

League Links 2.0

A quarterly newsletter from the
League for Animal Welfare



Zumi arrived at the League on April 21, 2021 - a 6-month old puppy, he was adorable, exuberant, and easy to love. Zumi, along with 5 other dogs and 40 cats, had been seized from a rescue group in Kentucky - the founder of the group charged with cruelty and neglect. Zumi and the others were held up in the court system for nearly a year, unable to be officially adopted until the case was settled.

Rather than ride out the case in a shelter, Zumi went into a foster home. From the first moment they laid eyes on him, Zumi's foster family was sure they would adopt him. And so, he stayed there, long after the court case ended, fully expecting he had found his people.

But Zumi was exhibiting behavioral issues. And those behavioral issues went largely unchecked, until the family, in October 2022, decided that, because of the behaviors, they wouldn't be able to adopt him.

And now, this adorable, exuberant, loveable puppy was a 150lb, 2-year old behemoth with a fear of new people and a tendency to resource-guard his home and his family.

Zumi's predilection to "resource-guard" (stubbornly refusing to yield territory he thinks of as his own) is almost certainly born of a difficult start. He was, after all, housed in a facility cited for cruelty and neglect during his crucial puppy-socialization period (that period, from 1-4 months, when puppies learn appropriate interactions with humans and other animals).

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

The "Project" Dogs That Nobody Wants?

Whiskey & Whiskers

THE LEAGUE GEARS UP FOR ITS BIGGEST FUNDRAISER



Gardeners and cat lovers will go gaga for this plant stand.

The 9th annual Whiskey & Whiskers is gearing up for its best year yet. Tickets have sold out in record time; sponsors have contributed more funds than ever before; and the evening is shaping up to be one for the books.

And it couldn't happen at a better moment. The funds from this lifesaving gala need to stretch further this year, to save more lives than ever before - the League is on pace to adopt out more than 2,000 animals in 2024, an astounding increase of 25% from last year! We depend on the success of a 2024 Whiskey & Whiskers to mean even more lifesaving programs at the League in 2025.

And the goal for the evening is as ambitious as the lifesaving objective we set for ourselves for the year: raise more than \$100,000 for the evening! This is an increase of nearly 40% from last year's gala - but we know it can be done, with your help!

If you weren't able to snag tickets for this wonderful event, you can still help make the evening a success - here's how!

DONATE

The League is still collecting items for our silent auction; and bottles of wine and whiskey for our gala games.

Do you have a service or talent that you could donate to auction off - do you make a world-class charcuterie board? Are you a licensed pet-sitter? Can you take family portraits? Are you a master closet-organizer?

Do you run a business that could offer an item - a restaurant or spa that could offer a gift card? A personal trainer that could offer a fitness lesson or two? A store that can donate unique wares?

Do you have "leftover" items that you won't use - bottles of wine or whiskey you won't drink; hotel points you could never use up; tickets to a show or game you won't be able to make?

The League can make unique auction items out of your treasures and talents! Reach out to us at info@lfaw.org for how to give to save lives!



The popular Whiskey Toss will return this year - donate a bottle of whiskey and help save a cat's or dog's life!

BID

The League hopes to raise \$25,000 in our silent auction - and you can bid, even if you're not attending the event! The auction will open on September 21st, and you will have a week to find items that will save lives and pamper you!

If you like to travel, there are luxurious trips to far-flung locales. Prefer to stay at home? Bid on a house-cleaning service! Fondue pots and grills for the home-cook; restaurant gift cards for the cooking-averse. Spa packages for the pampered; sports paraphernalia for the rugged. Tickets to FC Cincinnati or Kings Island for our local adventurers; a "road-tripper" basket for the adventures farther afield. From Kate Spade bags to Bourbons, from teeth whitening to Hummingbird feeders, the silent auction will have a little (or a lot!) of something for everyone!



A spa package from Woodhouse Day Spa in Crestview Hills will make anyone feel better!

From luxurious trips, to a house-cleaning service; from car-washes, to fondue pots; from Kate Spade bags, to FC Cincinnati tickets, the silent auction has something for everyone!

BINGO!

We're introducing a new way to give this year: Bingo! Choose the donation amount or the lifesaving work that suits you, and help us fill up our Bingo Board! From \$2 cat treats to \$1,000 multi-pet sponsorships, there's a way for everyone to make life better for homeless pets. You can choose a Bingo Board gift in our silent auction, or in-person at the event - if we hit Bingo, it's more than \$16,000 for the cats and dogs!

Let's make this Whiskey & Whiskers the biggest lifesaver yet!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE

Email us at info@lfaw.org if you have a treasure or talent to donate to our silent auction; or a bottle of wine or whiskey for our gala games!

BID

You can participate in the silent auction, even if you aren't attending the event! Check our website on 9/21 and get to bidding! <https://www.lfaw.org/events/whiskey-and-whiskers/>

SUPPORT

Help raise \$25,000 for our medical fund - money used to treat our sickest and most vulnerable cats and dogs. You can donate through the silent auction, or on our website at lfaw.org/donate (note "Medical Fund" in the memo line!).

LIFESAVERS				
\$90 SPAY A COMMUNITY CAT (STOP OVERPOPULATION)	\$35 GIVE A CAT OR DOG ALL ITS VACCINES	\$25 TREAT A KITTY WITH A COLD	\$10 BAG OF DOG TREATS	\$250 TREAT A PUPPY SUFFERING FROM PARVO
\$65 FEED A CAT ROOM FOR A WEEK	\$12 DONATE A NEW DOG LEASH	\$100 SPONSOR A DOG FOR ONE MONTH	\$55 CASE OF HOT DOGS (FOR PILL TRICKERY!)	\$90 FEED A DOG FOR A WEEK
\$30 FEED A LITTER OF ORPHANED KITTENS	\$15 ENTERTAIN A BORED DOG WITH AN INTERACTIVE TOY	\$1000 SAVE THE LIVES OF 10 HOMELESS ANIMALS	\$75 CLEAN THE SHELTER FOR A WEEK	\$125 GIVE A DOG A SOFT BED TO SLEEP ON
\$40 FATTEN UP A PICKY EATER WITH A CASE OF WET FOOD	\$300 FOSTER A NEW MOM AND PUPPIES	\$5 BAG OF CAT TREATS	\$2 GIVE A CAT A TOY (THAT THEY'LL IGNORE WHEN THEY FIND A PIECE OF LINT INSTEAD)	\$150 SPAY A DOG
\$500 SAVE THE LIVES OF 5 HOMELESS ANIMALS	\$20 MICROCHIP A PET	\$75 SPAY A CAT	\$200 YEAR'S SUPPLY OF PEANUT BUTTER	\$100 SPONSOR A CAT FOR ONE MONTH

BINGO!
Donate a Bingo Square & Help Save Them All

No Country for Old Men (Continued)



Wishbone (Wishy, to his friends!) has been at the League since April, 2022.

And then, what happened to Zumi happens to so many of the dogs that end up in shelters. Loving families start to see small indicators of behavioral concerns - a tightly clung-to toy here, a tensing-up when meeting a new person or dog there. The family loves their dog; they think it's a behavior they can live with, and no behavioral intervention happens. The behavior then compounds, and builds, until the family can no longer live with it, and they take their dog to a shelter (where, of course, any latent anxiety they have previously felt is exacerbated a hundred-fold - by the stress of losing their family, and living in a noisy, bright facility with no control over their environment).

Zumi is not alone. Wishbone, a little guy at just 30lbs, has spent two years at the League for resource-guarding toys, food, and spaces; Cheerio and Pony have each spent a year in the shelter for resource-guarding food; Mable has cycled in and out of the shelter for 4 years, thanks to her unwillingness to play well with other dogs. For many of these dogs, a shelter is the place they've spent the majority of their lives.

How do you help a dog overcome fear and learn to be loved?

How do we convince them that they are safe, and they don't have to fight anymore?

These behaviors are all born of fear - these dogs are not aggressive, they're afraid. They're afraid that they have no control over their environment, and so they guard what they think they can. We don't always know what prompted these behaviors - prior cruelty or neglect; a lack of socialization with other dogs or people during their impressionable puppy months; a fear-inducing episode; a life of inconsistency; poor training or no training at all. Pony was running as a stray for months before he was finally caught by well-meaning humans - is it months of not knowing where his next meal came from that leads him to guard his food now? Zumi lived in a rescue deemed inhumane by the state, when he was supposed to be learning how to love and be loved - is that what makes him want to protect the people he knows from the people he doesn't?

How do you help a dog overcome fear and learn to be loved? How do we convince them that they are safe, and they don't have to fight anymore?

Resource-guarding, especially, is a behavior that can be worked with and overcome by a patient family - a family that appreciates that the fuel for this fire is fear and inconsistency, and safe spaces and routines are the extinguisher.

But the longer these dogs sit in shelters - spaces that are, at their core, inconsistent and precarious - the harder it is to convince these dogs that a safe life, a loving family, are possible.

There are no easy answers for these dogs. In animal welfare, we are oft reminded: "adopters want a pet, not a project." So what of these "project" dogs? Are there families out there that understand, in the end, we all, human and dog alike, have a little "project" in us? We hope so.

Pony spent months running as a stray, no idea where his next meal would come from.



The League helps make the adoption of a "project" dog easy. Zumi, Wishbone, Pony, Cheerio, and Mable all come with "success plans" - a guide to their particular neuroses (!), and how best to help them and their families learn to live with them. They come with the support of the League's trainer, to help smooth out any initial bumps. And they come with the lifetime reward of knowing *you* are the one that turned fear into love.

Interested in more information about our "project" dogs? Email us at dawn@lfaw.org to learn how a "project" may just be your best friend.



Making Lives Better

WATER TOWER FINE WINES PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR FUNDRAISER



One of Jan's favorite places to be - on the other end of a leash from a big dog!

Jan and David Lazarus, owners of local wine store Water Tower Fine Wines in Mt. Washington, have been dog-lovers and community supporters for as long as they can remember; and active volunteers at the League for Animal Welfare for three years. This year, they are the Presenting Sponsors for League's fundraising gala, Whiskey & Whiskers. Their sponsorship is more than just a financial contribution to the shelter.

"I have always felt it is important to help in our community, as I can, to make things better for our neighbors - both human and animal," explains David. "Jan and I feel a great desire to help defenseless dogs and cats; [they] are the only beings out there that give unconditional love, no matter how they are treated. It's important to try to make their lives better."

The Lazaruses take that pledge seriously - not only giving the largest single donation to the Whiskey & Whiskers gala, but also donating their time and talents year-round.

You'll find Jan walking dogs at the League each week (the bigger the dog, the better!); helping shelter dogs find homes at adoption events; or offering tastings at the shop (she's a great cook!) to raise funds for the League. David hosts League events at the store, and attends planning meetings for the gala. Both can be found training their new puppy, Willow - a rescue, of course, and a chocolate lab mix (just their type!). She's doing well in obedience classes - but as the official greeter at Water Tower Fine Wines, she has no choice but to have her paws on the counter!

Water Tower Fine Wines will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in September, a labor of love for the Lazaruses, who became wine connoisseurs after they met each other. Their approach to wine is decidedly unstuffy - along with rescuing dogs, their passion is to help make wine-drinking accessible to and pleasurable for everyone. The store has unique features, like an inviting and comfortable social area and deck, to taste wines or hold events; one of the largest in-stock collections of champagnes and sparkling wines in the country; three Wine Stations to sample any of 12 rotating wine varieties; and, of course, rescue-dog Willow to help get you checked out.

"I have had pet dogs since I was very young," explained David, "and I have come to appreciate the huge need for loving homes for stray dogs and puppies that do not have a place to go. We fully support the work of the League ... it is well worth any support we can give."



If you happen to choose your wines by whether there are dogs on the label, you're in good hands...



Between Willow's customer service acumen and David's wine knowledge, you can't go wrong at Water Tower Fine Wines!

LEAGUE STRONG

Staff and Volunteer Picnic Celebrates Our Greatest Strength - Our People

The League brought back its time-honored tradition: a summer Appreciation Picnic for the staff and volunteers who save lives at the League, every day!

Held on June 23, the heat and rain didn't stop scores of our favorite people from coming together to enjoy outdoor games, good food, and an impossible-to-win Bingo game (it turns out nobody at the League has a pet named Bella! Our bad ...).

We could say it every day, and still not say it enough: thank you, to all the compassionate people that make saving the vulnerable lives of homeless animals not only possible, but beautiful. 🐾🐾



Want to join this incredible team? Email us at info@lfaw.org for information about volunteering!

ADOPT ME



Queen Maeve - 7 years old, female

Queen Maeve was a medical mess when she arrived at the League, relinquished by her owner who wasn't able to care for her anymore. Maeve had pododermatitis - an autoimmune disorder that causes a painful swelling of the paw pads. She had a polyp in her ear, causing endless ear infections and a very snotty nose. But in spite of it all, Queen Maeve strode in, purring and head bumping like she didn't have a care in the world. This beautiful girl has had all of her ailments treated, and now REALLY has a reason to purr! The only thing left: to find herself a family.



Burke - 10 years old, male

Burke came to the League after his person died - it was only at that point that folks realized Burke and the other animals in the home were living in a hoarding situation. At 10 years old, this little old man hasn't had luck go his way very much - and it's time to change all that! Burke is a gentle old soul, content to do a lot of sitting around. He's good with other calm dogs, and seems indifferent to the existence of cats. He's had a few lumps and bumps removed at the League, as old men do, but he's ready to start his second act and make it the best one yet.

[View all the cats and dogs available for adoption at LFAW.org/adoption-center](https://www.lfaw.org/adoption-center)