



# Happy Holidays!



## 2023

Dear <<salutation>>,  
Greetings from DAWS!

As we approach our 50th year of improving the lives of animals in our community and beyond at the Danbury Animal Welfare Society, we express our profound gratitude to you, our <<Adopter or Donor>> for your invaluable contribution towards helping us fulfill our critical mission. Thank you!

Since 1974, DAWS has successfully rescued over 31,000 displaced animals from high-kill shelters and has helped countless more in our community. As we approach the final days of our shelter renovation project, our commitment to remaining a leading animal welfare provider has never wavered. Thanks to our entire team, a growing foster network, Wags, Pleasant Paws, Mount Pleasant, and people like you, our work has continued with great success!

We have provided care for more than 2,000 animals in the past year. Our work included rescuing and rehoming 800 cats and dogs, providing 663 low-cost clinic services, increasing community outreach efforts, and continuing our TNR program to reduce animal overpopulation. Additionally, we completed 72 transports with our rescue partners, saving animals from being euthanized.

DAWS continues to receive daily requests from the community to accept surrendered pets and local strays. This year, we've taken in 156 animals and placed them in safe, loving homes. This season, we share two of the many inspiring stories that exemplify how YOUR generosity brings hope and renewal to animals and humans alike.



## The Gift of Life, Twice!

For more on Zelda's journey watch here



Zelda, a friendly rat-terrier mix, was brought to DAWS in January through our rescue partner in Kentucky, STAR (Saving the Animals of Rowan County). She was a stray, and it was estimated that Zelda was six years old. Upon her arrival, Zelda was placed in a foster home with Megan and James Warren of Danbury, along with their dog Rex.

Upon examination by Dr. Cary Brenner, our resident veterinarian, we learned that Zelda had Lyme Disease, partial facial paralysis, and a subcutaneous mast cell tumor in her leg - cancer. After consulting with specialists, including an oncologist, it was agreed that leg amputation was the only option to save Zelda's life. Although difficult, our brave clinic team performed the surgery and on March 9th, Zelda became a tripod. Dr. Brenner even took her home for overnight observation.

During this traumatic time, the Warren family found a true champion in Zelda. Megan shares, *"Zelda is resilient, has recovered quickly, and continues to be a happy and playful dog. DAWS explained everything to us and allowed us to be part of the process."* After surgery, they gently placed Zelda in her bed, but she then got up and hopped over to the water bowl! Soon after, her walking significantly improved, and she even began tackling the stairs.

The Warrens officially adopted Zelda in May! Megan adds, *"We never planned to adopt an older dog with special needs, but Zelda stole our hearts. She's a resilient pup who can brighten anyone's day. We believe that Zelda knew she had found her forever home before we did and it's hard to imagine life without her. It's as if her leg is just invisible instead of missing."*

She shares a natural bond with brother Rex, from our Toy Story litter in 2021. The best news is that Zelda has been declared cancer-free! We do not deny care to our animals due to the financial burden. Medical care costs for Zelda exceeded \$1,500.

**Your gift gives animals with special needs a second chance at life.**



### DONATE ONLINE AT: [DAWS.ORG/HOLIDAYAPPEAL](https://www.daws.org/holidayappeal)

<<first\_name>> <<last\_name>>

<<address>> <<address2>>

<<city>>, <<state>> <<zip>>

CC#:

Exp Date:

Code:

Phone:

Email:

Signature:

- ☐ **\$1000** **A little TLC:** You will support our angel pet program and unexpected medical and surgical expenses for our animals; as we are a no-kill shelter.
- ☐ **\$750** **Next Stop CT!:** You will help us rescue approximately eight dogs and cats during our weekly transport.
- ☐ **\$500** **Foster Care Package:** You will supply a complete foster kit which includes beds, crates, food, and medications for a puppy/kitten litter.
- ☐ **\$375** **Community Support:** You will help decrease animal overpopulation in the community through our clinic's trap, neuter, and release program.
- ☐ **\$250** **Give me a Chance:** You will provide customized training sessions with a certified behaviorist for an adoptable dog in need of strengthening their socialization skills.
- ☐ **\$100** **Chow Time!:** You will help feed adoptable dogs and cats for one day – treats too!
- ☐ **\$75** **Wellness Bundle:** You'll cover the cost for a dog or cat to receive their microchip, vaccinations, and related preventatives before adoption.
- ☐ **\$50** **Welcome to DAWS!:** You will help a new dog or cat get a fresh start with a bath, treats, new collar, and bed.
- ☐ **Other** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of Community

SCAN  
TO  
DONATE



One chilly autumn evening, as the nights grew colder, Bob, a kind-hearted resident of Danbury, noticed a litter of kittens near his front porch. He recognized the mother cat from a group that would occasionally visit the neighborhood. Fearing for their safety, especially the kittens, Bob brought them inside his home. A few months later, he heard meows coming from under his bed and soon discovered that his household had grown to 17 felines! Many people are unaware that kittens can become pregnant as young as four months old.

Feeling overwhelmed, Bob turned to a local veterinarian for help. The veterinarian suggested that he reach out to DAWS, knowing we provide aid to the community. We were happy to step in and immediately place the kittens in our foster program. Our team provided them with

medical care and all the necessary support. Some of the kittens, such as Thumper and Flower, required bottle feeding, which our team is trained to administer.

As time went on, more feral colonies were attracted to the same location, and DAWS intervened with trap, neuter, and release services to help reduce animal overpopulation. To date, we have cared for over 33 cats in this area, 24 of which have been adopted into loving homes. The expenses incurred in this ongoing community outreach effort have exceeded \$5,000.

*"All I wanted to do was save them, and then DAWS saved me. I trusted they knew exactly what they were doing after meeting me. I love hearing the adoption stories and knowing the cats went to loving homes. I hope this inspires people to give and reach out when they are in need. I feel lucky to know that DAWS cares as much as they do."* - Bob, Good Samaritan, Danbury, CT

**Your gift helps protect animals in the community.**



## Paw it Forward

Helping struggling pet owners in our community is one of the core values we believe in. Our Paw it Forward program enables us to extend the kindness we receive at DAWS by offering pet food, supplies, medication, and sometimes even complementary care. So far this year, we have helped more than 40 pet owners. We strive to let families know that surrendering their pets is not the only option and they can count on our support.

**Your gift helps nourish the animal-human bond.**



## The Next Chapter

We end 2023 grateful beyond measure for all DAWS has received. Our extensive renovation project is nearly complete through the tireless efforts of our builder, Tary Tarlton of Kenosia Development, and our Renovation Team led by Cheryl A. Rykowski, Director Emerita. Generous donors, like you, were the building blocks that made everything possible. Please continue to follow our journey at [renovation.daws.org](https://renovation.daws.org) as we announce our official grand reopening date for early 2024!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Operations Director Katie Mothersele, and the entire team, we wish you an abundance of peace, good health, and happiness in the new year. Thank you for your dedication to DAWS as we embark on the next chapter. See you back in Bethel soon!

With gratitude,

*Alice*

**Alice Meenan**, Director of Development and Marketing  
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*Thank you  
for your  
support*

### MATCHING GIFTS

☐ My company will match my donation \_\_\_\_\_

(Company Name)

### CAMPAIGN FOR RENOVATION

☐ I am interested in learning more about the renovation project.

### LEAVING A LEGACY

☐ I would like more information on how to include DAWS in my will/estate plan.

☐ I have already included DAWS in my will/estate plan.

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