

Spring is here! And with it, spay and neuter season kicks into high gear. Pawsitive Match is a supporting partner of Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force who, every year, conduct a series of clinics in communities dealing with the effects of pet overpopulation. Last year alone, the clinics resulted in the successful fixing of 2553 animals. During these clinics, there is also the opportunity to safely surrender animals and direct volunteers to stray animals in need of homes.

As a partner, one of Pawsitive Match's roles is to take in surrendered and stray dogs from the clinics and place them in good homes. Last year PMRF took in just under 30 dogs from the clinics. If you are interested in fostering an ASNTF dog, please contact your foster coordinator or click [here](#).



Unfortunately, due to an outbreak of distemper, this April's clinic was changed to a vaccine only clinic instead. The next clinic will be held May 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about ASNTF and to contribute to the good work they are doing throughout Alberta, please click [here](#).

All photos courtesy of ASNTF

## What to Expect from a Spay and Neuter Clinic

Marianne Rogerson, PhD

Spay and neuter clinics serve an important role in controlling canine reproduction. Terms such as surrendered, stray, and feral often get used interchangeably when dogs come from this environment. Surrendered dogs have lived within a family environment although the type of environment can vary significantly. A dog that escapes from a home is classified as a stray but if she has puppies in the wild, the puppies are classified as feral. Feral dogs have reverted to living in the wild.

Pawsitive Match supports spay and neuter clinics and, when possible, accepts dogs for future adoption. If you agree to foster, there are a few issues to keep in mind in order to successfully integrate the dog into your family. The majority of surrendered, stray and feral dogs become loving faithful companions but they may need a little extra socialization. If you have other pets, introduce the new dog outside of the home in a neutral territory.

Watch the interaction carefully to assess prey drive, personality and play style compatibility.

The first few weeks represent a huge learning curve for you and for your dog. Some of the more common concerns include indoor elimination, food aggression, and flight. Lack of socialization or fear may be at the core of these concerns.

Avoid forming expectations of what progress should look like during those early weeks. Progress should be measured in small increments. Listen to the dog and pay attention to the smallest of details since these details often provide valuable insight. Knowledge of positive training methods, socialization, canine communication, combined with patience and creativity can make a positive impact. Consider adding a well socialized canine companion into the learning process. Finally, reach out for advice and training suggestions. There is a wealth of experience and wisdom available to help you and your dog succeed.

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pawsitive match  
rescue

### Adoptable Dog of the Month: Sarah



Sarah is so soft and cuddly you cannot resist scooping her up for love. She wants to be your assistant; if you are there, she is too! She likes walks that are predictable as she is working on her courage outside the house. Sarah needs to take medication each day for a hypothyroid condition but she is a happy and healthy lady now that she has the correct medication. Sarah is looking for a family that is kind and supportive and cuddly, of course!



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# Adopted In April



## Volunteer of the Month: Lori



My adventure with PMRF started in October of 2014. I started out fostering and admit to failing at it my first go round; I fell in love with Nellie and adopted her fairly soon after bringing her home. Since then, we have had quite a few fur babies staying with us while they wait to find their forever homes. It's funny how they have all fit in and brought so much joy. And yes, it's **sometimes** hard to say goodbye but when you see them with their new family it just takes your breath away. I also act as a temporary foster and help out when the dogs first arrive by feeding and walking them. I love being able to meet the new dogs and sometimes a choice to foster can come from that first meeting. There are so many different ways to help. I have also met a great group of like-minded people so not only do I have furry friends but a lot of human ones as well. The most wonderful part of volunteering is that, even with all of the hardships some of the dogs have endured, they always seem to show me their huge capacity to love. It's pretty great being surrounded by that!

## Happy Tails



I'd say overall, Tux (Lance) is turning into an outstanding addition to our family. It feels like we've had him forever - such a natural fit.



Cabo (Bulwerk) is amazing with our boys (ages 6 & 8) and they love him to bits! He is always so excited to greet us and loves to be close to us as much as possible!

In loving memory  
of Mork

