



Where Happy Endings Begin!



You gave and they survived

Many of you probably remember the story from our last newsletter about the generous donation of a building in Ionia to Safe Haven. Thank you again and forever, Ruth Kurth, Rachel Palmer, and Raven. The gift of the building has helped immeasurably in our efforts to provide medical care and second chances to ill or injured pets that we might not otherwise have the resources to help. Government-run shelters have no funding for medical expenses for these animals, and, unfortunately, these pets normally are euthanized. The gift of the building allowed us to host garage sales all summer, and that, in turn, helped generate the funding for the special medical needs of these pets. Here are just a few of those special needs pets we were able to help.



Daphne

Juno

The upper and lower lids on both of Juno's eyes were affected with a condition called Entropion. Her eyelids turned inward and caused her eyelashes to constantly rub on her eyes. It's a miserable condition causing redness, tearing, and pain and is corrected only with surgery. If not corrected, it can result in ulceration or perforation of the cornea.



Juno

Daphne

Daphne was dumped at a shelter in Muskegon with an obvious injury to one of her back legs, which was diagnosed as a luxating patella which means her kneecap slid off to the side, so she wasn't able to use that leg. The condition was surgically corrected by our vet, and now she runs at top speed with her rescued sister hot on her heels.



Juno

Skipper

This sweet boy came to Safe Haven by way of a good Samaritan who helped him out of a tree. He had a badly damaged rear leg that had to be amputated. Skipper was a huge hit when he went to the Pet Supplies Plus store in Grand Rapids. He would sit next to the cashier and greet all the customers as they went through. He was a tripod ham, and we received several adoption applications for him before he went to his forever home.



Skipper

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Dallas and Paris

These two good-looking kids traveled all the way from Texas for the chance of a forever home. Texas has so many puppies that euthanizing is common, and shipping puppies to other states for adoption is a regular occurrence.

Unfortunately, either prior to leaving Texas or on a stop along the way, these pups were exposed to the Parvo virus and narrowly escaped death. Their sibling, Bowie, was not as lucky. The pups underwent several days of veterinary care, including treatment with fluids, antibiotics, and other supportive tools, but, as all rescue people know, sometimes you beat Parvo and sometimes it beats you. The treatment is expensive but well worth it if the pups can be saved. Paris and Dallas were two lucky survivors.

The stories we've shared are a few of the extraordinary cases of costly medical treatment. We're not showing you these so you'll feel bad for these animals, because now they're all healthy and happy, and almost all are in adoptive homes. We wanted you to see the successful outcomes of some of last year's fundraising efforts. Safe Haven cannot exist without community support and that's how these pets were able to receive the care they needed. Please continue to donate either cash or items to sell in our garage sales in Ionia, and we promise to continue to save special needs pets whenever we can.



Pet Supplies Plus, Our BFFs!

It's hard to even begin to count the ways that Pet Supplies Plus associates help Safe Haven. Let's just begin with the basics: since 2011, Safe Haven has been adopting out cats at all five Pet Supplies Plus stores in the Grand Rapids area. In that period of time, we've adopted hundreds of cats into wonderful homes.

But it's not as cut and dried as it sounds. We don't just walk into the store, plop the cat into the cage, and wait for an adopter to show up. When we get to the store, we're always greeted warmly by the staff, and they stay with us to help in any way they can. They're always anxious to meet the new kitties, too. Once we leave, the Pet Supplies Plus associates take total charge of the cats. They see to their daily care (feeding special food if a cat requires it) and give the cats ongoing attention. They get to know the cats so well that when someone is interested in adopting, the staff knows the cats almost as well as we do! The staff has helped with hundreds of adoptions, letting people know about personal quirks in each cat. We've had many adopters tell us how helpful the PSP staff was, both before and after the adoption.

If a cat should start feeling puny while at one of the stores, the staff lets us know immediately and they watch over them closely until we can have the cat either looked at or picked up. Cats get brushed, held, played with, and allowed time out of the cage each morning—and that's all done by the Pet Supplies Plus team. We simply could not rescue and find homes for all these cats without the help of the amazing people at Pet Supplies Plus. We love them!

We could not catch up with all the staff members but wanted to picture the ones we could.



Pet Supplies Plus, Grandville Store



Pet Supplies Plus, Kalamazoo Store at 60th



Pet Supplies Plus
Alpine Store at
Four Mile



Here are some ways you can help Safe Haven animals:

☐ Donate: My check made payable to Safe Haven Humane Society is enclosed for

☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

(you can also donate by credit card at www.shhspets.com)

☐ Foster. Please send me information about fostering cats or dogs

☐ Hold or help with fundraiser

☐ Become a member of Safe Haven: \$10 individual or \$18 family

(Members receive a 20% discount on caps, tees and sweatshirts)

Your Comments. Thank you. _____



Thank you
for helping
us

cut out and mail this
form to:
Safe Haven Humane
Society
P.O. Box 55
Ionia, MI 48846






Free to a good home? NO!

Many difficult life events can arise that force you to give up your beloved pet. Whether it's financial hardship, death of a pet caregiver, moving to assisted living or nursing home facilities, they're all extremely difficult situations when there's no one to continue to care for the pet.

Safe Haven gets dozens of calls every week, asking us to take a pet that's being given up, some for the crucial reasons listed above, and some for not very valid reasons. But we're a small rescue, trying to rescue pets in danger of

euthanasia in animal shelters. We seldom have room for any of these relinquished pets.

If you or anyone you know is giving up a pet, please remember and remind others of these DO's and DON'Ts

-  **DO:** Start this process early, the minute you discover it's necessary. Contact Safe Haven by email and send a photo. Even though we can't take the pet, we can do a Courtesy Post on Petfinder.com to give the pet more exposure.
-  **DO:** Check with your vet or other vets in the area to see if they can help. If one of their clients has recently lost a pet, the veterinary staff may know if that client would consider another pet.
-  **DO:** Plan on listing a re-homing fee. Anyone who legitimately wants a pet to love will not mind paying a fee, especially for pets who are fixed, have had medical care, etc.
-  **DO:** Plan on checking out the prospective owner's vet references and visit the home to meet the other family members and current pets if any.
-  **DON'T:** List a pet on Craigslist or anywhere else as free. Unscrupulous people who collect "free" pets may be providing them as bait for dog-fighting rings, to research facilities for testing and experimentation, or hopefully less commonly, but just as real, satisfying their own twisted needs such as in the much-publicized story of Jeffrey Nally Jr, who tortured and killed 29 dogs that he obtained from Craigslist and other "Free to a good home" ads.



This little fella was one of the lucky ones:
he was rescued and given treatment.

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"Where Happy Endings Begin!"

If you would prefer not to receive future copies of our newsletter, please call or email and let us know.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

You've heard of Rent-to-Own, how about Foster-to-Adopt?

If you're thinking of adopting but really aren't sure, how about fostering to adopt? You complete our adoption application, which really doubles as a foster application. You let us know what type of dog you think would best fit into your household, and we will try our best to find a potential forever friend for you.

If, after the agreed upon time, you decide this really is not the pet for you, the pet can be placed into the adoption stream, including being listed on Petfinder and our Facebook page, going to any



Long-time foster mom, Bobbie, hugs one of her precious foster dogs.

adoptathons, etc., while we continue to look for another potential "just right" pet for you.

The pet adoption application, which is the form you will use, is on our website, which is www.shhspets.com.

Whether you decide to keep the pet or not, you'll find fostering to be a rewarding experience.

It's amazing to watch the changes in pets as they become accustomed to you and your home, learn new things, respond to signals from you and other pets.

So, even if you decide not to adopt that

particular pet, everything you've done for it while in your home will help it to succeed in a permanent home after being adopted.

You are helping the pet move along the path to his or her very own "Happy Ending." What could be more wonderful and rewarding?



"Most of all, I want a home."