



SALTY DOGS NEWS

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Saltydogsrescue.org

P.O. Box 4121, Pawleys Island, SC 29585

2022 In Review

UPCOMING EVENTS

Smoothie King

10225 Ocean Hwy, Pawleys
28 Jan 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Valentine Market,

Tanger Outlets, Hwy 501
Factory Stores Blvd, MB
11 & 12 Feb 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mardi Growl

East Bay Park
515 E. Bay St., Georgetown
19 Feb 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Roadside Benefit & Yardsale

Inlet Cottage Vintiques
4763 HW 17, Bypass, MI
18 Mar 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Keep Our Pets Foodbank

652 Belair Ave, MI
25 Mar 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Art in the Park

Food Lion Plaza
Litchfield
15 & 16 April 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

2022 was a huge year in the animal rescue world, especially for Sr. dogs! You can visit the website <https://srdogs.com> to see by geographic area what states cater to Sr. Dog adoptions. As the newest rescue in South Carolina, Salty Dogs has joined this esteemed group, but more than that, we are proud to lead the charge in the state, as South Carolina's first solely senior dog rescue.

We rescued our first dog, Walter, at 14 years of age in May of 22. In the last days of December, we rescued our 32nd and 33rd dog. We have rehomed 28 of our Salty Dogs to date. As a new rescue with no brick-and-mortar facility, we are beyond ecstatic to have the community response to our mission, which has allowed us to explode onto the rescue scene so successfully in such a short time.

We have been able to partner with a variety of local shelters such as Grand Strand Humane, St. Frances Animal Rescue in Georgetown, Horry County Animal Shelter, and Marian County Animal shelter, as well as several out of state. In addition, we take applications for owner surrender due to owner health issues, death, or otherwise unable to care for. In 2022, one third of our dogs were a direct owner surrender to Salty Dogs, with the remaining coming from other rescues and shelters. In many instances, those shelters received the dogs as an owner surrender. So clearly, there is a trend with senior dogs being surrendered and that's exactly why we exist.

With all the senior dogs in need, we could not do what we do without volunteers and fosters. We have grown to 54 members in our volunteer database, with 41 of those active in various activities to include administrative, collecting donation boxes, and manning our tables at adoption and community awareness events, as well as our fosters. Since our first rescue, we've grown from our initial 3 or 4 fosters, to now having 15 active fosters. The average length of stay for our foster dogs is 6 weeks, although we have had some adopted within a week and the longest, our hound dog Dottie, was in foster just about 6 months. Sometimes it takes just a little longer to find the right home.

On average it costs \$530 to provide basic vetting and medical needs for the dogs we rescue, although there have been some cases that have been considerably more. Our total medical expenses for 2022 hover at \$28K, and that includes the generosity of most area vets. The below table provides the typical discounted costs associated when we intake a dog (dependent on the individual dog's needs):

Initial Vet Exam	\$49
Spay	\$300
Neuter	\$200
Dental cleaning	\$84
Dental x-ray	\$44
Rabies shot	\$28
Distemper/Hep/Parvo	\$15
Monthly Heartworm prevention	\$8-15 (based on wt.)
Annual Heartworm prevention	\$65
Monthly Flea/tick	\$6
Urinalysis testing	\$37-45
Fecal lab test	\$10
Bordetella shot	\$26
Blood panel test	\$30
X-ray (1-4 films)	\$77-128
Ultrasound	\$75
Microchip	\$15
Doxycycline antibiotic	\$20

One of the main resources we have of spreading awareness for our mission is adoption and community events throughout our local area. Since June, we have attended approximately 20. 2023 will bring growth in these events since becoming



more well-known, receiving local business invites, in addition to the fact that we have a better idea of what works and what doesn't. (Two

of our larger upcoming events will be highlighted later in this newsletter.) These events not only get us awareness, but of course, enable us to sell merchandise and take in monetary donations. Everyone sees the small donation boxes in stores, bars, and restaurants and maybe you deposit your extra change without even thinking of the impact. They make a larger impact than many would believe. Over the course of 9 months, we have distributed 14 boxes with another 3 being placed shortly and the total of those 14, in conjunction with boxes at our events has accumulated \$2,000 in donations. This is not bad for a 4 X 6 little box. We are always looking to expand this program, especially up in the Murrells Inlet and Myrtle Beach areas, so if there is a business you think would allow us to place a box; get their approval and then contact Laura at laurab@saltydogsrescue.org. She will be more than happy to deliver a box to you.

In addition to donation boxes, our separate Salty Dogs Wine fund raiser, garnered \$4,268. We have about 7 cases left and will be planning an additional fundraiser in 2023. Lastly, for Giving Tuesday we raised \$27K+, thanks to our donors and our two anonymous match donors. What a great 1st year Salty Dogs has had.

Welcome to the Board

Several of you may know Trish Mulligan from our events, and we are now thankful she has become our newest board member!

Trish and her husband Ed bought their home in Pawleys Island in 2004 after many years of vacationing there. They fell in love with the beautiful beaches, golf courses and local culture of the low country. Upon retiring from 30 plus years in the banking industry they

made the move south from Buck County, Pennsylvania, with their 2 English Bulldogs.



Wanting to stay active and learn more about the area, Trish took a position working at Brookgreen Gardens as the assistant to the Director of Operations and started volunteering at a local animal

shelter. Her love of animals started at a very young age growing up on a 150-acre farm and continues to be a driving force in her life. Today, Trish and Ed share their home with 3-year-old Murphy, the English Bulldog (who rules the roost), and a backyard filled with plants, bushes and feeders to attract a variety of birds and monarch butterflies. Now officially retired, from banking and Brookgreen, Trish is excited to take a more active role and help grow Salty Dogs Senior Rescue.

Helping a Dog Adjust When the Owner Passes

Taken from <https://topdoghits.com> by Carissa Meyers

Dogs mourn losses just like we do, and losing a member of their family can be devastating. Whether it is a canine companion or their human owner, a loss of that caliber can have negative effects on a dog both mentally and physically. No two dogs respond to a loss in the same way, so it's impossible to tell how he will react, but there are many things you can do help a dog adjust when the owner passes away.

Dogs in mourning can show many symptoms, including:

- loss of appetite
- lower water intake
- lethargy
- howling or whining for no reason
- hair loss

...and more. These symptoms can also increase in the weeks and months following the death. If your dog is exhibiting these signs, it is best to have them checked by your veterinarian just to be sure there is no other underlying health condition.

Many times, when an owner passes away someone in the family or a close friend will step up to adopt the dog. That's exactly what happened to me.

I didn't adopt my Shih Tzu Heidi from a shelter. I didn't buy her after seeing her cute little face in a pet shop window, nor did I rescue her from a puppy mill. No, I inherited Heidi from my great-grandmother. The passing of my great-grandma was heartbreaking, and it turned Heidi's world upside-down. Not only had Heidi lost her owner, the person she devoted her life to, but she also had to leave her home and everything she knew to come stay with me and my family in a town an hour away.

A change that big is hard on a dog of any age, not to mention a senior dog, who was use to her person and routine We knew it was going to take some time for her to adjust to her new life. Instead of one owner, she now had four. Instead of spending time with great-grandma all day, she had to get used to us not being home all the time. Instead of being the only animal in the house, she had to share her new humans with a cat.

It was a lot for her to take in, so we did whatever we could to help her transition go as smoothly as possible. We made her feel welcomed and loved, and we were on high alert for any signs of grief or distress. Instead of waiting for these signs to appear and not know how to deal with them, I decided to do a little research before we even brought Heidi into our home. I learned some really great tips and tricks for helping a dog adjust when their owner passes away

and what to do if your new family member begins to show signs of mourning.

Refusing To Drink Water

This is a big sign to look for. Dogs can become so depressed over the loss of their owner that they may decide to stop drinking, which can lead to serious complications and even death. It won't take very long for your dog to get dehydrated.

During the early stages of grief – or when you first realize the dog isn't drinking – don't force him to drink. Always have fresh water available to him, and encourage drinking, but **don't be forceful**. Grieving dogs need friends, not bullies.

If the dog just won't drink water, you can try giving him an ice cube. For about a month or so, that was the only way we could get Molly to consume water. She'd munch on ice cubes, but she wouldn't drink liquid water, so we'd give her ice cubes in order to keep her hydrated. After a while, she went back to drinking water.

If you can get the dog to drink occasionally, add flavorless Pedialyte to their water. That way, when they do get a drink, essential nutrients and electrolytes will be replaced and they'll get hydrated more quickly. You could also add a little low sodium broth to their bowl to try and entice them to drink. If the dog is drinking much less than normal, watch closely for signs of dehydration including sunken eyes, lethargy, loss of appetite, and dry mouth. If left untreated, dehydration can lead to some very serious health issues. If you believe that your dog is dehydrated you need to see your veterinarian immediately.

Loss Of Appetite

Not feeling like eating is a common experience to both humans and animals in grief. Heidi has always been a snacker, meaning she eats in little spurts whenever she wants, but I was worried she wasn't eating enough when we first brought her home after Great-Grandma's passing. She liked her kibble, but she just wasn't interested in eating.

Getting a dog to eat can be tricky. The best thing to do is to find something he will eat.

Whether it's a treat, a hamburger, or a carrot, it doesn't matter. What matters is that the dog is getting nutrients from something. Once he starts eating more willingly, then you can start incorporating kibble or your dog food of choice. It can take a while for the dog to reach this point, so be patient.

Lethargy

Lethargy – sluggish, lacking energy – is depression's sidekick. Although a dog's exhaustion doesn't always mean they're depressed, it's likely a sign of depression associated with grief.

To help get some spunk back into a lethargic dog, initiate activities that they likes, such as a game of fetch, some tug-of-war, or a walk around the neighborhood. Not only will it help them cheer up, but it will also be good exercise for both of you. We played a lot of fetch and went on many walks to make sure Heidi wouldn't sulk around all day.

Another tactic worth trying is going out and buying a new toy for the dog. I know money can't buy happiness, but it can buy a bit of excitement, which just might be what your grieving dog needs. We went out and found a small stuffed dog with a squeaker in it that we thought Heidi would like, and boy, were we ever right! She went nuts over that squeaky stuffed dog! We had to buy four more after the first one because she kept chewing them until the squeaker was out and the stuffing was all over the house.

Severe Grief and Depression

Grieving is normal for canines. It doesn't typically last very long, usually they begin to start feeling better after a few months. However, if your dog is exhibiting severe signs like hair loss, drastic weight loss, excessive vomiting, or excessive diarrhea they should be seen by your veterinarian immediately.

There are prescription medications that can help dogs with severe depression, but that should most definitely be your last resort. Spending some extra quality time with your pet and showing them extra attention should

help them adapt and cope with the loss of their owner.

All in all, when it comes to helping a dog cope after his owner passes away, you have to treat the situation as you would if you were trying to help a friend through a rough time. Show compassion, be patient, and be aware of signs of distress. The dog will grieve and be confused for a while, but your unconditional love will help him cope.

Hang in there, grief can take a long time to overcome.

Save the Date Events

As previously mentioned 2023, is going to bring some great events our way. Two of those bigger events are Mardi Growl and Art in the Park.

We are excited to partner with St. Frances Animal Center on February 19 at East Bay Park in Georgetown. There will be a fabulous and fun parade starting at 12 at Frances Marion park on the corner of Broad and Front St. All general participants will



purchase a \$3 medallion to join with their dog and must check in by 11:45. The parade will end at the East Bay Park around 12:30, where the activities will continue until about 4:00. Those not attending the parade can be at the park as early as noon to partake in the other festivities available. Mardi Growl 2023 will have vendors, food trucks, fun stuff for your dog and much more. One of the highlights will be a pet adoption tent. Other local rescues that want to participate and bring adoptable dogs for adoption, are invited to join us. This event

will be loads of fun and should be great exposure for Salty Dogs. We will need many volunteers for this event, so please mark your calendars. Not only will we have our own merchandise for sale, but there will be a special Mardi Growl shirt available for purchase.

Our second huge event for Spring will be Art in the Park in Litchfield on 15 & 16 April. The vendors spoke and the host listened. This will now be a 2-day event, so even more opportunity for donations, exposure and hopefully adoptions. With the event covering 2 days, we will need even more volunteers assisting than usual, but we are very excited to be the recipient for this year's event. What this means is that Salty Dogs will receive all the vendor fees, as well as proceeds from the silent auction sales. We are so honored to be chosen. This is just proof of how quickly our brand is becoming known and recognized.

Tips For a Healthy Mat-Free Coat

Tips That Make Brushing Easy

Do you brush your dog regularly, but then take him to the groomer only to find out that his fur is matted anyway? This is a common problem for many pet owners. One that can be fixed easily by switching to the correct brush type or by simply altering your brushing technique.



A majority of breeds will benefit the most from a slicker brush and a metal comb. Other brushes simply don't get down to the skin and therefore, skip right over the top of the knots. Your groomer can show you which brush type is best.

2022 Shelter Statistic Highlights

The Secret Brushing Technique of the Pros:

1. Use one hand to part your dog's fur down to the skin. Use your other hand to start brushing from the skin to the end of the hair shaft.
2. Follow this pattern of brushing from the top of your dog's head down to his tail. This is called "line brushing".
3. Once you have line brushed the entire coat, then take a metal comb and run it from head to tail until you are satisfied that you have not missed any knots in his coat. This three-step brushing technique will prevent tangles and mats. It will also leave your pet's coat with a healthy shine since regular brushing helps to distribute the natural hair oils throughout the coat.

Foster Assistance

We have several volunteers who have signed up to assist with our fosters. This can be anything from picking up a foster to take to a medical appointment or an event, to bathing, nail trimming, or dog walking. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.



Many of you may have seen Carole highlighted on our volunteer Facebook page and she can be contacted directly at 860-490-5777 if you need assistance. However, we also

have other volunteers who have expressed an interest. Email volunteer@saltydogsrescue.org and we can get you the assistance you need.

Since many senior dogs are owner surrenders to some type of rescue, we thought it prudent to share some statistics on what the shelter/rescue world was experiencing in 2022, as we have officially been out of COVID lock down for a full year. This data is provided by the Shelters Animal Count, national database. As we have not seen the closeout of 2022, these statistics are current as of the end of September.

1. There are 7.3% more animals entering shelters than leaving so far this year, up from 6% in the Q2 report (Jan-Jun). While this is forecasted to improve slightly by the end of the year at 5%, this is still the largest gap in the past 4 years.
2. All regions are experiencing more cats and dogs entering shelters than leaving with an outcome (live or non-live).
3. Compared to 2021, the number of animals entering shelters has increased 4%, while total outcomes are not keeping pace, decreasing 0.3%.
4. By using full-year data for 2019, 2020 and 2021, and the first nine months of data for 2022, we have adjusted the forecast for the end of the year. Overall, we are forecasting that intakes in 2022 will be higher than 2021 and still significantly less than 2019. Outcomes are expected to be slightly lower than 2021. Compared to 2019, the number of animals entering shelters has decreased 17%, while total outcomes have decreased at an

even higher rate of 20%, meaning more animals are staying in shelters now than before the pandemic.

5. Stray dogs and owner surrendered cats are entering shelters at their highest rate in 4 years.
6. While the rate of adoptions increased from 52% in Q2 to 60% in Q3, there are still too many animals in shelters pending an adoption (or other outcome).
7. With the adjusted forecast, we are estimating that 5% of animals entering shelters will not have an outcome by the end of the year. This is better than our Q2 forecast due to efforts being made to increase outcomes in Q3. However, the PBC is still lower than 2019 - 2021. This data is taken from 741 organizations with complete data for feline, canine, or both from January-September 2022. In total 1,049,956 animals are represented. We realize that there are probably many millions more animals not accounted for. If you want to read the full report, visit <https://www.shelteranimalscount.org>.

December Adoptions

On average we have been fortunate to rehome 4 dogs a month, and December was on track with 5 adoptions. We started the month off with Dottie, our infamous hound dog. It took a while, but Dottie knew the wait was worth it. She hit the jackpot and found the perfect fit.



Our next adoption was our little guy Scout, who came to us out of shelter life with no history of his past. He needed medical care, but how much was uncertain. Our vet did bloodwork and started him on heart meds and anti-inflammatories. His health improved slightly but he still slept a lot. The results of the bloodwork showed his kidneys were failing. He was started on fluid injections several times a week and Scout



got better. He started playing with toys and eating voraciously and his quality of life drastically improved. Even with all of this, we received an application from someone who wanted Scout for who he was. It was another Christmas miracle!

Who says being a failure can't be a good thing? Well Pumpkin thinks it's a great thing. Pumpkin was fostered and adopted out, but unfortunately, our little chubby beagle, didn't have the patience for small children. So back to the foster's he went



and it was clearly meant to be. I hear rumor he may be getting some training in the near future to visit nursing homes. What a happy future for all who will benefit from a Pumpkin visit.

Just when we thought the year was ending, along comes an application from a couple who had lost their pet a few months back.



They had a special request and that was Sadie. Sadie had been in foster with 2 foster brothers for about 10 weeks. Upon first meeting her, Sadie's initial reaction may be to bark, so attending events with her foster mom could present a challenge. However, she would soon find a home where she not only has 2 parents, but no siblings to share anything with. She can now be the Queen of the house. What a great after Christmas present for Sadie and her new family.

Current Salty Dog's Looking for Love

With all the great adoptions, we are wondering where those special people are for Mya and Buddy. Both have been with us for a few months. We know there are a lot



of Chihuahua lovers out there and that's what Mya is looking for. However, she is also interested in a little side betting, so if you like your scratch tickets, or to play the lotto, you would fit perfectly in Mya's life. Mya is a 10 yr. old chihuahua we took in over the summer. She was an owner surrender who came w/her buddy Marvin. He was adopted whereas Mya still waits for a family. She is not a fan of other dogs and

cats but instead spreads all her love on her humans! She will be your Netflix buddy, keep your feet warm at bedtime and go for walks in her winter wardrobe, and don't forget the gambling. Although we had a cancerous mass completely removed from her mammary gland, more possibly could develop, therefore, we have Mya as a fospice adoption. She shows no sign of slowing down but instead still enjoys her squeaky toys, meal time and window watching. There is no adoption fee but



instead a promise required to give our girl a home and family she really needs. Salty Dogs will assist in any further medical bills that may arise. We know there is someone in need of a companion to be their sidekick and Mya would love to be just that! We want to start off 2023 with our girl in a family!

Unlike Mya, Buddy loves everyone. This is why it's so confusing that he has not found a home yet. Buddy is an 8 ½ yr. old Boston Terrier mix. It doesn't matter if you're 2 legged or 4-legged, Buddy is interested. He



loves his walks, his foster brother dog and cat, and is a great event dog, happily posing for pictures with anyone. Clearly, he was on Santa's good list, and we know exactly what he wished for. So, bring on the family, because he is ready!

That brings us to Nala. Nala is one of our more recent fosters, who has just been cleared for adoption. She is a 6 yr. old Carolina dog mix, weighing a svelte 41 lbs. She is extremely friendly and does not mind her nails clipped or baths. She likes other dogs and shares her foster home with a canine brother. Nala is HW positive and has recently undergone treatment that will require her to have minimal exercise for the

She had to endure treatment



requiring very little activity for 6 months while her ❤️ heals

next 6 months, so easy walks during the cooler times of day would be best. We recommend leash walking at this time because Nala

does not realize she has limitations, she is just a happy girl.

We are currently in the process of transporting our final dog, Butter and vetting a second, Lulu, so they are pending availability for adoption. Visit our website, <https://saltydogsrescue.org> to see Mya, Buddy, Nala and all our available seniors, and please spread the word.

Thank you and Happy 2023!!!

We cannot express enough how much your support means. Whether a volunteer, donor, follower, foster, or adopter, a Huge Thank you to all of you!

SENIOR DOGS:

Special Concerns & Solutions

A greying muzzle is only one of what can be many changes a dog experiences as they reach their golden years. You can improve senior pets' quality of life by being aware of these common changes and taking action.

**FEAR FREE
HAPPY
HOMES**
Helping pets live happy, healthy, full lives



Watch for

Limited Temperature Tolerance:

Pets' circulation can become less efficient in old age and they may experience loss of core fat and muscle, which can impact their ability to battle the cold.

How to help

- Limit senior dogs' exposure to cold by dressing them in a winter vest or coat that's easy-on and easy-off.
- Prevent overheating in warmer climates or hotter months with temperature-controlled environments, by limiting the dog's exposure to high heat times of day, and by offering ample opportunity for the dog to drink, rest, and access shade.

Watch for

"Slowing Down":

An older dog may be slow to rise, require extra effort in taking those first few steps, and no longer rush to greet you at the door. While some slowing down can be a normal progression of the brain and body, oftentimes senior pets may be experiencing underlying pain that should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

How to help

- Observe your senior dog's daily routine and movements carefully and describe the changes to your veterinarian. Ask your vet about pain medications. There are several medications for arthritis and other common conditions that can help your senior dog live their life to the fullest.
- With your veterinarian's help, explore complementary therapies such as heating pads, ice, or hydrotherapy.
- Enhance your senior dog's comfort with such additions as memory foam dog beds, non-slip flooring or rugs, raised food/water bowls, and more.
- Consider purchasing mobility devices such as ramps, stairs, or sling-type harnesses to help your senior dog.

Watch for

Worsening of Behavior Issues:

A dog's brain becomes less flexible and resilient to change as they age. They may become stressed more easily and no longer bounce back as readily as they did in the past. For instance, a senior dog who is uncomfortable when left alone can experience more anxiety and exhibit an increase in undesirable behavior, such as inappropriate elimination, when their family leaves.

How to help

- Always aim to address behavioral issues at their earliest signs, as they are likely to get worse if left untreated.
- Seek guidance from a Board-Certified Veterinary Behaviorist, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Associate Applied Animal Behaviorist, or reward-based trainer working in partnership with your pet's Fear Free veterinary team.

Watch for

Cognitive Decline:

Similar to Alzheimer's in people, Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome can cause disorientation, trigger a regression in house training, alter a dog's sleep and activity level, and impact their normal interactions. A dog with dementia may become increasingly agitated and on edge, or oppositely, may become more reclusive and withdrawn.

How to help

- Talk to your veterinarian about any significant change in your dog's behavior.
- Explore specially formulated senior diets and supplements under your veterinarian's guidance. These can potentially help combat the effects of aging.
- Ask your veterinarian about medications such as anxiolytics that might benefit a senior dog with dementia.
- Bring your senior pet for twice-yearly wellness visits compared to the commonly recommended once-a-year visits for adult dogs.