



*Where Happy Endings Begin!*



## Why I opened my home and became a dog foster

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I wouldn't say I had a bad life, but, then again, I was a kid and you "played the hand you were dealt." I was never beaten or starved, but, in turn, I was never hugged or nurtured. However, I found affection and comfort in my family's dogs. If things were bad, a dog licking my face made everything so much better. As I grew up, I figured out just how dependent I had become on my canine friends.

The dog side of my life continued with my reading and watching anything and everything I could about my fur friends. I really, really wanted to help my friends' cause, but only thought about what I could do for them myself—rescuing dogs from a shelter.

At one point in my life when I was older, things took a turn when I injured myself. I ended up losing every material possession I owned. When this happened and I couldn't pay for people's meals, drinks, loan money, etc., I realized that most people only care about what you're worth to them. Not my dogs: they didn't care what brand of food I bought them or where the house was located, only that I was still their leader and security.

So with the support of my wife, my child, and my dogs I moved on. After experiencing how easily every-



thing can change (or end), I needed to help my canine friends more, starting right then! On my own, I could only help as many dogs as I could house and take care of. With a dog's life being many years long, this was very limiting. So I started looking into rescues. I decided the foster-based rescue was the type of rescue for me. I soon found Safe Haven Humane Society.

There I got to know and train the dog (like house-breaking, walking on leash, etc.) in order to better place the dog. Safe Haven Humane Society's adoption policies are much more real to me, because not everyone can have a fenced-in yard or someone home 24 hours a day. So, I chose them and filled out an application, and they accepted me and my family.

I've been with Safe Haven Humane Society for 6 years now and, to date, my family and I have fostered 122 dogs and still counting. I absolutely love what I do and, in my case, it satisfies my hunger to help my canine friends. It helps me understand them better, which assists me in placing more of the dogs into forever homes. Also, Safe Haven Humane Society is helping me become a dog/people trainer to help make people understand the dogs they are adopting.

If you have ever felt like you would like to help the dogs' plight, please, please think of fostering. It helps so many more dogs than the 1 or 2 you can adopt. Fostering may make life a little busier, but also very much better.



## Bobby Jo's travels



BOBBIE JO SENDS her best from sunny California.

This feline beauty came to Safe Haven with four gorgeous kittens. She had broken teeth indicating some kind of rough encounter in her short two-year life and was in general poor health. She also damaged a ligament in her leg which called for some rest and recuperation in a Safe Haven foster home. During a visit with relatives in Grand Rapids, Myriam spotted Bobbie Jo at one of our partner Pet Supplies Plus stores in Grand Rapids and it was pretty much "tug at my heart" at first sight.

After a lot of emails and planning with Safe Haven, Myriam (who lived in Colorado at the time) returned to Grand Rapids, adopted Bobbie Jo and the two flew to California to a new home, a new job, and a new forever relationship. Myriam and Bobbie Jo send regular donations to Safe Haven, adding one more reason to admire these wonderful "ladies."



Bobby Jo watching birds

## Cooley Law School donations



HEADING INTO THE 2013 holiday season, Safe Haven received the great news from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Animal Law Society—in other words, future law-

yers with a passionate interest in protecting animals—that we had been selected as their Christmas charity.

Together the group gathered donations of food, treats, litter, cleaning supplies, and beds for the homeless animals in our program. They presented the donations at a dog adoption event and received puppy kisses as payback for their kindness.



## Pet Supplies Plus offers new program that benefits pets, local rescues

BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 1, Pet Supplies Plus will begin airing television ads introducing a new Wellness Assessment program. Pet Supplies Plus staffers have been professionally trained to evaluate your pet's health and wellness through an assessment that takes less than an hour. Not only will the assessment be of benefit to pets and their owners, but the small fee of \$10 will be donated to local rescues. For the month of September, Safe Haven will be the recipient of those donations. Visit [PSPwellness.com](http://PSPwellness.com) for details about this new program and to schedule your pet's assessment.

This is what Dr. Sarah Abood, DVM, PhD, Michigan State University said about this program:

"Pet Supplies Plus is a remarkable organization in that they are willing to put their employees through a rigorous training program with one goal in mind; to educate their clients for the benefit of their pets. In the veterinarian community, we do not find many retailers with that kind of mindset. I'm proud to be part of the Pet Supplies Plus story."





### 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](http://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

### Thank you Calvin and Andrea!

THIS REALLY FUN little sailboat was donated to Safe Haven by Calvin and Andrea just because they're super people!

It has a multi-color sail and came with a trailer with almost new tires. What a great gift to the pets in our program (not for them to sail of course, but they do benefit in other ways). We offered it for sale at \$700 or best offer. It didn't last long—we just accepted the best offer of \$600! There's plenty of summer left and we hope the buyer has a great time with this great "toy". Thank you again Calvin and Andrea. We couldn't do this work without animal lovers like you.



Sail for sailboat

### Portraiture artist donates funds

SAFE HAVEN OFFERS A huge thank you to Arlene Tannheimer, a well-known local portraiture artist, and Sherri Taylor, owner of City Antiques in Grand Rapids.

Sherri commissioned Arlene to paint her portrait, and the two generously sent \$1,000 in commission and donation to Safe Haven. Animal lovers like Arlene and Sherri help make our rescue work possible. Thank you so much.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** We love hearing how well our adopted fur kids are doing. Many people post pictures as well as little blurbs about them on our Facebook page, and we encourage you to do the same. Come and visit us often and find out which dogs will be at PetSmart, which pets were adopted, any special events that might be taking place, and just generally to join our community. Be sure to come by and "like" us and post a comment. We would love to hear from you.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Tula's story

ON THE DAY ROY HEARD TULA crying in his garage, her journey through Safe Haven's program began. Roy and his wife, Joan, recognized that something was wrong with Tula's feet and that the injuries were severe. After administering cleaning and first aid, they contacted Safe Haven and then took Tula to Animal Hospital of Lowell.

Tula was such a brave and lovable girl, purring and rolling over for pettings, all while gunshot wounds to both paws raged with infection. Throughout a two-month period of monitoring and treatment of the infection by Dr. Langlois at Animal Hospital of Lowell, we all watched and waited to see if Tula would be

able to keep one or both of her front legs.

Tula came to a Safe Haven foster home to continue healing and for us to watch her recovery. I think the photos speak for themselves as to her final outcome. Sweet, chubby, and now adopted into a loving home, Tula had an amazing, happy ending to her Safe Haven journey. Way to go Tula!

In the beginning

