Fall 2026

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.

2026 was a Difficult Year for People and Pets

In 2026, Minnesota faced a lot of heartache when so many people were detained, deported, injured, or killed by ICE. Not only was this terrible for humans but, in many cases, it left their pets without anyone to care for them, and rescues and shelters were filling up fast.

Many people were afraid to go out to get food for themselves let alone for their pets. Second Chance did what we could to rescue dogs and cats left in homes and to get pet food to those fearful of going out.

Volunteers brought dog and cat food to various trailer parks and homes to help the people feed their pets, and we continue to help them because of their lack of income.

We were able to help so many people and their pets because of volunteers, fosters and donations. Thank you!

A Lifesaving Mission - 12 dogs in 2 hours

In February, we took in 12 dogs from one home where the resident feared deportation and eviction. Luckily, we got the dogs out with only a couple hours to spare before ICE showed up at his door. These dogs had never been outside and were in need of comprehensive vet work, socialization, and housebreaking. They were all very sweet.



It was a mad rush trying to get these 12 little dogs out of their home and into a safe place. We needed foster homes but that takes time and we didn't have the time. Volunteers rushed to get dogs into kennels and vehicles while we pondered about what to do next. We made phone calls and finally found a few foster homes including a home-based boarding facility that said they had room. The pictures are of the dogs just after they were rescued.

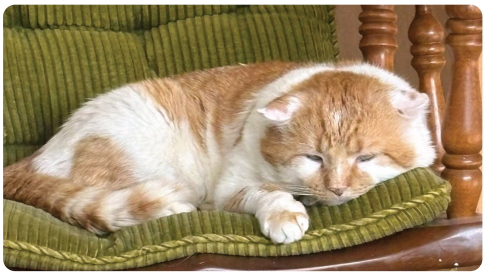
The dogs needed time to decompress after losing the only home they ever knew. They were all timid and some were more fearful than others. None of them were aggressive. Their owners were not neglectful or abusive to them they just didn't want to part with them and did not spay or neuter. All the dogs were found to be healthy upon exams by our vet. We tried our best to pair them up with at least one other dog since they were used to living with many other dogs.

After giving them time to get used to their new environments, we began the vetting process with exams and vaccinations, then moved on to arranging for their spays or neuters. We were concerned that some of the female dogs might be pregnant so we scheduled ultrasounds for the females; surprisingly, none of the females were pregnant.



It took some time for the dogs to start feeling comfortable in their new surroundings. We found a foster who took a few of them into her home and those dogs seemed to adjust easier when there were several of their "family members" around. We decided to try to place the

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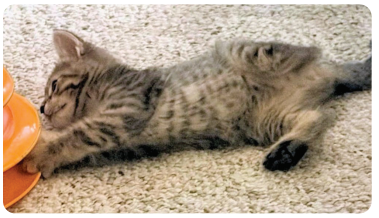
Phoenix the Survivor

A stray orange tabby cat had been spotted by people in a trailer park for quite some time. One day, someone noticed he looked bedraggled and needed help, so a woman live trapped him and asked if he could come into our program. Both Phoenix's ears were badly injured from other cats attacking him – he is a docile sweet boy, not a fighter. He was put on oral antibiotics and ointment to treat his wounds and he healed beautifully, but he tested positive for FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus).

Many cats can live long healthy lives with FIV if kept indoors, fed a healthy diet, and in a low stressful home. Phoenix was the sweetest boy who loved life, catnip, and lounging in the sun safely indoors. A kind woman who had another FIV positive cat adopted Phoenix and the two cats became good friends.

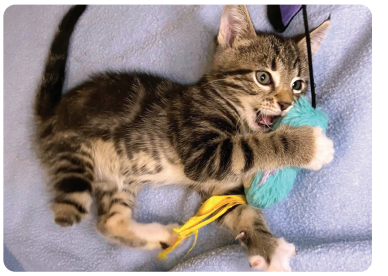


Kittens Survive Abuse



Emma

Second Chance received an urgent call about four tiny kittens that someone was abusing. The man already cut off one back leg of two of the kittens. We, of course, immediately arranged transport to one of our vet clinics to have them checked out. Luckily, they were alive and meowing but quite thin. Two of the kittens weren't harmed but the other two needed careful monitoring as they grew to see if the stumps needed to be amputated. Luckily, during their spay surgeries, the vet thoroughly examined both of the girls' partial legs and determined that they should grow and mature normal. The great news is that Ava and Emma don't realize they only have three legs as they run and play like a kitten should.



Ava

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Jasmine's Selfless Act

When Jasmine arrived in our care from animal control, she was heavily pregnant and carrying the quiet toll of 18 months on the street. Neighbors had fed the beautiful tortoiseshell stray, but life outdoors in freezing weather is unforgiving—the missing tip of her ear stood as silent proof of past frostbite or survival fights. Yet despite having known so little gentleness, Jasmine wanted nothing more than to give and receive affection. She settled into foster care with deep gratitude, reveling in soft brushing, warm beds, and every moment of human attention. Within days, Jasmine gave birth to eight kittens. Though her smallest baby did not survive, Jasmine threw her entire being into mothering the remaining seven.

Caring for newborns is exhausting under the best circumstances, but Jasmine soon began struggling with an elusive, serious illness. Over the next six weeks, she fought through weekly visits to urgent care, rounds of diagnostics, ultrasounds, and antibiotics. Her symptoms fluctuated constantly—she would show signs of recovery, only to decline again without a definitive cause. Even during long veterinary stays and intense physical discomfort, Jasmine's dedication to her babies never wavered. When her seventh-born kitten failed to gain weight, Dr. Lee at Southview Animal Hospital took the tiny kitten home for two intensive weeks of round-the-clock tube and syringe feeding, eventually nursing her to a weight where she could safely rejoin her family. Through sheer maternal devotion, veterinary skill, and community resolve, Jasmine held on until her babies reached six weeks old. When her body could finally carry no more, she was gently and humanely released from pain.

Jasmine deserved so much more than seven short weeks of safety, good food, and tenderness. But because animal control intervened, seven fragile lives did not die out in the cold. Instead, they survived and flourished. Jasmine's kittens carry her sweet nature, lively spirit, and striking coat patterns, from calicos to an orange tabby and a violet-gray girl appropriately named Violet. Two have already been adopted, and five of these



thriving babies are still waiting for their own forever homes—a living legacy to the mother who gave everything to see them safe.

A Lifesaving Mission - continued from page 1

most timid, fearful dogs with at least one "family member" and that's all it took. Once these dogs recognized one of their family, it was like a joyous family reunion! They instantly started to run and play and wrestle with each other. We moved the most fearful male dog to that same foster who had the other dogs and the minute he entered the room where they were snuggling on the couch, he ran and jumped into the pile of dogs and was happily received by the rest of the pack.

All the dogs are making progress, some faster than others. Many are still waiting for their forever homes.



Second Chance Helps Low-Income and More

All over Minnesota it is the same – people losing their jobs and homes and wanting to keep their animals but they can't afford veterinary care. In 2026, we continued to provide grants to help even more spay/neuter surgeries for animals of low-income residents in Minnesota and stray cat colonies and barn cats. And, we helped sponsor wellness and spay/neuter clinics for Reservation dogs and cats.

In addition, this year we provided veterinary grants to five smaller rescues to help them provide more services for their animals.

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 in this way, we help their animals stay in their homes and receive the veterinary care they need.

Memorials & Honorariums 2026

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

In loving memory of:

Nancy Rush by Debra Rush
Rita by David Jacobson
Peg & Cy Erpelding by Martha Erpelding
Amy Stoecker by Martha Erpelding
Chelle Stone by Liz DeLay
Gail Stremel by Don Gemberling, Jane Kotewa, Dace Trence, Marcia Hammelman
Irmy Haugen by Dave & Susan Sumner
Peter by Mary Sandok
Halley Kastendieck by Lisa Richardson
Joe Waslaski by Anne & Curt Yoakum
Mary Mold by Marguerite DeFore
Jessica Pierce, her children & dog by Jane Martz
Irmy Haugen on Mother's Day by Nancy Haugen
Irmy Haugen's birthday by Carol Stabenow
Rita by David Jacobson
Bob Hall by Jane Martz
Christy Swanovich by Jane Martz
Myron & Irmy Haugen's anniversary by Carol Stabenow
Judie Swenson by Kathleen Hurley, Dyne Stephenson, Gina Palazzari, Yvonne Reissig, Aya Reiss, Catherine Wilson, Brian Weeks, Marchelle Anderson, William Ching, Karen Krussow, Amy Kalal, Carolyn Melby, Kim Squire, Cole Witherow, Susan Schwartz, Jan Kuretsky, Linda Swenson, Sharon Brynstad, Roberta Dolinich, Cheryl Gustafson, Rita Lauderbaugh, Merlyn Groth, Betsy Vinopal
'Finley' by Mary Ann Kastorff
'Miley', 'Eddy' & 'Shelby' by Glynis Hinschberger
'Ellie', 'Sherman', 'Norman' & 'Jack' by Heather Lindseth, Bruce & Carol Horn
'Charlie' & 'Griffin' by Andrea Kelly
'Rocky', 'Teddy', 'Buck', 'Gracie' & 'Chloe' by John Kincaid
'Copper' by Ann & Mark Paparella
'Shelby' & 'Luke' by Betsy Judkins
'Winnie' & 'Ansel' by Nanci Bernard
'Gracie' by Don Gemberling
'Coqui' & 'Biscuit' by Gene Marault
'Jingle' by James Mihalek
'Selena' by Craig Powers
'Daisy' by Theresa Thompson
'Darby' by Sue Hibbs
'Teddy', 'Henry', 'Rafa' & 'Torrey' by Stuart Pemberton
'Sophie' by Cathy Ribble
'EllaNoir' by Linda Wright & Patricia Winn
'Marley' by Anna Howitz & Family
'Mickey' Schmieg-Grayson by Katherine Schmieg
'Tanya' by Jim Hassing
'Jesse', 'Shelby', 'Kirby', 'Cooper' & 'Poppy' by Mary Sandok
'Terry', 'Kyloe', 'Trudi', 'Higgins', 'Honey' & 'Charlie' by Christy Novak
'Timber' Wojski by Jane Martz
'Mickey' Gillen by Jane Martz
'Belle' by James Mihalek
'Beauty' by Jane Martz
'Niko' Carr by Jane Martz
'Lilly' Padilla by Angela Malloy
'Beau' by Liana Magee
'Christa', 'Alli', 'Oliver', 'Trixie', 'Phoebe' & 'Bear' by Patti Fastner
'Lou' Lindseth by Jenny Weber

"We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we still would live no other way."

— Irving Townsend

In honor of

Ann Hagestad by Mary Lou Rasmussen
Carolyn Fletcher Brochman by Judy & John Fletcher
Mary Lou Rasmussen by Ann Hagestad
Jane Kotewa's birthday by Don Gemberling
Jared & Jackie Martz by Jane Martz
Spencer by Leslie Peterson
Carol Stabenow, Matt, Nate, 'Maxine' & 'Eleanor' by Dave & Susan Sumner
Nancy Haugen, Chris, Jesse, Jayda & 'Jade' by Dave & Susan Sumner
Nancy Minion's birthday by Sarah Sanders
Don Gemberling's birthday by Dace Trence
Dave & Marilyn Schroeder by Charisse Larm
Edith's 9th birthday by Rose Grumdahl
Lindsay Brice's birthday by Stephanie Gruver

'Dwayne' Spooner by Haley Kiutukcief
'Benny' by Evelyn Padilla
'Dover' & 'Lily' Haugen by Dave & Susan Sumner
'Daisy' & 'Gus' by Patti Fastner

Second Chance is in need of:

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

Second Chance Animal Rescue™
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0533
651-771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

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: Animal Emergency & Referral Center, Bush Lake Pet Hospital, Hometown Vet Silver Lake, Lake Animal Hospital, Parkview Cat Clinic, South Shore Animal Hospital, Southfork Animal Hospital, Southview Animal Hospital, Vet Eye Pros
- **Northwoods Humane Society** for providing veterinary services
- 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

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
https://www.facebook.com/SecondChanceAnimalRescueMN
https://www.instagram.com/secondchanceanimalrescuemn/

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