

# Paws-Ability **THE WAGGING TALES**

***Our Vision: Improving Animal Welfare and Enhancing the Animal/Human Bond***

## Greetings, Paws-Ability Members and Friends!

**March, 2021  
Volume 13, Issue 1**

We're so happy to welcome you with our first newsletter for 2021. Like you, we have been hunkering down, trying to stay healthy in body, mind, and soul. Last year's activities were overshadowed by Covid, and many events had to be cancelled. With the advent of a new year, we hope to see people being able to safely get out and go places. We look forward to being able to present fun, fund-raising events again. We anticipate a new year of opportunities and of life opening up to a new kind of "normal," however that may evolve.

Our first event of the year will be a Golf Tournament at Brick Landing on Wednesday, March 24. Sign up to play and enjoy lunch on the Intracoastal for \$75 per person, or notify us at [info@paws-ability.org](mailto:info@paws-ability.org) if you want to volunteer to work the event. [See page 3 for details.](#)

Another fun outdoor event follows on Saturday, March 27. Our annual Photos With the Easter Bunny will be outside Your CBD Store in Calabash from 10 to 2 in the Vision Square Center. The Easter Bunny will be all dressed up in her best Easter outfit and ready to smile with your pets or your kids for an adorable springtime photo! Look for the Paws-Ability tent next to Your CBD Store. You will also be able to update your membership, and we'll be selling high-quality, custom masks in bright spring fabrics, made for us by Laura Davis, and Paws-Ability t-shirts and hats to complete your spring wardrobe, plus Kong toys for your pups!

Next, there's our Spring Online Auction. Our pre-Christmas Online Auction was a huge success, and people begged for another, so here it is, starting Saturday, April 3! Share this with your friends so everyone can be involved. [See page 3 for details.](#)

Thank you for your support of Paws-Ability. You know we couldn't continue our programs and our ongoing efforts to improve animal welfare without you. Since we last met, there have been some changes to the organization. Our Board of Directors has a new set of officers: Anita August is President, Mary Beth Mount is Vice President, Sue LoBuono is Secretary, and Karen Arnold is Treasurer. Additional Board members are Mercy McCurdy, Bunny MacKinnon, and Jenifer McCrea. Even though most of our events were Covid-cancelled last year, we

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Mary Beth Mount, Vice President  
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Board Members:

—Karen Arnold  
—Jenifer McCrae  
—Mercy McCurdy

Have an article or an idea for a story you would like to see in *The Wagging Tales*? Email it to: [info@paws-ability.org](mailto:info@paws-ability.org).

Visit us on the web at [paws-ability.org](http://paws-ability.org) and on Facebook.

## Photos with the Easter Bunny!

March 27

Your CBD Store

Vision Square  
Calabash, NC

Bring the whole family!



*(continued)*

continued to work hard on behalf of Paws-Ability to keep our programs functioning and helping others in need. The animals of Brunswick County remain our priority.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2021 (or perhaps joined for the first time!), we have some new levels of membership you'll want to know about. Our basic individual membership remains \$10 a year and your family can join together for only \$15. A business membership is \$50 a year. New this year are opportunities to support Paws-Ability at higher levels. These include: Silver Paws, \$50; Golden Paws, \$100; and Angel Paws, \$125. The benefits of each membership level are explained on our website ([paws-ability.org](http://paws-ability.org)) under "Join us."

Please check out our new website ([paws-ability.org](http://paws-ability.org)) and "like" us on Facebook to keep up with all that we're doing. We hope to get out there to see you more as this year goes on and to start our monthly meetings again soon. Until then, we wish you well and hope to see you and yours in the very near future!

*Anita August  
President, Paws-Ability*

## Protect Your Pet in an Emergency

In light of two recent events in Southeastern North Carolina, it has become abundantly clear that pet owners must take measures to provide for their pets in the event of their injury, illness, or death.

The first was a fatal accident. The owner was killed and the dog, who was a passenger, ran away. Several witnesses searched for the dog for a couple of days. Using "Nextdoor", a local social media site, the dog was found and returned to the daughter of the deceased man.

The second was the tornado that roared through the Ocean Ridge community and homes on Old Shallotte Road. A dog was sucked out of one of the houses. Unbelievably, the dog returned home a couple of hours later, unharmed! There were no reports of lost pets, but that is often not the case in natural disasters.

In your will, or in a letter attached to your important papers, assign a guardian who will assume custody of your pet. Make sure they agree to this responsibility. Pets of deceased owners often end up in shelters when family members were unwilling or unable to take them. These animals are frightened and confused as they are suddenly in a cage in a strange, noisy place. None of us want our beloved pets to suffer such a fate.

All pets should be microchipped. Shelters, vets, and many police cars are equipped with chip readers to quickly locate owners. It is especially important to update the information stored on them in case you move. Microchips can be implanted by your vet or your local shelter.

*Sue LoBuono*



## CAPTAIN'S CHOICE GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are starting our fundraising year with a golf tournament, teaming up with Dave Berkheimer of Healthy Green Solutions and the newly reopened Links at Brick Landing in Ocean Isle Beach. Proceeds from this tournament will benefit Paws-Ability's animal welfare programs. This fun-filled day will take place Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. The cost is \$75.00 per person, which includes lunch and some great raffle prizes. Check in begins at 8:00 am, with a shotgun start at 9:00 am.

Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paws-ability-golf-tournament-tickets-139718855859>. Mail-in registration forms may be found at The Links at Brick Landing Pro Shop and the Paws-Ability Facebook page. Send in the completed registration form and a check to: Paws-Ability, P.O. Box 6174, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469.

Help us spread the word - tell the golf enthusiasts in your life to join us and encourage businesses you patronize to sponsor! The sponsorship form is also posted on Facebook. For questions about the tournament, contact Dave Berkheimer at 910-632-3287; for questions about sponsorship, contact Mercy McCurdy at 623-282-5454.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Mercy McCurdy*

## Spring Online Auction

Thanks to those of you who participated in our first online auction. It was a great success! We'll be opening our spring auction on April 3, and it will go for two weeks. The auction takes place on Facebook, in a separate group (not the Paws-Ability page) and you can join that group anytime by going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1273607549656163>. Once you've joined the group, you'll get all the posts leading up to and throughout the auction. When the auction begins, items will be posted separately with a photo, description, and minimum bid. In order to bid, just comment on the post with your bid amount. Be sure to check back daily, as new items will be added regularly, and you'll want to update your bids!

If you have something you'd like to donate to this auction (new or gently used items), please contact Mary Beth at [marybethmount@paws-ability.org](mailto:marybethmount@paws-ability.org). Help us raise money and have some fun, from the comfort of your own home. Join the Paws-Ability Fundraising group now and get ready to have a blast!

*Mary Beth Mount*



### **March 24**

Golf Tournament  
The Links at  
Brick Landing  
Ocean Isle Beach

### **March 27**

Photos with the  
Easter Bunny  
Vision Square  
Calabash

### **April 3**

Spring Online Auction

## **Rescue Groups Contact Information**

### **Cat Tails:**

6622 Beach Dr  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469  
910-579-4529  
[www.cattails.org](http://www.cattails.org)

### **R.A.C.E.:**

PO Box 3370  
Shallotte, NC 28459  
910-579-0407  
[raceshelter.org](http://raceshelter.org)

### **Fix A Friend:**

6033 Ocean Highway East  
Leland, NC 28479  
910-253-8161  
[fixafriendclinic.org](http://fixafriendclinic.org)

### **Adopt an Angel:**

PO Box 15905  
Wilmington, NC 28408  
910-392-0557  
[adoptanangel.net](http://adoptanangel.net)

## New Testing Equipment for BCSAPS

Last fall, Paws-Ability provided the Brunswick County Sheriff's Animal Protective Services (BCSAPS) shelter staff with the equipment to conduct fecal analyses on animals in the shelter. Most animals that enter the shelter have diarrhea and/or vomiting. Often, the cause is parasites, which can be detected by examining a fecal sample under a microscope. Previously these samples had to be taken at the shelter and sent to a local veterinary clinic for analysis and diagnosis at an average cost of \$40 per sample. Sometimes, between 10 and 20 samples were sent out for analysis, resulting in significant cost to the shelter. Now, with a new high-powered microscope, slides, covers, solution, and a diagnostic manual, shelter staff can test samples and determine the specific and appropriate treatment protocol for animals in distress.

Volunteer Chris Macke was kind enough to train BCSAPS staff members in the use of the microscope and diagnosis of various parasites. The staff have been honing their skills for several months, and they are able to determine the cause of gastrointestinal symptoms, treating animals quickly and efficiently. In turn, the animals are happier, healthier, and are ready to meet their new forever family more quickly.

That's a win for everyone!

*Mary Beth Mount*



*BCSAPS staff with new microscope*

## Baby, It's Cold Outside!

With the crazy, unpredictable weather we've had recently, please be sure to keep your pets indoors where they're safe and warm. I know we're "preaching to the choir" when we say this to our Paws-Ability membership, but we're asking you to take note of any animals you see outdoors in your community, or in your travels. Do they have adequate food, water, and shelter? Are they outdoors all the time, without a way to take refuge from rain, wind, and cold? Are they tethered and unable to reach safety from inclement weather or predators?

If you see an animal in distress, please contact the Brunswick County Sheriff's Animal Protective Services at 910-754-8204 and let them know the location of the animal and the conditions you are able to observe. Unfortunately, the legal definition of "endangered" is pretty lax in North Carolina, so Animal Control may not be able to do much. However, bringing these situations to their attention is important and officers will typically talk with the owner to help them understand the peril in which they place their pets by leaving them outside.



### Cold Weather Safety For Your Little Buddy



- ❄️ **Provide a warm shelter.** Bring them inside if you can.
- ❄️ **Make noise before starting your car.** Some animals try to stay warm by utilizing a warm car engine or wheel well.
- ❄️ **Check their paws.** Salt from sidewalks and frostbite can injure the pads of their paws. Wipe them with a warm cloth when they come inside.
- ❄️ **Recognize the signs of trouble.** If your pet is whining, shivering, anxious, or slows down, your pet is at risk of hypothermia.



Of course, this doesn't just apply to Brunswick County! For our members who live elsewhere, we encourage you to do the same and contact your local Animal Control office if you see an animal in unsafe conditions. It is up to us to be the voice for those who are unheard.

*Mary Beth Mount*

## Fix Your Friends!

You've heard us say it before, and we'll keep saying it until the pet over-population has ended: SPAY AND NEUTER!!! There's only one way to prevent thousands of animals from being euthanized in shelters every year and that is to spay and neuter your pets. Sure, puppies and kittens are adorable, but not if they are homeless and end up in shelters, riddled with health problems due to a lack of veterinary care. We'll never stop fighting the scourge of puppy mills, but until they are outlawed, we shouldn't be adding to the problem by allowing our own animals to continue to reproduce. Those of us in rescue and sheltering would love nothing more than to put ourselves out of business because there are no unwanted animals.

In southeastern North Carolina, we are very fortunate to have a low-cost spay/neuter clinic. Fix A Friend is located in Winnabow, on Highway 17. If cost is the reason you have not altered your pets, they have very reasonable prices that include vaccines. There are lots of health and behavioral benefits to spay/neuter. Read on...



### The Importance of Spay/Neuter

On the whole, fertile animals create a risk with the ever-increasing animal population. Even with a pet owner's best intentions, accidents can, and will, happen. For the most part, it is impossible to control a female in heat and the male aggressor's needs. A male animal can sense an intact female in heat up to 3 miles away! If not supervised at all times, a relentless un-neutered animal will pursue a female in heat until their needs are satisfied. Spay and neuter your pets!

### Medical Benefits of Spay/Neuter

- Provides pets a healthier, happier, and extended life expectancy.
- Spaying female pets prevent uterine infections and breast tumors. Malignant or cancerous tumors occur in approximately 50% of dogs and 90% of cats.
- Neutering male pets helps prevent testicular and some prostate cancers.
- Contrary to what you have heard, spaying and neutering will not cause obesity. Pets must have a regulated nutritious diet and daily exercise to prevent fatty tissue, tumors or obesity.

*Mary Beth Mount*

## Behavioral Benefits of Spay/Neuter

- A spayed female will not go into heat. No menstrual cycle, diapers, pads, stains or mess. FYI, female feline heat cycles occur approximately four to five days every three weeks. Expect an I ncrease in yowling and urination during the breeding season. Have you ever tried putting a diaper on a cat??
- A male pet will not stray in need of a sexual companion in heat. A loose pet is at high risk, including traffic, fights, injury, theft, and abuse.
- Male pets will not mount other animals and/or people if neutered young and trained.
- Spay/neuter reduces aggression in animals.

**Please  
remember to renew  
your  
Paws-Ability  
membership!  
[www.pawsability.org](http://www.pawsability.org)**

