



Animal rescue provides second chance at companionship

By **Madeline Dolby**
Photos contributed

It has been 30 years since Second Chance Animal Rescue was created. The organization was formed in 1994 and since then, Nancy Minion, a co-founder and current president, said that Second Chance Animal Rescue has saved 10,800 dogs and cats.

Second Chance Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing animals with a second chance at life and companionship.

"We saw a need in Minnesota for a rescue back then," said Minion, at the time "there were only about four or five other animal rescue organizations in the state. Now, there are hundreds of rescuing organizations."

Minion mentioned that she saw a need to save people's pets, and that is another reason Second Chances was started.

The goal of the organization is to rescue strays from animal control impound centers and find them homes with caring and responsible families. Until these adoptions occur, animals are placed with equally caring foster families.

Second Chance Animal Rescue does not have a designated location in White Bear Lake Township. The organization relies solely on foster homes to look after rescues.

"We provide all the supplies the foster needs," said Minion. Some supplies provided include food, litter, dog kennels, toys, dog collars and even veterinary care. All cats and dogs that Second Chance takes into the program have all of their medical needs taken care of—they are checked for heartworm, vaccinated, dewormed, spayed or neutered and they receive any other procedures they might need.



About ten years ago, Second Chances started providing spay and neuter grants to low-income organizations and reservations in Northern Minnesota, Minion said.

"The organization is doing everything we can to maintain the population," she added. By providing these grants, the organization is hopeful to continue to educate the community on the importance of spaying and neutering animals.

The biggest need Second Chances is looking for is volunteer foster homes. The organization can't take in new animals unless they have a place to go. To become a foster family or to adopt, you can go online to the Second Chance website at secondchancerescue.org or call 651-771-5662.

