

"Saving lives, 4 paws at a time"



People for Pets

December, 2011

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

While you are sleeping ... volunteers selflessly give their time to many tasks

WHILE YOU ARE SLEEPING

all snug in your beds, with visions of warmth, gifts, parties and great food dancing in your heads ...

Perhaps stop to think of the terrific unpaid volunteers at People for Pets who scramble through snow, ice, blizzards, the dark of night and wee morning hours to love and care for the animals at the shelter who are waiting for homes.

While you are sleeping, these volunteers are venturing out on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Thanksgiving morning, New Year's Eve and Easter Sunrise. They are out every morning, noon, and night 365 days a year selflessly giving their time. There are Sunday trips to the vet

with sick animals, Saturday night trips to the shelter to let dogs out and Sunday afternoon transports that take 2 to 8 hours.

A loving lady stays up all night nursing six tiny, homeless, orphaned kittens. You see their mama cat was hit by a car and they need human help to survive. A volunteer sits with a hyper, frightened dog who just needs a soft touch and kind words to know that all will be okay. Another volunteer braves weather to check live traps to spay/neuter stray cats so the cycle doesn't continue.

A vet leaves his family in church to tend to a sick animal brought in by an anxious volunteer. One more volunteer emails into the wee hours of the night the

communication with other rescue people all the while determined to save the life of one more animal.

We have volunteers spending endless hours via email searching for grants to which we can apply and others laying awake figuring out how to make ends meet financially.

We are SO GRATEFUL for these people who tell us they are paid by the love in the eyes of the dogs and cats. THANK YOU volunteers and to those of you who might think of helping with transports, training, walks for dogs, etc.

While you are sleeping ... the animals rest, knowing they are loved and safe.

Happy tails ... Maverick finds a forever home with Lawrence and family

Maverick is doing FANTASTIC, we love him! We have been taking him to the park to play fetch every day since we got him. He was getting worn out pretty fast the first few nights as it is about a mile walk roundtrip, but we can tell he is getting better endurance already, which will make for really long walks in the future! He is really good off-leash too. Once he gets a little far away we call his name and he comes back right away.



He gets along great with our two cats and other dog. We bought him some bones and toys to play with and he seems to really like Kongs with peanut butter and rawhide bones the best, along with Milkbone biscuits.

He pulls a little when he sees other dogs but if you correct him he ignores them and keeps on his merry way. He has never barked at another dog yet.

Maverick does hear our neighbor in the morning slam their car door, I think it startles him. While he is still sleeping, he lifts his head, lets out a deep bark, just one, and then falls back asleep. It's quite funny.



Lawrence

Wind site engineer puts money where her heart is

Karen Naland Freeman is turning the hours she volunteers with People for Pets in Spencer, Iowa, into financial support for homeless animals through her employer NextEra Energy Resources. Karen has been a volunteer with People for Pets for seven years, and the last several years she has been able to donate \$250 annually through a company grant program that supports employees who volunteer at least 40 hours a year with a non profit organization.

Karen, who is a quality engineer and manager for her company's fleet of 86

wind sites around the country, is based at the Endeavor Wind Energy Center in Ocheyedon, IA. This self-described "animal and dog person" helps People for Pets by fostering and transporting shelter dogs, grooming them and helping find them homes.

As more companies offer volunteer grant benefits to employees, be sure to check with your employer to find out if this is a benefit available to you. People For Pets appreciates all donations of time and financial support from our volunteers.



A special thanks to all the rescues we work with who have helped us rescue over 500 animals this year!!!!!!

A new rescue joins us in our area!

We are happy to be part of welcoming a new animal rescue in our area. Emmet County Animal Rescue is based out of Estherville and Emmet County. Check out their website at emmetcountyanimalshelter.org.

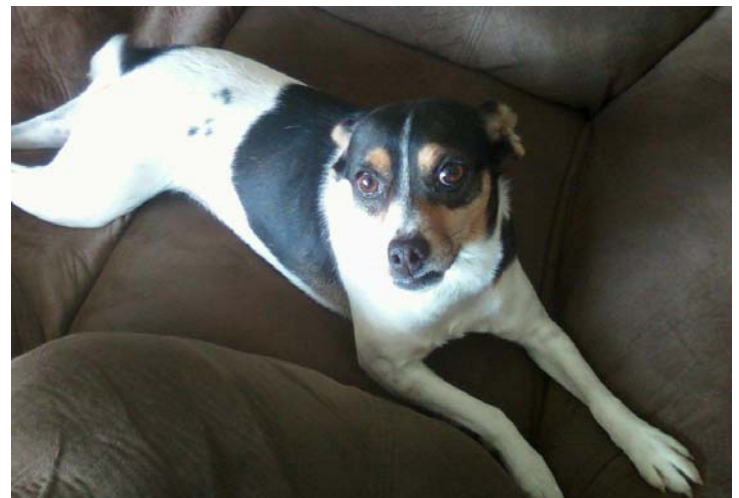
People for Pets monthly budget

Running a shelter can easily result in monthly expenses exceeding our income. **Some of our larger expenses are:** Veterinary care often ranges from \$3,000 to \$4,000+ per month. Food and litter averages around \$900 per month. Insurance costs are \$300 and building upkeep alone is about \$500 per month. Everything adds up quickly yet we don't turn any animal away! Any gift you can offer would be very much appreciated.

Perhaps you have blankets lying around the house that we could use at the shelter? Or maybe the next time you're at the store you could pick up a few extra items to help all the homeless pets at the shelter. **Items we always need:** Money for vet bills which are often \$3,000 to \$4,000+ a month; Paper towels; Toilet paper; Laundry detergent; Dish soap; Clorox; Medium and Large dog collars; Scoopable cat litter.

People for Pets is a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter located in Spencer, Iowa. We currently house over 90 cats and 20 dogs. We coordinate with over 35 other rescue groups to help find the best homes possible for the animals that come to the shelter. Also, we work with foster homes locally who help while the dogs await their forever families. Most importantly we don't turn any animal away and we have done much work with disabled or badly injured animals.

Hobie is "boss" of his new yard



I just wanted to say hello from Hobie and his family! Hobie is doing very well and is enjoying all the space to exercise. We are so happy that we came down to Spencer to get him, he is such a great dog. He's figured out that he's the boss of the yard as he's got about 20 cats to contend with. They don't push him around anymore. He has learned to bark at them and they leave him alone. His favorite treat is Puperoni and it's fun to watch him "sun himself" in the sunshine. Maybe he's had too much time with the cats! Thanks again and I recommend People for Pets anytime people talk to me about getting a new cat or dog.

Amy

www.peopleforpets.org

Local supporter writes Letter to Editor in Spencer newspaper

The following Opinion letter appeared in the Daily Reporter, Spencer, IA on December 3, 2011

I live in Estherville and rescuing homeless cats and kittens is one of my hobbies. I have been doing this for 40 years and about three weeks ago was one of my happiest moments. Six years ago I rescued two very nice cats that had been left abandoned when the people moved from their home. People for Pets were kind enough to take them and make a home for them. This month these two cats were adopted to a lady that will make a wonderful home for them. What a great situation for these two cats made possible by People for Pets.

What makes this organization so very elite is the dogs and cats are not euthanized after a period of time. To the staff at People for Pets, you are all doing a wonderful job. Your love for dogs and cats is unequalled.

Please put this remarkable organization on your Christmas list this year and remember them with a monetary gift. It will make you feel good that your generosity will greatly help the animals. Thank you to everyone involved with People for Pets. Merry Christmas to all!

John S. Walz
Estherville, IA

Travis and Madonna Seeking their forever home.

Travis' and Madonna's mom was a stray that had wandered into our neighborhood in Fostoria. She was extremely skinny except for her pregnant belly. We gave her food, shelter, love and named her Lucy. Early in the morning on July 24, 2006 Lucy decided to start giving birth in our bed. That sure woke us up! With the help of People for Pets we were able to find homes for Lucy and most of her babies. They took in our remaining kittens and named them after my husband and I.

Travis and Madonna have been at the shelter for almost their whole lives and would love to have a loving home. Travis is a little shy but once you start to rub his tummy, he is your new best friend. Madonna meows to let you know that she wants some attention. Both are sweet and ready for a forever home.

Madonna



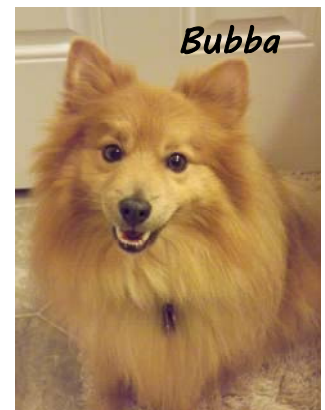
Bubba and Jack have come a long way ...

This time of year always reminds us of things for which we are grateful. Bubba and Jack have a lot to be thankful for as do their new "Mom and Dad" who are elated to have adopted them into their family! Bubba and Jack are celebrating their third Christmas in Wisconsin this year.



Bubba and Jack were at our Shelter a few years ago. Bubba was left outside for several months in a kennel with another dog to fend for themselves during hot days and then the cold nights. He had to endure thunderstorms and other critters coming up to his kennel while his "owner" moved away and wondered if the meal this "owner" would stop by and give once in awhile would be his last. Jack suffered a broken leg while in one of his former homes and then was given up because he was not wanted. Together now, these cute boys have found a family with another rescue Pomeranian named Sparky. They live in a great

home and spend their nights comfortable and well fed, upside down with four paws in the air while sleeping and dreaming of when Santa will come and fill their stockings with treats and even more toys. From a neglected lifestyle to being the center of attention, these boys have truly found a loving and forever home. Yes, these boys have come a long way thanks to the volunteers at People for Pets.



A Tale of two sisters: Two Ridgebacks find foster homes



Shelly and Kelly came to us one afternoon this fall. Their owner came into the shelter and said he had two dogs that he was going to "get rid of" one way or another that day. All of our kennels were full, but that never entered our minds.

Three of us volunteers walked out to the old pickup and there were the girls stuffed into two old dog kennels. They were quivering with fear. We instantly took the girls into our program and so began their incredible

journey. They soon became shelter favorites with their timid personalities.

One of our volunteers who works with rescues contacted the Ridgeback Rescue based out of Cedar Rapids. Two days later another volunteer stepped up to transport the girls to Cedar Rapids to be fostered by experienced Ridgeback owners who know the breed and their personalities. Cedar Rapids is five plus hours from us one way. Our volunteer was ready to roll with the girls in an hour's notice! You see, often we do not "profit" financially when we rescue pets, but there is such a wonderful feeling to know we have helped save another life.

November update from the Ridgeback Rescue:

Kelly is on antibiotics for her open and swollen toe and we are soaking it twice a day which she is very tolerant of. She weighed in at 48 lbs, poor skinny girl. We have put a doggie coat on her when she goes outside since she has no padding. Shelly weighed in at 52 lbs.

Shelly isn't eating as well as she was when she came in but Kelly is eating better. They both need to eat more but we aren't pushing it. They will be getting 3 meals a day. Shelly will be going to Janesville, WI to a wonderful foster home. I have possibly found a home for Kelly possibly after the first of the year. They have already wiggled their way into our hearts.



BK and Riley - a true story of patience

BK and Riley had lived at the shelter for six years. They had been brought to the shelter by John Walz who had rescued them from an abandoned house. Our wish was that they would be adopted together but they were always passed up for younger cats. Then one day their luck changed! Joy and her mother were looking for at least one older cat and possibly two to live with them in their quiet home. The rest is history.



The volunteers were elated! There truly is a home for every pet, it just takes time, patience and love ... lots of love.

BK has been FIV positive for several years. He is really laid back and will reach up on his back legs to get your attention. His girlfriend is Riley and they have been together their whole lives.

Their new family says, "Riley likes to sleep in the sock drawer which is now always left half open for her! They love being together in various chairs which is so cute. We are loving them."

