



The RPAW ??????????

Volume 1, Issue 1 • April/May 2009

Name That Newsletter!

We're excited to bring you the inaugural issue of RPAW's bimonthly newsletter! But, we have a dilemma — what should it be called? We're asking you to submit your catchy and creative ideas. So, curl up with your favorite furry friend and jot down your top three.

Please submit your suggestions to us at rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com by **May 1, 2009**. RPAW volunteers will then select a winner from the list of submissions. The person whose name is chosen will win bragging rights, one of RPAW's famous t-shirts and a deluxe rolling cooler (holds up to 48 cans)!

Heartworm Season Is Upon Us

Summer in the Midwest brings about many wonderful things — sunshine, blooming flowers and fun on the lakes. Unfortunately, it also can be a dangerous time for your companion animals. As soon as that first mosquito egg hatches, dogs and cats are in danger of contracting heartworm.



Heartworm is a serious, but very preventable parasite. It's contracted through bites from infected mosquitoes. Once an unprotected animal is infected, the heartworms begin to affix themselves within the heart and lungs. They start to reproduce within seven to eight months, and don't show up on tests until that time. The heartworm parasite can cause debilitating — and sometimes deadly — complications.

Canine heartworm symptoms include:

- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Enlarged liver
- Loss of consciousness
- Abnormal heart and lung sounds

Feline heartworm symptoms include:

- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Weight loss
- Difficulty breathing
- Lethargy



There's an easy, inexpensive solution that can help make sure your pet doesn't get heartworm — give him or her a monthly heartworm pill.

The American Heartworm Society (available at heartwormsociety.org) recommends giving your pet heartworm preventative pills year-round. It's especially important that your pet gets this important medication during mosquito season. Even if your pets spend their time indoors, mosquitoes often find their way in — and your pet is still at risk.

There are several different brand and options for heartworm preventative medication. Talk with your veterinarian to learn which one is right for your pet.

Adoption Ticker

Since 2004, RPAW has found forever homes for:

1 0 6 3

Dogs

2 4 0 6

Cats

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

763.757.8204 · rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com · www.rpaw.org

In the Spotlight...



Name: Mishka
Age: 10 Months
Breed: Husky Collie Mix
Favorite Activities: Playing with his canine roommates, snuggling on the couch

Mishka's Story

It's hard to believe, but when RPAW came across this handsome, friendly boy, he was within hours of being euthanized. Mishka was first picked up by animal control and then adopted out to a new family. Unfortunately, the new family had three other big dogs and decided a new puppy in the house was just too much. So, Mishka was returned back to animal control.

Because he'd already been in there once, and because animal control was short on space, Mishka was in danger of being put down that evening. That's when the panic started. Several rescue groups were called, but RPAW stepped up to the plate. Mishka was placed in a foster home with three other dogs and two cats.

Mishka loves playing with his dog brothers and chasing the cats around. He's very smart and has lots of energy. He's fully housetrained and can even use the doggy door. He can play a little rough with smaller dogs, but he's a quick learner and is working on that. Mishka loves to be around people! He follows his foster mom around and even sleeps on a blanket next to her bed at night. If you're looking for a high-energy companion with lots of love to give, Mishka could be the dog for you!



Name: Kayla
Age: Young
Breed: Domestic Short-Hair
Favorite Activities: Swatting at hanging toys, cuddling, savoring salmon- and sardine-flavored food

Kayla's Story

Kayla is one of five cats that were rescued from a golf course. She was fostered along with her brother, Connor, and her sister, Jordan. She's a sweet and nurturing girl and she looked out for the other two while they were on the golf course. Kayla loves to be petted and will plop down for a gentle belly rub. Once she gets to know you, she'll even come and greet you.

Kayla is a quiet, independent cat with a sweet disposition and an adorable face. She gets along well with her siblings and other cats, but she'd prefer to be the only cat since a multi-cat household can be stressful for her. Kayla is very neat and clean and likes to have a regular routine. She enjoys looking out windows and cuddling with other cats — and people when she feels comfortable. She likes to play with wand and hanging-type toys, especially when she gets to swat at the toys while standing up on her hind legs. Sometimes, she chases her tail for fun, too. She also enjoys using a scratching post and listening to her foster mom sing to her or say her name. If you're looking for a quiet and independent cat, and can offer a calm, nurturing environment, please consider adopting this classic beauty.

Think Kayla or Mishka might 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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Where Do RPAW Rescues Come From?

Stray, abused, injured and unwanted animals often find themselves in an animal control facility. Unfortunately, space is limited and animals that are not claimed in a certain time period are at risk of euthanasia. RPAW works with several local animal control facilities to reduce the number of animals that may otherwise be euthanized. We also receive surrendered animals directly.

Once RPAW takes the animals in, we provide them with a place to live and basic necessities, as well as routine health care including spay/neutering and vaccinations. Most animals are fostered in private homes. Once ready for adoption, you'll find them on our Web site and at adoption events. Some of our cats also can be visited in several pet stores around the metro area. Each rescued animal remains in the care of RPAW volunteers until a suitable forever home is found.



Success Stories Wanted!

Has an RPAW rescue animal made a difference in your life? Whether your animal has earned a good citizen certificate, has adjusted well into your home or is just a great companion to snuggle with on the couch — we want to hear from you!

Success stories are an important tool for raising donations. And, who knows, your pet's story might also be featured in an upcoming edition of the RPAW newsletter. **Please e-mail your story and photographs to rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com.**

Upcoming Events

Adoption Events

April 11, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Roseville PetSmart

April 18, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Centerville Pet Foods
*Katie K9 will make a special appearance and answer all your dog-related questions!

April 25, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Coon Rapids PetSmart

May 23, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Coon Rapids PetSmart

May 30, 2009
Chuck and Don's in Elk River

Fundraisers

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast
Join us on Sat., May 16, 2009 for a delicious, all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. Tickets will be presold or sold at the door for \$10 and \$9 will go directly to rescuing animals in need!

Sat., May 16, 2009 from 8-10 a.m.
Applebee's Blaine (next to Northtown Mall)

Plant Sale & Adoption
*Pick up some beautiful plants for your summer garden **and** help homeless animals! There will also be an adoption event on Saturday.*
Fri., May 10, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Sat., May 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun.,
May 12 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Northland Mall

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The 411 on Fostering

RPAW doesn't have a physical shelter where we keep our animals. Instead, we've decided to foster our rescue pets in private homes. This allows us to learn more about the animals and how they function in a home. It also creates a learning environment that can better prepare animals for their forever homes.

There are lots of animals that need to be taken into a home before adoption. Often, there are more cats and dogs than RPAW is able to take in. So, we're always looking for new foster homes. RPAW provides all the supplies needed to foster pets. We also cover all medical costs. All you need to supply is attention, training and a loving environment.

As a new foster, we'll work with you to determine what foster animals will fit best in your home. Once you're new foster is ready for adoption, we ask that you bring your foster cat or dog to adoption events so he or she can meet families looking to adopt. When these families have questions, you know the animal best and can provide the most complete answers. You also can help potential adopters to decide whether the new pet will fit into their family and living situation, give them suggestions for transition and share the pet's personality traits and needs with them.

Knowing that you can personally and directly impact the lives of homeless cats or dogs is extremely rewarding. Fostering isn't always the easiest thing to do, but as many of our volunteers know, it's a job you fall in love with. Our foster families also always have the first opportunity to adopt the pet they foster — it has been known to happen! ***If you want to learn more about how to become an animal foster, please contact us at 763-757-8204 or rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com.***



Fundraising Volunteers Needed!

RPAW is looking for animal lovers to help plan and carry out fundraising events. More often than not, the adoption fee does not cover the costs incurred to get each animal ready for adoption. Fundraisers and donations are critical to bridging the gap and allowing us to continue our rescue work. If you're interested in planning events or helping out during events, please contact us at 763-757-8204 or rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com.

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

Dog Handler — Adoption days are a key way to help our rescue animals find forever homes. You'll help handle animals and answer prospective adopters' questions during our adoption events.

Animal Transporter — Foster parents may not always be able to transport their foster animals. You can help by bringing these animals to and from veterinary appointments and adoption events.

Laundry Helper — RPAW is in desperate need of volunteers to help with laundry from cat adoption centers. Responsibilities include picking up laundry, washing, drying and folding it, and returning it to the adoption center once a week.

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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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 and Centerville Pet Foods for letting us host adoption events in our stores.

Four Paws Pet Resort for hosting some of our rescue dogs. Visit fourpawsinc.com for more information.

Jamie Wicken and Pam Demmer from Vernon Company for donating the "Name That Newsletter" prize cooler. If you're looking for marketing promotions, call them at 763-712-1841.

A special thanks to Elk Rivers Journey Homeschool Group!

This great group of kids and moms recently worked on service projects, which included making homemade dog treats and catnip socks for RPAW foster pets. They also collected food, treats and towels to donate. RPAW volunteers Laura and Elliot paid the group a special visit with several kittens to talk about responsible pet ownership and rescue.

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
- Dog and cat food
- Food and water bowls
- Toys, collars, and leashes
- Litter boxes and litter
- Printing and signage
- Cash donations

Story Ideas/Rescue News Wanted

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