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All In A Day's Work

By Claire Sychowski

Just like people, animals come into our lives at different times for all kinds of reasons. We meet them at adoption fairs, walking down the street and in shelters. One lucky cat, Moose, had the good fortune to meet his future dad in the Highland Park Chuck & Don's store. Now, that may not seem like an unusual place for a person and an animal to meet; however, considering that this particular Chuck & Don's just began its cat foster program in the spring, and Moose's new dad is an UPS driver who stops in once a day, it makes for a pretty neat chance meeting.

According to Erin Hertel, manager of the Highland

Park store, Chuck & Don's mission is to make pets happy. "Happy pets need forever loving homes and any way that we can help animals find these homes is important to us," said Erin. She explained that since some rescue groups, such as Pet Haven, don't have a facility, they wanted to offer the store as a foster site so customers can see and learn more about Pet Haven cats that need homes.

The foster cat program at Highland Park started shortly after the store opened in April 2009 and has resulted in at least seven cats finding their forever homes. One of these



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Moose's missing ear didn't keep this "cool cat" from finding a new home.

Photo: Sarah Beth Photography

A Real Gentleman

By Sheila Goeken

On the eve of Pet Haven's Fall Benefit last year, a serious medical condition in one of our foster dogs almost deterred the event. At the University of Minnesota vet school, Marilou C., Pet Haven president, and Paul A.,

a foster parent, were awaiting the fate of Foster. The black lab/Newfoundland mix had developed a growth on his neck and had a fever of up to 105 degrees. Would the triple dose of antibiotics stop the infection? The untimely illness caused the pooch and those who loved him a night of worry and stress.



Foster at his favorite place, Lake Ann.

When It Rains It Pours

As Paul and Marilou tended to Foster, Lindsey L., the main organizer of the Fall Benefit and one of Foster's foster parents, was busy preparing for the event. She remembers the night before the benefit, "As I was making last minute preparations at the hotel, Paul and Marilou were calling me with updates on Foster's condition." Lindsey was able to get everything done that night that she needed to do, but then on Saturday, more trouble arose. The organizer of the silent auction became ill. Amanda R. had diligently prepared all the materials for a successful silent auction, but when she became incapacitated in the

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Moose's Serendipitous Second Chance

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cats is Moose, a laid back black cat that stole the hearts of the staff. "He would come to the cage bars so everyone could pet him," said Erin. "When the team members let him out at night, he crawled right into their laps. He followed us around the store and was always at our feet."

Moose eventually stole someone else's heart - the heart of Brian S., the store's regular UPS driver and dad to one other cat. Moose meowed at Brian one day and the rest was history. After a few days of stopping to pet him when he made his rounds, Brian showed up one morning without his uniform on. Perplexed, the staff inquired what he was doing there and was delighted to find out that he wanted to adopt Moose!

Like many rescue animals, Moose didn't always have it that easy. He had spent the last couple of years of his life in an Iowa shelter and suffered from a badly damaged ear flap. Although the flap was removed shortly after his arrival, he continued to have chronic ear

infections due to polyps that went undiagnosed. Once he arrived at Pet Haven, he had surgery to remove his entire ear canal and polyps that had been causing his chronic infections. Today, he is deaf in one ear, but remains the good-natured, lovable cat that he's always been. He enjoys playing with toys, eating plants and lounging in Brian's lap. He's even finally found a buddy in his sister cat that was wary of him when Brian first brought him home. According to Brian, Moose is "one cool cat"!



Did this Moose see a Squirrel? Watch out, looks like he's thinking about lunch!

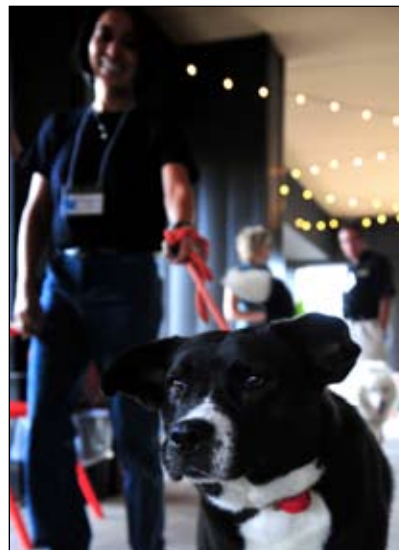
MnPAW: Collaborating for Homeless Dogs & Cats

By Marilou Chanrasmi

Pet Haven is one of ten founding members of a new animal welfare coalition, Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW.org). The goal of MnPAW is to reduce euthanasia as a means of population control. Coalition members believe that by sharing resources and ideas and working together in a positive, collaborative and respectful manner that we can be a stronger advocate for homeless dogs and cats.

Many thanks to SidewalkDog.com for organizing a fun-filled event to raise donations for MnPAW. The event, Sushi with your Poochie, was held at

Tiger Sushi in Minneapolis and raised almost \$1,000! The poochies certainly had lots of fun. Many are already asking when the next Sushi with your Poochie event is going to be!



And on Saturday, 8/22/2009, MnPAW held its first adoption event with adoptable dogs and cats. We had a great turnout on a gorgeous Saturday, with several home visits scheduled for adoptable dogs. On the cat side, we had two kitties find their forever homes. MnPAW will continue to collaborate on adoption events, so stay tuned for the next MnPAW adoption event.

Marilou, Pet Haven president, attends Sushi with your Poochie with Ahnung, a Pet Haven alum. Photo: Sarah Beth Photography

Foster's Good Manners Earned Him A Loving New Home

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hospital, Pet Haven volunteers stepped right up to the plate.

To account for some missing information, the entire silent auction took place twice that day—one fake, to reconcile differences, and the real auction. Lindsey describes the craziness, “All the volunteers came together at 8:00 a.m. until about 5:00 p.m. when the real event started. We held a mock silent auction to fill in the missing information- starting bids, incremental bids, names of items. Our guests that night probably didn't notice the hand-written notes or the last-minute preparations. It was a testament to all our volunteers that the guests won't know until they come to the benefit this year.”

Foster Recovers

A few days after the fall benefit, Foster was on the road to recovery. Lindsey recalls the day Foster came back home. “He was a whole new dog. He found his voice- but we didn't mind. He just came alive.” Foster changed from a

quiet puppy into a normally curious dog, yet he retained his good manners.

Mike V. says Foster's manners were the deciding factor when he and his wife, Lynette, adopted Foster in May of this year. They had been looking at five different dogs, including Foster. At a Pet Haven adoption event, Mike saw how Foster interacted with Lindsey. He explains, “I wanted to make sure the dog we adopted would respect Lynette. As I watched Foster with Lindsey, who is a small woman, I could see Foster had beautiful manners.”

Lynette and Mike describe Foster as having a naturally caring manner. Lynette says he is quick to learn, enthusiastic, and playful. “He has lovely house manners,” she says. “Being as big as he is, he is dainty in the house.”

Mike tells the story of how he, Lynette, and Foster were walking along a path one day. As the path narrowed down a slight hill, Foster stopped, sat, and waited, without being asked

to do so, until Lynette walked to the bottom. Mike says, “Foster just seems to have a sense of what's right.” As Charles Dickens would note, “once a gentleman, always a gentleman.”



Foster is a playful, polite, and very lucky dog; not even a serious illness kept him from finding a new family.

Third Annual Fall Benefit Just Around the Corner

By Claire Sychowski

It's hard to believe that summer is quickly coming to an end. The days of hot temperatures and sitting by the lake will soon be replaced with beautiful leaves and the sounds of football, but more importantly, the changing season means that Pet Haven's third annual fall benefit is right around the corner!

On Saturday, November 7th, members and supporters of Pet Haven will once again come together on behalf of homeless and neglected dogs and cats. Held at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis Park, Pet Haven's premier fundraising event will include a silent

auction, dinner, and a dog and cat fashion show (presented by Lulu and Luigi!) that will showcase adoptable animals, as well as a couple of our alums ~ otherwise known as our success stories. Fashion show participants will be escorted down the runway by local celebrities and available for petting (and inquiries!) afterwards.

In addition to providing an enjoyable evening for our guests, our goal is to top the \$20,000 in donations we raised last year. All funds raised from the event go directly to providing food, shelter and veterinary care for

the hundreds of animals we take in each year, as well as to supporting our humane education programs and spay/neuter grants.

Tickets are on sale now and run between \$50-60 apiece. Please also consider making a tax-deductible donation for our silent auction. For more information about the Fall Benefit, sponsorship, making a silent auction donation, and ordering tickets, visit <http://www.pethavenmn.org/fallbenefit/index.php>

We hope to see you there!

Paw Tawk

By Maggie and Becky Sheldon



Ever since momma went to her 50th high school class reunion she has been reminiscing about life and growing older. (Of course she says she was only 10 when she graduated but we all know she is such a jokester.) But just because you are older, momma says life can be good and you can still have fun. We “oldsters” may take a little longer to get moving and we may need a handful of pills and a nap in the sun but once we get going there is no stopping us.



Right: Maggie supervises the writing of this month's column.

Momma loves old cats. All the residents at the Red Tabby Rest Home, Spa and Baby Sitting Services as she calls our home, are considered

seniors. Amber and Greta are about 12 or 13, Big Red is approximately 10 years old and momma says I am older than dirt but in reality I am probably more like 15 years old. Notice she is not saying how old she is. She likes that we are more settled. Translate: sleep a lot- but that we are still capable of having short spurts of the cat crazies. Momma says we all seem to have an air of self-confidence and a look of wisdom that comes from age and experience. In other words, she thinks we are the greatest!

Momma encourages anyone who is thinking about adding a new member to their home to think “senior”. We older cats and dogs have so much to offer. Many of us have lost our homes through no fault of our own and are so grateful for a second chance. We love to spend time on your lap or just sit quietly by your side. We are the perfect companion if you consider yourself a few years beyond the “kitten or puppy stage” in your own life.

Maggie's momma says: as “we” are writing this I am watching Maggie chase her tail. What fun she is having and what fun it is to watch her enjoy her senior years.

Consider Volunteering for Homeless Dogs and Cats

By Jen Fieldman

“There are opportunities for people who want to foster a homeless cat or dog in their homes and also for people who want to help animals in other ways. Pet Haven is committed to

rescuing and re-homing animals after they become homeless. They are equally committed to preventing cats and dogs from becoming homeless in the first place. I've been a Pet Haven volunteer for many years, am currently on the Board of Directors, and have also adopted some precious dogs from Pet

Haven. I can't say enough positive things about this group. It is truly amazing that they

do all that they do so well without any paid staff. This is proof that volunteers are truly welcomed and valued!” – Sally M.

There are many ways to get involved with Pet Haven. We have opportunities in advocacy, outreach, development, marketing, writing, fostering, and general coordinating. Even better, if there's an area you're interested in, or an idea you have that we haven't developed, we will absolutely empower you to take it on. Our volunteers start with us because of their passion for animals, but they stay with us because the experience is truly rewarding.

Want to learn more? Sign up for our upcoming new volunteer orientation on Saturday, 9/26 by emailing volunteer@pethavenmn.org.

Below: Pet Haven volunteer Julie with Alana at the MnPAW adoption event. It was Alana's lucky day!





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Photos by Sarah Bell Photography

Pet Haven, Inc. of Minnesota [a 501(c)(3) charitable organization] rescues and re-homes cats and dogs, spays and neuters to reduce overpopulation, promotes companion animal welfare, and advocates on behalf of companion animals.

Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

By Celayne Jones and Mary Ann Cameron

Boogie

Do you have a special place in your heart for the seniors and those with special needs? If so, then Boogie is your man!



Boogie is looking for an understanding new family that he can enjoy for the rest of his life.

Boogie has been diagnosed with stage 5 heart murmur. His prognosis is “guarded” and our veterinarian estimates that this little dog has six months to two years of life with this condition. The unfortunate diagnosis has not gotten this happy small dog down. Shortly after going into his foster home, Boogie found a way out of his fenced yard. A frantic search ended with the discovery that Boogie, with his short legs and heart murmur, had traveled eight city blocks and was hanging around in front of an ice cream shop. To Boogie’s dismay, however, doctor’s orders are short walks on leash and no running around. As a compromise, Boogie says he would be fine riding in your car to the ice cream shop!

He is well loved in his foster home, but Boogie would like to find his forever home. Ideally it will be a home where there are no highly active dogs and has people who will give him plenty of love and cuddle time. He takes two medications (at a cost of \$40/month) for his heart and will need to take them for the rest of his life.

All who meet him love this cheerful little guy. He’s already surprised us with his neighborhood adventures. He may just surprise us all again!

Leslie

This handsome fellow came to Pet Haven with a compound fracture of a back leg. Fighting infection and covered with urine, he was in a lot of pain. A woman had been feeding him off and on for several years. She brought



him into the house occasionally but he always got to go back outside, find the girls to romance and, in the end, was lucky to be able to make it back to her home to be turned over to Pet Haven. Les is happy to have all that behind him (he might feel differently about giving up romance but that was taken care of when he had his leg amputated). He’s well recovered and enjoys life inside.

This boy is big and burly and loves to sit on your lap, flop on the floor in front of you so you will bend down and stroke him and pet his stomach. Like many males who are neutered late he has squeezable cheeks and lots of muscle. Bird, bunny and chipmunk watching out the window are great sport. Next to these things, talking is a favorite activity for Leslie. He talks when he sees you, he talks when you clean the litter box, he talks when it is time to eat. Probably a timed feeding dish outside the kitchen would make life quieter because then he wouldn’t think you were going to refill his bowl if you move around! Leslie is on a diet - we’d like to keep his weight in check so there is less of Les - fewer pounds will make life easier for that remaining back leg.

Les gets along with another cat but wouldn’t mind having you and your family all to himself. After all, he’s missed out on years of snuggling and lovin’. If you’re thinking of two, Les gets along with Mr. Brown, a domestic short-haired brown tabby and white fellow who plays well with him and doesn’t mind being bear-hugged and chewed on. When he does, he slips away and goes scampering off and is soon back to give Les another round of wrestle and a little grooming.

Leslie fought through a leg amputation and deserves a forever home where he’ll get all the affection he’s missed out on.

Do you have a *Happy Tail* to report? Email editor@pethavenmn.org with your story and a photo, and your story could be included in the next issue of *Pet Haven Ink!*

Happy Tails



Mason, who has been re-named **Cecil**, is doing very well. He is such a sweet boy, and has adjusted to our home perfectly. Our “old” cat is doing really well, too. We couldn’t be happier with our new kitty! Cecil was one of a litter of four who came into Pet Haven’s foster program from Red Lake Rosie’s Rescue.

Cody has been a great boy. We are having a lot of fun with him – we are like late in life parents. He LOVES going to the dog park and running into the pond - oh my gosh - the pond!! He goes in, then lays down in the water and then just soaks it up. He is just like a little kid running into the water - he just keeps running back and forth and in and out of the pond. He is a social butterfly and seems to think that all dogs are his best friend. He has taken a pretty big liking to my raspberries. I’ve caught him laying in the grass next to the bush and having himself a grand time eating them. Earlier this summer he picked my strawberries for me.



Sid ‘the Kid’ Crosby as he was known in his foster home was traded to the Detroit Redwings in July and renamed Osgood (Chris). His new owners came from just north of Detroit and are Redwings fans. They’ll enjoy this very energetic and playful kitten!

No one bothered to tell **Rusty** that twelve year old dogs should lay around snoozing all day. Oh, he does his share of that but he loves a good walk, too. Two miles is nothing to this boy. He’ll even do a run around a lake if someone will take him. (His mom does not run.) Rusty is grateful to have been given a second chance at life by Pet Haven. Without them, he never would have discovered the joy of Cat Chasing.



Buster, the brown tabby and white fellow, has been in foster care for about a year. He was adopted but the two lady cats in his new home rejected him so back he came. Buster loved his foster home very much and gets along great with all the new foster cats and kittens that travel through. He has had a hard time convincing Kazoo, the orange tabby, that he was really a good guy. Buster took matters into his own paws, and is now a permanent member of his foster family.



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Pet Haven Ink

Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters

Articles: Mary Ann Cameron, Marilou Chanrasmi,
Jen Fieldman, Sheila Goeken, Celayne Jones,
Becky Sheldon, Claire Sychowski
Newsletter Editor: Marilou Chanrasmi
Newsletter Layout/Design: Elissa Lindberg

About Pet Haven

Pet Haven, Inc. of Minnesota was founded in 1952 and is a charitable non-profit organization. Your donations to Pet Haven are tax-exempt. Pet Haven's mission is to rescue and re-home cats and dogs, spay and neuter to reduce overpopulation, promote companion animal welfare, and advocate on behalf of companion animals.

Pet Haven has no staff. Volunteers do all of the organization's work. Volunteers are always needed and there are a variety of ways you can help. We currently have a tremendous need for foster homes. Please read more about our foster home program on our website and contact us to volunteer. You'll be glad you did!