



The RPAW Rescue Report

Volume 1, Issue 3 • Fall 2009

Giving Bottle Babies a Chance at Life

RPAW is proud to be one of very few rescue groups with the resources and dedicated volunteers that allow us to take in bottle-fed kittens and puppies. This season, we've already rescued more than 70 bottle-fed kittens and 11 bottle-fed puppies. Some of these animals have come from the Animal Humane Society, where they were in danger of euthanasia due to a lack of foster care resources. Others found their way to us through word-of-mouth.

Bottle-feeding is an art learned through experience, not something that can be learned from a book. Thankfully, our bottle foster parents take their job very seriously. Caring for these babies — sometimes only hours old — can be challenging. But, it's also very rewarding.

Orphaned baby companion animals truly depend on a human "mom" to provide everything they need for survival. Newborn orphans must be fed, stimulated to eliminate, cleaned up and put back to bed every two hours, around the clock. Fosters also have to make fresh formula and frequently change their bedding to make sure they stay healthy and warm. To ensure the babies are fed as often as they need to be, our bottle-feeding foster parents take their fosters with them everywhere they go. They even have "diaper bags" containing formula, bottles, extra bedding and wipes, among other things. When the little guys reach two weeks of age, the schedule can be bumped up to four hours, but it still doesn't allow their human fosters a full night's sleep!

Like human babies, young kittens and pups cannot regulate their body temperature well. So, heating pads are used to supplement the missing warmth of

a mom and siblings. If there's a single kitten who's rescued, he or she is given a small stuffed animal to snuggle with. They get lots of human cuddling, too! Though the process is intense, the results are truly rewarding. Once the babies are old enough to get altered and survive on their own, they're placed up for adoption. Because they're world has always revolved around people, bottle-fed kittens and pups are unbelievably friendly, and are often very easy to place into loving forever homes.

Would you like to help RPAW bottle babies?

RPAW is always in need of donations of funds to purchase formula and supplies. Donations can be dropped off at adoption events or mailed to:

*Rescued Pets Are Wonderful
P.O. Box 751
Anoka, MN 55303*

If you're interested in learning how to become a bottle-fed baby foster, please call us at 763-757-8204.



Adoption Ticker

Since 2004, RPAW has found forever homes for:

1 1 6 3

Dogs

2 5 8 1

Cats

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In the Spotlight...

Name: Latte **Age:** 2 yrs.

Breed: Tortoiseshell

Favorite Activities:

Getting pet by my people and playing with my toys



Latte's Story

My name is Latte (like the coffee drink). I'm a sweet little Tortie that was found on a golf course. My mom and siblings were taken first, but my sister and I were left behind because nobody knew we were there.

By the time I was found, I was thin and hungry, and very scared of everything. I certainly didn't like people very much for the first year of my life. Now, with the love and support of my foster family, I love my people! New people are still a little scary, but I warm up to them in time. And once I have, I make a great companion who loves to be petted and held — I'll even seek you out just for a quick scratch or cuddle session. One of my favorite things to do is to play catch with a bouncy-ball. You throw it, and I will chase it, bat it out of the air, and bring it back. I also like feather toys and my fuzzy mouse.

I'm used to a house filled with cats, adults and little dogs. I like to tease the dogs, but I'm not mean. I have always been around many cats so I would make a great addition to a house that has cats. I'm a little timid around new people, but if you give me time to trust you, I will make a great pet. All I need in a forever home is a warm bed, a loving patient family, and a couple kitty toys, and of course, yummy food. To meet me, you can e-mail my foster family at bumwest@frontiernet.net or call Lisa to set up an appointment at 651-462-2371. *Latte would do best in a home without small children. Latte is very shy and will take time to adjust to her new home.*

Name: Helen

Age: 10-12 yrs.

Breed: Collie Mix

Favorite Activities:

Snuggling, being with her people



Helen's Story

We have no idea how Helen ended up in animal control — who could leave a sweet senior gal like this unclaimed? Helen is an absolute joy. She's sweet-tempered, loving and just happy to be next to you. She loves ambling around the yard and laying in the soft grass, just enjoying the beautiful weather! She's excellent around cats. Other dogs are fine as long as they don't bother her too much — she's much too dignified for all that puppy rough-and-tumble! Her favorite activity is going for leisurely strolls through the park with her foster mom.

Helen's ideal family would have someone that's home the majority of the time (outings for a couple hours are fine, but she couldn't handle being home an entire workday). She'd like a quiet, calm household that doesn't have a lot of hustle and bustle. She does have some incontinence issues, which result in a few accidents — it's not her fault, just part of getting older.

There's something so special about senior dogs — all they want is a nice warm bed and someone to love them, and Helen is no exception. Please contact us if you're interested in spending Helen's golden years with her!

Think Helen or Latte may be the perfect pet for you?

Contact RPAW to set up a meet-and-greet at 763-757-8204 or rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com

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Lost Pets: What You Need to Know

Have you ever lost a furry member of the family? You called the neighbors. You tacked posters all over town. You did everything you could. Hopefully, you found your furry friend. Unfortunately, many people never do. Thankfully, there are now more resources than ever that can help you bring your dog or cat home safely — and to help him or her from getting lost in the first place.

When looking for a lost pet, the first places you should check are:

- Your local humane society*
- Animal control facilities in your town and neighboring cities*

Putting up posters and checking with your neighbors is still a good idea. But, the world wide web has also brought more options for posting information about your lost pet, fidofinder.com and craigslist.com are two good places to start.

Of course, you can save yourself time and stress from taking measures to protect Fido or Fluffy from getting lost.

- **Fence them in.** Keep your dog in a securely fenced yard or on a tie-out when she goes outside. Keep cats indoors, if possible.
- **Keep them collared.** Make sure that your animal has a well-fitting collar with his rabies tag, city license (if needed) and identification tag attached. An identification tag should include the dog's name, as well as your address and phone number.
- **Make use of a microchip.** A microchip is a small chip — about the size of a grain of rice — that's inserted into your animal's skin. This chip has a number on it that corresponds to your information in a database. Humane societies, animal control facilities and vet offices can scan the chip to retrieve the chip number and find your contact information.

**For a list of local humane societies, rescue groups and animal control facilities, visit rpaw.org.*



*RPAAW Rescue
Crocker*

Microchips: Protect Your Pet with Technology

A microchip is one of the best ways to keep your pet safe. When animal control is called to pick up a stray dog, the first thing they do is check to see if the dog has any identification tags. If not, they will scan the dog for a microchip. All animal control facilities, humane societies, and vet offices must scan any dog that comes in. If your pet is chipped, they can find your information and contact you directly to let you know that your dog or cat is safe and sound.

Microchipping your pet is:

- **Life-saving.** Most shelters and animal control facilities set a limit on how long they'll hold an animal. If they have your information, it's more likely that you'll be contacted and your pet will not be euthanized before you can find him or her.
- **Permanent.** Tags can get lost. Tattoos can fade. Microchipping is the only solution that lasts through the lifetime of your pet.
- **Inexpensive.** Microchipping at a veterinary office will typically cost between \$20 and \$60.
- **Easy-to-update.** It's easy to keep your pet's microchip up-to-date. All you have to do is contact the manufacturer and give them your updated information.

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Two Paws Up for RPAW Volunteer Carrie Schmidt

Carrie didn't set out to fall in love with the world of rescue. In fact, her first experience was driving her daughter, Megan, who needed volunteer hours, back and forth to adoption days. Each time, she found herself lingering a little longer, and helping out a little more. One day, Megan asked Carrie if she could bring one of the rescue dogs back to the boarding facility that was hosting her. That was it. Once Carrie visited the boarded dogs, she decided she needed to be a part of RPAW's rescue work. Carrie lives in an apartment, so in-home fostering was not an option. Instead, she decided to give RPAW's boarded dogs some much-needed human affection. She and Megan started visiting them a couple of times a week, and it eventually became more and more frequent. Now, in addition to giving them lots of love and transporting them to and from adoption days, Carrie also helps to train and socialize the boarded dogs.



RPAW Rescue
Suzie Q (Cassie)

Carrie finds getting to know the dogs, watching them blossom and helping them find loving forever homes to be the most rewarding parts of her rescue work. She loves getting updates from adopters and knowing that these special dogs have become well-cared for members of the family. She, like many rescue workers, says her greatest challenge has been not having the time or resources to do more for the dogs.

Carrie's most life-changing rescue experience was the first adoption she did on her own. Laurel, a German Shephard/Rottweiler mix was adopted to a young family. This was the first time Carrie had felt the bittersweet mix of loss and satisfaction that foster parents feel when placing their animals in forever homes. It was hard for her to say goodbye, but knowing that there were many more homeless dogs that needed her helped Carrie get through it and motivated her to continue to her rescue work.

For those thinking about volunteering with animal rescue, she says, "Even if you think that you don't know anything about dogs or cats or aren't able to foster because of where you live, there are still lots of ways that you can help out. Coming to adoption days and hanging out with the dogs for a few hours makes such a difference. They love to be played with, taken for walks, and just cuddled and loved. And, there are many more ways to share your talents. Maybe you like to sew — we're always in need of bedding and other items. Or, maybe you like to groom — many of the animals come into our program in need of baths, brushing, or sometimes even a hair cut. This will be one of the most rewarding things that you will ever do."

Thank you, Carrie, for your dedication, positivity and willingness to give, give and give some more to RPAW rescue animals. We couldn't do it without you!

Volunteers Needed!

Dog/Cat Foster — Provide a dog or cat with a temporary, loving home until they're adopted. RPAW provides all food and medical expenses. Foster homes are critical to our work — we can only save as many animals as we have temporary homes for.

Dog Handler — Handle animals and answer prospective adopters' questions during our adoption events.

Animal Transporter — Help bring animals to and from veterinary appointments and adoption events.

If you have other skills or talents you'd like to bring to RPAW, please contact us. We're always looking for help and fresh new ideas from people with a passion for animals.

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What to do with those old ink cartridges...

Donate them to RPAW! We've joined a program offered by Office Max that allows us to earn store credit for any of the following ink and toner cartridges:

- HP (Hewlett Packard)
- Dell
- Lexmark
- OfficeMax store brand

Donating your old cartridges will give RPAW substantial savings on the toner cartridges and paper that we purchase (and go through rather quickly as we print brochures, newsletters and adoption applications). So, the next time that you're changing one of these ink cartridges, set it aside and bring it in to any of our adoption days. You can also drop these off at Centerville Pet Foods. Thank you!



Santa Paws is Coming...

We're looking forward to another year of fun holiday pet photos this December. We'll be posting more details at r paw.org and in the winter edition of The RPAW Rescue Report for more details!

Support RPAW — Buy a 2010 "For the Love of Rescues" Calendar!



It's that time of year again! For The Love of Rescues is a calendar featuring rescued dogs from across the country.

Twelve RPAW dogs will be featured this year. Each calendar costs \$15, and RPAW gets \$10 from every sale! Log on to <http://www.fortheloveofrescues.com/DonationOrders.html> and select "Rescued Pets Are Wonderful" as the organization you'd like to benefit. We will also have them available at upcoming RPAW events.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Howl

Sat., Oct. 3, 2009, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wildlife Science Center — Forest Lake
651-464-3993

Join us for a day of family fun with wolves, demonstrations, games, local artisans and more.

Adoption Events

Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Maplewood Petsmart

Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Centerville Pet Foods

Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Coon Rapids Petsmart

Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Maple Grove Petsmart

Saturday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Centerville Pet Foods

Saturday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Coon Rapids Petsmart

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Many Thanks, Woofs and Meows To...



All of our hard-working volunteers. You make it all possible!
All the wonderful families who have adopted animals from RPAW.

All of the individuals who have donated money and supplies.

Roseville PetSmart, Coon Rapids Chuck and Don's in Elk River, Centerville Pet Foods and Fridley Petco for hosting our cat adoption centers.

Coon Rapids PetSmart, Roseville PetSmart, Maplewood PetSmart, Chuck & Don's in Elk River and Centerville Pet Foods for letting us host adoption events in our stores.

Looking for a service project? RPAW can help.

Do you work with a scout or other group looking for service projects? If so, we have lots of ideas and can help you find a way to help that works with your group. Call us to talk about ideas for your group at 763-757-8204

Our Wish List

RPAW is always in need of monetary and other donations. Your generosity is essential to keep our rescue work going. If you'd like to donate any of the following, please contact us at 763-757-8204 or at rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com. You also can drop off donations at any of our adoption events.

RPAW is in special need of:

- Crates and kennels of all sizes
- Quality dog and cat food
- KMR (Kitten Meal Replacement)
- Heating pads (for bottle-fed kittens)
- Toys, collars, bowls and leashes
- Litter boxes and litter
- Printing and signage
- Cash donations

Story Ideas/Rescue News/Adoption Success Stories Wanted

Do you have a great idea for a story? Know any rescue news that should be shared? RPAW welcomes your submissions for the next issue of the RPAW newsletter. Please submit your news/stories before Nov. 15, 2009 to rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com

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