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Sasha may have only one eye, but it's still a window into a soul as beautiful as any other cat; just ask her new family! Photo by Rodrigo Villada.

Sasha: An Adoption With a Wink and a Smile

By Susana Gluck

While the “wink wink, nudge, nudge” quote made famous by the Monty Python over-the-top British comedy group has become an idiom in the English language implying sexual innuendo (as per Wikipedia), a wink in itself can also tell a different story.

One such wink story is that of a stray cat rescued by a shelter in Iowa. This brown



tabby/tortoiseshell cat had such a bad eye infection when the shelter got her that her left eye had to be removed. Kindly nursed back to health by volunteers in Iowa, “Sasha” made her way to Minnesota and to Pet Haven’s long-time volunteer Rebecca (Becky) Sheldon, who fostered her.

“Sasha, whom I called Winnie or Winkie,” said Becky, “was really easy to foster. She blended in with my cats. She was very busy, up on the counter or sometimes helping ‘trim’ the house plants, watching birds and squirrels and the fish in the tank. Missing one eye did not slow her down at all as she could jump up into the smallest spaces and was not the least bit clumsy. She loved to have company come and would show off for them by being extra cute. She has a lot of personality.”

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Never Give Up

By Sheila Goeken

Sidney was scared and stressed when he came back to Pet Haven last December. He snapped at a couple of volunteers who reached out to pet him. The 11-year-old shepherd mix had been spending much of his time in a three-season porch with minimal, if any, socialization.

Because of his aggressive and antisocial behavior, Sidney needed to be evaluated by a professional before Pet Haven could put him up for adoption again. Sidney’s aggression was predictable and was his way of responding to stress. These weren’t ideal traits for rehabilitation, but because Sidney had started with Pet Haven, it was decided not to give up on him.

Sidney found a second chance at Pet Haven, and this once fear-aggressive pooch is now a much-loved companion. Photo by Photographers Guild.



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Sasha's Mesmerizing Wink

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But despite her frisky and cute personality, Pet Haven volunteers worried that with only one eye she would be hard to place. At cat adoption days, people liked her, but were leery.

So Pet Haven volunteers went all out and plastered the city with flyers. At pet stores, at vet offices, on bulletin boards, wherever a tack would go in there was Sasha winking. "A Tortoiseshell beauty," the poster said, loud, and Sasha's pretty face looked at passersby expectantly, with –of course –a wink.

Kristin, an old-time cat mother, was sitting at a Starbucks a couple of weeks ago, having coffee with friends. "How are your cats?" one her friends asked. "Cats?" answered Kristin, "I only have one cat left, I lost my other one last year." As expected, her friends– all of them animal lovers- immediately suggested that she get another cat, but Kristin felt differently. "One will find me. They always do," she answered, and then looked away, pensive.

But as she looked away she was quickly jolted from her thoughts. Across from the Starbucks' billboard, a cat was staring at her... with one eye! Was that cat finding her? She

wasn't really thinking of adopting at this time, but this was no random coincidence. Hmm. This appealed to Kristin.

"I want a pet that doesn't have a chance," Kristin said, emphatically. "A young kitten, a Siamese cat, will always find a home, but a cat with only one eye... she'd never be picked." She added, "there was something about this cat. Her one eye spoke to me."

So Kristin went home and onto Pet Haven's website, www.pethavenmn.org, connected with Becky Sheldon, Sasha's foster mom, and went to pay a visit. To her surprise, "this frisky little animal" met Kristin at the door, "and she nuzzled, she purred, she rubbed, she just performed!" And, Kristin said, "she saw the word 'sucker' on my forehead!"

And the rest is history. As of April 22nd, Sasha has a new home. While her name is very lovely, said Kristin, it is not quite the name you want to call her by. Kristin's husband has suggested they'd rename her "Arrghh!" like a one-eyed pirate, but Kristin thinks she will prevail, and this peppy little counter-surfer most probably will become "Winkie"! Lovely by us. Wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

Her new family is still considering a final name for her, but Sasha seems happy while she waits. Photo by Rodrigo Villada.



Sidney: Retraining, Returning, and Rehabilitation

Continued from page 1

Reform School

Because Sidney was a special case, he needed special care. Instead of the usual foster home, Sidney was placed at a kennel that could provide the individualized care he needed to be resocialized with people and other dogs. One of Pet Haven's dog fosters, Steve, visited and played with Sidney every day adding immensely to Sidney's rehabilitation. Sidney quickly adapted, and one month later, he was ready for a foster home.

Sidney was placed with Frieda, a Pet Haven volunteer who has a soft spot for older dogs. Frieda welcomed Sidney into her home and helped him continue to thrive. Then came the call. A couple liv-

ing in south Minneapolis had met Sidney at a pet adoption event and thought he would be the perfect companion for their senior golden retriever. After a short time, however, Sidney was returned because he was too rambunctious for the couple's elder parents, whom they visited often. So Sidney was back with Frieda.

Having lost her 12-year-old dog, Zephyr, to osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in January and not wanting Sidney to have to go through another adjustment, Frieda decided to make Sidney her own. Besides, Sidney was becoming more comfortable with Frieda, her friends, and her friends' dogs. He even joined in with Frieda's weekly pilates sessions.



*A little love and training has made Sidney comfortable with his new family.
Photo by Photographers Guild.*

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SAY CHEESE!!
Capture Your Furry Friend on Film!

Offer Good For May and June

Make a **\$35** donation to **PET HAVEN** and receive a **FREE** sitting and 8 x 10 photo of your pet (\$115 value)
Limit ONE per customer.

Pet Haven Blogs

Check out Pet Haven's new blogs, a great way to stay aware of what's going on with the dogs and cats of Pet Haven! The blogs feature photos and videos, as well as information and updates on animals and events. Add these blogs to your bookmarks or RSS reader and keep yourself in the loop!

Visit pethavendogs.blogspot.com



and pethavencats.blogspot.com.



Please contact The Photographer's Guild for more info. (651.646.3239) www.photographersguild.com



A Special Plea For Special Dogs

By Marilou Chanrasmi

Recent weeks have been emotional ones for the dog division. In mid-April we launched our online blog to welcome in 5 black boy pups left at a dumpster in rural Iowa. The world of animal rescue is filled with ups and down. We shed tears of joy, as we welcome these pups, celebrating their life, yet grateful in knowing we will stop, at least for these five pups, the cycle of proliferation. The importance of spaying/neutering magnified with every litter of puppies. We shed tears, knowing that many others aren't as lucky.

Spring arrives with some difficult cases. Ann, our dog intake coordinator, spends countless hours on the phone with one of our partner vets to discuss the health and surgical options for several of our recent intakes. Difficult cases - difficult choices. Each case handled with love, compassion and a heavy sense of responsibility to ensure we make the right decision for the animal, and for Pet Haven.



Spice Girl, left, and Hazel, far right, are just two of the dogs that need extra care and treatment. Can you help Pet Haven pay for their expenses?

In recent weeks we have incurred extraordinary vet expenses for the following special dogs: 1) Hazel, a sweet, pocket pit bull, diagnosed and being treated for heartworm. She is being hospitalized as she goes through treatment, 2) Spice Girl, a beautiful boxer mix, who came to us from Red Lake Rosie's Rescue - her hip dislocated, and almost deaf. She had her back leg amputated and is being nursed back to health in a loving foster home, 3) Jayde, a sweet yellow lab mix, who came from up north. Her brother hit and killed by a car, while Jayde survived. She came with

a serious leg injury. X-rays revealed a severe fracture. Jayde, like Spice Girl, had her back leg amputated, 4) Hank and Zubeau - two of our dogs who came with cherry eye and required surgery, 5) surgery on Bear (a poodle mix) to remove a blockage, and 5) Most recently, one of our sweet black labs (Shadow) was seen by an eye specialist and has a chronic perforation and no vision in the eye. She had her eye surgically removed, and is now a special black dog with a permanent "wink."



We need your help

Despite generous discounts from partner vets, we are looking at approximately \$6,000 in extraordinary veterinary expenses. These dogs deserve a second chance. Pet Haven is committed to giving them just that – a new leash on life.

We need your financial help so that we can continue to help these animals who come to us with special needs. Please consider making a donation (any amount helps!). You can make a donation online at our website (www.pethavenMN.org) by clicking on the "Donate" tab. In your comments, please put "Special Needs fund". Or you can write a check and return your check to us in the enclosed envelope.

Help us help them.

Follow their progress on our newly launched dog blog: pethavendogs.blogspot.com.



Paw Tawk

By *Bernie and Becky Sheldon*

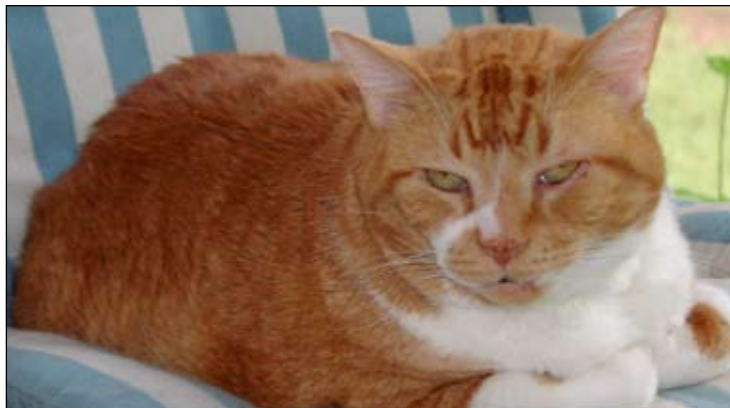
We made it through another winter and now we can enjoy the great outdoors again. Sometimes momma puts the harness and leash on me and we go for a walk around the yard and garden, but she keeps a good eye on me as I tend to nibble on plants, grasses and sticks. She tells me there are things that I shouldn't eat as they can give me an upset tummy or even worse. Momma knows from experience that we like to eat plants and she tries to have safe ones inside, but outside is another thing. There are so many delicious looking plants that it's like going to a deli! Where to start?

So she said we need to let people know how to find out if their garden and yard are safe for their pets and what to do if their pet gets into the wrong thing. Momma remembers when Apricot ate some Nightshade that was next to a catnip plant. He got very sick and had to go to the doctor. It all turned out OK but it was pretty scary. So here are some things to do that can make our time out of doors safer.

Bernie's momma says:

When you are planning a garden or landscaping check online or ask your local garden center for a list of safe plants. The ASPCA website has a very complete list of indoor and outdoor plants. Familiarize yourself with the plants and weeds in your yard and get rid of any that are toxic or poisonous. Treat your lawn and plants with pet, kid and earth friendly fertilizers. For the sake of your pets and children keep any chemicals that you use out of reach or locked up. This also includes cleaning supplies, antifreeze-which cats and dogs love to taste, paint thinner -anything that could be harmful. Even if they do not eat it, it could get on their fur or paws and could be ingested while they are grooming themselves.

If you suspect that your pet has gotten into some thing that could be harmful,



do not panic but call your veterinarian for further instructions. If you know what they got into, gather a sample of the plant or substance. (If your pet has gotten into antifreeze go immediately to your veterinarian.) If it is after hours call the emergency veterinarian or call the ASPCA which has a 24 hour animal poison control center at 888 426-4435 but be aware that there could be a consultation fee. Bernie and I hope that these tips will help you have a safe and fun time out of doors.

Bernie (above) takes a break from his spring rambles in the garden.

A Happy Ending for Sidney

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Living Large

Sidney is not as jumpy now as he was when Frieda first took him in. He doesn't nip anymore, and he's happy around people. Steve still visits and they go on walks with his dogs, Buddy and Sammy (whom he fostered, then adopted through Pet Haven), on a regular basis. Sidney likes walks and smells and playing with his little pink pig. And he has a passion. Frieda first noticed it before she adopted him when she was transporting him one

day. Sidney was left alone in the car for a short time and got into a bag of bagels that were unintentionally left in the car with him. When Frieda and Marilou (Pet Haven president) returned to the car, they noticed Sidney's swollen face. After a moment of concern, they realized the bulges were hiding an entire bagel in his mouth.

Frieda knew the incident was more than just a hungry dog getting into some food when she took Sidney on a shopping trip to Petco more recently.

As Frieda and Sidney walked the aisles, Sidney made his own purchasing decision--a toy bagel, which was conveniently displayed on a bottom shelf. Once Sidney had it in his mouth, Frieda knew he wasn't letting go. So Frieda did the only thing she could at the time. She took another toy bagel to the register for scanning. As they walked out of the store, Sidney seemed quite content with his new mom, his new toy, and the beginning of what promised to be the good life.

Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

By Laura Leonard and Mary Ann Cameron

Shadow

Shadow is a big beautiful black dog who follows her foster everywhere just like her shadow. Her low-shedding low maintenance coat is shiny and feels like velvet. The first year of her life was spent alone in a bedroom for 12 hours a day so she has not experienced much of the outside world. Eager to please Shadow has made tremendous progress in her obedience class learning how to sit and walk on a leash. Her foster brother is teaching her how to share toys and play tug-o-war. Shadow has a ton of energy and loves to run around in the backyard and go for long walks. Shadow would flourish in a loving home with lots of activity and patience. She



has no vision in her right eye from an eye injury that is too old to fix and, at the recommendation of an eye specialist we recently had her right eye removed. Like Sasha, she now has a permanent "wink." Are you that special someone who will open up your heart and let her be your shadow?

Tamari and Ian

Tamari and Ian are two young boys with boundless energy and you would never lack for amusing things happening with them around. Most of the time, you'll catch them running and playing games of chase. They love toys they can play with together, on their own, or with you! And people snuggles are top on their list! They are curious and clever fellows who would



love to be adopted together. They came to Pet Haven from different places but wound up in the same foster home and have formed a great friendship. We hope that someone will want two exciting fellows to enjoy for many years.

Shadow (above) and Tamari and Ian (top right) are just a few of the Pet Haven animals looking for a home. Are you the one they're waiting for?

Save ^{THE} Date

Pet Haven's Fall Benefit

November 1st, Saturday
DOUBLETREE HOTEL

St. Louis Park (5 - 9PM)



Dinner, Silent Auction
 Pet Fashion Show Presented by Lulu & Luigi



Emcee for the Night
Staci Matthews of KS95

Platinum Sponsors:

Chuck and Don's * Downtown Dogs

For questions email Marilou@pethavenmn.org

Happy Tails

By Jess Kittredge, Anne Irish, Mary Ann Cameron and Kim Jaworksi



Gingersnap

Gingersnap is about 5-6 yrs old and was a baby-making machine until she was owner surrendered to Pet Haven because of financial problems. She came with her last kitten. Ginger is now in a home with a dog, whom she loves to snuggle with. She no longer has to worry about finding food for herself or having litter after litter of kittens AND she can be a cat! She can lay in the sun or run and play as she goes about the house. She has become a healthy girl with a beautiful full coat of hair now that nutrition can go to her body rather than to babies.

Moxie

Moxie spent her first 6 years in a puppy mill. She came into foster care near death with severe pancreatic insufficiency. She spent 1 ½ years in a foster home learning about and getting used to grass, steps, the TV, radio and people. Little did she know, she was already home. Her foster home recently adopted her and she continues to come out of her shell. Although she will never be carefree, nor trust with abandon, she has found her ability to enjoy little tidbits of life, and in the process, has given very meaningful devotion and companionship to her new family.



Casino

Casino's new family reported that he fit in right away and is one of the family. With his outgoing personality and busy nature, he is no doubt keeping them all on their toes. Casino had been with Pet Haven since his kittenhood (born 5/07), when he came to his foster home along with his sister, Treasure. She was adopted first, and finally Casino has a family to call his own!

Dodger

Dodger has been in my life for one year now, and what a fantastic year it has been. We are always on the go and having fun. Last fall he competed in the Dock Dogs National Championship (for dock jumping). Together Dodger and I help children improve their reading skills as members of the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog) program. He is also a registered therapy dog and enjoys visiting with as many people as possible. He is such a happy boy! Dodger enjoys trips to the lake and he loves our local dog friendly cafe. We are also active in the Pet Haven community as members of the Outreach Team as well as occasionally fostering dogs. I cannot express enough how happy I am that Dodger is part of my life! He is such a sweet, goofy and loving guy. Thank you Pet Haven!



Bella

Bella was adopted into a family with another former Pet Haven cat. They enjoy chasing and running around the house each evening and can be found grooming and sleeping near each other often. Bella is learning to use the scratching post since there are a few pieces of kibble on the top. When she scratches it, some fall down and she gets a treat! Bella loves her food and being in from the cold.



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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!

Pet Haven Ink

Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters

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