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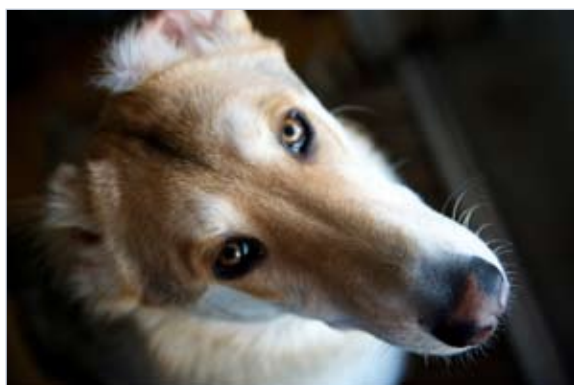
Ode' suffered terribly, but thanks to Red Lake Rosie's and Pet Haven, she has the chance for a new start. Photo by Sarah Beth Photography.

The Myth of Ode

By Sheila Goeken

"Cruelty has a human heart" William Blake

The evil perpetrated by humans against defenseless animals is sometimes too horrendous to imagine. According to the U.S. Humane Society, dogs were the victims of 64.5% of the



human cruelty cases against animals reported by the media in 2007. When Ode was found near a baseball field in Redby, Minn., last July, it was obvious this innocent 12-week-old pup was one more victim of such a crime. The hair on her head and her whiskers were singed, and her ears were so severely burned that they were flaking off.

Thanks to Red Lake Rosie's Rescue in northern Minnesota, little Ode (pronounced O-Day, which means "heart" in the Ojibwa language) was given the medical attention she needed and sent to Pet Haven to find a foster and adoptive home. Marilou C. of Pet

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Every Home Needs a Moose

By Celayne Jones

Every home should have a Moose in it. At least if the Moose in question is a quite large black cat with just one ear. No one knows for sure what happened to Moose's ear – he doesn't remember, it was so long ago - but the doctor said that it had been infected and broken down and had to be removed. Moose hears just fine, for it is just the outer ear that is gone. He feels that it gives him a unique look, and that is a fairly important thing for a black cat to have.



A sturdy three to four year old neutered male, Moose's preferred way of passing the day is hanging around on the couch. His foster mom, Becky S., describes him as 'a big marshmallow'. He gets along well with the other cats in his foster

home, mostly because he doesn't care what they say or do to him. He basically ignores the queen cat of his household, Maggie, an elderly lady. She can crab at him all she wants, but Moose just shrugs his well padded shoulders and goes about the business of being a marshmallow. Speaking of well padded, at sixteen pounds Moose could stand to lose a pound or two, but so far exercise and diet plans haven't exactly excited Moose into embarking on any self-improvement programs.

He's just the kind of big marshmallow cat that you want to cuddle and hug. "Yes, you can touch his belly", says his foster

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Having only one ear hasn't slowed down Moose, who is looking for a home. Photo by Sarah Beth Photography.

Ode: She's Got Heart

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Haven says, "It was an honor to take in Ode. We have learned so much from her open heart and brave spirit."

She's Got Heart

Mary M., Ode's longtime foster mom, says Ode grew fast, from about 12 pounds when Pet Haven first got her to about 55 pounds at the age of 10 months. "When she ran laps around the house, she sounded like a little horse," Mary laughs. She tells the story of how Ode got caught underneath the bed one day (where she loved to play) because she didn't realize how big she'd grown.

By the time she was placed for adoption, Ode was an almost mythic legend. Shortly after she was found in northern Minnesota, the U.S. Humane Society put up a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the identification,

arrest, and conviction of the person or people responsible for Ode's abuse.* She had her own YouTube video, and several stories were written about her challenging life. Ode became the star of Pet Haven's annual fall benefit, and many people were endeared to her by her story and resilience.

Artist Jesse Marianiello of Stray Dog Arts credits Ode for her own growth as an artist. "Ode is a brave spirit—one of the bravest I have ever known. So brave, in fact, that she changes every single person who comes in contact with her, myself included. She is, after all, the one responsible for altering the mission of Stray Dog Arts. Painting animals has led me home—home, that is, to my truest self—but Ode is the one who opened up the heart of this home in a way that I was

unable to imagine before her."

Another person touched by Ode was Pam C. Pam was familiar with Red Lake Rosie's Rescue because her brother, Tom, who'd lost his canine companion, recently adopted a new dog that originally came from Rosie's. During his search for a new dog, Tom had encouraged his sister to go to some of the Web sites he'd visited to check out his choices. While perusing the animal-rescue Web sites her brother had recommended, Pam came across the video of Ode. "It was impossible not to be moved by the dog—her tragic history and remarkable recovery. Each viewing of the video pulled me in a little more—like I was being called by the siren song of Ode," she says.

The River Runs Deep

Though she wasn't looking for a dog herself (her two cats were plenty in their small house), she figured the time would eventually come when another dog would win her heart the way Roki, her longtime white shepherd/husky/Samoyed, had. After one attempt to meet Ode failed, Pam tried again, leading to their first meeting at a Pet Haven adoption event. When Pam learned about Pet Haven's foster-with-intent-to-adopt option, she signed up. This arrangement would allow Ode to stay with Pam in her home before Pam made a final adoption commitment.

To assist with the transition, Pet Haven provided several types of training designed to ease Ode's troublesome behaviors—jumping up, barking as Pam tried to work, leash-pulling on walks, and chasing the two cats, for starters. "The first week was especially hard, because we'd established no mutual trust or bond yet," says Pam.

While aspects of the various training methods helped Pam think about how best to handle Ode's issues, she says she relates most to the philosophy expressed in this passage from *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*: "Unless they had worked long and hard at it, most people

Ode (below) has touched many lives and become something of a legend in her short life. Photo by Sarah Beth Photography.



Moose the Cat

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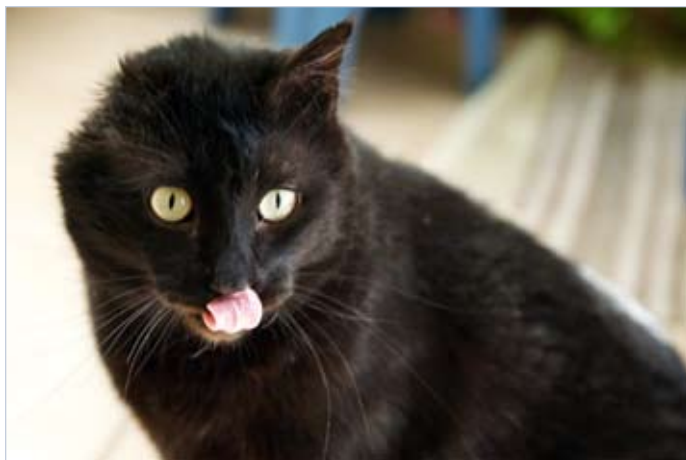
mom. Now, if you know anything about cats you realize by now that Moose is not just any cat but the kind of cat who can probably fit in any household, including one where people like to touch cat's bellies and other fun activities like that.

At adoption events, often a frightening experience for a cat, Moose is quite content when kids come and want to pet him through the wire bars of his kennel. In fact, he seems to enjoy the excited attentions of youngsters.

Moose has not met a dog that we know of; frankly, he prefers to keep that mystery to himself for now, but it is hard to imagine that this gentle giant of a cat would not be just fine with some canine companionship. Of course, the dog should be a friendly one. Even a mellow marshmallow cat wants to be treated with respect.

Moose would be perfect for a first time cat guardian. He'd be delighted to show you the best way to treat a feline – where to put the food bowls and how full to keep them, which windows should have the shades up so he can watch birds and squirrels between snoozes. He is an acknowledged master of the spectator sport of critter watching, so if you have a screened porch he would be in kitty heaven.

So, here's a cat that any cat lover should adore – mellow, friendly, gentle. Likes his belly rubs. Likes kids. Can take or leave other cats, even cranky old lady cats. Enjoys a hearty meal. What's not to like? I say it's time for someone to go cat hunting at our next Cat Adoption Event and come home with a Moose.



Meet Moose at one of Pet Haven's adoption events. Photo by Sarah Beth Photography.

Join Pet Haven's Team

THE FAST AND THE FURBALLS

What : *Minneapolis 5K-9*
* organized by Team Ortho

When : *May 31, 2009*

Location : *The Depot*

For more information go to
www.pethavenMN.org

PET HAVEN
INC. OF MINNESOTA
Helping homeless dogs and cats since 1952.

Ode's Happy Ending

Continued from page 2

thought training meant forcing their will on a dog. Or that training required some magical gift. Both ideas were wrong. Real training meant watching, listening, diverting a dog's exuberance, not suppressing it. You couldn't change a river into a sea, but you could trace a new channel for it to follow."

After fostering Ode for several weeks, Pam has decided to make the long-term commitment and adopt this inspiring dog. "I see almost daily progress in Ode's behavior and continue to be amazed by her spunk and her spirit!" relates Pam. Pam and Ode will take things one day at a time—learning from each other, celebrating and diverting exuberance, and, in time, growing out of the past and into a better future together.

** According to Karen Good of Red Lake Rosie's Rescue, an informant came forward when the U.S. Humane Society poster came out. The abuser was allegedly a 14-year-old, who fled to Wisconsin and was never apprehended.*

Paw Tawk

By Maggie and Becky Sheldon



Hi, this is Maggie and I just discovered I am not the only old crabby lady in the house! Let me tell you about it. Just the other day momma was reminiscing about how things have changed for Pet Haven since she became involved 30 years ago-talk about old!! Did you know that Pet Haven has been around since 1952? But she says the most important things remain the same, like finding new homes for cats and dogs, educating people about the importance of spay and neuter and how to take care of animals. (Momma said it is a good thing I am spayed because we do not need any more little crabby cats like me running around.)



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

The biggest change is the use of the internet. Even though I don't understand how it works I try to help momma when we write our Paw Tawk. But when I stand on the keyboard and everything disappears she can get really crabby. She says there are stories and pictures of cats and dogs who need new homes out "there" so people can search for the perfect pet. There is a cat blog and a dog blog too

that has some really cool stories about current and past cats and dogs. It tells about different ways to volunteer, like being a foster home-which momma does despite my protests, answering phone calls, helping on different committees, helping at cat and dog adoptions, working on the newsletter, advocating for all animals, public education, the list goes on. It tells about the different fund raising events and how you can become a member and support the work that is being done. You can find all this and more by going to www.pethavenmn.org

So anyway, the next time momma calls me "crabby old lady cat" I will just glare at her and think "right back at you, crabby old cat lady!". It's a good thing she can't always ready my mind!

Maggie's momma says, Yes, things have changed in the time I have been with Pet Haven but the most valuable assets still are the faithful volunteers and all the caring members and people who support Pet Haven. Thanks for caring so much about all creatures.

2009 Spring garage sale news.

It's never too early to start your spring cleaning and setting aside things for the Pet Haven spring garage sale. Momma will be hosting a garage sale for the benefit of Pet Haven this May. She is looking for lots of gardening and yard items but is happy to get any good saleable items. Please limit the clothes and shoes though. If you have items to donate or wish to help, send an email to maggiemaesheldon@yahoo.com.

Help Stop Inhumane Dog and Cat Breeding

Contact your State Representative and Senator and ask them to support H.F. 253 / S.F. 7.

Did you know that Minnesota does not regulate or license its dog and cat breeders? H.F. 253 / S.F. 7 addresses inhumane breeding practices in Minnesota and will regulate dog and cat breeders in the state and protect

animals from harm. It will cover the essential areas for animal protection: licensing, inspections, enforcement, and penalties. Please contact your state Representative and Senator and ask them to support this legislation. For more information, visit animalfolksmn.org or www.pethavenMN.com/advocacy.

Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

Katie

Katie, a 2 year old pointer mix, was rescued from a hoarding situation in the spring of 2008. After 10 months in foster care, Katie is still looking for a place to call home. Katie is looking to hang her leash with a retired couple or someone who works from home. Katie loves attending adoption events where she catches up with all her friends and admirers. It's impossible to not fall in love with Katie! For more info on Katie, email dogs@pethavenmn.org.



Panther

Panther is one handsome fellow. He's been roaming the streets of Minneapolis for several years and the family that has fed him finally convinced him to come inside on Christmas day, 2008. His fosters think he's one of the nicest cats they've met. He gets along with another cat even if it isn't fond of him. He likes to play. He loves to snuggle and give kisses and, given his size, he'll keep you nice and warm during some cold winter weather. For more info on Panther email cats@pethavenmn.org.



Katie (top) and Panther (below) are available for adoption.



Who's the Dog on Pet Haven's Website?

We are often asked who the beautiful chocolate lab on our website is. Well, this past month we got an update on sweet Jessie from her mom and dad. As an all-volunteer organization, these updates are what keep us going so to Tom and Nancy (Jessie's guardians) – thank you for making our day!

“We adopted our dog Jessie from Pet Haven in 1997. She was age 1 at the time. Although Jessie has a few gray hairs like my husband and myself, she is still the same ol' sweet little girl we adopted 12 years ago.

During the years, names evolve and nicknames take their place, and Jessie is no exception. Jess-a-roonie-be-bop, Punkin, Lady Bug, Chum-Chum, Pussy Willow, and a few others that are unmentionable but adoring. I especially like to whisper in her ear that she is so sweet, sugary, and chocolaty that I could eat her up, but nothing would be left except her collar. Jessie is sweet, loving, gentle, spoiled, loyal, faithful... did I mentioned spoiled??

Thank you, Pet Haven, for bringing this little girl into our lives. We have enjoyed every single moment and her paw print has been embedded into our hearts forever. We love you, Jess-a-roonie!”

Jessie (left), the 'mascot' for Pet Haven's website, is one of Pet Haven's successful adoption stories. For more Happy Tales adoption accounts, go to <http://pethavenmn.org/happytails/index.php>. Interested in creating a happy ending of your own for one of Pet Haven's animals? Check out <http://pethavenmn.org/dog-and-cat-adoption.php>.

Suzie: A Three-Heart Valentine Night

By Kelly Kenley and Laura Leonard

After seven months in Pet Haven's foster program, Suzy's day finally arrived! In mid-February, Suzy was part of her future dad's surprise proposal to the woman who has been in love with her since last summer. Suzy sat quietly next to Adam's side as he popped the question. As Sarah said "YES!" Adam slipped the most gorgeous ring on Sarah's finger. He also slipped a leash into her hand. Along with promising to marry Sarah, Adam promised to provide a loving home for Suzy. Suzy gave Sarah a Valentine to seal the deal. We're not sure which surprise Sarah was most excited about - a husband to be or a new dog? One thing is for certain, Sarah could not be more excited to move forward in life with both of them by her side.

Sarah and Adam are now vacationing on a warm beach until the end of the month. Upon their return, Suzy will be going to her forever home with her favorite girl, and her favorite girl's favorite guy. There's a wedding to plan after all and Suzy has to put her paw print on all the decisions. Now wouldn't she just make the best flower girl? Yes, dreams do come true.

The following is a note to Suzy's foster from Sarah the morning after the big moment:

"I cannot even begin to express my excitement and outstanding joy to be officially adopting Suzy. I have wanted to do this since the first time I brought her home with me and she is SO loved by us. She made for a perfect engagement and I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful (and extremely well-planned) proposal. Thank you so much for helping Adam make an incredible memory. We have a wonderful story to share for years and we are really looking forward to having Suzy be the first member of our family. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! Can't wait to see her when we get back!!! I just can't get over how everything has come together... I can't stop smiling! Thank you again, for making it so special! ALSO - the VALENTINE from Suzy is so sweet and brought tears to my eyes."

Congratulations to Sarah, Adam and Suzy! Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Disclaimer: Pet Haven does not allow dogs to be given as surprise gifts. Suzy was not a surprise - the only surprise was the timing and her inclusion in the proposal. Sarah has been co-fostering Suzy for several months and was planning to adopt her this spring. All family members must meet a foster dog or cat before an adoption can be finalized.



The official announcement of Suzy's (left) adoption was a surprise addition to Adam's proposal to Sara. Sara (with Suzy, right) was thrilled to get a new fiancé and a new dog on the same day.

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



Norma is getting more adventurous every day! She usually wakes up sleeping next to me, then gets up with my husband and keeps him company while he gets ready for work, then back to bed until the rest of us wake up. Her favorite time of day is when we are reading books to the boys at night all together in the big bed. She sits at the end of the bed and chases after our feet- it's far more entertaining than stories! We already can't imagine our lives with out her!

Sasha has really become a part of our family. She does not like being out in the cold. She gets along with our other dog Sadie quite well. They play nightly with each other and have a good time. They tend to share toys and like playing tug of war. She is great with the kids. I can't wait till it warms up so we can start going on walks! I'm sure all of us have a case of cabin fever and need to run around a bit.



Lucy napping with her brother **Bugsy**. Lucy has taken over the task of wanting to eat constantly, Bugsy thinks if she gets fed, he gets fed. Bugsy loves to pin her down and bite her ears - being 16 pounds there is no fairness! Lucy (we call her kitty) loves to cuddle, anywhere, anytime and purrs like a train! We love our addition to the family - thank you for bringing her to our family!

Lulu has grown into a very lovable and feisty girl and has added spice to our home. She has bonded with our cat better than I'd hoped and the two of them play and wrestle all morning long. Lulu has become my work partner. Since I work alone all day I am able to take her with me from job to job. She loves running around in the empty houses I work in and checks every corner thoroughly. Everyone who meets her loves her and she knows it.



Rebel and **Shadow** are doing very well and are so sweet and lively (although, I have to say, I've never encountered cats quite this enthusiastic about food. They conspired with our dog, Tango, and knocked our Christmas cookies off our kitchen counter. Needless to say, we no longer keep any food on the counters). Rebel is the more outgoing one, Shadow a bit shier.

Taco joined our family this summer. When Taco first arrived, he was very skinny and his hair was thin or missing in some places, probably from stress. He's since found his appetite and has put on some weight, he's now a respectable 7 pounds, and his hair has filled in. He's a handsome little guy! He's not so sure he likes the cold and snow yet but he's getting used to it and he does appreciate a warm sweater! We are glad we found Taco and he found us.



Penny joined us in November 2008 and has been a joy from the start. We have an 8 year old Siamese named Cleo who is still learning to get along with Penny; however, we have seen tremendous progress from the start. They've even been caught napping a foot away from one another on the couch!



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Pet Haven Ink

Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters

Articles:	Marilou Chanrasmi, Sheila Goeken, Celayne Jones, Kelly Kenley, Laura Leonard, and Becky Sheldon
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 responsible guardianship through educational programs, 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!

Upcoming Events

March and April, 2009: Photographers Guild fundraiser. For a \$40 donation to Pet Haven you receive a free photo session and a free 8 x 10 portrait. Call 651.646.3239 to schedule your session.

May 31, 2009: Have fun with your pooch and raise some money by joining Pet Haven's The Fast and the Furballs Team for a 5K-9 Run. For more info visit our website or email furballs@pethavenMN.org.