



Congratulations and THANK YOU to

## *Julius Butters*

WINNER Mutt Strut 2023

This CCHS alum finished in second place during last year's Mutt Strut, so this year he was coming for the crown! He and his cat-mom Daniella Misa raised a whopping \$6,600 from their supporters this Mutt Strut season!

Look for this handsome face on cans of a limited edition Triptych brew this Fall!

Mutt Strut's Mr. Popular 2023

## *Scrappy!*

From his big smile to his penchant for cuddling, it's easy to see why Scrappy is our "Mr. Popular 2023"! He and his family, Joe, Jenny, and Jonathan Lamberson, along with 62 other individual donors raised an incredible \$4,575 this Mutt Strut season!

Scrappy is also a CCHS alum. The Lamberson family adopted him in 2013, and we are so thankful for their support!





Amina  
"Mad Eye"  
Moony



Finley



Dancer

# Leaders of the Pack

Participants that raised \$500 or more

Thank you to all our participants, sponsors, and donors!  
Because of you, we exceeded our goal and raised over

# \$26,000!

## 2023 MUTT STRUT SPONSORS:



# The Reviews Are In!



champaign county humane society |

“

June 2023 - The new location is amazing. The cat area is so great for those waiting for a new home. Nice staff and we got our sweetie from there! They do such hard and important work! We are lucky to have this in our community!



”

“

June 2023 - Two very sweet kitties have joined our family. Nicest shelter. Super kind people. Highly recommend.



”

“

May 2023 - Wonderful. Extremely nice staff. The new facility is beautiful



”

“

July 2023 - We've been rescuing dogs and cats for the last 30 years, so we've been in numerous shelters. This is by far the cleanest, most well organized one we've seen. Staff members were knowledgeable, courteous, patient and passionate about finding the 'right fit' for both the animals and us. All shelters should follow their operational plan and hiring practices. Highly recommend this wonderful facility.



”

**Come see for yourself!**  
**4003 Kearns Dr. Champaign, IL**

Source: <https://www.google.com>

User reviews of the Champaign County Humane Society have been edited for length/clarity.

# VOLUNTEER

*We need you... because dogs can't walk themselves!*

There are many ways to contribute as a volunteer at the Champaign County Humane Society! Here are some of the volunteer positions we are seeking to fill at the new shelter in Champaign:

**Kennel Assistants:** Kennel Assistants can specialize in "Cats" or "Small Animals" (or both, if you have the time!) These volunteers make sure that cages are clean and presentable; food and water bowls are clean and replenished; toys and blankets are changed or refreshed; and litter boxes are clean. Kennel Assistants get to know our small animal residents and ensure that they are living in clean and pleasant environments.

**Fostering:** Foster volunteers provide a temporary home for animals who need a little extra tender loving care. Many animals are placed in foster care because they are too young for adoption. In other cases, the animal might be sick or injured and need a quiet home for recovery. Some foster volunteers even take home a nursing mom and her entire litter of kittens! Foster placements are determined based on your availability, interest, and level of experience.

**Socialization Volunteers:** This includes dog walking! All of our socialization volunteers help provide the dogs, cats and small animals with exercise, grooming, training, play, and TLC.

**Ready To Get Started?** Scan the QR Code or go to the Volunteer page at [cuhumane.org](http://cuhumane.org). Fill out a volunteer application online or attend a monthly volunteer orientation. Questions? Email Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Connelly at [sarahc@cuhumane.org](mailto:sarahc@cuhumane.org).





# MYTHS & FACTS:

ADDRESSING MISCONCEPTIONS

by Mary Tiefenbrunn

**MYTH:** "A WAGGING TAIL MEANS THE DOG IS HAPPY."

**FACT:** A WAGGING TAIL ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH.

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It's a common misconception that dogs only wag their tails when they're happy. In fact, dogs use their tails to communicate many different things about their emotional state and learning to read your dog's tail is a bit like learning a foreign language . . . if you're a human, that is.

Dogs are pack animals. We say it all the time, but what does it mean? It means dogs are social animals and as such, they must be good communicators in order to coexist in harmony. WE don't hear them "talking" but dogs are communicating all the time - nonverbally. Every part of the dog's body is conveying something that every other dog is picking up on. Experienced observers of canine body language will notice the most subtle changes in tension around the eyes or the mouth, a slight change in the angle of the ear, or muscular tension throughout the body. A short "freeze" will often be a sign that an aggressive action is imminent, but the freeze can happen so fast, if you're not looking for it, you'll miss it.

But let's get back to the tail.

The easiest and most obvious way to be sure a dog's tail-wag is a happy one is to look at the dog's entire body. If it looks like he's wagging his entire hind end, starting at his waist, that's an excellent sign that he really is in good spirits! Look for a wiggly butt, not just a wagging tail.

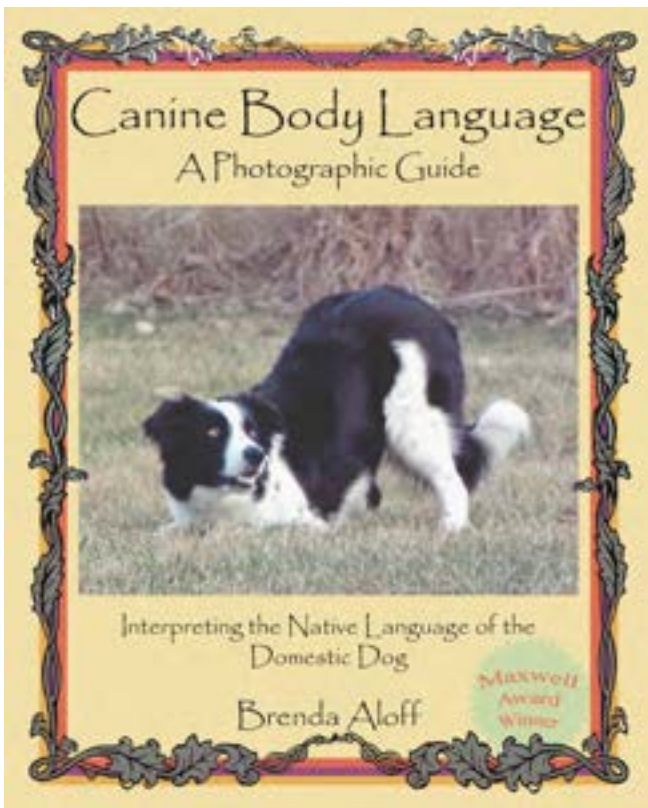
If the tail is held high over the back and arched, it can be an aggressive posture and if it's wagging it can indicate high arousal - which can be either good or bad. Some dogs naturally have a high tail carriage (based on breed), so knowing the dog is helpful. If you see a dog in this posture, look for other clues to determine whether the dog is in an agitated/aggressive state, or just aroused and ready for fun. If there is tension in the rest of the body and the dog is not loose and wiggly, don't assume the wag is 'happy.'

When dogs are afraid or want to be viewed as submissive or non-threatening, they'll often hold their tail low. If they're truly frightened, they'll tuck it between their hind legs. If the tail is held low, but still wagging, it can be a sign that the dog is slightly fearful or conflicted about the situation he is in. This is a common scenario people often confuse with a sign of happiness, and thus inadvertently leave their dog in an uncomfortable situation.

Distinguishing whether your dog is truly enjoying a situation or merely tolerating it is extremely important when you're introducing your dog to other dogs, new people, or children for the first time. Giving your dog a break from a stressful situation can prevent their sense of discomfort from escalating. And "escalating discomfort" is not a good thing! Remember the principle of "fight or flight." When you remove a dog's ability to flee a fearful situation, you increase the likelihood that he'll resort to aggression as a way of coping with the perceived threat.

When it comes to interpreting dog body language, observing the tail is just one piece of the puzzle, but not a bad place to start. Just remember to move your eyes off the tail and check the rest of the body. If you're interested in learning more, I've listed some good books on the subject below.

Watching dogs communicate - whether with humans or other dogs - can be a lot of fun, especially the more you do it. And the reward is great - a better understanding of your best friend and a more harmonious coexistence!



#### RECOMMENDED READING

- *Canine Body Language, A Photographic Guide* by Brenda Aloff
- *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals* by Turid Rugass
- *The Secret Language of Dogs: Unlocking the Canine Mind for a Happier Pet* by Victoria Stillwell

# 3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW!

## 2. BREATHE EASY

Colorfil Air Filters are made right here in Champaign!

Not only are they the best air filter for homes with pets, they also donate 3% of each Colorfil purchase to CCHS! Get yours at [colorfil.com](http://colorfil.com).

## 1. SHOP LOCAL

Did you know that CCHS has a booth at *Antiques & More* on Staley Road? Proceeds from items purchased at our booth go directly to CCHS. And we're neighbors now! Find us both south of Springfield Ave, just off of Staley in Champaign.



## 3. GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram! When you share our posts and stories, it helps to get the word out about the importance of pet adoption and animal welfare. Plus, everybody needs more cute animal photos!

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# Save The Date!



THE FUR BALL WILL BE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

AT THE I-HOTEL IN  
CHAMPAIGN, IL

*presented by Colorfil and Shelby & Jack Stifle*

PAW PRINTS  
Champaign County Humane Society  
4003 Kearns Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822

A MEMBER OF



# ADDRESS BLOCK

1234 YOUR STREET  
ANYTOWN, US 00000

## *Donor Spotlight*

### Serra Subaru Champaign

CCHS is proud to have Serra Subaru Champaign as a corporate partner! We are thankful to once again have been chosen as one of Subaru's Hometown Charities for their "Share the Love" event which enters its 16th year this November. We'll also be part of the "Subaru Loves Pets" adoption promotion throughout October, during which Subaru makes a donation for every dog and cat adopted at CCHS. Thanks Serra Subaru!



*If your business is interested in becoming a corporate partner, please contact CCHS Development Director Sarah Sheppard at 217-344-7297 or email [sarah@cuhumane.org](mailto:sarah@cuhumane.org).*