

Dear <<salutation>>,

Warmest holiday wishes from all of us at DAWS, and from the thousands of animals whose lives have been forever changed because of your kindness, compassion, and generosity!

What a year it has been! As we reflect on 2026, we are reminded that behind every rescue, every adoption, and every life saved is a story of hope, healing, and second chances. We are proud to share some of the incredible impact you have made possible and the stories behind the numbers.

But for every animal whose life has been transformed, there are so many more still waiting for someone to give them a chance. This holiday season, we ask you to open your heart and make a special year-end gift to DAWS. Your generosity ensures that when the next animal needs us, we can be there to answer the call. DAWS has grown from zero to nearly 100 active shelter volunteers in 2025, with new applications coming in every week. Their generosity and dedication amplify our impact every single day. And as we look at the bigger picture, our legacy is profound: in 51 years, DAWS has found forever homes for more than 32,500 animals and has provided compassionate care to over 42,000.



A Box We Never Expected, A Gift of Hope for the Holidays

In late September 2026, DAWS answered a heartbreaking call about five cats found abandoned at an intersection near our shelter, sealed inside a cardboard box that had been taped shut.

Thanks to our DAWS team, all five received the care, comfort, and love they deserved. Today, all five are healthy, happy, and have found loving forever homes just in time for the holidays!

What began as a box filled with heartbreak became five beautiful gifts of hope, love, and second chances. Because of supporters like you, we were able to keep our doors open to local homeless cats and kittens who desperately needed our help.

- Because of you, nearly **1,200 animals** are projected to find loving forever homes through DAWS in 2026.
- DAWS saves lives near and far, with approximately **60%** of rescues coming from the **South** and **40%** from our **local** communities.
- Hope never takes a day off: DAWS provides care **365 days a yea**r and welcomes adopters seven days a week.
- More than **150 dedicated volunteers**—and counting—bring love, care, and hope to animals in need.

DONATE ONLINE AT: 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** $_____

Danbury Animal Welfare Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and your donation is tax deductible. Tax ID: 06-0945388



The Best Gifts Come in Unexpected Packages: Bella's Story

They say you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. Well, sometimes you shouldn't judge a dog by the size of her paws, either! Bella arrived at DAWS as a local owner surrender. She was big, strong, bursting with energy, and had the kind of intimidating appearance that might have landed her a starring role as the junkyard guard dog in a family movie!

And Bella didn't exactly make the best first impression. Every time she met a potential adopter, her larger-than-life personality and boundless enthusiasm could be overwhelming. But our DAWS team saw something others couldn't quite see yet: behind that tough exterior was a wonderful dog with an enormous heart and so much love to give.

So we didn't give up. We dug in deeper. More time with our trainer. More playtime in our outdoor yards. More walks, more patience, and lots more love. Day by day, we helped Bella become the dog we knew she could be.

And then it happened. One special adopter looked beyond Bella's size, her energy, and those intimidating first impressions and saw what our team had seen all along: a beautiful dog just waiting for someone to believe in her.



Hope Rolls Into 2027: More Ways to Care, More Lives to Save!

For 52 years, DAWS has been here for animals in need. Our small team handles urgent calls every day, and your support allows us to keep saying yes. It also gives us the chance to plan ahead and improve how we care for each animal.

In 2027, we'll be taking a closer look at everything from intake and medical care to adoption and the support families need once they bring a pet home. We want to build on what works and make changes where we can do better.

For our dogs, that includes more playgroups, Walking Club outings, and time in our newly renovated outdoor yards. These everyday experiences help them feel more comfortable, build confidence, and get ready for life in a home. Expanding our Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) resources will also help us care for community cats and prevent unwanted litters.

We'll continue working with local veterinarians and supporting the volunteers and foster families who make so much of this care possible.

Your holiday gift helps us meet today's needs and put these plans into practice. With you beside us, we can give more animals the care they need and the chance to find a home where they belong.

DAWS
ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Thank you for your support

MATCHING GIFTS

❒ My company will match my donation _____

(Company Name)

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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