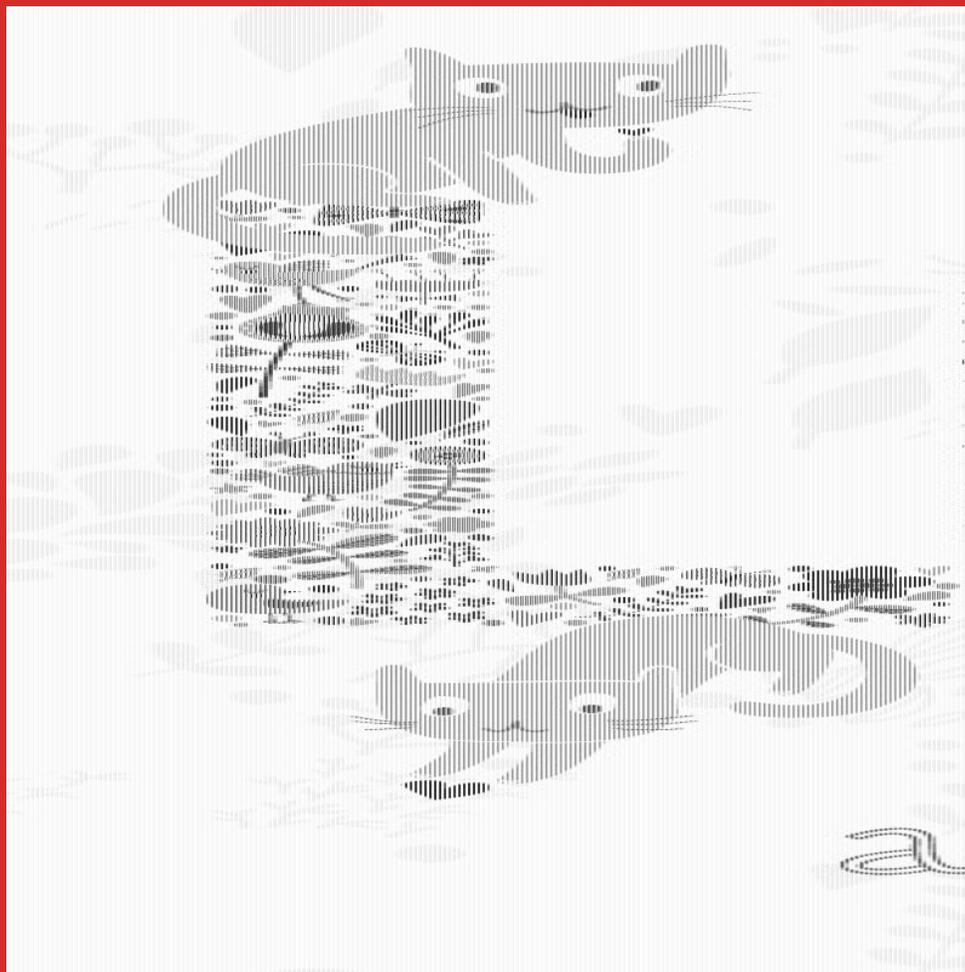




Ridgefield Operation
for Animal Rescue
Making a difference one tail at a time

ROAR NEWS

February 2018
Edition



Show Your Love:
Join us at **ROAR with Laughter!**

Saturday, Feb. 24th at 6:30
Rolling Hills Country Club, Wilton

We would LOVE to see each and every one of you at our annual gala event supporting ROAR's mission to rescue animals one tail at a time. Please consider joining us for "the ROYAL Treatment!"... because don't they all deserve it?



For more info or to purchase tickets, visit our website: www.roar-ridgefield.org

February is National Spay/Neuter Month

Here at ROAR, we believe that the front line in reducing the numbers of homeless pets is to ensure all cats and dogs are spayed or neutered. We have taken the responsibility to spay or neuter every animal that leaves through our doors. February has officially been named Spay/Neuter Awareness Month, so it is a great time to remind you that we can all help reduce the number of dogs and cats on the streets and in our shelters if we spay or neuter our pets. Here are a handful of reasons spaying/neutering is beneficial to us all:

Reduction of the Homeless Pet Population

Many local shelters are bursting at the seams with unwanted or stray animals. If all pet owners spayed/neutered their animals, local shelters would see a significant reduction in their populations. This reduction would not only result in fewer animals living on the streets or being put to sleep in overcrowded shelters, but would also increase space in shelters for animals that lose their homes or must be reluctantly surrendered for other reasons such as owner's passing, allergies, etc.

Reduction in the Prevalence of Cancers in Pets

A lesser known benefit gained from spaying and neutering animals is the reduction in the prevalence of specific types of cancer. Male animals that are neutered experience a decrease in the chance of testicular cancer. Females that are spayed experience a reduction in the prevalence of mammary tumors, uterine, ovarian and cervical tumors.

Other significant Health Benefits

Male dogs that are neutered can also experience a reduction in non-cancerous prostate disorders, a reduction in perineal fistulas (infectious lesions around the anus) and a reduction in risk for diabetes. Female dogs that are spayed also experience a significant reduction in pyometra (infection of the uterus), and perineal fistulas.

Improvement in Overall Behavior

Behavior is something that can be greatly affected when animals are spayed or neutered, most obviously in the animals need to "roam". Unaltered male pets will go to great lengths for a female in heat, including tunneling under fences and leaping over gates. Another consideration is the effect that hormone release has on the behavior of an animal. Males in particular can become extremely dominant or bullheaded as a result of surges in testosterone making them more difficult to manage and train. Hormones also play a role in natural instincts such as marking and shows of dominance and aggression. Spaying and neutering can reduce these types of behaviors and not only make animals easier to manage but also result in far fewer frustrations for everyone.

World Spay Day is an annual campaign of The HSUS, Humane Society International and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. On the last Tuesday of every February, World Spay Day shines a spotlight on the power of affordable, accessible spay/neuter in order to save the lives of companion animals, community (feral and stray) cats, and street dogs who might otherwise be put down in shelters or killed on the street.

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Hometown Hero

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Save the Dates!

A few of our Adorable Adoptables



Lucy



Carlyle



Izzy

The 24rd annual World Spay Day is February 27, 2018. Spread the message that spaying and neutering saves lives!

[Click here](#) and enter your zip code for the ASPCA's list of affordable spay/neuter providers in your area.

Pet Profiles!

Meet *GINNY* and *MINNIE*...

As sweet as can be.



GINNY

Ginny is an extremely sweet 2 year old beauty with a gorgeous blush-colored coat. Ginny came to us from a shelter in Cape May, New Jersey after being abandoned by her summer people. Though she's quite shy, she is also very smart. Ginny found her way to the neighbors house where they would feed her. Realizing this was no life for a darling kitty, especially as it was getting colder outside, these good samaritans brought her to the shelter in the hopes that she would find her very own loving home with her very own loving family.

After all she's been through, this girl takes a little while to warm up to new people. She will gladly accept any amount of petting (and will even purr and rub her head against you), but hesitates to wander around the cat room. Maybe it's all the activity or maybe she just prefers humans to other cats. Either way, Ginny likes to feel safe and cozy in her bed under the window seat where we sit and adore her. Now all she needs is some

patience, love and a nice quiet spot of her own. With a little stability, Ginny is certain to become the princess she was meant to be. Ginny would do best in a quiet home.

Ginny is FeLV/FiV negative, and is spayed. Adoption fee is \$200.

*****Please remember to keep your cats indoors, especially during this time of year, as predators are active preparing for the harsh weather ahead.*****

MINNIE

Minnie is a sweet 2-yr old just wanting to play and be loved. She came from Homeward Bound in Mississippi where she was picked up as a stray by animal control. She was malnourished with multiple patches of hair missing, some scarring and rough skin patches that the vet attributed to poor living conditions. While we are not sure that all of the patches will grow back in, Minnie's coat has become much healthier with good nutrition and care.

Since she arrived at ROAR she has improved tremendously. Minnie is a little girl with a big heart and a craving for play time. She is a very curious and busy girl who would do best with another canine companion she could follow to learn the rules. While Minnie loves people, she is best with those over 12. A calm home with prior dog training experience would be a plus!

Minnie is up to date on vaccinations, is micro-chipped, and spayed. Her adoption fee is \$300.



To help rescue more amazing animals like Ginny and Minnie, please...

[Donate Today!](#)

[CLICK HERE TO SEE ROAR'S AVAILABLE CATS AND DOGS](#)

Hometown Hero!

Debbie Johnson: Adopter, Volunteer, Foster

Debbie initially came to ROAR to adopt a dog. She had her eye on one she had seen in the paper named "Party Carl". As his picture had appeared numerous times, she knew he had been at ROAR for a while and needed a home badly. Party Carl's name was ironic because he was the most timid, shy, fearful dog we had seen. He seemed totally shut down. While many adopters had passed Party Carl by because of this, Debbie set her mind to making it work. Determined, Debbie and her family came to visit him repeatedly, beginning to make a connection with him and he became more comfortable with them after every visit. Soon thereafter, he became a part of the Johnson family and they renamed him Carl...just Carl.



Debbie Johnson after a hike (Carl's favorite activity) with Carl (right) and Mandy.

"Adopting Carl was a whole family adoption. I am not sure [we] were completely prepared for what was in store for us, but it changed not only Carl's life, it changed all of ours as well. Carl taught all of us that trust can take a lot of time to develop, but once that trust is there it is incredibly strong." With lots of love, constant guidance, and the help of his canine sister Mandy, Carl has become the amazing boy Debbie knew he could be.

During this process, Debbie saw first-hand the incredible time and effort ROAR puts into finding every dog and cat a forever home and decided she wanted to "give back" by volunteering herself. She volunteered for years until she got a full-time job, but that didn't keep her away. Debbie continues to be one of our amazing fosters, sharing her skills with dogs "who do not do as well in a shelter environment and need a quieter, more stable place to grow before they are ready to be adopted into incredible homes". She has the patience and perseverance that dogs respond to very positively. When it comes to dogs, Deb just seems to know what they need. We think she must have a sixth sense.

Thanks, Debbie Johnson, for helping us save cats and dogs one tail at a time.

A Very Warm Welcome and Congratulations!

Exciting Changes at ROAR: New Executive Director and Adoption Coordinator: Kerry Dobson and Brandi Knoche

The ROAR Board of Directors is delighted to welcome our new Executive Director, Kerry Dobson. Kerry assumed her new position on Monday, January 15. She has over 25 years' experience in the field of animal welfare and in managing not-for-profit operations. Kerry obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland and spent much of her career at the highly respected Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut. The Board believes Kerry's experience, skills and personal management style make her the perfect choice.



Kerry Dobson, Executive Director
with Bela and Atlas.

"I am so happy to be part of the ROAR team. I look forward to working with the staff, board members and volunteers to turn the plans we have for ROAR into reality." –Kerry D.

Brandi Knoche will also be returning to ROAR as our Adoption Coordinator. Brandi has a great deal of experience having previously worked in both the kennel and as Adoption Coordinator. Brandi will be joining us on January 31st and no doubt will "hit the ground running."

Additionally, in recognition of their years' of hard work and dedication, Stephne Pagano has been promoted to Associate Shelter Director, Business Affairs and Dorene Zurlo has been promoted to Associate Shelter Director, Volunteer Operations. We would also like to note the hard work and dedication of Lexi Platz in her first year as Kennel Manager.

With these changes, we are confident we will take ROAR to the next level of excellence in animal rescue.

Remember to put ROAR with Laughter on your calendar!
February 24th

You're invited! Purchase tickets online at www.roar-ridgefield.org



roar with laughter!

2018

Everyone deserves the Royal Treatment! Enjoy a buffet dinner, open bar, silent and live auctions, and entertainment by stand-up comedian Johnny Lampert. This year we honor Walt Richter, recipient of the 2018 ROAR Community Star Award, and Canine Company, recipient of the 2018 ROAR Community Business Award. Cocktail reception attire.

Saturday, February 24, 2018 | 6:30 pm
Rolling Hills Country Club, 333 Hurbutt Street, Wilton CT.
Tickets: \$175 | Table of 10: \$1,650 | Table of 12: \$1,980

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.roar-ridgefield.org or call Stephanie Pagano at 203.438.0156.

Remember to bring your smartphone or device for electronic bidding!



the ROYAL treatment

100% of all profits from the evening go toward the rescue, care, and adoption of our wonderful cats and dogs. ROAR is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization founded by volunteers in 2000. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law (please consult your tax advisor).



We **LOVE** updates from our adoptors!

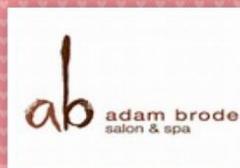
Call, email us or stop by...

we'd **LOVE** to hear from you!

Thanks, as always, to our Sponsors...



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