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2nd Annual Support a Vet, Save a Pet 5K

by Amanda Wiebold

This year's 2nd Annual Support A Vet, Save A Pet 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run was a HUGE success. The support from local businesses that sponsored the event, participants that walked or ran the route, and all the volunteers that put this event together played a vital role in making the day a tremendous success and creating a meaningful impact within our community.

We were proud to:

- **Welcome 214 registered participants from 38 different communities**
- **Be featured on Z102.9 and KMRY (93.1 FM)**
- **Honor 96 local veterans and showcase 17 adoptable cats and dogs along the race route**
- **Achieve a total of \$15,570!**

The funds raised have been set aside to support several important local needs, including two local food banks, Iowa County Veterans Transportation Fund, Quick Reaction Force Up (QRF Up), Give Til It Hurts and Safe Haven of Iowa County.

QRF Up is a veteran crisis support system built around a simple mobile app. With one tap of a large red button, users are connected to a licensed therapist, and if needed, a trained responder—often a fellow veteran—is dispatched to their location to provide immediate support.

Give Til It Hurts was founded in 2015, with one simple goal - to ensure that every child in our community could experience the magic of Christmas, no matter their family's financial situation.

Safe Haven will begin the design and progress in building a 40 x 80 ft outdoor arena to allow our local shelter animals a space to decompress outside away from the shelter. The area will also serve as a meeting area for future families and canine siblings.

We had a special visitor this year; Colt and his veteran Angela. You may remember Colt from last year. Colt was a puppy from Safe Haven and the VFW Auxiliary partnered with Dog Training Elite out of Des Moines, IA to have Colt trained to become a service dog for a local veteran. Colt was partnered with his veteran, Angela at the beginning of 2025. Angela reports that words cannot express the impact that Colt has made on her mental health. She will be forever grateful for Safe Haven and the VFW Auxiliary of Williamsburg for bringing Colt into her life.

If you helped or participated in the event; THANK YOU!! If you didn't, please consider joining us next year! If you have a veteran in your family, we would be honored to feature them along the route. For more information please contact Amanda Wiebold at awiebold@wesavepets.com.

Lottie's New Adventure

Our special needs cat, Lottie, who is an experienced traveler, recently began a new adventure in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Lottie has been with Safe Haven since October of 2024, after she was found in a cat carrier in a ditch with her mother and sister. It was noticed within the first day or two that Lottie's back legs were not tucking up under her belly, which is a reflex that young kittens have. Examinations and x-rays showed a healed injury to her spine which limited the function of her back legs. Although this diagnosis did not slow Lottie down one little bit, it did bring some concerns for her future.

The highest concern was for her ability to empty her bladder. She did have an interest in the litter box and her caregivers noticed she would give them physical cues when she needed to go to the bathroom, but as veterinarians who had examined her had feared, she was not emptying her bladder completely. This put her at a high risk of repeated urinary tract infections.

After her mother was adopted, Lottie needed another "mother" to help clean and care for her. Dr. Barb Roland took Lottie in and they both settled into a routine of expressing Lottie's bladder multiple times a day. With the success of this care routine, Safe Haven began looking for a furever home for Lottie. Dr. Roland trained volunteers to express Lottie's bladder so they could watch her while Dr. Roland traveled abroad for spay/neuter clinics. She was confident she could ensure a perfect home for Lottie, if an adopter felt they could take on her needed care.

Although a private home was not found for Lottie, Safe Haven did find a wonderful opportunity for Lottie. It just happened to be about 1000 miles from Safe Haven! So, our intrepid little explorer set off once again.

Lottie, Dr. Roland, and Safe Haven board president, Kimberly Buresh, set off for Sheridan, Wyoming where Lottie would move into the Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue, which specializes in caring for cats with physical challenges. All of Lottie's fan club quickly donated enough money to cover fuel and hotel expenses, a total of \$2000.00, and Dr. Barb and Kimberly had enough left over to make a donation to Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue.

Dr. Barb and Kimberly settled Lottie into an isolation room where she could settle down after her long trip before exploring the huge building that would become her new stomping grounds. Dr. Barb touched base with the amazing medical staff and explained how she had been expressing Lottie's bladder. It turns out that every cat that needed their bladder expressed, preferred a different technique, and the staff were adept at each preference.

Not surprisingly, there was a tearful goodbye when it was time to leave. Dr. Barb had lovingly dedicated the past year to Lottie's care and spent so many hours snuggled up with her on the couch. Even when she knew this was the best possible placement for Lottie, the goodbye was so hard. The staff promised to send updates of Lottie's new adventures and Dr. Barb promised to come visit Lottie.

A week after dropping her off, Dr. Barb received a photo of Lottie and was informed that Lottie was a little stubborn the first day (not surprisingly since Lottie has always let her caregivers know exactly what she did and did not want). But the next day the staff veterinarian was able to express Lottie's bladder with no problem.

We have so many thank you's to share for this adventure - first of all to the amazing people that made donations towards this trip, to Lottie's long term foster, Dr. Barb, over the past year, our board member, Courtney Ralph, who spent countless hours reaching out to numerous shelters and rescue groups asking them to take Lottie in (it was her relentless dedication that made this all possible), and lastly to Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue for welcoming Lottie into their awesome organization!



November Adoptions



KIEFLER



WAMPUS CAT



GRIZZLEY



SONNET



COCO



LWENDER & LILAC



MCINTOSH



HONEYCRISP



LADYBIRD



ARIA &
HARMONY



LEBOWSKI



WITTEN

November Adoptions



GAIA & GRANNY SMITH



DISANI



ROSCOE



GHOST



STEVIE



RYDER



VOLET



NELLIE



AMBROSIA



TATER TOT

November Adoptions



DONOVAN, BAKER, & AVERY



LOLA



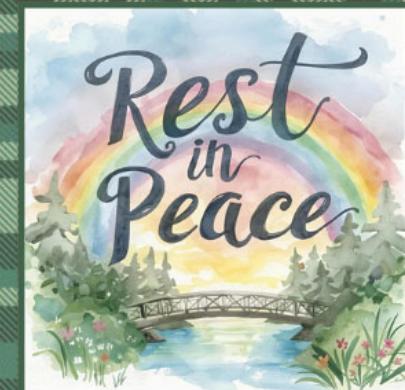
RIFI & BRAVO



CORALINE



PICKLES &
PATCHES



Marshmallow, a kitten with FIV, who was adopted by his foster, Jane, passed over the Rainbow Bridge. His sweet soul will be dearly missed by all that knew him.

New Kids



GRANNY
SMITH



GALA



MCINTOSH



AMBROSIA



CAMEO



HONEYCRISP



COCO



TOOTSIE POP



UBOWSKI



ENTER TOT



DEL MONTE



DOLE

New Kids



VIAL



SPIKE



HIPPOGRIFF



NIEFLER



SNALLYCASTER



WAMPUS CAT



NOCHE



PEPE



SHASTA



ZELIE



CINNAMON



SCARLET

New Kids



HOST



DAELA



DREW



CORALINE



SIMON



SALLY



NELLIE



DET



JED

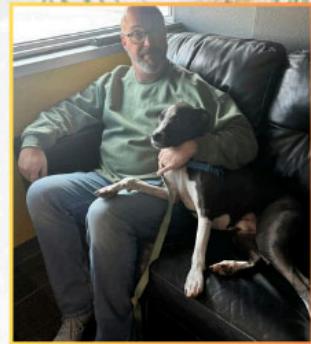
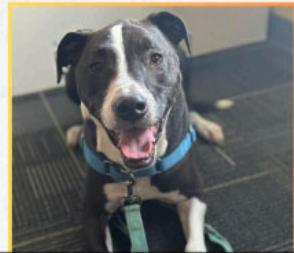


GUS



HEA

Out & About



98.1 KHAK

Look at this GOOD boy!!

Blu rode along to Furry Friday this week and was the best boy! He warmed up to Brain & Courtlin ... and especially loved their couch and the good ol' ear scratches. He'd love a home that he's taken on outings! If anyone is looking for a great passenger, adventurer, or just a good napping buddy - then Blu is the guy for you!



FREE!

Help keep community and barn cats warm this winter. We have instructions for making these styrofoam coolers into snug little homes.

Alumni



Witten and his very own boy.



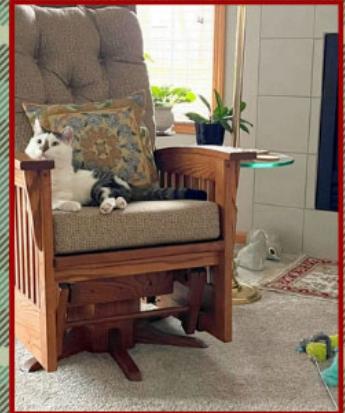
Bruno (formally Bravo) and Riff are doing great! They've fit right into our crazy crew.



Dasani found the perfect home. She gets to go to work at a care center with her new mom. Everyone loves her!



Della, now Daisy, is quite the cuddler but also loves to hide around corners to "scare" us.



Just one of Ghost's new napping spots.



Lebowski is settling in very nicely and is ready to go about wearing his new harness.



Roscoe is LOVING his sister Maggie and has quickly become her sidekick!



Kiki & Meli - Post-Thanksgiving crash, lol!

Thank You!!



Thank you to the Iowa City Moose Riders and the Lone Tree Girl Scout Troop 1581 for their supplies and generous \$1000.00 donation!



Kimberly Buresh



Susan Shaull-Scheer

Thank you to everyone who voted in this year's election. Kimberly Buresh and Susan Shaull-Scheer were re-elected for another term. We are so thankful for all that they do for Safe Haven!!

Thank you to the congregation at First United Methodist Church in North Liberty for generously donating so many needed supplies!

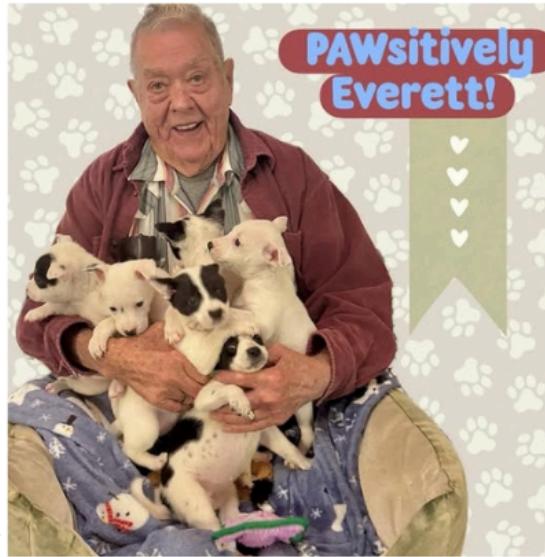


"Hey, did you hear about the pie that had to go to the dentistit needed a filling!"

Everett knew when he met his wife that she was "Mrs. Right"he just didn't realize her first name was "Always"!



"I heard the dentist in town is getting a divorce....because they fight TOOTH and nail all the time!"



"I stayed up all night last night because I wanted to see where the sun wentand then it DAWNED ON ME!"

"Hey, did you know a bicycle can't stand alone.....because it is just TWO TIRED!"



Get into the holiday spirit by shopping local! Fireside Winery is thrilled to host our First Annual Sip & Shop Holiday Market, featuring 15 amazing local vendors. Fireside Winery will donate all vendor booth fees to Safe Haven of Iowa County.

Vendor Lineup:

Pink Luna Co.	South Street Cookies
LaRae Jewelry	Charco Soaps
Just The Girls	Silver Fox Pastures
Beau Laundry Co.	Fresh Pastry by Sandrine
Designs on Willow	Lakeside Gifts
Nat's Knots	Blair's Timber and Clay Creations
Wild Rayne Mercantile	Stoney's Wood Creations
Humble Heifer Creamery	



Safe Haven volunteers
will have dogs and cats
available for meet and
greet again this year.



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