

Reflections on 2006 – Katrina Revisited, Notable Rescues, and Finding that Forever Home – the Year in Photos

Our Katrina rescue dogs and cats that we brought back from New Orleans in October, approximately 35 pets, did really well. You may remember the notables, Ralston, Waldorf and Ashley and several others who were in such dire straits when they first arrived, but who blossomed and flourished in a few short months here. All of these cats have received monthly sponsorships from several very generous individuals, Melodie Pavlis, Leslie Register, Connie Maze, and Sylvia Reifler who we wish to thank deeply for their help along with a number of others who also contributed for their care and well being.



Ralston, Ashley & Waldorf—sleek & happy, always together like a close family.



Alyssa with her new dog, Pia.

A few other Katrina cats still remain who do not have sponsorships yet, Ming, Beanie, Munchkin and Sheeba, three of whom are not easily adoptable and most likely will stay at the sanctuary for a long time. Our rescue dogs did really well and all found wonderful homes within a few months time.



Connie Maze visited the sanctuary and is holding her sponsored cat, Jake.

In early Spring three more Katrina dogs came to the sanctuary, however this time they were from other rescuers.



Chance, a Katrina rescue was one of our most well behaved dogs.

Chance, a gorgeous pitbull, was given an extended stay at Heavenly Pet until the right home was found. Two other Lab mixes, from that area, a sister and brother were brought back and sponsored by Elizabeth Walker to live at the sanctuary. Winkle has since been adopted, but her brother Nugget remains at the shelter waiting for his own special home. Both are very sweet, friendly dogs.



Nugget is a Katrina rescue from New Orleans looking for a home.

There were so many wonderful adoptions, only pictures can convey the bliss felt by both the pets and their new families. Kaboodle and Sophie had always been close at the shelter and were lucky to be adopted together as lifelong companions by Kacy Webster.



Hobie (rt) adopted by Linda who is holding him with her little Maltese..

Hobie, a cute little Papillon went home with Linda Gaddie and got a very cute sister and new playmate.



Meghan Comey holds Misty her new kitten.



Kaboodle & Sophie got to stay together in their new home.



Fauna was a very sweet Katrina rescue cat who joined this family.



Mark & Leia holding their two new kittens.



Always lots of kittens!!



Tigger entering Iowa State Veterinary Hospital.



Two days later, emaciated barely hanging on to life.

days and bad days." When Tigger started eating it was with a gusto that did not quit. "He was hungry all the time, and we had to pace him and feed him small amounts at first because he was still on a very restricted diet ." The intensive care continued for over a month and during that time, Tigger still had his jaw wired up which was pretty uncomfortable for him. The fracture had not healed properly and he could not close his mouth, so he just sat there with his tongue hanging out all the time, drooling.

Pepe & his sister Liza went to live at the Raj, a famous hotel/spa nearby. Eddie our dearest and most favorite Beagle, who was dropped off at the shelter gate in a pet taxi went to live with Jerry and Sue Schmidt. We had some adorable puppies this year, all were adopted into marvelous homes as you can see here from the pictures. And of course the kittens, always in plentiful supply, and always irresistible. Right now we have quite a few cute ones hoping they'll end up in someone's Christmas stocking come the 25th.



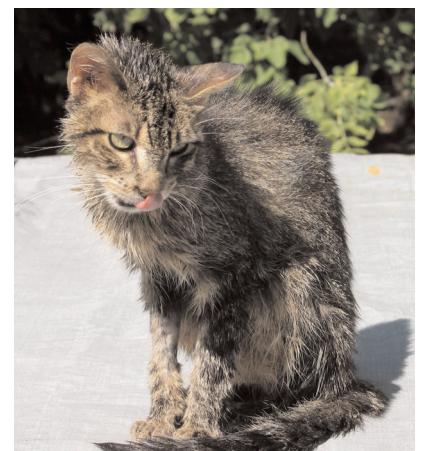
Eddie with his new caretaker, Sue Schmidt.



Tigger after his first surgery.



Laura holds Tigger, during his intensive care period.



This is Tigger several weeks later taking some fresh air in the sun.



Tigger with a veterinary assistant.



Tigger is examined by Dr. Steen at his clinic in Cedar Rapids.



Bob Rose (lt) & Dale putting a new roof on the kitty cottage.



Melissa & Amber bathing Fudgie.

Jan Erceg, who had sponsored Chance the Katrina rescue dog, heard about Tigger's condition and once he was strong enough, took him to see her own veterinarian and had the cat examined and operated on. When Tigger came home he looked like a different cat. He was able to close his mouth, groom himself and above all, it was obvious-he looked and felt immensely better. After that Tigger became a permanent member of Laura's household cat club, a collection of shelter cats that had migrated over from the main sanctuary to her home. She says that Tigger is the most devoted cat she has, "He always wants to show us that he's very grateful to be alive and we love him dearly."

We've had some really fabulous volunteers and donors this year. Dale Carstensen, a contractor drove 100 miles to stay in Fairfield several days and installed new laminate floors throughout the shelter in 2005, he came back this year and completed kitchen remodeling and a new roof for our small shelter. Other volunteers who helped with that project were John Marble, Bob Rose, Ferenc Conti and Ryan Hill; Donald Wright donated the funds for the new flooring and Morris Leventhal gave a generous gift for the other shelter improvements. Marilyn Meyers gave us an extremely generous gift this year which was used to fund and expand our adoption program, to shelter and care for special needs dogs and for Katrina veterinary expenses; David and Janine Vatz sponsored two stray cats for a year and gave the shelter a very nice used car. Kilton & Jody Barnard also gave a very generous grant to the shelter for its renovations.

Melissa Tripp has recently joined the shelter as a very enthusiastic volunteer and donor. She spends time doing our accounting, caring for the shelter dogs and taking them to the veterinarian, helping in the office and working with the volunteers. She and her husband Dale, are also sponsoring several dogs to stay at the shelter and have adopted two others, Emmy & Max.



Dixie & Moxie lov'n it up together, Dixie is a Katrina rescue sponsored to stay at Heavenly Pet by Sylvia Reifler.



A once abandoned Sophie finds her forever home.



Tigger looks better here, but still cannot close his mouth because his jaw is wired up and hurts him.



The final outcome – looking and feeling so much better!!





Don Wright & Scooter



Bowser finally has a life.



Lark presents award to Laura.



Chelsea's foot was badly injured in a trap.



We also want to thank our other monthly sponsors, these are the donors who are making the existence of this shelter possible by supporting the cats and dogs to stay here each day by paying for their expenses. They are Jason Flora and Tamara DeSchepper, Carolyn Hannebaum, Jan Erceg, Glenda Fillenworth, Lee Barnard, Mark Peterson, Jerry Dick, Roshanak Ahmadhi, Margaret Kesterson, Rhondi Marble, Mary Delaney and Rita Goldstein. We'd also like to thank Kay Flynn for her frequent memorial donations for her friend's pets; Lynn Rose & Sherri Palmer for their marvelous donations of super premium pet food which they ship to us twice a month, Mary Conroy for pet supplies and Donald Wright for his help with Tigger's vet bills and sponsorship of Bowser, a dog he helped rescue who was tied up with a logging chain without food, shelter or water. Bowser is no doubt one of the happiest and hungriest dogs we've ever had. Also special thanks to Nestle/Purina and Walmart for their donations of pet food and to HyVee and Dana Mueller of the Fort Madison PAWS shelter for their donations of cat litter.

Dale Dorman is in his 70's and has rescued over 100 cats which he keeps on his farm and at his house in rural northern Missouri. Recently we traveled there to visit Dale and donated a truckload of canned cat food for his animals, which he has gotten from area shelters and individuals no longer wanting their pets. Dale cares for the felines almost single-handedly and has been very generous and compassionate about their welfare.

Laura Conti received an award from the local university on behalf of the shelter for its notable efforts rescuing and transporting homeless animals during the Katrina aftermath. This was a very intensive year for dog and cat rescues and the shelter was very busy, and very full. So if you didn't hear from us, you know it was because we were doing our job, saving the lives of sick, lost and stray dogs and cats that had nowhere else to go.

Your support is making all of this possible and we appreciate your contributions large and small. We really need more monthly sponsors to care for our dogs and cats. Please consider giving a modest donation each month to care for a homeless animal of your choosing.

Thank you so much.

All your friends at Heavenly Pet!

Laura & Frank Conti, Lee Barnard & Linda Roth



Jan & Glenda with Chance.



Unloading cases of donated food.



Dale Dorman & his cats.



More rescued kittens!



Heavenly Pet Sanctuary