



# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2009

Website: [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com)

Post Office Box 8260, Bartlett, IL 60103

An All-Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organization

From Your President - *Arleen Braun*

There is a saying "**one does not choose rescue work, it chooses you**" and, once again, we would like to start the New Year with a special **Thank You** to all of our dedicated volunteers and wonderful supporters. The fact that we are a small local organization with very limited funds has not stopped us from our rescue efforts for the many stray and unwanted felines that come across our path especially in the last year due to the country's economic situation. Although our numbers may seem small as compared to some larger and paid staffed organizations we were able to intake 56 feline rescues this year and 34 of those have been adopted into permanent homes.

We experienced some very unsettling situations in 2008. On a cold Saturday night someone left 2 cats in a box in front of the clinic where they stayed unattended until the morning when they were discovered by one of the doctors. Luckily we had 2 enclosures open in our adoption room at **Hanover Park Animal Care Center** and took them under our wing. After having these sweet cats vet checked, spayed and neutered, brought current on necessary vaccinations and micro-chipped we were able to adopt **Sarina** (2 years old) and **Stretch** (10 months old) into permanent homes in a very short time.

Another situation was when a nurse sitting in a courtyard at a retirement home looked up and saw a van stop. When it drove off there was a cat sitting in the road. The nurse called the Foundation and we were able to take the cat in and when we had **Shadow**, as we

named her, vet checked we found she was a 5 year old black beauty with a very gentle personality. She is currently being fostered in a volunteer home and is available for adoption.

Then there is **Dino**, who was rescued from under a deck where apparently he had been living, or should I say existing. He looked to be about 6 to 8 weeks old and very, very thin. Our vet check revealed that his tiny bottom was so matted with fecal matter and his skin was so raw that it created a significant open wound which would require long-time medical attention with the hope it would heal. He is on the mend now and coming along nicely.

And I must mention **Dante** a pure-bred 1-1/2 year old adorable Persian who we took in from the Fox Valley Animal Welfare League. Dante was truly a mess when he was brought to the League as a stray. While in our volunteer foster home he has required exceptional medical attention for various conditions which we are still trying to get under control and all through this he has been wonderfully cooperative.

As you probably guessed by now our medical expenses have been exceptionally high and we try to cut corners where ever possible to balance the budget. We would especially like to thank **Mr. Louis Schauer** for his very generous Christmas donation to the Foundation. Please know that any all donations are so very much appreciated and are applied solely to our rescues' care.

# MEMORIALS

Donations were received in memory of the following pets who have gone to the "Rainbow Bridge": **Nikki, Harley, Rookie, Maschugna, Kirby, Baxter, Snuffer, Dante, Squirt, Louis, Kat, Murphy, Blackie, Dauber, Kaya, Buford, Bailey, Britan, Buddy, Anthony, Cosette, Mary, Butterscotch, Shadow, Wilbert, Lucy, Zeus, Bandit, Maliboo, Chiquita, Roxie, Cassie, Bogey, Misty, Bear, Maxwell, Simba, Lexi, Bosco, Max, Hrowdi, Ping, Winston, Mopsy, Samantha, Sassy, Jericho, Willis, Boomer, Roxie, KiKi, Frosty, Maximus, Jasmine, K.C., Freckles, Elle, Smokey, Harley, Magic, Squirrel, Gaby, Shadow, Burke, Chopper**, (Heartland Animal Hospital); **Kaylee** (Martin & Anne Cohn); **Maxie, Gerta, Lucky, Maggie, Anna, Sebastian, Candy, Eddie, Wick, Brindle, Duchess, Lucky, KoKo, Boodro, Lila, Chips, Mitzi, Remi, Bach, Ace, Sgt. Pepper, Rico, Harold, Bosco, Max, Moose, Jada, Cookie, Midget**, and **Dandy** (Hanover Park Animal Care Center); **Lee** (Mr. & Mrs. Keith Winters); **Lobo, Gizmo**, (Rita Sella); **Clemie & Bonny** (Rita, Francie & Pawlie Milcarek, The Lamping Family); **Grey Girl** (Kathleen Kenney & Emily Young); **Timber** (Rita Milcarek); **Butch** (Virginia Thomason); **Teddy** (Cathy Michalski); **Cuddles, Harvey, & Rocky** (Rita, Francie & Pawlie Milcarek) and **KoKo, Peppy & Turner** (Arleen Braun).



Donations were received in memory of **Ruth Dobrenick** (Adrienne Malinowski & Arleen Braun) and **Betty Isberg** (Julianna Kaderbek). Mrs. Dobrenick adopted one of our senior rescues who, even though for a short time was loved dearly by her. **Amy** now resides with Lynne, Mrs. Dobrenick's daughter.

Honorary Pet Donations: **Cocoa** (Rita Sella); **Charlie the Cat** (Kathleen Kenny & Emily Young);

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## ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ **Four Paws Animal Foundation Memorial Gift** ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift in memory or in honor of the following pet or individual:

IN MEMORY OF PET (name); \_\_\_\_\_  Canine  Feline

In MEMORY of INDIVIDUAL (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following information if the gift is in memory of a family member or friend's pet and the Foundation's sympathy card will be sent to them stating your intention:

Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

In HONOR of PET OR PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out and mail to Four Paws Animal Foundation, P.O. Box 8260, Bartlett, IL 60103

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# WAGGING TAILS TO:

- ☐ New volunteers **Margie Parth & Jill Hubbard**. Along with volunteering to clean our adoption room enclosures once a week they also give of their time by helping at fund-raising events and donate items for our bake sales.
- ☐ **Dr. Arlene Rodriguez** and the **entire staff** at **Hanover Park Animal Care Center** for the caring and compassionate attention to our rescues and for donating the space available to us in which to house our adult rescues.
- ☐ **Dr. Jennifer Hart, DVM, Heartland Animal Hospital** for her continuing support of our efforts.
- ☐ **Dahla Brown** for taking videos of our adoptable felines and posting them on petfinder.com.
- ☐ **Betty Strong** for donations matched 3-fold by **"Illinois Tool Works"**.
- ☐ **Julie Piesciuk, Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator**, for putting together a beautiful scrapbook photo album of our adoptable felines which we can take to all our events.
- ☐ **Scott Ranke (aka Santa), Veda Connolly (aka Ms. Claus), Dahla Brown, Betty Strong, Bob Zelinka (our photographer), JoAnn Lily, Sharnell Wells, Kathy Tullio, Fiona Noone, Linda Davis, Margie Parth, Leigh Simi, & Jill Hubbard** for their volunteer help at pet photos with Santa.
- ☐ **Joe & Jean Monocchio** for their Christmas donation on behalf of their aunt, **Rita Milcarek**.
- ☐ **Louis Schauer, Dr. Arlene Rodriguez, Dahla Brown, Mary Freitag, Sharnell Wells, Jeanette Moline, Lisa Moline, Joyce Robison, Ellen Wullbrandt, Richard Glessner, Rosemary Barich, Bob & Cindy Marlin, Carol Famiani, Bill & Madeline Lawson, Kim Vogt, Anne Cohn, Mary Ann Thede, Gail Frei, Kathy Meyer Clinton, Marie Kelly, Peg Meyer, Michaline Spatuzza, Leigh Simi, George Kubes, Brenda & Richard Kocim, Tracy & Brian Wolford** and **The Chambers Family** for donations to the Foundation.
- ☐ **Linda Kozlowski** for donating hand-crochet blankets for our rescues.
- ☐ **Mary Sue Dunwoody** for placing our 2009 fund-raising calendars for sale in her place of business, DuPage Framing Center.
- ☐ **Health Emporium in Streamwood** for also placing our 2009 fund-raising calendars for sale in their place of business as well as **Banbury Fair** in Bartlett.
- ☐ **Dr. Jim Ryan**, for a goodly supply of much needed trash bags.
- ☐ **Sylvia Jacob** for her continuing donations of litter.
- ☐ **Rita Milcarek** for researching some pertinent information for the Foundation.
- ☐ **Esther Stroud**, professional groomer at the Hanover Park Animal Care Center, for fostering a 4 week old stray kitten who was dumped on the side of the road near the clinic until we had space available to take him in. **Roady** is available for adoption along with his buddy **Babbette**.
- ☐ **Kathy Tullio** for taking over as webmaster of our [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com) website and volunteering to do a cleaning/feeding shift in our adoption room at the Clinic.
- ☐ Our thanks to **EVERYONE** who supported our 2009 Calendar fund-raiser by purchasing a calendar.

## "FOUR PAWS" WISH LIST

Donations of the following would be most welcome:

- ☐ **Purina Cat Chow – Adult**
- ☐ **Friskies Turkey & Giblets Canned Food**
- ☐ **Purina One Sensitive System - Adult**
- ☐ **Tidy Cat Scoopable Litter**
- ☐ **Gift cards from Wal-mart or PetsMart to be used to purchase supplies such as food, kitten/cat beds, litter pans, paper towels, garbage bags, etc.**

Please call the Foundation (630) 289-0478 for drop off locations

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## **“PATCHES” HAS FOUND A LOVING HOME**

***“You can’t even imagine how awesome life with Patches is. As we might have expected, she hid most of the weekend. When she did peek out I just talked pretty to her and she would just sit and watch me but if I tried to approach her she ran away. On Sunday night little Poppy was laying by my side hissing. I sat a ways up and there was Patches on the bed. My movement seemed to spook her and she ran off but I was thinking “progress” that she would even get up on the bed. Monday she came out and did let me pet her and then started rubbing her check against all the furniture and baskets. More progress! Monday night I woke up in the middle of the night to someone “nudging” against my left hand. Lo and behold it was Patches trying to get me to pet her. I petted her head and scratched her cheeks for a while and she was just getting so in to it. So there I was with Patches on my left and the little kitties snuggled up on my right. I think this is going to be a great family. The little ones are still hissing at Patches some but it is decreasing and I am confident they will all be friends.***

***I really have to laugh every time I look at Patches’ funny little nose and how round and short-legged she is with her dingle-dangle belly. She couldn’t be a more perfect cat child for me! I’m thinking this was a wonderful match and that Patches is going to be very content for the rest of her days. Thank you for bringing this sweetie into my life. She already means the world to me and I sense that she is happy also!!!”***

**Lynn Griffis**

**Editor’s Note:** “Patches” is an 8 year old black and white short hair who was brought to “Four Paws” when her owner past away. We are very happy that she has found such a loving home. Thank you, Lynn, for opening your heart to this sweet, sweet feline.

## **ANOTHER “FOUR PAWS” HAPPY ENDING:**

***“Arlene,  
Just wanted to send you a few pics of Tigger and Butch (now called Oliver)....they are the sweetest kittens we have ever had....most likely attributable to your fostering care!! The boys love them to pieces. They celebrated their first Christmas and New Years and are doing well.”***

**Barb Roedel**

## **ADOPTION DAY SCHEDULE**

***“Spice Girl”*** is an orange and white short hair tabby who is one of four in a litter. She is 6



months old spayed, current on vaccinations and micro-chipped. She can be seen during our adoption events, along

with her litter mates ***Dreamer, Rascal and Buffy***, which are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 1:00 PM at the Hanover Park Animal Care Center, 1920 Ontarioville Road.

Our rescues are given the best medical care and are well-socialized by our volunteers. They are waiting patiently for a loving permanent home of their own. Please pass the word on to family, friends or co-workers who may be looking to add a four-legged member to their family and since ***Valentine’s Day*** is right around the corner wouldn’t it be wonderful to adopt one of our special “sweethearts” to join your family!

**!!!!**

More “Four Paw” adoptable felines can be found on [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com) with descriptions and videos.

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# FOUR PAWS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 8260

Bartlett, IL 60103

Phone: (630) 289-0478

E-mail: [mrkoko@earthlink.net](mailto:mrkoko@earthlink.net)

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## **COMING EVENTS**

### **PET SHOW/BAKE SALE/ PET PHOTOS:**

Date: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Banbury Fair - Bartlett  
Time: 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

### **PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA:**

Dates: Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Hanover Park Animal  
Care Center  
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

### **GARAGE SALE:**

Dates: Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Location: To be announced  
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

### **DOG WASHES:**

Dates: Saturday, July 18 - August 15<sup>th</sup> - September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Banbury Fair - Bartlett  
Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

### **PET SHOW/BAKE SALE:**

Dates: To be announced  
Location: Streamwood Park District (PumpkinFest)  
Time: 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

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# You Can Talk to Your Dog! *By Dr. Nicholas Dodman*

Good communication is key to a rewarding relationship with your dog, and the conversation has to go both ways. Try these tips to convey what you want to your pet and to help you understand what he's "saying" in return:

**Keep commands short and simple.** Dogs understand human speech by taking cues from distinct sounds. Short words ending in a clearly enunciated consonant are best.

**Don't repeat yourself.** Voice commands should be said just once for maximum effect. Most dogs have better hearing than humans and will remember a word for up to two minutes. If they don't respond, it's not that they don't hear you—it's that they aren't listening!

**Expand your dog's vocabulary.** Dogs can understand hundreds of words, but each should be linked to a specific object or action. Dogs cannot understand complete sentences. However, they will pick up on your tone of voice (happy, sad, concerned) and respond accordingly.

**Use your body.** Recent studies show that dogs understand our gestures and body language. If you point at an object, your dog will not think you are imitating the Statue of Liberty—he will look toward where you are pointing.

**Listen closely.** Dogs' barks mean something. Many dog owners say they can tell by the tone of their dog's bark whether a friend or stranger is approaching the house.

**Check the tail.** A new study shows that a dog wagging his tail with a bias to the right is excited and happy to see you. A dog wagging his tail predominantly to the left is excited but unsure or fearful. Since it can be hard to tell the difference, interpret all tail-wagging in context; If a dog is wagging his tail but also growling, it's best to back off.

**Look into his eyes.** Rapid blinking is a sign of nervousness or deep thought. A dog that blinks rapidly after being given a command is deciding whether or not to obey.

**Get your licks.** Pups lick their mothers' lips to get them to regurgitate food. When dogs lick people, it's a sign of submission or deference.

**Let him lean.** If your dog leans against your leg, he is asking you for protection in a threatening situation. This is good – you should be in charge – but understand that your dog is counting on you to make him feel safe again.

**Read the "writing" on the wall.** Call it pee-mail or canine graffiti – urine marking is an important method of communication for dogs. It may indicate territoriality, possessiveness or hostility. If you notice where he marks, you may be able to understand and address his concerns.

*(Dr. Dodman is director of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and author of "Dog Behaving Badly" and other books.)*

## **Learn to Read Your Cat's Signals**

Here's a rule to remember when it comes to dealing with feline aggression: Never, ever hit your cat.

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While it may make you feel better – at least in the short run – a smack won't help you change a cat who appears to delight in sinking teeth and claws into you at seemingly unpredictable moments.

Fear and pain can cause a cat to lash out. The best way to deal with a scared cat is to let him be, while a sick cat surely needs a veterinarian. But most times what we see as "meanness" in a cat is just part of being a cat. You can change this behavior, but only if you understand what's behind it and react properly. Here's what makes cats go crazy and how to correct the problem.

**–Overstimulation.** You're petting your cat and suddenly he grabs you with his claws and teeth. Not a full-powered attack, but you've still got those sharp tips around your hand. What to do? In the short run, freeze. Don't struggle or fight back, or you may trigger a real bite. Sometimes smacking your other hand hard against a hard surface – a table top, for example – may startle your cat into breaking off the attack. If you stay still, however, he will usually calm down and release you.

That's the solution if you've gotten to the attack stage. The better option is to be familiar with your cat and his body language and stop petting before he becomes overstimulated. Cat lovers often think such attacks come without warning, but the fact is that they missed the warning signs of a cat who has simply had enough. The tail is the key. If your cat starts twitching his tail in a jerky fashion, it's time to stop petting, or to switch to an area that's more relaxing. Belly rubs are fine for dogs, but not for cats. Instead of petting your cat's sensitive tummy, rub behind his ears or at the base of the tail.

**–Play aggression.** Sure, it hurts all the same, but the cat who pounces on your feet and then careens off the wall isn't trying to claw you – he's playing. Instead of punishing your cat, redirect his energy. Increase your play sessions with your cat with an appropriate toy, such as a cat fishing pole or toy on a string, to help your cat burn off his excess energy before you try for a quiet petting session.

No matter what, never let your cat view you as a plaything, not even when he's an adorable kitten. Wrestling bare-handed with your cat or kitten is a no-no, because you're setting up a bad precedent. A stuffed sock is a great substitute for a human hand when it comes to playthings – let your cat bite, claw and bunny-kick to his heart's content.

**–Redirected aggression.** Your cat sees another cat, an intruder, outside your living-room window. He becomes enraged. You walk by, and he nails you. What gives? You were just the victim of redirected aggression.

This one's tough to fix. Try to discourage strange cats in your yard. Thump on the window, or put an air horn out the door and give them a blast. And again, be aware of your cat's body language. A cat who's looking for trouble is one who's best avoided.

With all feline aggression, the trick is to eliminate the triggers and work on your cat's tolerance levels. If you're patient and consistent, your cat will improve over time.

**(Source: [VeterinaryPartner.com](http://VeterinaryPartner.com))**

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