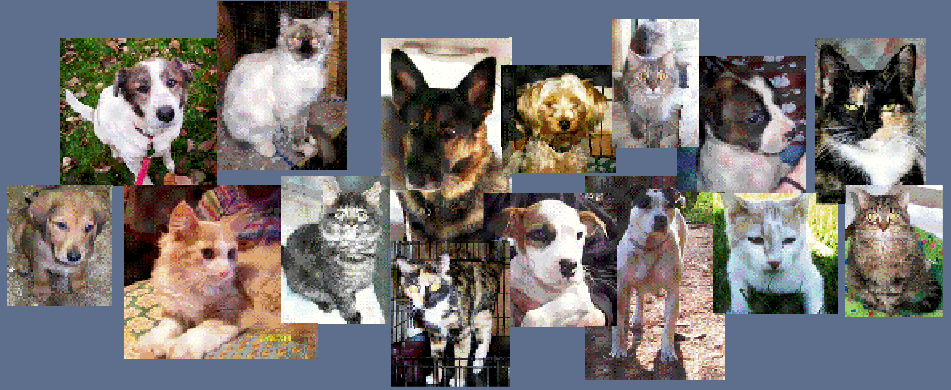




Where Happy Endings Begin!



Gumbo's Big Adventure



Gumbo in the car

Four-day old Gumbo was left at a county animal shelter with his mother and six brothers and sisters. That was the beginning of Gumbo's Big Adventure.

In the three days it took for Safe Haven Humane Society to find out about the dogs and get them out of the shelter, they had

already contracted kennel cough and had to be on antibiotics for a week (Yuck, was Gumbo's thought).

Gorgeous like their mom, the pups were a breed most of us never

see: Catahoula Leopard dogs.

Nurtured by his doggie mom under the watchful eye of a Safe Haven foster mom, Gumbo thrived and was finally ready for his first step into the

outside world. He was ready for adoption.

With photos online for the world to see, Gumbo didn't have long to wait before his future adoptive mom, all the way in Milford, Connecticut, fell in love with his soulful face. Knowing Safe Haven doesn't ship animals and that adoptions have to take place face-to-face, his future mom started scouting pet-friendly hotels along her 15-hour route before we even finished processing her application.

Gumbo's foster mom said, "I hope she knows that she's going to be making a 15-hour trip with a non-potty-trained, non-leashed-trained, and never-been-away-from-his-littermates puppy." But not to worry.

On a snowy January 8, 2011, Gumbo got into the car with his new mom, curled up in the back seat with the stuffed animals waiting there for him, and stayed there till they got to the hotel.

Gumbo was a little nervous in the hotel room and wasn't fond of having to go potty in the snow (especially the freshly dumped two feet they found upon arriving in Connecticut).

But he was totally thrilled to finally be home with a nice couch and bed to sleep on!



Gumbo on the couch at his new home

Gumbo loves his new home, and his family calls him "the sweetest little boy," so we're thinking that the first stage of Gumbo's adventures in life couldn't be much better.

As of this writing, Gumbo's new owner, Nicole, says that he is doing just great and is a happy little guy. He likes the cats better than they like him, though, and runs to her to hide from the ducks and geese when they honk!



What happens when you're gone?

If a time comes when you can no longer care for your pets, do you know what will happen to them? Have you made a plan for them?

We get so many calls from people telling us things like, "Grandma passed away, and we need to find someplace for her dog to go. No one in our family wants him." Or, "My mother is going into a nursing home and can't take her cat." And sometimes it's simply a case of illness and pet care becomes difficult.

Please talk to your family and friends about caring for your pet if or when you cannot do so. If you need to set aside a small endowment for that care, think about that, too – the future caregivers may not have the funds for your pet's care.

Uprooting a pet from a lifelong home is very difficult for that pet, but having a plan will at least keep that upheaval to a minimum.

Don't put your pet through a juggling act among family members, only to finally end up at the animal shelter.

Misunderstood Ginger

We recently received a great photo of Ginger (dog) and Romeo (cat), both Safe Haven alumni. What's so different about Ginger? She just happens to hold the Safe Haven record for most times adopted and returned.

Between May 2007 and October 2007, Ginger was adopted six times and returned five times. "She's attacking my other dog," "She has too much energy," were just a couple of the reasons given for returning Ginger.

I personally fostered Ginger for a few weeks prior to her last adoption, and we never had a bit of trouble from her, in a house with four big dogs and five cats. In fact, my husband and I even toyed with the idea of making Ginger part of our family.

It was huge fun to watch her throw herself into the mix with 70 to 80 pound dogs playing – she only weighed about 11 lbs.

When we received the adoption application from Prudence, we felt this just might be the perfect home for her.

Sure enough, this big dog in a little dog's body made herself right at home from the first moment. No baby gate was keeping her from the



Ginger and Romeo

rest of the family – she jumped over it the first night and became fast friends with the resident large dogs, Aurora and Scout.

We've received periodic updates since 2007 from

Prudence, letting us know what a great addition to the family Ginger is.

When Prudence adopted Romeo from Safe Haven a couple of years ago, Ginger found a new best friend.

Ginger had been terribly misunderstood during those five months in 2007, but patience won out and Ginger and Prudence finally found each other. The perfect match!



Ginger with the big dogs at Mary Ellen's house

Three-year old Cash is heartworm positive!



Cash

Cash is a three-year-old Rottweiler/Shepherd mix who's a big baby, loves any kind of attention, and has heartworm. He was dumped at a county animal shelter, and because he tested positive for heartworm, he was scheduled to be euthanized.

The shelter staff knew Cash would make a great family dog, but heartworm treatment is expensive, and county shelters are not funded for it. A volunteer at the shelter called Safe Haven, hoping for a miracle for Cash. And of course, once we met him we had no choice. We couldn't let this sweet boy die.

Cash is one of many dogs we see every year with heartworm disease. We seek treatment for as many as we can, but we need your donations. Any amount you can send will be greatly appreciated. Beyond helping Cash, please remember to have your dog tested annually for heartworm and administer monthly preventative. It only takes one mosquito bite for your dog to be infected with heartworm disease.



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.

Blank lines for comments

The 2011 Spring Pet Expo

April arrives and local rescue groups swing into action preparing for the West Michigan Pet Expo in Grand Rapids. Once again, Safe Haven Humane Society teamed with the Ionia County Animal Shelter to find homes for as many homeless dogs in both programs as possible.

There is always a fun theme, and we count on the help of Ellis Elementary School students in Belding to help create outstanding decorations for the booth. Led by Renee Gillespie, their teacher and stalwart Safe Haven volunteer/foster mom, the kids came through for the animals again this year. They made 400 dog treats for the 50 or so

adopter baskets and helped put the baskets together with treats, coloring books, new adopter guides and training DVDs.

Our theme was "When You Wish Upon a Star." The students made shooting stars to dress the walls and columns of the booth, with each star displaying a "doggie wish," like good food, treats, kids to play with, a warm home, someone to walk with, and on and on. Wonderful, thoughtful wishes.

Two giant blue stars on the back wall announced the booth theme, and a huge fluffy cloud sat waiting behind the adoption tables. Each dog crate had its own shining star with the dog's name on it. As each dog was adopted, that dog's star was placed on the fluffy cloud. Predictably, the cloud became filled with stars, to a point where it fell off the wall and had to be remounted.



It was a wonderfully rich experience for all of us. So many dogs found homes! We met and talked to tons of nice people and gave away over 600 helium balloons. We owe a huge thanks to everyone who helped plan and execute this project, and we're already planning for next year. See you then!

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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

Odds and Ends for Furry Friends

Mark your calendars and start collecting your cast-off treasures! The animals need your stuff!

Saturday June 4th is the day to drop off your donated goods at 331 W. Main Street in Ionia (formerly Jerry's Paint Store). We'll be there receiving donations from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on that day.

If you cannot possibly bring the items on that day, please contact us by phone at 616-522-1611 or by email at shhspets@hotmail.com, and we'll make arrangements to meet up with you to do a pickup.

No clothing please, except doggie clothing.

We welcome household decorative items, small appliances and electronics in working condition, books, tools, furniture, and whatever other treasures you would like to donate.

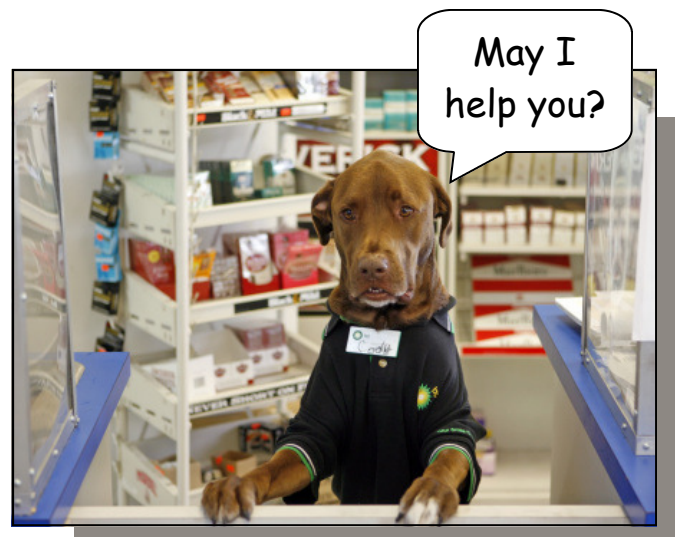
The sale will be held the following weekend at the same location (331 W Main in Ionia).

The hours of the sale on Friday June 10th are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the hours for Saturday, June 11th are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We'll have fresh baked goods for sale too!

Please come and browse to see what treasures you might find that someone else has given up. You just never know what you'll discover.

And remember, it's all for the animals! Please write down these dates: the animals need your stuff!



Saturday, June 4, 9-4, drop-off
Friday, June 10, 9-6, sale
Saturday, June 11, 9-4, sale