

April 2011
Spring Edition

The Paws

Newsletter for the Paws Animal Rescue



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Celebrating 32 Years & a New Name

By Lindy Geraets

Homeless cats and dogs in this area have been saved by our no-kill organization for 32 years. Thanks to many dedicated people along the way, a couple thousand animals have been rescued and adopted into loving homes!

The shelter began by rescuing dogs and housing them at an old water treatment plant in Pierre. The dogs were then moved into foster homes. A few years later the shelter contracted with a private boarding facility to house both dogs and cats. After working with a couple private facilities, the shelter rented its current space downtown about 9 years ago. The downtown location houses cats only and the dogs remain in foster care with loving families. The dogs are showcased at the downtown facility the third Saturday of every month at the Meet & Greet. Currently the organization is raising money to build a permanent facility for both cats and dogs. We all hope a permanent building is coming soon.

For years the shelter was called the Pierre-Ft Pierre Area Humane Society. Many people thought we were directly associated with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). They assumed donations to HSUS would be given to their local shelter. That, in fact, is not the case. The Pierre-Ft Pierre Area Humane Society is not associated with any national organizations and is also not monetarily supported by Hughes or Stanley Counties or the cities of Pierre or Ft Pierre.

In February 2011 the Board of Directors asked its membership for suggestions for a new name for the shelter. In March 2011, the general membership voted for the new name, Paws Animal Rescue.

As we celebrate 32 years of saving animals, we are also celebrating our new name. As part of our celebration we are asking each of you to donate \$32 during the month of April to commemorate each year we've been saving homeless animals.

You may send your donation to Paws Animal Rescue, PO Box 954, Pierre, SD 57501. You may also stop into the shelter during open hours to make your donation. Our open hours during April are Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm, Saturdays 11am-2pm, Saturday the 16th from 4-6pm. You may also make your donation at our Zonta booth Saturday the 16th or Sunday the 17th at the Pierre Mall.

Thanks again to all of you who have helped the organization along the way!



2011 Board Members

President
Kathy Hammond

Vice President
Lindy Geraets

Treasurer
vacant

Secretary
vacant

Board Members
Betty Truax
Cat Johns
Crayton Bouchie

Paws Animal Rescue
PO Box 954
Pierre, SD 57501
605.223.cats
pets4adoption@yahoo.com
www.pets4adoption.org

One is the Loneliest Number

By Lindy Geraets



One can only look out the window for so long. After taking a nap, having a couple snacks, and playing with a toy or two I'm bored. This is my daily routine as a cat in a single-cat home. I need a friend.

Many people who adopt from the shelter only want one cat. One is safe. Two are scary. What is to keep them from three or five or ten? In our eyes, we see adopting two cats as the perfect scenario. We watch two shelter playmates go to their forever home together, the adopter gets the enjoyment of two new furry friends, and the cats settle into their new home quicker because their friend is with them.

When shelter playmates go to a new home together, we feel at ease for their transition and excitement because they get to keep their friend. This is especially true for siblings. When siblings come into the shelter together, we all secretly hope they will be adopted together. Speaking from experience, watching siblings grow up and play together is an awesome experience. They tend to play rougher with each other and they search out their sibling for nap time or cleaning sessions.

Our Board President, Kathy Hammond, and her family adopted siblings named Jacob and Rosalie (now Bender and Mouse). For the Hammonds, these kittens were three and four in their house. They chose to adopt both because the other two cats were a little older and they thought Bender and Mouse would play well together. And they were right. Bender and Mouse wrestle to the point of tumbling down the flight of stairs and then running around the living room and kitchen before tearing back upstairs. But in their quiet times, they find each other. Kathy says "Watching the two of them cuddle up to each other confirms that we made the right choice in adopting two of them."

It doesn't have to be siblings, though. Adopting friends from the shelter works just as well. Because our cats roam freely, most of them become each other's family. Judy Perry and her husband recently adopted Veruca (now Miss V) and Rex. They had two cats before and when the last cat passed away, they came into the shelter with the intent of adopting two. The hard decision was which two. I was volunteering that day and it became apparent from the first minute they were in the shelter that Rex wanted to go home with them. No questions. He knew they were his new parents. The second choice took a little longer. We talked about personalities and who had been at the shelter for how long. In the end, their second cat was Miss V. She had been with the shelter for 3 1/2 years when the Perrys adopted her.



left: Miss V
below: Rex



Kayla & Dumpster

Judy enjoys both cats and their very different personalities. She says "Miss V is sweet and quiet and petting her brings about a feeling of peace and contentment while petting Rex brings about laughter and the unexpected as he is a busy guy." We hear from Judy often and it's so gratifying to know the shelter saved Miss V and Rex and then they went to such a wonderful home.

Likewise, I remember when Kristen and Tim Rounds decided to adopt Kayla and Dumpster. Even though they already had cats at home, they decided to adopt two so they could settle in together. Kristin was amazed at how quickly the two transitioned into their new home. "Dumpster and Kayla cuddled and stayed together and having them together made the transition very smooth and very fast, just a couple of days compared to weeks. Because everything went so smoothly, it did not seem like we brought home multiple cats. They both just 'fit in' right away."

Kristin says "If you take the time to properly socialize multiple animals when they first enter your house, you can really have a wonderful mix of many animals that not only works but provides great joy and entertainment every day (and many times all night when the cats are particularly playful). For anyone considering it, I would strongly recommend adopting multiple cats. We know it was the right decision for us and have never regretted it."

Who Needs a Secretary & Treasurer?

We Do!



After fulfilling her last term with flying colors, Lisa Sayler has resigned from her role as Secretary of the Paws Animal Rescue Board of Directors. Also due to a work conflict, Bonnie Stroh has regretfully resigned her position as Treasurer. What does that mean? It means we need another Secretary and Treasurer!

Duties of the Secretary include:

- Sending emails about upcoming events, needing volunteers, missing animals, etc.
- Sending thank you cards
- Maintaining adoption database
- Monthly General and Board meeting sign-up sheets, agendas, and minutes
- Attending monthly General and Board meetings
- Writing and distributing our quarterly newsletters, The Paw

Duties of the Treasurer include:

- Maintaining monthly ledger
- Ensuring monthly bills are paid
- Bank deposits
- Prepare Treasurer's report for monthly General meeting
- Prepare monthly fundraising summary
- Attend monthly General and Board meetings
- Prepare annual tax filings

This is a great way to support your local homeless animals! If you're interested, please email pets4adoption@yahoo.com or call 223.cats.



Success in Sioux City

By Lindy Geraets

In 2009, Kim Kusser worked with Cara Geerlings and her family on the adoption of Parker. The Geerlings live in Sioux City, so she arranged for transport of Parker to Sioux Falls on a snowy winter day. Cara said "It was a long day and the start of a wonderful friendship, not just between us and Parker, but also between Parker and our Border Collie, Daisy, whom we were going to give away to my in-laws because she was just too much for us." They soon learned that all Daisy needed was a friend. She and Parker are now the best of friends!

Cara says Parker is literally the "best dog we've ever owned". He's calm, sweet, gentle, and cuddly with the girls. Plus he's fun, playful, and a blast with a frisbee or other toys when they play outside.

"Parker is the perfect dog for our family and we thank the people at the Pierre shelter!"



Parker (left) & Daisy (right)



Not Just a Prettie Face

By Lindy Geraets

In April 2009, I went to the city pound to visit the cats that hadn't been claimed by their owners. These are the days I dread. Paws Animal Rescue is no-kill once we have the animals in our care, but the animals we take are limited by space and funding. This particular day found me looking at a gorgeous black, orange, and white short-haired calico and her three young kittens. Luckily, we had space in a foster home and so we were able to save Prettie and her kids.

After spending 5 months in foster care and watching her kittens go into their forever homes, Prettie transitioned into the shelter. At the shelter, she blossomed into a healthy (some may say hefty) and loving cat. Most days when I came to the shelter, Prettie would greet me at the front door. She always wanted pets and love before any other cat.

It always amazes me when beautiful and friendly cats aren't adopted quickly. And this was the case with Prettie. Although she greeted people when they entered the shelter and although she was friendly and enjoyed being picked up and pet, no one chose to take her home as their cat. But, every cat finds their home whether it takes 3 days or 3 years. It does happen.



In situations like this I assume the right person hasn't met the cat yet or there are reasons beyond our knowledge as to why they haven't been adopted. This holds true for Prettie. Months down the road, we would find out just how much she needed us. In September 2010 we noticed Prettie had lost some weight and had also lost her appetite, both uncommon attributes for her. After spending some time with the vet and watching her closely, we found she had a mass blockage in her intestine. The choices were to euthanize her or do surgery to remove the blockage.

Paws Animal Rescue has a wonderful fund called the Special Needs fund. We use this in cases outside the "norm". Prettie's situation was outside the "norm" and thanks to generous donations, she was able to receive the necessary surgery. She came through like a champ and gradually started to get back to herself. In the end, it appears she had a very unusual intestinal blockage. We compare Prettie's surgery to gastric bypass. Although it's not the same, the result has been similar. She eats in smaller quantities now and is maintaining a 6.5 pound weight.

To lessen her stress, we've had Prettie in foster care since her surgery. But now, I'm happy to report, she wants to find her forever home. Prettie is requesting someone who will feed her a combination of hard food and soft food (she's into canned tuna in water right now). She also wants to live with someone who likes to hold and pet cats as she enjoys both of these activities. Prettie thinks a quiet home would be best for her. She does get along with other cats, so having a friend or two would be nice but is not necessary.

If you're interested in adopting Prettie, please call 223.cats and leave a message or email pets4adoption@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Dog Days is Coming!



The 5th annual Dog Days of Summer event is coming! This year the event will be held on Saturday, August 20th.

To make it an event you can't forget, we're vamping up Dog Days by taking it into the evening with food vendors, craft vendors, activities, a live band, and beer tent!

What does this mean? Along with a fun event, we need a lot more volunteers than we've had in the past. Please mark August 20th on your calendar, contact your friends, and plan to help us make Dog Days a huge success in 2011!

If you want to commit now, please email pets4adoption@yahoo.com.



Perfect Paulo

By Betty Truax

I have had many foster dogs in the 10+ years I have been a volunteer with the shelter. Here is my story about Paulo, the best foster dog yet. I might be crazy because I become most attached to the ones that are hardest to train. I find myself spending extra time teaching them what they need to know to be the "BEST PET EVER". Surely, I cannot do that without loving them!

Paulo came to live with me late last summer. He is a big guy, weighing in at about 85 pounds, just a few pounds less than my 5-foot frame. He has a block shaped head and he can most definitely be a 'blockhead' sometimes. Paulo quickly learned that I am alpha in my house and he wouldn't be the boss of me. He is a great friend and a wonderful companion. His new owner just needs to establish leader of the pack right away.



He learned to walk on leash last fall. This year we are using the same training in the house. "Go SLOW!" I have tried other commands, but they are not as effective as "go slow". Paulo loves treats and will kennel on command. He would rather stand, but knows sit. Paulo will lie on the couch curled up to nap while I watch TV, work on the computer, or do house cleaning. He sleeps like a baby beside me at night. He is certain, as are most dogs, that the big, noisy, vacuum-thing is going to suck him up. He is great with my cats and loves to play and wrestle around with other dogs. There's nothing like a game of "catch me if you can".



Paulo greets me with gusto every time I come home. He greets everyone with gusto and excitement. He is so happy and loving. Paulo would stay with me forever if I could afford four dogs, and could convince my male dog to let him be part of our family.

The adoration of a dog is not proof that I am a good person, but at least I know I am good in his eyes. He enjoys spending time with me regardless of what we are doing. He accepts me and my faults. And I accept him as a loving companion.

He is the best foster dog yet!

If you're interested in adopting Paulo, please call 223.cats and leave a message or email pets4adoption@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Wish List



We are always looking for donated items. Below is a current list of items we need. Thanks in advance!

- Blankets
- Bleach
- Cat / Dog Toys
- Cat Litter
- Cleaning Supplies
- Collars / Leashes
- Laundry Detergent / Dryer Sheets
- Paper Towels
- Rawhide Bones
- Trash Bags
- Treats
- Y Vacuum Bags

These items may be dropped off at the downtown shelter Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm or Saturdays 11am-2pm.

What's Happening?



The fundraising committee has a lot planned for 2011. First, a special thanks to those who ate at Pizza Ranch on March 15th. We raised over \$700 that evening! Also, thanks to those of you who ordered Gold Canyon Candles. We raised almost \$500!

April

- Celebrating 32 Years of Saving Homeless Animals!
- Monthly Meeting ~ 4th 7:00pm at the Paws building downtown
- Spring Earth-Friendly Fundraiser ~ 1st-25th
 - Order online by clicking the link on www.pets4adoption.org
- Spring Zonta ~ 16th & 17th at the Pierre Mall
- Meet & Greet ~ 16th 4-6pm at the Paws building downtown

May

- Monthly Meeting ~ 2nd 7:00pm at the Paws building downtown
- Memorial Day Animal Remembrance Wall
 - Honor your pet with a paw on our wall, \$1 donation per paw
 - Donate:
 - At the shelter Saturdays 11am-2pm or Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm
 - Meet & Greet ~ 21st 4-6pm
 - Email pets4adoption@yahoo.com
- Taco Johns Fundraiser ~ 11th 5-11pm
- Meet & Greet ~ 21st 4-6pm at the Paws building downtown

June

- Monthly Meeting ~ 6th 7:00pm at the Paws building downtown
- 2nd annual Tail Trail
- 2nd annual Paws for Art silent auction
- Oahe Days

Please help us raise money for the shelter by volunteering, attending the events and participating, and sharing the upcoming events with friends and family.



Available for adoption. From top: Aubergine, Lulu, Carmella, & Taco



Membership

If you would like to become a member or know someone who would like to become a member, please visit our website, www.pets4adoption.org. Click "Become a Member" from the left navigation.

Membership options are Student (under 18), Senior (65+), Individual (18+), Family (2 or more), Business, and Lifetime.

The membership includes a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, The Paw.

If you have any questions, please email pets4adoption@yahoo.com.

Memorials & Honors



January

In memory of my mother, Marie Frost, on her birthday, by Mary Schweigert. She always brought in stray cats, when I was young, and took care of them.

In memory of Brianne Bechtold, by Sam & Tiffany Anderson - Anita Baker - Tim & Barb Bjorneberg - Matt Brakke - Craig Bump - Verl & Nancy Bunjer - Boyd Conzemius - Todd & Suzanne Douglas - Doug & Trudy Evenstad - Paul & Sharyn Forney - Lindy & Matt Geraets - Jennifer Glanzman - Arnie Gutenkauf - Jody Hardwick - Jerry & Sheryl Hawkins - Scott & Julia Jones - Pat & Shavonne Mitchell - Reg Nelsen – Meaghan Neuberger - Dave & Barb Ninceheler - Oahe Presbyterian Church - Marlene, Arthur, Taylor & Graysen Orth - Palmer, Currier, & Hoffert - Bob & Shirley Pearsall - Bobby, Leslie, Chloe, & Robert Pearsall - Mike Pearsall - Dennis Pfrimmer & Sheryl Stone - Bob & Carolyn Riter - Hunter Roberts - Lonnie & Vickie Schumacher - JR Simpson - Barry & Diane Smith - Ray & Candy Sowers - Yvette Thomas - Tom & Sandra Tillman - Helen Wegner - Merlin & Dianne Weyer - Dr Vicky Wilkey - Janice Wintrode

In honor of Jodi Owen for Dakota, Judy Blair for Smudge, Dave Richards for Rhonda, Cory Blair for Shy, and Chase Blair for Harley, by Connie Blair

In honor of David and Sue Carlisle and John and Faun Harmon - thank you for helping 4-legged friends, by Connie Carlisle

February

Jack Finley Family Memorial Fund made a donation in memory of Jack

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson

March

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson



Pets to Remember

January

In memory of Sunny Miller, the beloved beagle member of the Miller family: Joan, Patrick, Hannah, and Will, by Merrie and Marshall Miller

In honor of Lucy Lu (AKA Lucy Goosey and You Big Girl), by Karla and Paul Wiessner

February

In memory of Maggie, dog of Debby and Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, Kim Kusser, and Betty Truax

In memory of Bojo, dog of Jill Podhradsky, by Betty Truax

March

In memory of Kat (aka Poofball), beloved mitten cat of Debby and Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets and Kathy Hammond

In memory of Rooster, foster kitten of Lois Fuller, by Lindy Geraets and Kathy Hammond

In memory of Trey, kitten of Debby and Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets and Kathy Hammond

In memory of Cole, loved shelter cat, by Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, Molly Jahraus, and Cindy Phillips

In honor of my cat, Jack on his 20th vet checkup, by Joe Nadenicek