



Where Happy Endings Begin!



Raven's Happy Ending

Early in 2011, a Safe Haven foster mom received a call indicating that there were three, small, female labs (two chocolate and one black) at the Clinton County Animal Shelter scheduled to be put to sleep the following day. Knowing we had one dog foster who specializes in fostering labs, the shelter reached out to us. Unfortunately, at that particular time, that foster already had multiple dogs in her care with no room for more. We did a quick check around our foster network and figured out a way to shoehorn these three girls in.

It was obvious from the start that these girls had never been around people except when their meager food was delivered. They had apparently been caged their entire lives and poorly fed. They

were terrified of people and would not potty outside, but rather would hurry back inside to do their entire duty in their crates. They had lived that way and it was all they knew. The girls, soon named Daisy, Raven, and Coco, were put into three separate foster homes, but the story was pretty much the same in each case: no socialization at all, fear of being approached, fear of being touched, only seeking the security of their crate. As the days went by with our foster families constantly working to gain trust, but making very little progress, we realized that it would take a long time to find homes for these poor, sad girls. Eventually, one by one, the girls were taken for a day at PetSmart in Grand Rapids to help with their socialization.

And then came the day Raven went to PetSmart and met Rachel and Ruth:

After having to put our 13 year old dog to sleep, we waited a few weeks and decided our home was empty without a dog. We looked on the internet at shelter sites and found several dogs. We then read about Raven and how she had been badly treated in her first year of life. We went to Pet Smart to meet her. We saw her



huddled in the back of her cage; looking rather frightened with all the people and noise. She did look at us and it was love at first sight!!! Raven was not the dog you would notice if you were there to adopt an outgoing, personable dog.

Raven needed a quiet home, lots of patience, and people willing to let her take life at her pace. We were able to adopt her that day and we were thrilled to bring her to her forever home. For weeks, she would eat, drink, let us put on her leash to take her outside, but really did not want us to touch her. She cowered when we raised our hands to turn on a light, reach for anything, and she was afraid of the normal



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noises of daily life. After a few more weeks, we could get nearer to her if we sat on the floor. She would cautiously come near us and we could pet her. We talked to her all the time about how we were so glad she was our dog and how good she was. She loved her many visits to the dog park and played well with other dogs. She also got used to new people and saw them treating dogs well.

This was our excuse to buy a couch and that made such a difference. We told her to jump up and she figured that it was Okay. Now she snuggles between us on the couch and loves to be hugged and petted. Our friends have helped by coming to visit and this has forced Raven to adjust to new people. She has traveled to Tennessee with us: handled an elevator, a hotel, rest stops, and new people quite well for a dog who was never petted as a puppy and teased and tormented by her first adopters.

We have gently put new experiences in Raven's life and she still is timid and afraid of most new situations. However, she does adapt more quickly now. She is sweet, follows us, and loves to run, fetch her ball, and toys. The highlight of Raven's bravery was sitting on Santa's lap at Tractor Supply for a picture. We had no idea how she would react when we took her. She saw other dogs there and figured if they could sit with him, so could she! Frankly, we were shocked when she just sat with him and looked into the camera!

We feel that showing Raven how a dog should be loved is one of the most rewarding experiences we have had. She certainly deserved a loving family, and Safe Haven gave her that chance. We are so grateful that she could become part of our family.



Suds, sunshine, and soggy dogs!

We were given a gorgeous day last August to hold our summer Chip 'n' Dip event at Tractor Supply Company in Ionia. Through the generosity of Bissell Pet Foundation, we were

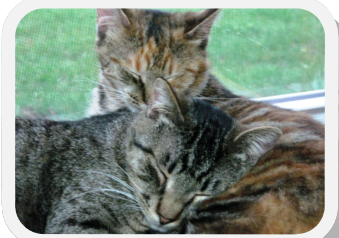
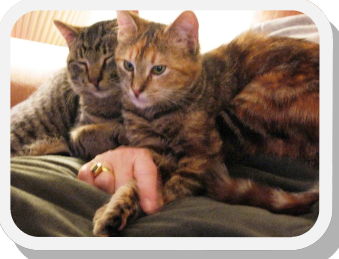


able to microchip 54 dogs in just a couple of hours! People and their pets waited patiently in line for "the works." Safe Haven volunteers, two local pet groomers, and volunteer vet techs provided an outdoor spa service for the fur kids in attendance. Included in the works for \$20 was a bath, nail clipping, and microchip. Although the nail clipping and bath are temporary, the microchip is permanent, and once registered in the national database, provides clear identification of the dog's home and family.

We all had a great time, pet owners went home with clean, microchipped dogs, and Safe Haven raised roughly \$1,300, much of which was purely donations. It is our hope to hold another Chip 'n' Dip this summer, possibly in Lowell and/or Portland. Microchipping is one of the few permanent identification tools that can help your fur kid get back home if he's ever lost. Even if you think you keep your dog under control and he can't get away from home, many dogs are lost while traveling or left in the care of a friend, neighbor, or relative. It's low cost, easy to do, and provides such peace of mind. Watch for an announcement soon of the next event.

Former barn cats find a home

Liam and Emmy, as they're now called, were living inside a barn, probably born there but not littermates. The lady who takes care of them takes in every cat that shows up, feeds them, and tries to get them fixed. She ran into problems, and we helped her fix 53 cats over the past few months. We kept the adoptable ones, including Emmy and Llam—they were only 5 or 6 months old and super lovable. Larry and Marilyn were looking for two cats and fell in love with these two and adopted them on March 10, 2013. Here they are three days after their adoption (top) and now (bottom). Marilyn said as soon as they arrived she thought they knew they were home. Thank you Larry and Marilyn for giving homes to these two sweet cuddle bugs.





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

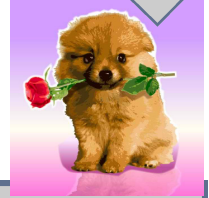
☐ Other:

☐ 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. _____

Heartworm prevention is your best bet

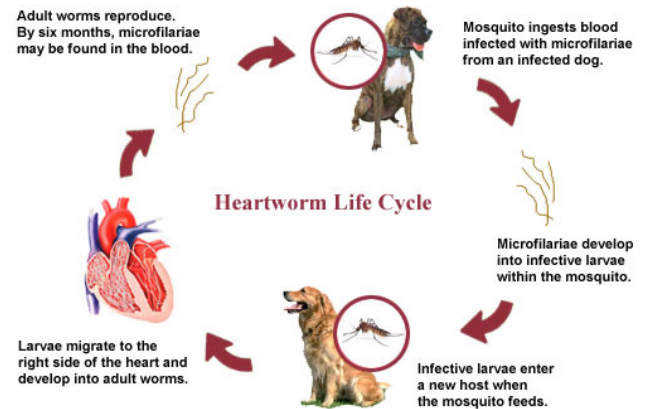
Heartworms in dogs are easy to prevent, but difficult and costly to cure. **Only the bite of an infected mosquito can render your dog heartworm positive.** There's no other way dogs get heartworms! And if you have mosquitoes and you have animals, you're going to have heartworms. It's just that simple. And there's no way to tell if a mosquito is infected. That's why prevention is so important. Heartworm disease has been reported in all 50 states. And the bite of just one mosquito infected with the heartworm larvae will give your dog heartworm disease.

It takes about seven months, once a dog is bitten by an infected mosquito, for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms. They then lodge in the heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels and begin reproducing. Adult worms can grow up to 12 inches in

length, can live five to seven years, and a dog can have as many as 250 worms in its system.

Heartworm-infected dogs in animal shelters is a very common problem today, and public shelters rarely have the money to treat heartworm disease. It's perfectly acceptable to adopt a dog with heartworms, but you have to be dedicated to having the disease treated appropriately, because it's a horrible disease that can lead to a dog's death if left untreated.

Heartworm treatment generally requires the use of drugs, such as Caparsolate, which is given intravenously twice a day for two days. Significant toxic reactions can occur, and include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice, kidney failure, and death. Elderly dogs with heartworms are at high



risk of death from therapy to kill the adult worms. Surgical removal of worms is reserved for critically ill dogs with vena cava syndrome who are not candidates for drug therapy because of the risk of liver failure or thromboembolism.

Since treatment of heartworms in dogs can be as dangerous as the heartworm disease itself, prevention is your best bet.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Remus, the puppy no one wanted

Poor Remus was dumped at the Montcalm Animal Shelter. Just a scared, lonely puppy, he had little chance of getting adopted because of the mange all over his face, staph infection, and yeast infections in his ears and between his toes.

One of our great puppy fosters took Remus into her home and helped him begin his long journey of medicine, injections, dips, and vet check-ups. It took months of treatment, but just look at that puppy face now. What a shame if this poor little guy had been killed at the shelter because people were repulsed by his medical condition.

We certainly don't have the funds to care for every pet dumped at shelters for medical reasons, but we do our best



when we can. We're so glad we were around when Remus showed up. He's been a joy to his foster mom and dad and they're proud to

have been able to help him.

