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Fox Valley

HELPING PAWS

Animal Welfare Association



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

December 15 & 22, 2000

Gift Wrapping at Borders and Barnes & Noble Bookstores. 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

February 10, 2001

Mark your calendars for the Valentine Dinner/Dance to be held at the Crystal Lake Country Club. Ask a Board Member for details.

April 14, 2001

Breakfast with Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt

May 5, 2001

Youth Bowl-A-Thon

June, July & September 2001

Tag Days

October 2, 2001

2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon

Our need for fundraisers continues to grow. If you have any ideas or suggestions, we would love to hear them! Contact any Board Member with your ideas.

Aluminum can recycling is an ongoing program. Cans may be dropped off at the Shelter. (See detailed information inside)

Call the Shelter at 815-459-2641 for more information on the activities listed.

Thank You!

SHELTER HOURS

Monday - Saturday

12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM

Closed Sunday and Tuesday



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2000

2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

Be sure to mark your calendars today so you and your entire family can plan to attend our Open House. This is a great opportunity for you to tour our shelter and visit with all the animals. Great refreshments will be served as you browse in our gift store. The store has some really great gifts for all your animal loving friends.

All of our four-footed furry friends are looking forward to seeing you!

HELPING PAWS & FOOD PANTRY COULD BE WINNERS!!



While you're out shopping for the holidays, stop by Thomasville Home Furnishings in the Crystal Lake Plaza (near Eagle). Helping Paws, along with several other local charities, has decorated a Christmas tree in their showroom. Thomasville is asking the community to bring in non-perishable food items, through December 21, and to place those items under the organization's tree they choose to support. All food collected will go to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Crystal Lake. The organization which receives the most support (by way of the most food items placed under its tree), will be awarded a selected piece of furniture. If Helping Paws wins, with your help, this prize will be part of our big auction at the Valentine's Dinner/Dance on February 10, 2001. Thanks for your support!



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION -- BE A VOLUNTEER!

Why not give Helping Paws a little of your time each week. Just a few hours can make a difference to the animals. We need volunteers to help in the morning to keep our shelter neat and clean or in the afternoon to learn about adoption procedures, dog walking and general all around help. Call today!



Someone you should know . . .

Her name is Lynette Schlobohm -- Many of you won't recognize it. She is a past Board Member and a continuing volunteer. In the last six years, she has been the person I have looked to for help with our newsletters. Lynette's skill at laying it out, typesetting and printing it is something I'll miss terribly. But, her life has gotten so filled that time has become a very precious commodity. But I know that her love and thoughts will always be there for the animals at Helping Paws. Thanks Lynette for a job done so well for so long.

--Joanne



NEED A LOVING COMPANION?

The social worker was horrified. Three tiny kittens were caged separately from their mother in the home of this elderly, senile woman. The kittens, all females, were starving, very ill with distemper and coated so badly with filth that it was impossible to discern their color. The kittens' eyes were so swollen with infection that their "third" eyelid covered their eyeballs. Their mother was in a separate cage, listening to her babies cry for food and warmth.

The kind and courageous social worker plucked the kittens from their near-certain death and brought them to Helping Paws. After more than 5 months of "intensive care" (and many baths and vet visits) at a foster home, the kittens, Nala, Tootsie and Rugrat, finally grew back the fur on their naked bodies, put on weight, and were ready for adoption. Because the kittens were so sweet and affectionate, even after enduring such suffering, Nala and Tootsie quickly found homes. Rugrat, however, suffered a relapse, which she recovered from, but was left with a mild heart problem and a rather endearing "head tilt".

Dr. Lori Wyatt of the Animal Doctor in Cary, along with her wonderful staff, have generously provided a home at the Animal Doctor for Rugrat, where she has become best friends with Octavia, a stray who had been treated for bone fractures sustained when she was hit by a car. Rugrat and Octavia play together, sleep together in the same basket, and generally have a great time at their temporary home. Rugrat loves being loved, wanting to sit on everyone's lap while she purrs and "nibbles". The staff says it is sometimes difficult to get their work done because Rugrat is on their laps, purring away!

***Rugrat needs a home she can call her own.
Could it be yours?***



THE OLDER DOG ...

What morning when you waken
Is the right one to decide
That this dog will be forsaken
And no more with you abide?

A dog like this, he'll find a home
And what will be the harm
In telling the children
That he's living on a farm?

As you bring him in and leave him
In his lonely metal cage,
And act as though you have no choice,
I feel a silent rage.

What heinous thing has this dog done?
What had been his crime?
Or are other things more pressing
And you just don't have the time?

This dog who loved his master
And served him day by day
Has become an inconvenience
And has now been sent away.

He keeps a faithful vigil
The tears in my eyes burn,
While with trusting expectation
He waits for your return.

A dog like this will have no home.
No mastic will be found
For who will take an older dog
When younger ones abound?

Now at last his time has come
And with a gentle nod
I'll cradle your dog in my arms
And send him back to God.

--Elizabeth Clark

All too often the telephone rings and the caller is explaining a situation where an older animal has been left by a wayside, roadside or some other desolate out of the way place. The previous owner, for whatever reason decided that they no longer want the responsibility of a family pet, so they leave it behind in the country to die a slow and agonizing death..

Last week, our shelter managed to rescue only four of the 13 reported older dogs that were abandoned. The fourth one that we tracked for two weeks died 48 hours after he arrived at the shelter. He was blind and deaf, and was so emaciated from lack of food that no matter what we did, he would not respond. When he died, a part of everyone at the shelter died with him. He wagged his tail and took his last breath in the arms of one of our employees. We were with him and he knew that we cared about him. This is our job, but this not not the way it should be.

We feel we should make a special plea to anyone who has ever thought that an animal will survive on its own. Please take the time to consider the plight in which an abandoned animal encounters. Man is the one who domesticated cats and dogs. All their lives we have provided food, companionship and shelter. And we should treat them with dignity, not Tuesday's trash. Take it from someone who has been involved with animal welfare, an abandoned animal doesn't have a chance.

Very few people will ever be able to know that as I do. I watch it happen every single day along with my co-workers. And as far as the old boy that we lost in such a tragic manner, he won't be the last, but maybe someone out there will read this and pass along the message to please take their pet and have it humanely euthanized at their veterinarian rather than to leave it to suffer more than you will ever know.

Wayne Mayes
Tender Heart Animal Rescue Inc.
Pet Shop Puppies (a story)

I don't remember much from the place I was born. It was cramped and dark and we were never played with by the humans. I remember Mom and her soft fur, but she was often sick and very thin. She had hardly any milk for me and my brothers and sisters. I remember many of them dying and I missed them so.

I do remember the day I was taken from Mom. I was so sad and scared. My milk teeth had only just come in, and I really should have been with Mom still, but she was so sick and the Humans kept saying that they wanted money and were sick of the "mess" that me and my sister made. So we were crated up and taken to a strange place. Just the two of us. We huddled together and were scared, still no human hands came to pet or love us.

So many sights and sounds, and smells! We are in a store where there are many different animals. Some that squawk! Some that meow! Some that peep! My sister and I are jammed into a small cage. I hear other puppies here. I see humans look at me, I like the "little humans", the kids. They look so sweet and fun, like they would play with me!

All day we stay in the small cage, sometimes mean people will hit the glass and frighten us, every once in a while we are taken out to be held or shown to humans. Some are gentle, some hurt us, we always hear "Aw they are so cute! I want one!" but we never get to go with any.

My sister died last night, when the store was dark. I lay my head on her soft fur and felt the life leave her small thin body. I had hear them say she was sick, and that I should be sold at a "discount price" so that I would quickly leave the store. I think my soft whine was the only one that mourned for her as her body was taken out of the cage in the morning and dumped.

Today, a family came and bought me! Oh happy day! They are a nice family. They really, really wanted me! They had bought a dish and food and the little girl held me so tenderly in her arms. I love her so much! The mom and dad say what a sweet and good puppy I am! I am named Angel. I love to lick my new humans!

The family takes such good care of me. They are loving and tender and sweet. They gently teach me right and wrong, give me good food, and lots of love. I want only to please these wonderful people. I love the little girl and I enjoy running and playing with her.

Today I went to the veterinarian. I was a strange place and I was frightened. I got some shots, but my

best friend the little girl held me softly and said it would be OK. So I relaxed. The vet must have said sad words to my beloved family because they looked awfully sad. I heard severe hip dysplasia and something about my heart. I heard the vet say something about back yard breeders and my parents not being tested. I know not what any of that means, just that it hurts me to see my family so sad. But they still love me, and I still love them very much.

I am 6 months old now. Where most other puppies are robust and rowdy, it hurts me terrible just to move. The pain never lets up. It hurts to run and play with my beloved little girl, and I find it hard to breath. I keep trying my best to be the strong pup I know I am supposed to be, but it is so hard. It breaks my heart to see the little girl so sad, and to hear the Mom and Dad talk about "it might now be the time". Several times I have went to that veterinarian place, and the news is never good. Always talk about congenital problems. I just want to feel the warm sunshine and run and play and nuzzle with my family.

Last night was the worst. Pain has been my constant companion now. It hurts even to get up and get a drink. I try to get up but can only whine in pain. I am taken in the car one last time. Everyone is so sad, and I don't know why. Have I been bad? I try to be good and loving. What have I done wrong? Oh, if only this pain would be gone! If only I could soothe the tears of the little girl. I reach out my muzzle to lick her hand, but an only whine in pain.

The veterinarian's table is so cold. I am so frightened. The humans all hug and love me, they cry into my soft fur. I can feel their love and sadness. I manage to lick softly their hands. Even the vet doesn't seem so scary today. He is gentle and I sense some kind of relief for my pain. The little girl holds me softly and I thank her for giving me all her love. I feel a soft pinch in my foreleg. The pain is beginning to lift. I am beginning to feel a peace descend upon me. I can now softly lick her hand. My vision is becoming dream like now, and I see my Mother and my brothers and sisters in a far off green place. They tell me there is no pain there, only peace and happiness. I tell the family good-bye in the only way I know how ... a soft wag of my tail and a nuzzle of my nose. I had hoped to spend many, many moons with them, but it was not meant to be. "You see", said the veterinarian, "Pet shop puppies do not come from ethical breeders.

The pain ends now, and I know it will be many years until I see my beloved family again. If only things could have been different.

(This story may be published or reprinted in the hopes that it will stop unethical breeders and those who breed only for money and not for the betterment of the breed. Copyright 1999 J. Ellis)



DONATION / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I/WE WANT TO HELP.

ENCLOSED IS MY/OUR
TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT OF \$ _____.

Be sure to fill in your name and remaining information below and mail with your gift to:

Helping Paws Animal Shelter
257 King Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____

I would like to make this donation in memory of _____
in honor of _____

Membership:	___ Junior	\$ 3.00	___ Supporting	\$ 50.00
	___ Senior	\$ 5.00	___ Patron	\$ 100.00
	___ Individual	\$ 15.00	___ Silver	\$ 500.00
	___ Family	\$ 25.00	___ Golden	Over \$ 500.00

___ I would like information about becoming a volunteer.
___ I would like information about becoming a foster home.

All donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

MAKE A LASTING GIFT

This letter is to all our donors and members that have kept Helping Paws doors open for over 30 years. Many of you may not be aware that without these legacies that have been left to us, our doors would be closed.

There are many ways a lasting legacy can be made. Most popular is bequest by will. Some may prefer to name Fox Valley Helping Paws Animal Welfare Association as a beneficiary on an insurance policy or named in a trust.

Gifts of stock, mutual funds and personal property may help the donor avoid heavy capital gains taxes. Whatever options are considered, we encourage you to discuss your gift intention with your legal and financial advisors, or you can contact our attorney, Valeree D. Marek of Garry & Marek, at 815-356-8581. She will work with either your attorney or assist you in preparing a will or trust with the appropriate language.

PLEASE HELP US!

This is the cry of the many abused and homeless strays who roam our streets and alleys. They scrounge for scraps of stale and spoiled food, oftentimes going hungry and starving.

They not only cry, they beg for help -- from the look of a weathered body to silent soulful eyes.

How many times have you longed to rescue them? It's a helpless feeling to walk away and leave behind a homeless, perhaps sick animal to wander the lonely streets.

Our Helping Paws Shelter rescues and gives loving care to the strays. When they are strong and healthy, these little orphans are adopted to families who love and appreciate them.

Our funds are very limited, SO PLEASE ... look into your heart and help us continue to care for them.

*Thank You!! Have a Blessed Holiday from
Helping Paws and the Grateful Animals*

Yes! I/We want to help keep Helping Paws' doors open for another year. Please accept my/our Christmas Donation is the amount of \$ _____.

Please fill in the information below and mail to:
Helping Paws Animal Shelter
257 King Street, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip _____

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Thank you to Jody Scott ...

Helping Paws wishes Jody great success in her new career. After 4 years of being with us as a staff member and later as Shelter Manager, she has chosen to broaden her animal care abilities by working with one of the very best animal hospitals in McHenry County. They are very lucky to have such a dedicated animal lover in their employ. All of the furry friends at Paws will miss her very much. She did a great job caring for each and every one of them.

-- Good luck Jody!

**Help the Animals at
your local shelter
by recycling alu-
minum cans.**

**Help us at Helping
Paws by Recycling
Aluminum cans.
Drop your bags of
aluminum off at
257 King Street
Crystal Lake.**

Some items that come in aluminum containers are -

Friskies Cat Food
Fancy Feast
Mighty Dog



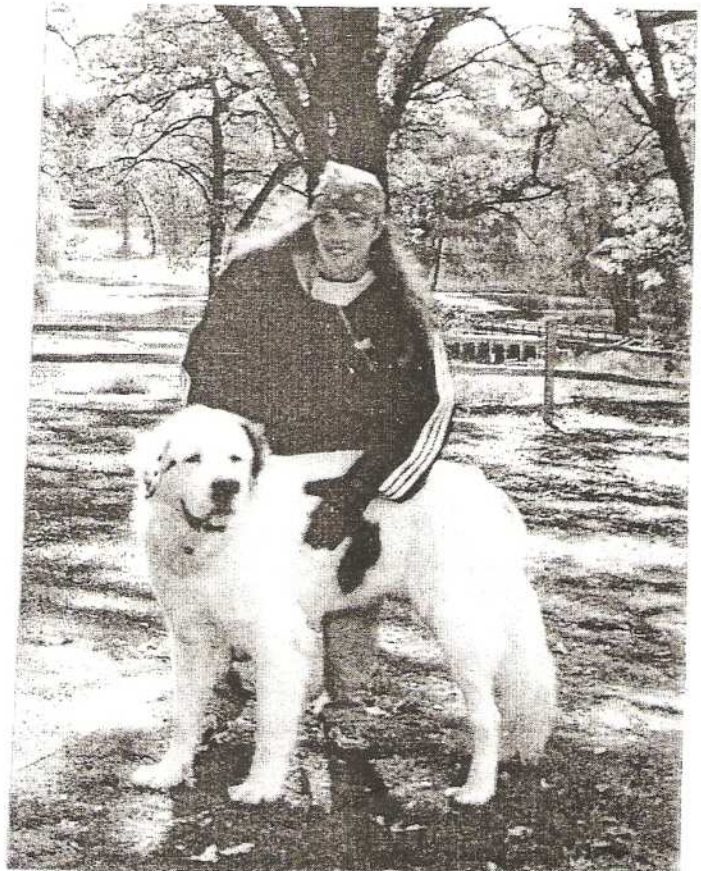
Walk-A-Thon Thanks!

Our first Walk-A-Thon was a great success even though the weather was not the greatest. It was pretty cold but no one seemed to mind. Without the help of our sponsors and many donators, we would not have been able to do this fundraiser.

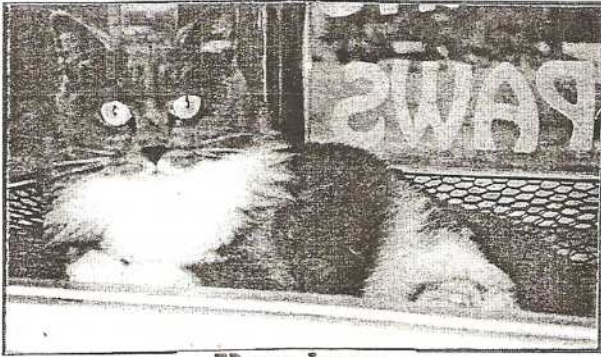
We wish to give special thanks to INVISIBLE FENDING OF CRYSTAL LAKE, HARTLAND VETERINARY CLINIC OF WOODSTOCK, AND WOODBINE HILL KENNEL OF CRYSTAL LAKE.

Without the great walkie-talkies donated by Circuit City in Crystal Lake, we would not have been able to communicate with our trail watchers. Thanks Runners World, Bayer Agriculture Division, New Life Printing (Algonquin), Dundee Animal Hospital (Dundee), Garry & Marek Ltd. (Crystal Lake), Mitchell-Potts Lincoln Mercury (McHenry), Home State Bank (Crystal Lake), Sparkling Spring Water (Vernon Hills), Sage Products (Crystal Lake), Wolf Camera (McHenry), L&V Distributors (Crystal Lake) and Gatorade.

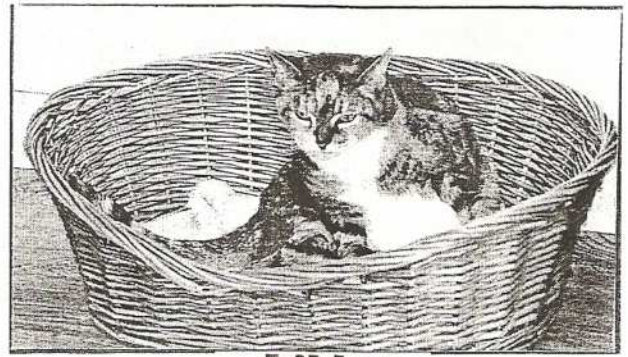
To all the walkers and the people who pledged dollars, a very special Thank You from us and from all our furry friends at Helping Paws. Hope to see you all next year!!



AND NOW ... A FINAL GOOD-BYE



Precious



Libby

We lost two very special friends this year. Precious finally succumbed to cancer. She was always the bright spot of our day. She was very loving and friendly and loved to share lunch with you if you were having anything with chicken in it! As far as we knew, she was in no pain up until the very end.

Then there was Libby, named for where she was found, Libertyville. She had a lot of physical problems when she came to us, but as you can see, this chubby little snuggler adjusted very well. Then, one morning she had a problem walking, possibly caused by a stroke. She was crying and in terrible pain. We helped her the only way we could after consulting our veterinarian.

We will miss them terribly. Donations are used to help care for our special "permanent" residents. If you would like to "sponsor" one of them, call the Shelter at 815-459-2641 for details.



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257 King St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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