



Where Happy Endings Begin!



My Friend Frankie--Love is Blind

By Clever Mason of Fox Haven Farm

MY NEW FRIEND Frankie and I hit it off right away--we're both Yellow Labs, for starters. And we share a love for Nylabones, back scratches, and blueberry dog cookies. Imagine my surprise, then, when I discovered that Frankie is blind....



Frankie

We were playing fetch, and I noticed that Frankie couldn't find the ball immediately and couldn't catch it in mid-air like I do. I razzed him a little about it, but he just smiled. Later, while settling in for our afternoon siesta, Frankie said, "I'm blind, you know. At least, that's what everybody tells me." He sighed and rolled over with his back against mine. Soon he was gently snoring without a care in the world. I, on the other hand, felt terrible, guilty that I was too



Clever Mason

short-sighted to notice my friend's problem. My mom, Sue, explained to me that love is blind: we don't see the imperfections in those we love, only the beauty. I nodded in agreement. No argument there. Then my mom told me that Frankie and I both have OSD, Oculo-Skeletal Dysplasia, a genetic condition marked by skeletal deformities and blindness. Frankie's OSD affected his eyes more severely than his bones, while my OSD shows in my Charlie Chaplinesque legs (that's how I think of myself....).

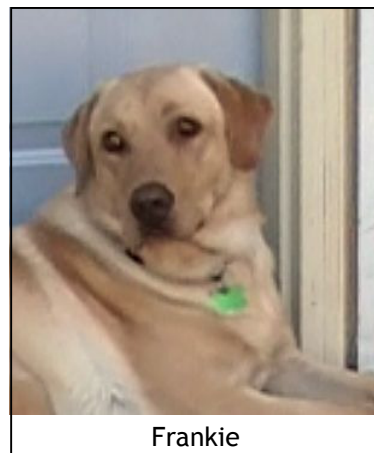
My mom told me that breeders can perform a simple test to see if their dogs carry the OSD genes, but some irresponsible breeders care only



Frankie

about making a profit from the puppies. Guess who pays the price?

Okay, so this is where I come in....Safe Haven needs you to help Frankie on this last



Frankie

leg of his journey, undergoing surgery to restore part of his eyesight. Please help my friend Frankie by donating to Frankie's Fund via the Safe Haven website. Love may be blind, but Frankie doesn't have to be.

Please help make Frankie's vision of a brighter future come true. Your gift will make a difference. Thank you.

And if you would like to learn more about OSD, please go to http://www.optigen.com/opt9_rdosd.html.

Millie saved!

One Saturday in June, a Good Samaritan in Ionia spotted a cat coming unsteadily down the sidewalk toward her . . . a very thin, weak cat. The cat looked like a fur-covered skeleton.

The Good Samaritan brought the cat to her neighbor, who was a Safe Haven volunteer, and together they made the spindly stranger comfortable until they could take her to Safe Haven's veterinarian.

Once at the vet clinic, Millie – as we began calling her – was immediately tested for feline leukemia and distemper, because the horrible, emaciated shape she was in made either of those conditions likely.

Surprisingly, the test results were negative. This cat had simply been starved, almost to death.

The assumption is that she had been shut in somewhere, with no food or source of water . . . perhaps left be-

hind in a vacated home. Even cats living outside on their own can find food in June . . . they'll eat grass and bugs if they

have to. This cat had eaten nothing in quite a while. Her weight was 3.7 lbs.

After a 3-day hospital stay with fluids and antibiotics, Millie returned

to a Safe Haven foster home to begin her journey to full health, if possible.

She had a relapse a week later when her temperature spiked and she lost her appetite. She was cooled down, started back on antibiotics and within 24 hours, she was coming back again. What a fighter!

Here's Millie, when she first came to us, and again 60 days later at 7.5 lbs. We've called her Millie-Phoenix after the Phoenix, the mythical bird who's reborn from the ashes.



Millie comes to Safe Haven at 3.7 lbs

Besides showcasing Millie, our heroine, we've presented this story to beg people to be alert when homes near you are being vacated and you know the family has pets. Make sure the pets leave with the family and are not left behind. Pet abandonment has become very common in our current period of home foreclosures and economic downturn.

If you think there might be a pet inside a vacant dwelling, please call your local public safety or animal control before it's too late for the pet.



Millie after treatment – 7.5 lbs

Thank you, Bissell!

BISSELL doesn't just sell vacuum cleaners! One hundred pets in Ionia and surrounding areas will get a permanent identification microchip because of BISSELL's Partners for Pets program. At least 200 pit bull owners will be able to have their "pretty pits" spayed or neutered because of BISSELL's Partners for Pets program.



bissell.com/partnersforpets

Safe Haven Humane Society was the lucky recipient of the first BISSELL Partners for Pets random drawing among qualified partners, winning \$5,000! Because of the BISSELL Partners for Pets initiative to help lost and found pets return to owners, \$1,000 of the award will be used to microchip 100 pets. The remaining \$4,000 will be used to subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for pit bulls in Ionia County. Please join us in thanking BISSELL for this innovative and supportive program....helping pets and encouraging those who care for them.

BISSELL's Partners for Pets program also offers ongoing donation opportunities for shelters and rescues, in addition to the quarterly drawing. If you would like to help Safe

Haven receive donations from BISSELL, here's all you have to do:

- 1) go to the BISSELL Partners for Pets website shown in the BISSELL logo (bottom left);
- 2) select one of the home and pet care products shown on the website;
- 3) during Checkout, use the code ADOPT and indicate Safe Haven Humane Society as your rescue choice, and you will receive a 10% discount, free shipping of the products purchased, and Safe Haven will receive a donation from BISSELL equal to 10% of your purchase! Every purchase you make helps qualify us for the next \$5,000 drawing!

You just can't beat this program. Thank you BISSELL!



What did you like best about this issue? What topics would you like to see in an upcoming issue? Put your comments below.

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 online at www.shhspets.com)

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

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

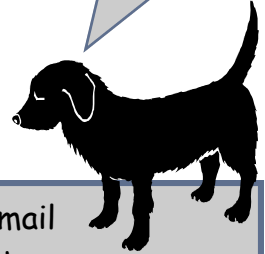
☐ Other:

☐ Help transport animals

☐ Hold or help with fundraiser

☐ Other _____

Thank you for helping us!



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



Your Comments. Thank you. _____

Pet Supplies "Plus" Event

Imagine our excitement at being invited to be the showcased rescue at the Pet Supplies "Plus" store on 28th Street, near Woodland Mall.

B-93 was doing a remote broadcast; it was a bright, warm August Saturday; we had planned carefully; there was great participation and host support; and only a 10 percent chance of precipitation. What could go wrong? You guessed it: it poured down rain.



Kari and a few of his little foster dogs!



Roxy poses with her new family!



Isn't this what it's all about?



A great turnout at Pet Supplies "Plus"!

The roof of our canopy gathered water and periodically soaked anyone standing near an edge. Our poor dogs ended up looking bedraggled, no matter how much shelter they had. But did it discourage us? No way! We held out, even though all the pictures on our donation canisters became washed-out, faded images.

We clipped nails, painted faces, and talked to a lot of very nice people. Four of our dogs were adopted during the event,

and people were very generous with their donations (I think they felt sorry for us).

Thank you, Pet Supplies "Plus," for your warm hospitality and support.

We're looking forward to doing it again!



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"Where Happy Endings Begin!"

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dexter's new friend

MY NAME IS DEXTER AND I'M A BUNNY. One day my "mom" said maybe I needed a buddy so we went to a store called PetSmart to find my friend. I never had a cat for a friend, but they look sort of furry like me, so I figured they must be pretty good guys.

Right away I saw this absolutely stunning, white girl cat. She was gorgeous and to top it off, she didn't have any claws, so if she got too "playful" she wouldn't accidentally hurt me. So the nice Safe Haven lady brought the white girl cat into a room where we could get acquainted. The white cat walked all around the room totally ignoring me except to hiss at me. Apparently it wasn't to be a mutual admiration situation. She asked to go back to her cage.

Then the Safe Haven lady brought another cat into the room, and I thought "oh no, this black cat is big and is probably really mean." But I watched him slink around the room, almost on his belly saying "Oh please someone save me, I'm so scared." His eyes were really big, and I could see he was looking for a place to hide. He was petrified.

He finally spotted me sitting in my "travel coach" and said "Hey, can I get in there with you? It looks like the only safe place in this room and I'm so scared." So without waiting for an answer, he pops in next to me, almost tipping me over, and settled right in. He was warm and soft and I could tell he wasn't so scared anymore. So my "mom" said she thought the choice of



Dexter and Hamlet share the travel coach

a friend just got made for us....by a big, black, very frightened cat named Hamlet.

Hamlet came home with us, and he loves living at our house. He plays, he's not afraid anymore (well sometimes a little bit when strangers come over), and we're great friends. I think we're going to live happily ever after.