



Saving lives, 4 paws at a time



# People for Pets

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## Two Spencer Iowa beauties rescued a woman in New Jersey

**I**t was mid-January 2009, one month after the wonderful Dr. Lori Cobb released my beloved Millie across the rainbow bridge, that I located Daisy (a nine-year-old Jack Russell Terrier) on PetFinder. Daisy was chained outside and used as a backyard breeding dog in Pennsylvania.

As with Millie, Daisy became my constant companion. We drove to Ohio to visit with my brother and his family, flew to Portland, Oregon to visit a friend and took many road trips to visit family, friends and to explore the great outdoors. Daisy was with me for my last chemo treatment and travelled with me to the 30-plus radiation treatments. She was a bright spot when my mom was ill, a true blessing when my mom died and a great comfort when my dad died.

When Daisy was diagnosed with cancer, I opted to allow her to spend the rest of her days free from invasive sur-



geries and harsh treatments. In early 2016, within a period of a few weeks, Daisy aged rapidly and a sporadic cough became more persistent. She began to lose her appetite. When Daisy stopped eating chicken and white rice, I made the excruciating decision to have a skilled professional release my beloved companion across the rainbow bridge on April 30, 2016.

With a number of trips planned, I decided to hold off being rescued until I was home. I set my sights on September 26th and, in memory of Daisy, I decided that I wanted to be rescued by two fe-

male Jack Russell Terriers between 4 and 5 years old or younger.

When mid-September rolled around, I searched PetFinder for Jack Russell Terriers. There was a cutie in Texas, Annie, and, wait a minute, two one-and-a-half year old sisters, Charlene and Ruthie, in Iowa. Without

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## LeBron and Durant are learning the meaning of a forever family



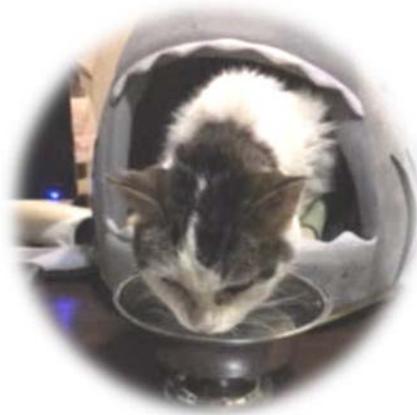
While looking at posts on Facebook one evening I came across a pair of sibling kitties posted by People For Pets. I decided to take a look at their website to see who was available for adoption. I found brothers, Bert and Ernie, on the site and after showing my husband we decided that we should fill out the forms to adopt them. After approval, we picked up Bert and Ernie and brought them to their forever home. Since being here we have changed their names to LeBron and Durant. We are working on making them comfortable in our home. After being in the shelter so long they are a little skittish.

We have come to find out that they LOVE to be brushed and start to purr immediately when petted. LeBron loves to play with a string and usually outlasts me when playing. Durant is a little more shy but we will keep working with him. They both love their two new brothers that they joined in our home. We are so happy to have them here and look forward to spending their senior years with them.

*Kiley & Melanie Yates*

## Something about Mary

Oh yes, there is something about Mary! Mary is an old girl who lives in her "shark" on the corner of my desk. She came to us as a stray from the streets of Spencer. Obviously, she is a senior cat. She has won the hearts of all the volunteers and me especially. She and I talk about "things" many times a day. I look into her soulful eyes and the whole reason for my being on this earth comes into my head ... to rescue animals. I am so blessed to be surrounded by volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to make a better life for the animals that are fortunate to come into our care.



This year we have rescued **many** senior cats and dogs. The pet population is aging just as the human population. Senior owners are going into assisted living and nursing homes leaving their pets to find new homes. P4P has given these special displaced pets a place to come to. Many of

them are in need of extensive vet care because their owners weren't able to provide for themselves and their pet.

We are so thankful for the many people who have stepped forward this year and adopted a senior pet. I am so thankful for the volunteers who make People for Pets a wonderful place to call "our shelter". It is very encouraging to see volunteers of all ages come together and share our passion of rescuing animals while continuing to build upon our life's work. Thank you everyone.

*Donna Erickson*

*Sadly, the evening after this article was written, Mary passed away but she knew she was loved and she was comfortable being a part of our P4P family.*



## Facts about People for Pets

- We have approximately 30 volunteers with only two paid staff members.
- We are privately funded with no financial support from any government agencies.
- Our budget will top \$80,000 in the coming year.
- We do few fundraisers because we are volunteer based and the volunteers all have jobs, families and other commitments.
- Our volunteers contribute approximately 1,200 hours a month.
- Our dogs are let out to exercise all day plus a volunteer lets them out at bedtime to help them understand/work on housetraining.
- Our cats are all Feleuk/FIV tested before they come to our shelter. Many shelters don't do this test because of the cost.
- All animals are spayed and neutered before they leave our shelter.
- We spay/neuter MANY feral cats and cats/dogs that have owners but the owners can't afford the procedure.
- We work with other rescues, shelters (all over Iowa and Minnesota) and individuals who help us place our pets into forever homes.
- We take both owner surrender and city impounds.
- Our intake and assistance area become larger every year as we grow as an organization and funding becomes available.

## How to make a difference

- Donate to the Kayleen Rose Animal Emergency Fund. 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 P4P. They set up the Kayleen Rose Animal Special Needs Fund to help animals who need special medical care.
- Donate much needed items such as postage stamps, cat beds, cat trees, paper towel, cleaning supplies, collars, leashes, Kong toys, gently used blankets and food (call for more information).
- Volunteer a few hours a week or month to help with the animals. This can be a great activity too!
- Consider fostering or even adopting.
- Tell your family and friends about us.

## Xena, a senior dog, became the perfect family companion

**A**fter our family lost our Doberman, Zelda, this summer to cancer we felt this huge hole in our hearts and everyday lives. We realized that the unconditional love of a dog is the only thing that could fill such a void.

When I (Crystal) found Xena on Petfinder.com in July at People for Pets something happened. It was like she called to me through the computer. I was unable to stop thinking about her and wanting to bring her home. She was an older dog (8 years old) and had survived cancer. She had had a rough life in her first 8 years and longed for the love of a family. We discussed what it would be like to welcome a senior dog (including some of the potential challenges) into our home and felt it would be a good fit.

After meeting Xena for the first time, we all knew that we wanted to welcome her into our family. She acclimated to our home very well. She and our three resident cats got along very quickly as if she had always lived here. She became protective over the entire family, especially of the children. Mostly, we were surprised at how well she did with the craziness that a home can be with two young children.

Of course with any transition we be-

gan to discover the differences between one dog and the next. One of the biggest is that she doesn't like



peanut butter or dog toys; however she loves to snuggle. It took her two months to learn and accept the true comfort of a dog bed and/or the couch. She is now a couch potato much of the time. She has even taken to jumping on our bed and falling asleep with us (much to the dismay of the cats). She loves to sleep upside down and loves belly rubs. She is quite the talker especially when it comes to words she has learned such as "hungry", "walk" or "outside".

Xena continues to amaze us with how good she can be. She enjoys going to doggy daycare twice a week but spends most of her time there watching for gophers in the open lot next door.

Xena has given new definition to "senior" dog. She LOVES to play and run sprints around the backyard. The first day after our new fence went up, she just ran laps around the yard so excited. She loves her walks and just recently we found out that she loves the snow.

She still loves chasing rabbits but has come to the realization that squirrels should also be on her "to hunt" list. Our tally so far is: 0 Rabbits, 0 Squirrels, 1 Shrew, and 5 holes dug looking for said rabbits.

All told, Xena has been perfect for our family, senior or not. We would encourage families to look at older dogs as new pets. Just do the research on what type of dog it is and know what you are looking for (i.e. house versus apartment). Meet the pet to get to know one another and do some online research to know how to handle an older dog (same as you would do for a puppy anyway). In the end, while Xena may have helped us say good-bye to Zelda, she certainly isn't a replacement. She is a family member and we are all so glad we found each other.

*The Secret Family  
Chris, Crystal, Annie & Spencer*

## Remember Oz?

Oz continues to be pampered by the volunteers and staff. He prefers to eat off from a fork. Guess he deserves it after recovering from being paralyzed. Oz now walks fine after acupuncture and thanks to the Kayleen Rose Fund!



## Jersey Girls (continued)

hesitation, I submitted an application to People for Pets and after some thought as to how to be rescued by Char & Ruthie, I opted to fly from Philly to Minnesota and drive to Western Iowa. I arrived at People for Pets on Sunday, September 25, 2016 and was warmly welcomed by Donna, Madonna, Char and Ruthie.

After an overnight stay in Spencer, I returned to People for Pets on Monday, September 26, 2016 to meet with Donna and Kerin, gathered up the girls and began our drive to our forever home to New Jersey.

Our 20+ hour drive home was uneventful. The girls did a great deal of sleeping and the weather was clear; excellent traveling weather. During the drive, on separate occasions, I observed each girl laying down, head up and with their eyes closed. I imagined that they could smell and

sense that they were on the way home.

There are so many wonderful things about Char and Ruthie and truly the thing that brings me the greatest joy is knowing that they will never be abused (Millie was beaten) or abused (Daisy was chained outside and had litter after litter).

Char & Ruthie, the Jersey Girls, love to run, play and Sumo wrestle in their yard. Char is the type of pup who necessitated the invention of the ChuckIt toy and Ruthie is obsessed with squirrels.

On the first night in their forever home, two Eastern Screech Owls could be heard bantering back and forth with each other. In the past, I've heard the owls; however, on September 27, 2016, the owls sounded as if they were in my bed-

room. No doubt, it was Millie and Daisy voicing their approval. You see, in approximately September 2000, on the evening of the day in which a skilled professional released by beloved Rick (a 19.5 year old domestic short hair) across the rainbow bridge, I heard the booming vocals of a Great Horned Owl in close proximity to my house.

Thank you to Donna and all the wonderful folks at People for Pets for all that you do, especially for keeping Char & Ruthie together. I am head over heels in love.

“Don't shop, adopt”! And, please, if you shop on Amazon, support People for Pets on Amazon Smile.

All of our thanks, love and respect,  
*Joanne, Char and Ruthie*



## Spencer and his Mom check in to say hello for the holidays

My boyfriend, Dave, and I adopted Bernie the Cocker Spaniel (we named him Spencer) from you in September 2015. We adopted another dog earlier this year, so Spencer has a sister, Lou, and they get along so well. Since we weren't sure when Spencer's birthday was, we decided to celebrate his birthday on his adoption anniversary. I hope you don't think we're too kooky, but we bought hats and treats for the dogs. They loved it, at least the treats! I just wanted you to know how thankful we are for him and to you for approving us for his adoption.

*Heather Biele*



The Doggone 5K, organized by Spencer High School National Honor Society, was a success! They raised \$900 for People for Pets through the 5K fundraiser.



## Animals seem to choose you without you even knowing it

I always think animals have a way of finding their owners. Yeah we can go to the shelter and pick one out, but in a way they choose you without you even knowing it. So luckily for me I work at a vet clinic. I get to see the good, bad, and the ugly. Unfortunately, the ugly always sticks out more in my mind, which is probably why I ended up with three fur babies. The truth is I honestly wouldn't have it any other way. They need me just as much as I need them.

The first was little Beatrice, also known as 'Bea'. She's a 5-pound Chihuahua with a whole lot of personality! Of course I saw her and fell in love, I said I would "foster" her for the weekend. She went everywhere with me, even to work! I soon realized that it was going to be a little harder giving her back than I thought. She bonded to me just as much as I bonded to her.

The day I was supposed to take her back was awful. I was sick to my stomach about it and got teary eyed just thinking about it. The next Monday I stuck to my guns, and took her back. That first night without her was terrible. I really missed her and



decided she needed to be a part of my family. I called the next day and said I'm coming to get her! When I walked into the shelter she just went nuts! She picked me and knew I was back to get her. That's when I knew I made the right decision.

Then little Miss Franny May came along, also known as Fran, a little Italian Greyhound. She showed up with a badly broken leg and pretty thin. Even with a broken leg, I couldn't believe how happy she was to see people; she had to be one of the sweetest Italian Greyhounds I've ever seen. Her leg had been broken for a while and was broke in such a

bad spot that she had to go to Iowa State in Ames to repair it. She needed a good 'foster' mom who knew how crucial it was to be strict on exercise, physical therapy, and diet. That's where I could not say no! Once again I failed at fostering.

Next was Della, a little mix breed hot mess that came in one day. I just remember coming back from lunch and seeing this little dog sitting in the back of her cage. I thought what the heck is wrong with her; she had scabs all over her body and hardly had any hair! I got her out and she had pretty severe hair loss, but it all made sense when I saw that she was covered in fleas. I found out she has had a harder life than I thought. She was 10 months old and already had a litter of puppies and could possibly be pregnant with another litter. I also ended up being a foster failure with Della!

There's no better feeling than making a forever home for an unwanted animal that definitely deserves a better life. You can just tell they are forever grateful.

*Keely Williamson*

The Kayleen Rose Fund has made it possible for these three little dogs to be living in a wonderful, forever home. Each dog had large vet bills that could not have been paid if it were not for the Kayleen Rose Fund. Many thanks to the family and friends of Kayleen who support this fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to People for Pets and let us know that it is to go to the Kayleen Rose Fund.



### Lost cat named Garfield returns home

This is Garfield. He was returned to his family after being lost for 9+ months. One of our great volunteers happened to take his picture and posted to her Facebook page. The owner saw it and Garfield was returned to his family. It was a happy ending for the kids and for Garfield.



### Young volunteers, Maddie and Allie, choose visit to the shelter over a movie

Maddie and Allie Johnson are the daughters of Kris and Mark Johnson. The whole family is made up of great volunteers. They had a sleepover one night and rather than go to a movie or something else, they chose to come to the shelter! Thank you girls!

## Pet Oberfest 2016 was a success!

Drink beer. Save animals. And that is just what we did!



On October 1, 2016, People for Pets held its first annual PetOberfest. October is Adopt a Shelter Dog month. Pair that with West-O beer, German food, live music and amazing community support and you have yourself a PetOberfest!

PetOberfest was organized by our People for Pets Fundraising Committee who volunteer their time and efforts to raising money to help support our veterinarian bills, building expenses, transportation costs, utilities and countless other needs we incur throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event, donated to the event and attended the event! It was a beautiful outpouring of support from our community members and local businesses. We look forward to improving the event for next year and hope you will join us for PetOberfest!

### Holiday gift giving ideas



Sometimes we search for the perfect holiday or birthday gift to give to a special family member or friend but then find out that the person says he/she already has everything he/she needs. **Why not consider a donation to People for Pets in honor of that special person in your life?** It's easy - just include a note with the person's name and email or home address (if desired) and mail to People for Pets. Your special person(s) will receive a note letting them know you donated in their honor.

### People for Pets information

For more information on our animals available for adoption, gift giving or Trust options and volunteer possibilities, you can contact us several ways.

- Visit our website at [www.peopleforpets.org](http://www.peopleforpets.org).
- Visit our Facebook page People for Pets (in Spencer, IA).
- Call us at 712-580-2738

To make a tax deductible donation you can send a check, payable to:

**People for Pets**  
2312 Highway Blvd.  
Spencer, IA 51301

***Be sure to check our web site or visit us on Facebook for information on future events!***



### Thank you

We have much to be thankful for in 2016 here at People for Pets:

Thank you to all of the generous sponsors of our events.

Thank you to all who attended our events and who donated to help the animals in need. All amounts have been very much appreciated.

Thank you to our volunteers of all ages who help us continue our mission to save lives, four paws at a time.

Thank you to all who donated their services and many different items needed including gas for our van.

***We wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season and the very best in the new year!***