

Milwaukee road trip reunites former P4P dogs with Donna and Steph



My husband Carl and I were so excited when Donna and Steph, from People for Pets, accepted our invitation in August to come visit us, Bubba, Jack, Sparky and Zoe in Milwaukee. As many of you know, we adopted Bubba (the red Pom) and Jack (the white Pom/Eskie) from People for Pets in 2008 and 2009. Since then we have been blessed with the gift of a very special friendship with Donna and Steph. We sincerely admire all of the hard work everyone at People for Pets contributes to help abandoned dogs and cats in the Spencer area. Consequently, Carl and I wanted to do something nice for Donna and Steph when they arrived. Most importantly, we wanted them to be reunited with Bubba and Jack so they can see how their efforts made a difference in these two beautiful boys' lives.

On the day of their arrival, I admit I was a bit nervous because I wanted everything to be perfect. I wasn't sure how the dogs would react ... would they remember their previous lives and be scared they would be taken away? All worries were gone as Donna and Steph walked in the door. Immediately Bubba and Jack ran up to them and jumped into the air showering our guests with big welcome kisses and happy barks. They DID remember Donna and Steph and THEY WERE HAPPY to see them!

Soon our other two Poms, Sparky and Zoe, decided they wanted in on the attention too. Zoe is an extremely shy older dog who was a stray in Los Angeles just two short years ago, yet she warmed up to Steph in a heartbeat. Carl and I were in awe as Zoe kept going up to Steph and we witnessed her gentleness towards Zoe. It was if all the dogs sensed that they were among people who truly cared for them.

As mentioned, I wanted everything to be perfect for the visit. Donna was really looking forward to seeing Lake Michigan but on the first night, we wanted to treat our friends to a dinner at our favorite restaurant on the lake, the fog had settled in and we could not even see a glimpse of the water. The second day we visited the Harley Museum and still no view of the lake due to fog. I kept trying to assure our visitors that there really is such a thing as Lake Michigan, they just couldn't see it, unusual for August.

I soon realized that a perfect weekend had nothing to do with the lake or a good dinner. Instead it was about people with a common goal in life spending time together enjoying a meal, laughing together but also discussing what else can be done to further rescue efforts across the board. It was about watching two people who saved Bubba and Jack get to see the dogs happy, sleeping upside down on their couches and loved in their forever home. It was about me respecting my two friends more than ever for what they do every day to make a difference in our world.

On Saturday night we hosted a dinner party with neighbors, one of whom is from Iowa. We had a blast! The whole time while we were sitting outside Jack and Bubba were so excited to be right next to Donna and Steph. On Sunday, we took a boat tour of the Milwaukee Harbor. I knew our time together was waning and with tears in my eyes I kept thinking how lucky we were to spend time with two very special friends who are like family. It turned out that everything was perfect after all. The dogs loved seeing the people who cared so much for them while they were in between homes and we were so happy to have Donna and Steph in person in our home! It didn't matter how foggy or rainy or chilly it was, we were all enjoying our time together.

Dawn Stenbol



Great ways to help the animals at People for Pets this holiday season!



- Volunteer your time even just an hour a week.
- Donate items such as cleaning supplies, blankets, Kong toys, leashes, paper towel.
- Save your aluminum cans for the shelter.
- Cash donations of any amount.
- Consider a monetary donation in memory of a loved one (so many are choosing to do this these days in lieu of flowers).
- Help spread the word about the importance of spaying and neutering pets as well as adopting from a shelter instead of buying from a puppy mill.



People for Pets

"Saving lives, 4 paws at a time"



2312 Highway Blvd. • Spencer, IA 51301 • 712-580-2738 • December, 2014



Murphy is everything we could have ever hoped for in a dog

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for saving Murphy for us. He is everything we could have ever hoped for in a dog and in him we

have found our greatest friend.

we found out he was very sick with a parasite. After he healed our hurt, it was all we could do to heal his.

Now, nine months later, he's almost unrecognizable from the day he came home, scared, quiet, afraid to be petted. He is now fifteen pounds healthier, the best running buddy I could dream of 10 miles every week, the shop dog everyone loves and asks for at the family farm, the dog that snuggles on the bed every night with us, the one every person stops to pet and say "good boy" and "gorgeous dog."

I am so grateful we had the chance to make up for the hard start to his life with all the love he can stand and all the licks he can dish out! THANK YOU, People For Pets! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Leah Kreutner

We brought Murphy home two days later and his behavior and scarring indicated he'd been abused before being abandoned to the shelter for four months. A few weeks later when Murphy wouldn't get up,



People for Pets wishes all of you a happy holiday season full of magical moments with family and friends.

We thank you for your continued support. Please see page four for ways in which you can help our many animals in need.

PEOPLE FOR PETS
GIFT WRAPPING CENTER HOURS

(ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PEOPLE FOR PETS)

December 13th 1-9

December 14th 1-6

December 20th 1-9

December 21st 1-6

December 22nd 1-9

December 23rd 1-9

December 24th 8-4



At the South Park Mall

Hunter was saved thanks to the Kayleen Rose Animal Fund

After 20 years of rescuing animals, I always believe we have seen it all. No, every day brings new challenges. During the Clay County fair week I was contacted by volunteers about a black Lab in urgent need. He was homeless along with his owner. The owner was going to shoot him and borrow a loader to bury him!

Needless to say I was immediately on my way to get him. Upon arriving I found the most loving dog I could imagine. Hunter was very emaciated, had very little hair because of mange and fleas. He willingly jumped in the back of my vehicle. As we drove away, he sat and looked out the rear window. I wondered what he was thinking? Goodbye past...hello future?

This is where our wonderful Kayleen Rose Animal Emergency Fund helped to save another life. Returning abused/neglected animals is not cheap. The Kayleen Rose Animal Emergency Fund is helping so many. Please consider donating to help us save more.

Hunter was adopted to the most wonderful family in Minnesota. You can read his letter on this page.

Donna Erickson

Kayleen Rose, a woman who cared deeply about animal welfare, passed away in 2013. Her family agreed that contributions to her memorial should go to People for Pets. They set up the Kayleen Rose Animal Special Needs Fund to help benefit animals who require special medical care.

An important message from Hunter

Hi everyone at my first home, People for Pets. I want to thank you so much for saving my life and helping me get well. Thank you for helping me find my new pack leaders. On my first day in a house, now my home, I was a little scared and nervous but my new sister "Ellie" showed me around and what to do. I took my meds like a big boy and I loved my new food! Later I got to walk with my sister for over a mile. Ellie said we do this every day!



Then we went out in the country and I got to run

"free" for over 45 minutes. WOW! What fun I had with my sister that day. Last night I got to sleep on my new bed and boy was that nice. I have a big backyard where I get to run around with birds, squirrels, cats and rabbits!

Well I know how much work you have to do helping out all my buddies so THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!

*Love,
Hunter*

HOORAY FOR HUNTER!

Volunteering—any amount of time helps

I am a volunteer at People for Pets. I am not the best volunteer. I don't work the most amount of hours. I don't sort the pop cans or take the sick to the vet. I don't make decisions or do paperwork. Those things are done by many other wonderful volunteers who give countless hours, drive a crazy amount of miles on transport and run back and forth to the vet.

I show up, once a week, at 9:30 p.m., with my twin 7-year-olds and my husband, and we do bedtime chores. We each give about an hour a week. It's not much. It's never enough but it is what we can offer. Our family, like most others, is busy but one hour of each week we give back.

My girls work so hard when we are there. We water and feed the dogs, wash water bowls, sweep and mop floors and pick up pounds of dog poop! The only complaint the girls ever have is that we don't spend enough time out there each week!

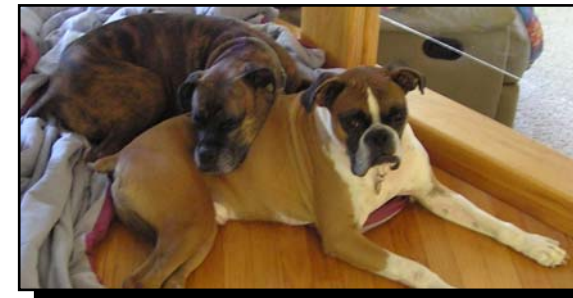
I am not sharing this because we want compliments or an award of any kind. The

reason I share our story is with the hope that people will see that you don't have to give some crazy amount of time to make a difference. One hour a week impacts our entire shelter. One hour a week has taught my kids so much. They are learning a strong work ethic, love and compassion for animals, responsibility, leadership, and the list goes on.

Please consider giving your time. If you can't give your time, there are various other ways you can support the shelter. This year we are selling Worlds Finest Chocolate Candy Bars for \$1.00 and \$.50 of every dollar goes back into the shelter. We will be gift wrapping at the Spencer Mall over the holiday season as well. We have a cage outside the shelter for can and bottle donations.

The donation of time and money is necessary to run a non-profit animal shelter. However you can help, always remember one sure way everyone is always able to give back is by spaying and neutering their pets.

Kris, Mark, Alyson & Madelyn Johnson



We adopted "Boss" (previously Gibson/Zeus) from People for Pets on May 17, 2014. We had lost our male Boxer "Enzo" on April 8, 2014 to hemangiosarcoma. He had been our little buddy since May 2006, when we had adopted him from the Mower County Humane Society. It is so hard losing our little family members that we were not sure when or if we would be ready to adopt another one. We still had a female Boxer "Porscha", whom we had gotten from a family who couldn't handle the mischievous ways of a young Boxer.

I have been working with Donna, Steph and the shelter through the Veterinary Technician Program at Iowa Lakes Community College where I am the Veterinary Technician. They bring some of the shelter pets to us for veterinary care. I just happened to check the People for Pets website one day and saw an unneutered male Boxer that had just arrived. He was one of the most pathetic cases I had seen.

Amelia is a beautiful and calm spirit

When we were looking to add another cat to our family, it was easy to know we should call People for Pets. We are firm believers that Adult and even better, senior animals, make the best pets. I reached out to Donna and let her know we wanted to adopt a cat and provide a forever family, but not just any cat. I wanted the oldest cat that currently called the shelter home.

Donna let me know that most of the cats they had were two to three years old except for Amelia. Amelia was estimated to be about 10 and Amelia had hyperthyroidism. Sign us up! I knew that hyperthyroidism would require a lifetime of a daily medicine and frequent blood work and that was okay. What I learned the week before is that there is an actual cure for this condition in cats! How exciting!!

Since we brought our girl Amelia home, she has undergone the treatment to cure her hyperthyroidism and has been cured. She no longer needs any meds! We absolutely love her to pieces. She is such a beautiful and calm spirit in our family and our

Boss is living the good life now!

Donna brought him to the college for me to meet him. She told me law enforcement had to step in and make the owners surrender him and he had been outside tied to a tree for most of his life. By the looks of him he was rarely fed. His hip bones were sticking out, you could see his backbone and every rib and he weighed only 53 pounds. He had large sores around his feet from, we are guessing, the cable or chain rubbing. He had sores on his hips from laying on the hard ground and sores around his ears. He had a dry hair coat and a skin infection on most of his body.

I made arrangements to bring my husband down to see him the following Saturday. After seeing him, it didn't take long to convince him to give Boss the home every dog deserves. At the shelter all Boss cared about was getting attention. We took him home and he loved Porscha immediately.

He has been neutered, his skin infection has cleared up with antibiotics, his sores have healed, he weighs 65 pounds and he now has "the good life". He lives on the lake, so he enjoys swimming and going

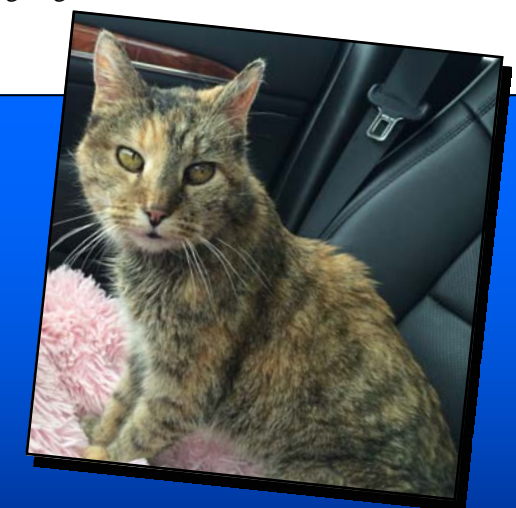
for the occasional boat ride. His favorite activities are going to the Bedell State Park for walks and playing with Porscha. They take turns every other week going to school where there



are 32 vet tech students who give him all the attention he wants.

We never regretted bringing Boss into our home. He shows his appreciation every day by being such a loving and affectionate companion. Thanks to People for Pets and the volunteers for all they do to find homes for these deserving animals.

Ann Lindquist



home. She has added so much joy and love and has asked nothing in return. She is the perfect example why adopting an older cat is so rewarding. We are forever grateful to People for Pets for letting us call Amelia family.

Tanya Plonske Seneff