

Fall 2023

Pet Gazette

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society Magazine

Exclusive Donor Publication



From the Director



Executive Director, Elise Ramsey, and her beloved late companion, Rook.

Dear friends,

I am honored to extend my warmest greetings to you as I continue to navigate the role of Executive Director at the Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility that I take on this role and look forward to leading our dedicated team into the new year and beyond. I would like to express gratitude to the entire community for the warm welcome and support I have received since accepting this position. The

passion and commitment I have witnessed from our staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters continues to inspire me. I've enjoyed meeting so many of you and look forward to meeting so many more.

As we venture into the new year, I am filled with excitement and hope for the future of the Little Traverse Bay Humane Society. Our shared mission is one that resonates deeply with me. I am fully committed to upholding our organization's core values, ensuring that we continue to

make a positive impact on the lives of both animals and their human counterparts.

Together, we will continue the work to promote the welfare of our four-legged friends, and we will strive to grow and expand our outreach, making an even greater difference in our community and beyond. Our achievements will be built upon the dedication, compassion, and resilience of each member of our team, and I am immensely proud to be leading such an exceptional group of individuals campus wide.

In the coming months, you can expect to see a renewed focus on collaboration, transparency, and innovation as we navigate the fun challenges and opportunities ahead. I encourage you to share your ideas, concerns, and dreams with me, as your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our organization. I am excited about what we can achieve together, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me as your new Executive Director. Here's to making 2024 a year of significant progress and impact for the Little Traverse Bay Humane Society!

Elise Ramsey
LTBHS Executive Director

Save the Date!

Rock Out for Rescue

A dueling pianos party to benefit LTBHS

Saturday, February 3, 2024

6-9:30 p.m.

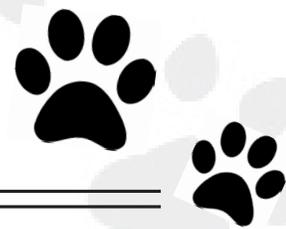
Tickets go on sale December 2023. Learn about Sponsorship opportunities!

PH: 231-347-2396 www.ltbhs.com



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2023 Howl at the Moon was the best yet--thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success



On the cover

Shelter dog, Ozzy, enjoys the fall season in northern Michigan. He has since found a loving home.

LTBHS Board Members

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Ask the Trainer

LTBHS Director of Operations and certified dog trainer and behaviorist, Sarah Schertel, explains the importance of smell for dogs. Read more below for tips from Sarah. As always, if you need help with training, be sure to contact us at 231-347-2384 or training@ltbhs.com.



Sarah Schertel serves as the organization's Director of Operations and is also a certified dog trainer and behaviorist.

Did you know that a dog's sense of smell is more than 100,000 times better than that of a human? Dogs use their nose to interpret the world around them. It acts as a direct link to their memories, and allowing your dog to smell increases their ability to learn and self-soothe. Simply giving your dog the opportunity to sniff out their food in a pile of crunchy leaves, search for the hidden KONG toys throughout the house, or enjoy a leisurely shuffle around the hiking path on a loose leash allows them to use their instincts to hunt for smells and information. It also gives us the added benefit of having a tired pooch to cuddle up on the couch with after!

Recently, the shelter received a wonderful opportunity to work with Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Canine Coach, Laurie Horn. Laurie is the owner of Sniffing Out Solutions and the author of *Scent 4 Shelter Dogs*, a book which aims to increase the enrichment opportunities within animal shelters through educating on the benefits of scent work. This was a gift granted to LTBHS by Michigan Pet Alliance, a non-profit organization that strives to provide continuous education and training to achieve best practices and standards of care for companion animals. This gift included our staff completing a free course in scent work along with one-on-one time to practice with Laurie, giving us the ability to enhance the lives of the dogs and cats in our care.

Pictured right: Shelter dog, Jackson, participates in some scent work activities by searching for treats in a muffin tin with tennis balls. Jackson is still looking for his forever home.

With the colder weather upon us, now is a great time to challenge yourself to try scent work with your pet. Even just a few items from around the house can lead to a big impact on your pet's daily enrichment. Hiding their treats, or kibble in leftover Chewy or Amazon boxes, using an old muffin tin and tennis balls to hide snacks, or making a DIY snuffle mat for your pet to search through are all great ways to achieve this. The possibilities are endless and because sniffing releases feel good hormones, even just 15 minutes of scent work is equivalent to an hour of running around for your pet. Studies have shown that partaking in scent work exercises helps increase confidence and adaptability in pets and slows cognitive decline over time.

For more information about Laurie Horn, Sniffing Out Solutions, or Scent 4 Shelter Dogs, please visit www.sniffingoutsolutions.com and Michigan Pet Alliance at www.michiganpet.org. If you're interested in giving scent work a try in your own home or helping us at the shelter, I'd be happy to help you get off on the right path!

Happy sniffing!



Purchase a 2024 LTBHS Calendar

The Annual LTBHS Calendar will be back once again this year and makes a wonderful holiday gift for family and friends. The LTBHS 2024 Calendar will be on sale starting mid-November and can be purchased online, by calling the shelter at 231-347-2396 or stopping by. The calendar is full of photos of beautiful furry friends and all proceeds benefit the 750-plus animals that the organization serves each year.

Calendars make a great holiday gift for the animal lover in your life!



Ask the Doctor

The holidays are a time of fun and festivities for all of us. Make sure your pets enjoy this time too by taking necessary precautions when it comes to certain holiday foods and items. Read more below as Dr. Dumas explains how to keep your pets safe and healthy during the holidays.



Dr. Kelly Dumas

As a fourth year vet student at MSU, I spent Thanksgiving evening on duty in the emergency department. A yellow Labrador came in on a stretcher, lying on its back groaning and in a state of constant vomiting. This lovely family had a Thanksgiving spread for 12 on the table ready to eat, but went outside to take a few quick photos. When they re-entered the dining room the destruction they witnessed

included the skeletal remains of a once 15-pound turkey, four sticks of butter--gone, mashed potatoes and gravy-gone, the list went on and on. Many unlisted foods, including colorful desserts, resurfaced throughout the night in the stomach contents of this poor animal. The dog had severe, acute pancreatitis. It survived, but just barely. The lesson for all is to never leave amazing meals unattended in the same solar system as Labradors since higher fat ingredients can trigger severe life-threatening pancreatitis.

There are many holiday hazards and most are very preventable. In my experience, the majority of pet owners are highly educated in the most *common* toxicities, but not necessarily the most *toxic*. The most common holiday

toxicity is chocolate, but typically, unless an exceptionally large amount of dark or bakers' chocolate is ingested, the symptoms are usually mild: diarrhea and maybe light tremors. A less common toxicity but the most dangerous of all holiday paraphernalia is the lily. Lilies are prevalent in Easter and Christmas bouquets, and are very hazardous to cats only. Fortunately many cats have been in homes with lilies and made the wise choice to stay away, but just a simple sniff from a lily can be fatal. Any lily species in the genera *lilium* (true lilies) and *Hemerocallis* (day lilies) are toxic to cats and a little bit of ingested pollen, a bite of a leaf or flower petal could be enough to cause acute kidney failure and death. In 20 years of practicing medicine I would estimate I have seen 10 times more dog chocolate cases than cats eating or licking lilies. I have yet to lose a chocolate patient, but I would estimate that half of the cats that have come in after ingesting lilies have died. Please choose another flower if you are a cat household! Other top holiday hazards we see in the clinic include tinsel (cat GI obstruction), Christmas tree water (GI upset cats and dogs), holly and mistletoe (GI upset), xylitol in sugar free candies, getting into grandma's medications and grandpa's medical marijuana, just to name a few!

Enjoy the holidays and keep your pets safe so all can celebrate a joyful season!

Adopt a senior pet this November

Many people visit shelters with the intent of finding the perfect puppy or kitten to adopt. But they often overlook more mature dogs and cats that are extremely adoptable and have lots of love to give. November is National Adopt a Senior Pet Month, which aims to bring awareness to the many adoptable older animals waiting in shelters every year to find their forever homes. Each year, Little Traverse Bay Humane Society (LTBHS) opens their doors to dozens of senior animals all looking for homes. The staff at LTBHS encourages anyone thinking of adopting to consider opening their heart to a senior animal.

Older animals make wonderful pets as they are typically much calmer than puppies or kittens and many may already have their basic manners mastered. They're often much more low-key than younger animals which makes them a perfect fit for families with children. Younger animals may require a good deal of time from their owners to train them properly. On the other hand, an older animal is likely to be potty trained while a puppy will require some work and patience. Another thing to consider is that young animals are still developing their personalities, but with older animals, usually what you see is what you get.

LTBHS has been incredibly fortunate to receive support for the numerous senior animals that arrive at the shelter each year. Earlier this year, we received a grant from the Grey Muzzle Organization which allows us to provide a health panel voucher to every senior dog adopted during the grant period. This panel helps to ensure that senior dogs receive the care they need through preventative health checks. We were also extremely fortunate to receive several Tempur-Pedic dog beds from one of our incredible donors! We've found these particularly useful for our senior residents who typically require a little more support.

LTBHS is encouraging potential adopters to consider opening their heart and home this November by offering reduced adoption fees on senior animals. Senior cat adoption fees will be \$5 while adoption fees for senior dogs will be \$50. To view all animals available for adoption, go to www.ltahs.com or stop by for a visit.

Saving Lives Together

Humanitarian Albert Schweitzer was once quoted as saying: “The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

This quote was brought to life in September when the collaborative effort of animal welfare organizations, volunteers, and businesses in the community came together to help save countless lives.

Staff at Little Traverse Bay Humane Society (LTBHS) were first alerted to a puppy mill situation in Iowa City, Iowa when the BISSELL Pet Foundation reached out to see if LTBHS could be of assistance. Over 130 dogs needed to be removed from deplorable conditions in one of the worst puppy mills to date. Dogs were living in horrible, cramped conditions with no access to grass or fresh air, and certainly no opportunity to play, cuddle or just act like a dog. Some of the dogs were ill and several more had perished from mistreatment. All of the animals were heavily covered with feces and urine, and were being kept with little regard to their care other than to ensure that they would breed countless litters of puppies. Puppies were typically sold for upwards of \$2,000 to \$3,000 each with several desirable breeds available including Goldendoodles, Bernedoodles, Golden Retrievers, and more. Quality of life was non-existent for these poor animals who were being kept alive as breeding machines.

“We headed down there with three staff members, one volunteer, two vans, and 12 hours-notice,” said LTBHS Director of Operations, Sarah Schertel. “The Iowa City Care and Control was extremely overwhelmed with this case and was in need of assistance. We knew we could help them and didn’t hesitate to go.”

From here, the LTBHS team made the nine-hour drive to Iowa City where they jumped in feet first to facilitate veterinary health inspections and pull heartworm tests on each dog. According to LTBHS Foster and Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Graves, the experience was both amazing and exhausting, though not entirely free of roadblocks.





"The community support we received was amazing, and we couldn't have done it without them."

**-Shannon Graves
LTBHS Foster and
Volunteer Coordinator**



Pictured (l-r, top to bottom): Dogs wait in kennels after being pulled from a puppy mill situation in Iowa. LTBHS Executive Director, Elise Ramsey, holds Jasmine, one of the dogs rescued. Dogs are readied for transport and loaded into vans ready to head north. The amazing group that made the trip to Iowa which includes LTBHS staff members Morgan Fox, Ky Crawford, Shannon Graves, and volunteer, Keith Takasawa.

"We left the shelter on Thursday at 4:30 a.m. as we knew it would be a very long trip straight through," she said. "Unfortunately, on the way down, we got a flat tire which set us back a bit," Graves said. "We were able to get that fixed, but on the way back, we realized that we didn't have room in the vans for all 60 dogs. We obviously didn't want to leave them, so thankfully Rescue Riders Pet Transport was able to send transport vehicle to help bring the rest up north."

The group returned to LTBHS at 2 a.m. on Friday and from there, the work had just begun. This meant finding a place for each dog to stay with an already-full shelter. Cleaning, feeding, grooming, and veterinary care were next. There were also several pregnant dogs that needed to be placed into foster care. All of this in addition to the difficult job of helping the dogs to heal from the trauma that they had just escaped from. These tasks, combined with the care of the animals who were already residing at the shelter, seemed incredibly daunting.

Thankfully, help was on the way. Various shelter partners arrived the next morning to pick up 30 of the dogs which were then taken to other Michigan organizations including Detroit Dog Rescue, SPCA of Southwest Michigan, the Humane Society of Midland County, Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue, Charlevoix Humane Society and HATS (Humane Animal Treatment Society).

But perhaps the most uplifting and incredible of all was the outpouring of support from local residents and businesses.

"When people heard we needed help, they just started showing up," said Graves. "We didn't have the immediate space for these dogs but knew we needed to figure it out. The community was amazing in helping with everything from cleaning to walking dogs and even bringing the staff food. Local businesses were donating supplies and food as well. We were able to get several of the dogs into foster care right away,

Continued from page 7.

and we are so thankful for the individuals willing to open their homes to these dogs. The community support we received was amazing, and we couldn't have done it without them."

Director of Operations, Sarah Schertel, said the outpouring of support was incredibly humbling.

"There were people here every day to help clean or do whatever was needed to help care for these animals," Schertel said. "Our Board of Directors was incredible in coming out to do whatever they could—each one of them was living the mission of this organization!"

LTBHS Board President, Gayle Mroczkowski, arrived at the shelter the morning the dogs arrived to provide assistance with whatever needed to be done. Seeing the dogs for the first time was difficult, she said.

"When I first entered the room where all of the dogs were being kept, it was silent," she explained. "Not one barked or made noise and it was devastating to me to think that these dogs were too terrified to even bark or had maybe even been punished in the past for barking. Honestly, it was initially hard to ascertain just how adoptable these dogs were because they were just so scared."

Mroczkowski ended up fostering one of the dogs, a three-year-old miniature Poodle mix named Jasmine.

"I'm so grateful that these animals have found homes and don't have to spend their lives in cages anymore. It's shocking when you realize what they went through:

-Gayle Mroczkowski
LTBHS Board President

"When I first brought her home, she was very afraid," Mroczkowski said. "That's understandable considering where she came from. She's doing beautifully now and has transitioned well to our home. She and my other dog, Honey, absolutely love each other, and Honey has blossomed having Jasmine there."

Thankfully Jasmine, like the majority of the other dogs, have been able to adjust well to their new lives and learn how to become members of someone's family.

"I'm so grateful that these animals have found homes and don't have to spend their lives in cages anymore," she said. "It's shocking when you realize what they went through. We have a long way to go in terms of punishing those who do things like this and making laws stronger to prevent animal cruelty."

Overall, Mroczkowski noted that she has found fostering incredibly rewarding. She recently added Jasmine to her family permanently by adopting her.

"I want people to know that there are so many wonderful adoptable animals out there," she said. "I really encourage people to give shelter pets a chance. Even if you're looking for a specific breed, if you're patient, you can likely find the dog or puppy you want in a shelter."

Puppies, which are the most sought-after animal in shelters, can be found in most shelters across the country. Even purebred pups can be found with time and patience. In this



Bubbles, now renamed Ellie, gave birth to 10 puppies shortly after arriving at LTBHS. She and her puppies were immediately placed into foster care.

case, several of the female dogs that arrived from the Iowa transport were pregnant. Bubbles, a four-year-old Standard Poodle, gave birth to 10 puppies within a few days of arriving in northern Michigan. Bubbles and her pups were then placed into foster care until the babies were old enough to be adopted.

Charlevoix resident, Linda Schofield, opened her home to the family shortly after the puppies were born.

"It's a lot of work, but I'm happy to do it. The puppies pee, poop, I clean it up, and then do it all over again," she laughed. "But having them here has been a Godsend for me."

Schofield said that Bubbles, who she renamed Ellie, has made significant progress in coming out of her shell in the weeks that she's had her.

"She was very hesitant at first, but within a couple of weeks she really attached herself to me and now crawls up on the couch so we can sit together," she said.

The puppies will soon (at the time of printing) be vaccinated, spayed/neutered and go up for adoption. Schofield has decided to keep the mother dog, Ellie.

"The way that these animals were treated before was so wrong," she said. "It makes me sad that anyone could treat dogs that way. I'm just glad that they are now out of that situation. Having Ellie and her puppies here has been so much fun, and I'm glad to be adopting Ellie. She's an amazing dog and she's been so good for me."

And what about the rest of the dogs who arrived on the transport? Amazingly each one of them has been adopted into

a loving home. While adding 60 dogs in one day to an already full shelter can be a challenge, ensuring that these animals are now in a place where they were safe, secure, and loved made it all worthwhile.

"We came together as a team and as a community to save 60 lives," said LTBHS Director of Operations, Sarah Schertel.

"What we were able to do together was incredibly empowering.

We're grateful to the BISSELL Pet Foundation for inviting us on this journey and we're also incredibly thankful to have a caring, compassionate community who came out to help when we needed them most. The overwhelming sense of people caring for other living beings—dogs and humans alike—brought everyone together."



LTBHS Board President, Gayle Mroczkowski, fostered and then adopted Jasmine.



Avoiding potential puppy mills

How can you tell a puppy mill from a responsible breeder? Here are a few things to look for:

- Ask to meet the parents. If you're looking at purchasing a puppy and cannot meet the parents, then this is a huge red flag.
- If you can't see the home or place where the breeder has his animals, then chances are you may be looking at a puppy mill situation. If the seller offers to deliver the puppy to you, be extremely wary—there's a reason they don't want you to see their operation! Be sure to plan a visit to their property and ask to receive photos and updates on the puppies.
- Responsible breeders will not have multiple breeds available for sale and will only breed their animals so often as to ensure the health and well-being of the mother dog. If you find someone selling a variety of "designer" puppies, it's probably a puppy mill.
- Ask questions. How are the parents cared for? Who is their veterinarian? What vaccinations and health screenings have your puppy and their parents received? If they can't answer basic questions, walk away.
- Puppies should typically stay with the mother for at least eight weeks. If the pup is extremely young and they're willing to sell it, it's likely that they're trying to turn a profit as quickly as possible.

At the end of the day, responsible breeders do exist, but you must do your part to make sure you're not contributing to the pain and misery that thousands of dogs face each year living in puppy mills. Consider adoption as there are thousands of homeless animals seeking families everywhere. To find the best fit for your family, go to petfinder.com

Learn more about puppy mills at www.stoponlinepupppymills.org/

Angels among us...

The LTBHS ANGEL (Animals Need to Give Everybody Love) Program is one of the organization's longest standing programs and has made a tremendous impact on the lives of senior care residents throughout the area. The program is designed to connect senior residents with shelter animals through weekly visits. The program is great for both animals and humans alike. Shelter animals receive socialization while senior residents receive love and affection from the animals which often results in an improved outlook and increase in alertness following the visit. Pictured: Lil Mama and Jackson made visits to Pineview Cottage recently. They both had a great time being loved on by the residents there! Lil Mama found a home with a LTBHS staff member. At the time of printing, Jackson is still looking for his forever family.



Downward dog

“Doga” yoga classes are a big hit with both pups and humans



Yoga Roots Petoskey hosted several special “doga” events over the past several months where individuals could enjoy yoga with shelter dogs. Everyone had a great time and LTBHS is hopeful to have more of these events in partnership with Yoga Roots Petoskey next year!



New homes and happy pets!

The BISSELL Pet Foundation once again generously hosted Empty the Shelters in October. Adoption fees were waived in order to encourage adoptions and help more animals find their forever homes. We're thrilled that during this Empty the Shelters, 24 cats and kittens and 19 dogs found new families. Thank you, BISSELL Pet Foundation for hosting this incredible event!



Pictured (l-r, top to bottom): Louise, Daisy Mae, Eleven, Kane, Pirate, and Tuck and Cider all found their forever homes during the BISSELL Empty the Shelters event.

Thank you to the BISSELL Pet Foundation for helping all of these wonderful animals find their forever homes.



Thank you for another great Howl!

2023 Howl at the Moon

We'd like to say thank you for your incredible support of Howl at the Moon this year! We celebrated our most successful event EVER because of the generosity of everyone involved.

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Happy Tails

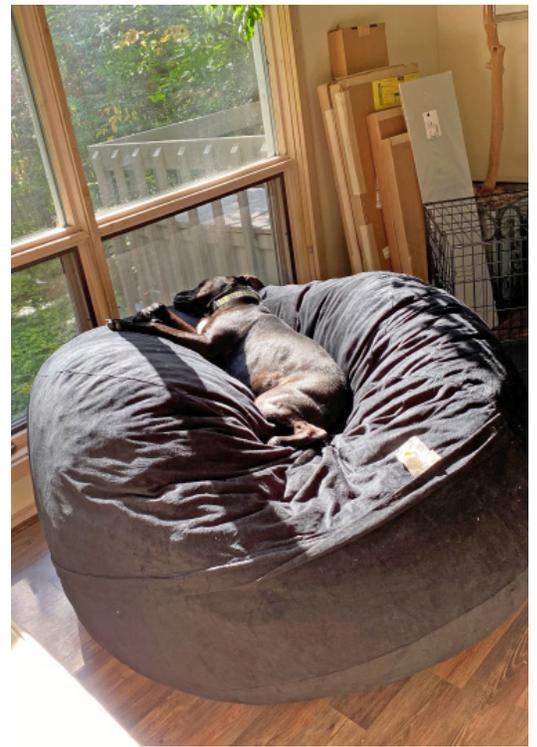
Read below as we share some of the 'Happy Tails' of our past Little Traverse Bay Humane Society shelter residents. These lucky pets have gone on to find forever homes, and we are thrilled that they now have families to call their own.



Conan

We love having Conan in our family! Conan, aka Conan the Destroyer, aka Conan Hillary, aka Coney Dog is loved very much. Even though I brought him home as a kitten for myself, he prefers my husband and kids - just as cats do! Thank you, LTBHS, for making this adoption possible.

-Becky McRae and Family



Vinny (formerly Salem)

Vinny is doing well! He goes on runs with me during the day and slow strolls with my mom during the evening. I had this huge bean bag that was taking up space in my room so I put it next to the window, and it's safe to say he knew it was meant for him. You could fit several people on this thing and he plops down right in the middle of it. I like to spoil him with natural bones, but for him, nothing compares to a bright green, fuzzy tennis ball.

-Chad Hogan

Birdie

Birdie is doing wonderfully! She has a great appetite and loves taking walks around the farm with our other Berner, Bogie. She is still very shy and prefers to be either under my desk or the kitchen table, but she follows me from room to room and is starting to greet me at the door and seek out being petted. She also isn't hiding in the yard when she goes outside anymore. My three godsons are very sweet to her, and she walks with them to the bus every morning. We are so happy to have Birdie as part of our family! Thank you for the amazing work you do!

-Alison Ross



Five Star Favorites

Some shelter residents are adopted quickly while others wait longer to find a home. No matter how long it takes, every animal has a temporary home with us until they find a permanent one. Read about some of our long-term shelter residents who are still waiting to find a forever family.

Caleb

Hi there, my name is Caleb, and I'm a five-year-old boy looking for a home to call my own. Most people who want a new family member are usually looking for a friendly, happy-go-lucky, jump in your lap kind of dog. I hate to disappoint, but I'm just not that guy. I SO want to be outgoing and friendly, but the truth is that I'm really nervous when I meet new people. I wish I could just jump into someone's arms and ask them to take me home, but I'd never be comfortable doing that. Despite my shyness, I'm a super sweet boy, and once someone takes the time to get to know me, I really love getting pets and showing affection. Just taking the time to get to that point though is a little hard. Because I'm so shy, I've been at the shelter for a year now. Don't get me wrong, this place is great, but my dream is to find a loving home. And if my new home has some doggy friends, I think I'd really enjoy that! They might help me gain some confidence which would be great. I'm open to a home with smaller animals too, including some dog-accepting, feline friends. Kids would be ok as long as they know to go slow with me. My paws are crossed that someone reading this might just want to take a chance on a shy dog like me. Until then, love Caleb.



Shady

Why hello there. My name is Shady, and I'm a pretty little lady looking for a home where I can cuddle up this fall. I'm only a year and a half old, the perfect age I think! I've been here since last spring, and I admit my kitty condo is quite comfy, however, I think I'd like to snuggle at the end of someone's warm bed even better. You see, I'm a bit shy when it comes to meeting new people which is probably why I'm still searching for a home. I'm a nice girl, but it takes me quite awhile to warm up. My new family would have to be patient with me, but after a bit I think we'd become the very best of friends. I'd really like a lovely hearth to cozy up next to this winter and I'm hopeful that I might find my forever home for the holidays. Keeping my paws crossed and I hope you will too! Love, Shady.

Daphne

Hi everyone, Daphne here! I know, I know, I was included in the last issue of the Pet Gazette, but since I haven't found my forever home yet, here I am again! What does it take for a girl to find a new family around here? I've been here for quite awhile—last February to be exact! This is a nice place and my staff treats me well, but like everyone here, I just long for a family to call my own. Well, if you didn't catch the last issue, I'll tell you a bit about myself: I'm a five-year-old pretty lady in search of a home. I have a big, happy personality that probably comes off as a bit much when you first meet me (what can I say, I just get REALLY excited to meet someone when I get out of my kennel!). I think with a little time to adjust however, I'd calm right down in my new home. I'd love to meet any potential doggy roommates that I might be living with—we may have a blast playing together! And I really like kiddos—if they're super little, I may knock them down by accident (though I'll try hard to not do this!). I've been here so long and I keep watching my friends find forever homes. It hurts my feelings a little bit that no one has come for me. But I haven't given up hope. I just know that the right person is out there somewhere just waiting to meet me. I hope it might be you. Love, Daphne.



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