

# PAW PRINTS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF KANDIYOHI & MEEKER COUNTIES

Fall/Winter 18

## HAPPY TAILS!!

### Rita, Our new family member

Dear friends,

In 2016 the shelter received "Rita" from another rescue group in the cities. Rita from what we could tell was a shepherd-collie mix. She was a bigger dog who tended to only like- "herself". Rita was not in a play group at the shelter. We didn't think she got along with cats and quite frankly, she was listed as: "Harder to Adopt".

Rita arrived in June. Many people looked, but she was just not the right fit. In September we got a call from a widower who lived west of Willmar. Plain and simple he wanted a larger dog. Staff filled him in on Rita, not sparring the details that there were a lot of unknowns and we didn't know how she would get along with his sheep, goats or cats. He didn't care. So, one evening I drove her out to his farm. I had her on a leash, but he insisted I let her go and check things out. Oh, boy I thought, here we go. I just knew I would end up taking her back to the shelter. She ran up to the cats. They either ran off or hissed at her. She didn't attack, I was shocked. Then there were the sheep in the pen. Surely, this would be the disaster. Again, nothing. She just looked at them.

Fast forward to the October Ladies Night 2018. I was at our booth and this woman walked by. I asked her if she wasn't the one whose father had adopted Rita. She beamed and said, "yes." She told me what a great dog she was. She told me that the cats walk between her legs and lay down with her. She doesn't bother the sheep or goats and she is ok with the neighbor dog. She explained that she had brought her to the shelter one day to meet another dog as they were really wanted a second one, but Rita was not going to have anything to do with that. She went on to say that her father had had a stroke and that Rita sticks right by him. The daughter works during the day, so she is so glad that Rita stays close and keeps an eye on her Dad. Wow, it made me feel so good to know that staff didn't give up on Rita.

Wow, you just never know.



Rita,  
Our new family member



## This is a Special Year

This is a special year. It is our 45th Anniversary, 9-year partnership with Meeker County and 9 years in the Hawk Creek Animal Shelter.

- Started as an all-volunteer organization.
- Investigations
- Education
- Space was rented in the original Willmar Pet Hospital building at Trott & Hwy 40.
- Stray animals were held for 5 business days. Animals were adopted out as quickly as possible. Space was limited. Resources such as funding were very limited. Partnerships with other shelters & rescue groups were non-existent.
- In 2003 we became homeless for 5 months as the Willmar Pet Hospital building was sold. We worked with South 71 Veterinary Clinic to house the animals until we could get them adopted out or to other shelters.

*Continue reading on p. 3*

## SHELTER CREW

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman- Dick Reitsma  
Vice Chair - Keith Nelson  
Secretary - Cori Heacock  
Treasurer - Kelly Dahlke  
Member at Large - Lisa Hoffer

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Beth Oberg  
Jim Butterfield  
Tracey Besser  
Jon Thoma  
Kelly Dahlke

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Bookkeeper - Michelle Anderson

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Merrissa Brandt  
Shelby Augustine  
Kayla Harms

# First Annual Fall Festival



*On the cool*, cloudy day September 29th of this year we held our Fall Festival and Craft Sale. This was the brainchild of Board Member Lisa Hoffer and Vicki Davis, the owner of The Goodness Coffee House, where it was held. We asked our members for donations of hand-made fall crafts and we received many. We also received donations of food from several local businesses, so we were able to serve pork sandwiches, chips and a beverage for a donation of \$4.00. With another donation, children were able to paint pumpkins. All proceeds from the sale of food, crafts and pumpkin painting went directly to the animal shelter reaching close to \$1,500.00!!!

A HUGE thank you to all who donated items, to the awesome musicians who provided live entertainment, to our volunteer pet handlers, and to The Goodness for allowing us the space to hold the event. Also, thanks so much to those who attended – in addition to helping the shelter out, you kept the Coffee House busy too which made it a “win-win” situation. We are hoping to hold this event again in 2019! We’d like to see more craft donations, including fall themed items and Christmas items as well. So, get your “crafty juices” flowing early in preparation!!!!



## Meeker Fundraising Events

This year, the fundraising subcommittee “4 Miles Four Paws” (4M4P), held three events in an effort to raise funds for the Humane Society of Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties. The subcommittee members are; Beth Oberg, Cori Heacock, Tracey Besser, Jim Butterfield, Jon Thoma, Bobbie Bauman, Sam Wood.

On September 8th, 2018 we organized our fifth annual 4 miles Four Paws walk around Lake Ripley in Litchfield, MN. At this event we had different vendors set up to help generate interest and raise funds. Little Caesars donated pizza to sell; Runnings of Litchfield had a booth with food samples and other giveaway items. Pet Smart of Willmar set up a face painting booth for the kids, and Older Than Time Photos provided patrons the opportunity to take nostalgic pictures with their pets, and they donated all of their sales to the Humane Society.

On October 14th, 2018 we hosted our second annual French Toast Breakfast at the American Legion in Litchfield, MN. We also held our fourth annual raffle drawing at the French Toast Breakfast. All three fundraising efforts helped to raise a combined total of \$5,587.12 for the Humane Society’s operating costs. We would like to congratulate the winners of this year’s raffle drawing.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Rifle

Jennifer Rogers, Litchfield

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$300 Coach Gift Card

Rachel Coleman, Willmar

### 3 - 7<sup>th</sup> Place: \$100 Cash

Amanda Midtling, Apple Valley

Steve Thisius, Spectralytics

Curt Swart, Prinsburg

Jenny Zorske, Renville

Janice Wolf, Olivia

## Thank You Sponsors!

- American Legion, Nelsan-Horton Post #104
- Animal Health Services – Atwater, MN
- Baker Graphics – Willmar, MN
- Barry’s Furnace & AC – Watkins, MN
- Litchfield Auto Body – Litchfield, MN
- Little Caesars – Willmar, MN
- Meeker Memorial Hospital – Litchfield, MN
- Older Than Time Photos – Atwater, MN
- Pet Smart – Willmar, MN
- Ramsey Printing & Design – Litchfield, MN
- ReMax, Patrick and Amy Raiber Agency – Litchfield, MN
- Rotary International Club of Litchfield, MN
- Runnings of Litchfield
- Sparboe Farms – Litchfield, MN
- Spectralytics – Dassel, MN
- Star Dreamer Ranch, Touch Dog Training – Litchfield, MN
- State Farm, Jason Tibbitts Agency – Litchfield, MN
- Walmart – Litchfield, MN

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# Inquiring Minds Want to Know



*At the shelter we get asked many questions. There are quite a few myths out there that we are trying to bust. Here are the top 10:*

- 1. I found an animal but do not want to take it to the pound because it will just get euthanized.** FALSE; A stray animal is held at the animal shelter for 5 days. If the animal is licensed it is held for 10 days. As an animal enters the shelter it is scanned for a microchip, it is checked for a collar and tags or tattoos. The animal is listed in the Lost and Found section of the West Central Tribune and Social Media is checked. Every effort is made to locate an owner. After the stray hold the animal is evaluated and if it is happy and healthy it is spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and put on the adoption floor.
- 2. If my pet is brought in as a stray by Law Enforcement or a concerned citizen, why do I have to show proof of ownership and pay to get it out?** FACT; As the animal enters the shelter, a staff member checks it over for a microchip or tags and it is vaccinated for Distemper. It is then placed into a dog run or cat cage and given food, water, toys, bedding and/or a litterbox. A staff member takes its picture and enters the impound sheet information and picture into our data base. It is cared for throughout the day and sometimes several days. All of this is done by paid employees. The shelter building is heated/airconditioned, has running water and electricity. These are just a few of the costs involved in operating a shelter. When an owner comes forward, we ask for proof of ownership and if the pet is current on a Rabies shot. There have been times where people have tried to claim an animal that is not theirs. Thus, we ask for pictures or medical records.
- 3. If I have a pet I am no longer able to keep, do I bring it in?** FACT; We ask that you call first to make sure we have space available. At certain times of a year we may have to put you on a waiting list. We do ask for a donation to help care for the pet until we can find it a new home.
- 4. Once an animal is on the adoption floor, they might be euthanized to make space for another animal.** FALSE; We do not euthanize due to a shortage of space or because an animal has been here for more than the stray hold. We work closely with other shelters and rescue groups and make every effort to get the animal out the front door and into a loving home. We will also run adoption specials through out the year.
- 5. Why do you charge an adoption fee?** FACT; The adoption fee only covers a portion of the medical care that is provided for an animal. Dogs, cats and rabbits are spayed and neutered. Dogs, puppies, cats and kittens are vaccinated for Distemper and if old enough they are also vaccinated for Rabies. Dogs and puppies are tested for heartworm disease. Cats and kittens are tested for Feline Leukemia and Feline immunodeficiency Virus. Canines, felines and rabbits are microchipped. Canines, felines and rabbits are given a flea preventative and dewormer.
- 6. All Pitbulls and Bully Breeds are euthanized.** FALSE; Dogs are dogs. Each has their own personalities. Each develops their personality with proper socialization and training. Staff do a very good job at evaluating all dogs and cats. If a dog has been deemed by Law Enforcement as dangerous or potentially dangerous it is not adopted out due to liability issues.
- 7. Feral Cats are euthanized:** FALSE; Feral cats are spayed or neutered and returned to the location they were found providing there is a caretaker. We have a Barn Cat/Working Cat Program. These are kitties that do not do well in a home setting but prefer to be outside on rodent patrol.
- 8. Senior Animals are euthanized:** FALSE; If the animal is in good health and is not suffering they are placed on the adoption floor.
- 9. It's so sad to volunteer or be at the shelter and see all the animals in cages:** FACT; While most people have a hard time seeing animals in cages we can always use volunteers at offsite adoption events. We need handlers to walk the dogs around and to show them off. We have fundraising events and can always use volunteers.
- 10. It must be so hard to work at the shelter and not to want to take them all home:** FACT; Many employees have adopted their pets through the shelter. While there are sad times, it is very rewarding knowing you have helped a family find their new fur-ever companion.

## This is a Special Year (continued from p. 1)

• In December of 2003 Wayne Thompson and Mic Schmidt showed us the county garage on the SE side of town. Prior to that we had looked at a building at the State Hospital campus (Now MN West Technology) a building in Priam and one north of town. When they showed us the county garage I asked them where they had been hiding the building. The building use to be the recycling center and when we saw it it had two large snowplows inside. Compared to what we had, it was a palace. We called that building home for 5 years. Again, with the help of many volunteers and donors a new building was built. Our partnership with

Meeker County began at the same time.

- Today we take in an average of 1800 animals.
- We offer many programs and services. We adopt out animals. We take in owner surrendered animals and strays. We offer four Pet Vaccination Clinics each year. We bring in a mobile spay/neuter surgery vehicle. We make Pet Therapy Visits. We have a Pet Food Shelf. We assist Law Enforcement with animal neglect cases.
- A huge thank you to the people that got it started and for those that continue to support our mission of helping people and animals.

# HAPPY CAT TAIL!!

Hello!

I wanted to let you know that we have found Chester after 3 weeks!!!

Someone had been taking care of him and saw the post on Facebook about the scared kitty tribble that ran from the vet and they posted in the comments the cat they found.

So, my friend was alerted by her friend and so on and we made contact with the person and brought Chester home!

The crazy thing is he ended up 8 miles away in Clara City and we are in Raymond. They had him for about a week but who knows where he was before that.

I don't know how he got there but I am sure glad he is safe and sound!

Thank you for posting and getting these things out there!

People DO watch and do the right thing. It is so encouraging!

Our whole family is overjoyed!!

Thank you for all you do!

Sondra Yuen

Breden, 8 and Ksher, 4.



## Dear Friends of Hawk Creek Animal Shelter

As we approach the end of 2018, we are thankful for you and others who believe in us and want to ensure the animals in our care find their much-deserved forever homes.

Because of wonderful people like you who value our mission and our services, and who donate to the cause, we know we can keep doing the necessary work saving the animals.

Some may say, "What difference can my donation make?" It made a difference to Rita, a Shepherd-Collie mix who needed extra work to become socialized and adoptable. Today she has her forever home.

And it matters to Clifford, the senior orange tabby cat who is diabetic. In many situations he would have already been euthanized solely because of the cost of his care. This sweetheart needs a special someone to bring him home and care for him.

And it matters to all the animals, and all the adoptive families who are the better for having these pets in their lives. This year, the need for your help and support has never been greater.

Our expenses for medical care, food and other shelter expenses continue to rise, primarily because of a large increase in animals coming through our doors.

Just a few short years ago, we were taking in 1,500 animals annually. This year we anticipate nearly 2,000 dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds will have entered through our doors, all in need of your help.

Can we count on you once again to help us save the lost, abused and abandoned animals in our communities?

If you've ever adopted, if you want to remember a beloved companion whose memory still fills your heart, or if you want to ensure that others can experience the joy of having a family pet to love and be loved by, then please consider a generous donation to the Hawk Creek Animal Shelter today.

We leave your level of generosity up to you, for only you can know what the value of a companion animal is (Hint: we think they're priceless!).

Our work is a labor of love. Your donation ensures we can continue to be there for the animals. And for that, we are ever so grateful to you, all of you.

Blessings to you and yours this Holiday season,

*The Staff of the Hawk Creek Animal Shelter*



Please drop off or mail payment to:  
The HSKMC • PO Box 709 • Willmar, MN 56201  
Please check with Bobbie for more info on Auto Debit at 320.235.7612