

# Tail-WAAGin News

September 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Coming events:

WAAG will also be at the following events:

- Sept 6: Mutt Strut – a dog walk benefiting the Wake County Animal Center
- Sept 13: The NCSU Dog Olympics



## Upcoming adoptions:

WAAG brings adoptable cats and dogs to Petco on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month.

- Sept 13: Petco on Capital Blvd
- Oct 11: Petco at Brier Creek

*The newsletter of the:  
Wake Animal Advocates Group*



## Win a free vacation for your pet

Would you like to get away for a long weekend, but you worry about the cost of boarding your pet? How does a free 3-night stay at a doggie or kitty suite sound?

That's exactly what you could win in the upcoming WAAG raffle. In September, we will hold a fundraising raffle during Mutt Strut, the annual dog walk that is sponsored by

the Wake County Animal Center. To buy your very own raffle ticket, just come on by our WAAG booth during the event.

Funds generated by the raffle will benefit WAAG, the non-profit organization supporting the animals at the Wake County Animal Center.

The winner will receive a free 3-night stay at Suite

Paws, a brand new animal boarding and daycare facility in Knightdale.

Mutt Strut will be held at the Historic Oakview County Park, near Poole Rd and 440, from 9-12 on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Demos, rescue groups, and activities for the whole family are included. Proceeds from this dog walk will benefit the Center's new foster program.

## WAAG helps increase adoptions

The Wake Animal Advocates Group (WAAG) began organizing adoption events in March of this year, to try to increase adoptions of cats and dogs at the Wake County Animal Center. These monthly events take place at Petco (see left).

We are happy to report that - as of July - 75% of the cats and dogs that we have taken to these adoption events have found permanent homes!





*These are just a few of the animals that have found new homes this year, thanks to the efforts of WAAG.*

## Lending a helping paw to shelter animals

One of the goals of WAAG is to help increase the adoption of animals at the Wake County Animal Center into permanent homes.

One way we've been accomplishing this goal is through sponsorships. Sponsorships are like 'discounts' off the adoption fee and can be applied to any animal at the Center.

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, WAAG has placed sponsorships on 13 animals. These special-needs animals were hand-picked by WAAG President and active shelter volunteer, Renee.

WAAG is also planning to provide funds to reduce the cost of heartworm treatment for some of the dogs at the Center with this disease.



## What's next for WAAG?

We have some exciting things in store for WAAG this fall.

We will be participating in some upcoming events, including the dog olympics at NCSU and Mutt Strut, the annual fundraiser for the Wake County Animal Center.

We will continue to sponsor adoption events every month at a Petco

near you (see page 1 for details).

At these events, we increase awareness of the Center and provide educational literature on a variety of topics, including animal cruelty and disaster preparedness.

We also hope to apply for 501c3 status this fall. Right now, WAAG is a recognized nonprofit

organization, and 501c3 status will provide us with additional benefits and opportunities for grants and other funding.

We are also looking to fill some board positions and expand our marketing, education and fundraising efforts.

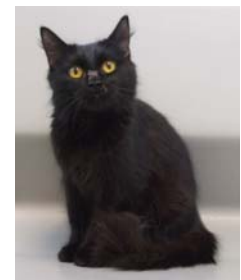
Contact WAAG to find out more about how you can help.

## A purr-fect home for Cassandra

Cassandra was brought to the Center as a 10-month-old stray. Adult, black cats are generally hard to adopt, so WAAG decided to take her to Petco for an adoption event. As a result, she found a loving home (with the WAAG president, no less!).

We're very happy to report that Cassandra is settling in just fine with her new home.

In fact, she might think she's a dog - she plays fetch and sits beside her 2 dog buddies when it's time for treats!



## WAAG works to reduce animal relinquishments

According to the National Humane Education Society, "moving" and "landlord not allowing pet" are the top two reasons for owner relinquishment of dogs and cats to animal shelters in America.

With the slowing economy and mortgage crisis, many families in Wake County are relinquishing their pets to the Animal Center because they are moving from their homes into apartments that do not allow pets.

To help address this problem, the Wake County Animal Center and

the WAAG are pleased to announce the development of the first-ever Wake County Pet-Friendly Housing Guide.

This Guide lists more than 200 apartments in Wake County that accept dogs, cats and other pets. Information is provided about pet fees and any weight or breed restrictions.

Apartments without breed and size restrictions are listed at the top.

To view the Guide, visit <http://www.wakegov.com/pets/guide.htm>.

The primary purpose of the Guide is to help decrease the number of pets relinquished in Wake County, due to moving and conflicts with housing policies. The Guide can also be used by apartment dwellers wanting to adopt.

Citizens are encouraged to consult this Housing Guide if they are planning to move with a pet, or planning to adopt a pet.

Please help us spread the word about this housing guide, before more families bring their dogs and cats to the Center. Thank you!



Help us spread the word...

WAAG is pleased to announce the creation of the first-ever

### Wake County Pet-Friendly Housing Guide

Available at [www.wakegov.com/pets/guide](http://www.wakegov.com/pets/guide)

## Heartworm: mythbusters

**Myth #1: Dogs are the only animals that can get heartworm.**

Cats are also susceptible to this disease. Heartworms are found in the blood of 80%-90% of dogs, and 20% of cats

**Myth #2: You only have to worry about heartworm if you live in the South.**

Although NC is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for heartworm, the disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, so any location that has mosquitoes for any part of

the year is at risk. However, most heartworm infection cases happen in warm, humid climates or areas that are near lakes and rivers.

**Myth #3: Indoor animals can't get heartworm.**

A study performed at NCSU indicated that 27% of cats infected with heartworms were solely indoor cats.

**Myth #4: Most dogs are given a heartworm preventative.**

The American Heartworm Society estimates that only 27 million dogs in the

U.S. are at risk of getting heartworm disease.

**Myth #5: Animals with heartworm can live a normal life.**

The average lifespan of heartworms in untreated pets is 5-7 years in dogs and 2-3 years in cats.

**Myth #6: Heartworm treatment isn't that bad**

Treatment is costly and can be dangerous for the animal.

Please contact your vet for more information about heartworm prevention.

(source: Dr. Foster & Smith)



*Talk to your vet about heartworm prevention.*





## How you can make a difference

Many animals at the Wake County Animal Center in Raleigh are in need of our help.

With your contributions, WAAG can make a difference in the lives of the animals. Become a member today!

Levels of membership are:

- Bronze: \$25
- Silver: \$50
- Gold: \$75
- Platinum: \$100+

WAAG is also looking for committed volunteers and

officers. Officers must be volunteers in good standing with the Wake County Animal Center.

There are many ways to get involved, and we welcome the opportunity to talk with you about joining our group.

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**Supporting  
the animals  
at the  
Wake County  
Animal  
Center**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.waagnc.org](http://www.waagnc.org)

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## Looking for the perfect gift?

To help raise funds to support our efforts, WAAG will be selling specialty hats and decals.

The hats are a great gift idea for kids - and kids at heart. Each ball cap is designed to look like a dog, and they come in a

variety of colors and styles and breeds.

The Pet Alert Window Decals could save your pet's life. You put one on your front window to alert emergency services personnel about your pets. So, if there is a fire

or similar emergency, they will know to rescue your pets from your home.

To purchase decals or hats, you can see us at our upcoming events – Mutt Strut and the Dog Olympics (see page 1).

## About Our Organization...

The purpose of WAAG is:

- To support the adoption efforts of the Wake County Animal Center (WCAC)
- To prevent cruelty to animals
- To increase the adoption of homeless animals into permanent homes
- To educate the public on pet care
- To increase retention of pets in their adoptive homes
- To support spay/neuter programs

