



# 2025 Year End Newsletter



**Saving lives. One at a time since 1999**

242 George II Highway

Winnabow, NC 28479

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 67

Winnabow, NC 28479

FEIN 56-2146059

<https://pawsplace.org>

## EVERY DOG DESERVES A CHANCE

by Amy Poore & Lisa Addertion

At Paws Place, we believe every dog deserves a chance, even dogs who need extra care, patience, or training to thrive. Many of the dogs who come to us have faced difficult pasts and are in significant need of extra love and special attention.

Meet Gavin. An adorable shepherd mix Paws Place rescued from Duplin County at one year of age. Gavin came to us appearing to be a happy go lucky pup. However, shortly after he arrived, he began to show fear through barking and pacing in his kennel. Gavin would only allow a select few people at the kennel that he trusted to harness or walk him. These caring individuals saw through his fear and knew there was a lovable dog inside just waiting on someone to help him learn.

Have you heard the old saying “sometimes it takes a village”? Well, in Gavin’s case this village of staff, volunteers, and the Board came together to figure out a path to get this sweet boy the chance at the forever home he deserved. With the potential to bite and not knowing what triggered his behavior, Paws Place knew that Gavin could not be adopted until we understood how to help him. When one of our volunteers, who fell in love with Gavin, brought the name of a respected canine behavior expert to the staff and Board for consideration, we knew we had to pursue every avenue to help Gavin become adoptable.

Paws Place engaged Cape Fearless Dog Training to work with Gavin (as well as other of our shy and anxious pups) and our staff to understand his triggers and provide him with the specialized training he needed. With professional guidance, hard work and a personalized training plan, Gavin began to thrive and we knew he was one step closer to being able to go to his “forever” home.



We are thrilled to report that since then, one of Paws Place employees who fell in love with Gavin from day one has taken him home. She says he is continuing every day to learn how to be a regular dog and even had his first beach day outing! Gavin’s mom says there are so many success stories since he came home that it would take up the whole newsletter, but her favorite is how Gavin and her other dog became instant best friends, as if they were meant to be siblings. Gavin’s favorite game is trying to fit his best buddy’s entire head in his mouth while he sits there and lets him try so patiently. They also love to lie upside down on the couch together and bite each other’s faces while making goblin noises (cue the heartstrings!). We are beyond thrilled for Gavin and his new family! Thank you to the “village” who helped put our motto of “every dog deserves a chance” into action. Gavin is a great example of the commitment Paws Place has for each and every dog in our care.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DOGS: WHY AND HOW I VOLUNTEER

by Beth Carloni

When I retired and moved to Brunswick Forest in September 2023, I knew I wanted to volunteer with dogs. A friend in Wilmington volunteered with a group there, but it was quite far away. While asking around the neighborhood, I met a woman who loved volunteering at Paws Place, so I checked it out. In December 2023 I went to orientation and got trained by Ann. I have continued to volunteer twice a week doing laundry and walking the dogs. I have also trained new volunteers. It is a perfect way for me to get dog cuddles. I like the routine and really look forward to my time at Paws Place. The people I work with are nice and the management is excellent, which makes it easy to be a volunteer there. And the dogs are amazing! It's a place I can go where I can experience generosity and the rewarding feeling of seeing the pups get their forever homes.



Beth & Izzie

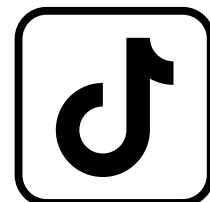
Want to volunteer with us?  
Just fill out an application -->



WE'RE EVERYWHERE!  
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: pawsplace  
Instagram: pawsplacerescue  
Tik Tok: pawsplacetok  
YouTube: pawsplacerescue



# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors for Raise The Ruff 2025

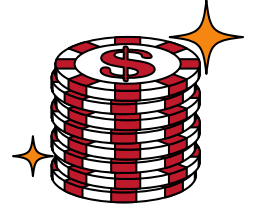


## Presenting Sponsor

**PMG Carolinas**

*with special guest Trevor Donovan*

## Sponsors, Major Donors & Contributors



BMW of Wilmington  
Bug-N-A-Rug  
Burns Family Dentistry  
Cherilyn & Kevin Bakley  
Senator Ted Budd  
Cape Fear Commercial  
Cardinal Point East Group  
Cayce Connell, Chili & Perennial  
Mortgage Group  
Chad Wouters CPA  
Classic Landscapes  
Colby Roofing  
Coldwell Banker Sea Coast  
Advantage  
Corcoran HM Properties  
Deb's Party Details

Dishing With The DonoFANS  
Podcast  
The DonoFANS Club  
Bobbi & Dempsey Eason  
ECVR  
Jon Evans  
Charlotte Fuchs  
FOX Wilmington (WSFX)  
Shelia Fuchs  
Vicki & Brian Ferrell  
Stephie Grocott  
Great American Family  
Hannah & Stephanie Holt  
Healthy Solutions Carpet Care  
Kelly Houston

Keller Williams Real Estate  
Lanvale Animal Hospital  
Leland Magazine  
Beth Martin  
Crystal Moore  
Hugh MacRae  
Mary Frances & Jeff Morketter  
MegaCorp  
nCino  
North State Bank  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Eleanor Ord & Eric Webb  
Amy Poore  
Grayson & Darlene Powell  
Pierpan Dentistry Group

Play It Again Sports  
The Photo District  
Alicia Rudd RVT & Bill Salter  
Patti Riley & Jean Riley  
Barbara Squires  
Loulie & Matt Scharf  
Sun Coast Partners  
Commercial  
Taylor Made Transportation  
Tama Tea  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Unleashed of Wilmington  
Lee VanOrmer  
Inza Walston  
Mike & Christina Whalen  
Wendy Wilmot Properties  
Xi Online  
Michael Yanni

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors for the Fore the Paws Golf Tournament



## Presenting Sponsor

**PMG Carolinas**

## Sponsors, Major Donors & Contributors



Able Insurance  
Beth Martin  
BMW of Wilmington  
Brunches  
Bug-N-A-Rug  
Cape Fear Grooming  
Cherilyn & Kevin Bakley  
Classic Landscapes  
Claudene & Rock Clarke  
Coastal Carrier Moving &  
Storage  
Coastal Cosmetic Family Denistry

Compass Pointe Golf Club  
Coldwell Banker Sea Coast  
Advantage  
Creekmore Realty/Retire 2NC  
Crystal Moore  
David & Angela Whitten  
Edward Jones - Kyle Mitchell  
Empire Graphics  
Family Dog Naturals  
Firehouse Subs  
First Citizens Bank  
Fitness Forward Training Leland  
Hannah & Stephanie Holt  
Intracoastal Realty (Jeff Hovis)  
Island Passage  
John VanOrmer  
Johnson Brothers  
Kathleen McLean  
Kelly Houston  
Lanphear Builders  
Leland Veterinary Hospital  
Loretta Schmitzer

Melissa Walker  
Michael & Kathy Boyle  
Miriam Brooks  
North State Bank  
Pathfinder Wealth  
Consulting  
Pepsi  
R.D. White & Sons  
Sandra Darby  
Shark Bar  
Susan Agnoff  
Titos Vodka  
The Photo District of NC  
Xi Online

## WHY I WORK HERE

by Rachel Merkle

I began working at Paws Place in December 2023. Since then, my reason for working here has changed — along with myself. It started off as just a job, a routine I was learning during those first couple of weeks: wake up, walk dogs, clean kennels, go home.

The more I worked, the more I noticed the dogs beginning to trust me. I'll never forget the day Rayna — a painfully shy girl who was terrified of most people and hesitant to leave her kennel — let me take her for a walk. In that moment, I realized Paws Place was more than just a job to me. It became increasingly important to be present at work, to do what I could and help where I could. Then, in February 2024, Echo arrived at the shelter — and I fell in love.

I ended up adopting him less than a month later. Watching him go from an anxious mess in a kennel to becoming an irreplaceable part of our family — that's exactly why I work here.

Every single dog that comes through our doors deserves unconditional love and a family to call their own, and however I can assist on that journey to their happily ever after, I will. Watching Echo — and eventually Jazmin, in November 2024 — turn into happy, silly house dogs is all I want for all of the Paws Place dogs, and for dogs everywhere. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work here and help save these precious lives. I work here for the dogs, and it will always be for the dogs.



**Rachel & Echo**

## MEDICAL FOSTER NEEDED

Meet Sasha and Piper — two sweet, inseparable girls still waiting for a foster home to call their own. Their bond is too special to break, so we're looking for a home that can welcome them together.

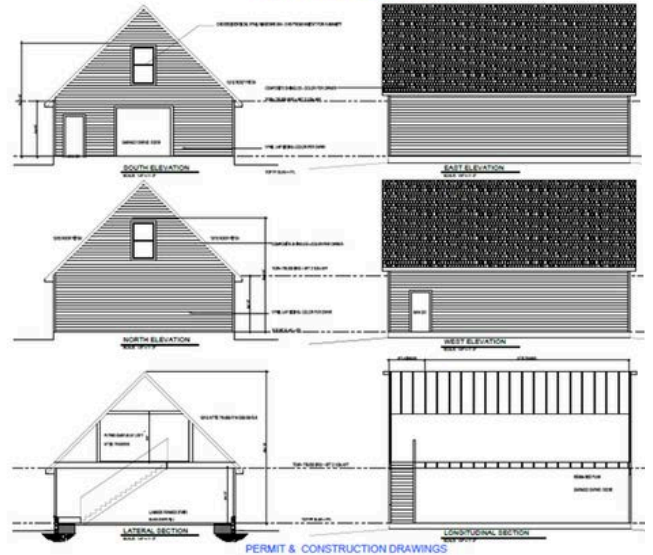
Sasha is currently battling a medical condition and needs a medical foster where she can live comfortably with her best friend by her side. Both girls are gentle, affectionate, and housebroken, and they love nothing more than to snuggle and nap close to the people they trust. We're seeking a foster in New Hanover or Brunswick County who can provide a warm, loving environment. If you can open your heart and home to help these two on their journey through life, please visit our website to review our Foster Information and Application. ❤️ Give Sasha and Piper the comfort, care, and love they deserve — together.



**Sasha & Piper**



# HELP US BUILD OUR STORM SHELTER & INSTALL FIRE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS



This project will:

- Provide a safe, climate-controlled staging area for dogs and staff as we prepare for hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters.
- Install a high-pressure fire hydrant and improve access roads for emergency vehicles.
- Ensure medications, special diets, and critical care continue during severe weather.
- Protect our volunteers, dogs, and vital resources during emergencies.
- Allow for future growth and expansion of Paws Place.

[Donate Here](#)



## Casino Night is Back!

# Raise The Ruff



MARCH 7, 2026

HOTEL BALLAST  
301 N WATER ST.  
WILMINGTON, NC 28401



For more information visit:

<https://givebutter.com/raise-the-ruff-2026>

## Our Quality of Care is Unique

\$40,000 Emergency Surgeries  
\$35,000 Specialty Surgeries  
\$17,000 Prescription Dog Food  
\$15,000 Xrays/Special Tests  
\$15,000 Dog Food  
\$14,000 Kennel Supplies  
\$14,000 Vet Exams  
\$12,000 OTC Medications  
\$12,000 Spay/Neuter  
\$12,000 Heartworm Treatment  
\$9,000 Preventative Medications  
\$4,500 Pawsmobile Van  
\$4,000 Fecal Exams  
\$4,000 Flea & Tick Prevention  
\$4,000 Prescription Medications  
\$3,000 Heartworm Tests

**AVERAGE  
YEARLY  
COSTS**

As of 10/31/2025

We have rescued 75 dogs,  
found loving homes for 77 and  
treated 9 dogs for heartworm  
disease

## RMD GIVING: SMART FOR YOU, POWERFUL FOR NON-PROFITS

by Russ Parrish

I have been a volunteer at Paws Place Dog Rescue for over 4 years. I began looking for volunteer opportunities involving dogs and found Paws Place Dog Rescue after retiring and moving to Leland in 2017. My wife and I travelled a bit before I was ready to begin volunteering. Then in 2021 I applied to volunteer at Paws Place and quickly realized how special this dog rescue is. The facility itself is very nice and well maintained and the dogs have spacious kennels. But more than that, it was the staff and other volunteers' commitment to these precious dogs that touched me most. Soon after, in a meeting with our tax preparer, I learned about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA from which Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) are taken. By allocating a specified amount of money from my RMD as a QCD to a non-profit both the organization and I benefit.



**Dutch**

**Adopted by Russ & Brenda**

My taxable income is reduced by the QCD amount and the non-profit receives 100% of my donation. The following year I set up a QCD to Paws Place Dog Rescue as a recurring distribution from my RMD. The process for setting up the QCD was simple, I downloaded a QCD form from our Financial Institution web site, filled it out and sent it in. I then call Customer Service to verify receipt and while on the phone, the representative informed me they had entered the request for the check to be created and mailed to Paws Place.

We noticed the benefit our next tax year and I am so grateful that I am able to donate a greater amount of money than I otherwise could have through this program. For anyone who is receiving their Required Minimum Distribution I would suggest setting up a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the organization of your choice. This is a great way to reduce your taxable income in retirement and help a non-profit as well.



***"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"***  
– Winston Churchill

## SHOW YOUR PAWS PLACE PRIDE WITH A SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE!



# WE'RE AVAILABLE



Salty  
/Terrier Mix



Stewy  
/Mixed Breed



Monkey  
/Pit Mix

***Saving one dog won't change the world—but it changes their world forever.***



Photos courtesy of The Photo District

**Your generous donations help us provide a home and medical care for each dog until we find their forever home.**

**To continue supporting Paws Place, you can make a donation online or by check.**

- To make a contribution by check, please use the enclosed envelope. Please be sure to include your mailing address.
- Donations may also be made securely by credit card through our website. Visit <https://PawsPlace.org> and click the "**Donate Now**" button on the top right of the home page.

**Scan Me**



All donations will be acknowledged in writing.

- ☐ I want to become a Paws Place Partner and pledge a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support Paws Place Dog Rescue. (Please provide your mailing address.)
- ☐ Enclosed is my one-time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards finding these rescue dogs a forever home.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of a pet or loved one, please be sure to provide the name and address of where you would like the acknowledgment sent.

**PDF version is available to download from our website.**