

December 2012
Winter Edition

The Paws

Newsletter for Paws Animal Rescue



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Car Cats Another Step Closer to Home

By Lindy Geraets

August 2009 seems so long ago, but for some of us at Paws it still remains very clear. It was the beginning of August, 3 years ago when Hughes County appointed Paws with 15 cats. We lovingly refer to them as the "car cats" because they'd been living in a car with their previous owner.

Once appointed to Paws, we began to interact with the cats. Some were immediately ready for adoption while others needed one-on-one time. Most of the cats have come around to love people but a couple still only trust a handful of volunteers.

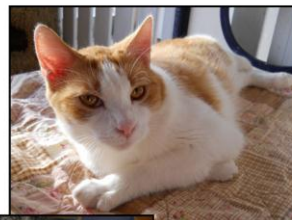
We have had success adopting 7 of the cats. Two of the remaining cats, unfortunately, had to be euthanized due to incurable illnesses. We still have 6 cats available for adoption. They are Tory, Josie, Patterson, Jamison, Bella, and Mallory.

One of our members has adopted two of the car cats and he loves them dearly. He wants the others to find the homes they deserve, so he has pre-paid the adoption fees of the six remaining car cats (as well as Keeva, another cat he has come to adore). We will still go through the adoption approval process, but the cats will be free to the families who adopt them.

If you know someone interested in any of these sweet cats, please let us know. The volunteers know them so well, we'll be able to recommend the right cat for your home.



Mallory



Patterson



Tory



Josie



Keeva



Jamison



Bella

As The Saying Goes Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

By Betty Truax



As Canine Coordinator for Paws Animal Rescue and an avid dog lover, I face discrimination of certain dogs based solely on their breed. I am not an expert, so I've done some research in hopes that I can better educate people based on testing and research by others. I am including information from the American Temperament Test Society, Inc (ATTS) and other resources found on the web. The ATTS works to prove that it is not the breed that determines the aggressiveness of a dog. You will see some amazing results to their testing. I am surprised some breeds have a low percent of "passed" in their testing. I am not including all breeds, just a few to show some of the results. Please visit their website (<http://atts.org/>) for more information and click on "Breed Statistics".

<u>BREED NAME</u>	<u>TESTED</u>	<u>PASSED</u>	<u>FAILED</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
American Pit Bull Terrier	839	728	111	86.8%
Cocker Spaniel	227	186	41	81.9%
Doberman Pinscher	1629	1274	355	78.2%
Golden Retriever	776	661	115	85.2%
Labrador Retriever	783	723	60	92.3%
Lhasa Apso	27	19	8	70.4%
Mixed Breed	1063	916	147	86.2%
Pomeranian	33	25	8	75.8%
Rottweiler	5545	4652	893	83.9%

I hope this sampling makes you curious enough to research other breeds and to give dogs a chance. See who they are before you judge what they are. I was put in my place earlier this year when discussing Pit Bulls and their unjust discrimination. I stated that I have a HUGE fear of Dachshunds because that is the breed that bit me without provocation. The person politely told me that I was doing the same thing to the Dachshund that others do to the Pit Bull. I have learned to approach every dog with love and adoration. Which may or may not affect the way the dog treats me, but I am doing what I can to overcome my prejudice. I am surprised and disappointed that my beloved Rotties don't test better. When we were in public places (Zesto was our favorite break while walking), people would say, "That's one of those mean dogs". I told them, "Shush, she doesn't know yet that she is a dog, she thinks she is a social butterfly". My best friend, died a few years ago. She is the reason I will not have another Rottie. No other could live up to how wonderful she is in my mind.

From Best Friends blog (<http://blogs.bestfriends.org/index.php/2012/11/14/more-good-news-about-bad-laws-against-pit-bulls/>) I have learned that Massachusetts has passed a statewide bill preempting the passage of local breed-discriminatory laws. The first positive ripple effect of its passage hit the news on November 12 with the announcement by the Lowell, Massachusetts, city solicitor that sections of that city's Responsible Pit Bull Ownership Ordinance will no longer be enforceable because they were based on the breed or assumed breed of a dog according to appearance rather than behavior. The city's prior existing dangerous dog ordinance is based on the behavior of individual dogs of whatever breed or size and is enforceable.

Breed-discriminatory laws have resulted in the needless killing of tens of thousands of family pets for no other reason than their appearance. Effective dangerous dog laws should focus on behavior and responsible ownership, not on fictitious assumptions based on breed or appearance.

Perhaps I step outside the normal thought process. Everyone that can prove the breed doesn't make the dog vicious takes a giant step forward in preventing breed discrimination and educating others that breed does not determine the dogs' temperament. Please join me and open your heart and mind to all dogs, regardless of breed.

Giving Boxa a Chance

By Leah Hammersley & Betty Truax



Early September 2012 is when Boxa became a member of our family. I was a little unsure the day I spoke to the Paws Animal Rescue volunteer about meeting her. Some people had said that she looks part Pit Bull, a breed I have feared. The volunteer said, "I don't see Pit Bull, I see Boxer and Terrier." She also said that Pit Bulls are Terriers, so that could be in her too. We took a chance and met her anyway, because I had done research on Boxers and like the normal breed personality. Boxa has a great personality and is the second love of my life. My husband, Jason, is first. She has moved right into our hearts and home.

One of her favorite toys is the Extreme Kong with a Milkbone in it. She plays and plays with the Kong before deciding it's time to eat the Milkbone. Second would probably be the Kong Frisbee. We throw; she fetches and then decides whether to bring it back for another turn or play around by herself. We realized early on that she needs toys of indestructible material.

Jason and Boxa are great exercise buddies. They walk to the mailbox (a good mile and a half) daily. This would be quite a site if we lived in town. Jason, who is 6'6", walking side-by-side with cute, little Boxa wearing her pink cape! Although they are exercise buddies, Boxa has decided that the hierarchy in the family is Boxa, mommy, daddy.

Some things that make her adorable are: Picking up a boot or shoe and taking it to the door if we don't let her outside quickly enough. When daddy is too involved in TV to pay attention to her, she takes his remote. She snuggles in bed with me when Jason is gone. Boxa now owns the blanket made by my mom and grandma. She hasn't destroyed it; she just loves to have it in her crate. I like to think it makes her feel secure while we are gone. The Nyla bone that came with her at the time we adopted her is still her nighttime bubby.



We are heavily involved at Oahe Speedway, so Boxa got to go with us for a few weeks before the season ended. She showed her true colors when a toddler was venturing onto the track and Boxa went to intervene, possibly saving his life. She knew he was going to be in danger and stopped him from proceeding. She has growled a warning to parents that are overly aggressive to their kids. She also has displayed her Boxer trait that confused me until talking with a Paws volunteer. Boxers have the name for a reason. They like to use their front feet to box. She has learned the term "gentle" so she doesn't hurt me while boxing.

Life with Boxa hasn't always been smooth. Like waking me up at 5AM! Thankfully, she now sleeps until 8am or so. I could show you the 15 – 20 pair of flip flops that she chewed up. Not both shoes of course, just one of every pair. Life with Boxa is now great! We are delighted that she is a member of our family. Friends, family, and co-workers adore her. As we do! I am so glad that I ventured beyond the breed discrimination.

Medical Corner

Excessive Grooming in Cats

By Molly Jahraus



Most cats take great pride in fastidious cleanliness and an elegant appearance. Some cats, however, take grooming to an unhealthy level, causing hair to thin and bald spots to form on easily accessible body areas. This excessive grooming, also known as psychogenic alopecia, is a compulsive behavior disorder that sometimes develops due to frustration, conflict, anxiety, or stress.

Many conditions can cause excessive grooming or hair loss similar to that seen with psychogenic alopecia. Plus, cats may only overgroom when owners are not around, leaving owners to wonder about the true cause. Therefore, a veterinarian visit is essential to rule out allergies, flea allergy dermatitis, parasite infections, or thyroid problems. Most cases of overgrooming are due to these conditions, rather than psychogenic alopecia.

Create a calmer environment -

Psychogenic alopecia will not improve until the underlying cause of the anxiety or conflict is identified and resolved. For example, an anxious cat in a competitive multi-cat household may benefit from conflict-reducing additional litter boxes, window perches, toys, sleeping areas, or food bowls. Placing a bell on the aggressive cat(s) may also help the anxious cat to stop overgrooming.

Psychogenic alopecia may also improve with pheromone therapy. Spraying or diffusing this into a room can have a calming effect. Prescription medications may also help. Increased playtime and social interaction also benefit cats who groom excessively. Lastly, owners should not give attention to cats with psychogenic alopecia when they are grooming, since cats may inadvertently interpret the attention as a reward for the behavior. In some cases, prescription medication may be necessary.

Excessive grooming not only makes cats look much less regal, it ultimately indicates a larger underlying problem. If you are concerned that your cat has developed psychogenic alopecia, contact your veterinarian for a proper diagnosis and advice on making your cat calmer, happier, and healthier.

Give Thanks For Paws & Spayghetti & No Balls

By Kathy Hammond



The fund raising committee was busy this fall cooking. In the past, we had Spayghetti & No Balls and the Fiesta Supper. We had so many people ask for additional meals, we decided to add Give Thanks For Paws in September with the funds going into our general fund. This meal included turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, roasted vegetables, (these were awesome) and a bunch of desserts. As always, everything was home made. Not knowing what to expect, we planned on serving 150. Boy were we wrong!!! We served 75 people in 20 minutes and knew we were doing good. In one hour we served 250 people, ran out of food and made \$3,000! Next year we will definitely be doubling our food.

Next came Spayghetti & No Balls in November. This fund raiser was specifically for our spay/neuter fund. This fund allows us to offer low cost spay/neuter program to the public where we pay approximately 2/3 of the cost. Our hope is to help reduce the number of unwanted animals. As usual, this dinner was a success, too. We served approximately 150 people and raised \$1,700 for the Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program.



Rica's journey 1500 miles West began with a simple email on May 17. "Can you tell me...is Rica still available for adoption?? Thank you, Kaylynn." At first, I didn't think anything of the email and began to respond. Then I noticed the signature in the email and realized Kaylynn was emailing from California. I responded saying Rica was available and was a super sweet cat. And, I also asked if Kaylynn was in California and did she realize we were in Pierre, South Dakota?

Kaylynn had found Rica by searching polydactyl (mitten) cats on Petfinder. When she found Rica and emailed Paws, she didn't realize we were so far away. She felt like it was fate, though, because she and Rica share the same birthday.

After seeing a video of Rica, Kaylenn threw caution to the wind and completed the adoption application for her. Both of her references highly recommended Kaylynn. It sounded like she and Rica were meant to be. Now...how were we going to get Rica from the midwest to northern California.

As luck would have it, I knew a couple flying to San Francisco at the beginning of June. How perfect! But, would they be willing to travel with a cat? I'd traveled many times with my first cat, Houston. It was relatively easy, actually. She rode in her little cat carrier and we'd fly across the country. The funniest part was always during take-off when she would meow (yowl, actually) because her ears were popping. People across the aisle would comment "Do you hear a...?" "Was that a...no, it can't be." Oh yes, that was my dear Houston meowing at full volume. Once in the air, though, she was a real sport.

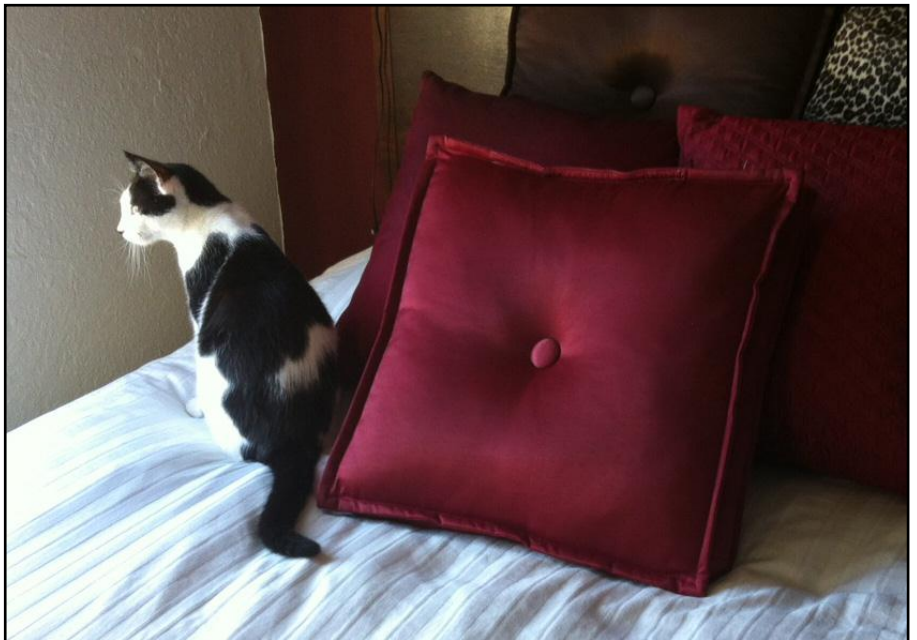
I had my fingers crossed as I called my friends and asked them to travel with Rica. Without hesitation, they said yes! Kaylynn and I were both so excited. This was really going to happen. Rica was going to be a West coast cat.

So, on June 4 Rica got into her cat carrier and made the trip from Pierre to Minneapolis and then onto San Francisco. The couple who transported her sent photos of her cat carrier on a table while they waited for their flight in Minneapolis. She was content as can be, just like a West coast gal should be!

Kaylynn's friend picked up Rica at the airport and that evening, they met for the first time.

I received the following email and photo on June 20:

"Rica is fabulous. She is such a spit-fire. So playful. Loves to cuddle, curl-up and purr, tear around the house, chase up/down the stairs going up to the loft, sits in all the windows and alternates her views, has no less than six favorite 'sitting' places. She is almost always interested in attention; other times she puts on her aloof, 'I'm a cat, I do as I please' self and simply feigns affection. She already has several favorite play-things...and a favorite sport is attacking my feet under the covers after it is time for bed. She makes me laugh! A very animated little girl!"



This is why we do what we do at Paws Animal Rescue. What a fun story to be a part of!

The Year in Review 2012



Every year, Paws Animal Rescue, works tirelessly to save animals from euthanasia at the pound and to find forever homes for the cats and dogs in our care. In 2012, we saved 33 dogs and 52 cats. We also adopted out 43 dogs and 71 cats. Take a look below at the adoptions in each month.

January

cats – Stella, Why Not, Chloe, Cutie, Nike, Potter
dogs – Goliath, Bruno, Mocha, Koby

February

cats – Briggs, Cynthia, Lillie, Costa, Leo, Blanco, Dahlia, Manning, Emmett, Honda, Stacey, Hughes, Aniston, River, Missy
dogs – Muffy, Decker, Punky, Gracie Mae

March

cats – Dylan, Baxter, Kassie, Madisen, Stanley County
dogs – Eli, Zeus, Jackpot

April

cats – Clinton, Wilson, Kade
dogs – Skooter, Chum, Memphis

May

cats – Cullen, Lennon, Camille, Carmella, Blossom, Chopper
dogs – Glory, Angie, Tot, Sprocket

June

cats – Rica, Cream Soda, Chowder, Gwen Stefani
dogs – Katie

July

cats – Vittoria, Buccaneer, Zuzu, Panna Cotta, Marlys
dogs – Chyna

August

cats – Sonolan, Boyd, Onyx, Meeso
dogs – Delta, Lansing, Tator, Sterling

September

cats – Pura, Camaro, London, Kiki, Dan, Reece, Fennel
dogs – Boxa, Ziggy, Pepper, Eva, Mia

October

cats – Scaredy, Riesling, Beck, Durango, Smokey
dogs – Autumn, Dillinger, Twiggy, Shyloh

November

cats – Sunkissed, Vida, Gumbo, Prosecco, Riverton
dogs – Bindy, Moose, Fiesta, Jorge, Ivy

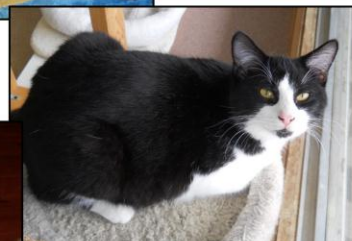
December

cats – Sweetie, Leap Day, Cheyene, Francisco, Pippen, George
dogs – Sherona, Blondie, Tink, Boise, Aubrey

Hughes



Tink



Dylan



Muffy



Blossom



Katie



Camille



Glory

SLICE Rocks!



Paws received a generous donation from the 7th grade SLICE group from Highmore/Harrold. Every year, they select a charity to raise money for and this year they selected Paws Anima Rescue. After many bake sales, they delivered a check for \$540 to Paws President, Kathy Hammond, with a few cats watching from high above.

Paws For Appreciation



Each year Paws selects a business that has supported Paws throughout the year. For last year, 2011, Smart Software Solutions was that business. Owner, Matt Smart, has made an effort to support Paws by becoming a Lifetime member as well as designing and hosting our awesome website as a donation. We truly appreciate his support.

Memorials & Honors



December

A donation to the building fund was made in memory of Brianne Bechtold.
In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson.

November

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

October

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

September

Abbie & Raymond Rathbun and Jerry & Sheryl Hawkins donated to the building fund in memory of Terry Soesbe.
In honor of Dodie Noordimeer, by Elizabeth Heath.
In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson.

August

In honor of Ruth Rehn from Jodi Owen.
In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson.

July

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

June

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



Pets to Remember

December

In memory of Gracie, dog of Brian & Kathy Moore, by Ruth Rehn.
In memory of Sweet, cat of Lindy & Matt Geraets, by Betty Truax, Lois Fuller, Kathy Hammond, Molly Jahraus, and Crayton & Debby Bouchie.
In memory of Tangerine, cat of Debby & Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets, Betty Truax, Lois Fuller, Kathy Hammond, and Molly Jahraus.
In memory of "car cats" Cole and Ann, by Dallas Vavra.

October

Ann DeVany received a donation from Lorie & Terry Jirschele and Lacey & Brett in memory of her dog, Nina. Nina, Ann's sweet dog, was 14 years and 5 months old.
From Russ Dulany in memory of Rex.

September

In memory of Bailey, cat cared for by Debby and Crayton Bouchie after Grandma Bouchie passed away. Now they are together again. Lindy Geraets.
In memory of Zia, loved shelter cat. By Lindy Geraets, Sharla Garrett, Kathy Hammond, and Molly Jahraus.
In memory of Grey, cat loved and adored by Amanda Robey and family. By Lindy Geraets.
In memory of Chester, dog of Wade and Lisa Hubbard. Chester was a wonderful four-legged friend who lived in our neighborhood. Wade and Lisa took such good care of him! It would be so wonderful if every dog could have the same kind of life that the Hubbards gave Chester! From Jim and Yolanda (Lonnie) Soyer.
In memory of Elizabeth, Dorinda Daniel's dog, by Ann Sines.

August

In memory of Autumn, cat loved by Debby and Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets.

July

In memory of Ann, our small shelter cat. She attached herself to a few loving volunteers and will be missed. By Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, Chelsea Pollreis, and Molly Jahraus.
A memorial for Baxter, Sheba, and Gateway from Dorinda Daniel.

June

In memory of Pomegranate, sweet shelter cat. By Lindy Geraets.
In memory of Moses, cat adored by Molly Jahraus. By Lindy Geraets.
In memory of Corbin, much loved shelter cat. His life was too short, but he made quite an impression. By Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, Chelsea Pollreis, and Sharla Garrett.
In memory of Baxter, dog of Darcy McGuiden, by Ruth Rehn.
In memory of Gemini (AKA Gem, Gemstone, Stoner, Fang), a cat with many names. Matt and Lindy Geraets
In memory of Gemini, cat of Lindy and Matt Geraets, by Kathy Hammond and Molly Jahraus.