



Second Chance Animal Rescue™

Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for and placing homeless dogs and cats into forever, loving homes. We educate the public on respect for all animal life, including the importance of spaying and neutering in order to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

Help Us Save More Lives

In 2024, Second Chance will enter its 30th year of saving lives. When we incorporated in 1994, there were only a handful of rescues in Minnesota. Now, there are a few hundred. This past year has been the most difficult year we have seen in the last 20 years with the number of strays in impounds at risk of euthanasia, people wanting to surrender their animals, and animals suffering on the streets. Rescues are overextended and begging

for help to save them which means all of us need fosters, adopters, volunteers, and funding. We will continue helping the neediest and are looking forward to another year of helping dogs, cats and people, but we cannot save more lives without a community of volunteers. If you can open your home to fostering a cat, dog or kitten, please let us know. Now is the time to get involved.

Losing a Member of the Second Chance Family



It is with very heavy hearts that we said good-bye to one of our most dedicated and wonderful volunteers just before her 104th birthday in May

of this year. Peg Erpelding volunteered with Second Chance since we started over 29 years ago. She was always happy to help with anything and everything – transporting animals, paperwork, picking up our mail at the post office, running errands, etc. She had a great sense of humor and a caring mother quality about her. Peg is now out of pain and at peace.

We miss you dearly, Peg.

Saved by a Twinkie

A lot of our dogs come to us as strays or with shy temperaments, making them potential flight risks because of a fear of strangers or simply a sense of wanderlust. Either way, when new dogs come into the program, we have to use every precaution to keep them from fleeing. But, as we all know, things do happen.

Recently, a sweet, shy Aussiedoodle named Scarlett came to us from a breeder who was retiring several of her dogs. Scarlett's foster mom spent weeks bonding

with her, reassuring her that she was safe and loved. Over time, Scarlett grew to trust her and began to show her foster mom a different side of her personality – including her sweet tooth! Scarlett's favorite treat (in small amounts, of course, and definitely in moderation) turned out to be Twinkies! Little did anyone know that this love of spongy,



Scarlett continued on next page

Some Special Cats

In this newsletter, we are highlighting just a few of the cats we rescued in 2023 who needed extra veterinary and foster care. Being a stray out on the streets exposes cats to horrible injuries and diseases. Please don't let your cats outside.

Journey the Survivor

Journey came into our program as a thin and injured stray. Something terrible happened to his front and back right paws



which looked like the skin had been burned off. The skin was eaten away and just flesh and bones were visible on his front foot. We wanted to save the paws so the vet tried honey wraps daily, and then every few days and then weekly.

Through all of this pain and paw wraps, Journey was the



sweetest boy, purring and wanting to be cuddled. Everyone who met him, fell in love. After a couple months of wraps and recovery, new skin grew back and Journey was able to walk and play without pain. He is a lucky boy who was adopted into a wonderful forever home.

Cats continued on next page

Second Chance Helps Low-Income and More

In 2023, we continued to provide grants to Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program (MN SNAP) to help spay/neuter more animals of low-income residents in Minnesota and to help with stray cat colonies and barn cats.

We also provided more financial assistance through our Community Outreach Program to people whose dog or cat needed veterinary care that the owners could not afford. By helping people financially, we help their animals stay in their homes and receive the veterinary care they need.

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

Dalai Lama

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frosting-filled goodness would end up being a lifesaver for Scarlett.

Once Scarlett was settled in enjoying her new life, her foster mom decided it was time for Scarlett to find her forever home.

A call quickly came in and Scarlett was adopted. Her foster mom thought this latest fostering chapter was closed until she was notified a few days later that Scarlett escaped from her new home. On the run in a new, busy city, Scarlett was spotted here and there by people but evaded capture — she was so terrified she wouldn't even get close to people. Her foster family drove for hours searching for her, calling her name, and asking people in the community to be on the lookout. After another exhausting day of searching, Scarlett's foster family decided to make the trip home to rest and regroup — it had been a long, stressful day and everyone needed a break. Once they arrived home, they received a call that a dog matching the description of Scarlett



had been spotted. Rest can wait. They hopped back in the car and drove to the location. A dog was resting in someone's back yard and each time the homeowner tried to approach the

dog, it would dash off. The foster family arrived and immediately knew that was Scarlett sitting below the trees in the yard. After her time on the run in an unfamiliar city, Scarlett was justifiably nervous about approaching anyone, including her foster mom. Being a seasoned dog owner and rescue volunteer, Scarlett's foster mom expected this and came prepared — she pulled a Twinkie out of her pocket and started unwrapping the treat. Scarlett, hearing that familiar rustle of plastic and seeing her foster mom enjoying a treat they once shared, she couldn't help herself — she rushed over to her foster mom and as she took a piece of that beloved Twinkie, her foster mom quickly slipped a leash around her. Scarlett was safe!

Cats continued from front page

Darla Has a Special Heart



Darla came from a hoarding situation — we took her and several other kittens into our

program and provided the vet work that they badly needed.

Darla was always a happy kitten and didn't show any signs of being sick. But, at one of her health checks, the vet noticed an abnormal heart beat. After seeing a specialist and having an echocardiogram, it was determined that Darla had a heart defect. She had a grade 5 heart murmur caused by, they believe,

a ventricular septal defect (VSD) which is one of the more common congenital heart defects in cats (sometimes referred to as a 'hole in the heart'). A second echocardiogram was performed several months later and there were no changes so Darla went up for adoption. There is no way of knowing what Darla's long-term health will be, but she doesn't know she is any different from all the other cats. An amazing couple saw Darla's story, went to visit her, immediately fell in love with her fun personality, and adopted her!

Mabel Sees Just Fine

Mabel is a kitten who came from animal control as a stray. She was a normal playful kitten who loved chasing her toys around the house. One of her favorite pastimes was sitting on the window sill watching the birds outside.

And, she was the first one to spot a fly! When she went in for her spay appointment, the vet noticed



Mabel had cataracts in both eyes. So, off to an ophthalmologist she went. She was diagnosed with juvenile cataracts and treated with eye drops twice a week for four months. Mabel's recheck was great with no change and no inflammation so the cataracts were not progressing.

We don't know if this will ever progress or not but Mabel was well worth taking a chance on by the very happy couple who adopted her...and the other cats in their home who are Mabel's friends.

Memorials & Honorariums 2023



Donations were made to Second Chance in memory of or in honor of the following human and animal friends:

In loving memory of

Jan & Frank Brendler by Beth Brendler
Julianne Lovig by Anonymous
Steven Schultz by Mary Wetschka
Peter Seymour by Mary Sandok
Gail Stremel by Jane Kotewa, Don Gemberling, Earl & Margie VanBerkom, Dace Trence, Gwen Short, Marica Hammelman
Rita by David Jacobson
Kathleen Koral by Tom Quintus, Kris Lundblad, Michelle Hunt, Suzanne Gartner
Donita by Donald Hiltunen
Robert by Darlene Belisle
Judy Hauble by Jane Martz
Carol Maske by Earl & Margie VanBerkom, Susan Moir
Mark Stabenow by Paul, Patty & Gust Family, Tim, Linda & Conely Family, Dave & Susan Sumner
Bill Brown by Kalla Kalloway
Wilma Kosar by Dorothy Beix
Greg Haugen by Paul & Patricia Gust
Prince Rogers Nelson by Angela Soler Lloret
Jim Mayer by Jane Martz
Robert Metri by Linda Heuer

Peg Erpelding by Mary Erpelding, Martha Erpelding, Amy Stoecker, Ed Erpelding, Nancy Minion, Lynda Ahlgren, Alice Morrissey, Marsha Niazmand, Larry Kratochwill, Lynn Goldman, Dolores Andreasen, Winnie Lindmeier, Martin Oppenheim, Candy Petersen, John & Brenda Urbanski, Joyce Nieman, Kirk & Monica Schneider, Lorraine Perez, Faye Armitage
Pat Adolphson by Nancy Minion, Lynne Olson, Lori Nicholas, Mary Bradley, Kim Glasbrenner, Carol Stabenow, Christy Novak, Amy Stoecker, Mary Erpelding, Martha Erpelding

'Abby' by Ruth Nelson
'Aztec' by Michelle Basham
'Winnie', 'Tigger' & 'Ella' by Anna Martinez
'Cooper' by Vicki Linnell
'Murray' by Jodi Sarles
'Archie' by Jeanne Schleh
'Sophie Belle' Sandahl by Anonymous
'Norman' by Heather Lindseth
'Bogart' by Martha Reineke
'Edison' & 'Samuel' by Audrie Rehard

'Bailey' by Linda & Michael Kriel
'Jesse', 'Shelby', 'Kirby' & 'Cooper' by Mary Sandok
'Baxter' Town by Lisa Richardson
'Rocky', 'Teddy' & 'Buck' by John & Kathy Kincaid
'Cooper' by Mark & Ann Paparella
'Sophie' by Richard Christenson
'Charlotte', 'Sampson' & 'Toot Sweets' by Kris Dunlap
'Belle' by Tamara Murray
'Cooper' by Vicki Linnell
'Jingle' & 'Belle' by James Mihalek
'Terry', 'Trudy', 'Kyle', 'Charlie', 'Honey' & 'Higgins' by Christy Novak
'Teddy' by Elizabeth Stockton
'Charlie' & 'Griffin' by Andrea Kelly
'Prancer' by Curtis Broz
'Sassy' by Ann Brown
'Norman', 'Ellie' & 'Sherman' by Bruce & Carol Horn
'Darby' by Sue Hibbs
'Sulley' by Mary Alden
'Sophie' by Cathy Ribble
'Chloe' by Debra Ceci
'Greta' Soma Odegaard by Judi Kampinen

'Charlie' Harein by Jane Martz
'LG' ('Little Guy') by Dace Trence, Don Gemberling
'Phoebe' & 'Star' by Lynne Krehbiel-Breneman
'Murray Mooy' Maske Gauron by Kim Baugh
'Rosie' by Michelle Basham, Wendy Lane
'Max' by Carol Stabenow, Nancy Haugen, Patricia & Paul Gust, Tim, Linda & the Conely Family, Susan & Dave Sumner, Jane Martz, Irmay Haugen
'Watson' Porter by Robin Gold
'Medusa' by Sua Lo
'Christa', 'Alli', 'Oliver', 'Trixie', 'Phoebe' & 'Little Bear' by Patti Fastner
'Aja' by Julie & Chuck Watkins, Mary Wussow
'Bear' Howard by Claudia & Michael Wondra

"The question is not, can they reason? nor, can they talk? but rather, can they suffer?"

Jeremy Bentham

In Honor of

Michelle Basham & Mark Goldberg by Michael Sanford
The wonderful Haugen sisters by Kristen Andrzejewski
Carolyn Fletcher by Judith Fletcher
Ann Hagestad by Mary Lou Rasmussen
Rmy Haugen by Nancy Haugen, Employees of Nordic Fiberglass, Carol Stabenow, Patricia & Paul Gust, Susan & Dave Sumner, Tim & Linda Conely & family
Rita Klingelhut by Patricia Miklas
Sarah Maske Gauron's birthday by Anonymous
Rick Ayers by Bruce Shay
Charles by Sherri Pappas
Albert & Karen Aucoin for Christmas by Anonymous
Kelley & Bill by Tim Anderson
Peg Erpelding for Christmas by Martha Erpelding
Nancy Haugen by Carol Stabenow, Patricia & Paul Gust, Susan & Dave Sumner, Tim & Linda Conely
Carol Stabenow by Nancy Haugen, Patricia & Paul Gust, Susan & Dave Sumner

Patty & Paul Gust by Nancy Haugen
Mary Lou Rasmussen by Ann Hagestad
Chris & 'Iggy' Bodell by Susan & Dave Sumner, Tim & Linda Conely
Jesse Bodell by Susan & Dave Sumner
Nancy Minion by Susan & Dave Sumner, Earl & Margie VanBerkom, Kim Glasbrenner
Second Chance Volunteers by Earl & Margie VanBerkom
Lynda Ahlgren by Earl & Margie VanBerkom
Chris & Bonnie Kurpiewski for Christmas by Evan Kurpiewski
Nate Stabenow & 'Eleanor'; Jesse & Jayda Bodell; Bonnie, Steve & Decker Family; Rmy, 'Dover' & 'Lily' Haugen by Tim & Linda Conely
Don Gemberling's birthday by Dace Trence
Rmy Haugen for Mother's Day by Nancy Haugen
Kerry Kropf by Anne Komanecky
Peg Erpelding's birthday by Mary Erpelding

The wedding of Jacquelyn Miller & Blake Shiparski by Cindy Ruetter, Sheryl White, Miller Family, Ruwet Family, Blossner Family, Haycraft Family, Havermann Family, Somma Family, Armogida Family, Gates Family, White Family, Dawson Family, Sommas, Inc.
Rmy & Myron Haugen's anniversary by Nancy Haugen, Carol Stabenow, Susan & Dave Sumner

'Finley' by Mary Ann Kastorff
'Tiggy' by Janet Lane
'Sophie' by John & Amy Elholm
'Sparky', 'Max', 'Sasha', 'Bella' & 'Griffin' by Sally Ming
'Mickey' by Rebecca Schmiege
'Sterling' by Janelle Anderson
'Phoenix' by Bonnie Kurpiewski
'My dog' by Janelle Swanson
'Gracie' by John & Kathy Kincaid
'Blu' & 'Mia' by Tegan Hirschberger
'Gizmo', 'Hinata', 'Zipper' & 'Boots' by Jane Martz
'Honey' by Shannon Weaver

'Sam' & 'Mia' by Jillayne & Larry Gervais
'Daisy' & 'Gus' by Patti Fastner
'Little Rickki' by Anonymous
'Chelsea' by Ted Winterer

Second Chance is in need of:

- Foster care volunteers
- Gift cards for Petco, Petsmart, Target, Office Depot, Fleet Farm, Chuck & Don's
- Gas gift cards
- Copy paper
- Cat treats
- Dog treats (American made)
- Dog rawhides (American made)
- Kongs
- Monetary donations



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Fostering Saves Lives

Are you on the fence about fostering?

“I would rather cry watching them leave our home to live a life of happiness and joy in a loving home rather than cry because no one stepped up to help them and they died alone, frightened and sad in a shelter.”

Fostering Saves Lives.

Second Chance provides training and the supplies you need to care for your foster dog or cat. The animals will be vetted prior to you taking them into your home. Please call us if you are interested in helping us save more lives.

A Big Thank You To:

- Our **adopters** who saved a life!
- All of our **contributors**
- All of our **volunteers** who foster, transport, solicit supplies, work at events, return and screen phone calls, and more
- The **veterinarians** who work with our program: Forest Lake Veterinary Hospital, Life Care Animal Hospital, Mendakota Animal Hospital, Oak Grove Animal Hospital, Parkview Cat Clinic, Silver Lake Animal Hospital, Southview Animal Hospital, South Shore Animal Hospital, WellHaven Pet Health Minnetonka
- **Northwoods Humane Society** for providing veterinary care
- The **First Impression Group** for generously donating the printing of our newsletter
- The **impound facilities** that allow us to rescue animals who otherwise would be euthanized
- **Target, Petco, Fleet Farm, Feeding Furry Friends/Greater Good Charities** for food and supplies
- **Max & Neo** for dog collars, leashes and other dog supplies
- All the adults, children, groups and businesses that have made dog and cat toys and beds, raised money for the animals, and held food drives

Dogs and Cats Available for Adoption

Go to our website under the “Pet List” tab to view our animals available for adoption. And, to see some of our animals who have found their forever homes, click on the “Happy Endings” tab.

www.secondchancerescue.org



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Planning on Moving? Please send us a note with your new address so we can update our records.