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# Fragile Economy Means New Homes for Some Pets

*By Kim Jaworski and Nicole Batterton*

Typically in our quarterly newsletters, we spotlight a particular cat and dog, and share with you their story. In this edition, we chose to do something a little different by sharing the spotlight and focusing it on the impact the current state of our economy is having on pet owners. In recent months, Pet Haven has had several cats and dogs returned due to economic hardship. Some owners have lost their homes while others have been unemployed or underemployed and can't afford vet care for their pet.

Because Pet Haven has a return policy, (Pet Haven will always take a cat or dog back that was adopted from us) these owners know that their pets will be well cared for, receive vet care when needed and be re-homed. But it's still a tearful process to give up a member of the family, and there can be a lot of wavering and agonizing over the decision. Other owners in similar situations are forced to surrender their pets to shelters, find friends to take them, or take an ad out on Craig's list. There are already too many cats and dogs needing homes, and economic hardship is only increasing those numbers.

The following four animals that you'll read about are now looking for new homes through no fault of their own and represent the countless others that are silent victims of this economy.

**Noah** is an easy-going brown and white tabby that likes other cats and doesn't mind dogs. He's a big fellow, but very laid back and enjoys being around you. Noah is playful, and will spend time running and chasing

with another cat. There's a small dog in his foster home that likes him, but isn't interested in playing with him, so it's likely that Noah would enjoy a dog playmate, too.



**Dirks** is an orange boy with just the sweetest disposition! He was returned to us when his adopter lost her housing and couldn't afford his vet care. He's having a few teeth removed and then will be up for adoption. In his foster home, he's a favorite with the grandkids and doesn't mind being carried from room to room by the young granddaughter. Dirks is currently co-existing peacefully with another foster feline and a small dog in the house.

**Gigi** is a senior pit bull mix with a sweet disposition that came to us on the tails of a foreclosure. She loves to snuggle on the couch and watch movies. She knows some commands, including sit, down, shake and come. Gigi's a good girl in the house and can have free roam of the house while you are gone; she just naps and waits for your return!



**Beau** is a coonhound mix that needed treatment for a skin condition after months of suffering. He's feeling better now and is quite the charmer – a sweet and gentle dog that loves people. Beau will follow you around the

*Clockwise from top: Dirks, Gigi and Noah are all looking for homes.*



*Continued on page 2*

## Furry Family Members Hit By Economy, Too

*Continued from page 1*

house, so he can always make sure he knows where you are. He likes sleeping, going for walks, watching birds and squirrels out the window, and figuring out new ways to entice his foster dad into giving belly rubs. He understands some commands such as sit and stay, as well as some hand gestures. Beau likes walks, but needs to wear a gentle leader because he gets excited when he sees other dogs or comes across an interesting smell. His perfect home



*Above: Beau is looking for a forever home.*

that will be active with him – daily walks and the occasional game of tug of war would be ideal. He has lived with children and done well with them in the past. We consider him special needs now, as his skin condition will need to be monitored and treated for flare-ups.

Maybe you have pets of your own and can't adopt right now, but maybe you know someone who could – so help us spread the word. And don't forget that even if you're not in a position to take in a furry friend, donations are the lifeblood of our organization. Any amount is appreciated and put toward caring for the cats and dogs that come into our care.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to share some resources for pet owners in tough times. Please share this information with family and

friends who might be in need of some help to be able to keep their pet. We'll be adding this information to our website as well.

Groups offering low cost spay/neuter services:

- [www.kindestcutmn.com](http://www.kindestcutmn.com)
- [www.mnsnap.org](http://www.mnsnap.org)
- [www.mnspayneuter.org](http://www.mnspayneuter.org)

A list of housing options that allows pets and food/supply distribution locations:

- [www.thepetprojectmn.org](http://www.thepetprojectmn.org)

Short-term temporary pet care:

- [www.fostermypet.org](http://www.fostermypet.org)

Animal Behavior Helpline at the Animal Humane Society:

- [www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org) (or call 763-489-2202)

Other needs:

- Low cost pet supplies and equipment such as beds, leashes, collars, dishes, kennels, toys and more can often be found at area thrift stores, Savers stores, or Goodwill locations. Also check for postings on the Twin Cities Free Market website at [www.twincitiesfreemarket.org](http://www.twincitiesfreemarket.org)
- The following Humane Society page lists groups and organizations that offer financial assistance to pet owners in difficult times: [www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble\\_affording\\_pet.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble_affording_pet.html) Qualifications vary by group, so please visit individual websites for details.

## Summer Fun: St. Louis Parktacular & Pride Fest

Pet Haven represented our dogs and cats at two fun summer events this year – St. Louis Parktacular and Pride Fest. Unfortunately, heavy rains deterred the Parktacular crowds this year, but our second year at Pride Fest was a huge success! Outreach volunteers did an outstanding job of engaging the thousands of festival-goers, and providing information to those interested in adoption and volunteering.

## Thank You to Linden Hills Co-Op!



In honor of Woofstock, Linden Hills Co-Op donated one percent of all of its sales on September 10th to Pet Haven. On behalf of our cats and dogs, thank you!

# Letter from the President

By Karen Scott

Greetings!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Pet Haven kept busy, attending St. Louis Parktacular and Twin Cities Pride Fest where we were able to visit with hundreds of friends and supporters. Thanks to everyone who stopped by! There's more to come, including Woofstock in Linden Hills where we'll join other rescues and dog-friendly businesses for a great outdoor event. Also, MnPAW's (Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare) second annual super adoption will take place October 1st at the State Fairgrounds. The aptly named Great Minnesota Pet Together is a wonderful opportunity for Pet Haven to join its MnPaw partners and other rescues for a huge adoption event where several organizations will work together to find

homes for hundreds of cats and dogs.

Speaking of adoptions, Pet Haven has adopted out 117 cats and dogs so far this year. We're thrilled to help so many animals, but also feel the challenges that all of us face during tough economic times. Economic challenges mean fewer people are able to welcome pets into their homes. We've also had several past adopters make the difficult decision to surrender their animal back to Pet Haven. We welcome these animals back, holding true to our "once a Pet Haven animal, always a Pet Haven animal" motto. As an all-volunteer, foster-based rescue, however, this affects the number of other animals we can bring into Pet Haven. I have to say a special thank you to our dog and cat fosters who have done a tremendous job opening their homes

to reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter efforts. Years ago, Pet Haven received a generous donation to use as seed money for spaying and neutering animals outside of our adoption program. As a result, we've developed a yearly grant program for other organizations to assist with their spay/neuter efforts. Last year, our grants were used by seven organizations to alter 302 animals! We're currently reviewing grant applications and will be awarding grants in the coming weeks.

Finally, volunteers are hard at work planning for our 5th annual Fall Benefit! Tickets are now on sale for our premier fundraising event that includes dinner, a silent auction, and a dog and cat fashion show featuring both our adoptable animals and alums. I hope you'll join us on October 29th for a fun-filled evening to help homeless cats and dogs.

to these animals in need – we couldn't do it without you!

Of course, there's more to Pet Haven than its adoption program – part of our mission is

to help homeless cats and dogs. Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Best,

Karen Scott

President, Pet Haven Inc. of MN

**PET HAVEN FALL BENEFIT**  
Hotel Sofitel • 5601 West 78th Street • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439

**OCTOBER 29th**  
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Celebrity & Pet Fashion Show**  
**Dinner & Silent Auction**

Event Sponsor

**Chuck & Don's**  
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"In honor of Tula!" Donation from Alicia Logan & Ryan Burns

RUNWAY SPONSOR: Lulu & Luigi

MEDIA SPONSORS: Wax Marketing & HerLife Magazine

All donations, regardless of amount, help off-set event expenses. This allows Pet Haven, Inc. of Minnesota to dedicate its time and resources towards carrying out its mission.

## Tickets on Sale for 5th Annual Fall Benefit

By Claire Sychowski

Fall is in the air, which means our 5th Fall Benefit is just around the corner, and we can't wait! Join us on Saturday, October 29th at the Hotel Sofitel in Bloomington for our largest fundraiser of the year. The evening will be kicked off with a silent auction, followed by dinner, and a dog and cat fashion show that will feature several of our adoptable dogs and cats, as well as a few of our alums. Accompanied by local celebrities down the runway, the animals will model the latest attire and accessories from Lulu and Luigi, a local French-inspired pet boutique, in hopes of impressing their potential future families. Tickets are on sale, and include single and group options. All proceeds from our fun-filled fundraiser go toward supporting Pet Haven's mission.

## Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

*By Mary Ann Cameron and Karen Scott*

### Shadow

Shadow came to us from another shelter where she was surrendered more than a year ago; however, when she didn't do well, her original owner (who has multiple cats) took her back. But earlier this year, she was surrendered to the shelter again. Shadow found crowded shelter life very stressful as she likely became a "victim cat" – a cat that doesn't stand up for itself against a bully cat that will chase other cats until they scream. Though timid, Pet Haven agreed to take

her and moved into a foster home with two other cats, neither of which is a bully. Shadow is slowly trying to make friends with them. She follows them around and tries to groom them when they're in a place where she can be beside them. She's still a little shy in new situations and around people who she doesn't know, but once she gets used to her surroundings, she's definitely people-friendly.

Shadow's a busy young lady, approximately three to four years of age. The highlight of her day is playing with laser light or fishing pole toys with you. When Shadow was afraid of the other cats in her home, she ate and then hid a lot of the time. Now, she eats well and has already lost more than a pound (measuring her food is part of Shadow's weight-loss plan)! Shadow's beginning to show her personality and joy for living. She purrs very easily and is slowly becoming a bit of a lap girl in her foster home – and she knows all about sleeping on the bed with you!

If you would like meet sweet Shadow – or any of our other adoptable cats or dogs – visit [www.pethavenmn.org](http://www.pethavenmn.org) and submit a completed adoption application. One of our volunteers will get back to you promptly!



*Above: Shadow is slowly adjusting to her new circumstances- wouldn't you like to be a part of that new life?*

*Right: Russell has been in foster care longer than any other Pet Haven dog. Can you help him find a forever home?*

### Russell

Russell has been in Pet Haven's dog foster program for a little more than two years, holding the distinction among the current dogs in our program for the longest stay in foster care. Although he has been in a wonderful foster home, it's about time for him to find his forever home! We think one reason for his lengthy stay in program is because, really, he's more like a cat – he enjoys napping, an occasional pet or snuggle and an afternoon on the deck watching the world go by. He's not really into tricks or playing fetch, preferring a short walk every now and then, and plenty of time for just hanging out. Russell is about 10-years-old, and completely housebroken and crate trained. He'd do best in a home with a fenced yard and without other dogs or cats that can steal his thunder. So, if you're not sure if you want a cat or a dog, Russell is just the guy for you!



### Charlie

On the other hand, if a younger, energetic dog is more your style, check out Charlie! Charlie just turned 3-years-old and is looking for humans who can keep up with him! He loves exploring a fenced yard where he can chase squirrels and relax in the sun, as well as going for long walks. Charlie also enjoys cuddling on the couch and is very good at receiving belly rubs. He had a rough go of it so far, living in three different homes and not getting a lot of attention. He never got the training he needed to be the perfect dog – but he's getting there!

*Continued on page 5*

# Paw Tawk

By Maggie and Becky Sheldon



Hi, it's Maggie and momma. Momma loves these cooler days; it gives her lots of energy! She thinks it does the same for us cats, too. She says I have been extra crabby lately and spending a lot of time keeping everyone in line – which does take a lot of energy for an old cat! Momma has been busy shopping a lot lately too, and it's not for me! I don't quite get it, but she says she is buying items to include in silent auction baskets for Pet Haven's Fall Benefit on October 29th. I guess it's a way to make money, so that Pet Haven can help more cats and dogs – a fabulous idea as far as I'm concerned! Maybe you didn't

know, but I was once homeless. I was found wandering the streets and was picked up by the pound. I was one of the lucky ones as Pet Haven took me. Being a senior lady I came here to live with momma and those other cats at the "Red Tabby Rest Home." So, if this will help other pets I say: momma, shop 'til you drop!

Maggie's momma says you can help, too, by donating items or gift cards to Pet Haven that can be used for the silent auction – contact Marilou Chanrasmi at [marilou@pethavenmn.org](mailto:marilou@pethavenmn.org) if you'd like to contribute!



*Maggie oversaw the writing of this issue's article.*

## Adoptable Animals

*Continued from page 5*

Charlie's a model student and knows most basic commands (he will always sit for a treat or food!). He's learning to walk nicely on a leash and continues to make progress – in fact, whoever adopts Charlie will receive a free one-on-one leash pulling session with our friends at Canine Coach to help continue his training. He's crate trained and housebroken, and would enjoy a home with energetic people, including older children who could help with training him. He might even like another dog to play with; however, younger kids (under the age of 12) and cats probably aren't a good fit for Charlie's energetic nature. Help us give Charlie his fourth and final home!

If you would like meet Russell or Charlie – or any of our other adoptable cats or dogs – visit [www.pethavenmn.org](http://www.pethavenmn.org) and submit a completed adoption application. One of our volunteers will get back to you promptly!



*Charlie's hoping that his fourth home will be his final home!*



*Thanks to*

**THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUILD**  
We Photograph Minnesota

*for raising \$610 for homeless dogs & cats!*



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Kristen Cici**

Board of Directors

**How long have you been a Pet Haven volunteer?**

I first started with Pet Haven as a foster and have been on the Board of Directors since October 2006.

**What kinds of volunteer work have you done for Pet Haven?**

I spent my first year on the Board working in fundraising and development, which is how the first Pet Haven Fall Benefit (originally called Tuxes and Tails) came about. Since then, I've helped with a variety of organizational projects, as well as served as the Board's secretary.

**What do you like most about being a Pet Haven volunteer?**

I love helping the animals. It's amazing how many animals we've taken in and helped find forever homes for over the years. I also love knowing that I'm helping to make a difference in reducing cat and dog overpopulation.

**What is your favorite Pet Haven memory?**

It's hard to pick just one! I'd have to say meeting and getting to know Marilou Chanrasmi, our former president. We started volunteering with Pet Haven around the same time, and she's one of the most amazing people I've met. Many of us give our time to a cause we care deeply about, but Marilou has really taken our mission to a whole different level. She gives freely with her time and effort, and is one of the biggest reasons our organization has gotten to where we are today.

**Do you have any pets of your own?**

I have two miniature Schnauzers, Lola and Josie.

**What is a fun, non-Pet Haven fact about you?**

I own three businesses: Deckci Decor, The Advancement Company and The Woof Room.

**Lindsey Lee**

Fall Benefit Coordinator

**How long have you been a Pet Haven volunteer?**

This is my 4th year!

**What kinds of volunteer work have you done for Pet Haven?**

I serve as the Fall Benefit Coordinator, as well as a dog foster.

**What do you like most about being a Pet Haven volunteer?**

Having the opportunity to help animals in need and get involved in our community.

**What is your favorite Pet Haven memory?**

The day each of my beloved foster dogs found their new homes. It's always so bittersweet because I hate to let them go, but I always feel so great knowing that I helped them find a wonderful new home where they'll live the rest of their lives happy and loved.

**Do you have any pets of your own?**

Not yet! I'm happy being a foster mom for now.

**What is a fun, non-Pet Haven fact about you?**

I recently started HERLIFE, a new women's magazine here in the Twin Cities.

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## About Pet Haven

Pet Haven, Inc. of Minnesota was founded in 1952 and is a charitable non-profit organization. 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. Your donations to Pet Haven are tax-exempt.

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!

## Happy Tails

Smokey – a fan favorite from the 2008 Fall Benefit fashion show – was recently adopted! He and her feline sibling, Pet Haven alum Rosie, love to play chase, watch the birds and squirrels out in the yard, and nap on opposite chairs in the breakfast nook. They're also pretty good travelers and love to go up to the family's lake home, which provides endless opportunities for hunting mice and insects, as well as watching hummingbirds (an endless source of fascination!). They're a great balance for each other as Smokey has never gotten on the kitchen counters or dining room table while Rosie has been on every surface in the house, including the stove and narrow bathtub rim – while the tub was full of water! Smokey's new family says they're both a great addition to our household and appreciate the great care they received from Pet Haven before they came into their lives.



Jenga came to Pet Haven from a hoarder situation. She was malnourished, shy and partially hairless from fleas. The fur on her feet was stained yellow from urine. In her young life, Jenga had only known hunger and neglect, yet she found it within her to trust us as we bathed and fed her, treated her for fleas and other parasites, and showered her with attention and affection. During her time in a Pet Haven foster home, we also discovered that Jenga was also deaf, which makes her story even more incredible.

Once recovered, Jenga was quickly adopted, and we recently learned that she loves her new home! Jenga has not only settled in comfortably, but also has had a calming effect on her feline sibling that used to suffer from anxiety when left alone (in the form of scratching her own face and licking the fur off of her arms). Jenga's companionship and cuddling has reduced her anxiety, and they enjoy playing together as well. She has become quite the cuddler, always joining her adoptive mom on the couch and in the bed most nights. Jenga also likes to lay on her mom's warm laptop while she works, and she seems to be quite fascinated by her own reflection, sitting and staring at herself in mirrors or the glass shower door. We can't imagine a happier ending for a very deserving kitty!

## Working Together on Spay/Neuter

By *Kim Jaworski*

Every cat and dog adopted through Pet Haven is spayed or neutered prior to adoption – doing so is a measure that we've always been deeply committed to. To help combat the overpopulation issue, Pet Haven offers grants to other non-profit groups in an attempt to expand spay/neuter efforts. Some of these groups handle surrendered animals while some help communities get control of feral cat populations. Others work to reduce the number of unwanted litters among large breed dogs or offer low-income pet owners the assistance that they need. In 2010, Pet Haven awarded \$15,300 dollars to seven groups whose combined efforts totaled 302 spays and

neuters (cats, dogs and even one bunny)! There's no end to the creativity and ingenuity that contributes to the program's success. In an effort to reach large dog owners (large dog spay surgery is the most costly of the spay surgeries), one group posted spay/neuter assistance flyers on trash cans along bike trails and walking paths where dog owners throw their doo-doo bags, as well as at Laundromats where dog owners come to wash oversized dog beds that don't fit in conventional machines – their efforts resulted in three times the amount of large breed dog spay/neuters than in past years!

Other groups have sponsored "Spay-ghetti" dinners to fundraise and educate their communities while another launched a Facebook campaign called "Beat the Heat" geared toward encouraging pet owners to spay/neuter early in the spring to beat the first heat cycle of the breeding season.

For the 2011 grant cycle, we have 15 groups seeking funds. The grant committee is currently reviewing the applications and will award funds at our Fall Benefit in October. In the meantime – or at any time – monetary donations to Pet Haven can be designated to spay/neuter efforts.



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## Board of Directors

President	Karen Scott
Vice-President	Cynthia Farrell
Treasurer	Debbi Larson
Cat Adoption Director	Mary Ann Cameron
Dog Adoption Director	Nicole Batterton
Communications Director	Claire Sychowski
Director	Kristen Cici
Director	Marilou Chanrasmi
Director	Eldora Anderson

## Pet Haven Ink

### *Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters*

Articles:	Nicole Batterton, Mary Ann Cameron, Kim Jaworski, Karen Scott, Becky Sheldon, Claire Sychowski
Newsletter Editor:	Claire Sychowski
Newsletter Layout/Design:	Elissa Lindberg



**Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW)**  
will hold their 2nd annual super adoption event  
and we hope to see you all there!

**WHAT:** The Great Minnesota Pet Together

**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011

**TIME:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m (rain or shine)

**WHERE:** Minnesota State Fairgrounds, International Bazaar

Hundreds of adoptable dogs, puppies, cats and kittens  
present from many rescue groups and humane societies.

Pet Haven is one of the founding members of MnPAW, a coalition  
of groups who believe that by joining forces to use its ideas, expertise  
and resources in a coordinated way it can make a greater impact  
on reducing euthanasia of adoptable animals.