



THE RPAW RESCUE REPORT

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Senior Pets Make Grand Companions

Less anxiety, less jumping and less training required. Fewer scratching and chewing incidents, fewer personality surprises and fewer "gifts" left on your carpet. What more do you need to know? Senior pets can be a wonderful addition to many families.

Officially, dogs 7 years of age and older are considered seniors. However, they aren't often "settled seniors" until around 9 years, especially when it comes to longer-living smaller dogs. Cats reach their senior prime a litter later, they're considered "seniors" at 10 years of age or older.

There are lots of reasons to adopt a pet in its prime. Here are just a few:

- **They need less training.** Senior pets are often already house trained or litter box trained. They also often possess other basic training.
- **They're up — or down — for anything.** Missing a walk or two is no big deal for a senior dog. Older dogs and cats are often content just "hanging out." For a busy or mellow household, the smaller demands for time and attention can be a huge bonus. And sleeping through the night doesn't hurt either.
- **They live to love and be loved.** Senior pets are grateful for a second chance and often settle in easily to their new homes.
- **What you see is what you get.** With older pets, there are a lot less surprises — they've already grown into their bodies and personalities.

Of course, there are other things to consider when adopting a senior. They will have a shorter time with you, and age-related issues may pop up. But dogs and cats do tend to wiggle into our hearts quickly. And adopting a senior pet can be every bit as rewarding as choosing a younger one. The benefits are many, and there are lots of senior rescue animals who would love to spend their golden years in a loving home.

RPAW doesn't discriminate against breed or age, and there are often many senior pets of all shapes available for adoption. So, consider giving one of these "golden oldies" a chance at a loving home.

Visit www.rpaw.org and click on "Available Pets" to see our most current listings.



ADOPTION TICKER

Since 2004, RPAW has found forever homes for:

1 2 9 0 **Dogs**

2 8 9 3 **Cats**

In the Spotlight...

Frack



Age: 6 yrs.
Breed: Tabby
Enjoys:
 Hanging out with his people

Frack is a super-friendly guy! He's a sweet little Tabby with lots of love to give. Frack has a habit of giving you 'love bites' when he is looking for attention, so he'd probably do best in a home without small children. For more information on Frack, please call his foster mom, Erin, at 651-462-0038.

Sox



Age: 10 yrs.
Breed: Domestic Shorthair
Enjoys:
 Playing, cuddling

Sox is a playful senior. He likes to chase strings and jump in boxes. He also loves to cuddle on your lap or chest. Sox would like to be the only male cat in his new home. He wouldn't mind sharing his new pad with female cats, dogs or birds though. Sox is neutered and up-to-date on his shots. If you'd like to meet him, e-mail m_marie36@hotmail.com.

Tinkerbelle



Age: 8 yrs.
Breed: Maltese
Enjoys:
 Snoozing with a warm blanket

This sweet senior gal came from a puppy mill. Her time having litter after litter is over, and now she just wants a place to call home. Tinkerbelle is a little shy at first, but once she warms up to you, you're greeted with a little yip of delight. She's used to living with other dogs and cats. Crate training is going well, and she's been using potty pads for inside training. For her own safety, Tinkerbelle will need to live in a home without small children. Tinkerbelle is up-to-date with her shots and spayed. To meet Tinkerbelle, call 763-757-8204.

Saint



Age: 8 yrs.
Breed: Chihuahua/Pekingese mix
Enjoys:
 Riding in the car

Here's a cute little dude — all wiggles and love with his foster mom. Saint has been good with other dogs and cats, though he's very clear when someone gets into his space! He's just a peanut, maybe 6 lbs. He is wonderful in his crate, and is working on house training. Because of his size, smaller children wouldn't be a good fit. Saint is neutered and up-to-date with his shots. To meet him, call 763-757-8204.

Think one of our spotlight pets may be the perfect fit for you?

Set up a meet-and-greet — contact us at 763-757-8204 or info@rpaw.org.

Missy's Story

by Carrie Schmidt

Meet Missy, a beautiful 4-year-old Rottweiler. Missy came into our program when she desperately needed saving. She was picked up by animal control with a prolapsed vagina, a painful condition that's difficult to treat. RPAW was called to see if we could take her in, and we agreed. We knew there would be a significant expense for this but felt it was well worth it.

Missy was taken to the vet for surgery, spayed and had her vaccines updated. We're not sure how or why someone let their pet end up like this, but we are glad that someone was watching over her. Missy spent the next few weeks healing, and then the real work began. Missy was very scared and shy. She gradually learned that people are awesome (mostly because they give her treats). We began to realize that she probably did not spend much time in a house, as the normal noises of daily life were unfamiliar to her. As Missy's foster "people," we started to expose her to everything that we could think of, and she has made remarkable strides. We're confident that Missy will eventually find a wonderful forever home.

Missy is clearly one of our success stories and she has overcome so much in her time with RPAW. Her story and so many more like her are the reason why we the volunteers do what we do and why we depend so much on donations. The cost of Missy's care will far exceed her adoption fee, but RPAW truly believes in caring for the animals brought into our program, no matter what financial or emotional toll it may take.



RPAW Rescue Missy

Please consider making a donation to our program. You can do so by mailing us a check, donating cash at adoption days or visiting rpaw.org to make a donation by credit card. Thank you for helping us help those who cannot speak for themselves!

Calling all four-legged calendar models!

Each year Rescued Pets Are Wonderful participates in the For The Love Of Rescues calendar fundraiser. The calendar features pictures of various rescue dogs from organizations across the country. RPAW had 12 dogs featured in the 2010 calendar — maybe yours can be next!

If you would like your rescue dog featured in the 2011 calendar, please send the following to Megan at megan.charron@hotmail.com:

- A good-quality picture of your dog (no humans in the picture, please!)
- Your dog's name and breed
- A short "happy ending" story

Calendars can be bought through the For The Love Of Rescues web site (from September to December) for \$15 each, \$10 of which goes to the rescue organization of your choice. RPAW also has them available at our events during that time period. Look for more details in the next RPAW Rescue Report.

Two Paws Up for RPAW Volunteer Michele

Michele's rescue life began with the passing of her beloved 16-year-old cat. Looking to help fill the empty spot in her heart and her home, Michele searched on Petfinder.com for a new cat. The more she looked, the more she realized how many rescue groups needed foster homes. So she decided to open her home to rescued cats and kittens needing temporary homes instead of getting a new permanent feline resident.



Michele fostered for several groups, but ended up choosing to foster with RPAW because she enjoyed the support and communication the group provides to foster volunteers. Fostering kittens can be difficult, especially because they're at a higher risk for life-threatening illnesses, but Michele finds great joy in adopting her foster animals out to loving forever homes. She also enjoys hearing the success stories, particularly when her former fosters exceed the expectations of their new families.

Michele's advice to those interested in volunteering is to find the right fit. She encourages volunteers to talk with several rescue groups, and to find one that aligns with their own attitudes and philosophies about animals. She also cautions volunteers to make sure they choose a group with open communication practices, as knowing that you can call an expert at any time makes a big difference.

Thank you, Michele, for your dedication to rescue and your willingness to share your knowledge and experience. You've made an incredible impact in the lives of so many wonderful animals!

Volunteers Needed!

Dog/Cat Foster

Provide a dog or cat with a temporary, loving home until they're adopted. RPAW provides all food and medical expenses. Foster homes are critical to our work — we can only save as many animals as we have foster homes for.

Dog Handler

Handle animals and answer prospective adopters' questions during our adoption events.

Animal Transporter

Help bring animals to and from veterinary appointments and adoption events.

If you have other skills or talents you'd like to bring to RPAW, please contact us. We're always looking for help and fresh new ideas from people with a passion for animals.

Thank you to Four Paws Pet Resort, sponsor of the first annual “Paws for the Holidays”

RPAW kicked off the holiday season with our first annual “Paws for the Holidays” fundraiser at Four Paws Pet Resort in Eagan. The theme this year was “come play in the yard with our foster dogs.” The guests at the resort purchased a paw prints for a dollar and filled them out with the name, age and breed of their dog. The paw print was then be taped to the fence in the lobby. The staff and guests alike had a fun time with this project. Overall, we raised \$155.00. Thank you to everyone at Four Paws Pet Resort for helping us!

If you work or own a business that would like to sponsor an event with us, please contact Carrie at carrie.schmidt@vikingelectric.com.



Check out the new www.rpaw.org!

Our web site got a makeover this past January. Find new and improved Happy Tails, news items, adoption events information and more when you log on.

Be sure to check it out and check back often! Send your comments, suggestions and Happy Tails to submissions@rpaw.org.



Upcoming Events

Adoption Day

Saturday, April, 10 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Maplewood PetSmart & Monticello PetSmart

Adoption Day

Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Roseville PetSmart

Adoption Day

Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Coon Rapids Petsmart

Annual Plant Sale

Fri., May 7, Sat., May 9 and Sun., May 9
(Mother's Day Weekend) in Forest Lake
More details will be available shortly on
www.rpaw.org.

Check rpaw.org for more upcoming adoption events!

Many Thanks, Woofs and Meows To...



All of our hard-working volunteers. You make it all possible!

All the wonderful families who have adopted animals from RPAW.

All of the individuals and organizations who have donated money and supplies.

All of the caring veterinarians that help our rescue animals.

Roseville PetSmart, Coon Rapids Chuck and Don's in Elk River, Centerville Pet Foods and Fridley Petco for hosting our cat adoption centers.

Coon Rapids PetSmart, Roseville PetSmart, Maplewood PetSmart, Monticello PetSmart Chuck & Don's in Elk River, Fridly Petco and Centerville Pet Foods for letting us host adoption events in our stores.

Story Ideas/Rescue News/Success Stories Wanted

Do you have a great idea for a story? Know any rescue news that should be shared? Adopted a wonderful pet from us? We want to hear from you! Submit news, events, and success stories to submissions@rpaw.org.

Our Wish List

RPAW is always in need of monetary and other donations. Your generosity is essential to keep our rescue work going. If you'd like to donate any of the following, please contact us at 763-757-8204 or at info@rpaw.org. You also can drop off donations at any of our adoption events.

RPAW is in special need of:

- Crates and kennels of all sizes
- Quality dog and cat food
- KMR (Kitten Meal Replacement)
- Heating pads (for bottle-fed kittens)
- Toys, collars, bowls and leashes
- Litter boxes and litter
- Printing and signage
- Cash donations

Looking for a service project? RPAW can help.

Do you work with a scout or other group looking for service projects? If so, we have lots of ideas and can help you find a way to help that works with your group. Call us to talk about ideas for your group at 763-757-8204.