

October 2011  
Fall Edition

# The Paws

Newsletter for Paws Animal Rescue



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## Rescue of Their Lives

By Cat Johns

I was walking a foster puppy down our driveway a morning during the last week of September. Near the end of the road I thought I saw a small animal. I walked a little closer and found 7 puppies. They were in a low spot right beside the road. Two puppies were moving around a bit, but the other five puppies were huddled together, shivering. I had made this same walk the night before, at dusk, and there were no puppies. I imagine they were taken from their mother and thrown away in the middle of the night. It's hard for any of us to imagine taking helpless animals into the country and dumping them. I'm just happy I found them and they are all safe.

That morning they were at their first vet visit. They weighed an average of 4 pounds each and they appeared to have some Labrador in them, but we think they will be medium sized dogs. We have six boys and one girl. The vet believes they were born around August 16.

The puppies are being raised in our kitchen so they are used to household activities, the comings and goings of people, and the presence of other dogs and cats. They are crate-trained and sleep all night. The puppies sleep with blankets and stuffed animals, which they love to curl up with and cuddle. The puppies are also paper-trained and do not pee or poop in their sleeping or play area. Favorite games include "tugs", chasing each other around the kitchen table, and playing with squeaky toys. They thoroughly enjoy chew toys and rawhides. We feed them two at a time and they know which dishes are theirs. As soon as they see their dishes picked up to be filled, they all line up. When the food is being measured into the dishes they are very vocal in their excitement. However, when the food is put down there is total silence while they consume their meal. Oh, how quickly they learned their routine!

The puppies thrived after being saved that cold morning and everyday produces new skills and awareness. Sister is the most dominant. She bosses and bullies her brothers and also is the most vocal. We can't blame her. She's surrounded by boys! She can bother her brothers, but she does not like to be bothered in return. Shadow was in the worst physical shape when I found them and he is one who really likes to be near us, especially his foster dad. He loves being held and cuddled and when put down, he returns shortly for more. All of the puppies love being snuggled and petted.

The puppies are very bright, catch on quickly, are trusting, very friendly, and will make excellent companions and family pets. If you are interested in adopting one of the puppies, please call 223.cats.



# 15 Car Cats 2 Years Later

By Lindy Geraets



Two years ago in August, Hughes County appointed 15 cats to Paws Animal Rescue. We coined them the “car cats” because all 15 of them had been traveling with their owner in her car with all of her belongings. Because taking 15 cats at one time is a large undertaking, we placed them in foster care to adjust to a new kind of living...home living. A few at a time, we’ve been bringing the car cats into the shelter. The community donated to Paws to help us with veterinarian, housing, and general day to day costs we incurred taking these cats. Thank you again to all of you who donated two years ago.

A couple of the car cats were already extremely social and had no trouble being adopted. Some of them took a little more work and some of them we are still working with today. Here’s an update on the car cats and where they are now.



**Ann** has been at the shelter for about a year and is *finally* starting to let us pet her and ask for pets. In fact, a couple weeks ago when I went to the shelter, I looked down to find her tortoiseshell body rubbing my leg. It took me by such surprise, I exclaimed out loud and scared her a little bit. Not enough to run away, though. She stayed and let me pet her. She will need a home with someone who has the patience to wait for her to feel comfortable in her new space.

**Barnett** was adopted with another shelter cat, Dim Sum. Both have kept their names and are doing fabulous. They sleep together, play together, and are sometimes lazy together. Barnett likes to be held like a baby. His mom said he’ll stay like this for an hour, if you’d let him. She can’t imagine life without him.

**Bella** is one of those cats that no one really pays attention to, because she isn’t right there at the front door begging for pets. But, when you sit on the couch her round, black and white tuxedo body will sneak up and sit beside you and paw at you if you don’t pet her. She has really come a long way since she first came to the shelter. Bella will do great in a home with someone who wants a laid back cat who will sit on your lap and watch TV.



**Cole** really only took a liking to one of our shelter volunteers, Kathy Hammond. She was able to pick Cole up and carry him. We could all tell he adored her. In March 2011, we noticed Cole wasn’t feeling well. The veterinarian determined he had a failing heart and wasn’t going to survive. Kathy, his favorite shelter volunteer, was with him when he passed.



**Greta** is no longer with the family who adopted her. In June 2011 she was given to friends of the family who adopted her. She now goes by the name Princess Peach or Peaches. Here’s a note from her new family: “We are a cat loving family of 6. My husband and I have 4 children, ages 13 to 4. Honestly, Peaches was meant to live with us! I am especially fond of orange tabby cats. I think when we first met she knew that!! She is totally my baby and definitely a princess. She is so incredibly loving and playful. When we’re sitting on the sofa she likes to either bite our toes or play with our hair. She loves to sit in the picture window and look outdoors. Sometimes she talks to the birds or squirrels out there. She loves it when I hold her and rock her back and forth in front of our front door. She enjoys playing with my two younger daughters’ hair and has her kitty bed perched on top of my husband’s record player speaker. She loves to curl up on there when he plays music. She’s living a wonderful life and we love her. She a perfect fit for us.

From the first time I met the car cats, there was something intriguing about **Jamison**. I immediately wanted him to love me. He sort of has a hunched way of walking and his tiger body is very slender and delicate. I could tell he wanted me to love him, too, but he was very hesitant to trust me. Every now and then he would get just close enough that I could pet him. And then, he would turn and give me this look that said “wow that felt nice, but I’m still not sure about you.” Jamison has been at the shelter for a few months now and has absolutely blossomed. I used to think I was the only one, but now I see that he gives that same loving look to all the volunteers. Although I enjoyed thinking I was special, I’m thrilled that Jamison is willing to share his love with others.

**Josie** has an awesome meow and she’s not scared to use it when she wants attention. It took her a few months to warm up to me. Now, though, when I stop at the shelter she is one of the first ones to volunteer to help me go through my papers. It’s not so much she really wants to help with the paperwork as she sees it as an opportune time to get some one-on-one attention.

This is a note from **Kenton's** mom. "When my roommate and I first went to choose a cat at Paws, we took our dogs (Chihuahua siblings Brodie and Kiwi) to make sure that we could find a cat compatible for the household. The dogs loved the cats and tried to say 'hello' to any they could get close enough to, but were generally greeted with a hiss. Max (the kitty formally known as Kenton) was the exact opposite. He followed the dogs around and tried to play with them right away...instead of picking out a cat, we had one pick us! Max took about a week to settle in to his new surroundings, but has turned into an absolutely awesome and wonderful member of the family! He has his favorite spots on the couch (sometimes those spots are on top of the dogs as demonstrated in the photo), and sits in line with the dogs waiting for food to drop when anyone is cooking. He is also hilarious to watch when playing with his canine brother and sister, and I'm not sure if he realizes that they are different species. He is the sweetest and most mellow cat I have ever encountered, and the vet has even commented that he has never examined a cat so thoroughly with such little fuss! He purrs when I clip his toe nails, and I have yet to hear him hiss! Overall, I am so happy that Max chose us that night at the shelter.



**Mallory** is a lot like Ann in look and personality. She just came into the shelter about 2 months ago and is starting to come out for the volunteers. Given time, she will make a wonderful cat for someone looking for a quiet, laid-back companion.

**Mindy** and **Macey** were not adopted at the same time, but they were adopted to the same home. Mindy's dad came to the shelter looking for a friend for his older cat. She'd been an only cat for years, so he needed a cat that would let her adjust on her own time. "Something about Mindy seemed right. Even her name seemed right. When I dropped off my application she stopped and looked at me and I knew she was the one." Once at home with Mindy, his other cat, Foodie, even though she was blind, could sense her presence. Foodie would hiss and growl, but Mindy never hissed back. In fact, when Foodie would lie down, Mindy would lie as close to her as she could. In her last week of life, Foodie finally accepted Mindy. "I think she realized Mindy was not there to replace her, but to be her friend. And, her presence helped me accept Foodie's passing. When the time came, Mindy sat quietly close by and when Foodie was gone, Mindy came and laid beside her to say good bye." After watching Mindy for a few weeks, her dad decided she needed a friend. He initially considered Patterson because he and Mindy were great friends, but Patterson showed no interest in him. As he was trying to get Patterson's attention, he realized a cat was tapping his leg. "As fate would have it, it was another calico cat who looked up at me and let out a little meow as if to say 'hi, I would like to introduce myself'. I remembered seeing this calico cat and Mindy in a picture together when they first came to the shelter so I figured they would get along." It was a rough start, but now the two sleep together and clean each other. "I realized, and I think anyone who has gone to a shelter to adopt a pet will say the same thing, you can't adopt a pet from a shelter. At the shelter, you will not find a pet, but a lost companion. And it is there, when destiny steps in, that you are united with a friend that was always meant to be a part of your family."



**Patterson** is the father of most of the 15 cats. It's been interesting because when a new one comes to the shelter, they seem to immediately recognize at least one of their relatives. Usually it's Patterson. He is clearly their leader and they all follow him like he's the king. Some of the other shelter cats have also taken Patterson as their leader. Some of us feel when he's adopted, he may need to take a couple of his followers with him.

**Ransom's** family had this to say about her. "Ransom has been a great addition to our family. And like with any family member, I don't want to talk out of turn. But, she's affectionate and cuddly (hogs the bed), doesn't like closed doors (ALWAYS latch the bathroom door), and chases imaginary animals around the house (but won't venture out on the porch for fear of the squirrels). She does travel well, though. We love having her in our family, even if she's the good-hearted but weird cousin side of it."

**Sweetie** is the last cat to still come into the shelter, but I sense her foster mom might want to adopt her. It's funny because I see a lot of Jamison in Sweetie. They have the same face, meow, and elusive demeanor. She, like Jamison, enjoys pets and has become much more advantageous when she wants attention. If you stop petting her before she's done, she'll give you a little love bite.

Let's get this out in the open right away. **Tory** dislikes me. I can't blame him. He has a hereditary leg issue which causes the fur to rub off of one of his hind legs. When this happens, the area looks red and inflamed. And, when this happens he needs to go the veterinarian for a steroid shot. The shot usually lasts three months. By the time I finally get to the point where he'll look at me and think about letting me pet him, we have to go back to the veterinarian again. It's a vicious cycle. I wish he liked me, though, because his petite orange and white body is adorable and cuddly and I would love to hug him. Luckily the steroid shots are an easy fix and may not even be necessary once he's in a permanent home. And another good thing is he has no problem loving the other volunteers. In fact, I'm happy to report that the other night he *wanted* me to pet him!

I'll leave you with the last statement by Mindy and Macey's dad, "At the shelter, you will not find a pet, but a lost companion. And it is there, when destiny steps in, that you are united with a friend that was always meant to be a part of your family." This really sums up what we're doing every day at Paws. Saving animals and helping unite them with a new and loving family.



# Paws for Art

By Lindy Geraets

Paws Animal Rescue held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Paws for Art fundraiser in August. Local artists donated over 30 pieces of art for a silent auction. The art pieces varied drastically and included paintings, photographs, a hanging quilt, jewelry, a clock, cards, a vase, a hand-painted chair, and lamps.

Bidders were able to view and bid for art online at [www.pets4adoption.org](http://www.pets4adoption.org) or at the Pierre Mall. Bidding began on August 13 and concluded with an appetizer reception on August 25.

People who attended the appetizer reception were able to place final bids on “must have” pieces and also noshed on tasty snacks compliments of B and G Produce and Sweet Peas, both vendors at the Capital City Farmers Market. Those snacks included hummus served with pita bread, zucchini spears, and cucumber slices; baked kale chips; tomato, basil, and mozzarella skewers; mini cookies; toffee; and chocolate mousse-filled chocolate cups. Needless to say, by the time last bids rolled around at 7pm, we were all very happy. Happy because we were fed well. Happy because we won our desired art pieces. And, happy because together we helped raise over \$1,700 for the homeless cats and dogs in our care.

Special thanks to the local artists who donated art:

- Alisha Hunt
- Ann Sines
- Eileen Bertsch
- Jane Hinrichs
- Larry Beck
- Linda Bentz
- Lindy Geraets
- Lois Fuller
- Marcia Hultman
- Pat Brown
- Paula Hunsley
- Roberta Williams
- Sharon Welch



## Cassie Adams Memorial

## Quilt Raffle

By Lindy Geraets



Thanks to all of you who purchased Cassie Adams Memorial Quilt raffle tickets. We raised just over \$700 toward our Paws Building Fund.

The lucky winner of the quilt is Becky Plumage. The Plumage family was quite excited to win the quilt on August 25.

Cassie's mom, Sondra, said she always thought Cassie's lucky number was 7. She was born January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:47 and weighed 7 lbs. It seems fitting the amount we raised corresponded to Cassie as well.

# Crazy Days

By Lindy Geraets



Paws Animal Rescue celebrated Crazy Days with the rest of the downtown businesses on Saturday, July 30. This year Paws volunteers grilled hot dogs and handed out chips and water for a free-will donation. We also sold “woof” beer floats for \$2 each.

Along with the yummy food, we set up some of our Dog Days of Summer games including the Lollipop Tree, Bean Bag Toss, and Sponge Throw. Kids and adults paid a quarter a game to play the game of their choice. While it was all fun, kids and adults alike appeared to thoroughly enjoy the Sponge Throw! Debby and Crayton Bouchie and Lois Fuller were great sports!

After a long, hot, but fun day in the sun, Paws Animal Rescue raised \$688 to help the homeless cats and dogs in our care. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at Crazy Days!



# Deja Vu

By Lindy Geraets



It was a hot summer Monday night in early August. Kathy Hammond pulled into a parking space in front of Paws Animal Rescue. Not unlike other nights, there were people looking in the window at the cats. As she usually does when people are peering at the cats, she walked up she asked how many cats they wanted to take home with them. The couple turned around and said “It’s you!” Kathy, in return said, “It’s you!”

Last year at approximately the same time in August, Dave Pankratz and Bonnie McVey, both professors from Wisconsin, were traveling through Pierre on their annual trip to Sturgis for the Rally. They stopped at the shelter to peek in the window. It also happened to be a Monday night when Kathy was stopping in to clean. She offered for them to come in and pet the cats. They stayed for nearly an hour and really felt an attachment to Cinco de Mayo. Before they left, they donated \$60. Dave and Bonnie requested that the money be used to help people who may have a difficult time coming up with an adoption fee the ability to adopt an animal from us. Over the last year, their donation helped two people complete their cat adoptions.

This year was no different. They were more than willing to take some time to pet the cats. Oddly, Cinco didn’t want much to do with them this year. They still pet her as they did all the other cats who wanted attention that evening. After just over an hour, they went on their way. This year they left \$80.

We have been in contact with Dave and Bonnie because since their visit in August, Cinco was adopted into a loving home and part of their money was used to help complete a dog adoption in early September. They were thrilled to hear about Cinco finally finding her forever home and touched by the adoption story. Dave said the stop in Pierre was a highlight of their trip this summer.

Kathy will be watching next year at the beginning of August for a couple playing with the cats through the window. Perhaps this will become a yearly tradition for Dave and Bonnie...and Kathy.



Fiesta!  
By Lindy Geraets

It probably started at one of our fundraising meetings at Guadalajara. In the wake of cancelling Dog Days, the fundraising committee was busy brainstorming other ways to bring in money for the organization. The idea of a Mexican Fiesta meal seemed like a fun event. And, so it was set for Monday, September 26 at the VFW.

After scaling up our recipes to serve 150, getting volunteers, and lots of preparation we were ready to serve the first diners at 5pm. If you ask the volunteers, I don't think any of us know what happened over the next couple hours. It happened in a flash. Before we knew it the donation jar was full, the last guest had been served, and nearly all the food had been consumed.

We believe we served about 175 people and we raise just about \$2,900 to help with every days costs for the cats and dogs in our care.

Gracias!



## Wish List

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

- Anti-pull Dog Harnesses (all sizes)
- BioSpot (all canine sizes)
- Cat Toys
- Cat Treats
- Dog Toys and Treats for Hardy Chewers
- Dog Shampoo (tearless) and Conditioner
- Frontline for Puppies (8 weeks to 6 months)
- Dog Grooming Rakes, Brushes, & Combs
- Litter
- Purina Cat and Kitten Food
- Rawhide Chews
- Cleaning Supplies
  - Bleach
  - Clorox Wipes
  - Dish Soap
  - Dryer Sheets
  - Febreze Fabric Freshener
  - Laundry Detergent
  - Paper Towels
  - Pine Sol
  - Spot Cleaner for Carpet and Upholstery
  - Tall Garbage Bags
  - Toilet Bowl Cleaner
  - Toilet Paper
  - Y Vacuum Bags

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

# Grant Acknowledgment

By Lindy Geraets



Paws Animal Rescue recently received four grants to help animals in need of special care as well as further our efforts to spay/neuter animals.

In August, Paws received a \$3,000 grant from the Ryan Newman Foundation (<http://www.ryannewmanfoundation.org/>) to help us spay/neuter animals in our care as well as help fund our Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program. The foundation's mission is: "To educate and encourage people to spay/neuter their pets and to adopt dogs and cats from animal shelters; to educate children and adults about the importance of conservation so the beauty of the great outdoors can be appreciated by future generations; and to provide college scholarship funding through the Rich Vogler Scholarship program to students interested in auto racing careers." We have already used some of the funds to help spay/neuter cats and dogs in our care.

The Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program received an additional boost in September when the Pierre-Ft Pierre Community Foundation approved a \$250 grant to help fund the program.

Wal-Mart offers their employees the chance, twice a year, to donate money to a charity where they donate volunteer hours. Betty Truax elects her \$250 VAP (Volunteerism Always Pays) to the shelter. In September, Betty elected her VAP be placed in the Special Needs Fund.

In late September, we received notice from the ASPCA ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)) that they approved our grant request for \$4,000. The grant money will be used to fund our Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program. Our hope is to help members of our community spay/neuter their animals so we see less unwanted cats and dogs at the pound.

Many thanks to the Ryan Newman Foundation, Pierre-Ft Pierre Community Foundation, Wal-Mart, and the ASPCA for supporting Paws Animal Rescue.

## What's Happening?



### October

- Paws Autumn Auction ~ ends Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight ~ [www.pets4adoption.org](http://www.pets4adoption.org)

### November

- Pet Portraits with Bridget ~ 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> ~ [www.pets4adoption.org](http://www.pets4adoption.org)
- SPAYghetti & No Balls fundraising supper ~ 7<sup>th</sup> ~ VFW (401 S Central)
- Fall Zonta ~ 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ramkota
- Perkins Fundraiser ~ 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 4-8pm
- Meet & Greet ~ 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 3-5pm at the shelter

### December

- Bake Sale ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Pierre Mall
- Monthly Meeting ~ 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm at the Paws building downtown
- Taco Johns Fundraiser ~ 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 5-11pm
- Meet & Greet ~ 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 3-5pm at the shelter

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: Shiloh, Missy,  
Jack, & Cullen

# Memorials & Honors



## July

In honor of Linda Hausvig, she is a great dog-sitter, by Elton Blemaster.

In honor of Linda Hausvig, a great lover of animals, by Dianne Burr.

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling, by Ann Fingerson.

## August

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling, by Ann Fingerson.

## September

In memory of Emily Nelson, from her daughter Deeann Nelson.

In memory of her aunt, Marge Pellerzi, by Julie Ostlien.

In memory of Marge Pellerzi, by Carol and Todd Barge – Linda Leptien – Roger Nickerson – Don Sandal.

Thank you to Sally and Don Boyd, by Jodi Owen.

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling, by Ann Fingerson.



## Pets to Remember

## July

No memorials for July

## August

In memory of Cleo, loved dog and family to Dave and Darlene Braun, by Betty Truax and Kathy Hammond.

## September

In memory of Kobe (aka Mango), who spent the last months of his life with a wonderful couple, Becky and Adam, in a home where he was adored. From Lindy Geraets and Kathy Hammond

In memory of Gus (aka Heely), who only spent a few weeks with his new family before his tragic death. They loved him dearly while they had him. From Betty Truax, Kathy Hammond, and Lindy Geraets.

In memory of Prea (aka Prelude), a cat who made wonderful progress with her family member with Autism. She was loved, adored, and spoiled by her family. From Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, and Betty Truax.

In memory of Dessa, a foster cat who, although, passed away too young left us with two very sweet kittens to find homes for. From Lindy Geraets and Kathy Hammond.