

November 15, 2012

Dear Friends,

Winners never quit, and neither do you. By adopting, volunteering or donating to FCCHS, you have made a HUGE difference. With the Holiday season upon us, we are reminded how thankful we are for each and every one of you. We think of you as our partners. It takes a caring Community to support its lost, abandoned and unwanted pets, who are homeless largely through no fault of their own.



“Happy Stories,” are the true rewards of a labor of love and respect for these creatures. To see a once forlorn dog or cat thrive again and become a happy, loving companion is the best possible reward. **But too, people are also often transformed by their love for a needy pet.** To witness the bond form between loving adopters and their adoptees, and to see how peoples’ lives are enriched by these pets is nothing short of exceptional. Here are just a few of those stories.

When a pet gets a second chance—it’s your reward too for being our partner in efforts to care for the needy animals in our area. YOU made our Happy Story successes happen. Thank you for your help in making these adoptions, and many others, possible. We couldn’t do our work without you!

God bless you and your family this Holiday season!
Gratefully, the Board of Directors and Staff at Franklin County Humane Society

The Never-ending Challenge of Funding Our Work...



Did you know... Non-profits like FCCHS rely on donations received during the Holiday season for about 45% of their annual budgets... As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we rely on you! **No funds come from United Way, other humane societies or state, county, or tax support.** We stay open only because of your private donations, and homeless pets need help all year long. Please donate again this Holiday season! We would be so grateful!

Our Symbolic Gift cards offer targeted, meaningful donations for pets in our care. Please call (636) 583-4300 and ask for Jean or visit us to purchase cards.

We will **ring bells at local Walmart stores** on Saturdays and Sundays this season—please come see us!

Donate Securely Online— visit www.franklincountyhumanesociety.org and follow the link at the “Donate Paw”.

Hawgs for Dogs 6th Annual Poker Run Raised over \$10,000 for shelter pets in May.

What wonderful, true-blue friends we have! Thank you to Dan Sharpe, Kevin Busch, Matt Sharpe, Dottie Pataky, the whole crew, and the New Haven Legion — we are so blessed to have generous, well-organized, dedicated friends like you!

We held a **benefit rummage sale** in May and thanks to our donors and volunteers the sale raised \$2,400 to benefit the shelter pets. Not only were items sold, some were used in the shelter, and others were put on consignment at Shop Around the Corner in Washington, where we have an account for people to donate their items to. Please keep us in mind for next Spring’s sale!

For more ways to help homeless pets this Season, please visit our website www.franklincountyhumanesociety.org, or Facebook at Franklin County Humane Society –MO.

Born to be . . .



She has *those* kind of eyes...the ones that look deep into yours and say, “Are you here for me? When are we going to work? When can I show you what I was born to do?” Molly has exceptionally long legs and a deep, broad chest despite being desperately thin. A tired Molly wandered onto property in rural Franklin County, and the property owners brought her to FCHS to see if she could be returned home. She waited day after day. Alas, no one came.

One of Molly’s eyes is glazed and swollen with infection. Worse, Molly’s heart is sick with heartworms. She is far too weak to play or hunt. She’d had puppies – a further strain on her weak body. Whoever failed to provide heartworm protection and kept her outside exposed to disease-carrying mosquitoes robbed Molly of her abilities.

Who would adopt a sick, forlorn dog? Shelter staff know treating heartworms is hard on a dog and high risk. Recovery is lengthy and demanding, requiring limiting activity to avoid dislodging a heartworm and causing a deadly stroke or heart attack. Treatment is not to be undertaken lightly and cannot be done in a hectic shelter.

Donald Eime had hunted pheasant with his German shorthaired pointer Buster, who had died just three weeks earlier. Don was not ready to get another dog, but he knew the look of a hunting dog and its needs. When he spotted Molly, he asked just to meet her.

Molly picks a savior! Molly came in the Get Acquainted Room and went right to work -- on Don. “She planted one paw on each of my knees, and pulled her nose close to my face. Even with her bad eye, Molly looked squarely into my eyes with that hopeful, searching gaze, and that was it.” Don would help Molly, pay for her treatment, nurse her back to health, and the two would become fast friends.

“We’re inseparable already,” he says. “She really wants me to throw that doggoned ball.” Don understands a hunting dog needs to work. Clearly, Molly wants back on the job. Soon she will be able to bring him the ball, learn to fetch slippers or the newspaper, learn obedience, or try dock diving. She can earn a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate to visit hospitals and nursing homes, as *rescued pets can have a tremendously positive effect on others in need.*



“Molly was extremely timid and withdrawn when I got her,” Don said. “She feared loud noises and sudden movements of my arms and hands. Now I am happy to say she is no longer withdrawn and so fearful. She loves cuddling and attention. We bonded immediately — she wants to be with me where she knows she will be safe and receive lots of love.”

Don has given Molly the opportunity to heal and do her favorite things again, and he gave *us* a chance to do what *we* were born to do. To us, this is our Christmas morning!

A Wisp of Life



When money is tight and the Holidays approach, crafters know that bits of discarded old clothing and snippets of thread can become new treasures like a warm quilt.

Our Jean Seidel uses discards too. A odd sock, some cheap rice, a shoe box, ragged old towels, and 24/7 attention are all Jean needs to care for a tiny wisp of abandoned life who will light the eyes of a future, loving family for years to come. At 1 ½ weeks old and barely 3 ½ ounces this baby kitten arrived alone, her infant eyes still shut and legs yet unable to walk. She would not have survived in the shelter without a mother, so Jean brings her home each day to her homemade “Kitty Intensive Care” for frequent feedings and mom-like treatment. Like many shelter employees, Jean’s work at the shelter is considerable and her life is hectic. Much of her best work, however, she does at home, after hours, unpaid, and in her own lap.



Jean has to teach the kitten what her absent mother cannot – starting with taking kitten formula dribbled from a syringe. Then she adds a bit of solid food finely blended into the formula. When Jean finds a nursing mother cat willing to accept the kitten, the poor kitten, having only briefly known a momma, doesn’t know what to do! *An abandoned kitten has an extremely steep learning curve in life.*

Jean fills an old sock with rice and microwaves it to place in the cage to keep the kitten warm. She cuddles and “gentles” the kitten with frequent handling and soft brushes to simulate the momma cat’s rough tongue grooming. If the kitten gets too rough without a mother’s scolding to teach her good behavior, Jean may give her tiny “kitty time outs,” gently tapping her nose or briefly lifting her by the scruff of her neck to interrupt play (as her mother would do) until she learns the rules of playing nice. (Note: Please do not do this with adult cats due to their additional body weight!)

Jean giggles when the kitten watches other kittens at the shelter use the litter box. The kitten imitates by going into the box and sitting down -- again and again. She hasn’t yet figured out what to do in the box. “But that will come with time,” Jean says.



Our foster parents like Jean have nurtured countless pets who got a chance at life only because they went out of their way to help them. FCHS is fortunate to have Jean and other compassionate staff members like her, and volunteer foster parents like Karen B., Julie, Kim or Terry, in Max’s story (next).

You make Jean’s job possible, and *she* crafts a new beginning for a fragile life with her discarded tools. Well done!



Walking Buddies



When Ken Kunstmann's father died suddenly after a diagnostic test for heart problems, Ken decided healthier eating and walking long stretches with his family dogs could protect his own heart.

Ken retired at 63 and kept on walking. He walked in the high Sierras, on Missouri trails and in the fragrant Bristlecone Pine forests in California. Back then he walked with a beautiful Doberman named Rosamunda, which means 'beautiful world.' Rosamunda walked the Katy Trail daily with Ken near their home in Hermann. Elegant Rosamunda was queen of Ken's and his wife Mary's home and hearts. Their lives seemed very rosy indeed.

However, in 2011 while Ken and Mary were traveling, Rosamunda's caretaker discovered she had cancer, and she quickly died. Sadly, Ken and Mary never were able to honor Rosamunda or to say goodbye. "It was a terrible time for everyone," Mary reported.

At FCHS, Ken discovered another walking buddy, a big, energetic Doberman/Rottweiler mix. Ken knew just what that abandoned dog needed to burn off some of that energy. Although he knew Rosamunda was irreplaceable in his heart, he knew he and that big, lonely mutt could help each other out. A walk would mean the world to Max. Ken brought Max home to meet Mary and settle in to his new home.

Max quickly learned to walk on a leash because he wanted to please this fellow who saved him from the kennel and gave him the outdoors. More than 1,100 miles later, Max even shares Ken and Mary's bed.



Following another trip, Ken learned that Max had fallen in love with a spirited little dark-haired terrier named Penny at the caretaker's house. Terry, who fosters dogs for the FCHS, let Ken know that Max and Penny were inseparable while staying with him. Terry wondered if Ken and Mary might want to adopt Penny as well, and so it was done.

Max and Penny soon behaved just like an old married couple. They sleep together with only a few spats between them, but little Penny is the boss. Ken says she even chases the bull mastiff living with the sheriff next door.

Ken is still healthy, Max and Penny love their heavenly, scent-filled walks, and Mary is grateful "they all take care of each other so well." Their world is definitely *rosa* again.

A Letter From Figaro



Dear FCHS Friends,

Thank you for taking me in when I was homeless and caring for me until I could find a “forever” home. The lady who adopted me is a single, disabled veteran who doesn’t have any children. She doesn’t walk very well, and she used to spend many lonely hours at home. She works from home as a web designer. She may be disabled, but she has plenty of time to play... and lots of love to give, too!

Romeo is 8 months, and I am 5 months old. I now have a new home filled with love and a new brother. Within two hours of arriving, Romeo and I were grooming each other and playing with lots of toys and TWO big, multi-level cat trees that overlook two panoramic windows... We like to “help” Mommy when she’s working on her laptop. At night, we all curl up on the couch and watch Animal Planet on TV. After a full day, Romeo and I like to sleep in Mommy’s big, cozy bed. We fall contentedly asleep and have sweet dreams ...together.



My first 5 months were pretty rough. But, my new Mom is a disabled veteran, and... well... I think she’s experienced some pretty rough things, too. I think God knew that there was a woman who would become disabled serving our country, and that her life would be forever changed by her experiences. I think God knew that she might get lonely at times and would need some healing and joy that only a pet can provide.

Sometimes, humans don’t really know what to say to other humans who have experienced pain and loss... and there really isn’t anything another human CAN say that would “fix” things. But we animals don’t NEED to say a word... we just romp and play and give nuzzles. And, for some reason... well... **it just brings healing to the human heart.** I think God knew that there would be three lives that would need healing in our souls. And, by little twists and turns, God saw fit to bring us all together.

Romeo, my new Mom, and I all bring lots of healing, happiness, joy, and love into each other’s lives. It wouldn’t have happened if FCHS hadn’t invested their time and resources saving and protecting my life so I could make a difference in someone else’s.



We hope these stories have warmed your heart and shown you how *your support makes a tremendous difference* for the dogs and cats in our care. A second chance—that’s what it’s all about. Witness the difference these pets make in the lives of their people! The wonderful bond between us and our pets is one of the richest rewards in life.

Thank you for helping make our work possible!



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Franklin County Humane Society
P.O. Box 400
1222 W. Main St.
Union, MO 63084
(636) 583-4300

Visit our website at www.franklincountyhumanesociety.org to see Adoptable Pets. Join us on Facebook at Franklin County Humane Society –MO to help promote them!

On the Shelter's Santa Wish List

#1: a loving home for EVERY homeless pet!

- Puppy and Kitten chow (please only Purina, Iams or other high-quality brands)
- Dog and Cat chow (same)
- Cat and dog toys
- Rawhide chews
- Copy paper, office supplies
- Postage stamps
- Paper towels, toilet paper
- Dishwashing liquid
- Dial softsoap refills
- Clorox Clean Up
- 33 gal drawstring trash bags

We also need the following “used” items to use or distribute to the needy:

- Leashes, collars, stuffed toy animals (new or used)
- Comforters and blankets
- Bath mats and small throw rugs
- Wash cloths and towels
- Newspapers (unfolded and rolled, if possible!)
- Plastic, two-piece dog houses
- Aluminum cans to recycle
- Air-tight storage trailer

Please come in and visit - even if you don't adopt, tell a friend about our wonderful animals available for adoption! We are located on Main Street across from Union High School!

Inquires may be directed to:
Franklin County Humane Society,
Donna King or Karen Tudor
P.O. Box 400
1222 W. Main St.
Union, MO 63084
(636) 583-4300
Fax (636) 583-8850
Email fchs@fchsmo.org

We receive no tax dollars—Thank you for your kind support!

**PLEASE REMEMBER—EVERY LITTER HURTS.
PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS!
CONTACT US ABOUT LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER OPTIONS.**