

Cuddle Chronicle



Spring 2024

LETTER FROM NANETTE

I recently received a note from a couple who adopted a young dog last spring that they renamed Mowgli. They wrote to share how their furry friend has blossomed in his new home. Mowgli's story is just one of many "Happy Tails" that brighten our days at Homeward Pet. And we love being able to share these stories with you because you are the reason they happen.

Every story you read represents a life transformed by you. Often what you read about is a successful adoption or a life that has been saved. From the moment a cat or dog enters Homeward Pet, you are changing their lives. You are the reason there is a veterinarian available to see them immediately and ensure they receive everything they need to have a healthy, quality life. You support our professional behavior program and Fear Free practices that work to reduce stress, lessen anxiety and improve behaviors while building trust. YOU are the reason cats and dogs find loving homes, where they become a part of a family that proudly shares their story. From the moment an animal enters Homeward, you are impacting a life.

So next time you see a heartwarming story, know that it is you and your support that made it happen. Without you, there would be no more Happy Tails.

Thank you for being an important part of what is Homeward Pet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette McCann".

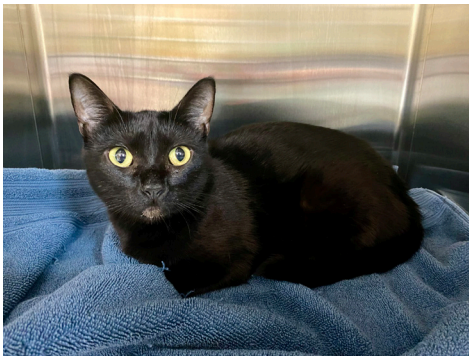
Executive Director
Homeward Pet Adoption Center



LAST LITTER PROGRAM - LIVES SAVED

Did you know that pet overpopulation is on the rise? As more and more animals have litters, families like Marsha's find themselves overwhelmed and in desperate need of help.

Katie, Homeward Pet's Intake and Pet Retention Manager, opened her email one January morning, to find a unique request. Marsha* and her family had 4 adult cats, two of whom had gotten pregnant this past fall, and were about to deliver their litters. Marsha was distraught, as she did not have the resources to care for a household of cats. Katie picked up the phone, called Marsha, and learned all she could about these new additions.



As Katie and Marsha spoke, Katie learned that there would be 11 kittens born into this house. Marsha and her family, while comfortable, could not afford to feed 15 cats, nor could devote the time and energy it takes to help raise 11 kittens, or find caring homes for them once they reached maturity. All Marsha knew was that she wanted to help these kittens and didn't want to leave them on the street. She also didn't want to run into this problem again but couldn't afford the surgeries to alter her 4 adult cats.

Katie shared information with Marsha about our Last Litter Program. Katie explained that Homeward Pet would perform the spay surgeries on Marsha's adult cats, free of charge, and the kittens would be surrendered to our shelter to find loving homes. Homeward would then spay/neuter, vaccinate, and microchip the kittens, before approving them for adoption once they were old enough. Marsha wanted to give all the cats in her life the best life possible, and quickly set up an appointment.

Houdini and her sister Raven, and her babies, Edgar, Allen, Poe, Arthur, and Lenore all came to Homeward Pet in late January. Houdini and Raven were spayed, said goodbye to the babies and headed home with Marsha. Edgar, Allen, Poe, Arthur and Lenore underwent their surgeries, and got prepped for adoption.

Marsha will be back with her second litter as soon as those kittens are old enough for their surgeries. An adult cat can have up to five litters a year, with an average of five kittens per litter, totaling 25 kittens annually. It takes time, compassion, and financial resources to provide adequate vet care for pregnant mama's and new kittens, resources to secure future homes, and without providing spay/neuter surgeries to kittens, there could be a constant stream of cats in future years.



The Last Litter Program has made a significant impact on the lives of these 15 cats, ensuring they thrive in safe and loving environments. Your past support made it possible for Katie and our dedicated team at Homeward Pet to swiftly assist Marsha. Now, we need your continued help to sustain this crucial program. By donating today, you directly contribute to preventing future pregnancies and ensuring every animal finds a forever home. Your support is the lifeline that enables us to create a better future for these animals. Join us in making a difference – donate now and be a part of their journey to a brighter and healthier life.

**name has been changed*

HAPPY TAIL

GAMMA

"Evie (formally known as Gamma) is feeling herself in her space now I'm back at work. She comes out and plays - the spring toys, and the little rattly mouse are her favorites - and last week when it was cold and clear, she took advantage of the empty house, and napped in the sunbeams. She likes to hang out under the rocking chair when she isn't at the door watching the birds and squirrels.



She's still skittish when I'm on my feet, but is making big strides when I'm seated, or in bed. I wake up in the night and find her perched in various spots in the bedroom; the past few days, she's been closer and closer to the bed.

The other day, she'd run into the glass going after a bird, then seemed embarrassed, so she headed back down the hall...I thought. I'd sat forward on the couch, only to find her rolling around on the carpet, stopping to look at me, and make her cute face at me. And so many slow blinks!

Oh! I also heard her meow for the first time on Friday. I was so surprised! At first, I wondered if something was wrong, but then I heard one of my mom's cats zooming around upstairs. He was also yowling, so Evie was responding to him. I couldn't believe it!"

*You might remember Evie –formally known as Gamma. She was with us for 9 months and was featured in our Summer 2023 Cuddle Chronicle! Thanks to you, we were able to work with her until she found her loving home.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook (@homewardpet) - 22,779 Followers

Instagram (@homeward_pet) - 6,744 Followers

You Tube (@homewardpet) - 119 Followers

TikTok (@homewardpet) - 247 Followers

Linked In (linkedin.com/company/homeward-pet-adoption-center) - 750 Followers

Next Door (nextdoor.com/pages/homeward-pet-adoption-center-woodinville-wa) - 216 followers

Please consider giving us a good review on Yelp and Google Business.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS 2024 YEAR TO DATE



Adoption	
Shelter Adoptions	124
Dogs	34
Cats	90
Intake	
Shelter Intakes	144
Dogs	43
Cats	101
Animals helped through Whoopi's	
Fund for Special Needs	19
Dogs	7
Cats	12
Volunteer and Foster	
Volunteer hours	4,923
Number of Active Volunteers	382
Food Bank	
Dry food donated to HPAC	14,339 lbs
Cans of food donated to HPAC	5,797
Dry food donated to the Community	11,550 lbs
Cans of food donated to the Community	4,200

A black poster with gold and white text and graphics. At the top, a gold Art Deco-style diamond shape is flanked by two gold fan-like patterns. Below this, the text 'HOMEWARD PET ADOPTION CENTER PRESENTS' is in white. The main title 'FUR BALL' is in large, gold, outlined letters. Below the title is a silhouette of a woman in a long, feathered dress holding a martini glass, standing next to a dog. A smaller silhouette of a cat is to the left. Below the illustration, the text 'DINNER & AUCTION' and 'MAY 4TH, 2024' is in gold. At the bottom, 'A FRINGE AND FUR FUNDRAISING EVENT' is in white. The bottom of the poster features the same gold Art Deco diamond and fan patterns as the top.

LONGEST RESIDENTS

Every animal that comes through our doors is well loved and cared for. It's why we're here. As with any relationship, the longer you know a being, the more you learn about them and the more you fall in love with the nuances of their personalities. Our longer-term animals become staff favorites because we know them better. And, because we know them better, we can give you so much more information about the home that would make them the happiest.

Ask your adoption counselor about the animals you see here to find out more.



Jason

Jason is ready and waiting to find his new adventure buddy! This 2-year-old German Shepherd mix is full of spunk and looking for a family that will give him loads of daily exercise, socialization and training. He thinks all toys are awesome, that hikes and walks are fun, and enjoys running around the yard. Are you ready to welcome home this cutie pie?



Honey

1-year-old Honey is pure sweetness! She can be shy at first and is looking for an experienced adopter who can help her build her confidence and blossom. Once Honey trusts you, she loves you. Whether it's getting belly rubs, booty scratches, or playing with toys, she's in it for all that. Honey does well with other dogs but needs a home with no small animals. She can be protective of her toys and bed. Is Honey for you?



Marina

Marina is a super friendly, spunky, and wonderful 11-month-old Husky mix. She enjoys playing with toys, playing tag with other dogs, going for hikes and walks, and snuggling up to her humans when it's time to nap. She will even use your arm as a pillow! Marina does awesome with other dogs but can get excited and has a hard time settling down. Are you an active human needing an active companion? Come meet our girl!



Citrus

Sweet Citrus is an adorable 2-year-old. She is very precious, and a little shy. Citrus is looking for a quiet, cat-experienced home that can let her settle in at her own pace. She arrived at our shelter without much information, but it's clear how sweet and gentle she is. She really enjoys cheek and chin scratches. Due to her shy nature, Citrus will likely do best with just teens and adults. Do you have a quiet home that is just perfect for a quiet companion? Citrus wants to meet you.

COMPANION LEGACY

As you think about the future, have you thought about who would take care of your pet if something unexpected happened to you? The Homeward Pet Companion Legacy Program will help ensure your pet's care and safety if you are medically incapacitated or have passed. Homeward will take ownership of your pet, care for them, and work to find them a new loving home. If you are interested in joining the Companion Legacy Program, or have questions about other estate giving options, please reach out to Executive Director, Nanette, - nanette@homewardpet.org.