

2026 Special Contest

PAWS & PEARLS GALA ARTWORK CONTEST

Every great cause deserves unforgettable art. This one-time special competition invites artists of all ages to create artwork for the 2026 Converse County Animal Shelter's fundraiser gala, Paws & Pearls. Whether your inspiration comes with paws, whiskers, feathers, or simply a love for the human-animal bond, let your creativity tell a story of hope, compassion, and second chances.

The theme this year is Phantom of the Paw-pera, so works should capture the elegance and intrigue of the theater while highlighting the joy, personality, and heart of shelter animals.

ENTRY	Online or via mail by July 31 of the current year. In-person entries will be accepted at drop-off, see below for times.
ENTRY DEADLINE	August 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM
ENTRY FEE	\$2 per entry
DROP-OFF	Ft. Fetterman-Visual Arts Saturday, August 8, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sunday, August 9, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
JUDGING	Monday, August 10, 8:00 AM
RELEASE TIME	Sunday, August 16, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1. All WSF Open Static and Visual Arts department guidelines apply to this contest unless otherwise noted.
2. Artwork must be the original work of the exhibitor and may not infringe on the copyright or intellectual property rights of another person or organization.
3. Each class will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement with standard Visual Arts Department premiums.
4. The board of Converse County Animal Shelter will select the artwork they feel best represents the vision and theme of the annual gala. The selected artwork may come from any entry, regardless of its placement in the Visual Arts competition. The overall winner selected by the board will receive a \$300 award.
5. By entering this contest, the artist grants the Converse County Animal Shelter a non-exclusive license to reproduce the selected artwork for promotion of the 2026 Paws & Pearls Gala in print, digital, social media, advertising, and other promotional materials. The artist retains ownership and copyright of the original artwork.
6. Entries must be in printed form for judging.
7. The selected artwork may be digitally resized, cropped, or otherwise adapted for promotional use, provided the integrity of the original design is maintained.
8. If selected, the artist must cooperate with the Converse County Animal Shelter in providing or creating a high-resolution digital reproduction of the artwork suitable for professional reproduction by August 31, 2026.
9. The Converse County Animal Shelter Board reserves the right to select no artwork if, in its judgment, no entry meets the needs of the event.

Visual Arts Premiums

<u>Proficiency level</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Amateur/Adult	\$10.....	\$6.....	\$4
Youth/Children	\$7.....	\$5.....	\$3

Overall Winner (as selected by Converse County Animal Shelter Board).....**\$300**

Division 150 - Adult, all proficiencies

Division 151 - Youth, all ages

CLASS

1. Phantom of the Paw-pera Art

