



We Are Animal Guardians, Inc.

Animal rescue and adoption since 1996.

Summer 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been another busy and productive year at WAG. As always, we couldn't do it without all of you: Many thanks to everyone who has donated. Your support is what keeps us going, and because we are all-volunteer, more than 85% of your donation always goes directly to animal care (the rest goes towards postage, printing, and insurance).

We would like to thank the many newspapers that run our ads; this helps to keep the WAG name out there and also brings us new adopters:

- Goffstown News • Hooksett Banner
- New Boston Bulletin • Merrimack Valley Voice
- Peterborough Transcript • The Messenger
- Weare Community News • Senior Beacon
- Hawkeye Hunting and Fishing News

And we would like to thank the many local businesses that help WAG in so many ways.

We couldn't help the animals without all of this support—thank you!

Dave

IN MEMORIUM



MUFFIN

This adorable Cairn Terrier came to WAG years ago when her owner fell on hard times and sadly had to give her up. Not in great shape when she arrived, Muffin's new owners nursed her back to health and were rewarded with many, many years with this wonderful dog.

RHEA

This Lab was surrendered to WAG by a couple who had to enter a nursing home, and it was clear when we picked her up how much they loved this dog. We soon found out why: Rhea was simply the sweetest dog ever, and her new owner took her to visit veterans and many other people in need so she could spread her kindness and joy in so many hearts.



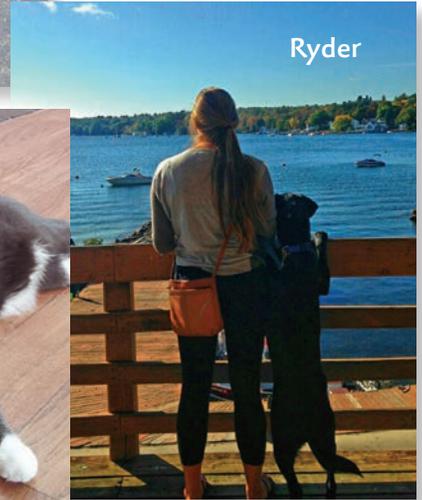
We all feel honored to have known these dogs.

WAG GALLERY

Here are few of our recently adopted animals. Many, many thanks to all of the people who have added WAG pets to their families.



Jaxx



Ryder



Jimmy Durante



Hannah

Introducing New Animals: Making Sure More Really is Merrier!

We often hear from people who have a WAG animal and want another. We love these requests!

The key with introducing both dogs and cats is to go slowly: the animals are going to live with each other for years, so it pays to take a few weeks to give them the space and time they need to get comfortable with each other.



Jack and Heidi get acquainted.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. **Choose an animal that is a good fit for your existing pet's needs and personality.** So if you have a sweet, old dog who loves to sleep in the sun all day, do not get a giant, rambunctious adolescent dog who is going to run your old dog over and never give them a moment's peace. Get a dog that is easy-going and respectful. If you have a timid dog, get a quiet, yet unflappable dog who is going to give your existing dog confidence instead of dominating them.

People don't often think about it, but cats have very different personalities, too, and you have to be equally careful—maybe more careful—to choose a cat that will mesh well with your resident cat. For instance, if you have a young, playful, full-of-beans cat, make sure your new cat also likes to play (and then put away all of your breakable decorative objects).

2. **Don't just throw your new and old pets together.** For dogs, leave your existing dog at home when you pick up your new dog and have your new and old dog meet somewhere neutral. For cats, prepare a separate room for your new cat's first weeks.

3. **Remember: baby gates are your friends.**

4. **Call in a professional!** If you are unsure or have problems, WAG can recommend both dog and cat experts who can help you with transition problems.

5. **Relax and be patient.** Introductions can take a few days to a few weeks. Make a commitment to a slow and steady process.

TIPS FOR DOGS

- Learn canine body language before you attempt an introduction so you know when the dogs are relaxed and when they aren't. If you aren't sure, bring a professional trainer (WAG can recommend a trainer in your area) to help you with the introduction.

- Introduce the dogs in a neutral place, on lead, with a person for each dog. If the dogs are relaxed, let them sniff each other for a couple of seconds at a time and then continue on your walk, giving the dogs space.
- At home, give each dog their own spaces—crates, rooms, etc.—and at first take away all sources of potential conflict, such as toys, bones, food dishes, and food items.
- At first, keep the dogs separated when you are not able to watch them. Feed them and let them play with their toys in their separate areas. Use a baby gate so they can see each other while still in their own spaces.
- If you are introducing a younger dog to an older dog, you might want to continue giving the older dog space to give it a break from the youngster, whose energy might be annoying.

TIPS FOR CATS

Put the new cat in its own room, with its own litterbox, food, and water dish. Put towels in the places where the cat will sleep. Also put towels in your resident cat's favorite sleeping spots. Exchange the towels daily so the cats get used to each other's smells.

After a few days, when your new cat is comfortable in its room, put your resident cat in another room and let your new cat explore a few more rooms in the house for a few hours at a time.

Start cracking the door and offering food—starting a few feet from the door on either side—so your new and old cats can eat within sight of each other with the door cracked. Put a baby gate up so you have an additional level of safety as you gradually open the door and then gradually move the dishes closer to the baby gate.

Have a first supervised visit. Use food and toys to get the cats to not focus on each other so much. Gradually work up to having them together all the time.

Let's Be Friends!

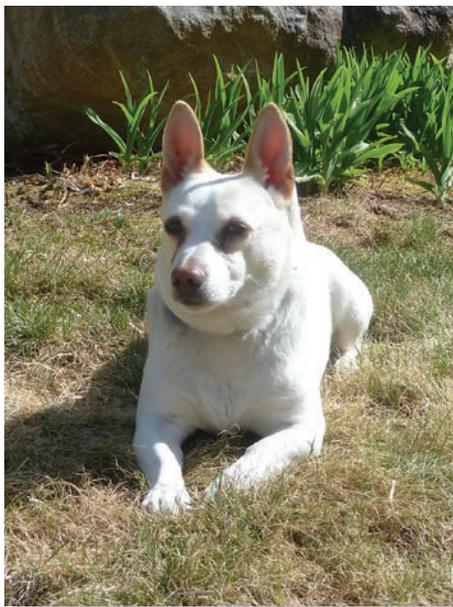
At WAG, we always have a selection of animals to choose from, so whether you want your one-and-only pet or are looking for a companion for your cat or dog, chances are we'll have a good match. As always, we deliver the animal to your home and help with the transition. Here are some of our current animals that like other animals!



Cisco, who is looking for a home, and a feline friend enjoy the view together.

CISCO

It's really hard to write descriptions for dogs like Cisco, because all you can say is he is perfect. This 19-lb. multi-mix gets along with all people, other dogs, and cats. He is used to older kids. He is the perfect exercise companion, because he loves to go for walks and snowshoe hikes in the woods. He is the perfect movie companion, as he loves to sit in your lap while you read, watch TV, or work on the computer. He is perfect in the house, is well-trained, and has no behavior issues. He is the perfect size: big enough to keep up with you on a hike, but small enough to pick up when you need to.



This well-behaved 7-year-old has come to WAG because his owners have had a lifestyle change and don't feel they can give Cisco the attention he deserves. He will walk into your house and be an instant member of the family. So, if you're looking for the perfect dog, look no further and take this gem while you can.

EMMA

Emma is not merely a cat: she wants to be your partner in life. This 7-year-old is one of the most people-oriented, sweetest cats we have ever had at WAG. An easy-going girl, she wants to hang out with you, but she manages to be near you without ever being in the way. When you want some affection, she is ready, willing, and able: she is up for all of the hugs, kisses, snuggling, and lap time you can dish out. Carry her around, give her belly rubs -- it's all good.

Her perfect match would be someone who wants to make their cat a big part of their life. What would be even better, as far as Emma is concerned, is if you also have a friendly dog, because she adores dogs: when she's not snuggling with you, chances are you will find her curled up in a sunny spot with your dog. While all people and dogs are great, she would prefer to be an only cat.



Check out these links for more information on introducing new animals into your home:

bestfriends.org/introducing-dogs-to-each-other.aspx

www.aspc.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/introducing-your-dog-new-dog

www.ddfl.org/sites/default/files/CatCatIntro_V01_0.pdf

www.ddfl.org/sites/default/files/dog-intros_0.pdf

www.humanesociety.org/news/magazines/2014/05-06/expanding-your-pride-introducing-new-cats.html

Summer Noises

Spring is whipping by, and the summer, complete with fireworks and thunderstorms, will be here before we know it. More dogs are lost over the Independence Day holiday than any other because so many pets panic when they hear fireworks. Make sure your dog or cat doesn't become part of this statistic!

Take these precautions:

- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with ID.
- Put your pet in a secure room, preferably one without exterior doors, when fireworks are going off. Ideally, it will be a room with an air conditioner so you can keep the windows closed and the AC on during the event. This will prevent your pet from escaping through a screen, and the AC noise will reduce the fireworks noise in addition to keeping your stressed and panting dog cool.
- Be aware of your screens. If you don't have an AC, then know that terrified pets often try to break through screens or even windows. Cats often climb to the tops of windows to try to escape. If you must close the windows, then monitor the room temperature frequently.
- Play a radio or a TV.
- If your dog is crate trained, have a crate in the room. Leave the crate door open, but drape a sheet loosely over the sides and back of the crate (don't cover the front so plenty of air can get in) so the dog feels more protected.



Be prepared:

- Don't take your dog to the fireworks. If your pet gets really stressed, then perhaps you should have a quiet evening at home rather than leave the animal or host a party at your house.
- Thundershirts, available many places, do help some dogs, but you need to get your dog used to them well before an event starts. They have Thundershirts for cats, too, but you will definitely want to get your cat used to it way before the holiday weekend.
- Talk with your veterinarian about medications that can help your pet through the holiday.

MORE INFORMATION AT THESE LINKS:

throughadogsear.com/10-safety-tips-for-dogs-during-fireworks

www.la-sPCA.org/page.aspx?pid=507

www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/pets_fireworks.html

WAG MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian Angel: \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Samaritan: \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Presidents Club: \$1,000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Membership: \$5 | Pet's Name: _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Donation: \$ _____ | In name of: _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Donation \$ _____ | In memory of: _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Donation: \$ _____ | | | |

PLEASE COMPLETE ADDRESS INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Email address: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: _____

AND MAIL TO: WAG – PO Box 572, Weare, NH 03281