



# The RPAW Rescue Report

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## Surrendering an Animal: Do's and Don'ts

by Alissa Demmer

Many different life circumstances can lead pet owners to believe that surrendering (giving away) their pet is the only option. But it's extremely important to consider the implications of surrendering an animal and consider every alternative. The bottom line is that it's important to keep in mind the health and happiness of any pet, even if it's not with you in your home; companion animals need our love and support to survive.

If you're moving, **DO** think about bringing your pet with you. See [www.peoplewithpets.com](http://www.peoplewithpets.com) to look at apartment listings that accept animal companions, or visit [www.northbay-canine.org/lastresort3-txt.htm](http://www.northbay-canine.org/lastresort3-txt.htm) to view the Tenant's Guide to Keeping Your Pet. **DON'T** leave your pet in your home expecting someone else to find and take care of your animal. Remember your pet is part of your family! **DO** visit [www.petswelcome.com/milkbone/petmvframe.html](http://www.petswelcome.com/milkbone/petmvframe.html) for tips about planning a move for

you and your pet.

If your pet has a behavioral problem, **DON'T** give up! **DO** talk to your veterinarian, many behavioral issues can be due to treatable medical conditions. **DO** call the Animal Humane Society Behavioral Helpline for advice at (763) 489-2202. **DO** your research: pick up books from your local library or bookstore and surf the web for advice on addressing your pet's behavioral issues.

If someone in your home has an allergy to your pet or another health concern, **DO** visit a doctor and ask whether it is truly necessary to give up your pet. **DO** visit [www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/allergies\\_pets.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/allergies_pets.html) for tips on living with allergies to an animal.

If you've reached your last resort and feel that you do need to ultimately surrender your pet, **DO** make sure you are responsible about keeping the animal's

best interest at heart. First contact friends and family to search for a loving and trustworthy home for your pet. Next, look to your local no-kill shelter or animal rescue group for advice. Contact RPAW — even if we don't have room in our foster program, we can always help you put a courtesy posting on [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com). You can also look to this list of local shelters and rescues: [fairyydogparents.tripod.com/id10.html](http://fairyydogparents.tripod.com/id10.html).

**DO** visit this great resource to find info on everything from house training to addressing health problems for your pet: [www.wonderpuppy.net/canwehelp/index.html](http://www.wonderpuppy.net/canwehelp/index.html). Remember that having an animal companion is worth the effort, and sometimes we simply need to "listen" and discover what it is that our pets need in order to keep them happy and healthy in our homes!

## RPAW Store Coming Soon!

Where will you be able to find a fabulous array of RPAW apparel and gifts? Look no further than our upcoming internet store, The RPAW Emporium. Starting in April, you'll be able to shop online 24 hours a day! Secure checkout is provided by Google Checkout. Look for a complete catalog of our merchandise at upcoming adoption events as well. All proceeds go to helping rescued pets.



### ADOPTION TICKER

Since 2004, RPAW has found forever homes for:

1 5 5 0 **Dogs**

3 5 9 2 **Cats**

## Featured Adoptable Animals

### Meillin

*Breed: Medium Hair - Orange/White*

*Size: Medium*

*Age: Adult Sex: Female*

Meillin(maylin) is a girl about three years old She is very shy and timid. Meillin is looking for a quiet adult only household where she can continue to gain confidence and love. Please call her foster mom for more information: Erin 651-462-0038.



Meillin

### Richie

*Breed: Medium Hair - Black/White*

*Size: Medium*

*Age: Adult Sex: Male*

Ritchy is such a sweet guy. He is a little shy at first but once he gets to know you he will love you forever! He is about 4 years old, mellow and great with other cats! Call his foster mom for more information! Erin 651-462-0038.



Richie

### Apollo

*Breed: American Bulldog*

*Size: Extra Large*

*Age: Adult Sex: Male*

What a dog! He's been a favorite companion and housedog all of his life. An experienced bully owner knows how important attention, training, rules, and exercise this wonderful breed needs. He's about 95% of pure msucle. Apollo must have



Apollo

a secure, fenced-in yard to romp and explore in. For more information, call Kari at 651-491-7065.

### Lizard

*Breed: Chihuahua Mix*

*Size: Small*

*Age: Young Sex: Male*

We aren't sure why this cute 8-month-old, 7# guy was abandoned, but we are glad he's been gracing us with his funny little presence! Lizard lives up to his name, when he first came to his foster mom's house, he gave a big stretch, yawn, rolled in the grass, and layed out in the sun, just as happy as a.... well, lizard! Because of his size, for his own safety, he can only go to an adults only home. For more information, call Kari at 651-491-7065.



Lizard

## Get Creative about RPAW and Win



We're looking for unique and catchy taglines and/or designs for RPAW apparel and merchandise. Submit your original taglines and/or full-color, high-resolution designs for a chance to have your work featured on items for sale in the RPAW Emporium. If your design and/or taglines is chosen, you'll win a special RPAW gift pack including a T-shirt customized with your submission! E-mail your tagline and design ideas to [store@rpaw.org](mailto:store@rpaw.org).

### What do RPAW adoption fee pay for?

Adoption fees help to offset the costs needed for rescuing animals, including:

- Food and supplies
- Vaccinations
- Medical testing
- Spay and neuter
- Surgeries, exams and all other necessary veterinary care

# The Unsung Joys of Foster Care

by Kaitlin Peterson

There are few of us who have walked down the kennel aisles of animal control and have had to decide who you can rescue, knowing those you don't will face euthanasia. As a person who has been in animal rescue for over a decade and still cries at those ASPCA ads with Sarah McLaughlin, I can tell you that it is a hard task, and one that weighs on you. Everyone has seen or heard the statistics of how many unwanted pets there are per year (three to four million, according to the ASPCA website), but nothing makes it more of a reality than turning away from a sad pair of eyes behind chain link, and knowing that with you goes their last chance.

I like to think that I am above emotional appeals, but I thought the above would help clarify my response to the inevitable question every adoption day of "he seems like a great dog/cat, why don't you keep him?" or "Isn't it hard not to keep all of them?" In one way, yes. But mostly, no. Every pet that gets adopted means

one more spot is open for a new home, and one more dog or cat that we can pull out of animal control. This is the real joy of foster care.

Originally, when I thought of writing this article, I was planning on talking about how happy helping out can make you, how it can help keep your own pets socialized by continually bringing new dogs or cats into your home, or how if you want to teach your children the "miracle of birth" as some people want to, this is an effective and socially helpful way to do so. While all this is true, the real joy is knowing you can help more. Because until there is effective legislation, responsible pet ownership across the board, and the outright banning of puppy mills, there will always be more. This is where you can come in. Besides being a responsible pet owner (spay and neuter your pets, please!), foster care is the only way that we, and the majority of rescue groups, can work. If you worry about the expense of supplies, the rescue

group provides them for you, as well as transportation and medication.

I won't lie, foster care is hard. I have been pooped on, peed on, and even woken in the middle of the night to a new litter of kittens on me more times than I care to share. Sometimes, most of the time, you do get really attached, and you have to go and hide in the bathroom so your foster pets new parents don't have to see you cry. But foster care is amazing, and more rewarding than I can tell: to see an abused or horribly neglected animal creep out of their shell and learn to love and trust again, and to see someone you've cared for for weeks and, in rare cases, years, go to a new home where you know they will be loved and cherished for the rest of their days is to me one of the greatest things I have experienced.

The more foster homes we have, the more we can help. I cannot wait for the day when I can walk into animal control and say "All of them. I can take them all."

## 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 foster homes for.

**Canine Comrade:** Four Paws Pet Resort in Eagan generously hosts several RPAW dogs. We're in need of volunteers to stop in and play with them once or more per week.

**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.

## What RPAW Has Been Up To

2010 was a great year for RPAW. We continued to fulfill our mission of rescuing pets, and we hosted many wonderful fundraising and adoption events on the way. Here's a sample of just a few of our events during the second half of the year.

### Stacy Daze Fundraiser

RPAW volunteers Dale, Theresa and April Nagen hosted a fundraiser at Stacy Daze ( a small carnival/fun day hosted in Stacy on Aug 7, 2010). They passed out brochures, and sold cookies and balloons. They also had a raffle that included gift cards to Rainbow foods in Forest Lake, Tanger Outlet in North Branch and County Market in North Branch. A special thanks to DMA Consultants for your cash donation! We had a really great time and enjoyed the meeting a lot of people to spreading the word out about our group and what we do. Congratulations to our gift card winners: Leeza Mathews, Judy O'Claire, Wren Larson and Lyn Hunt.

### Linwood Days Fundraiser

RPAW volunteers Kerri Holycross, along with Dale, Theresa and April Nagen also hosted a fundraiser at Linwood Days on Sept. 11, 2010. They shared information and raffled off 3 Tanger Outlet gift cards. Congratulations to our gift card winners: Loni Norton, Deb Schmaltz and Jessie.



Linwood Days

### Adoption Day at Running Aces Harness Park

Running Aces generously hosted a dog and cat adoption day in August. We were able to place several animals in forever homes and had a great time meeting the crowd and spreading the rescue message. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

### Annual Plant Sale

RPAW hosted it's annual plant sale at Forest Lake Mall. Volunteers helped to sell flowers, vegetables, plants and handcrafted cat perches. The event was a great success, and we're looking forward to another sale this summer.

### Santa Paws

RPAW participated in PetSmart's annual Santa Paws Photo events. Even Snowmageddon couldn't stop us for spending time with Santa! We hosted events during two weekends and had a wonderful time meeting some adorable animals. A special thanks to Kaitlin Peterson for coordinating and Kathy McElhose for taking unforgettable photos.



RPAW Rescue Dog Winnie

## Donate Your Vehicle to RPAW

Donate your car, boat, truck, RV, Jet Ski or snowmobile to the Rescued Pets are Wonderful and receive a tax deduction. This no-cost, no-hassle process begins when you contact our fundraising partner, Donation Line LLC at 877-227-7487. Make sure to ask for our extension, 2678. Or visit [donationonline.com](http://donationonline.com) and choose "Rescued Pets Are Wonderful" from the charity list to the right to get started. Please have your title in hand when you donate.

*"Lots of people talk to animals...not very many listen, though...that's the problem."*

*- Benjamin Hoff,  
The Tao of Pooh*



## Upcoming Events

Come meet some of our many adorable, adoptable cats and dogs at our upcoming adoption events!

### Adoption Day

**Date:**

Sat., April 2

**Time:**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:**

Plymouth PetSmart

### Adoption Day

**Date:**

Sat., April 9

**Time:**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:**

Maplewood PetSmart  
and Fridley Petco

### Adoption Day

**Date:**

Sat., April 16

**Time:**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Location:**

Roseville PetSmart

### Adoptathon Weekend

*Join us for an exciting outdoor adoption event!*

**Date:**

Sat., April 30 and

Sun., May 1

**Time:**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Location:**

Coon Rapids PetSmart

*These dates are subject to change, please check [rpaw.org](http://rpaw.org) for the most up-to-date information!*



## and Wayne's Nurseries 6th Annual Mother's Day PLANT SALE for the Animals

May 6th, 7th, 8th

Fri. 2:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m

Sat. 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.

animal adoptions on Saturday

Sun 9:00 a.m. to 1:00



Northland Mall

Hwy 61

Forest Lake, MN



Annuals, Perennials

Hanging Baskets, Trees, Shrubs

and much, much more



### Cats and Kittens Always Available!

*Looking for a feline friend? RPAW cats and kittens are available every day during store hours at Petco Maple Grove (new site!), Petco Fridley, PetSmart in Coon Rapids, Maplewood, Roseville, and Plymouth (new location!), and Chuck and Don's Elk River.*



## Two Paws Up for RPAW Volunteer Kaitlin Peterson

In this edition of The RPAW Rescue Report, we'd like to offer a special thanks to Kaitlin Peterson. Kaitlin has been with RPAW since the very beginning and we're excited to honor her as our featured volunteer. The following is a synopsis of Kaitlin's rescue experience, in her own words:

I first started volunteering at the Animal Humane Society when I was about seven years old, so I've been at it about 15 years. I always really liked animals, and my mom, brother, and I would go in to walk dogs and such. We were pretty much hooked after that. The most rewarding thing is seeing a dog or cat that you have been caring for for a really long time finally go to a home that you know will love them and take care of them for as long as they live.

Anytime a person does a community service or tries to help out in some way, it is easy to get discouraged and feel that you aren't making a difference. This holds very true for animal rescue, since there really doesn't seem like there are any less litters of puppies and kittens in the spring, even after 15 years of work.

For those considering volunteering, I would say that you shouldn't expect it to be easy, and sometimes animal rescue can break your heart, because you get to see a side of life and suffering that most people don't. But it is so worth it, such an amazing experience, and it can change you positively for the rest of your life knowing that because of you, an animal that has lived in suffering and fear is getting a whole new lease on life.

### Many Thanks 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 and organizations who have donated money and supplies, and especially Tanger Outlet in North Branch, Rainbow Foods in Forest Lake, County Market in North Branch and DMA Consultants in Forest Lake.

All of the caring veterinarians that help our rescue animals.

Petco Maple Grove, Petco Fridley, PetSmart Coon Rapids, Maplewood, Roseville, and Plymouth, and Chuck and Don's Elk River. for hosting our cat adoption centers.

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

#### 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 [info@rpaw.org](mailto:info@rpaw.org). 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)
- Used ink cartridges (we trade them for supply discounts)
- Peanut butter
- Gas gift cards
- Heating pads (for bottle-fed kittens)
- Toys, collars, bowls and leashes
- Litter boxes and litter
- Printing and signage
- Cash donations



#### Rescued Pets Are Wonderful

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