



# Miss Nibbles' News

Fall 2024

<https://bellavista-animalshelter.org/>

## Finding a way home together



### *Letter from the President*

As the heat of the summer passes and the leaves begin to change, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared this year at our beloved shelter. It's been a roller-coaster of emotions—heartwarming moments, challenges, and triumphs—but through it all, our community's unwavering support has been our guiding light.

This year, our shelter has been bustling with wagging tails and curious whiskers. We've welcomed countless furry friends, and most times, our kennels have been bursting at the seams. But you know what? That's a testament to our community's compassion. When a dog or cat arrives at our doorstep, scared and uncertain, we embrace them with open arms. And here's the heartwarming part:

**152** dogs that found their way here were joyfully reunited with their owners. These reunions are like little miracles—the wagging tails, the teary eyes—it's pure magic.

Our adoption success stories are the

fuel that keeps us going. So far this year, 118 dogs found forever homes. Picture it: families strolling through our shelter, connecting with their new furry companions. The laughter, the promises of long walks, and the shared dreams—it's a beautiful dance of love and hope. And let's not forget our feline friends! 96 of our cats have been adopted, finding cozy spots on windowsills and claiming their own patches of sunlight. These adoptions ripple through our community, creating bonds that last a lifetime.

Our shelves are stocked with kibble, cans, and treats, but the demand never wanes. You see, we're not just feeding our shelter animals; we're also extending a lifeline to pet owners who face tough times. Life isn't always straightforward, and circumstances shift unexpectedly. Maybe a family has fallen on hard times, or perhaps their living situation has changed. Whatever the reason, we're here to help, without judgment.

When you drop off that bag of dog food or contribute to our food pantry,

you're doing more than filling bowls. You're nourishing both bellies and hearts. Your generosity ensures that our furry friends thrive within our walls, but it also helps families keep their pets at home—a delicate balance we cherish. Because every wagging tail and every contented purr is a testament to the compassion that binds our community together.

As we move into the crisp days of autumn, I want to express my deepest gratitude. To our tireless volunteers, our generous donors, and every person who has ever shared our posts, attended our events, or whispered a kind word about our shelter: Thank you! You are the heartbeat of Bella Vista Animal Shelter. Let's continue this journey—one paw print at a time.

With appreciation and endless tail wags,

Jeremy Velten, Bella Vista Animal Shelter Board President

Contact us at:  
[info@bellavista-animalshelter.org](mailto:info@bellavista-animalshelter.org)

# *In Honor of* *Dear Friends & Beloved Pets*

Allan Abey  
Anne Eckley  
Anne Medine's Birthday  
Anne Whalen  
Athena Megan Reid  
Barbara Neumann  
Bently Marriott  
Beverly (Bev) Shelton  
Bill Davis  
Bill Hoye  
Carol Blank  
Collette Henderson  
Connie Cain & Susan Kenny  
Courtney Barnum  
Courtney Behrens  
Courtney Nicole Childress  
Craig Lavis  
Denise Rivers Barry  
Dr. Carol Reynolds  
Emily Schmid  
Harriette's Dream  
Jack Price & Shana Coon  
Jamie & Judy Young  
Jane Wilms  
Jerry Smith  
Joann Schweitzer  
Joanne Murphy  
Joe & Sandy Cordi  
John Obliskey  
Johnny La Montia  
Judy Grant  
Judy McVarkus  
Julia & Otis Weigle  
Kathleen Thomas  
Keith Carson Roberts  
Kenneth R. Purcell  
Marian Eagle  
Mary Harris  
Maurine Grimes  
Michael McCollum  
Michelle Hoffman  
Mil Downing  
Monty Gilmore

Patti Tucker  
Priscilla Shoulder's Birthday  
Rob Moul  
Sammy Gordon  
Sandra Purcell  
Sandy Casebolt  
Sharon Tomkovich  
Shyla Fishers' Birthday  
Steve Hilman  
Steve, Jillian, Alex & Charlie  
Tina Kauffman  
Tom Hanrahan  
Virginia (Ginna) Townsley  
Walle Williams

Abbey Parks  
AC  
Athena  
Blossom  
Camp  
Carly  
Charmer  
Dobbs  
Chesa, Casey  
& Neuie  
Clooney  
Delilah  
Duke  
Grace, Mattie  
& Nimitz  
Gracie  
Indi  
Jack  
Joe  
Kippa

Leonidas  
Luigi  
Max  
Monte  
Pepper  
Precious Pets  
Punkin Huels  
Rusty Hoover  
Sadie's B-Day  
Sakari  
Sam  
Scully  
Simba  
Sir Winston  
Sundae  
Suzy  
Tess  
Zane  
Zoe

**Bella Vista  
Animal Shelter  
Board Member,  
son, father,  
friend.  
Eric Espe**



**1962-2023**

**Ava Smith  
4/29/24**



**Lucy West  
7/31/23**





Bella Vista Animal Shelter is a no kill shelter. We have some animals that require a little more time to find their forever family. Here is just one of our Angels stories.

Lulu is an exceptional dog, friendly, gentle and good with most other animals. She was first brought to the shelter as a pup in 2019, found as a stray with a purple color on near Singleton Cir. She was quickly adopted out. We estimated her age at nine months old. After four months the adopters did not like her puppy behaviors of digging and jumping and asked if they could bring her back to the shelter. She spent two more months at the shelter and was adopted again. This family loved her for two years before they needed to move.

Now LuLu was an adult and pretty big. She was still a gentle soul and was always available to meet with the kiddos

*LuLu as a pup 9/2019*



# GUARDIAN ANGEL SUCCESS

that came to the shelter for a visit. She stayed with us for 2 years and three months before her new family adopted her. She is best friends with their toddler and protects the young girl as if she was her own. They take her swimming in the creek and Lulu could not be happier.

Lulu is nearly six-years-old and has spent more than half her life living in the shelter. We are so grateful for those who come into the shelter and say this is the dog I need. We have others that have been with us longer.

*LuLu going home 7/2024*



*Kismet Adopted*



*Fred Adopted*



*575 Days*

## BOARD MEMBERS:

- Jeremy Velten, President
- Tim Joos, VP
- Anita Werts, Treasurer
- Dixie Gilmore, Secretary
- Kathy Griffith
- Amy Knox
- Sherry Morris
- Brandon Mollet
- Jewel Williams
- Mackenzie Mills
- Kristie Perry
- Jackie Henry
- John Baschoff

## STAFF:

- Nancy Cullins, Exec. Dir.
- Laurie May, Shelter Manager
- Jason Winter, Facilities Manager
- Sonny Crabb
- Liz Tacker
- Shannon Hodgins
- Dean Boyd
- Ginger Melton
- Stevee Stoufer

*M.J. Adopted*



*399 Days*

Our Guardian Angels' program is a monthly subscription of \$10 to keep all our "Lulu's" cared for till their people find them. Please consider sponsoring one of our angels. Text 53555 with BVASANGEL to set up a monthly subscription to support our angels. Guardians make it possible to keep up the good work of getting these hard to place animals in a loving home. You will receive a quarterly update on all of our long term Angels.

# *“Failure to plan is like planning to fail”*

- Benjamin Franklin

Bella Vista Animal Shelter is a blessing! I reached out to them today to inquire if they would take back, care for, and find a new forever home for our much loved male tabby cat, Windsor, now known as Lucky, in the event of our passing.

The story of love at first sight began in September, 2021. My husband and I went to the Shelter to drop off cat and kitten food donations. Of course, we had to visit with the kitties there. The next thing I know, my husband is holding 9 month old Windsor like he's a newborn baby. We noticed one of Windsor's eyes was inflamed and we were told that the previous adopter had placed liquid oral antibiotics in his eye. The vet was evaluating him in a day or two and we were asked to check back with the Shelter in the near future.

We didn't hesitate and completed an adoption application the next day. During a follow-up phone call with the Shelter, we were told that Windsor's eye had to be removed and that he was recovering from the surgery.

We were blessed and 'lucky' to bring Windsor home in October. Our 10 year old cat, Webster, fell in love with him, they've bonded and are great buds.

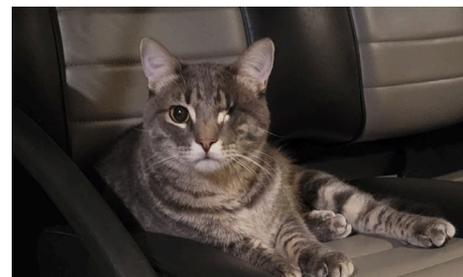
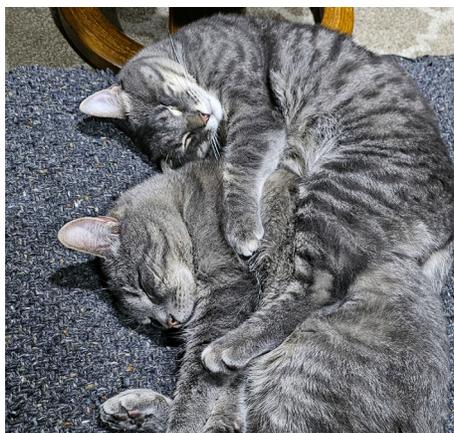
Windsor, aka Lucky, is now a special needs cat. With only 1 eye, he cannot go outdoors ever. Don't worry, he and Webster enjoy the screened 'catio' and screened garage as well as the run of the house.

We're meeting with our attorney tomorrow because we realized we hadn't included a Pet Directive for Lucky in our will. Let me tell you, a Pet Directive is a critical part of estate planning. The directive eases the mind of the Estate Executor and spells out precisely what you wish for your beloved pet(s).

Bella Vista Animal Shelter has graciously agreed to accommodate us. We will enter a bequest to them in our will revisions. The monetary donation is not required but as we all know, Bella Vista Animal Shelter is always there for all of us.

*Sue Morris*

Bella Vista Animal Shelter Adopter



## *Estate Planning*

- If you don't plan, then your state law has a plan for you!
- Wishful thinking isn't planning. Telling someone what you want isn't planning. Only planning is planning.

## *Ways to Create a Pet Plan*

- Pet Trusts – now valid in all 50 states and the District of Columbia
- Veterinary Power of Attorney
  - For Animal Companion —
- Instructions for Pet Caregivers
  - Short term
  - Long term
  - Disaster Planning —
  - Wallet card
  - Home decals
  - Written Plan

Lifetime care options for your pet – more info at [ACT4Pets.org](http://ACT4Pets.org)

## *Legacy Planning Tools*

Read: “All My Children Wear Fur Coats - How to Leave a Legacy for Your Pet” by Peggy R. Hoyt, J.D., M.B.A.

- Appreciated Asset Donation
- Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for those over 70
- Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
- Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)
- Family Foundations

*Charities pay no taxes when selling securities!*

**April 12**

Dogs & good times  
April 12, 2025  
Allen's Food Market



**Monday, May 5**

Cinco de Meow  
May 5, 2025  
Las Fajitas  
Sugar Creek



**June TBD**

Week Long  
Charity Sale  
2 Leaffield Ln  
Bella Vista



**June 28**

Microchip and Bath  
June 28, 2025 **Chips N Dips**  
Bella Vista Animal Shelter



**July 12**

July 12, 2025  
Kingswood  
Golf Course



**2025 Calendar  
of events and  
fun-raisers**

**September TBD**



**October 3 & 4**



**October 11**



**December 2nd**

**GIVING TUESDAY**

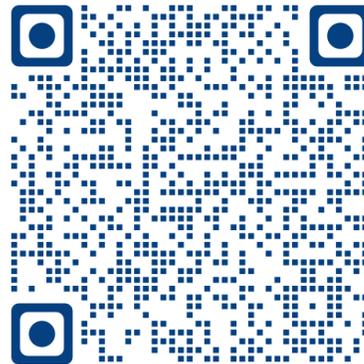
**December All Month**

**SANTA PAWS**



Holiday Cards from the shelter  
to your honored friends and family

Can't find what you want?  
Order a custom T-Shirt.  
Pick style, color and size



Use QR code to Donate

Thank you for being a friend of the BVAS. Together, we provide shelter and care for over 500 dogs and cats a year. In 2023 - 95% of stray dogs and 100% of cats were successfully returned to their owners or found a new home. We have registered 196 microchips and vaccinated 252 animals. Please consider having your pet microchipped. BVAS will insert and register your chip Tuesday - Sunday from 10 am - 4 pm. Just stop in. We would love to meet you at one of our events or at the shelter.

Our Mission: To rescue and rehabilitate the lost or homeless animals of Bella Vista. We help pets reunite with their families and provide food, shelter and medical care for animals in need until they can be placed into loving homes.

**See our adoptable animals at**

[www.bellavista-animalshelter.org](http://www.bellavista-animalshelter.org) • [www.PetFinder.com/shelter/ar27.htm](http://www.PetFinder.com/shelter/ar27.htm)

100% of all donations are tax deductible and will be used ethically to benefit the animals.

- \$10 Monthly for Guardian Angel
- \$20 will microchip an animal
- \$50 will spay/neuter an animal
- \$75 will provide a free adoption
- \$100 will provide vaccinations for 5 puppies
- \$ 500 will feed a dog for one year and give lifetime membership
- Legacy gifts will ensure the BVAS can care for pets for years to come

or Text **BVAS** to 53555

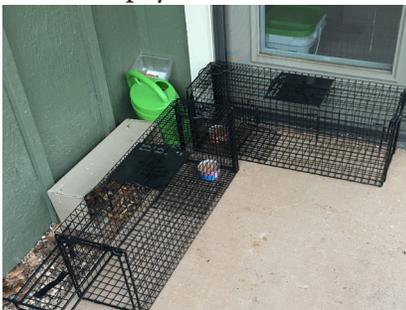


# TNR

TNR, which stands for Trap-Neuter-Return, is a humane approach to managing and reducing feral and stray cat populations. The process involves trapping the cats, having them neutered or spayed, and then returning them to their original location. TNR programs are widely recognized as effective for several reasons:

1. **\*\*Population Control\*\***: Neutering and spaying prevent the cats from reproducing, which gradually reduces the population over time.
2. **\*\*Behavioral Benefits\*\***: Neutered cats are less likely to exhibit behaviors like yowling, spraying, and fighting

Bella Vista Animal Shelter has been building our TNR program and we have seen a real difference. This year we took in 158 kittens, where we had over 200 consecutively for the previous 3 years. Roughly 100 community and feral cats have been trapped by Jason Winter after his shift ends at the shelter. He then delivers the felines to the NWA Community Cat Project in Prairie Grove, where volunteer vets get all the felines spayed or neutered.



**Jason's traps set up at houses around the neighborhood.**



**Trapped cats waiting for transport and recovering from surgery stay at the shelter**



## RULES FOR TNR

- Call and make an appointment
- Do not feed cats on trap day
- Do not move traps
- Tell your neighbors that BVAS is trapping cats, all other cats should remain indoors.
- The cats will need to be kept in a garage or safe space overnight
- Cats will not be removed from the neighborhood unless they are friendly and can be adopted.

## Funding TNR program

Each year on the 5th of May we partner with a local business to raise money and awareness for our TNR program. Kids play games, we sell cat toys and furniture and celebrate cats. Bella Vista Rotary has also provided a grant to purchase traps



The cost for each cat is roughly \$50. The loose change that you put in the money jars around town, dedicated contributions and proceeds from Cinco de Meow have raised over \$3,000 toward this program. These moneys pay for veterinary costs, gas to Prairie Grove and traps when the occasional raccoon or opossum destroys them. Thank you for to everyone who helps with this effort. The Bella Vista Blue Bird Society and the Bella Vista Animal Shelter want to encourage anyone who is feeding outside cats to register for the TNR program to keep our feral cat population down and our songbird population up.



# ARE YOU KITTEN ME? FERAL & COMMUNITY CATS ARE NOT THE SAME

The terms “feral cats” and “community cats” both refer to cats that live outdoors and are typically not owned by anyone, but they differ slightly in their connotations and the contexts in which they’re used:

## *Feral Cats*

Feral cats are typically wild, unsocialized cats that have had little to no human contact. They are often the offspring of other feral cats and have grown up without human interaction, making them more likely to be wary or fearful of people.

Feral cats are usually elusive, avoid human contact, and may only come out at night. They often live in colonies, which can be found in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

It is challenging to socialize feral cats, especially adults, and they usually cannot be adopted into homes. TNR programs are often the most effective way to manage their populations.

## *Community Cats*

The term “community cats” is often used more broadly to describe any cat that lives outdoors and is not owned by a single person. This can include feral cats as well as stray cats that have been abandoned or have wandered away from home but may still be socialized to some degree.

Community cats might be more

accustomed to human presence and may even be friendly, especially if they have been fed by people or have had previous owners.

Some community cats, particularly strays, may be adoptable and can adjust to living in homes. However, many still thrive in their outdoor environments and are managed through TNR programs.

## *Key Differences*

- Feral cats are typically unsocialized and avoid humans, while community cats may include a mix of socialized and unsocialized cats.
- Feral cats are usually not adoptable, while some community cats, particularly those with past human interaction, may be.

Both terms are used in the context of managing outdoor cat populations, with “community cats” being a more inclusive and often more positive term that emphasizes the role of these cats within the local ecosystem and community.

## *What should I do?*

If you have found a stray cat, community cat or feral cat - Please call the Bella Vista Animal Shelter at (479) 855-6020 Tuesday - Sunday from 10 am - 4pm

If you have found a stray dog please call the Bella Vista Police Department non-emergency number (479) 855-3771



## Lost Pet Prevention Tips



### USE A COLLAR & TAG

Get a collar with ID tags or have your pet's name and phone number embroidered on the collar.



### MICROCHIP YOUR PET

Have your pet microchipped. Register the microchip & keep your contact information up to date.



### SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

Studies have shown that spayed or neutered pets are less likely to roam.



### KEEP THEM SECURE

Keep your pet on a leash attached to a properly fitting collar or harness. Secure your yard and home with traditional fencing or invisible fencing.



### USE AIRTAGS OR GPS TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices will help you locate your pet should they get lost.

# SANTA PAWS

Tired of sending holiday cards? Let us do the work. Send a complete mailing list or just one recipient to [Info@bellavista-animalshelter.org](mailto:Info@bellavista-animalshelter.org) with your donation of \$5.00 or more per name and we will do the rest.

We will send a personalized card to the recipient notifying them of your gift! Names & Donation need to be received by December 16th to ensure holiday delivery.

Your tax deductible gift will enrich the lives of the many shelters "cold noses & warm hearts." Everyone loves when Santa Paws comes to town.



**REMIT TO:**  
 Bella Vista Animal Shelter  
 P.O. Box 5248  
 Bella Vista, AR 72714

**GIFT AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ON BEHALF OF** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, ST ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FROM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, ST ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRRST STD  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
 PERMIT #986

Feel free to have items shipped to 32 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista AR

1. Odoban
2. Bleach
3. Purina One Dry dog food
4. Purina Naturals cat food
5. 13 Gallon Trash Bags

**BY ANIMAL SHELTER WISH LIST**

**DONATE THESE ITEMS**

**BELLA VISTA ANIMAL SHELTER**  
 32 Bella Vista Way  
 P.O. Box 5248  
 Bella Vista, AR 72714  
 (479) 855-6020  
[www.bellavista-animalshelter.org](http://www.bellavista-animalshelter.org)

