



The PAW PRINT



HEALING HEARTS AND PAWS FEATURED PET:

BOSCOE'S NEW VIEW

Silly, smart, playful, loving: Aussiedoodle Boscoe has all the qualities of an ideal family dog. He loves every stranger, dog, and child he meets. With his tightly curled gray coat and bouncy demeanor, this handsome puppy seemed destined for a perfect life. Unfortunately, one thing held him back. When he was just over a year old, Boscoe's family noticed that he seemed to be confused and bumping into things in the house. They discovered that Boscoe was developing cataracts. Though he could still smell and hear the world around him, his sight was failing.

Australian Shepherds and Poodles are both smart, highly motivated breeds who need a lot of stimulus to keep them happy and busy. They like to have a job! But Boscoe's cataracts kept him from running around to get the exercise he needed. He spent a lot of time barking, frustrated that he could only detect vague shapes around him. Animal Allies Practice Manager Kelsey Pettit says that Boscoe's previous family reported watching him grow more and more distressed. "His lack of sight gave him a great amount of anxiety. He was destructive and reactive to new situations."



Boscoe wearing his cone post-surgery

Boscoe's family knew that he needed professional help, so they made the difficult decision to surrender him to Animal Allies. To help minimize the stress of a mostly blind dog suddenly finding himself in an unfamiliar shelter environment, Boscoe went into a foster home. But he was stressed there, too. He felt confused and disoriented, and when left alone in the home he anxiously chewed everything within reach. We needed to take more drastic measures to help this sweet boy get his life back.

Animal Allies' shelter veterinarian referred Boscoe to a veterinary ophthalmologist, who determined that Boscoe would be a good candidate for lens replacement surgery. Most dogs and cats who come to the shelter with cataracts are seniors, calmer and slower-moving than Boscoe. Because they're usually more interested in relaxing than exploring, their loss of vision doesn't have a big impact on these pets' quality of life, and expensive surgery wouldn't be justified. But Boscoe is just over two years old and eager for adventure. Restoring his vision would transform his life.

So on September 2, Boscoe rode down to the Animal Eye Specialty Center in Andover, MN. There, expert staff replaced his clouded lenses with clear artificial ones. When he came to from anesthesia after the operation, he saw the world with new eyes. Volunteer Greg Smith recalls that Boscoe stood still outside the transport van, staring fascinated at the cars driving by. He could see them all!

After his procedure, Boscoe needed time to recover before adoption. Fortunately, first-time foster volunteers Beth Tamminen and Hal Moore were ready to welcome this goofy boy into their home for some R&R. According to Beth, "Boscoe, our first foster, arrived with a cone on his head, two sets of eyedrops, two kinds of pills, a hoarse voice (he could not get a bark out) and a body full of energy. On the first walk around Animal Allies we could feel that energy, but also recognized that he is a sweet dog, wishing to please, willing to do what is asked of him with a little affection and help."



Boscoe relaxes in his new home

Thanks to his fosters' patience, Boscoe recovered well, both physically and emotionally. "He settled in quickly," says Beth, "and was content even if he wasn't near us." He still preferred not to be left alone, though: "If he thought we were getting into a car, he let us know (with his now recovered bark) that he must get in too!"

With his vision, Boscoe regained his happy, playful personality. Soon his cone could come off and he was ready for adoption! On October 17, he went to his new home. His adopter says, "We are quite smitten with Boscoe! He has moved right into family life although we certainly don't trust him further than we can see him yet! He is very curious and friendly with boundless energy, but settles down quickly. We are looking forward to many adventures with Boscoe and are thankful for all the care that was provided to him at Animal Allies!" We are so proud that we were able to turn Boscoe's life around and give him the bright future he deserves.



You can add to this special medical fund by going to animalallies.com/give and clicking on the Healing Hearts and Paws button.



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



I want to thank you for your support with the changes we made and continue to make at our adoption center as we navigate the pandemic. In the face of these challenges, there are surprising silver linings: we have seen improved well-being of shelter animals while focusing on the health of our staff, volunteers, supporters and our community.

As I write this, our revised visitor policy remains in place. I encourage you to check our website for updates. Thank you for your steadfast support of Animal Allies Humane Society so we can successfully carry out our mission to ensure a loving home for every pet. Please stay safe and well. Take good care of yourself and each other.

Winter Greetings, Dear Friends!

The first snow has fallen, and we prepare for another Northland winter. I hope you were able to get outside and enjoy the beautiful fall colors and take time each day to find some peace during these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we head into the holiday season, we reflect on what is truly important in our families and communities.

Yours Warmly,

Julie Waltenburg
Executive Director
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E: juliewaltenb@animalallies.net



FREEWILL 

Two smarter ways to give back

As we recognize the family, friends, and pets that have enriched our lives this holiday season, Animal Allies has partnered with FreeWill to offer you two simple ways you can give back to them all — and ensure your donations work in your favor. If you have appreciated stock, consider donating your stock to Animal Allies in 10 simple minutes today and save on two different types of taxes, at FreeWill.com/Stocks/AnimalAllies! Or, protect your loved ones and pets forever by creating your legal will for free at FreeWill.com/AnimalAllies.

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Open by Appointment Tuesday through Saturday, Noon to 6pm and Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

A YEAR WITHOUT FUR BALL

It has become one of our trademark events. Every year for almost two decades, Animal Allies and our community have marked the fall season by gathering for a celebratory evening of fun and fundraising. But as we all know, 2020 has been radically different from any other year. Like so many of the events that we have come to take for granted, the 20th Annual Fur Ball Gala was not to be.

Many of our supporters have been asking what they can do to help make up for the loss of an event that, in addition to a night of joy and celebration, has been a major source of funds for Animal Allies. Last year's gala raised over \$120,000. Fortunately, everyone in the community can still help us in our work for the animals.

Of the many ways to support and give, we made a list of three specific ways to help:

- A group of supporters have raised a matching grant of \$33,552.50 in the hopes of inspiring you to match their generosity and double your donation. In lieu of this year's cancelled Fur Ball fundraiser, join past gala attendees in making a direct donation. Give a cash gift or a stock transfer. If you have already made a gift, thank you!
- If you're able and willing to help pets with special medical or behavioral rehabilitation needs, carefully consider becoming a foster volunteer. For 51 years, Animal Allies was a foster-only program. Thankfully, because of you, we now do so much more—but our foster program remains vital to our work. In fact, nearly half of the pets in our care spend at least part of their stay in a foster home.

We missed getting all decked out in our finest attire and gathering with other animal lovers for an evening of dinner, dancing, and donating. The Fur Ball Gala reinforces our sense of community and allows compassionate and committed friends to meet and mingle. But though we miss meeting in person, our work continues—and you continue to make it possible.



Victoria, pictured with her rescue dog Anna, raised \$52.50 for Animal Allies

- Check out our Shelter Wish List at animalallies.net/give. Even seemingly small items keep our mission moving forward in powerful ways.

A WHOLE MONTH OF LOVE-A-PET

Every fall, the Miller Hill Subaru dealership in Duluth welcomes Animal Allies and other local rescues for the Subaru Love-a-Pet adoption event. Our only off-site adoption event, over the years Love-a-Pet has allowed Animal Allies to find homes for dozens of dogs and cats who might otherwise have stayed longer at the shelter. In addition to adoption, Subaru weekend grew into a larger celebration of pets, featuring photos with Santa, a microchip clinic, and animal-related vendor booths.



Mochi was among the 53 cats adopted in October

This year, of course, everything is different, and a large in-person gathering was not feasible. Fortunately, the ASPCA and Subaru gave us the tools we needed to go virtual with the goal of saving even more homeless pets.

So the Love-a-Pet event was extended throughout the month of October, with the ASPCA funding reduced adoption fees for the whole month. Joining forces with Lake County Humane Society, the Babinski Foundation, and local vendors, we were able to continue in the spirit of Love-a-Pet to rehome even more animals. We ended up adopting out 27 kittens, 53 cats, 18 dogs and 6 puppies: a total of 104 pets!

We are so grateful to Subaru and the ASPCA for their commitment to this event and readiness to adapt to new circumstances.



LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

TAILS OF FOSTERING

The greatest unsung heroes of our volunteer ranks are our fosters. These are the folks who open their homes and their hearts to a shelter pet in need. They welcome the damaged, the fearful, the angry, the stressed, or the injured into their lives for a temporary safe haven. Fosters nurse the failing kitten at three in the morning, they comfort the frightened dog when there's a knock at the door, they give love to a dog or cat who has never known love before. They heal. They rehabilitate. They save lives.

This rewarding work is not without its heartbreak, but it's also chock-full of sweet victories and happy endings. We'd like to highlight a couple of our current foster heroes.

Anne Pilli and Katie Lozano

This dynamic mother/daughter duo have fostered several animals for us, including a severely overweight black lab named Lunna. When Lunna was brought to us after being found as a stray, she weighed almost twice what would be healthy for her frame. One month after arriving at Animal Allies, Lunna had reached at a critical point in her physical and mental health. Emotionally, she needed a break from the shelter. Physically, she urgently needed to start losing weight faster. Fortunately, Katie and Anne were up for the task and welcomed this lovely lady into their home. They carefully followed our shelter veterinarian's directives for diet and exercise, and in just three weeks Lunna had lost almost 20 pounds! Lunna loved the way her lighter body felt. She romped and played like never before, full of newfound energy. Not long after, Lunna found her loving home and is now living her best life. Her whole outlook totally turned around thanks to the care and love of her fosters.

Christa Feely Pederson

One of the most delicate and challenging tasks in animal welfare is caring for newborn kittens, especially those who come to the shelter without their mother. For the first weeks of their lives, kittens can't eat, wash, or go to the bathroom by themselves. They need to stay warm, but not too warm. They need to keep gaining weight steadily and also stay hydrated. They need to be kept clean, but can get chilled if given a full bath. Their immature immune systems are vulnerable to illness. Sometimes, for no apparent reason at all, a kitten will simply "fail to thrive."

Christa Feely Pederson is Animal Allies' neonatal kitten guru. All of our fragile, tiny neonates have their best possible outcome when they are put into Christa's loving, capable hands. She is our "kitten lady!" Cats can give birth to litters any time of the year, but late spring usually marks the beginning of "kitten season" here at Animal Allies. As the weather warms up, unspayed cats, especially those living outdoors, begin to breed—and they continue throughout the summer and into the fall. The resulting litters, with or without their mothers, often end up at Animal Allies, where they must be cared for until they are weaned, vaccinated, and old enough to be spayed or neutered. The shelter is not the best place for growing kittens, so most of these little ones spend their first weeks in foster homes getting round-the-clock care.

A neonatal foster must have an instinct for this work. Beyond the patience, medical knowledge, and understanding of newborn survival techniques, a neonatal foster must have an intuitive sense that lets



Christa receiving recognition for her great work

Foster Leah Nelson specializes in puppies!

Katie and Lunna

Sienna with foster cat Sadie

them know when a kitten is failing just by holding or observing them. Christa is an expert. She has dedicated countless hours to these fragile little lives in her over ten years fostering for Animal Allies. Christa also has a very strong heart for this work. Even under the most experienced and loving care, tiny kittens sometimes do not make it past the first few weeks—or even days—of their lives. A neonatal foster will often have tears throughout their work, and also many stories of the courage of a sick kitten fighting to survive. We have a core group of about five neonatal fosters, and they have the touch of an angel, and the heart of a warrior.

Fosters save lives. We at Animal Allies are so lucky to have about 60 active fosters. There are so many animals in need, and we have so many loving homes to open their arms and their hearts when heeding the call for help.

WHERE ARE THE DOGS?

With unfamiliar times come unexpected challenges, along with the occasional surprising benefit. Rescue organizations like Animal Allies have had to navigate changes in our work for homeless animals. On the good side, adoptions have soared, both locally and nationally, since the beginning of the pandemic. As employees in many sectors work from home and students attend virtual classes, people who might once have struggled to make time for a pet are finding room in their lives for a dog or a cat. Kids spending more time around the house might demand a puppy to play with, while everyone knows there is no better stay-at-home coworker than a cat.

More adoptions mean fewer homeless pets, and that has always been animal rescue's goal. So what's the problem?

High adoption rates have one downside: potential adopters nationwide are having a hard time finding available pets, especially dogs. Because we work in an overwhelmingly responsible pet-owning community, we see fewer abandoned dogs and unwanted litters of puppies in the Northland with each passing year. This has opened up shelter space and given Animal Allies the chance to partner with



Dachshund mix Casey was among the dogs brought from Texas in August

rescues from other parts of the country, helping to save the lives of dogs from overpopulated shelters by bringing them to Minnesota for adoption. But amid the uncertainty in the pandemic's early stages, animal transport was either not allowed or not encouraged. For a time, pets stopped travelling to Animal Allies from rescues like Rockwall Pets in Texas.

Furthermore, with spay/neuter surgeries deemed nonessential, we couldn't prepare dogs already in our care for adoption—creating a backlog of spays and neuters which Animal Allies, and many other shelters and clinics, has yet to catch up with. The ideal future would see adoption rates stay high while Animal Allies returns to our normal rate of spay/neuter procedures and inter-rescue transports.

Fortunately, part of this is already happening. As soon as travel regulations eased, Rockwall Pets and Animal Allies teamed up again to rehome lone star dogs in the Northland. Here, former Animal Allies Adoption Counselor Courtney Greco tells the dramatic tale one very long trip from Duluth to Texas and back.

TEXAS TRANSPORT

BY: COURTNEY GRECO

Making the trip down to Texas was one of the most fun and also challenging experiences during my time here at the shelter. Between the 2 a.m. departure time and the fact that Starbucks wasn't open for another three hours, the first leg of the trip started out a little rocky. Leaving Duluth, the driving conditions were super foggy and we couldn't see the road all that well until we got closer to the Twin Cities. Luckily, that only lasted a few hours and we were back on the road with fresh Starbucks in the cup holders before too long. The rest of the drive down was pretty uneventful. Without a whole lot of varied scenery to keep things interesting, we had to get creative with fun road-trip games and a decent music playlist. We stopped at quite a few questionable gas stations and rest stops before we passed the Oklahoma-Texas border, but once we crossed the state line there was definitely a "light at the end of the tunnel" feeling.

Rockwall Pets was kind enough to offer us a nice hotel room to catch up on sleep for a few hours, but it felt like we were only out for a few minutes before that 1:30 a.m. alarm went off. By 2 a.m., we were down in the parking lot guiding 17 fosters to the right spots to load up the dogs they had been caring for. We had the awesome chance to connect with these lovely people. During a pandemic, you forget how nice it is to



The new transport van was purchased with funds raised at the 2019 Fur Ball Gala

have normal chats with strangers you meet in day-to-day life, so getting to know these wonderful, hardworking foster parents was a true gift. It lifted our mood as we got back on the road again.

With what sounded like the local circus loaded up into the back of our brand new van we were headed back home around 2:30 a.m. Unfortunately, our poor timing meant that we were once again under-caffeinated and running on only a few hours of sleep. Texas road construction and our clueless GPS led to at least three wrong turns and two or three missed exits before we finally found ourselves back on the right path.

The trip home was pretty good despite the alternating torrential downpour of rain and winds across the flat landscapes, but the brand new van handled it like a dream and we made it to the Twin Cities in good time. There, we met up with two other rescues to drop off half of the pups and made a quick fuel up for the last leg of the journey. By the time we finally made it back to Animal Allies, there were two amazing volunteers ready to welcome the new dogs to Duluth and start getting them ready to find their new loving homes!



All loaded up for the big trip



Enjoying the play yard on arrival in Duluth



Crated up and ready to go



DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

During this pandemic many non-profits have been struggling. This spring, as Animal Allies contemplated cancelling major fundraising events like the Walk for Animals, we knew that tough times were coming, and that we needed help. Fortunately, the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation stepped in through a grant from the LUPA Animal Wellness Fund.

Thanks to this grant from DSACF we were able to pay our utilities, maintain our internet and phones, provide food for animals, and continue to order needed supplies.

The LUPA Animal Wellness Fund allowed us to carry on our mission of bringing pets and people together, more vital than ever during a fearful and uncertain time. We continue to seek a loving home for every pet and couldn't do it without the support of our amazing community.



For the third year in a row, Duluth News Tribune readers voted Animal Allies Humane Society Best Non-Profit. We are proud and grateful for the recognition from our community.

MEET INTAKE SPECIALIST & KENNEL ASSISTANT:

KARI STOVERN

How long have you been with Animal Allies?

I have been with Animal Allies for about a year now.

Where did you grow up? Why did you choose Duluth?

I was born and raised in Duluth. The majority of my family lives in Duluth so I like to stay close to them and I love the change of seasons Duluth has.

What do you like best about working for AAHS?

What I like best about working with Animal Allies is being able to see the growth and progress the animals here make and making sure they go to a loving home. It is extremely rewarding to be able to be a part of that process.

Do you have any animals?

I also like to spend my time outdoors camping and hiking with my two dogs. I rescued both my dogs when they were puppies and they are my best buds. Their names are Murph and Rone.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun I like to read, I am a huge bookworm.

What's your favorite animal transformation story?

My favorite transformation story so far would have to be Roscoe. She came to us extremely fearful that she would just cower in her kennel and not come out. After a lot of patience and love, she made a huge transformation and was able to warm up to us and gave lots of kisses. It was such a heartwarming experience and being able to be a part of her transformation was very rewarding.

What's life like on the adoption and kennel teams?

I love being able to work with the adoption and kennel teams at the same time. On the adoption team I have a part in what animals come in and what we are able to take and gather information regarding behaviors etc. but on the kennel team I am able to bond with the animals and really get to know them and build that bond.



Lasting words of animal wisdom:

My last notes of animal wisdom are to always respect and listen to the animal. They are always giving us silent cues on what they are thinking and what they need. Respect that and listen to them so you can further help them and make them feel as comfortable as possible.

MEMBERS

Thank you to all who became a new or renewing annual member in April, May, June, July, August, and September.

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We sincerely thank our sustaining members who provide a monthly gift for the animals in our care.

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Pat and Mary Valentine
William and Mary Ellen Wade

ANIMAL ANGEL

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Cliff and Virginia Haynes
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*Become a Monthly Sustaining Member!

For more information, or to become a Sustaining Member, visit www.animalallies.net/member or call (218)722-5341 Ext.214



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Purses for Pets

Join us for a designer handbag auction to benefit the animals, courtesy of a generous donation by The Irving Community Club.

Starting on Black Friday, November 27th, we will be holding an online sale of purses by Coach, Kate Spade, and Michael Kors.

Watch our Facebook page for auction details.

Irving Community Club

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Muriel Whiteside and the trustees of the Muriel Whiteside Charitable Trust who provide a generous annual gift to help the homeless cats and dogs we serve. We are humbled by the ongoing support and could not achieve our mission without you. Thank you!

