



# PAWS FOR THE NEWS

A monthly publication for Praying for Paws, a non-profit animal rescue serving the needs of Henry County, GA and surrounding areas

[www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com)

Phone 404-202-4208



## 2008 – The Year In Review

*2008 was a year of exciting milestones for Praying for Paws. This newsletter will focus on “Happy Tails” and other good news from the year, so the format will be slightly different than other editions. THANK YOU to the many volunteers who shared in our successes. Without you, we couldn’t do it!*

**TOTAL ADOPTIONS THIS YEAR – 104!!!** We had anticipated a slower year than 2007 (100 adoptions) due to the changing economy, but with the help of transports to Maine and other states, we had a record year.

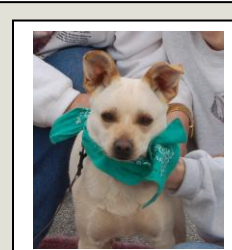
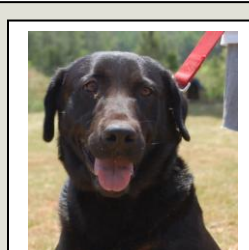
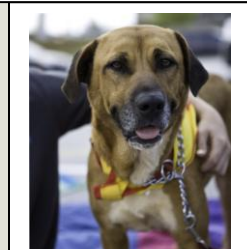
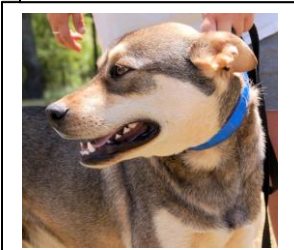
**Adopted dogs** - Abby, Bailey, Bandit, Bella, Betsy, Buford, Cami, Cassie, Chance, Chester, Chipper, Chloe 1, Chloe 2, Colonel, Cookie, Cooper, Cracker Jack, Curly, Dublin, Dusty, Elmo, Frankie, Freckles, Frizz, Gabby, Georgia, Gypsy, Harley, Helga, Hymee, Jake 1, Jake 2, Jigsaw, Joey, Josie, Kip, Larry, Macy, Marley, Millie Mae, Miracle, Missy, Moe, Monkey, Mr. Wiggles, Nixon, Odysseus, Ollie, Otis, Panda 1, Panda 2, Peanut, Petey, Poppie, Rascal, Razor, Rosie, Riff, Riley, Rocco, Rocky 1, Rocky 2, Roger, Ruby, Rusty, Sadie, Sammy, Sandy, Shelby, Smoocher, Smore, Sophie, Spot, Sydney, Teddy, Wilson

**Adopted Dogs Through Transports** – Allen, Banjo, Ben, Buttons, Daisy, Dudley, Jenny, Jonah, Jordan, Keisha, Lexi, Lilly, Lucy, Maddie, Maggie, Mitzi, Montell, Orestes, Rita, Rover, Rusty, Shadow, Solomon, Summer, Teddy, Yanni, ZoZo

### Other Accomplishments in 2008

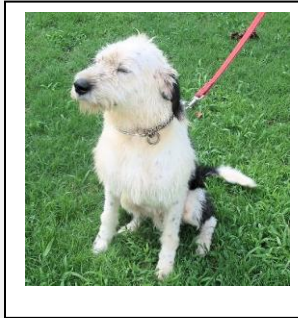
- Began a relationship with **Alpha Dog Rescue**, a group in **Maine** that takes dogs who are transported from our organization; with a 100% successful adoption rate, our dogs have found homes there after being in our program for up to two years with no local applications or interest
- Established a youth volunteer program at **Praying for Paws** to encourage young people, ages 10-17, to help with adoption events, as well as train, exercise and groom our dogs
- Participated in several local pet adoption and community events, including the **Geranium Festival**, **Eagles Landing First Baptist Church Health Fair**, **Paradise Empowerment Fall Festival**, **McDonough First Baptist Fall Festival** and two adoption days at **Aloha Tan**
- Held our first **Praying for Paws Golf Tournament**, which raised over \$2500 for our organization
- Received a “dog shower” from the **McDonough Women’s Club**, which provided over \$300 in cash and supplies
- Started a school visitation program in **Henry County**, where we visit local schools to teach children about dog safety, “pets for life” and the importance of choosing a rescue dog for a pet
- Applied for assistance from the **Smith Grant Foundation** (decision to be made in early 2009)
- Participated in the **McDonough Christmas Parade** – our “Peanuts”-themed float won 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 75 entries
- Updated our website to encourage on-line donations and provide more information about our organization
- Began providing more “hands on” assistance to new pet adopters by offering a free dog-training session with each adoption, as well as numerous tips for making the adoption a successful one
- Broke ground on our new shelter, **The Paw Pad**, which will also offer boarding, training, doggie daycare and other services to support the ongoing costs of our organization

*Some of our great dogs who found a home in 2008 – Cooper, Keisha, Millie Mae, Petey and Spot*



# Ten Dogs Adopted in December!

Ten of our dogs celebrated the end of 2008 with a new "forever home." Top row, left to right: **Rosie, Betsy, Chipper, Harley** and **Ollie**; Bottom row, left to right: **Rocky, Wilson, Ben, Allen** and **Rita** were adopted (**Allen, Ben** and **Rita** were transported to **Maine**, where they were adopted immediately after their arrival). Check out more information on **Chipper** and **Harley** later in this newsletter.



## New Dogs at Praying for Paws



**Bear**



**Cookie**



**Goldie**



**Kisses**



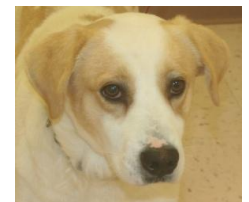
**Mo**



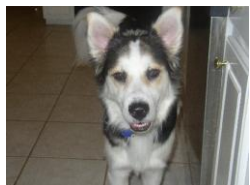
**Molly**



**Nikki**



**Noah**



**Oreo**



**Sable**

Check out our profile on Petfinder or [www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com) to learn more about us!



**Marissa**

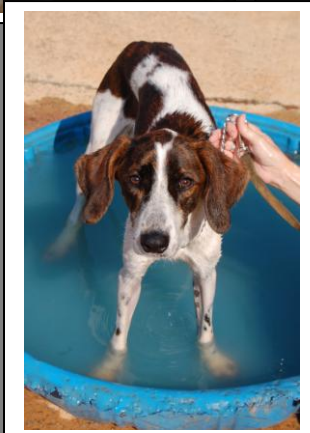
# Meet Champ, Our Featured Pet of the Month

**Champ** would like to remind everyone that he is STILL waiting for a home! He has been living at **Praying for Paws** since early **July**, when he was given up by his owners due to a change in their living situation. **Champ** is a very sweet boy, and he quickly became a favorite of many of the volunteers who spend time with the dogs due to his sweet and energetic personality.

**Champ** is a **Pointer** mix, and he absolutely **LOVES** to run and play. He has a very happy personality and gets along well with all of the other dogs. **Champ** would love to be adopted to a home where he gets lots of exercise and has room to run and run! He is still a young boy, so he would need continued training and reinforcement.

Poor Champ has been with us for a while now, and he really needs a home of his own. Please consider adding this sweet dog to your family. Hounds or hunting breeds are typically not adopted as quickly as other breeds and tend to get euthanized more often in shelters. They make great pets, as long as their owners educate themselves on their characteristics and needs. Exercise is perhaps the most important factor in successfully adopting a hunting breed.

**To adopt Champ, please go to [www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com) and complete an application online or call 404-202-4208**



## A Story of Hope for the New Year

A few days before **Christmas**, **Praying for Paws** received an anonymous phone call to notify us of an address where a dog needed to be rescued. **Carol Kelly**, founder/president of **Praying for Paws**, contacted **Henry County Animal Control** to investigate the tip. When officers arrived, they found a horrifying case of animal neglect. A **Lhasa Apso** that the owner had named **Fluffy** was tied up in the back yard with a plastic crate for shelter. His fur was completely matted to the skin and was very painful to the touch. Faced with a large fine or court, the owner decided instead to relinquish **Fluffy** to animal control. It is estimated that **Fluffy** had lived in that horrible environment for up to two years. His fur was so matted that he couldn't move without extreme pain, and his eyes were completely covered with mats as well. Animal control officers reported that it was one of the worst cases of animal neglect that they had ever seen.

**Gerri Dueringer**, the director of **Henry County Animal Control**, called **Carol** with a request to take **Fluffy** into our program. The first step was to take **Fluffy** to **McDonough Animal Hospital**, where he was sedated and completely shaved. Last week, he was neutered and his cherry eyes were surgically repaired, so he is still recovering at the hospital.

This dog has been given a fresh new start, so we decided to also rename him. His new name is **Duffy**, and he is now looking for a foster home to complete his recovery and learn to trust humans again. We are seeking someone to foster **Duffy** who will patiently look past his grumpiness and distrust. He has never known the love and affection that is waiting for him.

We are hopeful that **Duffy** will not only find the perfect foster home but also a loving permanent home in 2009. If you can help, please contact **Praying for Paws**.



*Fluffy "before"*



*Duffy, formerly known as Fluffy, after his haircut*

# Some "Happy Tails" from 2008 Adoptions

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, **Chipper** was adopted after being with us for several months. **Chipper** (with the help of his humans) sent an email to update us on his new life:

*Hi everyone at Praying for Paws,*

*I just wanted to let everyone know how I was doing in my new home. The first couple of days, my new family thought I didn't want to be there because I absolutely REFUSED to walk through either the front or back door. I wanted to spend ALL day and night outside. They kept enticing me with treats, though, and guess what? I LIKE IT INSIDE! I get to go out in the fenced back yard and run around whenever I want, and they take me on a leash walk a couple of times a day. I got new Royal Canin food to mix with my Pedigree, a new big pillow for a bed and some new toys. I especially like my squeaky rainbow ball, but the soccer ball I found out back is pretty fun, too. Guess what else I especially like? My new "sister" Daryn is my new best friend. I really like my whole new family, but Daryn is special. She feeds me when I come upstairs, I even sleep on my pillow right next to her bed. They said I am even going to work with "Daddy" on Sunday to get groomed and buy some Frontline.*

*Thank you so much for keeping me healthy and safe til my new family found me.  
Chipper*



\*\*\*\*\*

## Harley is now Karly



In **December**, **Harley** was adopted to a great new home. She had been featured in previous newsletters and had become a favorite of our volunteers. **Harley** was given up by her family when they were forced to move and couldn't bring her along. She was so depressed upon her arrival at **Praying for Paws** that she wouldn't even eat. She eventually adjusted to her new surroundings, and her true personality emerged. She loved going to adoption events and meeting new people, especially children. She injured her leg in **November** and required a quiet environment where her leg could heal. The **Crane** family generously offered to foster **Harley** and kept her until she was adopted.

Her new family has renamed her **Karly**, and we think that the name suits her perfectly. As you can see in the photograph, **Karly** is very happy in her new home!

# ZoZo – my Favorite “Happy Tail” of 2008

By Michelle Farris

If you ask any of the volunteers at **Praying for Paws**, we will tell you that we love all of the dogs; however, each of us have that “special” dog that really captures our heart and seems to have a bond that is difficult to explain. **ZoZo** was that dog for me.

I first met him in 2007, after he had been at the rescue for many months. He was just another black dog and was invisible even to me. At that time, we had so many black labs that it could be overwhelming to try and tell one from another. Then, one day I saw him, sitting there in his pen, staring at me with a scared look. No one knew his history, but it was apparent that someone had mistreated him. **ZoZo** was terrified of men and would sometimes even growl at them. If anyone, male or female, approached him while holding an object in their hand, he was hastily retreat to safety.

I soon found that **ZoZo** was so sweet and loving – he only wanted to be petted and loved. As he grew more comfortable in his surroundings, he would jump up and “dance” with volunteers to get their attention. He was quickly coming out of his shell as he began to see how much he was loved.

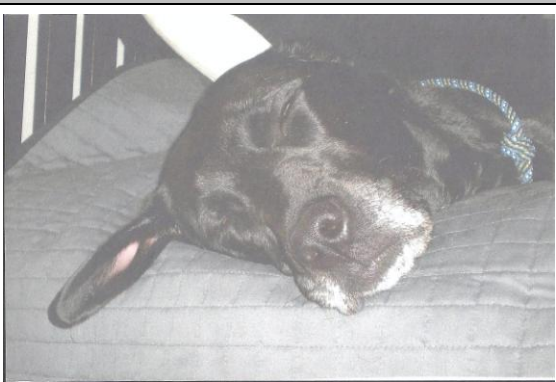
To me, **ZoZo** was a beautiful black **Labrador Retriever**. To most people, though, he was just another black dog with a bad skin condition, a dry coat and crossed eyes!! His eyes didn’t help to make him attractive to potential adopters, and he continued to be overlooked for over two years.

In **June**, we decided to send **ZoZo** up to **Maine** on a transport to the rescue there. We all had mixed emotions about sending him. He had been with us longer than any other dog, and we knew it was the best thing for him, but it was very hard to let him go.

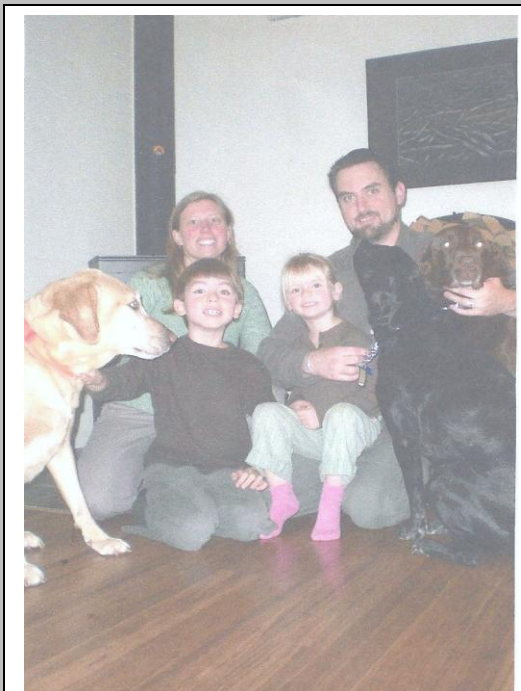
Right after his arrival in **Maine**, **ZoZo’s** life changed when he was adopted to the **Shanks** family. They fell in love with him and added him to their pack, which included **Jabu** and **Honey** – two other Labs. **ZoZo** quickly adapted to his new life and especially loved the fact that he now lived indoors.

We recently received a letter from the **Shanks** family to assure us that **ZoZo** continues to thrive in their care. His skin problems are gone, and his coat is beautiful again due to vet treatment for his allergies. He goes on walks, visits the dog park and even goes camping! He loves being in the woods and playing with his family, which also includes two children. **ZoZo** recently experienced snow for the first time ever and has learned to romp in it with his canine family.

We can only hope that every dog in our program gets a great home like **ZoZo**. He waited over 2 ½ years, but it was worth it!! **THANK YOU to the Shanks family, for adopting ZoZo, and for keeping us updated on his new life.**



ZoZo sleeping on his comfortable bed



The Shanks family with their pack”

## MOLLY (formerly known as S'more)

Five months ago, I was adopted by the Lambert family. I used to be called S'more, but my new name is Molly, or sometimes Molly Moo or Maw-Maw. I used to be the runt of the litter and weighed 13 lbs. when I was adopted. I'm now 7 months old, weigh 60 lbs. and I don't think I'm done growing yet. The Lamberts have given me all the attention and food I need, playtime, and lots of chew bones. We go on walks around the neighborhood and chase the cat around the yard, which he "enjoys." My big brother, Max, and I have a good, old time. He growls a lot (because he's nine years old) but I've grown used to it.

My pack has just started taking me to the dog park. I love it there because I've made so many new friends. Yesterday I met a puppy named Jasmine, and we had fun running around the park. I was mostly chasing her to get that tennis ball! Max started playing with us too, which made it even more fun!!

I just graduated from Beginner's Training (top of the class). I'm really good at "sit" and "stay," "down" is a little tough, and I'm learning to "heel." The hardest part is not jumping on people when I greet them. I just get so excited! In a couple days, I'll get to try out the agility course - can't wait!

I love my new family and friends and look forward to making more friends at the dog park. I also can't wait to go to Blood Mountain this weekend to hike to the very top!

Love,  
The Ultimate Mutt, Molly

Little Me



I can too fit in the cat bed!



My Sisters, Max, and Me!



**Note – Molly was rescued, along with six brothers and sisters, after their mother died. The puppies were only two weeks old. The Crane family stepped in and took all of the puppies into their home. They bottle-fed them and cared for them around-the-clock until they were ready for adoption. Each of the pups found a terrific new home, and we are so grateful to the Lambert family for sharing their story with us!**



*Oct 1995-Dec 2008  
Phoebe*

One of our volunteers, **Cissy Joanis**, lost her beloved dog, **Phoebe** in **December**. **Phoebe** was the oldest of her “pack,” which includes **Sidney, Shelby** and recently-adopted **Gabby** (from **Praying for Paws**). **Cissy** has included a tribute to **Phoebe** on her photography website, **[www.mtwphotography](http://www.mtwphotography)**, which includes a great gallery of her work in pet and people photography. Our condolences to **Cissy** for her loss.

***Mark Your Calendars: On Sunday, January 11, we will have our 2009 planning meeting at 2:30. The meeting will be held at the home of Lynn Bourn. It is critical that our volunteers attend this meeting, as we will be discussing our goals and plans for the upcoming year. If you can attend, please email Lynn at [bbourn@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbourn@bellsouth.net). See you there!***

### ***Some Answers to Your Questions about Praying for Paws***

**Where do you get the dogs?** We get many of our dogs from the Henry County Animal Shelter and communicate with them on a weekly basis. We have a great partnership with the staff there. We also take owner turn-ins. In the last year, many people have contacted us for help due to a forced change in their living situation or financial status. In many cases, people simply did not have the money to continue caring for their dog. We also take dogs from elderly people who go into nursing homes or assisted living. Lastly, we frequently help our military personnel when they are deployed into service. Like most rescue groups, we stay at full capacity, but we keep a “waiting list” and help people as we can.

**Why do transports to other states?** We have found that many states, particularly in the Northeast, have a limited number of adoptable pets in shelters. They don’t have the pet overpopulation problem that we have here in the South due to stricter pet license laws, more education about the importance of spaying/neutering, etc. By transporting our dogs there, we have found that they have a 100% success rate of finding a great home. We still require screening of the applicants and only work with very reputable transport companies and rescue groups.

**How long do you keep a dog?** We are no-kill, so we will keep a dog indefinitely. Obviously, we want to adopt every dog to a great home, but some of our dogs are “special needs” and may never get adopted. In those cases, we provide them with a loving and healthy environment to spend their days.

## **Words of the day: Dog Bed, Leash, and Thunder**

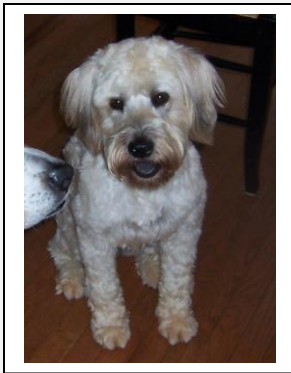
(dog humor illustrated by Sparky, Sami and Merlin – who could have written it but didn't!)

**Author unknown**

**Dog Bed:** Any soft, clean surface, such as a white bedspread, newly-upholstered couch or the dry cleaning that was just picked up.

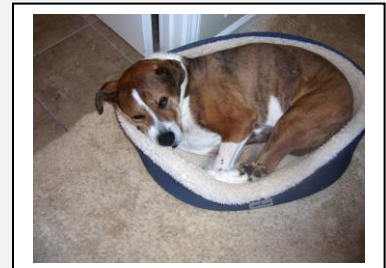


(Sparky prefers the master bedroom comforter when no one is home)



**Leash:** A strap that attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your human where you want him or her to go.

(Sami says that she is a good girl on a leash unless she sees a squirrel!!)



**Thunder:** A signal the world is coming to an end.

Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels

(Merlin says that as long as he can get under the bed during a storm, it is okay for his humans to remain calm)

Praying for Paws needs your help! We always need cash donations to help with vet bills, foster homes, Pedigree dog food, leashes, collars and of course, permanent homes for our great dogs.

[www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com)

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404-202-4208