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# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY, 2013

CELEBRATING OUR 16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

*“PETS ARE FAMILY”*

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

Post Office Box 8260, Bartlett, IL 60103

*An All-Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organization*



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a very difficult year for some of our rescues whose medical conditions began to escalate. We have been limited lately as to the intake of rescues due to the high cost of these particular medical expenses plus slow adoptions as well as limited donations. At this time we are not only operating as a rescue/adoption organization but also as a sanctuary so as to give those rescues with serious medical issues a comfortable life as possible.

**Robbie** came to us as a stray 3 years ago at an estimated age of 9 years and he was not in very good health at that time and looked to be on his own in the streets for some time. He continued to have medical issues that we were able to get under control hoping he would get a home of his own but he has now been diagnosed as being diabetic and has some serious skin conditions. And, because he is diabetic, our options of helping to heal his skin conditions are limited. We have taken him to see a dermatologist specialist at VCA Aurora Hospital for evaluation but since he is currently on insulin injections our options for treatment are limited.

**Ditka** has been with us since the young age of 8 weeks. He was dropped off at a local animal hospital in very poor condition and

was treated for several illnesses.

The staff, after believing he was stabilized, called **“Four Paws”** to see if we could take him so that he could be adopted. Ditka is now 4 years old and all through this time he continued to have serious medical issues which we tried to resolve without much success. We finally made an appointment for him with an eye specialist at VCA Aurora Specialty Hospital and the doctor said the eye conjunctiva was heavily scared over and tears were backing up into his nose and thus the reason for the constant sneezing and infections. The doctor attempted to clear up the scaring of his conjunctiva through eye surgery and he was put on medication to help the continuing upper respiratory infection. He is much improved but will need to be evaluated regularly and is on continuing medication.

**Andy** was adopted as a young kitten but developed pneumonia and was returned to us for this reason. Even though he had been diagnosed with chronic bronchitis we were able to get Andy, who is now 4 years old, healthy again but just recently he was diagnosed as being diabetic and is on insulin injections twice daily which he takes very well. He is such a wonderful gentle cat and we are so fortunate to have him as part of the **“Four Paws”** family where we can continue to treat him.

**Dante** is a 5 year old purebred Persian stray that we took from Aurora Animal Control about 2 years ago. We could not believe the condition this poor cat was in when we brought him to **“Four Paws”**. We did our best to evaluate and treat all his medical issues. We gave him several lion cuts and medicated baths due to a bad skin condition which we feel is under control but now he has developed a urinary problem which is hard to diagnose and difficult to know how to treat it. We made an appointment for him to see a radiologist at VCA Aurora Specialty Hospital and an ultra-sound showed that there are particles in his bladder which could not be defined and he was at risk for being blocked once again. We consulted with a urologist specialist and opted to have surgery performed so that he would not get blocked for a third time which could possibly end his life and as of this date it looks like it has been successful. Although expensive, even with a 15% shelter discount from the VCA Hospital it was all worth it. He too is a very sweet cat.

**Needless** to say maintaining on-going treatment for these rescues will continue to be expensive as well as general over-all operating expenses. As directors we feel responsible to keep our rescues in

good health regardless of the expense so that there could be a possibility for a future adoption and to that end we have been donating some much needed funds out of our own pockets to pay these expenses. Our fund-raisers are few and far between and in addition to the funds we generate from them we also appreciate any donations that our supporters can afford to send us. Whether it is making a monetary donation or donating supplies such as food, litter, etc. we do so appreciate your kindness and generosity and **a warm THANK YOU** goes out to all of you.

Please visit our website [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com) to see our adoptable felines.

## MEMORIALS

Throughout 2012 and past years we receive memorial donations from **Heartland Animal Hospital** and **Hanover Park Animal Care Center** for their clients' pets who have passed to the **Rainbow Bridge** and we thank them for their generosity.

**"Four Paws"** would like to remember one of our sweetest ever rescues **"Woody"**. He came to us at the age of 16 years when his owner passed away and family members did not want him. For the 2 years he was with us we gave him love and shelter in his aging years and we couldn't be more grateful that we had this opportunity to help keep him comfortable and give him a gentle sleep when it was time. He will truly be missed.

Our gratitude to **Rita Milcarek** and her sister **Jeanne Lamping** for their continuing support throughout the years by donations memorializing their loving companions; **Bonny, Clemie, Harvey, Cuddles** and **Rocky**.



If you would like to remember a pet or person through a gift to **"Four Paws"** please fill out the following form and mail to **Four Paws Animal Foundation, Post Office Box 8260, Bartlett, IL 60103** and the Foundation's sympathy card will be sent to the individual stating your intention.

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

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to "Four Paws" in memory of my pet:

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

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 the family stating your intention:

In MEMORY of PET (name): \_\_\_\_\_  Canine  Feline

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

To whom card is to be sent:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***BITS & PIECES*** (Source: *Healthy Pet Magazine Fall 2012*)

- **Is your pet a Senior?** - As a general rule, senior citizenship begins with the “third trimester” of life. For example, the anticipated life expectancy for strictly indoor **cats** is 13 to 15 years, so such kitties are considered seniors by the time they reach 9 to 10 years of age. **Canine** life expectancies run the gamut based on breed and size. Here’s a general guide to help determine when your dogs and cats will become a senior citizen: **CATS** - 9 to 10 years; **DOGS - Small** (less than 20lbs) 10 to 11 years; **Medium** (20 to 40lbs) 9 to 10 years; **Large** (40 to 80 lbs ) 8 to 9 years and **Giant** (over 80 lbs) 5 to 6 years.
  - **Dementia In Pets** - Does your senior dog seem to get lost in your own backyard? Is your elderly kitty vocalizing in an unusual and persistent manner? When observing your older pet, does it sometimes appear as though “the lights are on, but no one is home”? If so, you may be observing symptoms of dementia, also known as cognitive dysfunction, caused by degenerative changes with the brain. While current therapies do not provide a cure, they have the potential to lessen the severity of symptoms and possibly slow their progression. If you suspect your pet has dementia, talk with your veterinarian about ways to confirm the diagnosis along with treatment options.
  - **Ways to make your senior pet more comfortable - Make accessing necessities painless.** Be sure your pet can comfortably access bedding, food, its water bowl, and litter boxes. If it appears that your dog or cat has trouble leaning down to the bowl, crawling into bed, or just getting and out of the litter box, go ahead and make adjustments. **Upgrade your pet’s bed.** Stiff, achy joints are common in sedentary animals. Older animals are prone to muscle loss, too, which can make hard surfaces even more uncomfortable. For these reasons, investing in a low, cushioned bed made with therapeutic foam or other orthopedic material may help your pet get comfortable. **Help your pet avoid falls.** Hardwood floors or other slippery surfaces become increasingly difficult to navigate for older animals. Consider adding carpeting, no-slip area rugs, yoga mats, or even using booties designed to give your pets extra traction and help them feel more secure and sure-footed. **Talk to your vet about pain management.** Whether it is a prescription non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID), joint support supplement, or a complementary therapy such as massage or acupuncture, there are many things to try that may make your pet feel much better on a daily basis. Your vet can discuss with you what makes the most sense for your pet.
  - **3 Human Foods To Avoid - Chocolate and Things with Caffeine** - Theobromine is found in chocolate, tea, cola, and acai berries. Theobromine and caffeine are closely related chemicals and behave similarly. Dogs enjoy the sweetness of chocolate and are more likely than cats, which don’t taste “sweet,” to ingest quantities that result in toxicity. But it’s just as toxic to cats as dogs. Poisoning results in restlessness, diarrhea, vomiting, and irregular and accelerated heartbeats – eventually tremors, seizures, and death can occur. Even with smaller quantities ingested over time, chocolate and caffeine can lead to heart failure. **Onions** - Onions, garlic, and other related vegetables have sulfur-containing compounds that when eaten in large amounts injure red blood cells and cause life-threatening anemia. Pets with onion toxicity will tire easily, be listless, have pale gums, and breath quickly or pant. **Grapes and Raisins** - Small amounts of grapes and raisins can cause kidney damage and lead to kidney failure in dogs, even coma and death. The first signs of acute kidney failure are often an increase in drinking and urination. Eventually the dog will become depressed, urinate less, have a loss of appetite, and may develop diarrhea. An ammonia-like odor to the breath may also be noticeable. Learn more about foods to avoid, along with other toxic items to keep away from your pets, at [www.vetstreet.com/petpoisons](http://www.vetstreet.com/petpoisons).
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• **Signs Your Cat May Be In Pain** - Cats are Masters of Disguise - The rule of thumb: Any time your cat starts to exhibit unusual behavior, it's time for a trip to the veterinarian. Signs of pain may include: /Lack of interest in grooming /A reduction in activity, such as jumping, walking, or playing / Less interaction with the family / Hiding / Loss of appetite and weight loss / Aggression or flinching when touched /Accidents outside of the litter box Increased vocalization and / Increased heart and respiratory rate.

• **Your Cat Can Love The Carrier** - Too often cats fear the carrier because they simply aren't comfortable with it. Do these five things to make it one of your cat's favorite places. **1)** Leave the carrier out in a common place. **2)** Put in a fleece blanket or a piece of your clothing with your scent on it. **3)** Toss in a treat or favorite toy to reward your cat for getting in. **4)** Walk away and allow your cat to choose to go into the carrier. **5)** Get a carrier that opens from the middle, top and front.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2013 FUND-RAISING EVENTS**

At our last general meeting, which are held on the first Thursday of every month, we planned our tentative fund-raising events for 2013. These events will be posted on our website [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com) with further updates. If you would be interested in helping through your volunteer attendance at any one of these events or donating items for the bake sales or garage sale please fill out the volunteer form enclosed and forward to the Foundation or call 630-289-0478 or E-mail [mrkoko@att.net](mailto:mrkoko@att.net) for more information.

**Saturday, May 4, 2013** Spring Pet Portraits/Bake Sale - The Shoppes of Banbury Fair, Bartlett in conjunction with the Banbury Fair's flea market.

**Friday/Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** - 9:00 to 3:00 - Garage Sale/Bake Sale

**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** - Pet Contest/Bake Sale - Bartlett Heritage Days Festival

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** - Pet Contest/Bake Sale - In conjunction with the Streamwood Park District's Pumpkin Fest - Hoosier Grove Park, Streamwood

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>** - Santa & Ms. Santa Pet Photos/Bake Sale - The Shoppes of Banbury Fair Bartlett.

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** - Pet Photos with Santa & Ms. Santa - Heartland Animal Hospital, Bartlett

We plan to attend the **Bartlett National Night Out** event on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Bartlett Park where we handout information on our adoptable rescues and literature on animal welfare.

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## **FOUR PAWS “PET SMOOCH KISS” PHOTO CONTEST:**

Do you have a photo of you and your pet smooching that you would like to enter in our first “**Pet Smooch Kiss**” contest. If so, please forward the photo either by regular mail or e-mail to the Foundation. The best photo will receive a “**A Love That Captures The Heart**” paw bracelet with ribbons awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Be sure to include your pet’s name, your name, address and a phone number or e-mail address. Deadline for submission will be April 1<sup>st</sup>. Winners will be notified and announced on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> during our spring pet photo fund-raiser at The Shoppes of Banbury Fair in Bartlett. The winning photos will be placed on our website.

## **SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:**

**Dr. Jennifer Hart** for giving us permission to hold our December pet photos at **Heartland Animal Hospital**.  
*The Staff at Heartland Animal Hospital* for their care and concern of our rescues and also helping at our December photo event.

**Bruce and Jan Suffern and Sandy** for allowing us to hold 3 of our fund-raising events at **The Shoppes of Banbury Fair**

**Mr. Louis Schauer** for his most generous Christmas gift to the Foundation.

*Our directors **Dahla Brown, Sharnell Wells and Kathy Tullio** for all their support both monetary and volunteering efforts at all our events..*

*Our past director, **Betty Strong**, for her matching grant donations through ITW.*

*The **Shandag family** for their most generous gifts throughout 2012.*

**Linda Davis** for always participating in baking a huge amount of items for our bake sale fund-raisers and help with set-up.

**Moria Ford** for initiating various fund-raisers through the **Bartlett High School students**.

**Sylvia Jacob** for donation of litter throughout the year.

**Wendy Koziol** for helping out with our rescues while I had surgery.

And a very special thanks to the **Gaspari Family** for the printing of this newsletter.

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# ***FOUR PAWS ANIMAL FOUNDATION***

Post Office Box 8260 - Bartlett, IL 60103 (630) 289-0478

Website: [www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com](http://www.fourpawsfoundation.petfinder.com) - E-mail: [mrkoko@att.net](mailto:mrkoko@att.net)

An All-volunteer Not-For-Profit 501C(3) Charitable Organization

Licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as a Foster Home Network Organization

## **MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER FORM**

*Membership donations help the Foundation continue its rescue/adoption efforts for stray and abandoned felines. All our rescues are fully vetted and micro-chipped before being adopted. Membership donations also help us to provide continuing care for our older rescues who may have health issues so we can provide them with comfort care in their aging years.*

*Volunteering - If you are 18 years or older volunteering time or talent involves 2-3 hours to help at Four Paws' fund-raising events which helps support the Foundation's rescue/adoption efforts. Please indicate your preference below and we will call you prior to the event and, if you are available, ask for your volunteer participation.*

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

- New - 10.00 Individual
- Yearly Renewal - \$10.00
- Senior Citizen - \$5.00

### **DONATION:**

- General

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Spring Pet Photos/Bake Sale (May)**

- Order taking and cashier at event  Help with animals  Donate baked items

### **Pet Contest/Bake Sale (September, Bartlett)**

- Order taking and cashier at event  Help with animals  Donate baked items

### **Pet Contest/Bake Sale (October, Streamwood)**

- Registration  Help set up  Help during show  Donate baked items

### **Garage Sale/Bake Sale (June)**

- Donate baked items  Help with pricing or sales during event  Help with set up/take down

### **Pet Photos w/Santa/Holiday Bake Sale (November/December)**

- Order taking and cashier at event  Help with animals  Donate baked items
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# FOUR PAWS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

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Phone: (630) 289-0478

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

## ***FOUR PAWS WISH LIST***

Donations of any of the following items will be helpful in keeping our operating costs down

Tidy Cat Scoopable Litter  
Purina Indoor Advantage Dry Formula Cat Food  
Friskies Can Turkey & Giblets  
Purina Pro Plan Can Ocean Whitefish & Salmon  
Paper Towels  
Dawn Dishwashing Liquid  
Purex Laundry Detergent  
Gift Cards (any amount) from  
PetsMart  
Petco  
Target  
Wal-Mart

For drop-off location please call the Foundation 630-289-0478 or e-mail [mrkoko@att.net](mailto:mrkoko@att.net).

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