

Winter 2023 Newsletter

Keeping the friends of the Shelter informed & engaged!



Gardenia E Janssen Animal Shelter



Serving Fayette County, Texas

240 Svoboda Lane | La Grange, Texas 78945



Happy New Year!! Whew...2022 was a doozy! We cared for 1,411 sweet pups and kits and we start the new year off with 97 of those little lives still in our care. We made new friends, met new volunteers, fosters, adopters, transporters, and rescue partners! We were blessed with new donors and supporters, and we are grateful for all of it. We have enjoyed over 800 freedom rides and almost 400 transferred to our trusted rescue partners! Overall, we saved 97% of the lives in our care!

Animal welfare is hard. You see things you can't see. It's backbreaking, heartbreaking, hot, cold, wet, sweaty, dirty work. The work is mentally and emotionally exhausting. It's also a labor of love and more often than not extraordinary triumph! We have laughed and cried every day, mostly happy tears, but not all. We have learned lessons the hard way and given our heart and soul into ensuring those that find their way to us get everything we have.

2022 was infuriating, thrilling, frustrating, exciting, and tremendously exhausting. Through all of it YOU have supported us. Every. Single. Day. We have asked for everything under the sun and every single time YOU deliver! We cannot continue this life saving work without our remarkable community of support and we are eternally grateful for YOU!

So as one door closes another opens and we are here to fight another day! We survived 2022 and are walking into 2023 with a stronger commitment to help those that can't help themselves! We got this!! [This piece was published in the Fayette County Record on January 6, 2023, and is available at: <https://www.fayettecountyrecord.com/>]

GJAS 2022 End-of-Year Data

YTD 2022 (12/31/22)		Total Intake as of 12/31/22	
Intake	1411	Cats	734
Adoptions	854		
Return to Owner	120	Dogs	677
Rescue	372		
Humane EU	42		
97% LIVE release rate			

Inventory as of 12/31/22		
	CAT	DOG
In Kennel	6	30
Foster	12	38
RQ	0	1
72 Hr.	0	0
Trial	1	10
Total	19	79

A Few Tips to Winterize Pets for the Coming Months

Oh, the weather outside is frightful! One day sunny 80s, the next stuck in the 40s. Winter weather may soon suck into Texas until what we like to call a couple of weeks, 'Spring.' When organizing for winter weather, don't forget to think about your pets. They, too, deserve special treatment this time of year.

Here are a few tips for keeping your pets cozy, comfortable, and healthy this winter:

1. Just as arthritis can be more problematic for us when the temperature drops, so too does this apply to our animals. If your best buddy appears stiff first thing in the morning or is more tentative when navigating stairs or jumping up and down off the furniture, I encourage you to contact your veterinarian. These days, there are so many beneficial treatment options for soothing arthritis discomfort.

2. When the temperature drops, outdoor kitties like to snuggle up against car engines for extra warmth. Be sure to provide plenty of notice before you start up your engine lest a "kitty squatter" sustain serious injury as a result of moving auto parts. Vocalize and tap the hood a few times. Better yet, lift the hood to alert any slumbering guests of your intentions.

3. Antifreeze is toxic for dogs and cats. Even a few licks of the stuff can cause kidney failure and severe neurological symptoms, usually resulting in death. Unfortunately, most antifreeze products have a sweet flavor making them appealing to dogs. Cats are too discriminating to voluntarily taste the stuff, but should they step in antifreeze, they will ingest enough to be toxic during their grooming process. Please prevent your pets from having any access to antifreeze by checking under your vehicles for leaks and storing antifreeze containers in a safe, critter-proof location.

4. Regardless of season, all animals need access to water round-the-clock. If your pet is reliant on an outdoor water bowl, strategize a way to prevent the water from freezing. Water bowl heaters work well. Additionally moving water is more resistant to freezing- consider creating a little "drinking fountain" for your pets.

5. If your living situation prevents pets living indoors during the cold, provide your pet with an enclosed shelter that is warmed by a heating device and contains plenty of clean, dry bedding. Keep in mind, however, fire and electrocution hazards! Always remember that your pet needs just as much attention from you in cold temperatures as during our hot Texas summers.



We have waited 11 months to celebrate the homegoing of these two guys!! Freckles and Kringle were with us for 11 MONTHS!! Big ol' boys, AMAZING dogs...with a few quirks. But don't we all have a few? They watched a lot of their friends move along to new happy lives and FINALLY it's their turn!! We are thrilled for them and their new families!!! Thank you for adopting!

SHORT TERM FOSTERS

We can *never* have enough short-term fosters! Fostering a dog, cat, puppies, or kittens can and does change lives every day. GJAS will provide everything you need: food, kennel or crate, necessary vet care, etc.

We provide **all the support you need!**

Some of our fosters have chimed in to share their foster experiences with you in this newsletter! Please read on and give fostering, and a shelter pet, a chance...



The Jordan's Way organization brought their 3-hour Facebook live fundraiser event to the shelter! We raised \$14,000 for our Medical Fund with the live feed which included staff and volunteers having fun and showcasing the pups and kits in our care!

We laughed through pies in the face, raw eggs on our heads, ice-bucket challenges, and so much more!

The Medical Fund helps us treat illness and injury which might otherwise keep an animal from being adopted.

Please visit <https://www.jordanswaytour.com/> and look for GJAS!



A FOSTER TESTIMONIAL...

"Fostering for the shelter was something I said I'd never do. 'I have too many animals already.' 'I don't want the heartbreak when I get attached.' Then, someone dumped a stray at my place. I needed help from the shelter, and I learned how much they need help from us. Now, my husband and I both enjoy fostering. It's a short-term project with wonderful results.

Our goal is to help each pup transition to their forever home. It may be socialization, leash training, or just getting healthy. We get to play with puppies for a short time, then send them to their new homes. In a world where I often feel barraged with negative news, it feels good to help solve a problem. This puppy got a new home and we did our small part in helping our community. - Joanna"

Out and About in LGTX 78945



GJAS kennel staff Leah and Devon enjoying the festivities at La Grange Schmeckenfest with well-behaved and festive Richard (L) and Hazel (R)!

Dogs are from Mars? Cats are from Venus?

Can cats and dogs ever be friends? Some can, while others will fight like — well, like cats and dogs. Why the inconsistency? The problem may be that the two species don't always speak the same language.

Cats and dogs communicate — with us and with each other — through body language. When using body language to interpret what our pets are saying, it is important to consider both the context and the pet's individual personality. While certain physical cues commonly appear in both cats and dogs, those cues don't always mean the same things, and it's important to know the differences in order to better understand your cat or dog and how they relate to the other species, especially in the family or socially.

Here are a few examples of behaviors that may communicate dramatically different things for each species:

Tail held high: When a cat holds her tail high, it can signal that she is friendly and relaxed. The higher the cat's tail, the more confident she may be. If her tail is raised high with the fur erect and puffed out, however, it usually indicates alarm or potential aggression. As she becomes more unsure or fearful, her tail is more likely to slink lower.

When a dog holds his tail high, on the other hand, it often signals high arousal and the possibility of aggressive behavior. A dog that is agitated and about to aggress may also flick his tail back and forth vigorously. A dog is more likely to carry his tail in a neutral position, extended out behind him, when he is relaxed.

Wagging tail: Friendly dogs wag their tail loosely back and forth at medium height. When a cat's tail begins to wag back and forth, an unfriendly encounter or predatory attack is likely to occur.

Closed mouth: Relaxed cats have closed mouths; relaxed dogs may have a closed or partially open mouth. The more tense a dog is, the more tightly closed his mouth becomes, although a very stressed dog may pant heavily or yawn.

Ears up for greeting: A cat who is confident greeting people will normally hold her ears forward and alert. If her ears move backward or twitch, it may indicate uncertainty or displeasure. By contrast, one sign of a friendly dog is that his ears move back just slightly. A submissive dog will move his ears back even further as an appeasement gesture.

Dog and cat gestures can signal similar or opposite feelings but, the more we humans learn, the better we can mitigate situations to facilitate safety in encounters with our furry friends. For more information, visit the complete article at: <https://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/body-language-the-difference-between-cats-and-dogs>



Source: <https://www.countryliving.com/life/a38497/two-dogs-and-a-kitty-watki-instagram/>



Awesome Dog Facts

- Every dog has a unique nose print, just like humans have unique fingerprints.
- Dogs sweat through the pads on their paws and through their nose.
- Every dog and puppy need vaccinations to remain healthy.
- There are over 400 million dogs in the world.
- Dogs have been domesticated and our friends than 15,000 years ago.
- There are hundreds of different breeds of dogs.
- Dog can hear 4 times better than humans.
- Dogs have a remarkable sense of smell; they can literally smell 1 million times better than humans.
- The average life span for a dog is around 10 to 14 years.

Cool Cat Facts

- There are over 500 million domestic cats in the world.
- The heaviest domestic cat on record is 46 pounds!
- Cats have powerful night vision; they see 6x better than humans!
- Every cat & kitten need vaccinations every year to stay healthy.
- On average cats live for around 12 to 15 years.
- In the largest cat breed, the average male weighs about 20#s.
- A cat cannot see directly under its nose.
- Cats have 5 toes on each front paw, but only 4 on the back ones; It's not uncommon, though, for cats to have extra toes. The cat with the most toes known had 32 on each paw!
- Some believe that if you dream about a white cat, good luck follows.
- A cat's meow has developed them to communicate with humans.

ANOTHER FOSTER TESTIMONIAL...

"Fostering was a no-brainer for us, we had no pets of our own after moving halfway across the world and we desperately missed that connection with animals. Very shortly after our arrival in La Grange, Texas, my girls and I found the Gardenia E. Jansen Animal Shelter and began volunteering there. Not long after that, an opportunity arose to foster two puppies for two weeks before they went on a rescue transport to Oregon. Within the course of that time, we fell in love with those puppies and many tears were involved in saying goodbye. That seems like such a long time ago! To date we've fostered about 40 animals and each animal that has come into our home holds a dear and special place in our hearts.

Saying goodbye to them has become easier because we know that by doing so, we can open our home to the next animal or litter of animals that need our care. We gravitated towards cats and kittens and have had sick cats and kittens, a pregnant momma cat (and then her litter), teeny weeny kittens that have needed some help getting bigger and stronger and kittens that have needed socialization and help developing trust in humans.

There have been times of heartbreak but, on the whole, there is an incredible feeling of accomplishment and gratitude that we've had the opportunity to help so many animals. Over the past year and a half, we have learned so much! But mostly what we have learned is that the drive, love and support of the ladies at the Gardenia E. Jansen Animal Shelter is none that we have found before in such an organization. They have been available for advice, assistance, training, an ear to listen and a shoulder to cry on. They are so invested in every animal that comes through their doors, it's humbling.

Fostering is life changing - not only for the animal. I would highly recommend giving it a try.

Foster mom for life, Lynne"

On the fence about fostering?

I would rather cry watching them leave our home to live a life of happiness and joy in a loving home than cry because no one stepped up to help them and they died alone, frightened and sad in the shelter. **Fostering saves lives. Try it!**

New Texas Dog Laws

Owners are not allowed to leave a dog outside and unattended while restrained unless the owner gives the dog access to adequate shelter, shade from direct sunlight, drinkable water, proper protection from the weather.

You may **NOT** restrain your dog using:

Chains or **Weights**

You **MUST** provide your dog:



Shelter from rain, snow, extreme heat, and freezing temperatures. It must allow the dog to stand and lie down in a normal position.



Shade and dry space free of excessive poop.

Clean Drinking Water

Properly Fitted Harness or Collar

Minimum 10 ft restraint for small dogs. 5x length of dog for big dogs.

