AmongFRIENDS

The newsletter of The Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter

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Four of A Kind

One spring day in 2019, the staff at the New Haven Animal Shelter received a call from a local veterinarian regarding four dogs whose owner was reportedly overwhelmed and could no longer care for them. The man had assumed ownership when his uncle died, unaware of the daunting issues that would face. All four dogs, American Staffordshire Terriers, had severe skin allergies and an ailment called dry eye, a condition resulting from inadequate production of tears. The dogs were brought to the shelter and received initial medical exams to determine the course their treatments. Despite their poor health, the dogs were friendly, had good body weights, and quickly became favorites of the staff and volunteers. They particularly enjoyed our outdoor dog runs; they lumbered around, rolling on the ground, happy to interact with everyone, other dogs and humans alike. Nonetheless, each dog faced ongoing medical problems, which promised to be a burden to potential adopters.

Thankfully, four special families understood and embraced the challenges. Here are their stories.

Miscoto

“She’s a complete sweetheart and a big mush,” says husband and wife Wray and Laura Williams, who fell in love with 8-year-old Miscoto’s calm, somewhat goofy demeanor. “She sat in her kennel with a look that said, ‘Well, how are you today?’” Not long after their initial meeting, Miscoto made her way into their hearts and into their home in last November. Now, a typical day for Miscoto goes like this: morning break—Laura manages them with aplomb. Her infected ears and her skin allergies are vastly improved thanks to medications. Wray notes that she has become “very spoiled.” Case in point: Her issue with stairs. She’ll go up but she won’t come down, even for meals in the kitchen. So, naturally, Wray and Laura bring her meals to her, or, sometimes, Wray will carry her down. Of course, they’ve also added some helpful carpeting on the stairway. In short, Miscoto never has to worry about missing a meal.

Jocelyn

Adopter Lisa Drew says that she felt an immediate connection with 8-year-old Jocelyn. She considered at least five other dogs but chose Jocelyn for several reasons: his independent yet snuggly demeanor, a calm and good-natured attitude, and the special chemistry that sometimes just happens between a dog and his potential adopter.

The latter sealed the deal and he went home last October. “He is my shadow,” says Lisa, “my absolute love.”

Juna loves to please everyone. He’s learned to sit and stay and become a great companion to Lisa and her family and friends. It was not that long ago that his life was temuous, but everything has changed. From his first ride home from the shelter to his comfortable bed, he’s made all harmonious in the Drew household.

Jocelyn’s health has improved nearly 80 percent within a couple of months. These days, she subsists on a grain-free diet supplemented with coconut oil and medicated baths that have transformed her formally rough underbelly into smooth, supple skin. A new ophthalmologist has prescribed two effective medications for her dry-eye.

Every morning, Jocelyn goes outside and then runs back in at full speed for breakfast. She is very vocal and impatient if she has to wait, sort of like she’s singing for her food. She has become used to a crate and loves hopping in and out of it until finally, she’s snuggling under a pile of blankets. Her owners say that she loves to “bebop around” and patrol the yard, eating bugs and watching for potential intruders. She barks at the neighbors every chance she gets, but listens and responds to voice commands. Six-year-old Jocelyn, who was adopted last July, has settled in nicely.

Moose

Described by his adopters, Bianca and Derek Novac, as “the happiest dog in the world,” six-year-old Moose endured the greatest medical challenges of the four dogs.
Two-By-Two

Before they came to the New Haven Animal Shelter, 3-year-old Siamese mixes Si and Am (named after the notorious feline pair in Disney’s Lady and the Tramp) knew well the sting of loneliness. Their owners had left them behind in an empty apartment, where it’s surmised that the brothers may have spent much of their time hiding from potential intruders.

Adopters Nicole Lussier and Darlene Bolstridge of Hamden were lonely, too. When they visited the shelter last August, it had been just over a month since they’d said final goodbyes to their beloved cat of 15 years, Patches, who’d passed from cancer. “We’d come home from work and our home was just empty,” says Lussier.

Upon their arrival in the cat room, Am gave them his heartiest greeting. “He was sitting in the middle of the floor and just started playing with us,” Lussier recalls. “In that instant, he reminded us of Patches; he had that same spunky personality.” She and Bolstridge were sold—and then they learned about Am’s sibling. “When we saw Si, we decided we couldn’t leave him behind!”

Now renamed Charlie (the former Si) and Oliver (Am), the two own their forever home in different ways. Oliver is still the “spunky one,” says Lussier, who chases the vacuum cleaner and can be found underfoot at all times. Charlie prefers to chill out, laying on an ottoman to watch TV. His fave: A & E’s reality show Live PD. “Whenever he hears the opening sirens, his head pops up, and he knows it’s time.”

He also suffers a bit of separation anxiety. “Anytime we leave the house, Charlie gets a look on his face like, ‘Where are you going? What are you doing?’” Lussier says. “We explain to him when we’re going to work”—both she and Bolstridge are claims supervisors for Walmart —“and when we come home he’ll spend hours following us around.” He also insists that the apartment’s closet doors always be kept open, which Lussier believes lends credence to the theory that he and Oliver spent their abandonment tucked in out-of-the-way safe spaces.

Despite their differences, the siblings share much in common. Their day begins with a breakfast of Pure Balance, after which they might spend the morning watching the activity out their home’s back window (birds, the squirrels that visit their moms’ flower box, the other tenants coming and going from the apartment complex’s laundry room). They’re both big toy fans: Charlie has cat-sized play pillows that he fetches and carries as he relocates upstairs and down; Oliver a worm-on-a-stick toy that he can be heard dragging morning, noon and the middle of the night. “You can hear it thumping against the stairs,” Lussier says. “And he doesn’t like to share—he’ll wrestle you for it.”

Dinner, usually a can of Fancy Feast Savors (they love gravy) is supervised by Oliver, who signals his hunger by hanging out in the kitchen sink. He even loves to watch his moms prepare human meals, and while he never snatches any of the tasty chicken or tuna fish (unless offered), he has been known to scarf a little broccoli.

Occasionally, the boys get out of hand, knocking every knickknack off Lussier and Bolstridge’s dresser. “I can’t get mad at them,” Lussier says. “I’m like, ‘Okay, get down, I’ll get you a snack.’” And every time I’m at the store, I’m looking at every cat treat in the aisle, thinking, ‘Let’s try these!’ It’s amazing how we both live for them.”
Shelter Updates

Happy spring to all of our supporters! During these challenging times, we hope that you are all safe and staying healthy. At press time, the animal shelter is temporarily closed to the public due to the State of Emergency Declaration for the City of New Haven, but the shelter staff has continued to go to the shelter every day to take care of the animals and to deal with animal control issues. We thank them for their dedication, and we hope that the animal shelter will be able to open as soon circumstances allow.

Our volunteer organization has been busy since the last newsletter was published. Until they were suspended, we held monthly outside adoption events with North Shore Animal League America at locations around the New Haven area. We also held our second annual Open House Holiday Party at the shelter in December. You can bring your pets to have their photos taken with Santa at this event, which is always a highlight of our year as we receive visits from many of our shelter graduates! Our first online apparel fundraiser was a huge success – we were touched by the number of people who supported our organization by buying a sweatshirt or shirt (or both!). Thanks to your support, our volunteer funds were used to help provide care for some of the dogs and cats who entered our shelter in need of medical attention, including Johnny, a dog who was found in bad shape locked in a port-a-potty. We are pleased to announce that he is now in his forever home. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in giving us much needed funds that helps us care for the shelter animals.

In October, I was lucky enough to take shelter dog Ivy down to New York City to participate in Dog Bowl III, which is an event that showcases older adoptable dogs around the country. Dog Bowl III aired nationwide on Animal Planet in early February. Ivy had a wonderful time throughout this great adventure, and we are thrilled to report that she has recently been adopted.

Please look on our social media sites to find out about our adoptable animals and other information about our organization. We hope to welcome you back at the shelter and at our events once we resume normal operations. Please stay well, and thank you again for your support.

We’re home! FNHAS Graduates
In Honor of

Angela Arpino  In honor of Zuzu, “who always brings us so much joy!”
Catherine Benedetti  In honor of Teddy, Casey, and “all the dogs.”
Mike Beyman  In honor of Ginny Workman and Shobhit Singla’s marriage.
Roger and Rachel Blais  In honor of Ricky, “now 3 years old and a good boy.”
Howard and Edie Brown  In honor of Winstead, “the best loved dog on Capitol Hill in DC.”
Hope Chavez  In honor of Emily Goeler, “the fiercest animal lover I know!”
Alyson and Gary Cohen  In honor of “our friend Tim Yolen’s 70th birthday.”
Mark and Carla Consorte  In honor of Savannah.
Elaine Cooper  “Happy Birthday to my friend Elaine and in honor of P.J.”
Cheryl Earle  “Happy Birthday Liam! We are so proud of you! XO.”
Joan Hubbard  “For all the animals who have found safety with you and in honor of the Lamar-Sterling Family.”
James Johnson and Laura Margolin  In honor of “all the kind souls who help find homes for unwanted dogs and cats.”
Aude Jomini  In honor of Chloe and Gavin Taylor, “who found our missing cat in Guilford on 10/18/19.”
George Livingstone  In honor of Dolly, “adopted from the New Haven Animal Shelter. We are very happy.”
Barbara Milligan  In honor of “Princess (now Mimi), adopted from the New Haven Animal Shelter.”
Carolyn and Eric Millman  In honor of Anastas, Rosemond, Clovia, Copper, and Ming.
Marge Ottenbreit  In honor of Anna Schildroth, “to honor her 20 years of service as a board member and treasurer of the Elm City Parks Conservancy.”
Carol Perrotti  In honor of Archie, “adopted in March 2019. Great little guy!”
Douglas Roberts  In honor of “Ashlyn Henri’s birthday!”
Marge Schomaker  In recognition of Marisa Henri’s birthday.
Nicole Tyson  In honor of Bon Bon and Dani (now Marley), adopted from the New Haven Animal Shelter.

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WE THANK YOU - IN MEMORIAM

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Bob and Diane Carpenter

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Courtney Anastasia
Kristin Emoth
Veronica Fabrizzio
Tatiana Riney

In memory of Michael Mulhall
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Pat Jr., Tara, Bridget, and Claire Hosey
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Please check our website for information about adoption opportunities and shelter hours.
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