animal tracks

CAT person?
We’ve got you covered

Also Inside:
It takes a network to get pets adopted

animal humane society magazine | Spring/Summer 2014

animal humane society

walk for animals
May 3rd 2014

40th annual
a message from Janelle Dixon

Throughout the last several years, Animal Humane Society has placed an increased emphasis on community engagement. I have repeatedly shared my view that AHS can provide leadership in the community but without you, we cannot address the challenges facing animals.

We need you—not just your financial support, but your ideas, activism, volunteerism, advocacy and action as well. I challenge you to think about what you do each day or week throughout the year that models your compassion and the place animals hold in your life and heart.

Our actions and decisions influence how others perceive animals, positively or negatively, and more importantly, impacts the lives of animals themselves. Are animals welcomed in our communities? Are they integrated in the fabric of our lives? What importance does society place on animals as members of our families, that are loved, and whose passing is grieved?

The smallest to the biggest things have an impact. When we don’t clean up after our pets we leave a bad impression—one that keeps animals from being welcomed by all. When we properly train our companion animals, we enhance our relationship with them but we are also sending good animal citizens out in our neighborhoods, creating good impressions. When we adopt we are saving lives.

Thank you for the importance you place on animal lives. When we are thoughtful and intentional we create a welcoming place for animals that integrates them in all facets of our lives and gradually influences the value society places on them, improving care and treatment as we move toward our vision of “creating a more humane world for animals.”

I am reminded of “The Starfish Story,” by Loren Eiseley. A wise man was walking down the beach and saw a young man throwing starfish back into the ocean. “What difference does it make?” asked the wise man. To this, the young man replied, “The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them in, they’ll die.”

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, “But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can’t possibly make a difference!” At this, the young man bent over and said, “It made a difference for that one.”

What will you do today to make a difference?

Sincerely,

Janelle Dixon, President & CEO

Mission

To engage the hearts, hands and minds of the community to help animals.

Vision

To compassionately and responsibly create a more humane world for animals.

Core Values

Be good to animals. Partner with people responsibly with compassion.
Adoption
Let an animal choose you! Cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, ferrets, guinea pigs and small critters are available for adoption at our five locations. View the animals available today at www.animalhumanesociety.org.

Surrender
Companion animals may be surrendered at any of our five open admission locations where we provide safe refuge for thousands of animals each year. Appointments are required to surrender an animal. Call (763) 412-4969 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/surrender.

Kindest Cut low cost spay/neuter
Through our partnership with Kindest Cut, we offer high quality, low cost spay/neuter services to the pets of people in need through a mobile clinic and at Melrose Animal Clinic. Visit www.kindestcut.com or call (763) 489-7729 for more information.

Pet boarding
We offer two options for pet boarding — Animal House at AHS in Golden Valley (763) 489-2222 and Now Boarding near the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (612) 454-4850. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/boarding.

Pet training
We speak fluent animal! More than 50 classes are offered weekly at our Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Woodbury and Now Boarding locations. Classes include Introduction to Dog Training, Reactive Rovers, Puppy Kindergarten, Therapy Animal classes, the Canine Good Citizen certification as well as Dog Playgroups. Programs for rabbits including Hoppity Hour and Rabbit Agility are offered at AHS Through Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society. To learn more about all animal training opportunities, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/training or call (763) 489-2217.

Pet food and supplies
Purrina One dog and cat food and treats, Tidy Cat litter, as well as collars, leashes, toys and grooming supplies are available at our five locations.

Youth programs
There is a lot for kids to do at AHS! Opportunities include Unleashed Camps, projects for Scouts, PetSet Youth Club, birthday parties, movie nights and classroom programs for students in grades K-12. For information on all AHS has to offer kids, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/youth or call (763) 489-2220.

Humane investigations
Our humane agents work with law enforcement and respond to thousands of reports of animal neglect and cruelty each year. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/prevention for more information.

Microchip and nail clinics
Microchip and nail trim clinics are offered monthly at our five locations. For specific times and locations visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/microchip.

Wildlife rehabilitation
Injured and orphaned wildlife are accepted at our Golden Valley location. For information call (763) 489-2223 or visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/wildlife.

Lost and found pets
We offer a Lost and Found Online Bulletin Board for you to post missing or found pets. You can also review stray animals in our care. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound.

Tours
Tours of our facilities are available to students or other groups by appointment. Maximum group size is determined by location. To schedule a tour at any of our locations call (763) 489-2220.

Pet behavior help
Need some advice regarding your pet? We’re here to help. Call our free Behavior Helpline at (763) 489-2220 or visit our online library for help with pet training and behavior at www.animalhumanesociety.org/library.

Therapy animals
Through AHS’s animal-assisted therapy program, Animal Ambassador teams visit hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities. For more information, visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/ambassadors or call (763) 432-4847.

Pet loss
Humane euthanasia and cremation services are available to the public and a pet loss support group is offered on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Golden Valley. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/flosspet or call (763) 412-4969.

Ways to help
Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/help to find out about the ways in which you can help AHS, including volunteering in our shelters, as a foster volunteer, and donating or contributing to our wish list.

Our services

Adoption Centers
Monday through Friday Noon – 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Incoming Animals Surrender by Appointment
Please call our Animal Admissions Center at (763) 412-4969 for an appointment to surrender an animal. Appointments are available Monday through Friday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/animalhumanesociety

Follow us on Twitter:
twitter.com/Animal_HumansMN
First-class felines

The cats at Animal Humane Society’s adoption centers now know a little about how we humans feel when we get an upgrade at the Hilton.

The centers at all five AHS locations have been modified so that instead of having access to only one cage, cats available for adoption can now wander through three of them. Yes, the felines have gone from having a room to having a suite.

According to Kathie Johnson, senior director of operations at AHS, the change came about based on recommendations from Sandra Newbury, DVM, of the University of California-Davis’ Koret Shelter Medicine Program, after she was invited to visit AHS.

“Dr. Newbury, using the Association of Shelter Veterinarian Guidelines, recommended that each cat should have two feet between litter box, food and an area to rest, or a separate area for each whenever possible,” Johnson said, “and our new arrangement gives them that separate area.” The change did not require replacing the existing cages, just the addition of a few new ones and cutting holes between them all. The modifications were made site by site during the past few months.

“Tales from the Road

The Rescue Waggin’ program gets some star power.

Animal Humane Society plays a starring role in a new eight-part documentary series that debuted online in March. “Rescue Waggin’: Tales from the Road” follows 21 dogs on their journey from the Carthage (Mo.) Humane Society shelter to Golden Valley, where AHS staff and volunteers help them find new homes with loving families in Minnesota.

A key to making the change was being sure AHS could give the cats the extra rooms without causing a shortage of overall space. “We looked at a lot of data to be sure we would have the number of cages we needed,” Johnson said. “But we also know that if a situation causes the need for extra cages for a short period of time, we can always temporarily ‘plug’ the holes to immediately create more housing.”

“The people here think the new arrangement is great,” Johnson said. “But the reviews from the cats are the most important thing – and they just love it.”

AHS is a primary destination for Rescue Waggin’ animals. "Last year, AHS helped find homes for nearly 6,000 dogs and puppies that arrived here through Rescue Waggin’ and other transport programs."

—Paul Sorenson, digital strategy manager

Actor and producer Josh Duhamel lends his talents to spread the word about Rescue Waggin’ in an 8-part web documentary. He helped find homes for nearly 6,000 dogs and puppies that arrived here through Rescue Waggin’ and other transport programs, said Paul Sorenson, AHS digital strategy manager, who helped coordinate AHS’s involvement in the web series.

The documentary, produced by PetSmart Charities, actor Josh Duhamel, and Duhamel’s production company Dakotakid Media, includes cameos from celebrity pet adoption advocates including Kristen Bell, Adam Shankman and Bret Michaels, and significant footage shot at AHS. Duhamel, who spent several days at AHS last November during production of the series, narrates the documentary and appears in several episodes.

Watch the documentary series online at animalhumanesociety.org/rescuewaggin
Building better vets

An AHS/U of M partnership provides valuable experience.

University of Minnesota veterinary students are getting hands-on surgical experience through a partnership with Animal Humane Society, Kindred Cut and the Melrose Animal Clinic, located at AHS’s Golden Valley facility.

The students participate in a week-long rotation at the clinic, with each of the nine students involved performing as many as a dozen spay/neuter surgeries per day. Students work primarily with animals from rescue organizations, but also dogs from AHS.

According to Kathie Johnson, senior director of operations at AHS, it’s an opportunity for the students to get experience with surgical training and learn about shelter medicine, as well as the value of affordable, high-volume, high-quality surgery.

“We are happy to be partnering with the University of Minnesota,” Johnson said. “This collaboration benefits AHS because students will graduate with a better understanding of the realities of shelter medicine and the needs in our communities, and it helps the university because it better prepares its students to work in the community and provide spay/neuter services to their clients.”

SAVE your summer

A summer volunteer program is a future builder.

It’s not summer in Minnesota yet (we just hope spring has come by the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox), but we’re already thinking about our big plans for Youth SAVE – our Summer Animal Volunteer Experience.

Youth SAVE is a unique program open to 16- to 18-year-olds who want to volunteer with AHS over the course of an entire summer. Participants will help by assisting customers looking to adopt an animal and providing for the daily care needs of animals in the shelter.

“The volunteer commitment is easy and flexible,” said Lynne Bengtson, AHS volunteer services manager. “We just ask for a three-hour shift three times a week, over three months, from mid-June to late August.”

Volunteers will be invited to attend guest speaker presentations to hear about hot topics in the animal welfare community and to explore possible career options. Topics expected to be covered include wildlife, dog training, vet services careers, issues in animal welfare, and using volunteer experience on a resume or college application.

Applications for the Youth SAVE program are being accepted through April 26. More information can be found at www.animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer.

Capitol watch

Stay tuned for updates on the breeder bill.

At the time this edition of Animal Tracks went to print, Animal Humane Society was involved in a number of efforts at the Minnesota Legislature, including supporting a bill that would require licensing and inspection of large commercial dog and cat breeding operations. Because action was expected in both the Minnesota House and Senate at the time this magazine was printed and when it arrived in your hands, we have created a page on the AHS website to give you access to the most current developments in our legislative efforts. Please visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/speakup for the latest information.

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Sustainers are in vogue

A better way to give.

Monthly giving (or “sustainers”) programs are becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. as supporters of non-profit organizations recognize their advantages – most notably the convenience of making automatic contributions.

“It also makes a difference to spread a gift over the entire year,” according to Patti Michurski, who along with her husband Rick have been Animal Humane Society sustaining donors for four years. “This way we can make a much more substantial gift than we would be able to do otherwise.”

Participants in AHS’s sustaining donor program provide ongoing support that AHS relies on to care for the animals, said Sarah Berger, AHS director of annual giving. “In addition, it means less mail so more of the contribution is going directly to the services our donors care about, such as food and shelter, medical care, training, spay and neuter surgery, and adoption support.”

“You can count on all year,” Berger said. “Through secure, automatic monthly payments from a credit card, debit card or bank account, sustaining donors provide support that we can count on all year,” Berger said. “We just deduct the designated contribution from the preferred account on the donor lets us know to stop or change it.”

To learn more about the sustainer program, go to www.animalhumanesociety.org/donate/sustaining-gifts.
You may wonder (or you may not): What in the world compelled these Animal Tracks editors to devote such a large section of the magazine to this examination of “dog people” and “cat people”?

The idea actually came from an observation I made shortly after becoming editor, a little over a year ago. Rifling through the stacks of old issues, I noticed a clear bias for putting dogs on the cover. In fact, the last six issues of Animal Tracks (published biannually) have had dogs on the cover. It’s been four years since a feline graced the front, and it’s only happened twice in the last seven years.

Why would that be?

“People respond better to dogs,” one colleague said. Well, maybe. Dogs do look like they’re smiling, at least a lot more than cats do. Then there’s that thing about dogs’ eyebrows. But then why is it that millions of us trade links to funny feline photos and thousands show up for cat video festivals? (I’ve never even heard of a dog video festival.) That’s pretty responsive, isn’t it?

In reality, dogs have been on the cover of Animal Tracks more often in large part because they make more news than cats do. Our last cover depicted the dogs from our Pine River seizure. The issue before was about the dogs that come to Animal Humane Society from Leech Lake Legacy (although we get cats from them as well). And so on.

Still, for whatever reason we put dogs on the cover, as someone with an affinity for cats I just felt our feline friends were not getting their due.

But I remained conflicted. I love dogs, too. And could we really ask our loyal readers to go six months without a really cute pup staring back at them from Animal Tracks? No, we couldn’t. Or at least we didn’t want to. So we solved the dilemma, not by putting both a cat and a dog together on the cover, but by giving them each their own cover. We also intentionally made each cover so darn cute that even if you do prefer one species over the other… you might just have second thoughts.

And so we decided to ask our friends and supporters, along with staff and volunteers, to tell us a few of their thoughts and opinions on cats and dogs.

We conducted an online survey early this year, soliciting input from AHS staff and volunteers and the public (through an invitation on our Facebook page). A total of 661 people responded, about half of them were members of the public.

We were happy to learn -- not that we were surprised -- that most of you like to think of yourselves as animal lovers first and foremost, even if you have a preference for a cat over a dog or a dog over a cat. (So if you need to alternate which of the two covers of this magazine face up on your coffee table, go ahead. We’ll understand.)

Fewer than 20% of respondents placed themselves firmly in the dog camp or the cat camp, and further, more than 75% either had no preference between cats and dogs, or if they did have, they still liked them both.

What differences we might have, one respondent wrote, are more than outweighed by the similarities. “Dog
“I can deal with a litterbox once or twice a week when it suits my schedule. I can’t imagine picking up steaming poop in a plastic bag outside on demand when it suits a dog’s schedule.”

“Could you imagine a cat park? It would be one big hissing mess.”

“Cats seem more independent. Dogs seem codependent.”

“When my family returns from a vacation, my dogs get so happy they could explode, whereas the cats get passive and shun us for having ever left.”

To the survey participant: “I would rather curl up on the couch with a cat in my lap than to go outside in -30 degree temperatures and walk a dog.”

To another: “It’s somehow more satisfying to have them love you,” wrote one respondent. “It’s because dogs “feel more like a member of the family,” according to 71.4% of the dog people who took our survey. About 65% also said their belief that dogs are “more loyal” factors into their preference. Even 4% of those without a preference said they are convinced that dogs are “friendlier” than cats.

“I love cats,” one respondent said, “but I feel that dogs reciprocate that love more than cats do. When my family returns from a vacation, my dogs get so happy they could explode, whereas the cats would get passive and shun us for having ever left.”

Of, as another dog lover put it, “It seems like dogs care about me as much as I care about them. I feel like they get so happy they could explode, whereas the cats would get passive and shun us for having ever left.”

“Cats seem more dependent. Dogs seem codependent.”

“Feels more like a member of the family:”

- Dogs: 95%
- Cats: 1%

“Is more loyal:”

- Dogs: 95%
- Cats: 5%

“Is easier to care for:”

- Dogs: 1%
- Cats: 99%

“Doesn’t require as much attention:”

- Dogs: 2%
- Cats: 98%

“Understands more:”

- Dogs: 81%
- Cats: 19%

“Is friendlier:”

- Dogs: 91%
- Cats: 9%

“Does not cause allergic reactions:”

- Dogs: 84%
- Cats: 16%

From our survey expectations are for the animal to be with them and all over them and happy to do whatever they want them to do, they may gravitate towards a dog.”

Practicality can be defined in a number of different ways, though. “We currently have a large dog,” another AHS employee wrote. “Our next pet will be a cat simply because I am tired of cleaning up the poop bombs in the yard and the dog slobber off of my windows. Cats are tidier in that sense and that may be why some may choose a cat over a dog.”

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A dog’s ability to accompany its family outside the house was also a reason often cited for the appeal of canines. “I don’t care how much your cat is just like a dog,” said one respondent. “You cannot go hiking in the wilderness with your cat.”

There is a flip side to that, one cat lover wrote: “I would rather curl up on the couch with a cat in my lap than to go outside in -30 degree temperatures and walk a dog.”

Also, the reasons for not having a cat stated by those with a dog preference may be exactly the same reasons why cat owners love their kitties.

“With cats you have to work to have them love you,” wrote one respondent. “It’s somehow more
“Anyone who loves fuzzy critters is good people.”

Who has the better personality, dogs or cats?
Ok, that’s sort of a ridiculous question, isn’t it?
Animals within any species – dogs, cats, or humans for that matter – will have a wide variety of personalities. We’re not sure it’s any more accurate to say dogs have a particular personality than it is to say that people have a particular personality.

There are certain traits (behavioral and otherwise) that may be more common in dogs than in cats, and vice versa, and those sometimes fall under the broad category of personality. Some of us humans may prefer certain traits over others, which may in turn lead us to prefer as a pet – in general – a dog over a cat, or a cat over a dog.

That doesn’t make one “better” than the other. Different, yes. Better, no.

But it also didn’t stop us from asking about personality in our survey. “Personality” – or whatever you want to call it – did seem to be more important to those animal lovers who prefer dogs over cats. A total of 65.8% of survey respondents who prefer dogs said “dogs have better personalities.” It was the second most popular reason, after “dogs feel more like members of the family” (71.4%).

“I love how ‘human’ a dog can feel,” said one dog lover who took our survey. “I love a dog’s personality – their ability to kind of know how you’re feeling.”

Another said, “It’s more interesting and engaging to interact with dogs. They have more engaging personalities because they wear their emotions on their sleeve (on their paw?).”

Personality makes a difference to those who prefer cats as well, but just not as much. A total of 37.4% cited personality, but it was behind “cats are easier to care for” (86.5%) and “cats don’t require as much attention (47.7%).”

“Cats don’t have a ‘better’ personality,” said one respondent, “just a personality that better fits my own.”

“I like cat personalities,” wrote another. “They are mysterious and fascinating.”

One survey taker did have a particularly interesting view on the whole question. “Cats’ personalities are more like a human than dogs,” she wrote, “because they aren’t just exasperatingly happy all the time.”

Yes, that was someone who prefers cats over dogs. Just in case you couldn’t tell.

rewarding that way, even though the unconditional love of dogs is nice, too.”

“You always know where you stand with cats,” said another.

“You persuade cats… you order dogs.”

In the end, all of this is over-thinking the subject, one survey taker told us. Our preference is simply determined “by what we grow up with.”

Or, as another said, “Just like foods that we eat, having a dog or cat as a family member is just a personal preference.”

That respondent’s final comment may be the most important, though: “I think that anyone who brings an animal into their lives for the right reasons is loving and giving and has a wonderful soul.”

“I’ve always maintained the thought ‘to each his own,’” another said. “The love is all the same, whether it is a cat or a dog. They all want to be loved and to love in return.”

We thought that was a perfect comment to sum up the subject. But then we saw this one:

“What about guinea pig people???”

Next time, perhaps...
Purina presents
walk for animals
may 3rd 2014
8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Golden Valley

support second chances

40th annual

3 ways to Help the Animals

Without loving homes to care for them, companion animals face a harsh life where survival is a struggle and affection is scarce. Every day, Animal Humane Society takes these animals into its shelters, providing them with the necessary care and second chance they deserve.

Begin raising pledges now and get ready for the one event your pet looks forward to every bit as much as you.

1. RAISE PLEDGES ONLINE AT
   www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk
   where you can download pledge forms and create your own personal page with photos, stories, & email personal messages!

2. MAKE YOUR GIFT
   to support your friend, family, or co-worker who is walking to support the animals!

3. VOLUNTEER
   for the largest human/pet walk in the Upper Midwest!

Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/walk for more information about:
- Prizes
- Pledge forms
- How to make a donation
- Parking & shuttle buses
- Schedule of entertainment & activities
- Walk route
- Vendors & sponsors

Questions? Email walk@animalhumanesociety.org or call (763) 432-4841

Follow us online: Facebook.com/animalhumanesociety Twitter.com/AnimalHumaneMN #walkforanimal

40th annual walk for animals
Social Animals

It takes a network to get pets adopted

By Dorothy Grinolds

With more than 30,000 animals coming through our doors each year, Animal Humane Society needs to use every tool at our disposal to match up pets with adopters.

In this day and age, that means engaging not just the hearts, hands and minds of the community to help animals, but engaging their newsfeeds— and their TV sets—as well.

AHS’s website may be our most prominent and important marketing tool, a place where thousands of people see their next pet for the first time. Increasingly, though, both new and “old” media are being used to introduce animals to prospective adopters, especially those animals that might need a special showcase.

Here we look at some recent stories about how animals looking for a second chance found their new loving homes through social media and the airwaves.

Elvis

When Elvis arrived at AHS last October, he was like any puppy—playful, active and attention-seeking. But Elvis had a few challenges to face before finding a home.

Our veterinary staff discovered Elvis was suffering from Sarcoptic Mange, a disease caused by small mites on the animal’s skin, which if left untreated results in itchiness, hair loss and even infection. Elvis received extensive treatment from the vets, and because this type of mange is highly contagious to other dogs, Elvis had to be isolated for a large portion of the time.

Three long months after his arrival, Elvis was finally ready to make his appearance in the adoption center. We knew it was important to find him a home as soon as possible so he could continue to heal rather than deteriorate. Even though staff and volunteers provide enrichment and exercise while animals wait for homes, nothing can replace the stability and love of an adoptive family.

So we convinced Elvis to pose for a photo and we posted his story on our Facebook page. After 594 likes, 314 shares and three days, Elvis was adopted by a family who saw him on Facebook. They already had a pit bull/terrier mix at home and decided Elvis would make the perfect companion.

Tinkerbell

Tinkerbell found a new home just a few hours after her adopters saw her video (which you can see at www.animalhumanesociety.org/tinkerbell) on our Facebook page. She was just two months old when she came to us a stray with a shattered hind leg. After surgery and lots of love from our staff, she was as sweet and playful as ever. So we shot some footage of Tinkerbell playing, created a simple video and encouraged our supporters on social media to share our post.

Dabit

Dabit’s wishes came true when his new person John saw his sweet face and read his wish list on our Facebook page last December. A 6-year-old lab mix, Dabit had been waiting longer than the average dog for a home and was now what we refer to as a “forget-me-not.” When they met, it was as if it was meant to be. A total of 184 people shared Dabit’s wish list and helped us find Dabit a home. File that under #madeourday.

Through the use of our social media channels, we are able to engage with supporters in a variety of ways: to promote our lifesaving programs and services, gain new supporters who will donate time and money to help animals, and share the stories that take place at each of our five locations.

We are fortunate to have a supportive community of people who believe that adoption is the best way to add a companion animal to their family. The length of stay for animals on our adoption floors averages only 50 days.

Occasionally however, there are animals—like Elvis—who need an extra push; animals who are passed over by potential adopters, senior animals, or those with special medical needs.
As valuable as social media is these days, we also take advantage of good old-fashioned news media through a partnership with WCCO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Minneapolis. Every Friday on the noon news, WCCO features a “Pet of the Week” segment, where we introduce viewers to an adoptable animal live on the air.

Barney

Barney, a senior Chinese Shar-Pei mix, was found in early December, roaming free in subzero temperatures. A Good Samaritan brought him home, and made an appointment to bring him to AHS. It appeared Barney had been through a lot recently and was in need of some TLC. Our vet staff prepared Barney for adoption, and because older dogs often take longer to find homes, he was featured on WCCO.

That day, Jean was at home watching TV and saw Barney’s appearance. She and her husband Dave had said goodbye to their family dog earlier in the year, and were ready to start looking for a new furry family member. Jean told Dave about the sweet dog she saw on the news, and they adopted Barney that evening.

We’re happy to report that Barney, now named Bosco, is doing great in his new home. As he discovers he is in a warm and safe home, his personality is shining. He’s enjoying exploring the outdoors when temperatures allow, and he’s getting along great with the three other dogs in the family.

For the past four years, Carrie Libera, AHS public relations associate, has taken dozens of dogs on the WCCO Pet of the Week segment. “It’s such a pleasure getting to choose a lucky dog each week, knowing that their perfect match may be tuning into the news that day,” Libera said. “Many times when we return to the shelter, the phones are ringing off the hook with interested adopters – and sometimes there is someone already on the way.”

The segment has a loyal following, with people telling us they watch the Friday news just to see the Pet of the Week. “The best part is when I get updates from viewers that have adopted,” Libera said. “Sometimes I get to meet them that day, other times they come back for a visit. I’ve even received Christmas cards from dogs that I’ve taken on TV. It’s a special thing to be a part of and we’re grateful for the opportunity.”

Bear

Everyone at AHS, and our Facebook friends, love to hear how pets are doing after they’ve been adopted. That’s the concept behind Success Story Saturdays, when we let our adopters take center stage and provide updates about their new companions. For example, Holly told us about Bear, a 13-year-old lab who came to us after his owner passed away. Senior pets aren’t always people’s first choice when adopting, but Holly saw something in Bear she couldn’t pass up, and a month after adopting him, we passed along her report on our Facebook page: “He was so depressed when we first got him and now his tail never stops wagging! I just adore this old boy! Please don’t forget the senior dogs!”

Sharing these success stories has helped us spread the word about the benefits of adoption. Each adoption is a happy beginning and brings thousands of likes and hundreds of shares, not to mention a lot of smiles.

We believe every dog can benefit from a little positive reinforcement.

• Learn real life skills you can use with your pet
• Over 30 classes weekly
• Family friendly
• Four Twin Cities locations
• Private one-on-one sessions available

When you train your pet at AHS, you’re helping to support all of the animals in our care.

Animal Humane Society
Training School
We speak fluent animal

Say the words she longs to hear...

Animal Tracks  •  Spring/Summer 2014  www.animalhumanesociety.org
Say the words she longs to hear...

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It’s been nine months since Animal Humane Society was called upon to rescue 133 dogs and puppies from a breeding facility in northern Minnesota. But to many involved in the case that has become known simply as “Pine River,” after the Cass County town where the seizure occurred, it feels like it was only yesterday. Part of the reason was the sheer magnitude of the case. Pine River was the largest seizure in AHS history, ultimately involving 244 animals, including the 111 puppies that were born after the dogs arrived at AHS shelters in Golden Valley and St. Paul. The animals required thousands of hours of care during the three months of legal wrangling it took before the courts would allow AHS to place the animals for adoption. “We expected to have a decision on the disposition of these animals 15 days after the seizure or less,” said Graham Brayshaw, DVM, director of animal services at AHS. “It turned out to be almost 90 days.”

Mainly, though, the memory of Pine River is so fresh because the emotional impact of the case continues to be felt — the incredible work on the part of AHS staff and volunteers to care for the dogs and the outpouring of support in the community to find them homes will not soon be forgotten. “I continue to be amazed at that effort,” Brayshaw said. “It was phenomenal how an entire organization, and an entire community, could pull together to accomplish such great things.”

“Our staff and volunteers worked themselves ragged taking care of these animals. We had staff and volunteers who normally did not work in animal care who agreed to pitch in, and we still needed assistance from the local volunteer community and rescues to provide these dogs with the care they needed. It was truly a team effort,” he said.

Adopters lined up at AHS’ five facilities when the dogs were first available for adoption on October 12, and by the time it was all over, a total of 167 Pine River dogs and puppies had found new homes through AHS. In addition, Twin Cities rescue organizations helped place many more of the dogs.

The day I was able to share with my family that the dogs were released for adoption, we all cried a bit and then looked at Shelby. “What now?” Everyone knew in their hearts that she wasn’t going anywhere. How did she change a “big dog” family into a family that adores this little dog, spoils her rotten and buys her sweaters? It’s beyond me. She brings so much joy to our lives and the people that she meets. Our friends and neighbors just love her and so do we. There is truly something special about this little dog and we feel so lucky to have her in our lives.

Kathie Johnson & Shelby

Kathie Johnson is senior director of operations at Animal Humane Society.

Many of the Pine River dogs required foster care to help ready them for adoption. I decided to foster a little Chihuahua we called Shelby Ann. The minute Shelby walked into our home, she touched our lives and just seemed to “fit.” Before the case was resolved, I overheard my kids talking about how much they loved her and how awful it would be if she would have to go back to the breeder. I also heard them say, “I don’t think Mom will take it very well if she has to go back.” They were clearly concerned, but because we are seasoned “fosters,” they knew the drill and were content with just caring for Shelby and giving her a great life while she was with us.

Did you adopt a Pine River dog?

Would you be willing to share your experiences with us? We’re putting together a special online edition of Animal Tracks that will feature stories of adopters and their Pine River pets, and we’d love to hear from you. Visit www.animalhumanesociety.org/pineriverstories to participate. Thank you for your help!
Nicole Wallace & Kodiak

Nicole Wallace is a wildlife veterinary technician at Animal Humane Society.

My Pine River guy is Kodiak, but we call him Kodi or Kodi bear. He is one of the Pine River dogs that had to go through our adoption preparation program. When I first got him he was so shell-shocked. He didn’t know how to climb stairs, jump into the back of a car, or play.

He would flinch if I raised my hand to pull my hood over my head. He had no idea what it meant to be a beloved house pet.

When Kodiak first came out to live on our hobby farm, he couldn’t even run without falling down. The veterinarians assured me it was nothing medical; he just didn’t have any muscle mass. It was so sad to watch this big beautiful boy be so excited to get outside and run, only to have his legs give out. But it didn’t slow him down much. He loves to go on walks and help with the horse chores. He instantly got along with the other dogs and cats.

It has not been an easy transition and not without challenges. Every day I pray to St. Francis for patience, but he is truly a great dog with a heart of gold. He is making huge progress and has even recently started to play with some of the plethora of toys he has at his discretion!

It is unbelievable to think of him back as one of the Pine River garage dogs and now the beautiful, beloved house pet he is becoming. He is the light of my life and I could not imagine my life without him, or his without me! Today he is a strong healthy boy with a forever home. It almost brings a tear to my eye to read this and know what he has gone through and where he is today.

Jen Gackstetter & Winnie

Jen Gackstetter is the animal transfer liaison for Animal Humane Society.

Winnie, a chocolate lab puppy, was born at AHS to a mom that was pregnant when she was seized from Pine River. Although Winnie didn’t have to live in those terrible conditions, I watched her and feared so much that she would somehow end up being sent back there. It was such a relief that she and her family and her canine friends didn’t have to be returned. And then I knew that her home had to be my home. Winnie has been so much fun, and it’s been a joy watching her grow. Winnie and my Dachshund hit it off right from the start but it took about six weeks after Winnie’s adoption for my Westie to stop being crabby about the new pup at home. The first time they played I almost cried I was so excited.

Winnie is just the happiest dog I’ve ever known and just loves to be around people. I can’t imagine my life without her now. We weren’t looking for a third dog but there was something about this little brown chubby pup that just got to me, and I knew I couldn’t let her go. It breaks my heart to think that so many of those Pine River dogs went through years of life without knowing what the love of a person is like, but it’s so comforting knowing that they are in good homes now.
memorials and tributes
July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

W

We are grateful for your generous support of the animals through memorial and tribute gifts and are pleased to acknowledge these gifts in this magazine. We are committed to providing quality content with information about our programs and services and want to ensure that your donations are directly supporting the animals in our care. We sincerely appreciate every gift made in honor or memory of a loved one or pet; however, due to the volume only pet memorials of $100 or more will be listed in this publication.

In Memory of a pet
Remembered by...
Abby
Amy and Jason Swalley
Alex, Pete & Gus
John Debee and Michael Shields
All our Past 4-Legged Family
Sophie and Stanley Bell
All our Wonderful Pups
Meredith Petouvis
All the Pets
Mr. Karen L. Wing
All Your Past Pets
Kathleen and Douglas Geier
Barclay, McTavish & Maxwell
Joseph and Norma Kapcinskiuskas
Basil
Sharon Bonasoni
Bean
Marya and Aaron Tiesel
Beanie
Ronald Beckman
Bear & Chloe
Eline Wiener
Becky
Kathleen Arendt
Bella
Emily Chow
Cairo
John Debee and Michael Shields
Carlos
James Solciner and Janet Embretson
Cedar
Marsha Gille and Roger Raina
Champ
Leon and Susan Vogt
Charlie
Chris and Beth Homeister
Chester
Mr. David H. Reynolds
Cheyanne
Kerry Hatch
Chucker
Mary and Mike Norlander
Chunusc, Mollie, Sam, Frazier, Becky & Niles
John Debee and Michael Shields
Cinnabun, Madeline & Edith
Nancy Johnson and Mike Addy
Ciquot
John Debee and Michael Shields
Cloye
Julie Loiacono
Cloudy & Dufus
Barbara and George Buchman-Brauer
Comet
Magdalena Pala
Costello
Erin and Stephen Berg
Courtney
Sonja Pederson
Cumbre
Ruth and Arthur Raza
Cynthia Jo Daly
Dennis and Shirley Gustner
Daisy
Katherine and Erik Buuck Fraztze
Daisy Mae
Bill and Mary Ellis Peterson Family Fund
Dakota
Phyllis Sorbel
Darcy
Jolene Zepovski
Devie
Alison Antoun
Dinah
Gail Jones
Diva Valentine
Tod and Cherri Swenson
Dolores
Keith Stutz
Dozer
Michael Garmaker
Duke
David Guth and Michael McDeid
Dwight
Thomas Anderson
Eddie O’Eddie
Laure Wude
Elliot
Mary Ann Mead
Elsie
Barbara Andresen
Emma & Robbie
Margaret and John Taekman
Ernie
Marcevanne Woodruff
Fast Eddie
Audrey and Kenneth Johnson
Ferguson
Jeanne and Richard Palmer
Fried & Ted
Penella Thomas Jensen
Frenchie & Pooh D. Cat
Cindy Lipp
Frenzy
LuAnn and Chip Berglund
Frenzy
Dianne Miller
Frenzy
Mearline and Vernon Berglund
Gizmo
Brian Larson
Gracie
Margo Berg
Gracie
John Debee and Michael Shields
Gussie
Jensina Rasmussen
Hans & Teal
Colin Kulow
Hermione
Angela Dhruvan, Dan Stewart, and Laura Stewart
Hero & Xena
Mary and Keith Zilinski
Hershey
Tyler Flynn
Heston
Diana Pasky
Homer
Louis Janus and Suzanne Thorpe
Hubert
David Griffin
Hubert
Patricia and Paul Amidon
Huey
Chris Wangen
Hunter
Brenda Mielke
IKA
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Jack, Beth & Philip’s Eve Benezis and John Crowley
Jackson, Jake & Junior
John and JJ Donofrio
Jake
Anu Uppa-Lavey and Link Lavey
Jersey
Peter Lee
Jet
Gordon and Deborah Olson
Joey
Gary Glunz
Joey
Mary Murphy
Joey
Judy Mitchell
Johnny-Boy
Ursula Nelson
Julia
Bonnie Christensen
Jurgen & Dieter
Barbara Johnson
Kermit & Heidi
Terry Hamm
Kevin
Sharon Bonasoni
Kirby
Tracy and Mark Undestad
Korkie
Ni Hee Kim
Lady
Bill and Leola Rempel
Lady & Brandy
Julie and Mark Jensen
Lana
Andrea Caray
Lexi & Lucky
Curtis Scheible and Jerrilyn Jones
Lily
Joan and Jack Corbett
Lily
Barbara Frame
Lily the Pug
Ann Christensen
Little Dickens
Pamela and Larry Warren
Little Wolf - Fersie
Kari and Jordan Simkins
Logan, Murphy & Ali
Marsha G. Alexander, M. D.
Louie
Patricia Breitlen
Lufia
Tami and Vernon Krause
Lucy
Michael G. Schmidt

All your Precious Pets
Edith Testino
Amrie Il
Katrín Rod
Amy & Daisy
Peggy and William Trebesch
Andy
Ms. Lori L. Mo
Angel
Jeanne Gaster
Anika
Ronda Isakson
Anne Sheridan
Mark Premo
Annie
Sarah Bjelde
Asta
Lynn Lundberg
Baci
Judith and Pat Sokol
Bailey
Doug Powell
Bailey, Elvis & Lexi
Ron Emerson - Jefferson
5th Grade
Beloved Bella
Thomas Burrell and Sherri Middendorf
Bentley & Benneton
Jodi Kazenberger
Berkeley
Chindy Jamieson
Billy
Gary Glunz
Blue
Elizabeth Galle
Bogart
Anne and Mike Tresler
Boo & Nina
Diane Pemberton
Bristol
Berta Knuwme
Brody
Christine Moloney and Richard Hudson
Bubba
Joan Biek
Buddy
Shannon Prudhomme
Bumbola
Susan Purel
Buster
Jennifer Wellner

K.C.
Christine Beck
Kasey
Geri and David Roundy
Kate
Jeanne and Russell Leighton
Katie
Beverly and Delbert Griesers
Kelly
Sheila M. Will
Kendall & Panda
Pamela Schreiner
Lucy Lu Waldorf
Mark Waldorf
Max
Nichole Hansen
Maddie
Gary Carlson
Maddie & Levi
Sharon and Harold Schindler
Maggie
Veterinary Hospitals Association

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I was the summer ‘of 94 and we really wanted a dog. We would go to the humane society in St. Paul just about every day. One day we walked into the puppy room and noticed a very short brown puppy. Right away we knew she was the dog we’d been searching for.

We named her Sally, as in Sally Brown, Charlie Brown’s sister. She was very sweet and very shy—all ways looking away from anyone’s gaze. We would take her for walks at Como Lake and she would just lie down—it was all too much for her. But we kept at it and she slowly got used to all the people and dogs walking around the lake. Pretty soon she would get excited every time we would get out the leash.

Training her was easy—she wanted to please and she was very smart. Soon, her beautiful soulful brown eyes would meet our gaze and let us know that we were her people, that she trusted us and she knew how much we loved her.

We had a wonderful 15 years with this beautiful dog. She was our soul mate and our constant companion. She lived her life on terms—very mindful and deliberative, never hasty or rushed. Saying goodbye was one of the hardest things we’ve ever done. But she had a long and wonderful life and we are forever grateful to the humane society for rescuing this beautiful girl so that we could share 15 years of her life.
Back in 2002, we adopted a cat from our shelter and this cat has brought us so much joy. We got Booker shortly before we got married. Our college professor gave us some money as a wedding gift and told us to get a pet so we could have some family and be more responsible. As much as we miss Booker, we are thankful that we were able to spend over 11 happy years with him. So, we decided to provide a brief recap of this time. As we wrote this article, to explain to our daughter how much our beloved cat was not returning home, she said, “Booker is an angel now.”

Thank you for bringing us such a cute cat. We wanted you to know that he lived a full and happy life.

Sincerely,
Hillary S.
Sheba, Monty & Cleo
Curtis Scheible and Jerrilyn Jones
Shilo
Bill Prodahl

Sport & Ike
Kristi Warner
Star & Cole
Laurie Coyne

Tucker
John Debe and Michael Shields
Tucker & Vinnie
Joe and Caroline Smith
Tucker Holcomb
Spurbeck
Marilou Cheple
Tux
Dale Johnson
Tyler
Doug Powell
Vida Love Lake, VP
Wendy and John Strachota
Webster, Gizmo, Stella & Dexter
Megan Mikuksi
Wendy
John Debe and Michael Shields
Willow
Barbara and Nicholas Koester
Willow
Krisin and Aaron Johnson
Wolf
Chris McAlmonie
Yukon
Diane and Daniel Eidsmo
Zelda
Dan and Beverly Bajus
Zinny
Jill and Eric Sjofin
Zoe
Prosper Harvieux
Zora & Purmina
Valerie Tiberti

Shiloh, Benson & Wilson
(Chubs)
Sherie Lucas
Sigge & Ari
Aaron and Emily Garnett
and Janus
Simon, Roo, Tigger,
Sonja, Mia, Ari & Sigge
Louis Janus and Suzanne Thorpe
Simone
Joseph and Kristin Hoppesch
Sophia
Deborah and Timothy Soulen
Spanky
David Ostrowski
Spike
Joann Sutton
Stumper
Laura Schenk
Sunshine
Lori Van Wechel and Dan Pederson
Sydney
David Christenson
Sylvia & Mama Kitty
Michele Raarud
Tasche
Lawrence Lockman
Thor & Laney
Eric Todd
Tina
Linda Nesheim
Tommy & Buddy
Carole Weatherby
Tucker
Karen and Michael Larson

Answers to Playpen on page 31

cat or dog?
Nermal: cat • "Garfield"
Dug: dog • "Up"
Oliver: cat • Disney’s "Oliver & Company"
Slink: dog • "Toy Story"
Mr. Bigglesworth: cat • "Austin Powers"
Monty: cat • "Stuart Little"
Bruiser: dog • "Legally Blonde"
Odie: dog • "Garfield"
Figaro: cat • Disney’s "Pinocchio"
Buddy: dog • "Air Bud"
Lucifer: cat • Disney’s "Cinderella"
Dodger: dog • Disney’s "Oliver & Company"
Einstein: dog • "Back to the Future"
Pety: dog • "The Little Rascals"
Mittens: cat • "Bolt"
Mr. Jinx: cat • "Meet the Parents"
Sassie: cat • "Homeward Bound"
Beethoven: dog • "Beethoven"
Binx: cat • "Hocus Pocus"
Azrael: cat • "The Smurfs"
Pongo: dog • Disney’s "101 Dalmatians"
Zoro: dog & ghost • "The Nightmare Before Christmas"
Crookshanks: cat • "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"
Milo: trick question! cat • "Milo and Otis" & dog • "The Mask"

breed find
1. flower is a different color
2. diamond on curtains is missing
3. apple is orange in fruit bowl
4. stripe on chicken wing

For more information, please contact Melissa Peacock at (763) 689-1575 or mpeacock@animalhumane.org.
The Playpen

spot the differences

There are 4 differences in these two pictures. Can you find them all?

breed find

Find these hidden dog and cat breeds.

g x t q t f e q r q y m p k f
x f h q n i w e e c e a e h s
k x o b l m v s c s q n r z p
n i p l g e k a k g e x s r g
v k o s i h p u i a q m i f y
o c m r h o s h o r t h a i r r
s t t s i e p a l a p e n i v
j e a n i m p u t b d l r v s
r c t b n s p h y n x g f h p
v e g o b z u i e m q a n u g
r h y p a y z h c r u e g p x
l l o d g a r c m i d b l q d

beagle
chihuahua
manx
persian
pointer
pug
ragdoll
retriever
shepherd
shorthair
siamese
sphynx

Bolt  cat  dog
Nermal  cat  dog
Dug  cat  dog
Oliver  cat  dog
Slink  cat  dog
Mr. Bigglesworth  cat  dog
Monty  cat  dog
Bruiser  cat  dog
Odie  cat  dog
Figaro  cat  dog
Buddy  cat  dog
Lucifer  cat  dog
Dodger  cat  dog
Einstein  cat  dog
Petey  cat  dog
Mittens  cat  dog
Mr. Jinx  cat  dog
Sassie  cat  dog
Beethoven  cat  dog
Binx  cat  dog
Azrael  cat  dog
Pongo  cat  dog
Zero  cat  dog
Crookshanks  cat  dog
Milo  cat  dog

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We've got you covered

It takes a network to get pets adopted

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Animal Tracks

DOG person?

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