CLAW Connections
News from Bowie Citizens for Local Animal Welfare

Fall 2026

DIY "Citizen Trappers"

Requests to trap, neuter, and return (TNR) kittens/cats - within Bowie and beyond - sadly overwhelm Bowie CLAW's volunteer staffing and other resources. Paul Nadler has often trapped daily, while Lauren Semeniuk and a few other volunteers have trapped occasionally. We simply can't keep up. So, nothing is more welcome than folks contacting us about yard cats, then picking up on the operation themselves.



Budd & Tank

Take Budd Black and Mandy Baker (Bowie's "P Section"). Budd shares:

> *When we moved into our home, we noticed a friendly black cat lingering around the yard. Assuming he belonged to a neighbor, we began leaving food out. Soon, he was joined by a small colony emerging from the woods: Tabby Princess Pretty Paws; long-haired orange Gunnar, calico Cali; huge long-haired tuxedo Tank; and orange-and-white Creamsicle.*
>
> *We knew we needed help and contacted CLAW, who responded immediately. Paul and Lauren trapped all five in about an hour, returning them a few days later after their surgeries. Tank returned to our feeding station within minutes of release.*
>
> *That started our 'DIY' (Do It Yourself) trapping journey. Observing the set-up and strategic timing of the remote-controlled drop trap (clicking once target cat(s) is/are deeply in), CLAW left it on our deck to bait and trigger ourselves when an opportunity arose.*

Lauren joyfully recalls, "Tuesday evening November 18, 2025: That morning Mandy texted that two young, recently appeared tabbies (future Rocky and Adrian) were eating under the trap. Fingers crossed, I responded I'd go that evening to see/help. I was about to leave when Mandy texted three beautiful words: *We have them."*



Mandy & Gunnar

Budd continues:

> *Soon we bought our own trap and caught a tiny tortie and expert escape artist Houdini. Smokey showed up, followed by Eleanor, a young cat with a severe facial wound. Through co-workers, Smokey and Eleanor were soon in loving indoor homes.*

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Editor
Joe Puccio

Design/Production
Pamelyn Burke

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.

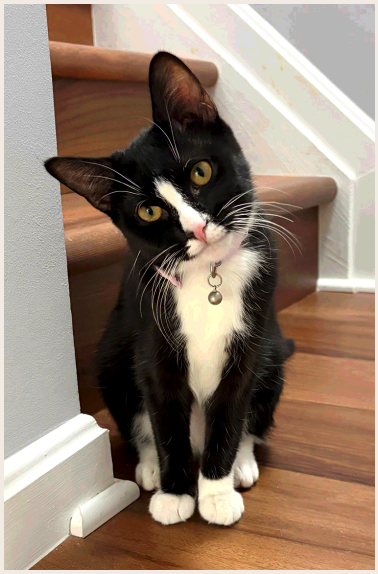
Petrol is Adopted!

You read about Petrol's perilous road through early kittenhood in the summer issue of *CLAW Connections.* We are now overjoyed to report that she is doing great and has been adopted.

Her adopter, Tracy, reports:

> *Petrol is 150% kitten. She brings so much fun and joy to our household. She is settling in nicely with her two brothers. The boys, Chi (from England) and Smudge (from Japan) have allowed her to join them for some naps. She loves wand toys and playing (i.e. attacking) her nylon cubes.*

Yay for Petrol!





DIY "Citizen Trappers" continued

> *Patience, proximity, food, and plenty of Churu helped socialize Paws and Tank, now our adopted cats. They enjoy laps, toys, pets, and sleeping inside, while still using their cat door to explore. Gunnar, Rocky, and Adrian are also becoming very comfortable indoors; Rocky may now be the tamest cat we have.*
>
> *Our yard is calmer now. We may not have solved the community cat volume in Bowie - not even our street - but we've transformed about 10 cats' lives. The more volunteers, donations, trappers, transporters, and community members reporting colonies, the more Bowie CLAW can mitigate overpopulation. Be part of the solution: contact CLAW and find out how you can help.*

To learn more about helping cats and kittens in this manner, send an email message to CLAW (***bowieclaw@gmail.com***).



A Message from CLAW President Karen House

Always Flexible

Here it is Halloween and it seems appropriate that we just took in our 313th cat of the calendar year. Yes, Kookie is a black cat. This one-week-old was found by a man's dog 24 hours ago, and no mother showed up. The finder emailed Bowie CLAW this evening and within a couple of hours of that message, Kookie is in the arms of a very dedicated bottle feeder. Hopefully this little fighter will overcome the odds and flourish. This response, on the heels of finding fosters for a couple of kittens and four dogs from a home where the people were evicted, highlight just how quickly our members spring into action for emergencies. Bowie CLAW gets the job done, especially when it counts the most!

As most of you probably know already, Paul Nadler's heart is metaphorically as big as the Milky Way, but physically, that organ let him down recently and it needed some serious mending. After a very long surgery several weeks ago, Paul is recovering but has had to set aside trapping and Bowie CLAW VP and Board duties. Let's face it, the constant demands of an animal rescue are stressful! Between the whirlwind of events each week, the challenges of administration, the constant coordination needed for TNR with multiple entities, the worry over funding, the rigorous physical demands of trapping, and the recurring heartache of losing those we could not save, animal rescue is not for the faint of heart. Yet despite all that, Paul persevered for many years and wove himself into the fabric of Bowie CLAW. Our organization is what it is today in large part due to Paul's dedication and actions.

As we move forward without leaning on Paul daily, we are re-evaluating how our tasks get done and continue to try to streamline administration. The abrupt loss of a key member from everyday operations is jarring, but has forced some changes to the forefront, most notably restricting when and where we will trap and intake cats. We will continue with the upgrades already started to the website and our Google Workspace, and our new logo, featuring original artwork created especially for Bowie CLAW, will be unveiled in the New Year. Thank you to the members who voted and especially to those who did a deep dive and found that the image we thought we had full license to utilize in a logo was actually restricted from that. Nothing worth doing is ever easy, but this group has the passion and perseverance to do it right. Semper Gumby!



My CLAW Story
A Passion for Animal Welfare: My Journey with Bowie CLAW

*As **Natalie St Louis** writes below, her deep passion for animal welfare led her to CLAW. She volunteers at the Pet Food Pantry and assists Bowie Animal Control with dogs that are temporarily housed at the City Hall holding room.*

Growing up in Trinidad and Tobago, where stray dogs are rampant, I knew I wanted to become involved in animal welfare. My journey with Bowie CLAW began after I saw an announcement for a CLAW general meeting with Prince George's County Council member, Todd Turner. CLAW was advocating against Breed-Specific Legislation, a cause close to my heart after a neighbor's dog was euthanized because of his breed.

As attendees were encouraged to sign up for volunteer opportunities, I thought it was obligatory and chose the Pet Food Pantry - the option that seemed best suited to me since I had no experience handling cats!

Through the Pantry, I have seen how difficult food insecurity can be for families with pets. Knowing that we can help ease some of that burden is incredibly rewarding. Even small acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact.

For the past couple of years, I have also helped Bowie Animal Control with the dog holding room at Bowie City Hall. Thanks to Virginia Jones, I volunteer with the Prince George's County Animal Services Division as well. The most heartbreaking part is when dogs in the City Hall Holding Room cannot be reunited with their owners or find loving homes and must be transferred to the county shelter. Thanks to Paul Nadler, I was able to help save a dog at the County shelter who was on the euthanasia list, with only one day to spare, by helping get the dog into a rescue. I know there are people who do this every day, but for me, it was new territory - and helping make it happen has become one of the best days of my life.

That brings me to Duke, the newest addition to my family. (See photo above.) Found roaming in Bowie and brought to the holding room, he had no owner come forward. He's such a loving dog and I knew I had to give him a chance. Today, Duke is enjoying life with his senior housemates, Fiona and Mandy.

Volunteering reminds me that every animal deserves compassion, safety, and a chance at a loving home. I also appreciate being part of a community of people who share a genuine love for animals and a commitment to helping others.

Meet Oreo



Now that her kittens have found their forever homes, this sweet, sassy girl is ready for her turn! **Oreo** loves head and chin scratches, treats, playtime, and curling up with her person at night. She'd be happiest as the only princess in a calm home where her personality can shine. Give **Oreo** a little patience, love, and understanding, and she'll give you plenty of love in return!

If you have room in your heart and home for **Oreo**, 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.

GivingTuesday is Coming!

December 1 is this year's GivingTuesday, a global generosity movement to help build a better world. Bowie CLAW is proudly taking part, and we are counting on supporters like you to help build a better Bowie for animals.

As you likely know, CLAW advocates for the interests and welfare of animals in Bowie and surrounding communities, including the care and placement of homeless animals and the return of lost pets to their owners. We are able to save the lives of countless animals through the dedicated work of dozens of volunteers and the financial support of our compassionate friends.

It is expensive to care for the unceasing flow of animals that come into our custody. The need for food, supplies and veterinary care is a constant cost of operating the organization. Although adoption fees recoup some expenses, Bowie CLAW could not exist without the generous donations from our supporters.

GivingTuesday provides a special opportunity for you to help fund our critical work. On December 1, please make a donation. *(See How You Can Donate below.)*

Also, please encourage your friends and family to join you in creating real impact on GivingTuesday by sharing what Bowie CLAW's work means to you and why you support our organization.

Together as a community, we make a tangible difference in the lives of animals and the local families who love them. Thank you so much!

BOWIE CITIZENS FOR LOCAL ANIMAL WELFARE
BOWIE CLAW

GIVING TUESDAY

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

"Frankie"



Another Way You Can Help Save Animals

CLAW is in the business of saving animals and reuniting missing pets with their families. To do this effectively, we must have strong internal communications. At the same time, we need robust external communications to fundraise, recruit new volunteers and broaden our support community.

In an effort to improve and better align our communications, the Board recently approved an ambitious strategy and appointed Joe Puccio to coordinate the effort.

At present, CLAW is communicating via channels including its website, emails to a 1,000-person distribution list, Facebook pages, Instagram, YouTube, Nextdoor, WhatsApp, Google calendars, Kennel News and the CLAW Connections newsletter. Most of the associated work is being done by a small number of people, some of whom are already overloaded with other CLAW responsibilities.

There are a lot of talented folks in the CLAW community, and we want to get more of them involved in this critical aspect of the organization's work. Could one of them be you?

If you have a skill or experience in social media, writing, photography, videography, publicity, marketing, or information technology, we want you! Together we can make a real difference in CLAW's ability to save animals. If you can help, please contact Joe Puccio, ***joepuccio@bowieclaw.org***.

Mark Your Calendar!

Restaurant Fundraiser:

Date TBD
Nonna Angela's
Priest Bridge Centre
2225 Defense Hwy A
Crofton, MD 21114

Upcoming Adoption Events:

Saturday, November 7
Petco Bowie

Saturday, November 14
Petco Waugh Chapel

Saturday, November 21
PetSmart Bowie

Saturday, December 5
Petco Bowie-Santa Pics

Sunday, December 6
Petco Waugh Chapel-Santa Pics

Saturday, December 12
Petco Bowie-Santa Pics

Sunday, December 13
Petco Waugh Chapel-Santa Pics

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

Bubbles Needs a Foster

Bubbles, still a kitten herself, came to us with four kittens and did a wonderful job raising her little family. Now her babies are grown and on their own—and it's Mama Bubbles' turn!

This petite, beautiful girl is curious, intelligent and cautious at first, but once she knows and trusts you, her love and affection are worth the wait.

Bubbles needs a special foster home where she can explore, relax and let her personality shine. For now, we'd love for her to be the only cat so she can settle in at her own pace and soak up all the love and attention!

Her babies had their turn—now it's Mama's.

Interested in fostering? **Text Mickie at 202-424-9229.**

