

JANUARY 2026

# THE PAW

MAGAZINE

## A NEW LEASH ON HOPE

A fresh beginning for dogs  
—and the mission—of  
WOUNDED PAW PROJECT®

[www.WPP.dog](http://www.WPP.dog)

**THE PAW MAGAZINE**  
**VOL. 4 ISSUE 1**  
**JANUARY 2026**

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WOUNDED PAW PROJECT® EXISTS  
TO END THE CYCLE OF ABUSE FOR  
DOGS EVERYWHERE.

WE RESCUE, REHABILITATE, AND  
ADVOCATE FOR THE VOICELESS—  
AND WE FIGHT FOR SECOND  
CHANCES WITH COURAGE,  
COMPASSION,  
AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT.

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# A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER...

As we welcome 2026, I want to thank you for the compassion and commitment you brought to the Wounded Paw Project® throughout 2025. From rescues and advocacy efforts to energizing events like **#PAWFEST** and **Bark to the Future networking**, you helped move countless animals from crisis to safety. Your support made every milestone possible.

This year, our momentum continues through the ongoing development of **Pawville Farms®**, the evolution of **Wagployment® 360**, and the important work ahead with **Blacklight K9®**. Each plays a vital role in our mission, and you'll find more about them throughout this issue.

What remains constant is your impact. Whether you volunteer, foster, donate, or share our stories, you help create a world where second chances thrive and cruelty has no place.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we begin 2026 with purpose, unity, and hope—continuing to **Be The Voice For The Voiceless®**.

With gratitude and determination,  
Ernesto P. Hernandez III  
Founder of Wounded Paw Project®



# 2026

A YEAR OF  
COURAGE,  
COMPASSION &  
INNOVATION  
FOR WOUNDED  
PAW  
PROJECT®

A close-up photograph of a white dog's face, focusing on its eyes, nose, and mouth. The dog has dark brown eyes and a pink tongue slightly out. A blue collar with a silver tag is visible on the left side of its neck.

AS WOUNDED PAW PROJECT® (WPP) STEPS INTO 2026, THE ORGANIZATION IS UNVEILING ONE OF ITS MOST AMBITIOUS YEARS YET—ONE DEFINED BY BOLD NEW PROGRAMS, EXPANDED COMMUNITY IMPACT, AND INNOVATIONS DESIGNED TO PROTECT ANIMALS WHILE EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE WHO STAND WITH THEM. THESE INITIATIVES REFLECT AN UNSHAKABLE VISION: TO **BE THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS®** IN EVERY SPACE WHERE ANIMALS NEED PROTECTION, HEALING, AND HOPE.

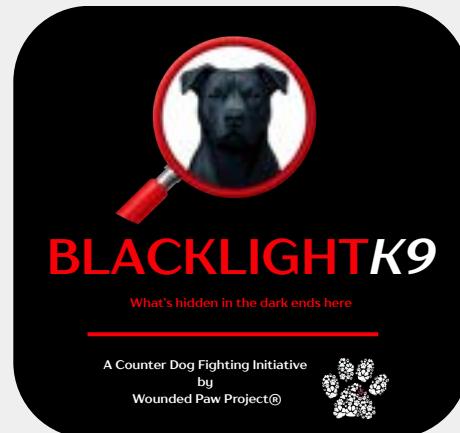
## Pawville Farms®: A Living Model of Healing & Purpose



This year marks the official integration of **veterans horticulture activities** with the Pawville Farms® **dog sanctuary**, creating a one-of-a-kind healing environment. Veterans will work hands-on in the garden beds, tend to the chickens, and become part of the daily rhythm of caring for sanctuary dogs—many of whom are beginning their Wagployment® 360 rehabilitation journeys. By combining fresh air, purposeful work, and animal companionship, Pawville Farms® is becoming a place where both people and animals rebuild trust and rediscover meaning.

## Blacklight K9™: Shining a Light Where Darkness Operates

Also launching in 2026 is Blacklight K9®, WPP's new counter-dog fighting initiative. Designed to complement WPP's long-standing advocacy and rescue mission, Blacklight K9® brings a focused, data-driven strategy to dismantling dog fighting networks. The program



integrates survivor rehabilitation, intelligence-led community reporting, and partnerships with law enforcement, shelters, and social services. Its goal is both simple and profound: **end cycles of violence by intervening early and supporting the dogs who survive them.**

## Disaster Response, Reimagined

Natural and human-made disasters continue to increase in scale and frequency—and animals are too often left out of relief strategies. In 2026, WPP is expanding its disaster response program into a more robust, deployable system capable of supporting communities before, during, and after crisis events. With new training modules, equipment upgrades, and a strengthened volunteer corps, the program will reach more animals displaced by storms, fires, and emergencies. This expansion underscores WPP's commitment to protecting every life touched by disaster, both human and animal.



## A Stronger Rescue Network: Transport Corridors, Collaborative Partnerships & Facility Upgrades

This year brings strategic enhancements to WPP's rescue transport operations—advances rooted in collaboration with like-minded organizations, especially local animal shelters and regional rescue partners. Whether through the development of a new transport corridor or improvements to existing facilities, the focus remains the same: shortening the distance between danger and safety. By working closely with shelters, foster networks, and community-based rescues, WPP is building a more unified and responsive system.

These partnerships make it possible to move animals more efficiently from crisis zones, overcrowded facilities, or cruelty cases into caring hands. With upgraded infrastructure and strengthened alliances, WPP is helping create a truly interconnected rescue network—one where organizations support one another, resources flow where they are needed most, and animals have a faster, safer path to healing and hope.

### **Digital Tools for a More Empowered Community**

2026 will also introduce a suite of digital tools that make it easier for the public to report concerns, track animal welfare issues, and engage with WPP's mission. From streamlined cruelty-reporting features to community education hubs, these technologies are designed to give advocates real-time

pathways to make a meaningful difference. In a world where cruelty often hides online or within private spaces, empowering everyday citizens is critical.

### **A Year of Light, Leadership, and Lasting Impact**

With each new initiative, Wounded Paw Project® reaffirms its dedication to innovation rooted in compassion. From Pawville Farms® to Blacklight K9®, from disaster response enhancements to strengthened rescue networks and community-focused digital tools, 2026 is shaping up to be a transformative year—one where new ideas become lifesaving action.

**THE MISSION CONTINUES.  
THE IMPACT GROWS.  
AND HOPE, AS ALWAYS,  
LEADS THE WAY.**

## From Landfill to Loved: Luna & Diva's Story

Learn how your home loan can help save a dog's life.

HELP SAVE A LIFE



Luna and Diva were discovered in a landfill, barely alive — traumatized, clinging to each other, after watching their siblings crushed by heavy machinery.



Wounded Paw Project® pulled them from the wreckage and rushed them into emergency care. Today, Diva and Luna are thriving with warm beds, full bowls, and humans who treasure them.

**You can help dogs like Diva and Luna when you get your mortgage through Capital Bank Home Loans**, a local bank committed to helping animals and veterans alike.

For every loan closed, **Capital Bank will donate \$1,000 to Wounded Paw Project<sup>1</sup>** to help rehabilitate and rehome dogs in need.

GET STARTED TODAY

*Our mission is stronger  
because of partners like  
you. Together, we are  
creating safer futures for  
animals in need.*



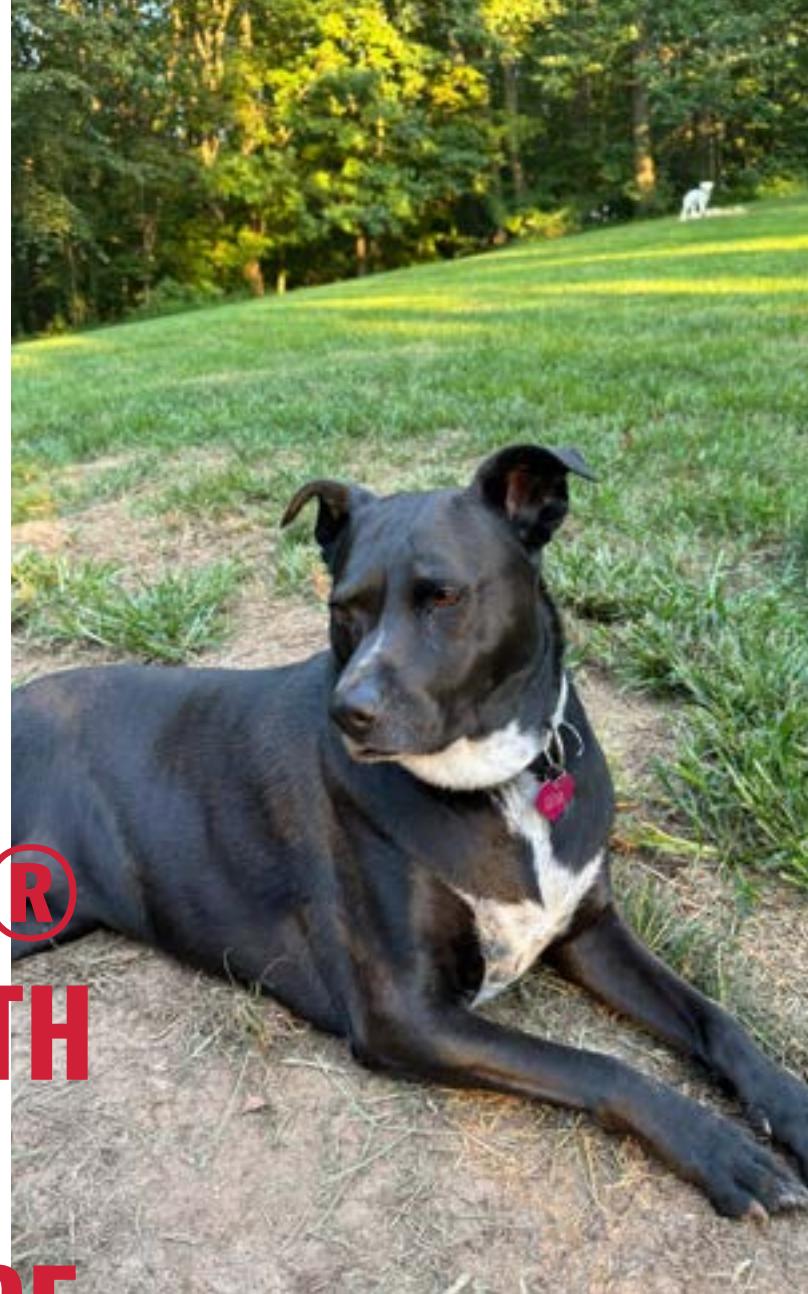
# National Dress Up Your Pet Day

## January 14th



Get ready for one of the cutest days of the year—National Dress Up Your Pet Day! It's the perfect excuse to have fun, show off your pet's personality, and celebrate the joy they bring into our lives. Whether it's a cozy sweater, festive bandana, or full-on costume, we want to see your pet's runway-ready look. Snap a photo of your dressed-up dog (or any pet!) and share it on our social media platforms, tagging WPP and using #PAW,

#BeTheVoiceForTheVoiceless, #PAWFEST or @savingapaw so we can feature your furry fashion star. It's lighthearted, joyful, and helps spread awareness about rescue, advocacy, and the mission we all share—so let's fill the feed with paws, personality, and plenty of smiles!



# WAGPLOYMENT® 360: A NEW PATH FORWARD FOR SECOND-CHANCE DOGS

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**How Wounded Paw  
Project® is Transforming  
Healing Into Opportunity  
in 2026**

When a dog survives abuse,  
neglect, or exploitation, the journey

back to trust is rarely simple—and never quick. Healing requires time, patience, the right environment, and the right people.

That's where Wagployment® 360 steps in: a Wounded Paw Project® initiative designed to honor the resilience of rescued dogs and help them step into the next, brighter chapter of their lives.

While many programs focus solely on training or solely on rescue, Wagployment® 360 bridges the two. It is the connective tissue between survival and belonging—a comprehensive approach that gives dogs not just a second chance, but their best chance.

## **What Wagployment® 360 Is—And What It Isn't**

There's a common misconception



that Wagployment® 360 is a veteran-focused program. It isn't. Wagployment® 360 is entirely centered on dogs—specifically those who have endured trauma. The program's purpose is to decompress, retrain, and prepare rescued dogs for meaningful roles as emotional support animals, service dogs, or simply beloved companions, primarily for veterans.



What makes the initiative unique is its partner-driven model. Wounded Paw Project® doesn't run a training academy in-house. Instead, we:

- Collaborate with like-minded trainers and organizations,**



- **Ensure dogs receive trauma-informed care, and**
- **Advocate for responsible, ethical, and humane training pathways.**

Wagployment® 360 is the safety net, the guide, and the commitment behind every second-chance success story.

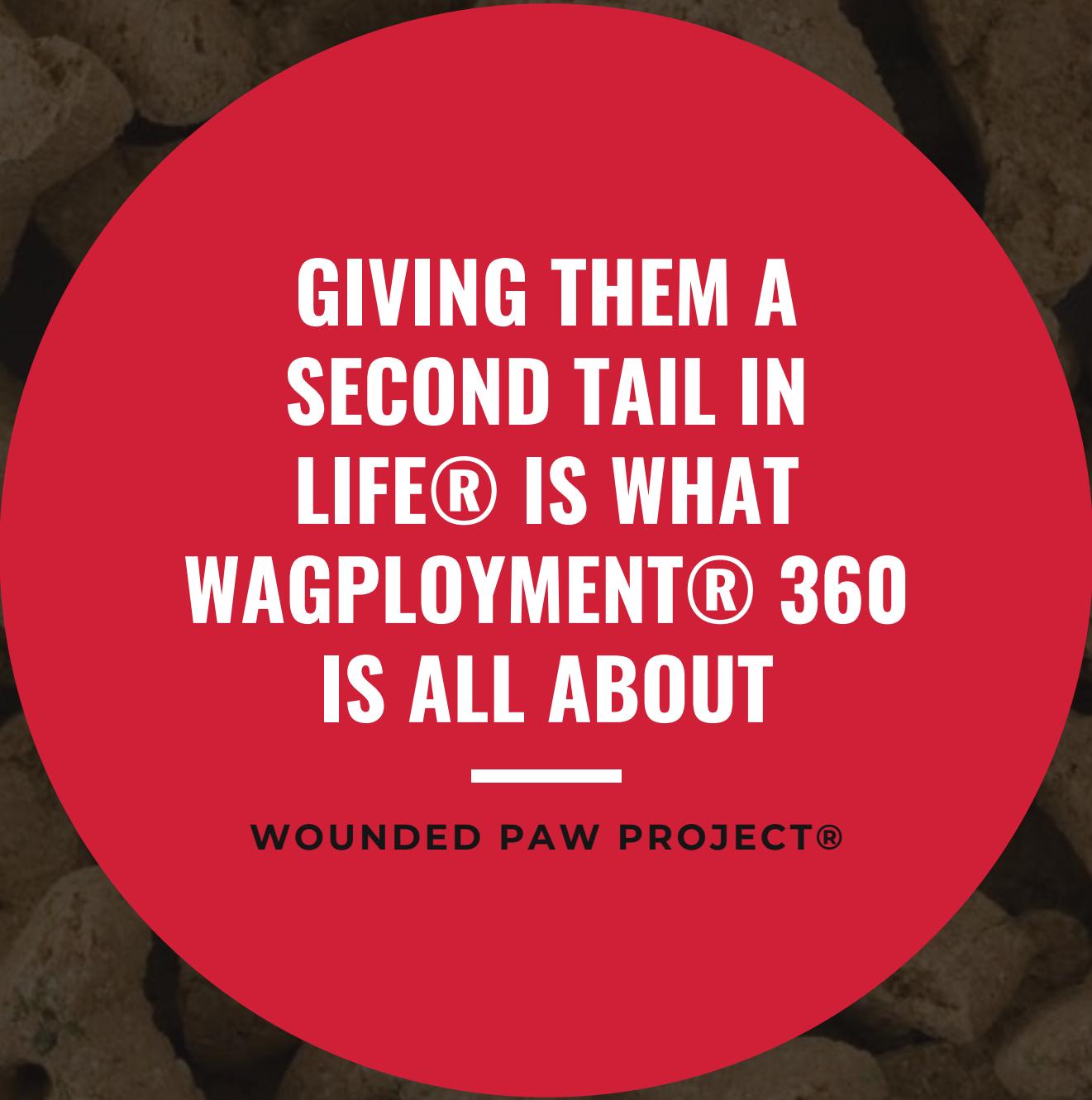
## Inside the **Wagployment® 360 Framework**

Each year, thousands of dogs

rescued from cruelty cycles face uncertain futures. Some struggle with fear, over-arousal, or behaviors rooted in survival instincts. Without intervention, these dogs risk being misunderstood—or worse, returned to shelters.

### **Wagployment® 360 interrupts that cycle.**

Through structured decompression, behavior evaluation, and tailored support,



**GIVING THEM A  
SECOND TAIL IN  
LIFE® IS WHAT  
WAGPLOYMENT® 360  
IS ALL ABOUT**

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**WOUNDED PAW PROJECT®**

the program:

- Gives traumatized dogs tools to rebuild confidence
- Reduces shelter return rates
- Identifies appropriate pathways for each dog
- Strengthens the human-animal bond through intentional placements
- Ensures that no dog's potential is overlooked because of their past

It's not about perfection. It's about possibility.

## Inside the Wagployment® 360 Framework

While the full program materials will be officially released later in 2026, the heart of the framework is already in motion.

### 1. Rescue & Decompression

Every dog starts here—receiving stability, safety, and compassionate care. This phase may take weeks or months depending on the dog's trauma history.

### 2. Evaluation Through Trusted Partners

Behavioral specialists and training partners assess a dog's temperament, needs, and strengths.

No rushing. No labels. Just honest, trauma-informed understanding.

### 3. Tailored Training Tracks

Once a dog is ready, they're placed into one of several tracks.



They are:

- Emotional Support Dog Pathway
- Service Dog Candidate Pathway
- Therapy or Companion Placement Track
- Safety Sanctuary Track for dogs who cannot be placed but still deserve a peaceful life

These pathways honor each dog's individual capacity and future potential.

#### **4. Placement & Long-Term Support**

Wounded Paw Project® ensures every placement is supported long after adoption day. The commitment doesn't end—it evolves.

### **How the Community Can Help in 2026**

As we expand Wagployment® 360 this year, awareness is everything. Since we are not enrolling a live cohort at this time, our focus is on building the ecosystem—partners, supporters, and infrastructure—that will shape the program's long-term success.

### **Here's how readers can get involved now:**

Become a Wagployment® 360 Partner.

Trainers, organizations, and behavioral specialists can begin pre-registration to join our network.

Sponsor a Dog's Journey. Even before the next cohort begins, donors can support the decompression, medical care, and behavioral work that prepares future candidates.

Share the Mission. Help amplify Wagployment® 360 through social media, community groups, and local shelters.

Spread Awareness About Ethical Training. Use your voice to advocate for humane, trauma-informed approaches.

### **What's Ahead for the Program in 2026**

This year marks a powerful foundation-building phase for Wagployment® 360.

Wounded Paw Project® will be releasing:

- A **complete donor packet** detailing the program's mission
- An **onboarding kit** for partner organizations
- A **curriculum binder** for training pathways
- A digital **Wagployment® 360 information hub** for the public
- And brand-aligned materials to unify the program under the Wounded Paw Project® umbrella

Later this year, readers can expect more updates on partnerships, early candidate

dogs, and how the community can continue supporting this life-changing initiative.

## A New Leash on Hope

As we begin 2026, Wagployment® 360 embodies the heart of Wounded Paw Project®.

**EVERY DOG DESERVES A CHANCE TO HEAL, TO GROW, AND TO THRIVE.**

Their past doesn't define them. Their future starts here. And hope—real, transformative hope—is the leash we hold together.





## Giving Them A Second Tail In Life®

### The Program

Unlike traditional shelters, Wagployment® 360 offers a trauma-informed pathway for dogs to become life-saving companions for veterans and families.

**Wagployment® 360** is Wounded Paw Project®'s signature, full-circle recovery and training program for rescued dogs – designed to restore trust, build purpose, and prepare each dog for a meaningful future. Whether they become a loyal companion, a calming presence for a veteran, or an emotional support animal, every dog deserves not just a second chance, but a second tail in life®.



### Scan to Get Involved

Sponsor a dog's training  
Become a Wagployment® Partner  
Support with supplies or donations



Wagployment® 360 is part of the  
Wounded Paw Project® movement to  
Be The Voice For The Voiceless®





# A Hopeful Harvest: Pawville Farms® January Update

*Quiet progress,  
warm care, and  
the first steps  
toward a new  
season.*

January at Pawville Farms® is a month of gentle rhythms and purposeful beginnings. Even in winter, the farm is alive with small moments of care and preparation—each one helping strengthen the heart of the Wounded Paw Project® mission.

Here, the season may be slower, but it's anything but idle. The animals are tended with love, the land is repairing for spring, and the foundation is being laid for everything Pawville Farms® will become in the months ahead.

## **Keeping Our Dogs and Chickens Cozy and Thriving**

Winter brings a special kind of routine to the farm. The dogs soak up the weak winter sun during midday walks, stretch out on warm bedding inside, and enjoy the steady comfort of daily structure. January's calm atmosphere makes it an ideal month for dogs to decompress and feel safe—one of the most essential steps for healing.

Our small flock of four chickens is doing their part too. Their coop is lined with deep bedding for insulation, and wind guards help block the January chill. Even in winter, they continue laying eggs—nutritious additions to the farm's dog-friendly food preparations and meaningful donations to animal shelters and veterans.

The dogs often pause to watch the hens bustling around the coop, tails wagging, as if checking in on their feathered neighbors. These quiet moments remind us how peace, curiosity, and coexistence can help rebuild trust in animals who deserve a fresh start.





## **Preparing the Garden Beds for Spring Planting**

While Pawville Farms® plans for five large garden beds, two have already been built—and January is the month to get them ready. Soil is being amended, compost added, and layouts drafted for the first crops the farm will grow.

These early garden beds will eventually provide homegrown ingredients such as leafy greens,

carrots, and squash for the dogs' food and for donation initiatives. Every shovel of soil turned now is an investment in future nourishment and future impact.

The remaining three beds will be completed as the season progresses, transforming the garden into the centerpiece of Pawville Farms®' sustainable food system.



## **Behind the Scenes: Small Moments That Shape the Farm**

Some of the most meaningful memories being made at Pawville Farms® this month aren't big milestones—they're the quiet, everyday moments:

- A dog discovering the soft crunch of frost beneath their paws.
- Early steps toward leash confidence during calm winter walks.
- Chickens rushing to greet their caregivers during morning feedings.

These scenes may seem simple, but together they form the heartbeat of Pawville Farms®.

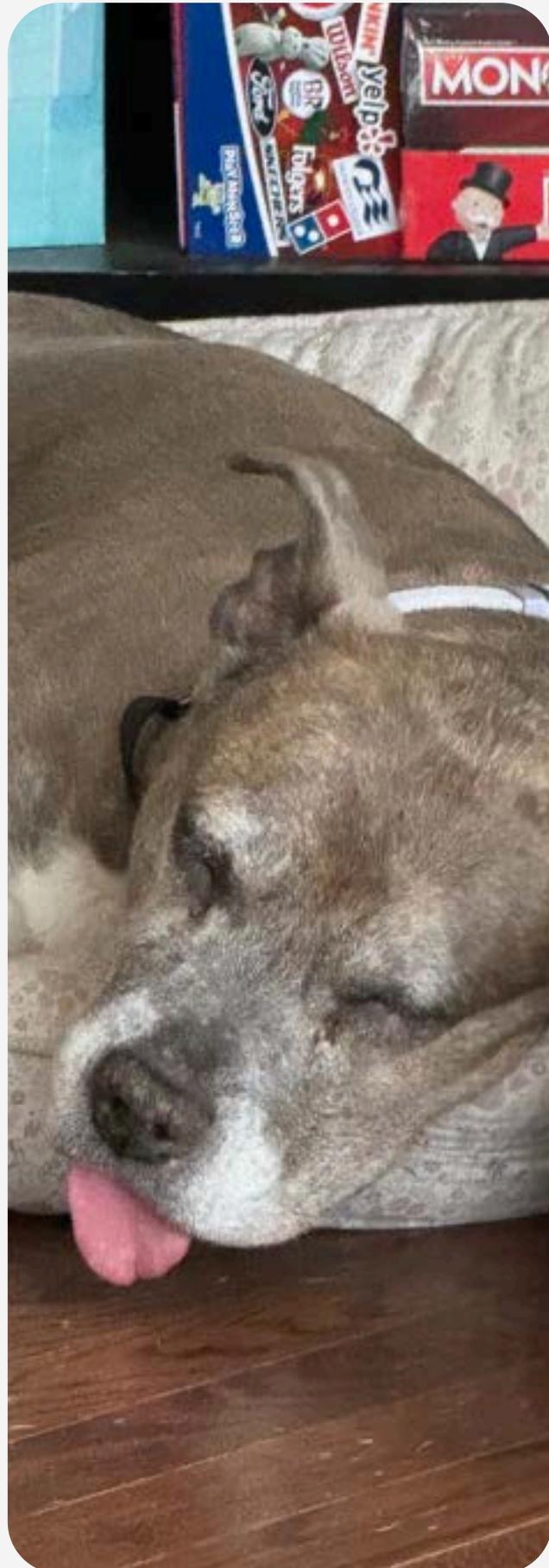
## **Looking Ahead: A Season of Growth**

Even without bees yet and with much of the garden still to come, the farm is already growing something meaningful: hope.

January's work—caring for the animals, preparing the garden beds, establishing winter routines—lays the groundwork for a busy, fruitful year ahead.

As the weather warms and spring returns, so will new life, new opportunities, and new ways Pawville Farms® will support Wounded Paw Project's mission of healing, nourishment, and second chances.

For now, we celebrate the hopeful harvest that winter offers: progress, peace, and the promise of what's to come.





# SADIE SAYS

**CHECK YOUR LEASH TWICE!**

Because nothing kills the mood of a fresh start faster than your dog deciding that today is the day to sprint joyfully into the woods, across the field, or directly toward your chickens' morning meeting. A secure leash gives you:

safer walks

calmer dogs

no surprise cardio for you



Volunteer &  
Donor Corner:  
How to Start  
the Year With  
Impact

A new year brings new momentum—and for the animals relying on Wounded Paw Project®, your early-year engagement can shape the months ahead. Whether you have time, resources, or simply a voice willing to speak up, there are meaningful ways to start 2026 with purpose and impact. Here's how to jump in:

## **BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR: SMALL GIFTS, STEADY CHANGE**

Monthly giving is one of the most powerful ways to support animal rescue. Recurring donations help Wounded Paw Project® plan ahead—funding transport missions, medical care, food, emergency sheltering, and specialized support like Wagployment® 360 training and Pawville Farms®. Even \$10 a month builds lifesaving consistency.

## **VOLUNTEER OPENINGS: YOUR TIME SAVES LIVES**

From hands-on support to behind-the-scenes skills, volunteers are the backbone of our rescue ecosystem.





Current openings include:

- **Transport Team** – Help move animals out of unsafe or overcrowded environments and into trusted rescue partners' care.
- **Foster Homes** – A soft place to land for a recovering or rescued dog can mean the difference between surviving and thriving.
- **Photographers & Content Creators** – Quality photos directly increase adoption rates and help tell the stories that drive awareness.
- **Event Support Crew** – Assist at community outreach events, fundraisers, Pawville Farms® open farm days, and advocacy campaigns.



Whether you join once a month or once a week, your time has ripple effects that reach far beyond a single shift.



## Be an Advocate: Your Voice Is a Powerful Tool

You don't need a farm or free weekends to make an impact—sometimes the biggest change begins with speaking up.

Report suspected cruelty immediately to local animal control or police.

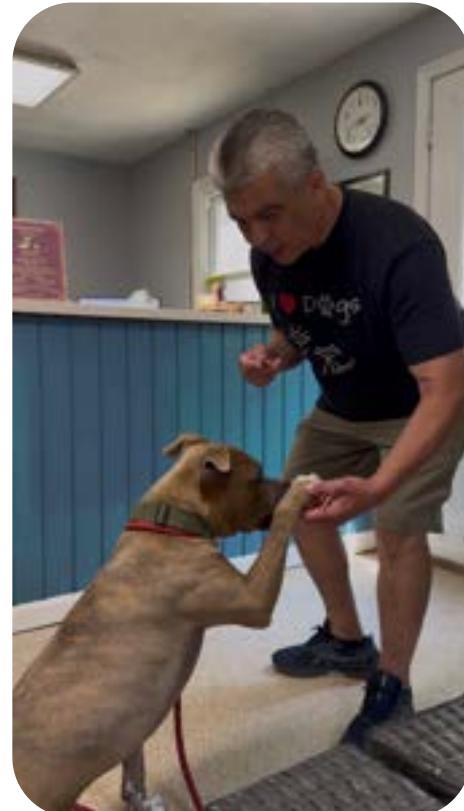
- Document safely—photos, descriptions, times, and details matter.
- Share educational posts from WPP to help friends and neighbors recognize warning signs of abuse or neglect.
- Push for humane legislation by staying informed and contacting local representatives when animal-welfare bills arise.

Every report, every shared post, and every conversation helps protect vulnerable animals before harm escalates.

## **Start the Year Strong—Start With Action**

Impact isn't built on grand gestures—it's built on consistent, compassionate steps taken by people who care.

Whether you're giving monthly, donating supplies, volunteering, or raising your voice for the voiceless, you are part of a community driving real change for animals in need.



## **Here's to a year of courage, compassion, and action—together.**



## Wish List: Supplies That Fuel the Mission

Your generosity helps Wounded Paw Project® field operations running smoothly. If you want to donate tangible items, here's what makes the biggest difference this season:

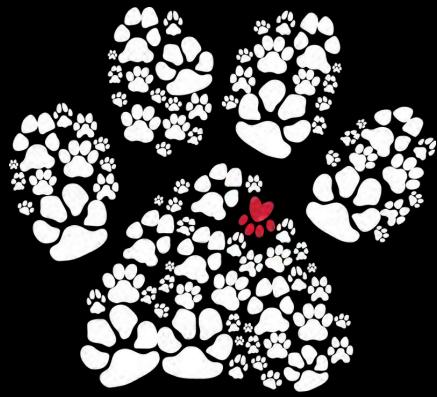
### For Pawville Farms®:

- Dog-safe cleaning supplies
- Chicken feed & bedding
- Gardening tools (hand tools, gloves, durable hoses)
- Storage bins & weatherproof totes

### For WPP Rescues & Transport:

- Collars, slip leads & harnesses
- Crates & transport carriers
- Blankets and towels
- First aid supplies (vet wraps, gauze, saline)
- Gas gift cards for transport volunteers

Every donated item frees up funds for medical care, emergency response, and rehabilitation.



**WOUNDED PAW  
PROJECT®**

**WORK WITH US**

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Clifton VA 20124**

**Telephone**

**1-844-SAVAPAW  
(1-844-728-2729)**

**FOLLOW US**

**WPP.DOG**



# This is what a second chance looks like.

The ride that changes everything.



Kane didn't always know what freedom felt like. He came to Wounded Paw Project from Washington, D.C., having survived a life no dog should know. Today, what you see in the mirror isn't his past—it's his future. Vehicle donations help make journeys like this possible. They support rescue, rehabilitation, and the road forward for dogs like Kane—and the people who walk beside them. Turn your vehicle into a second chance.

[woundedpawproject.org/vehicle-donations](http://woundedpawproject.org/vehicle-donations)



*From shelter to riding shotgun.*