



A SHELTER'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Heavenly Pet's shelter is pretty homey this time of year, stockings are hung, Christmas toys appear and outside lights are twinkling in the frosty night. Inside the cats and dogs are toasty warm in their heated beds, dreaming about the catnip and beef bones yet to come.

Each Christmas the pets get care packages full of gifts. Christmas morning they are opened and each group of cats and dogs in each part of the shelter gets to share in the fun.

The dogs get bones with chew toys, sweaters and new blankets. For the cats there are furry mice, catnip scratchers, treats and soft beds. Oh it's a grand old time at the shelter and everyone enjoys for weeks to come. There's usually a donated roasted turkey or two on the cutting board, however the dogs are partial to a few McDouble's w/ cheese. One is not enough and the larger dogs eat at least five. (Forget what the vet says, *if you like it, they love it!*) Opening presents is a ritual and the camera is not far away flashing to catch every move.



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL—FINDING THE IDEAL HOME

There can be no greater gift for a dog, cat or rescuer than what we call the “**forever**” home. So we place our pets with great care and that can mean a longer wait sometimes, but when the right person does come along it is a special meeting.



Festus & Mary on Adoption Day

This year saw a number of our dogs leaving to join different families, some who had been here a number of years. A cause for celebration but with a pang of sadness for those of us who had grown close to them. Here in pictures and stories are some of the most notable:

Festus came to us, a wild, frightened dog with one of his eyes missing. We had to carry him into the shelter; he would not walk. He was young then but he grew into a gentle, loving dog who was a favorite with everyone. He had a twin that came in later named Maggie and they used to jump all the fences and get into trouble. Festus could climb any fence, didn't matter how high it was and he would make the rounds to visit different dogs in their outside kennels. You could tell they liked having him there and his greeting was more like a Moo than a bark. This year he was adopted to the Fuchs family who had several other dogs on a nice farm. They are crazy about him and say he is the best dog they ever had.

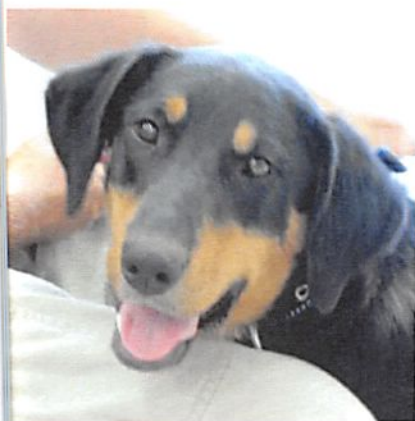


Jessie and the Martins with Sam

Jessie was our other old-timer, she came to us with 5 puppies that were trying to survive in an abandoned doghouse in the country, she was rundown, hungry and thin. She turned out to be a very mellow, laid back girl, short little legs and a Basset hound body, she loved laying in the sun, going outside exploring on walks and her chew bones. She was adopted this month to the Martin family and their little boy Sam, who is now her best friend and companion.

Worf had been with us a little over a year when he was discovered by Trisha Shepherd. Worf was abandoned at the shelter and was one of the worst behaved dogs you can imagine. He barked for 3 weeks non-stop, he jumped on you, he mouthed, he was hyper. All this just his way of saying, "I've been neglected,

I've been tied up, I'm dying for attention." His transformation was remarkable, over time he morphed into a super relaxed, affectionate, quiet, well behaved dog without any formal training. It was truly amazing! He kenneled beautifully, walked on a leash without pulling and was very loving. Worf had a chance to realize his potential given the right environment with patience, exercise and love and is now contributing his own special qualities to the family he is happily a part of.



Trisha Shepherd & Worf



A very nice Beagle, **Shilo** went home with one of our nicest adopters—Robert Muir of Keosauqua, who will give him the kind of life a dog only dreams of.



Shilo

Annie, a young Golden Retriever mix was adopted to Mike Richey this week, who is attending to her broken leg.

Dean & Donna Evans adopted her other sister **Marley**

← And the third sister **Teddy** was adopted to Leslie Shipp & Randy Larson.



THIS YEAR'S KITTENS

Every year brings in a crop of special furbabies to the shelter and this year was no exception.

Meet Sirena, Moonlight, Picasso & Sparkle from a huge litter of eight kittens! It was last winter that we got the call about three white cats that were living outside in the country without food or shelter. They were rescued and came to be known as Austin and Figueroa, two brothers and Taffy a female. Soon after we made the discovery—Taffy was pregnant! She later gave birth to the 8 kittens pictured here.

Kris Armento took home **Nico & Nami** from the same litter of eight to her home in Iowa City.

Barbara Kirby took home **Layla**, a tortie and **Eric** a grey tabby to her home overlooking the Mississippi River—a lucky twosome!

Wendy Allen adopted **Picasso & Matisse** two tuxedo kitten siblings.

Dave & Sue Rude adopted a sweet, little tabby and named her **Sassy**.

Magic was found in a tree and **Cassie** a little calico kitten, was found at an abandoned farm house.

Two Ragdoll kittens shown here were living outside in a storage container; they were not tame enough to handle and had to be live-trapped, but now are ready for adoption, and the list goes on.....



Wendy and Picasso



Michael Hartson with Dodger



Barbara Kirby with Layla



Lots more adopters to mention, but we're out of space!



Lana and Oliver

GREAT CAT AND KITTEN ADOPTIONS TOO!

Oliver went with Lana Strahn who came back recently and adopted **Dancer** as a friend for him.

Two Siamese brothers went to Connie Gorgas holding Jackson; and Michelle Flannery with Sully.

Olivia a beautiful Blue Point Siamese was sneezy sick and not using the litterbox, deemed "unadoptable" Berenice Nelson set to work rehabilitating her using natural healing coupled with vet visits. A few months later Olivia was looking like a new cat, healthy and litter trained. She now lives in her own big house in Des Moines with Maria Witte & Martin Teply.

Melodie & John Pavlis adopted **Stevie** a tiny, little oreo colored kitten who was found on the road and brought here for care. Although she was sick and very small, she had an indomitable spirit and made a full recovery. She now lives in the lap of luxury near Chicago and is totally spoiled with her new pal Blackie V.



Berenice with Olivia



Melodie & Stevie



Carmen's Xmas at the shelter

Another notable dog adoption was **Carmen** who went to our website designer Margaret Zacny and her husband Wes. Carmen came in 5 years ago picked up in the farm community of Stockport where she had been a stray for several years. She was a painfully shy dog, paralyzed with fear of anything she wasn't used to, but very sweet and friendly when she was outside with the other dogs—that was natural for her. The Zacny's had already adopted **Susie** from us four years earlier and she had been Carmen's best friend at the shelter, sooo, they decided to adopt Carmen too and this little dog began a transformation that continues to this day. One step at a time she began to come out of her shell, to trust, relax and shed her fear under their watchful, patient care. She's emerged a happy, loving house dog reunited with her old pal Susie bringing delight to all.



Wes, Susie, Margaret & Carmen--at home



Conner

Conner, another old-timer went to Patrick Atkinson, the manager of our TSC store where he gives calm and gentle companionship to the whole family.



Jan Erceg & Chance

Jan Erceg has been a monthly donor since 2006 when she brought in Chance a rescued pit bull to the shelter. He was since adopted out but Jan has continued to donate faithfully since then. In addition to her demanding career as a Paramedic, she finds time to volunteer at the Cedar Rapids Animal Shelter making a big difference in the lives of impounded dogs.

Rita & Hal Goldstein are sponsoring Bernie a large stray, black cat they found on their property. Rita owns several dogs and has previously had cats at her home in Fairfield, she has always been concerned about animal welfare and interested in the shelter's welfare. We want to thank Hal & Rita for their generous donations over the years which have helped so many of our shelter pets.



Hal & Rita Goldstein

Susan Harbur adopted Bella a long haired calico in 2008 and has her own mini-rescue group of senior Bichon dogs in her cozy home. Susan is an avid seamstress and donated many of her colorful pet bed creations to the shelter where they are in hot demand. She recently became a monthly sponsor and we want to thank her for her generous ongoing support.



Susan with Bella

Roshi Ahmadhi is from Iran and has been a donor since 1997 and a monthly sponsor since 2006. She lives in Iowa City with her husband Dick and their cat Tosca. Roshi has been a loyal supporter and we thank her for her kindness which has helped the shelter so much.



Roshi at a Petco Adoption Day

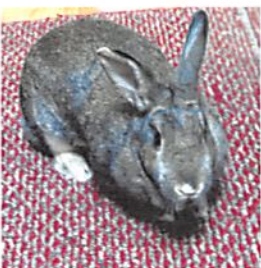
Dale Carstensen has donated his time and resources to literally transform the shelter. A contractor by profession, Dale was instrumental in installing our new laminate flooring, roofing both of our main buildings and doing countless other remodeling projects including the purchase and installation of new vinyl replacement windows throughout the shelter. He has also been a regular donor and generously supported the shelter during the past 14 years. We are very grateful to have Dale's energy, enthusiasm and experience helping us with our building projects.



Dale Carstensen

Many thanks to the following donors and

volunteers: *Jay & Nancy Kreider, Nancy Morgan, Kilton & Jody Barnard, Kim Blair—Bloom & Bark, Karin Tobin, Jason Flora and Tahmi DeSchepper, Meg Kesterson, Karen Kennedy, Peter & Sue Huggins, Andrew Gibson, Nikki Cable, Julie Honsa, Bruce Barnard, Berenice Nelson, Lynn Rose, Janine Vatz, Linda Sampson and all others who have supported our work over the years—we couldn't do it without you!*



Our bunny Sasha



Karin Tobin, volunteer



DONALD WRIGHT

Honoring the memory of a compassionate soul dedicated to helping animals, Don Wright was not only a loyal supporter of the shelter but also rescued and sheltered many cats on his own. At age 75, walking with the help of a cane, he was actively feeding, trapping, neutering and housing many of the strays that frequented his small town of Stockport, Iowa.

Don passed away this past April at the age of 82, leaving behind his beloved cats. His dog Hooch, who was 15 died only a month before him. Heavenly Pet took 5 of his cats and several ferals and they have adjusted very well.



PROFILE OF AN ANIMAL RESCUER, MARY KAY ALLEN, CAT LOVER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Instrumental in establishing the first feral cat feeding program on the local university campus, it was Mary Kay's inspiration and dedication to caring for these cats that inspired us to continue the work and eventually start a new shelter in Fairfield. All tolled, in one winter, we ended up trapping, neutering, removing and relocating over 65 feral cats from that one location. In those days, our shelter was a rustic barn where we set up heat and shelter, a bare bones, no frills operation designed to get them through the cold.

It was very isolated and Mary Kay would trek out there through the winter snow to feed the cats and clean the litterboxes by herself when hardly anyone else would. She hauled gallon containers of water when the pump froze and cared for them faithfully day in and day out. Eventually most of those feral cats were moved to the shelter where we are now, but those were the beginning days and Mary Kay was an integral part of that. Mary Kay

has since retired, in her 90's she joined her family in Colorado, but we will remember her always as our founder and the memory of the many cats she saved from a life of suffering lives on in our rescue work.



SCOOTER'S STORY

Every time someone came in to visit or adopt there was Scooter wedged in beside them or nearby making a play for

attention, it was obvious how desperately she wanted to be taken home, but she was passed by. Year after year Scooter lived at the shelter and no one wanted to adopt her no matter how loud she purred, how affectionate she was or how charming, it was always the same. She had come in with kittens, wasn't especially motherly and was happy when they were gone. She didn't care much for other cats either, this simply wasn't where she fit in.

She relaxed some as she aged, she stayed inside more, sleeping where it was warm and she enjoyed her food, she was fairly rounded and some nicknamed

her "football". Scooter entered her senior years and still had not been adopted, she was sad about her fate and it weighed on her because she had so much to give someone, anyone who would take her home.

This year a cat lover, David Flusche, started visiting the shelter and expressed a desire to adopt or foster an older cat, since he had lost his recently. We approached him about taking Scooter. She had developed some serious ear problems and needed special care, but he consented and soon after, Scooter left the shelter to begin a new life.



Scooter settled right into her first real home, this was, after all, what she had been waiting for all these years. A truly compassionate man, David is one in a million and for this senior kitty, is making her last years truly golden.



Melodie & John Pavlis



Connie Maze



Glenn McDermott

WE OWE OUR EXISTENCE TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

Melodie & John Pavlis have done more to keep Heavenly Pet Sanctuary afloat than anyone else. Through their generous support, the shelter has been able to continue despite the challenge of increased pet rescues and expenditures. In addition, Melodie has gifted the shelter throughout each year with food, supplies, toys and numerous gifts and treats. At Christmas, she sends large boxes of beautifully wrapped gifts for everyone (pets & people) to enjoy along with an extra donation for good measure. They have adopted two cats from the shelter, Madonna and Stevie. We are more than blessed to have her and John as our beneficent guardians and supporters.

Leslie Register has been a standout donor to the shelter since 1997. She became a sponsor to three Katrina rescue cats in 2006 and has continued to increase her monthly donations throughout the years. Her cherished pets include several horses, dogs, cats and a rabbit; including an abused dog named Rosie from Mexico and Buster a senior dog from a local shelter. We are extremely grateful to Leslie for her enthusiastic, long time support.



Leslie Register w/Sammy & Rosie

Connie Maze is another dedicated cat lady who has supported the shelter since 2000. She started sponsoring Jake, a shelter cat in 2005 and has also sponsored Mazey, a feral Katrina rescue cat in 2006. Connie shares her home with several senior orange tabby cats and her husband Glen. She is retiring this year and we wish to thank and appreciate her for the kindness and generosity she has given over the years as well all her many hours of volunteer help at Petco adoption events.



Pat Warren & Klemi kitten

Pat Warren became a sponsor when she brought in Kalli cat and her two kittens, Pumpkin and Buttercup to the shelter in 2008; she has continued to support the shelter ever since and also adopted two kittens from us named Shadow and Klemi in addition to her two older cats, KC and Sami. Pat has volunteered at the shelter and most notably at our Petco adoptions in Iowa City. We are very grateful to her for her unwavering, generous support over the years.

Glenn McDermott has been a sponsor for many years, a former Army medical officer he served in Iraq and is a confirmed animal lover. He visited the shelter with his two dogs Sean and Fiona when he traveled cross country to relocate in Washington State. He sponsored one of our special needs, senior cats Nicky during her lifetime and continues to donate monthly. We wish to thank him for his loyal support and commitment to the shelter's rescue mission.



Mary Boothby

Mary Boothby is a local donor and volunteer who has been helping the shelter since she brought in a stray cat named Mooney in 2008. She generously donates her time each week and resources each month to enrich the lives of our shelter pets. We wish to thank Mary for her support and the love and dedication she brings to the shelter each time she visits.

Carolyn Hannebaum was one of our first sponsors in 2000 and generously donated monthly to support two cats Dahlia and Babycakes, both special needs for many years. *Babycakes* is still with us and doing very well in large part thanks to Carolyn's generous donations.



Babycakes



Mary Conroy

Mary Conroy adopted a puppy from us in 2003 named Charlene and became a sponsor for Max a special needs Beagle later on. She sent many gifts to the shelter over the years including office supplies, leashes and collars for the dogs. She lives in Minnesota with her two Beagles Andi and Wilma. Thank you Mary for your dedication and the love you share helping us.

Sharon Leach rescued Ditsy when he was a small kitten, half paralysed by the side of the road. Admitted to the shelter, Sharon helped with the kitten's rehab for many weeks, applying hot packs and physical therapy. Now grown up Ditsy made an amazing recovery and Sharon has



Sharon Leach & Ditsy

continued to sponsor him and to volunteer for the past four years. One person making a life changing difference for the animals we care for.

We are indebted to the following individuals and businesses for their generous help:

Nestle-Purina for their massive donations of pet food

Oberg Freight for transport of those Purina donations at an affordable price

Mel Allen & Cory Larsen donation of storage for the pet food

Fairfield Lumber, Jeff Abbey forklift and operator to unload donation shipments

Van Coats—Americo—for many truckloads of cat litter over the years

Hy Vee—pallets of cat litter

WalMart Distribution Center pet food

The Veterinary Clinic services

TSC Fairfield—Patrick Atkinson—pet food, toys, treats and supplies

Andrew Bargerstock MUM MBA faculty for our Payroll and Accounting

Weda Boolos—Payroll accounting services

Margaret Zacny—for hosting and creating our website

PetCo—pet supplies and Adoptions Events

Marilynn Oelisiniski—owner Bubbles Pet Spa—grooming & store adoptions

Fairfield Tire — Keith Hyde tires for our adoption van

The Fairfield Ledger—classified ads

Zach & Jen Zobeck — True Value Hardware

Aladdin Foods at MUM

Parkview Care Center

Dixon's Floors n' More

Bob's Auto

Doud's Meat Locker—boxes of beef bones for the dogs

Caseys—hosting our rummage sale

Frontline Graphics



Madee (Madonna)

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

We remember the following pets who passed over the Rainbow Bridge and were deeply loved.

Madee—Katrina rescue and darling of Melodie & John Pavlis, deeply loved and missed

Mister—beloved dog of 14 years—Jackie & Joe Williams

Corky—treasured companion to Sally O’Connell

Marvin—best friend for 14 years—Laura Conti

Coco Chanel—beautiful Siamese and gentle hearted dog **Buck**—Sharon Harris

Lucy senior cat, **Lexie** Scottish terrier, both long time, beloved family pets & **Daisy** the rabbit—Linda Sampson

Sammy—sweet & faithful companion dog to Leslie Register

Beau—older cat, friends with everyone, much loved by all — HPS

Frazier— terminally ill in hospice care, but with a strong spirit — HPS

Nicky—12 year old talking cat sponsored for years by Glenn McDermott

Ginger—special rescue dog to Herman Lenz

Toby—Beloved companion to the late Jerry Dick

Bad Cat—Soulmate to Pandi, an inseparable twosome for years.

Dandee—Adopted by Marilyn Dunham

Princess—12 year old cat found on local college campus when young—rescued by Mary Kay Allen

Hank—a special senior cat who retired here—Ted Kendros

Zeus—a super cat with a large presence — HPS

Another very special friend to the sanctuary was, **Kay Flynn**, who left behind her three rescued cats and had been a monthly donor to the sanctuary for years. Kay always honored her friends’ departed pets with a donation to the shelter in their name and a special card.

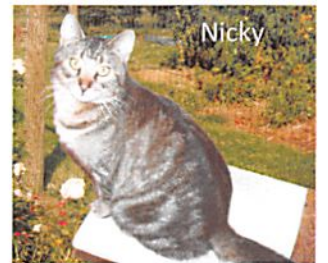
Bes Sandberg of Des Moines passed away this November. She founded the organization called Help the Animals dedicated to providing affordable, low-cost neutering and spaying to pet owners and rescue groups. HPS received generous grants from HTA each year for sterilization surgeries through Bes’ generosity and appreciation for our work.



Mister & the Williams



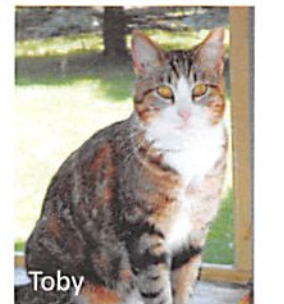
Marvin



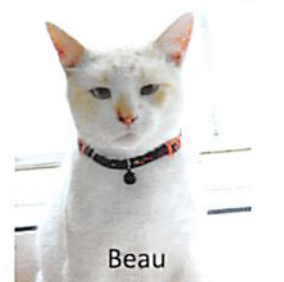
Nicky



Hank



Toby



Beau



Corky



CoCo Chanel



Marilyn & Dandee



Pandi & Bad Cat



Zeuss

Heavenly Pet Sanctuary
2174 Key Blvd
Fairfield, IA 52556



Merry Christmas to all!

Sign up for our E-newsletters by emailing us at friends@heavenlypet.org and we'll keep you up to date on all the happenings at the sanctuary.



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Just click on **Send Money,**
donate@heavenlypet.org

using our email:
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You can make donations

After all it's Christmas!

— And don't forget to donate—

