



The Paw Press

Changing Lives, One Adoption At A Time.

Worth the Wait

by Shelley Berger

Since Safe Haven began nearly 18 years ago, volunteers and staff have seen dogs of every shape and size go through our doors. Some dogs, like purebreds or designer breeds, get adopted in the blink of an eye. Litters of puppies get dozens of applications in a day. Our volunteers shower them all with love in the short time they're here, but their names are rarely remembered. Their faces and fur coats blend into all the dogs that have been fed, walked, praised, hugged and kissed before their family takes them to their forever home.

Some dogs are fondly remembered by volunteers. At the August bonfire to celebrate ten years in our South Amana location, there was plenty of reminiscing going on. "Oh, do you remember that dog named Sid? What a good boy he was. He sure did get a great family." Or "I remember that shy little beagle named Lady. Poor thing had never been loved before."

Other dogs will be remembered for their lifetime and longer. Dogs like Maggie, Zeke, Jenny Gump, and Lilly, who spent much longer within the walls of Safe Haven than other dogs. Some, like Maggie, Zeke, and Lilly, spent years patiently waiting for the right family to come along.

Maggie



Adopted
6/5/08

house dog content to snooze on the couch or go for leisurely walks. She was a lot. And so, she spent a long time at Safe Haven. After her second anniversary at Safe Haven, volunteers were worried that she would never be adopted. But then, along came a couple who thought she was the perfect fit. Soon we were hearing reports of how well Maggie was doing! There was only one problem. Her new humans were suffering with raw, red skin caused by Maggie. She just wouldn't stop kissing them!

Maggie, a black lab mixed with pitty or boxer, was a high energy girl who resided at Safe Haven in 2006 when we resided in a barn near Interstate 80. Maggie never did anything without giving it her all. She was intense and passionate about her favorite things. She could jump or pull on the leash all day long. She loved water and would snorkel in her little blue kiddie pool for hours or until she chewed a big hole in it. Anyone who came within two feet of her were instantly covered in kisses. She definitely did not give visitors and potential adopters the impression that she would be the perfect

Zeke



Adopted:
8/15/18

Zeke, a Catahoula-lab mix whose face adorns the mural in the lobby of Safe Haven, came to Safe Haven when his owner relinquished him for barking too much. When Zeke got settled in, volunteers soon discovered that he was loaded with personality and had some very specific likes and dislikes. Belly rubs, hot dogs, and car rides were a definite thumbs up. Other dogs, small children, and men, not so much. Zeke was a work in progress. Sometimes a lot of work, but he had so much potential. Zeke had a longer than usual wait for a home of his own but was adopted in 2012. Unfortunately, by 2014, he was back at Safe Haven and would spend the next 4 years there. Zeke had some health scares during his second stint at Safe Haven. At one point, staff at Eastern Iowa Vet Speciality Center said they had never seen a dog with such high liver enzyme values that was still alive. Volunteers stayed with Zeke, fearing they would lose him, but he made a miraculous recovery. In 2018 Zeke found his forever home in Hills, Iowa with a couple that volunteered at Safe Haven and spent the remainder of his life loving them and their new baby.

An adorable little pitty puppy named Jenny Gump came to us from an overcrowded animal shelter in Oklahoma. Jenny had a badly injured hind leg which never received the proper vet care. Her past care team thought she was possibly hit by a car which broke her hind leg.

Critter Crusaders of Cedar Rapids, a non-profit that pays for shelter pets to get advanced medical care, urgently asked us to take this sweet gal in so she could get the medical attention that she desperately needed and deserved! Jennie had regular appointments and surgery at Blue Pearl Pet Hospital in Des Moines. They confirmed she had an old femoral fracture that had completely healed on its own, but not properly. While it was still functioning, her medical care team decided it was best for Jenny to have surgery performed to help heal the hind leg properly. Jenny spent months with restrictions on all activity. No running or playing. Definitely no jumping. If you made a list of a puppy's favorite things to do, it was on Jenny's list of restricted activities. It seemed every time Jenny came close to the finish line, it was moved because another surgery was required, or she was healing slower than expected. When she was finally put on the website and released for adoption, a wonderful woman with plenty of experience with pitbulls submitted an application. Finally, this not so small puppy was getting a home of her own! And then she got ringworm which added weeks to her wait for a home. When the last skin scraping showed she was fungus free, the call was made and her new human came to pick her up. She had to wait a lot longer than any puppy who's come to Safe Haven, but in the end, she found a perfect home complete with playmates to run and jump with.

Jenny Gump



Adopted:
11/21/23

Lilly

Lilly, or Queen Lilly as she is known to volunteers and staff, is quite the special lady at Safe Haven. Lilly arrived at Safe Haven in November of 2019 when she was flown in from a pound in Indiana on the volunteer "Pilots-n-Paws" flight program. To look at her that day, no one would have called her Queen Lilly. She was emaciated and suffering from severe skin issues which had caused most of her fur to fall out. Because Lilly had a serious infection in her uterus (pyometra) and the malnourished state she was in - her condition was critical.



After recovering from life-saving surgery and putting on 20 pounds, Lilly was still suffering from skin issues. Bloodwork revealed a thyroid problem that would require medication for the rest of her life. This was the first hurdle to getting adopted. She began receiving medication for fungal infection and allergies and had weekly baths to help her skin. A second hurdle to adoption. After a couple months of steady improvement, Lilly still seemed to have a few lingering issues with her coat and skin. At times the skin on her feet, belly and face turned red, and she had even broken out in hives a few times – so, in 2020, Lilly went to an appointment with a specialty vet (dermatologist) at Eastern Iowa Vet Specialty Center in Cedar Rapids. After testing for environmental allergens, it was easier to list what she was not allergic to. She is now taking daily immunotherapy medication, which is a serum made up of small doses of the things she is allergic to, so that should help her build up a tolerance to these allergies over time. Her medications would cost an adoptive family hundreds of dollars every month and Lilly would need to continue to have appointments with a specialist every 6 months. More hurdles. While staff and her medical team tried to reduce the number of hurdles she had to getting adopted, Lilly was showing volunteers a few more hurdles she had. The Queen had no time for other dogs. She lost her cool whenever she saw another dog so volunteers waited until all other dogs had been out to walk before taking Lilly outside. When she finally did get her walk, it was on her terms. Lilly is stubborn as the day is long. It was very apparent that she decided when it was time to walk, or stop to smell the trail, or time to take a roll in the grass. Good luck to any volunteer trying to get her outside when she knows someone else has treats. She absolutely hates rain or snow or cold weather. A few more hurdles to adoption, especially in Iowa. The last hurdle seemed to be the discovery of skin cancer and growths on her liver the spring of this year. Now, instead of looking for an understanding family who were tolerant of all her idiosyncrasies, Safe Haven listed her adoption as “needs hospice care”. But she has a loyal following of admirers who were willing to play by her rules and a medical team who left no stone unturned to get her healthy. Lilly repays them with the one thing that could help her over all those hurdles. Love. Lilly loves deeply. She’s a bonafide cuddler and would hang out all day on a couch with her humans if they would give her the chance.

After 1,373 days, Lilly found the perfect family who were ready to jump every hurdle to spend every last minute with her. They have a couch and snacks and lots of love. Lilly thinks they were worth the wait.



Is There Anything She Doesn't Do?

We would like to celebrate a very familiar face at Safe Haven. Mary McCord has been a volunteer since October of 2009 and has done just about everything under the sun at Safe Haven, from transporting to area vet appointments (before Dr. Roland and the surgery suite arrived) to helping with direct care of cats and dogs. Mary has done it all!

Today you will usually find Mary at the desk in the lobby, busily answering the overwhelming number of phone calls and emails that flood Safe Haven on a daily basis. If you've called or emailed Safe Haven about adopting a pet, getting help with feral cats, relinquishing an animal you can no longer care for - you've communicated with Mary. She is efficient and knowledgeable, not only about administrative aspects but is also eager to learn about health and wellness in dogs and cats so that she can offer more help to distraught callers. Mary has attended kitten foster workshops so she will be prepared when kitten season arrives each spring.

Mary is currently Safe Haven's Dog Adoption Coordinator and calls all references listed on applications, arranges meet and greets, and helps with finalizing adoptions when families come to pick up their new dog. Mary herself has fostered and adopted from Safe Haven and she is happiest with a puppy in her arms. Her soft spot for dogs includes taking a Safe Haven pup named Mikko for regular visits to his previous owner at a care facility.

In the past, Mary has served on the board at Safe Haven and continues to be a valuable resource to the current board. She has attended Lobby Day for animal welfare at the capital in Des Moines many times. She is an active participant at fundraisers and events. Also, thanks to her determination, a feral dog named Waylon was trapped to be tamed and neutered. Her perseverance held out for 6 months before successfully trapping this savvy dog.

Mary heads up the TNR (Trap Neuter (spay) Release) program at Safe Haven. Not only does she transport feral or community cats to Iowa Humane Alliance to be spayed or neutered, but she also facilitates this program by redeeming the huge number of cans and bottles donated to Safe Haven.

If all this weren't enough, Mary still finds time to do load after load of towels, blankets, and bedding every week and helps keep the building clean and rodent free. She also finds time to volunteer at Compass Memorial Hospital and delivers donated medical supplies to the surgical team at Safe Haven.

With all that she does for Safe Haven, Mary would easily be "Employee of the Month" again and again, if only she would accept a salary for all she does. But in complete Mary style, she does everything out of the goodness of her heart and we couldn't love her more.



August Adoptions



ABBY, CHLOE,
MADDIE



LILLY



PRUDENCE



POLKA DOT
& PIXIE



PEPPERCORN



PEPPER



MAXWELL



PEBBLES



GINO



FIONA



CHILI



BRANDON &
NIKKI

August Adoptions



MR. PIFFLES
& VELCRO



LOVELY RITA



JAX



OAKLEY

Alumni



LEROY BLUE

Leroy Blue, adopted in 2019, developed a great bond with his human, Pat-daily walks and car rides. They went everywhere together. Unfortunately, Pat passed away suddenly in April 2021. Leroy missed him, but now he's best buddies with his other human, Luann!



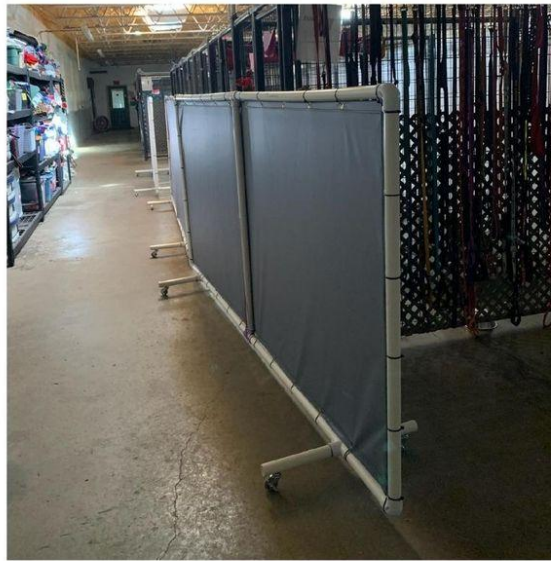
Chase and Murray are doing better than expected. they do not like paper towels and toilet paper to be kept on the rolls. It's much more fun to unroll them!



Look how big we are! This is Percy, orange, and Amelia Earhart, tortie, who were adopted in December. They are full grown now and enjoying the good life.

Thank You!

Recently, we acquired 3 rolling divider screens which will be used in front of the kennels to prevent reactive behaviors in resident dogs. Currently, the main dog area is set up into 4 zones. The outdoor play areas are at one end of this large room and the hallway to the lobby and exit which volunteers utilize for walking dogs, is at the other end of the room. In order to access either direction, dogs must be walked past the kennels of other dogs, some of which have a strong instinct to guard their space or are reactive to other dogs. The dividers, purchased in part with a \$1,000.00 grant from the Aureon Community Charity Grant, will help create a calmer experience for walking dogs.



Shive Hattery Architecture and Engineering made a wonderful donation to Safe Haven in August!



Amana Whirlpool donated all these helpful items in July!

Looking for a way to help Safe Haven?

We welcome donations, large and small, every week.

Drop them off during open hours (9am–noon on Saturdays)

or email us at adoptions@wesavepets.com

New Kids on the Block



OLIVER



KILLIAN



JUNE



AMBER



TINKER



MJ



MEMPHIS BELLE



MUSTANG SALLY &
HOT ROD LINCOLN



HARPER



RAZZLE, DAZZLE,
SPARKLE



Safe Haven's Mission: The mission of Safe Haven is to rescue, protect, rehabilitate and find good homes for dogs and cats in Iowa County. Secondly, to significantly reduce the overpopulation of stray dogs and cats and improve the lives of humans and the lives of pets through public education and sponsoring low/no cost spay and neuter programs.

10th Anniversary Bonfire

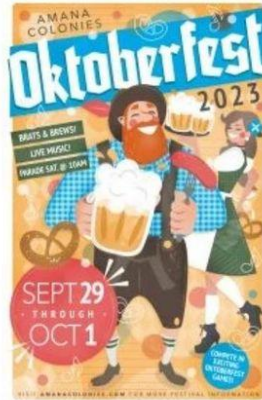


Upcoming Events

Safe Haven's
Fall Harvest Sale
September 14, 15 & 16
Hours: Thursday & Friday 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday 10 am - 3 pm
Located in our Parking Lot at: 2783 Hwy 6, South Amana



Safe Haven
Fall Plant Sale
September
14th, 15th and 16th



Safe Haven
Bake Sale
in Amana
September
29th & 30th



Quilt Raffle



Thanks to volunteer, Peg Lown, we have another amazing quilt to raffle which is on display at Amana Visitor Center. Tickets available at Heritage Designs Inc. Quilting & Needlework or from any Safe Haven volunteer.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. Drawing will be Sept 16 at our fall plant sale. Need not be present to win.



Our hearts were broken August 20th when our little Ada Jane suddenly passed away in the arms of a volunteer. After many health scares, Ada Jane seemed to be thriving on lots of tasty treats and love provided by so many volunteers who wanted to make sure this senior pup was living her best life. Thank you to everyone who went above and beyond for Ada Jane.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a feel-good volunteer opportunity?? You love animals, you say? We may have the gig for you! We are looking for direct-care cat & dog volunteers. Whether you would prefer to fold laundry, clean the dog kennels and cat havens, wash dishes, feed and give fresh water to the animals, snuggle with our dogs and cats, or you're looking for a few extra steps in your day and would enjoy taking dogs for a walk on our beautiful trails - we have it all!! We have a few evening as well as morning openings for both cats and dogs in our volunteer schedule — so don't wait!!

A volunteer application can be found on our website at www.wesavepets.com or you may contact Courtney, our volunteer coordinator at 718-570-4922.

Volunteer orientation schedule

- **Sunday, October 1st at 3PM**
- **Sunday, November 5th at 3PM**
- **Sunday, December 10th at 3PM**



Dog Walkers Needed

We can't guarantee you won't get muddy, hairy, wet, or worn out if you decide to volunteer for a dog shift. We do guarantee you will fire up your daily step count and leave with a smile and happy heart. We seriously need a couple of Friday night and Saturday night volunteers. Is anyone able to commit to one or two shifts each month? We would be thrilled to talk to you about once or twice a month opportunities.



Taking Care of Business

Financial News:

July Expenses

Pet Food Supplies	1,456.95
Payroll & Taxes	4,866.41
IHA Spay/Neuter Program	568.00
Surgery Suite Supplies	1,058.79
Water	99.48
Electric	511.40
Internet/Phone	103.49
Garbage	27.50
Accounting Services	319.15
Maintenance	137.88
Specialized Vet Services	1,626.72
Fundraising Expenses	456.00
Maintenance	4,055.67
TOTAL Expenses	\$15,286.36

Surgical Suite Update:

August

Cat surgical suite:

- 2 spays and 2 neuters
- 17 distemper vaccines
- 5 microchips
- 16 doses of wormers
- 16 doses ear mite med
- 5 nail trims
- 9 doses of Revolution
- 9 FeLV-FIV tests
- 1 lab sample
- 1 injection of serum
- 1 injection of Pen G
- 6 ear cleanings

Dog surgical suite

- 2 Bordetella vaccine
- 2 microchips
- 1 stool sample



Safe Haven Board Members



Morgan
Lagos



Amy
Reihman



Andrea
Prymek



Kimberly
Buresh



Nancy
Kohrt



Susan
Shaull-
Scheer



Colleen
Bowers

Board Meetings

Safe Haven's Board of Directors meets on the **first Tuesday of every month via Zoom at 6:30PM**. If you ever have concerns or questions that you would like to discuss with the board, please feel free to attend the first half hour of the board meeting. If you are unable to attend at that time, you can always email the shelter at adoptions@wesavepets.com, with your concerns.



Like us on
Facebook &
Instagram

or

Share with
a friend!



Building Location:
2783 Highway 6 Trail
South Amana, IA 52334
Phone : 319 622 7387

Mailing Address:
P O Box 444
Williamsburg, IA 52361