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Pet Haven Says Good-Bye to its “Website Dog”

By Claire Sychowski (letter from Nancy O’Sullivan)

When Pet Haven first developed its website, the designer sent ideas for a masthead, including the logo that’s used today. While we liked that one best, we didn’t like any of the original dog photos that were suggested – the dogs in the stock photos looked too perfect; we wanted to find a picture of a “real” dog. We looked through photos of dogs that had been adopted from Pet Haven, and Jesse’s photo stood out immediately – her sweet expression was what they were looking for. Everyone involved agreed with the choice, and our website banner was set to go.

Sadly, at 15-years-old, our beloved “website dog” has passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Following is a letter Pet Haven received from her foster family in September ...

Goodbye, Sweet Love ...

That photo of the sweet little brown girl with the red, white and blue collar that’s graced the top of your wonderful website for several years has broken our hearts by leaving us to meet her pals at the Rainbow Bridge. We’re so sad, and our hearts are heavy, for as you know, it’s always difficult saying good-bye to a huge source of happiness in one’s life. The countless stories about Jess, the affectionate names she answered to, the laughs she provided us with, and the love and loyal devotion she showed to our furry and human family would certainly fill a book. She was a glorious, delightful companion, and we’re devastated to let her go.

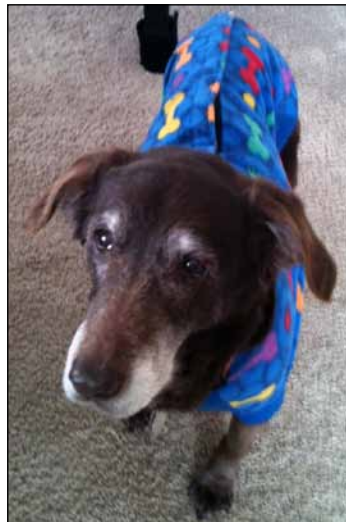
Two stories I can share ... the first is regarding the promise I made to her when she came to live

with us in 1997. The Terrier in her piqued her interest in hunting for small critters, albeit with a soft mouth, and she’d often bring snakes and frogs indoors. It was quite a sight to see her standing in front of me one day with frog legs extending out of her mouth! She was a gentle soul and always released her catch safely ... just a game, you see. She made us laugh nonstop that first summer, and we vowed to enjoy each and every summer as we grew old together ... and we did.

We fell in love with her over and over. The second story involves the many summer and fall evenings that were spent sitting on the porch swing after dark with our Jessie on one side and our Springer, Emilee, on the other side (these two were known as our “book ends”). We’d sit and swing for hours and hours, staring into the corn field in front of us, listening for those favorite sounds of pheasants, coyotes, fox, frogs and crickets. When the weather turned cooler in the fall, we curled up in a quilt and sat under the stars.

I tell you, with all of our rescues over the years, this is one of the toughest good-byes. Our true and loyal friend has crossed the Bridge to once again see Willie, Daisy, Freckles, Shadow, Barty, Ruby, Muffin and Bandit. See you again someday, little girl! We love you, forever and a day.

Nancy and Tom O’Sullivan (and Emilee, Ringo and Rufus)



Right: Jesse has passed on, but her memory will remain in the hearts of her family and as a symbol of Pet Haven

Author’s Note: Pet Haven recently learned that Emilee, the O’Sullivan’s Spaniel, joined Jesse at the Rainbow Bridge as well. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time, but we have no doubt that Jesse and Emilee are looking down on them!

Fall Benefit: An Evening of Fun and Fur!

By Claire Sychowski

On October 29th, members and supporters of Pet Haven once again came together on behalf of the millions of homeless and neglected dogs and cats in the United States to make a difference in their lives. Our fifth annual Pet Haven Fall Benefit proved to be our most fabulous yet, raising slightly more than \$25,000 to help the plight of these animals and find them their forever homes.

Held at the Hotel Sofitel in Bloomington for a second year, the night entailed a silent auction and dinner, a Fund The Need presentation that educated the audience about Pet Haven's work with Leech Lake Reservation, and a fashion show that showcased several of

our adoptable dogs and cats, along with a few of our alums. More than 200 guests watched as 15 dogs and cats modeled the latest attire and accessories from Lulu and Luigi, a local French-inspired pet boutique, while being escorted down the runway by local celebrities.

This year's emcees, Chris Reuvers and Colleen Kruse from MyTalk 107.1, kept the show moving and laughs coming.

Pet Haven would like to thank all of the volunteers who came together to make the night such a huge success. We'd also like to thank our sponsors and guests for their commitment and support, and hope to see you all again next year!



Right: Minnesota Vikings Cheerleader Peyton poses with Captain at the fifth annual Pet Haven Fall Benefit

Paw Tawk

By Maggie and Becky Sheldon

Hi, everyone! It's Maggie, along with momma. Momma had to put Amber to sleep a couple of months ago, as she was very sick. Momma felt so sad, but knew it was best for her. That left only me and Big Red, plus a foster or two. I figured when the foster residents got adopted, I'd be able to relax some, as I wouldn't have so many to keep in line. Well, wouldn't you know it, momma adopted Spencer, a stray that lived in the backyard all of last year. Momma says he has trust issues and isn't very adoptable. She thought a long time about adopting him before she went ahead with doing so, as Spencer is only a couple of years old, and momma has reached that "certain age" (she now checks the "age 65-70" box) and doesn't think it's too wise to adopt a younger cat.

But she did it anyway and told Spencer that it was until "death do us part." Momma says there are

several factors to consider though when you're her age and thinking about adopting a younger cat or dog. First, you should ask yourself how old you'll be if the cat or dog lives to be 20 – a very sobering thought! Another consideration to mull over is that your lifestyle could change and you might have to live somewhere that doesn't allow pets – if that should happen, do you have family that's willing to take over the care of your pet? But Momma said in her opinion, the most important factor to think about is your energy level – do you have the energy it takes to keep up with a young fur kid? Are you up for making mad dashes through the house when your kitten decides to scale the curtains or potty training your puppy? So much to think about!

As a cat of a "certain age," I, Maggie, rest my case for adoption of mature cats and dogs. We still have spells of playfulness, but we're pretty content with just being loved, adored and petted!



Maggie oversaw the writing of this issue's article



Letter from the President

By *Karen Scott*

Happy Holidays!

2011 was a very eventful and busy year for Pet Haven! We participated in dozens of adoption and outreach events, welcomed several new volunteers, and worked hard to further our mission of rescuing and re-homing animals, spaying and neutering, providing outreach and education, and advocating on behalf of companion animals.

Like many folks, Pet Haven has been affected by the economic challenges of the past year. Adoptions are down, yet the number of animals needing homes continues to rise. I'm very proud that Pet Haven has helped find homes for 163 dogs and cats this year. We currently have 49 dogs and cats in foster homes. In 2011, our foster volunteers opened their homes to many senior animals (including two senior dogs with such severe health issues that they'll simply live out their lives in "hospice care" in loving and generous Pet Haven foster homes), as well as to dogs and cats suffering from long-term medical conditions. Understandably, in this down economy there are fewer families looking, and who can afford, to bring pets into their homes. This means our foster animals are spending more time in foster homes waiting to be adopted. Our foster volunteers, as well as all of the

volunteers who work with our dog and cat divisions, have really gone above and beyond this year to help these animals in need. Thanks to all of you!

Despite the tough economy, Pet Haven had a very successful Fall Benefit at the end of October. Volunteers worked hard for months to pull off a great night, and our Fall Benefit Committee deserves a lot of kudos for everything they did! As our largest annual fundraising event, we were thrilled to raise just more than \$25,000, including \$2,500 that was collected following the Fund the Need presentation. As a result, Pet Haven will be funding a full weekend spay/neuter clinic in Leech Lake in March. To our sponsors, celebrity participants (including our four-legged celebrities that walked the fashion show!), silent auction donors, volunteers and guests – thank you! We're already looking forward to our 6th annual Fall Benefit in 2012!

As 2011 comes to a close and you make your year-end charitable donations, please

consider Pet Haven. Your donations make it possible for us to properly care for all of the animals in our foster program, and provide needed spay/neuter assistance to other organizations and low-income pet owners. We simply can't do this without your financial support. It's very easy to donate via our new website – visit www.pethavenmn.org, and click the green Donate button. As an all-volunteer organization, your donations go directly to helping the animals and are 100 percent tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and wish you all a healthy, happy 2012!

Best,

Karen Scott

President, Pet Haven Inc. of MN

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!

 **Thank you to everyone who donated to Pet Haven on November 16th during**
give
TO THE MAX
day

The \$5,200 in donations to Pet Haven are part of a larger effort to promote charitable giving on Razoo. Pet Haven was part of a day where so many wonderful charities received over \$13 million in donations!

Thanks for your support!



Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

By Lindsay Thompson and Kim Jaworski

Buddy

Meet Buddy, a four-year-old and very eager-to-please Lab! Buddy is the perfect dog for anyone who enjoys receiving a warm, cheerful greeting upon coming home. His enthusiastic personality is sure to put a smile on his human's face, even after the most grueling day of work. Buddy loves being outside, but when it's time to go inside, he quickly settles down, eager to be petted and scratched by the whole family.

Buddy is a quick learner and has mastered several commands, including sit, stay, down, shake and no. The only time that you'll see him on the couch is when he's been invited. You'll also never have to guard your plates, as he doesn't try to steal human food. Buddy's only vice seems to be car rides. He loves riding in cars and gets easily distracted if someone is getting into or out of a car, wanting to make sure he isn't missing out on anything exciting.

Buddy can't wait to find his forever family! If you would like meet him – or any of our other adoptable cats or dogs – visit www.pethavenmn.org and submit a completed adoption application. One of our volunteers will get back to you promptly!

Momma Kitties

Every season, Pet Haven takes in kittens. Some are orphaned and sometimes the intake includes a momma kitty. These mommas care for their litter despite their own malnourished condition and adjust to life in a foster home. Once the kittens are weaned, momma is scheduled for her spay surgery, and her life, post-litter, begins. Our momma kitties from this summer are Anna, Anja and Candace. Their kittens have been finding homes, but these wonderful ladies are still waiting for theirs.

Before being taken into Pet Haven, Candace was trying to rear her small litter behind a garage, exposed to the elements; Anna delivered her batch in a shed that was slated for demolition; and Anja delivered five squalling kittens her first night in animal control's custody. All three mommas are looking lovely and thriving now thanks to some good nutrition and loving care in their foster homes. They've known life on the streets and are now looking for their chance to be part of a household with love to give. If you or someone you know is considering adoption, please take a look at these momma kitties!

Candy is quite the lap cat extraordinaire. She enjoys her toys and watching out the window, but keeps a close eye on you to see when you are ready to sit down, so she can be right there! Candy gets along well with elementary-aged school children and would enjoy having a dog in her life, if you have one that likes cats.

Anna is a quieter girl around most people, but enjoys her foster family a lot. She and the resident cat love to play and also vie for the top of the cat climber. Anna loves her toys and being on the go!

Anja is a willowy girl that has lots of energy to spare. She's discovered her playful side, and loves to play and romp through the house both by herself and with another cat buddy. Anja gives "love bites" when she's eager for attention, so she's looking for a forever home with adults who'll recognize her signals and help her cope when she is over eager.

If you would like meet any of these ladies – or any of our other adoptable cats or dogs – visit www.pethavenmn.org and submit a completed adoption application. One of our volunteers will get back to you promptly!



Above: Buddy is waiting to meet you!



Anja (above), Candy (above right) and Anna (below) are hoping to find homes now that their kittens are grown



Cooperative Partnerships: MnPAW and Leech Lake Reservation

By *Marilou Chanrasmi*

Pet Haven is a founding member of Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare (MnPAW), a coalition of animal welfare organizations that believe by joining forces to share ideas, expertise and resources in a coordinated way, it can make a greater impact on reducing euthanasia of adoptable animals in Minnesota.

In early May, MnPAW began partnering with a grassroots effort, Leech Lake Legacy (leechlakelegacy.blogspot.com), to save dogs on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, located three hours north of the Twin Cities.

About a year ago, a woman named Lisa learned of a dire situation on the Reservation. The animal control officer spends his days picking up unwanted dogs from the 1,000-square-mile Reservation and brings them into the impound where the animals are placed into rusty, dark kennels. The problem? The lone impound facility only holds 10 dogs.

As a result, when dog #11 was brought to the impound, the dog that had been at the impound the longest was taken out back and shot. The Leech Lake community doesn't have the means or resources to humanely euthanize the

animals, so when the kennels were full, there was nowhere else for these animals to go. This, unfortunately, is one of the harsh realities and challenges of pet overpopulation.

Thanks to Lisa who brought attention to this issue, since early May, 175 dogs have been transported off the Leech Lake Reservation and given a second chance. Some have been placed in foster-based rescues, and some have been taken in by various MnPAW members, including Animal Allies in Duluth and the Animal Humane Society (AHS) in Golden Valley. Through this focused and collaborative effort, an average of 10 dogs is being transported every week from Leech Lake to the Twin Cities.

There's a lot of learning taking place as groups, individuals and local businesses rally around helping the animals on the Reservation. At our recent Fall Benefit, Pet Haven raised enough donations to fund a two-day spay/neuter clinic at Leech Lake Reservation. The clinic will provide free spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, microchips and IDs to the dogs and cats of the residents of the Reservation. The clinic is scheduled for March 23-24th, 2012 and will be held in collaboration with Kindest Cut

(a spay/neuter mobile unit providing low-cost, high volume spay/neuter surgeries), Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project, Leech Lake Legacy, the animal control officer and tribal police of Leech Lake Reservation, and AHS.

As a member of MnPAW, Pet Haven believes that by working together, we can save more lives and have a larger impact on pet overpopulation. As a foster-based rescue, we're limited on how many dogs and cats we're able to help. By partnering, collaborating and leveraging our respective strengths, we're able to give more animals the second chance they deserve.

Since MnPAW and Leech Lake Legacy began collaborating in early May, not a single dog from the impound has been shot. Pet Haven, through MnPAW, will continue to take an active role in creating a new model for collaborative partnerships to help communities in need. MnPAW's hope is to then replicate this model in other areas/communities in need.

To learn more about our efforts up at Leech Lake Reservation or how to get involved and help, please email Marilou Chanrasmi at marilou.mnpaw@gmail.com or visit www.mnpaw.org.

Holiday Happenings

By *Claire Sychowski and Lisa Jaster*

The holidays are a busy time for everyone, but it's been an especially busy time for Lisa Jaster, owner of *lmj* and Pet Haven Board member! *lmj* recently took part in two fundraisers and found a way to support Pet Haven at the same time.

In November, *lmj* photography spent a Saturday at The Nerdery, an interactive production shop located in Bloomington, photographing family portraits and turned it into a

fundraiser for Pet Haven. Instead of paying a sitting fee, families were asked to make a donation to Pet Haven. The Nerdery matched the donations dollar for dollar. At the end of the day, \$950 was raised to help Pet Haven dogs and cats! Furthermore, and much to Lisa's pleasant surprise, over the course of the day, not one, but two Pet Haven alums showed up with their families!

In early December, Women Venture held their first annual winter appreciation day

for their clients and extended an invite to Pet Haven to join (*lmj* had worked with Women Ventures previously, and Pet Haven now holds a special place in their hearts). Of course we took advantage of this great opportunity, setting up a booth to sell our hand-dipped dog biscuits, fleece blankets and famous catnip strawberries. It was a great event overall, and we appreciated the chance to generate awareness about Pet Haven and our mission.

Volunteer Spotlight

CLAIRE SYCHOWSKI

Board of Directors , Communications Director

How long have you been a Pet Haven volunteer?

Since January 2008. I went to the volunteer fair at the Mall of America in search of animal-related volunteer opportunities, and Pet Haven's booth was the last one I came across.

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

When Marilou learned that I have a background in public relations, she recruited me for the Fall Benefit committee to assist with outreach/media relations (I also fell into the role of fashion show coordinator). In addition, I became a board member and Pet Haven's official communications director in 2010. I also took over the role of newsletter editor for Pet Haven Ink at the beginning of 2011.

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

In addition to being able to help so many animals, I'd have to say having the opportunity to meet so many inspirational and passionate people. Some of these folks have impacted my life in ways I'll never forget, and I cherish the friendships that have formed.

What is your favorite Pet Haven memory?

There are way too many to choose from after four years! A recent one would be walking in this year's Fall Benefit fashion show. I'm not a huge fan of being in the spotlight, but after coordinating the show from behind-the-scenes for so many years, it was fun to experience it from a different perspective.

Do you have any pets of your own?

I have a one-year-old Sheltie, Nala, that I adopted from the MN Sheltie Rescue at seven-weeks old and a six-year-old tortoise shell cat, Cleo. The two of them are best buds.

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

My life-long goal was to be a vet. In 2005, I decided to enroll in a vet tech program. While I don't currently practice, I still enjoy learning

about animal behavior and diseases, so do a lot of "light" reading on those subjects when time allows.

JOSH ANDERSON

Pod Coordinator (Dog Division)

How long have you been a Pet Haven volunteer?

Andrea and I started volunteering less than a year ago. We were looking for a second dog when we read about fostering and decided to go that route because we liked the idea of being able to give more than one dog a good home

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

I started as a foster, taking in one or two dogs at a time, and then decided that I'd like to take on a more active role in Pet Haven, which is how I came to be the Pod 2 Coordinator.

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

I enjoy all of the wagging tails that have been at my house, seeing how the dogs develop in the time I have with them and knowing the dogs go to quality homes. I find it most rewarding when people come up to me while I'm out with my foster dog and tell me it's the best behaved dog they've seen

What is your favorite Pet Haven memory?

I can't say that one memory stands out the most. I could adopt every dog I get and keep all of the dogs as good memories.

Do you have any pets of your own?

I have a Pit/Whippet mix. We picked her up from a shelter in southern California when I was stationed there with the military. We also have a 55-gallon fish tank that we're filling.

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

I enjoy learning new hobbies. Currently, I'm trying to learn how to make knives the old fashion way. I have a forge and anvil, but working the metal is taking longer than I anticipated. My last endeavor was making English long bows and the string for them.

Happy Tail: Quincy

By Karen Grossman

Hi! My name is Quincy, and I'm a Bichon-Poodle mix. I think my mom was a white Bichon, and my dad was a golden Poodle. I have my mom's white color and dad's curly fur. I weigh about 20 pounds and just turned two-years-old. My brother and BFF is Barney. He has my dad's golden color with white feet, as well as his thick, curly fur, and is about five pounds bigger than me.

Barney and I grew up together, playing most of the time and learning to be strong, good dogs. In the spring of 2011, the family we were living with couldn't keep us any longer and had to send us to a place called Red Lake Rosie's Rescue. That's when our lives began to change.

At first we were very nervous at Rosie's, and I was especially scared. But the gentle humans at Rosie's were so good and kind to us that I was able to relax. They gave us baths, treated us for ticks and gave us haircuts. I had to take medicine for something called Lyme's disease, but Barney didn't. We still had each other, so we were pretty happy then, thinking we'd found a great new home together. But we couldn't stay for long at Rosie's because there were so many other dogs that needed help like we did, and she has only so much room. So we had to move again.

After a few days at Rosie's, Barney and I were separated for the first time in our lives. That was a terribly sad time because Barney had been by my side all of my life. I felt lost and so alone without him. I was transported to the Twin Cities to go into a foster home with Pet Haven, but I didn't know where Barney went.

When I got to my next home, there was a wonderful lady named Leslie who

lived there with her dog, a Rat Terrier. Leslie was a lot of fun, laughed a ton and was very good to me. I enjoyed her dog, too. But I soon found out that I'd only be at Leslie's for a little while because it was her job to find me a foster home. Eventually, Leslie found a foster mom named Mary for me, and my life changed again. I moved in with her and her dog, a Spaniel. Mary was so gentle and kind to me. She cooked carrots for me (which I still love) and let me sleep



Quincy and Barney came to Pet Haven from Red Lake Rosie's, and from there they found their forever home

on her bed when I wanted to. I got along with her dog, too. I was happy to be with her, but I worried about Barney and missed him so much that I was still kind of sad and nervous. Then everything changed one more time.

Mary and Leslie took me to see a lady named Karen who'd been sad and lonely, too, after losing both of her beloved

Westies to old age and cancer within the last six months. Karen seemed to like me a lot even though I was very shy and anxious. They talked about how sweet and cute I was, and I thought I heard Barney's name, but I couldn't really understand most of what they said.

Leslie and Mary must have decided that Karen should be my new forever mom because within a few days, I begin living with. Then, about three days later, the most wonderful change of all of the changes in my life took place – Barney came back! I couldn't believe my eyes at first. We looked at each other, smelled each other and started to jump on each other, running and playing together out of pure joy. Barney had been taken in by a different rescue and had a great foster mom, Crystal, who had taken very good care of him. She was very sad to leave him with us, but she knew Barney would be happy in his new forever home as long as I was there with him.

Barney and I have been in our new home since early summer. We're always together, and play our games of chase and catch just like we used to. We love to run after a stick thrown by Karen or her sister, Kathy, who visits a lot. Barney is faster than me, so he usually gets it first, but then I grab it from him and run the other way, so he has to chase me. When we meet new people, I'm still a little shy, but my confidence continues to grow every day now that I'm together again with my BFF.

I have asked our forever mom, Karen, to tell our story because we're so grateful to the wonderful humans at Rosie's and Pet Haven that took such good care of us, and helped Barney and me to be reunited – this time, forever!



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Pet Haven Ink

Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters

Articles:	Marilou Chanrasmi, Karen Grossman, Lisa Jaster, Kim Jaworski, Karen Scott, Becky Sheldon, Claire Sychowski, and Lindsay Thompson
Newsletter Editor:	Claire Sychowski
Newsletter Layout/Design:	Elissa Lindberg

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS and to all who attended PET HAVEN'S FALL BENEFIT

Thank you for your support of Pet Haven's fifth annual Fall Benefit fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed the evening's events. Proceeds from the Fall Benefit support Pet Haven's adoption, spay/neuter, education and advocacy programs for companion animals. We cannot thank you enough. Without your time, energy, and support, we simply would not exist.