



At Bowie CLAW, rescue is only the beginning. What follows is something deeper: connection, healing, and the quiet rebuilding of lives—on both ends of the string toy.

Obi's story started as many do—unpredictable and a little chaotic. Known as "Travelor" or "Travi" by the colony feeder because he was always on the move, he quite literally trapped himself. On the second day of trapping, as Lauren Semeniuk was unloading her car, Travi simply walked into a trap. Just like that, his next chapter began.

At around eight months old, Travi arrived at Bowie CLAW full of energy and personality. He wasn't just rambunctious. He was exceptionally sharp. His foster quickly realized this was no ordinary kitten; he could solve dog puzzle toys in minutes and approached the world with relentless curiosity.

More Than a Rescue: How Bowie Claw Changes Lives

He needed a home that would understand and embrace his spirit.

At the same time, Joanne Reaney was grieving the sudden loss of her beloved cat, Abigail. The house felt quieter, emptier. When she saw Travi's picture, something stirred but she didn't rush. She spent hours at the foster home, patiently getting to know him. That patience led to something special.

That's where Bowie CLAW's impact becomes clear. CLAW didn't just place a cat, they created space for a relationship to form and healing to ensue.

Today, Travi is Obi—no longer a wanderer, but the center of Joanne's world. Joanne chose a name with meaning as powerful as his personality. "Obi" comes from Nigerian culture, meaning heart—a fitting reflection of the bond he now shares with Joanne. It also suits him in another way: O.B.—Overzealous Boy—capturing his bold, energetic spirit. The regular updates tell the story: cuddles, playtime, routines, and a bond that runs deep. And Joanne? She's healing. You can hear it in her

words—joy replacing loss, connection replacing grief.

As Joanne puts it, Obi is as brilliant as he is loving. He's extremely intelligent and a clever problem solver, learning tricks like ringing a bell at the back door so he can be picked up to look outside. He's even trying to repeat "hell-low"! He's affectionate, cuddly, and deeply loyal—lap-seeking, constantly purring, head-butting, and always ready to engage. At the same time, he's adventurous, forever testing new heights and spaces—there is truly never a dull moment with him.

And at the heart of it all is what Bowie CLAW made possible: "I'm sure, that due to his fantastic, loving foster mom from Bowie CLAW, he flourished into the most exceptional companion I could have ever wished for."

That's the difference. Bowie CLAW didn't just rescue a cat—they nurtured his potential, matched him thoughtfully, and created the space for healing to happen on both sides. Obi found a home. Joanne found joy again. That's what real rescue looks like.



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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.

CLAW's Pet Food Pantry Donation Sites

The Winter issue of *CLAW Connections* carried an article about CLAW's Pet Food Pantry. In the list of donation sites, we missed a very important one - Veterinary Housecall Service in Crofton. So, the complete list of locations with drop-off bins is:

- Belair Veterinary Hospital
- The Bowie Senior Center
- The Bowie City Gym
- Crunchies in Crofton
- Life Companions Veterinary Hospital
- Mom's Organic Market
- Veterinary Housecall Service in Crofton
- Wow U Salon

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.

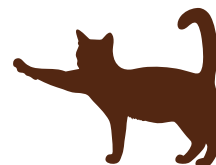
Donations (Tax-Deductible: Federal EIN: 26-4494506 and Maryland Charitable ID: 21362) can be made in a number of ways:

- 🐾 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





A Message from CLAW President Karen House



The Cats and Support for CLAW Keep Coming

It has been an exciting start to kitten season but not how it was expected. It seems to be raining older cats. Within the last four months, we had 25 cats surrendered to us. A few of those were actual returns from recent adoptions that just did not work out. However, the majority of the returns were situations where either the owner died, was diagnosed with a serious disease, or they were evicted from pet friendly housing. This is heartbreaking all around as those surrendering have the emotional tsunami of saying goodbye to a beloved family member just when they need them the most! We will do our

best to ensure these cats land in great homes.

On a much happier note, Bowie CLAW was recognized on Fox 5 as the recipient of April's Pay It Forward from Easterns Automotive! I wish we had an office wall on which to place the monster-sized check for \$2,200. The tour of the TV studio was quite impressive, and the gift was a total surprise. This only happened because our members cared enough to take the time to write the station about the good that CLAW accomplishes every day. Thank you!

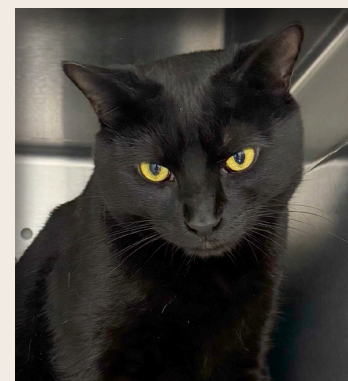
More good news came our way twice in the last month when The Dodo saw some of our rescue adventures on Facebook posts and asked to interview us in order to further distribute those stories. Our kittens found on the Jeep roof and the kittens behind cement steps were written up, making the stories available to thousands worldwide. This recognition is fantastic and well deserved because our volunteers always go the extra mile for our charges. It's great to know the rest of the world will also hear about it. As always, I am amazed and delighted to work with this stellar group!

Meet Howard

Howard is a big, handsome shy boy who loves to keep an eye on everything going on around him—nothing gets past this curious guy! He enjoys head scratches, feather toys, and is always ready for a tasty treat. With his sleek black fur and striking golden eyes, Howard is truly a standout.

If you have room in your heart and home for Howard, please text **Mickie** for more information: **202-424-9229**

Visit our *Adoptable Kittens and Cats album* on Facebook to meet all the sweet faces waiting for forever homes.



My CLAW Story



As you will read below, **Joanna Snellings** is a volunteer for CLAW at the City Hall temporary holding facility. The wonderful photo accompanying this article has also been used on the flyer for the current volunteer recruitment campaign (see page 6).

I'm Joanna! I am a lifelong Bowie resident, and I got started with Bowie CLAW in December of 2023. All I knew about them before that was that my family had donated blankets and towels a few times, and my neighbor helped out walking found dogs. I was always curious, and I'm not sure what pushed me to finally start, but I'm so glad I did. I volunteer at least once a week in the cat kennels.

Helping out on a consistent basis like this really allows me to witness the growth of our residents; whether it be kittens physically growing bigger and stronger or a shy older cat coming out of their shell and learning to trust humans. The best part is seeing them go home to their new families at the adoption events. Even those of us who don't attend every event are cheering them on every time in our groupchat.

I lost my childhood cat of 16 years last November. I think continuing to volunteer has really helped me heal, and it gave me a place to channel my grief into good once I was ready. Plus, it really helped to have so many people who understood exactly what I was feeling. This is probably my second favorite part. Bowie CLAW is a really great community.

It isn't often you get to meet someone who loves you and wants to be your friend straight away, but I meet at least one (with fur and a tail of course) every time I have kennel duty!

Sweet Bentley

Bentley is a two-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier, who was found wandering around a Bowie shopping center and was brought into Petco. Paul Nadler, CLAW's VP, picked him up and took him to the City Hall Holding Room, where he was in residence for a few days. He won everyone's heart, with his sweet and loving disposition. On January 5, his owner reclaimed him, and that seemed like a win.

Unfortunately, on January 8, Bentley was found running at large and was taken to Prince George's County Animal Services. After a while, his owner went there but refused to take back Bentley if he was neutered, which is a County requirement. So, Bentley was held at the facility and posted for adoption.

By mid-February, he still had not been adopted, and the odds were against him. Paul kept up a campaign to have him adopted, but a number of leads fell through. Bentley was put on that week's euthanasia list.

Finally, **Julia and Mike Brewer**, owners of **Crunchies in Crofton**, saw Paul's post and went to meet Bentley. They fell in love! Bentley now has a forever home, and it turns out that he prefers being inside the house rather than spending time outside. Such a wonderful dog to be saved.





Paws Through the Years

Highlights of the Bowie CLAW JOURNEY



July
2008
Fall

The first mention of interest in an animal welfare organization in the Bowie Blade

Animal Welfare show created on Bowie Cable TV



July
2009

Bowie CLAW is officially registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



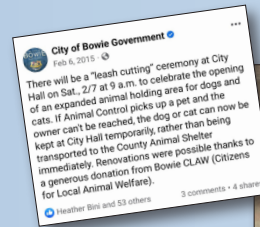
November
2010

Bowie CLAW's first Blanket Drive



February
2015

Bowie City Hall officially opens temporary animal holding room



2016

Bowie CLAW has its first Community Cat through Trap, Neuter, Return. Colony Care follows



2017

Bowie CLAW's first regular use of Holding Room for TNR trapped community cats and socializable cats for foster and adoption



2023

Petco partnership is established to support adoption program



2024

Bowie CLAW's numerous programs are highlighted on Fox 5 DC





Volunteers Needed Bowie CLAW Needs You Help Us Help the Animals!

As a volunteer-run nonprofit, Bowie CLAW relies on caring community members to support animals in need.

We're currently looking for help with:

- Feeding and socializing cats & kittens
- Cleaning kennels and living spaces
- Fostering cats and kittens
- Transporting animals to vet visits and events
- Humane trapping (training provided)
- Dog walking and feeding
- Pet Food Pantry support
- Social media assistance
- Fundraising

NOTE: Most volunteer roles require participants to be at least 18 years of age.



Please contact Joe Puccio
(joepuccio@bowieclaw.org)
for more information or to volunteer!

Mark Your Calendar!

Community Meeting/Board of Directors Election:

Saturday, May 9th

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Dr
Bowie, MD 20716

Restaurant Fundraiser:

Thursday, May 21st

Coal Fire Pizza
1402 S. Main Chapel Way
Waugh Chapel Towne Center
Gambrills, MD

Upcoming Adoption Events:

Saturday, May 2nd
Petco Bowie

Saturday, May 16th
Petco Waugh Chapel

Saturday, May 23rd
PetSmart Bowie

Saturday, May 30th
Chesepiooc Brewery
2408 Crofton Blvd
Crofton, MD 21114

Saturday, June 13th
Kitty Hall - Bowie City Hall

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

Meet Marcel

Marcel is a handsome 3-year-old boy with a big personality and an even bigger heart. He loves head butts, wand toys, and watching the world go by from the window. Give him a little time, and he'll reward you with loyal companionship and lots of love.

If you have room in your heart and home for Marcel, please text **Mickie** for more information: **202-424-9229**

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