

January 2012  
Winter Edition

# The

# paw

Newsletter for Paws Animal Rescue



## In this issue...

A Long Tail to Success ~ pg 2

SPAYghetti & No Balls ~ pg 2

The Time for Spay/Neuter is  
Now! ~ pg 3

Twin Cities Kitties ~ pg 4

Angel Tree ~ pg 5

Special Needs Fund =  
Healthier Animals ~ pg 5

2011 Animal Report ~ pg 6

What's Happening ~ pg 7

Wish List ~ pg 7

Honors & Memorials ~ pg 8

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## Worth the Wait

By Lindy Geraets

If you remember in the last Paws newsletter, I provided an update on the 15 car cats. We are now asking you to help us find homes for three of those special cats. Ann, Mallory, and Tory are very shy cats. They are doing ok at the shelter, but they are not thriving. We feel they would feel more comfortable and come out of their shells in a home setting where they get one-on-one attention more consistently.

In order to facilitate finding them homes, we are offering for you to adopt them without an adoption fee. We will still go through the interview process with you, but your adoption fee will be waived. They could all go together or they can go separately.

Ann, Mallory, and Tory get along with other cats and would do well in a home with feline siblings. None of them are fond of larger dogs, but may do ok with smaller breeds. If children are in the home, they would need to be gentle and understand that Ann, Mallory, and Tory will settle in at their own pace and it might be a slow process.

Speaking from experience, my husband and I adopted a cat very similar to these three about 3 years ago. Rosa immediately bonded with one of our cats, Ansel. We jokingly call them husband and wife because they walk beside each other with their tails intertwined. I've never seen anything like it before. As much as Rosa fell for Ansel, I cannot say she felt the same about us. She would barely let us touch her during the first year. Within the last year and a half, she started to sleep with us at night and let us pet her, but only while we were in bed, lying down. Just within the last month, we've been able to start petting her while we're standing. It's been a long road, but an extremely rewarding experience to watch her progress and see her slowly starting to trust us.

I look at Ann, Mallory, and Tory and see cats very similar to our Rosa. They need to learn to trust and it will take time. But you will find, just as my husband and I did, a wonderful cat who is worth the wait.

If you're interested in adopting Ann, Mallory, or Tory, please call 223-cats (2287) or email me at [pierrepaws@gmail.com](mailto:pierrepaws@gmail.com).



Top to bottom:  
Mallory  
Tory  
Ann

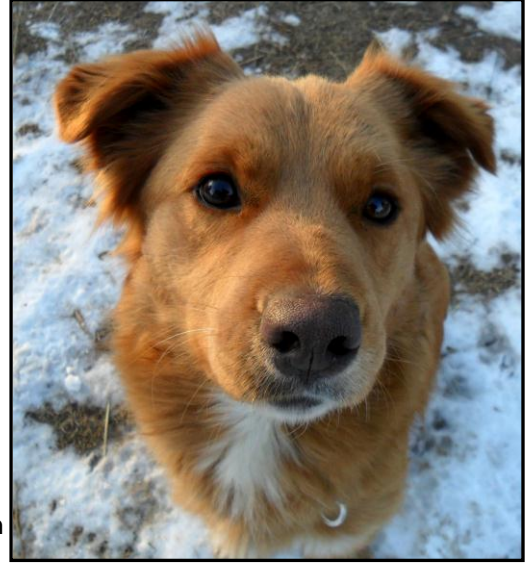


# ✂ Long Tail to Success

By Betty Truax



Puff Daddy came to us in May 2011. He was a short-legged, adorable Corgi/Golden Retriever mix dog. He went from foster home to foster home learning something new each place. We thought we had the perfect fit when he was adopted in August. His owner adored him and all went well while she was at home for the summer. He was returned, however, because of his dislike for being alone in his kennel when he could hear people around. His owner rented and when she went to work, Puff could still hear the neighbors. Those neighbors included one cranky tenant. Puff came back and was taken into foster care again. He still developed and grew in character. He truly is a CHARACTER! Puff would pass the time chasing his tail or throwing a toy in the air and catching it. Another favorite game was tug-o-war.



Late in 2011, we were contacted by someone in Minnesota who thought Puff Daddy might be the right dog for their family. We had our doubts since Puff didn't always like other dogs and they have a hobby farm with animals he had never seen. They completed the adoption form, we did all the normal checks, and it seemed to be good. Next problem was how to get Puff from here to his new home. We had one snafu involving a transport mix up between Watertown, SD and Watertown, MN. Puff waited in Watertown. His new family waited in Watertown. It just so happened they were waiting in different Watertowns! So Puff had a nice trip but did not get to his family. Barely a week later a volunteer was going to Minneapolis Puff was able to meet his new family.



Puff is very happy in his forever home! They had one situation with a chicken in his mouth, but he promptly released it when told to. Whew! Puff loves the other dogs and now leaves the cats alone. We struggled with his desire to catch the cats but kept him in check by telling him "NO NO, that's mine." Puff and the other dogs have a doggie door that goes into the basement area known as the doggie den. He is free to come and go in the house and yard. He is learning tricks and playing with the kids. Puff has finally had success in finding his forever home.

## SPAYghetti & No Balls



November 7, 2011, smelled Italian. Well, it smelled Italian if you were at the VFW that night. After much preparation by resident "chefs" and fundraising team, Lindy Geraets, Kathy Hammond, and Kim Kusser, diners began eating at 5:30pm. Over 175 people enjoyed SPAYghetti with homemade sauces and garlic bread to support the Paws Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program.

This program is funded by donations and grants. It allows Paws to sell reduced cost spay/neuter certificates to people within Hughes and Stanley Counties (see The Time For Spay/Neuter is Now! on page 3). With your help, we raised \$1,000 more than our SPAYghetti & No Balls event in 2010, topping out at \$2,460!

# The Time For Spay/Neuter is Now!

By Lindy Geraets



The Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program is very important to Paws Animal Rescue. Through donations and grants, Paws is able to sell reduced cost spay/neuter certificates to people in Hughes and Stanley Counties (2 per family per year and must be used within 90 days). Every certificate we sell results in lowering the number of unwanted puppies and kittens in our area. And, lower numbers of unwanted animals means less animals euthanized by Hughes County and the cities of Pierre and Ft Pierre.

Don't get me wrong, Paws takes as many of the animals at the pound as possible, but due to limited housing and funds we cannot possibly save them all. In 2011, Paws took 49 dogs and 65 cats from the pound. To compare, 30 dogs and 102 cats had to be euthanized by the county/cities because their owners didn't claim them and we could not take them.

Those 132 euthanized dogs and cats are a major reason we created this program 3 years ago. The canine coordinator and feline coordinator face these doomed animals each week. We both dread having to say "no" to any of them. If everyone spays/neuters their animals, the numbers of euthanized animals should drop.

So, how about some good news? Something to make you stand up and cheer? The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SPAYghetti and No Balls raised \$2,460 for the Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program! That's not all, though. In mid-September, Paws received a letter from the ASPCA approving our grant request for support of the Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program. Over the next year, we have \$4,000 to fund our program!

The fundraiser and the grant were a huge boost to our program. And because of this, we are able to offer better rates for certificates in 2012. In the past, the cost of certificates was about 50% of the cost for the spay/neuter. Beginning January 1, 2012, we changed the percentage from 50%/50% to 60%/40%. People now pay 40% of the cost for the spay/neuter certificate.

## 2012 Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Cat neuter:	\$19
Cat spay:	\$36
Dog neuter:	\$39
Dog spay:	\$45

You want even better news? Jeez. But ok, sure. I can give you even better news. The month of February will be "Love your pet. Don't let them share the love." We are offering certificates for 70%/30%!

## February 2012 Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Cat neuter:	\$14.50
Cat spay:	\$27
Dog neuter:	\$29
Dog spay:	\$34

At these rates, everyone with an intact cat or dog should be knocking on our door.

Anyone interested in purchasing a certificate should call our message service at 605-223-cats (2287). Members of the Spay/Neuter committee will be selling certificates at the shelter on every Thursday 5:30-7:30pm and Saturday 11am-2pm in February.



# Twin Cities Kitties

By Lindy Geraets



This adoption story began in an unusual way. The fundraising committee was working on the Paws Autumn Auction and I was hoping for a Twin Cities getaway as an auction item. I'd already contacted a number of bed and breakfasts, but really had no idea where to start asking for restaurant donations. I regularly read the blog, [heavytable.com](http://heavytable.com), so I know what restaurants I want to visit when I go visit my brother. Taking a chance, I emailed the editor and asked if he had any recommendations for restaurants to ask. He generously offered to send out a tweet about our auction. This tweet resulted in a donation from Haute Dish, a restaurant owned by two people from South Dakota!

No adoption yet, so clearly this is not where the story ends. In Jim's email response, along with offering to send a tweet, he also asked if we had any curious black kittens. Did we? Of course we did! We actually had a litter of 5 in foster care. I sent pictures and within 15 minutes his wife, Becca, had emailed me. They had two cats, but their black cat had to be euthanized due to a disease. They still had their Hurricane Katrina rescue cat, but wanted a friend for her. The salesperson I am, I asked if they wanted to adopt two. And they said "maybe".



Through the subsequent emails and phone conversations, they decided to take two kittens and I had the perfect two picked out. My parents were visiting my brother in the cities anyway, so timing was excellent! The boys did great on their 8 hour drive. My mom said when they pulled up to Jim and Becca's house, the kittens perked up and started purring. It's like they knew this was their home and they would meet their new parents soon.

I received the following email from Jim just over a month after the adoption. I didn't get the Twin Cities getaway I was hoping for, but I did get two awesome adoptions...and really, what's better than that?

Hey Lindy,

*Only good things to report.*

*Bartlett and Braeburn have settled in wonderfully. We originally requested black cats because our previous (and recently deceased) black cat, Briscoe, was a total sweetheart and effectively ambassador from the world of cats to the world of people. Briscoe had won over a number of cat skeptics, and led to the adoption of at least two other black cats by friends of ours.*

*Bartlett and Braeburn show every evidence of being as good as Briscoe was. They're cheerful, funny, playful, gentle, and very affectionate. Becca is mobbed from the moment she goes to bed until morning by small, cuddling black cats. They also tend to keep her company while she works during the day.*



*Both of them have been great with our existing cat, a somewhat crabby but ultimately lovable New Orleans street refugee named Nola. Even though Nola started out by hissing at them a fair bit, they've both been very respectful and gentle with her - Braeburn, in particular, has been trying to win her heart. It's about a month and a week into the experiment, and Nola has gotten more and more OK with the boys, and is now able to hang out with them and share food with them. Braeburn and Nola have even played together without incident.*

*Bartlett likes to ride around on my shoulders, and will squawk until I come over and let him jump on my back. It's ridiculous, but mostly cute.*

*The only complaint we have is that we can't get them to wear collars. Bartlett just removes his, and he'll even tug off Braeburn's when they groom. Otherwise, they've been amazingly sweet and friendly, and we're just delighted with them. And likewise, we think.*

*Thanks again for helping us out.*

Jim



A couple days after Thanksgiving, Paws Animal Rescue was in the Christmas spirit and hoped the community was, too. Runnings Farm & Fleet allowed Paws to set up an Angel Tree again this year. Kim Kusser and Lindy Geraets loaded the tree with paper and photo ornaments asking for donations. The dogs and cats each had an ornament and asked for a little something special. Chum asked for cleaning supplies for his foster mom while Smokey asked for a comfy cat bed.

We were overwhelmed with wonderful donations again this year. The dogs have many rawhide chews and the cats have a lot of treats and toys. The volunteers were thrilled, as the dogs and cats were I'm sure, with the cleaning supplies donated.

Thanks to everyone who donated items to our Angel Tree and a big thanks to Runnings for continuing to support Paws Animal Rescue.

## Special Needs Fund = Healthier Animals

By Lindy Geraets



Are you wondering what our Special Needs fund is and what we use it for? We created the fund a few years ago. If I remember right, it was when we had a dog that needed some hip surgery. A surgery like she needed was beyond the "normal" care we provide for our animals. After asking for donations, we raised enough money to provide the surgery, which resulted in a healthier dog without pain in her hip.

After that point, we continued the Special Needs Fund and have used it when animals have needed specialized care. Recently we had 4 animals that needed surgeries. After a couple generous donations, we were able to provide all 4 surgeries and we still have some money in our account for future occurrences.

The first surgery was for Sonni, one of our smaller dogs. She had a couple rotting teeth as well as one that was sideways and hindered her ability to chew. Those teeth were removed and she came through with flying colors.

The next three were more unusual. Three of our cats, Ida, Palmer, and Keeva, had terrible gum disease. Coincidentally, all at the same time! The best treatment was to remove all of their teeth. Each had their surgeries in October.

It was amazing to watch their recoveries. Keeva had started to lose weight and was becoming anti-social. After surgery, she started to gain weight and is constantly seen hanging out on her favorite bed at the shelter. Ida had stopped cleaning herself and was developing matted fur. Now, her shiny black fur is back in top shape. Palmer didn't show very many physical signs, but the infection in her mouth caused a nasty smell. The smell is now completely gone and she is happy go lucky again!

Without the donations into our Special Needs Fund, these 4 animals would not have received the necessary care to keep them healthy.

If you'd like to donate to our Special Needs Fund, you can send a check to Paws and designate the money for the Special Needs Fund. You can also stop at BankWest and make a deposit into our Special Needs Fund.

# Year in Review

By Lindy Geraets



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 2011, we saved 62 dogs and 104 cats. We also adopted out 63 dogs and 103 cats. Take a look below at the adoptions in each month.

## January

cats – Brayden, Onion, Mindy, Rayna, Paley, St Nick, Calico Ehlers  
dogs – Candi, Holly, Buffy



## February

cats – Sparkley, Fuse, Rex Cat, Finale, Hannah 2  
dogs – Bridger, Abbey, Cami, Mist, Grant, Angus, Autumn

## March

cats – Pallaton, Thea, Alivia, Jewel, Kate, Panya, Prelude, Landry, Dodge, Treyton, Suzie, Nugget, Silver  
dogs – Tess, Asher, Diamond, Morgon, Brodie, Skye, Shine

## April

cats – Plantain, Newt, Benson, Parkin, Rafe, Scallion, WiFi, Prego  
dogs – Rowan, Jackie, Gibbs, Franie, Zoey



## May

cats – Cooper, Macey, Claus, Mango, Ribbon, JT, Isabelle, Grant, Natalea  
dogs – Zeva, Lulu, JJ, Roxie, Paulo, Scotty, Laddie, Harley



## June

cats – Alaska, Lola, Penelope, Knife  
dogs – Trixie, Bravo, Sarah, Taco



## July

cats – Loco, CJ, Chevy, Bijou  
dogs – Corson, Comet



## August

cats – Topeka, Porter, Abbott, Channing, Cinco de Mayo, Aubergine, Maree, Ford  
dogs – Sonni, Ashlee, Axel Rose, Izzie



## September

cats – Ringo, McCartney, Slinky, Blackie, Fresco, Cheddar, Beatle, Jyles, Marley, Pax, Marble  
dogs – Heely, Huston, Dutch, Maggie Mae, Donnely, Ruidosa

## October

cats – Salsa, Emm, Sacramento, Diego, Syrah, Suzie Q, Cheyenne, Francisco, Katy, Lindale, Abilene, Harper, Pittsburgh, Tux  
dogs – Kingsley, Corto, Foxy

## November

cats – Rosza, Adidas, Robert, LA, Latte, Maddox, Liam, Yazmeen, Embur, Victorea  
dogs – Jake, Sister, Dodger, Shadow, Alley, Ruger, Jack



## December

cats – Beela, Bain, Ginger Snap, Stetson, Galina, Utah, Trick, Elle, KC, Potter  
dogs – Kadee, Zola, Puff Daddy, Shadey, Piper, Kobey, Chester



# What's Happening?



## February

- Monthly Meeting ~ 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm at the Paws building downtown
- Be My Furry Valentine (wall fundraiser) ~ all month
- Meet & Greet ~ 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 3-5pm at the shelter
- Farm & Home Show ~25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
- Taco Johns fundraiser ~ 29<sup>th</sup> ~ 5pm-close

## March

- Monthly Meeting ~ 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm at the Paws building downtown
- Gold Canyon Candle fundraiser
- Meet & Greet ~ 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 3-5pm at the shelter

## April

- Monthly Meeting ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ 7pm at the Paws building downtown
- Paws celebrates 33 years of helping local animals ~ Show your support by donating \$33
- Spring Earth-Friendly fundraiser
- Spring Zonta ~ 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>
- Meet & Greet ~ 21<sup>st</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: Gigi, Jackpot,  
Jamison, & Shiloh

# 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.

# Memorials & Honors



## October

In memory of Sylvia Thorson Fratzke, by Jim and Barb Beastrom.

In memory of Sylvia E Thorson Fratzke; she loved animals of all kinds. Memorial from her children: Stanley Thorson, Lyle Thorson, Douglas Thorson, Vernon Thorson, and Kathleen Thorson-Poss.

In memory of Arlyce Peterson who so dearly loved our animal friends! She passed away September 25, 2011, and her family knew this was her passion and would want to support the Pierre Humane Society. Memorial made by Peterson, Saylor, and Smucker families.

In memory of Arlyce Peterson, by Cathy Sonnenschein

In memory of Marge Pellerzi, by Olivia Johnson - Randy & Susan King - Marilyn Koch - Rollin Page - Mary & Dave Schweigert - Gary Speicher.

In memory of Emily Nelson, by Marlys Nellermoe.

In memory of Dana Corcoran, who loved her pets dearly, from her previous co-workers at Public Health in Fargo, ND.

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

## November

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

## December

In remembrance of Bertha Sonnenschein, by Greg & Joan Deal.

In honor of Gail & Delores Miller's 80th Birthday, by Greg & Joan Deal.

In memory of Fran Cutler, by Clara Jo Bronemann, Arla Hamann Poindexter, and Bonnie Jamison.

In memory of Judy Heibel of Pierre. She was a founding member of the Pierre Humane Society many years ago. Memorial from John & Cindy Koerner.

Donation to the Paws building fund from Don Lungren in memory of his wife, Margaret.

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



# Pets to Remember

## October

No memorials for October

## November

In memory of Rex, from Russ Dulany.

## December

In memory of Willow, loved cat f Lauren Laird, by Dallas Vavra.

In memory of Mayes, Fernando, and Girlfriend. Three awesome cats loved by Debby and Crayton Bouchie, by Lindy Geraets.