



The RPAW Rescue Report

Volume 1, Issue 2 • Summer 2009

"Fixing" the Problem

What does it take to create 80 million homeless cats? It's simpler than you think — just allow two unaltered cats and their offspring breed for 10 years. And, bringing unwanted dogs into existence is almost as easy. Without being spayed, a female dog and her female offspring can produce 192 puppies in five years.

Rescue work saves millions of homeless animals each year. Unfortunately, every year in the U.S. alone, three to four million animals still suffer the preventable fate of euthanasia. Most of these deaths are due only to a lack of space and resources. Spaying and neutering is the only viable, humane and permanent solution that can help prevent the unnecessary deaths of these innocent animals.

Getting your pet altered is easier and less expensive than ever. And, with the advancement of surgical technology, surgery is painless and recovery time is short, often just a few days. Plus, spaying or neutering can:

- Reduce the risk of certain health problems, giving you more years with your beloved pet
- Lower the risk that your pet will bite or spray (mark objects with urine)
- Prevent female pets from going into heat (saving you the mess and bothersome male suitors)

So, don't wait. If you haven't altered your pet, get him or her in to a veterinarian as soon as possible. If you've already made the smart choice to spay or neuter your companion animal, congratulations on being part of the solution! You can help save even more animals by getting the message out — spaying and neutering saves lives.

Looking for a high-quality vet?

RPAW works with and recommends the following:

Forest Lake Veterinary Hospital —
651-464-2752

Scandia Vet Clinic — 651-433-3666

South Shore Veterinary Hospital
(Forest Lake) — 651-464-4210

Oak Grove Animal Hospital — 763-753-6336

Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital
(Elk River) — 763-441-4000

St Francis Vet Clinic — 763-444-9359

Hudson Road Animal Hospital
(Woodbury) — 651-739-0117



Adoption Ticker

Since 2004, RPAW has found forever homes for:

1 1 3 2

Dogs

2 4 8 1

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: Ross
Age: Baby
Breed:
 Domestic
 Short-Hair
**Favorite
 Activities:**
 Cuddling &
 Playing

Ross' Story

Ross came to RPAW when he was five days old. At just 2.9 oz. (less than a travel-sized toothpaste), he was far below the eight ounces he should have weighed. Thankfully, he was “adopted” by a rescued nursing cat and her two kittens. Ross loved to snuggle with his adopted family and was thankful that this temporary mother allowed him to nurse from her.

After a few weeks, Ross' foster mom knew something was wrong. Ross couldn't stand up or move the way a three-week-old kitten should be able to. The signs pointed to a condition called CH (cerebellar hypoplasia). CH affects the part of brain that controls motor skills, and is often present in kittens born from cats with distemper. Despite his handicap, Ross has a normal life expectancy and his motor skills will continue to improve as he gets older, although no one can be certain how much.

Ross had made great strides and is now eight weeks old and weighs almost 15 ounces. He hasn't mastered walking yet, but that hasn't slowed down this curious kitty — he wiggles wherever he wants to go! Ross has shown great progress in other areas, too. He now uses a litter box and is working on eating out of a bowl. He's also started to reach out to play with fingers, clothes, necklaces and toys. With a little more time and care in his foster home, Ross will be ready to find a forever home. Could it be yours?



Name: Nick
Age: 8 yrs.
Breed:
 Labrador
 Retriever
 Mix
**Favorite
 Activities:**
 Walks &
 Snuggling

Nick's Story

My name is Nick, and I came to RPAW by way of animal control – like so many others do. They tell me that I'm a senior, but I sure don't feel like it! My foster people think that I'm about 8 years old, but I still like to have lots of fun. I love to go for walks and run around the yard, checking everything out to see if anything has changed. I also love to go for car rides and hang out with my people, hopefully getting lots of belly rubs, which I absolutely adore. I think that I'm pretty smart, too, because I know “sit,” “down,” “stay,” “come” and “leave it.”

My people took me to the dog park a few times. I liked the company of other dogs but I didn't really feel like playing with them — I just had fun running and running and running some more. I didn't stray too far since my people kept checking in to make sure they knew where I was.

I'm learning how to be around cats. I'm not mean to them, they just intrigue me. So, if you have cats, you'll need to talk to my foster people to make sure that we're going to be okay together. If you're looking for a friendly companion that loves to spend time with you, and are up for a belly scratch or two, I may be the one.

**Think Nick or Ross 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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Setting the Record Straight

I rank amongst the highest in American Temperament Testing Society breed evaluations. Famous people from Helen Keller, Thomas Edison and Teddy Roosevelt to Jon Stewart, Brad Pitt and Rachael Ray have been proud owners of dogs like me. Even more, I'm so loyal, reliable and good with children that members of my breed were once nicknamed "nanny dogs."

So, what am I? I'm a pit bull — one of today's most misunderstood dogs. The American Kennel Club and owners alike describe pit bulls as intelligent, friendly and courageous. Unfortunately, today's media often paints a different picture. The current perception is not just inaccurate — it's deadly for the millions of pit bull-type dogs that find themselves in shelters every year. In fact, the Humane Society of the United States reports that about 30 percent of all dogs admitted to shelters are pit bulls or pit bull mixes. And, most of these dogs never have the chance to find a forever home — they're often the first to be euthanized when space is tight.



Former RPAW Rescue Haley

The bad rap stems from the myths and misunderstandings that seem to run rampant with these dogs. The name itself is confusing. "Pit bull" is not a single breed, rather a generic term that refers to American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and a slew of other dogs with similar characteristics. Pit bulls do not have locking jaws. They're not inherently aggressive toward humans or unpredictable around children. And, most often, they get along well with other dogs and pets, too.

So, let's address the real fear — attacks. Yes, like any breed, attacks have been recorded. But, you're more likely to be killed by lightning. And, when treated well, pit bulls are no more likely to attack than any other dog. Unfortunately, pit bulls are more likely to attract abusive owners, and *any dog who is mistreated and abused has the potential to become aggressive*. In fact, 84 percent of dogs who bit in 2006 were maintained by reckless owners. And, 78 percent were not kept as pets, rather used

for breeding, guarding and the like. Furthermore, 97 percent of dogs involved in fatal attacks were unneutered males — often an indication of irresponsible ownership.

It's sad to say, but pit bulls are the current "flavor of the month" when it comes to attracting unfit owners. German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Huskies and many other breed have taken their turn being vilified. Pit bulls will likely have to weather the storm until a new breed steals the unwelcome spotlight. But, there are things you can do to help clear their name now:

- **Spread the word.** Most people just don't know the truth when it comes to pit bull types. Share your knowledge whenever possible.
- **If you see a pit bull that's being mistreated or abused, report it right away** — contact your local animal control agency, humane society or rescue group.
- **If you own a pit bull-type dog, work to help him or her become a model canine citizen.** Friendly, well-behaved ambassadors of the breed are the best advertisement for their true nature.

A Special Thanks to Four Paws Pet Resort

RPAW is excited to announce our new partnership with Four Paws Pet Resort in Eagan. This full-service boarder has generously offered to foster several of RPAW rescue dogs. Our animals and volunteers alike love the variety of boarding options and extras, convenient location and personal touch. If you're looking for a great "home away from home" for your dog or cat, call Four Paws at 651-882-2211 or visit them at fourspawinc.com.



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Two Paws Up for RPAW Volunteer Kathy Gardner



Kathy has always felt the need to give back. After making it through several personal crises, she found one of her true callings in fostering rescue dogs. Kathy started her rescue work with the Humane Society, caring for sick, injured and young dogs. Since joining RPAW four years ago, Kathy has become affectionately known as the “puppy lady.” It takes a special commitment and a wealth of patience to foster puppies — often brought to us sick, neglected and without training — but Kathy welcomes the opportunity. Although Kathy has worked and is now restoring vintage furniture (find her work at ekathyg.com), she’s made the time to give hundreds of rescue dogs a temporary, loving home.

“Watching a fearful puppy blossom and get adopted into a home where he/she is wanted and will be lovingly cared for” is what Kathy finds most rewarding as an RPAW foster volunteer. Her greatest challenge has been “remembering that furniture (and shoes, and lawns, and phone charger cords) can be replaced and floors can be cleaned.” One of her most testing foster experiences was Chester, an 80-lb. Chesapeake puppy. When Kathy was out of town, Chester helped himself to her bed and gnawed through her quilt, sheets, mattress pad and mattress. Earlier in the week, Chester and her resident dog had also mistaken the sofa for a giant stuffed toy. Chester was moved into a new foster home the next day and eventually found a loving family that helped him work through his behavior issues.



Although challenging at times, Kathy has stuck with fostering. She says, “Fostering is in and of itself life-changing in my opinion. You learn to set your own little problems aside to care for and nurture the helpless and homeless puppies we take in.” To those interested in volunteering, Kathy says, “Just DO it! We need volunteers in every area of rescue. Everything you do counts, whether it’s holding a dog at Adoption Day or fostering animals in your home, washing towels for the PetSmart cats or transporting animals. All it takes is some of your time.”

We’d like to offer a special thanks to Kathy for her inspirational dedication to rescue and the sunny attitude and she brings to every RPAW event. Words can’t describe how much you mean to all of us and to all of the animals you’ve saved!

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 — 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.

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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Fostering FAQs

Choosing whether to foster rescue animals can be a big decision. Here are a few answers to some of the most common questions.

Q: Will fostering cost me anything?

A: No, RPAW pays for all of the necessary expenses including food, veterinary care and transportation to adoption days (if you prefer not to attend). All you'll need to provide is patience and a safe, loving home.

Q: I already have animals. Can I still foster?

A: Yes! Most of our volunteers have pets. Bringing new animals into your home can benefit your pets by developing their social skills and giving them opportunities for play.

Q: What if I fall in love — can I adopt my foster?

A: Absolutely! Fosters always have the first chance to adopt the animal they're caring for. It has happened!

Q: How long will I have my foster?

A: It varies. Depending on the animal and demand, fostering can last anywhere from a few days to a few months.

Please call 763-757-8204 or e-mail us at rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com to learn more about becoming an RPAW foster volunteer.



And the "Name That Newsletter" Winner is...

Renee Soltis! One of her catchy submissions, "The RPAW Rescue Report," placed first in the volunteer vote. Renee won an exclusive RPAW t-shirt and a deluxe rolling cooler bag, courtesy of Vernon Promotions. Thanks to all who participated!

Upcoming Events

Adoption Events

June 13, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Maplewood PetSmart

June 20, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Centerville Pet Foods

June 27, 2009, 11-3 p.m.
Coon Rapids PetSmart

Check the RPAW web site (rpaw.org) to find out more information about our July and August adoption events.

RPAW at Blazin' Blaine

Stop by and visit the RPAW booth at Blazin' Blaine on June 26-28 at Aquatore Park.

Have some great fundraiser ideas? Love event planning? Want to help homeless pets?

Fundraisers and donations are critical to bridging the gap and allowing us to continue our rescue work. If you're interested in planning events, helping out during events, or just have some great ideas, please contact us at 763-757-8204 or rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com.

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.

Thank you to the Kindergartners of the Andover Downtown Center Adventures Plus Program!

The children decorated "puppy jars" that they took home and collected pennies for several weeks. When they went to the bank to count them all they had a total of \$180.89 worth! They donated these funds to RPAW to help us care for pets in our foster care program. Thanks to these awesome kids and their families for supporting RPAW.

A Special Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 11803

RPAW would like to thank the girls of Girl Scout Troop 11803 that hosted a food drive at Ramsey Elementary. They received donations of food, treats and dishes to donate to RPAW for use in our foster homes! The girls also made tied fleece blankets for our dogs and cats to snuggle in.

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 July 15, 2009 to rescuedpetsarewonderful@yahoo.com

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