PM
Boutwell's Bowling Center
N. Main St – Concord

3rd Annual Auction

Saturday – April 17th
Silent auction - 5:30PM
Live auction - 6:30PM
Old Weare Town Hall
Rte 114 Weare

Raffle

Drawing - July 4th

Mutt Strut

Saturday September 25th –
10AM - 2PM
4H Fairgrounds –
New Boston, NH

Craft Fair & Photos with Santa

Saturday – Nov. 20th
9:30AM - 2PM
Weare Town Hall – Rte 114

This is Maestro - It took some time to find the right home but when it fits, it fits. Here he is with best buddy Max, a shorthaired Chihuahua. Maestro makes about 6 of Max but they could not be closer.



Muffin - She came to WAG in pretty rough shape but here new family took to her immediately and have gone the extra mile to make Muffin happy and secure. She has bonded with her housemate Buddy and life is good.... Muffin is the one in front being used for a pillow.

