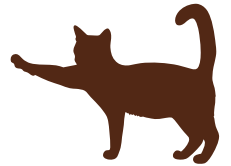


Summer 2025



A Message from CLAW President Karen House



Welcome to the first issue of Bowie CLAW's quarterly, reimagined newsletter! This is intended to share our successes and activities with a wider audience than our numerous Facebook followers. Our group depends on so many wonderful individuals, and the goal of the newsletter is to have an avenue to highlight many of the people who work silently behind the scenes, yet have a huge impact. To reach our goal of achieving the highest possible level of animal welfare in Bowie and nearby areas, we rely on all of you. This newsletter is meant to keep everyone informed. Please let us know what you think via email at bowieclaw@gmail.com. We welcome input on nominations for people to be featured, adoption stories, fundraising ideas, project proposals, and other thoughts for improvement.

As your new Bowie CLAW President I just want to introduce myself to those of you who I have yet to meet.

Taking on the mantle that Paul so skillfully wore for so long is no easy task and I am very happy to have him remain as VP. I lean on him and the various talents of the rest of the Board, as well as our members, on a daily basis.

A relative newcomer, I have been involved with CLAW since 2021 when I volunteered to help with grant writing. I was looking for something meaningful to keep myself busy in retirement. As a child, I loved animals, but my parents were not as keen. After rescuing a flea-ridden kitten from the middle of the road at age 11, and being unable to keep "Fluffy," I vowed I would help animals when I grew up. Career, children, graduate school and several major moves delayed my dream of adopting cats, but finally, during COVID, a tiny kitten found his way to my daughter and I knew we just had to keep him. About the same time, I was nearing retirement after 30 plus years serving in the Air Force as a Medical

Laboratory Officer and then as a civilian Program Manager for the Department of the Army, so there was nothing standing in the way of keeping the little scamp. He was soon joined by several other cats who adopted us.

As I learn about the people of Bowie CLAW, I find that I could not have landed with a better group, and I am reminded daily that no one of us can do it all. There truly is some magic here with this team! While we are not perfect, nor able to save all the cats and kittens that come to us, we do have a superlative track record in saving most. It is the spectacular turnaround stories that keep me going when we do lose a cat or kitten to accident or disease. I look forward to continuing to serve our community and feel very privileged to help lead this stellar group of caring individuals!

Warmest Regards,

Karen



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Mission

Bowie CLAW (Citizens for Local Animal Welfare) is a completely volunteer-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its purpose is to advocate for the interests and welfare of animals in the city of Bowie, Maryland, and the greater Bowie area. This includes but is not limited to the establishment of a system that insures the care and placement of Bowie's homeless animals and the return of lost pets to their owners.

My CLAW Story

Longtime volunteer and supporter, Jim Windhausen, writes about his involvement with CLAW and shares some personal background, too.



My CLAW involvement has encompassed the past dozen years. It all started through a pet sitting need for our 2 cats. We had been referred to Rhoda Pollack in 2010 by a former sitter who was no longer available. Rhoda indicated to my wife on one of her visits that she could use some backup help in feeding some Newbie colonies. That soon became a weekly exercise. Started out in 2012 with 6 colonies of 26 cats which grew to 35 cats in 4 colonies over the years. I decided to hang up my feeding togs in 2022 but have been replaced by a dedicated set of younger legs that we continue to sponsor.

Rhoda asked me to help with shelter building in 2020. I estimate that about 100 shelters have been built over the last 4½ years with the help of 4 or 5 volunteers. I am currently looking to retire from shelter building.

We have been supporting CLAW's Pet Pantry monthly since late 2018 and plan to continue to do so in the future. We have 2 cats (both from the colonies; 1 - 2013 and 1 - 2017). We have also been supporting the Anne Arundel County SPCA's pantry. CLAW provides unparalleled support to the homeless cat population of Bowie through support for the TNR and adoption programs.

I retired in 2010 with 20 plus years of experience in IT. My wife Maxine is an engineer at NASA Goddard in Greenbelt. We have one daughter (my ace shelter production assistant).

CLAW's Work

In conjunction with the City's Animal Control staff, operates and maintains the temporary holding room located at City Hall.

Takes in kittens and adult cats, places them temporarily with fosters whenever possible, ensures that they receive all appropriate medical attention, then adopts them out to their forever homes.

Places a small number of cats available for adoption at a local Petco, caring for those animals and maintaining their kennels.

Operates a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program through which community cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped (physically marked) and returned back to their outdoor homes where they were trapped.

Complementing TNR, Bowie CLAW assists in the humane management of community cat colonies within the City of Bowie by supporting the daily feeding of these cats by volunteers.

Operates a Pet Food Pantry that provides food, toys, and cat litter to local residents who are struggling to afford their pets' care.

Thank You, Paul!



CLAW achieves its mission through the dedicated work of its awesome volunteers – none more dedicated or awesome than Paul Nadler, who recently completed a five-year run as the organization's President.

After retiring from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority several years ago, Paul became a tireless advocate and worker in service to animals and the people who love them. He began volunteering to transport animals from high-kill rural shelters in the south to organizations in the Mid Atlantic where they could be adopted. Dream Runners, the animal rescue transport organization that Paul founded, transports dogs, cats and the occasional rabbit three times a week, to this point saving over 3,000 animals.

Paul also started trapping cats for CLAW, which is done in large part to humanely deal with the feral cat population. Under the Trap Neuter Return program, cats are spayed or neutered, given vaccines then released back to their colonies where volunteers feed and care for them. Most kittens that are trapped are not returned to their original colonies but are socialized and eventually made available for adoption.

Free roaming cats are not usually cooperative, and it takes a special person to trap them. Retrieving a lost pet cat or a stray who was abandoned by its family also necessitates the ability to trap under varying conditions. Paul has traversed storm drains and attics, crawled into dark spaces under houses and sheds, scaled trees and fences, and gotten bitten up by bugs in order to rescue cats and dogs in difficulty. In 2024 alone, he trapped over 600 animals,



mostly cats and kittens.

While continuing his trapping and animal transportation work, Paul also took on the role of CLAW President for half a decade. While he prefers the more hands-on activities to which the group is dedicated, he admirably carried out the administrative duties required in the position. He became even more embedded in all of CLAW's work and was the primary liaison with local governments, other organizations and the public. During that time, CLAW grew in its funding, impact and prominence in the community.

Paul has been integral to hundreds of positive outcomes for pets and people, and his trapping and transporting work continues as he now serves as CLAW's Vice President.

A Glimpse at CLAW's Finances

Ever wonder how Bowie CLAW manages to assist so many cats, kittens and other animals when there are zero paid staff? Sometimes it's done on a wing and a prayer, but the basis of our success is our dedicated volunteers and donors, who always seem to come through when we are in dire financial straits. As a nonprofit service organization, we are held to high standards of fiscal responsibility and reporting, and we rely totally on the largesse of others. We depend on individual donors and grants to meet all of our expenses, which last year totaled \$174,981.

It costs quite a bit to feed, house, and vet cats and kittens, as some have serious medical problems. As a rescue, we go out of our way not to euthanize cats and kittens who have a chance at a healthy life, but that is expensive. Also, we are not required to take in every animal that residents find or every pet that an owner can no longer support, but even so, we do our best to help any animal that comes our way. Because of that, our largest expense (\$117,233 in 2024) is in supporting our **Adoptable**

Kittens and Cats. Anyone who has a cat knows that costs add up quickly- food, litter, vet visits and procedures, etc. The large number of animals that come to CLAW result in big expenses for such a small organization.

The majority of our cats and kittens are cared for in foster homes. In this manner, we hosted about 280 cats and kittens last year. There was also an impressive number of cats and kittens taken in through CLAW's humane TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program. Each TNR or adoptable cat had to be seen by a vet at least once, in order to be spayed (females) or neutered (males), and vaccinated against rabies and other viruses. A few required very expensive medical procedures. We feel strongly that once an animal is in our care that we do whatever is reasonably possible to give that animal a good life. The cost of care for a cat or kitten normally far exceeds the adoption fee charged. Even when utilizing grants for TNR, there are additional procedures or medications needed, or the TNR takes place outside of an area for which there is a grant

available.

We believe it is important for our volunteers and donors to understand just how grateful the organization is to them and to be transparent about finances. We report as required to the federal government (IRS) and to the State of Maryland. Our financial information is available publicly from the IRS site **here** and the State's site **here**. You can use our federal EIN identifier of 26-4494506 to access CLAW's info.

The bottom line is that without the generosity of our donors and the huge number of hours our volunteers contribute, Bowie CLAW would be unable to meet the need for assistance with strays and pets in the Greater Bowie area. CLAW does not have an endowment or large guaranteed flow of financial support. Should income drop off, the organization's ability to meet its mission will suffer. Thus, the Board is extremely grateful to all of the contributors who provide CLAW with the money required to continue its work. Thank you!



Can You Check All the Boxes?

Do you ...

- ☐ Love animals?
- ☐ Want to help Bowie CLAW?
- ☐ Have social media content management experience?
- ☐ Want to volunteer a few hours per week?

If so, we could really, really use your assistance with CLAW's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Write to **bowieclaw@gmail.com** for more information.



Lovely Rosalie

Rosalie is a sweet and beautiful young female Abyssinian who will surely become a treasured family addition. Her road to adoption has been a bit bumpy. In early April, CLAW received a message about a mom cat and four kittens in a yard, where the homeowner had provided shelter and food. But the mom now appeared to be injured. President Karen and VP Paul went immediately to get the family. Because of vaccines and antibiotics given, Mom had to be separated from the kittens, who went immediately to foster.



After many fraught weeks, Rosalie's injury has fully healed, but it has left this affectionate cat with a rather endearing, lopsided smile. Due to the injury, and other possible medical issues which are resolving, lovely Rosalie has been unable to go to a forever home just yet. However, pending some repeat bloodwork in the coming weeks, she will be available in August. At the young age of one, and with lots of love to share, she will make anyone a super feline companion. Currently with a foster, Rosalie is enjoying her own room and a tall cat tree where she can look out at the birds and butterflies. She makes friends with whomever comes her way. She loves being brushed and petted and will talk to you endlessly. Her cute little chirps are always a delight.

And Rosalie's kittens? All four were adopted toward the end of May and are now cherished in their forever homes. Oddly, the person who contacted Bowie CLAW for help with the little cat family turned out to be taking the same class at UMD that Karen was attending. They did not know each other prior to connecting over Rosalie and her kittens. It is truly a small world and we are so grateful to Mia for bringing Rosalie and her babies into our lives. We could not help cats like her if it were not for caring residents.



Bowie Clitizens for Local Animal Welfare
P.O. Box 116 | Bowie 20719



BowieCLAW.org



@Bowieclaw



@BowieCLAW



@BowiePetcoCats

How You Can Help

The work of Bowie CLAW is accomplished entirely through the efforts of volunteers. There is a continuing need for new volunteers in a variety of interest areas, including the following.

-  Foster kittens/cats in your home and show them at adoption events
-  Transport kittens/cats to vet appointments and adoption events
-  Feed and socialize kitten/cats along with cleaning their living spaces at the City Hall animal shelter and at Petco
-  Humanely trap homeless kittens/cats as part of the TNR program
-  Inventory and distribute food and cat litter in the Pet Food Pantry program
-  Provide support at adoption events and other special events
-  Assist with CLAW's social media and other communications

For more information on any of these opportunities, please send a message to **bowieclaw@gmail.com**.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Restaurant Fundraisers:

August 12, 2025

Smokey Bones
15209 Major Lansdale Blvd
Bowie, MD 20715

Upcoming Adoption Events:

August 16, 2025 - noon-3pm

Kitty Hall

Bowie City Hall
15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, MD 20716

Community Meeting:

August 23, 2025 - 9AM

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Dr
Bowie, MD 20716





For latest calendar updates, follow *Bowie CLAW* on Facebook.



How You Can Donate

To a great extent, Bowie CLAW is dependent upon contributions from individuals to allow us to continue to help as many animals as possible.

Donations (Tax-Deductible: Federal EIN: 26-4494506 and Maryland Charitable ID: 21362) can be made in a number of ways:

-  On our website bowieclaw.org - donate via PayPal, venmo or your credit/debit card
-  Workplace giving: Federal Combined Federal Campaign #15690
-  Online retail giving: iGive.com
-  Mail a check: P.O. Box 116, Bowie 20719

