



# Paws to Read

November 2020

## Teamwork Saves a Life

by Sherri Galle-Teske

This is a story about every dog owner's nightmare—your bouncing, happy, lovable dog gets hit by a car. This is the story of Esmerelda and teamwork.



It was a normal summer morning; you know the kind. You are in a routine—you get out of bed, have a cup of coffee and take the dog out. You're in the yard throwing the "fetch stick" and you throw a little bit too hard. The stick goes out towards the road—and so does your dog. You didn't put the leash on her because she usually comes back right away. But this time she didn't; she kept running.....and you can't find her. She's gone.

It happened exactly like that to Esmerelda an "almost" two year old mixed breed dog. Enjoying a beautiful summer day and then tragedy struck.

We first saw Esmerelda in a lot of pain and lying in the road. A good Samaritan called law enforcement and then us. Our Humane Officers arrived on the scene and we quickly drove her to the nearest emergency animal facility where we were told the back leg was so badly damaged it would have to be removed and the front leg on the same side was also damaged. Even with x-rays there was no quick way to determine if Esmerelda would ever be able to walk again; or survive the hit. The sad look in Esmerelda's eyes told us we needed a decision made soon.

Our Humane Officer took her back to the shelter where our own Vet was on hiatus. (The owner was found and surrendered the dog immediately due to the circumstances)

When our Vet returned she examined the dog and knew time was of the essence. "The leg needs to come off now". What about the shoulder? The x-ray showed a lot of damage but our Vet determined the shoulder may have a chance to heal. She called another Vet to discuss the situation and the time was right. Let's try!

So the surgery began—with HSPC's Dr. Peacock and experienced Vet-tech Andrea Vergauwen by her side. Staff glanced at our area security cameras, saw the surgery begin; and suddenly all eyes were glued to the monitor as we watched the Vet team in action. As time ticked away the team worked together to remove the leg. Hardly any discussion was made during the process, just methodical movements with medical tools and some occasional nods of the heads. It took quite a while to complete the procedure.

To some of you reading this article your brain may be conjuring up images of a horrific scene, but it really wasn't. The surgery was a solemn, professional image of two humans who have one goal in common. Both had made commitments to help animals and they focused on performing this surgery to save a life.

And that's the good news, a life was saved. It was saved because people cared and it took a team to do it; starting from the Humane Officers in the Animal Control Team, to our Medical Team, to our Shelter Care staff to our Volunteers; even our Office Manager who pays for the medicine—and so on. When people work together miracles can happen.

The photos show Esmerelda standing up only 24 hours after surgery. She was treated with solid gold care and comfort to keep her free of infection. It was a tough job getting her to lie still as the condition of her shoulder was still questionable. But Esmerelda showed us her shoulder was "on the mend"!

Fast forward a few weeks —Esmerelda is getting along just fine and is ready for her forever home. The right person found her.

We can't say where she is but picture this image in your mind. She is still running, healthy and happy — this time with her best friend and owner along the shores of Lake Superior.



## Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect and overpopulation of companion animals while seeking adoption of these animals into compatible homes, and teaching humans awareness and respect for all life thus helping to build a better community.

## Kitten Fosters needed

We receive many kittens (two months of age or younger) who need urgent rescue and care. We are looking for Kitten Fosters who can bottle feed kittens overnight while we secure a long-term foster home! We are also in need of foster homes for adult cats who have special requirements or just need a break from the stressful shelter setting. As an adult cat foster, you'll provide us with valuable information about your foster cat's personality that will help us find the perfect adopter! We are looking for those extra special people with a little extra love and room to spare who are willing to offer special needs foster care for these animals. HSPC will provide everything you need to care for your new foster and work with you to provide the best care. If you are interested in becoming a foster, please complete an application or call the adoption coordinator at 715-344-6012.

Online Adoption & Foster Applications Available at [www.HSPCWI.org](http://www.HSPCWI.org)

## A Foster Tale

Kelly Punzel says "Happy 1st birthday to my baby kitten Olive! Started out as the best foster group I had and turned into the most loyal crazy side kick I could ask for! You were only two or three weeks old when you came into our hearts, and I think you knew before I did that this was your forever home.

It was definitely fun watching you grow up and change into the beautiful cat you have become. How I wonder what your siblings look like.

Thank you to Humane Society of Portage County for letting me be a foster cat mom!"



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## Hours of operation

Due to the Covid Pandemic the Humane Society of Portage County shelter is open by appointment only. Call 715-344-6012 to make an appointment.

## Our Everyday Wish List

Canned cat food (Hill's Science Diet, Friskies & Iam's PATÉ ONLY)  
Canned dog food (Hill's Science Diet, Pedigree, Purina ONLY)  
Adult cat and kitten dry food (Iams, Royal Canin, Purina Pro)  
Cat & Dog toys  
Mr Clean liquid cleaner  
Liquid Laundry Soap  
Frontline Plus for Dogs (45-88 lbs)  
Revolution for Dogs (85-130 lbs)



## From The Heart

*Sherri Galle-Teske Executive Director*

Happy Fall Fellow Animal Lovers!

I have recently been asked how COVID-19 has changed the world of HSPC.

Here's the answer: As a business we've been affected by the pandemic just like everyone else. The changes come within human resources, safety measures and business practices.

Animals don't understand what a pandemic is—they eat, sleep, and play according to their environment, habits and needs. We still have kittens coming in, we're providing dog licenses, and there are always animals in need.

What has COVID-19 done to change business operations for HSPC?

Our animal shelter and many others have been closed to the public since mid-March or are open only for appointments to adopt. We chose to allow adoptions by appointment while continuing to take in surrenders and strays.

HSPC staff members are clad in personal protective equipment and practice social distancing as much as possible in small rooms. We practice new sanitation guidelines and implemented more deep cleaning measures. The end of a shift can bring exhaustion to our HSPC staff, but we love this work.

Like other nonprofits and businesses, the Humane Society is feeling a financial pinch. Our organization saw

a shortfall in service fees after our in-house Veterinarian moved to Canada this summer. When the safer-at-home order went into effect, we witnessed the cancellation of public outreach programs we participate in like summer school/camps and kids' birthday parties. A lot of food and enrichment donations come out of those programs. Plus we were forced to cancel all of our major fundraisers for June, July, October and November which normally help us raise operating funds.

In lieu of all of that — here's what is going on. What HAS happened — is a decline in strays and surrendered animals. Could it be more people are staying at home and spending more time with their animals? We hope so. Drive in any residential district and count all the dog walkers — it's an amazing sight. At this writing our adoptions are now down a bit from 2019; a direct reflection on the animal intake numbers. Is that all bad? I don't think so.

While the event income is down, we have received other donations from private community members, businesses providing their own fundraising for HSPC, and a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan. These have helped bridge our financial gap.

HSPC has designed two online "fun-raisers" to help bridge that financial gap. Have you heard of "Giving Tuesday"? Tuesday December 1st 2020 is a nationally recognized day of giving to non-profits. It's an event designed to raise money and awareness. "Giving Tuesday"

is an all day -24 hour marathon of giving for the HSPC animals. To donate visit at [www.hspcwi.org](http://www.hspcwi.org) or our Facebook page and press the "Donate" button. Please consider donating!

Our other "fun-raiser" is a new version of an old favorite! "PetFest Online" will be conducted weekly during the month of November. By the time this newsletter reaches you —we may already have the auctions started. So join the fun! Each week for the four weeks in November we will have one Auction Package available for your bid. The exciting packages include a Kayak, Yeti cooler, gas grill, Wisconsin Dells trips and much more! Check out our website and Facebook page for more information and how to bid online.

Sometime soon (we hope) HSPC will reopen — slowly — as safer-at-home orders are lifted. The reason we're here, is for the animals. And the reason you're reading this, is for the animals. Thank you for your valued support.

*Sherri Galle-Teske*



Here are five of our residents that have been waiting very patiently for a loving home. They all desperately want a forever home! Might you be the answer to their wish?

201 Days



Deedee

145 Days



Ritzzy

145 Days



Indira

143 Days



Citrus

135 Days



Crescendo

# “Crunchy & Pauli” From Hardship to Friendship

Every once in a while a good thing comes out of a misfortune. That’s exactly what happened to Crunchy and Pauli—two best friends.

It started one day with the sound of the doorbell. Our HSPC Humane Officer Hannah answered the door to see a lady holding a cardboard box. In the box was a male kitten; about 7 to 8 weeks old, lifeless and cold. He was partly grey tiger striped with white patches. Hannah felt a heartbeat and knew instantly he needed warmth and care. The lady said she found the kitten laying in a wet culvert near her driveway in eastern rural Stevens Point. He was covered in a “crust” of dirt and a road material substance like tar. Hanna left that evening thinking he had a “50-50” chance.



A short time later he sat up. His eyes were crusted almost shut and he held up his left paw. He got the name Crunchy! The medical team was delighted his condition had improved and gave him a thorough scrubbing, eye drops, and examined his paw. He received the usual immunizations, food, and medical exam. the Vet Team determined his arm had been severely pinched or had gotten mangled. He had no real feeling in his paw and limped around on his two legs and right arm. Staff tried physical therapy every day and even the Executive Director Sherri had him in her office for his daily arm exercises. He sat in his upper cage by himself, lonely and alone.

About a week and a half later a call came in from southern Portage County. A kitten is hurt and has no owner; can someone please help it? Hannah was once again on duty and drove down the highway to a rural address. On a green grassy area she saw a yellow kitten—limping badly.



She got the necessary information from the property owner and brought the kitten back to the shelter for examination. Hannah named her “Pauli”. The yellow kittens’ right arm appeared to be dangling, she was crying in pain, and appeared quite shaken. After her routine evaluation HSPC medical staff and the Vet determined she had a dislocated shoulder Her arm was bandaged and

she was moved into the upper kennel –right next to Crunchy!

After a long time of wearing bandages and a cast, the Vet had to remove Pauli’s arm. It wasn’t healing and could not be saved. Pauli got a lot more energy after the surgery and In spite of her stitches and being sore she felt better. Pauli soon began to meow “talk” a lot. Guess who listened to her meows? Crunchy!

Even though they could not see through the kennels—they could hear and smell each other. Surprisingly they even started to try and reach around the bars of their kennels to play. Our Medical team manager Amy decided the two could play together and the Executive Director took them both in her office for Crunchy’s continuing physical therapy. There the kittens played the days away. They ate together, slept together and even went through spay and neutering on the same day. They communicate in their own special way.

These little three-legged /tripod kittens love each other and their physical impairments are not an issue. They have experienced loneliness, and pain, and together they bonded a friendship like no other. According to their adopted parents Sara & Jason Wiza more people need to be aware of adopting imperfect pets. Sara said Pauli and Crunchy (now Polly Ann & Vinnie Vincenzo) “are imperfectly perfect for us!”



# Meet the Animal Control Team

By Chris Leighty  
Animal Control Manager



I began working for the HSPC in December, 2018 after graduating from UW-Stevens Point. I have always had a passion for animal care, which led me to pursuing a degree in Wildlife Education with a Captive Wildlife Management Minor. I was very fortunate to have been offered a position as a Humane Officer with the HSPC after graduating. I love being able to give back to the community by helping the animals within it. I became so passionate about the Animal Control field that in January, 2020 I accepted an offer to become the Supervisor for the Animal Control Program at the HSPC. This position incurs a great deal of responsibility and is difficult at times, but I am still grateful to be able to contribute to the Animal Control Program and the Shelter at a higher level.

Hannah Singer began working for us as a Humane Officer in April, 2020. When we first brought her on-board, we quickly learned that she is a fast learner and has a huge passion for all animals which helps her a lot in this job. She also has a diverse background ranging from customer service to MMA fighting, which have also all benefited her in her current role. In addition to her picking up on things quickly, she also has a very strong work ethic, and is not afraid to stay late to get the job done. She



is a major asset to the team, and we are all very happy to have her with us. Hannah has a special place in her heart for Pit Bull-type dogs, and she has two of her own that she cherishes greatly.



Heather Riesbeck joined the team in June, 2020. She has a background in animal medicine and received a degree for Veterinary Assistance from North Central Technical College. During her time as a student, she also had an internship at Oakview Veterinary Medical Center. This

extensive knowledge about animal health has greatly benefitted her in her current role. She also pays a great deal of attention to detail in her work, and quickly became knowledgeable in the State Laws and County Ordinances pertaining to animals. Her knowledge and expertise has been very helpful to us, and we are all very pleased to have her on-board. In addition to her essential Humane Officer duties, Heather also began fostering kittens for the shelter this summer.



Kailey Wood is our veteran Humane Officer on staff. She began her time here in March, 2018, and she has been a huge asset to our team ever since. Her knowledge and expertise is invaluable to us, and she also has a very strong work ethic. Kailey has degrees in Biology, Spanish, and Environmental Studies from UW-Oshkosh. She has a strong interest in not only helping animals in need, but also people in need. She also fosters animals for the shelter, and has a particular passion for elderly animals and/or animals with health issues.

In addition to her regular Humane Officer duties, Kailey is our donations steward and she ensures that non-monetary gifts we receive are utilized to help animals.

# Introducing our Shelter Care Manager

By Katie Zagorianakos  
Shelter Care Manager

Even though I am new to this position, I am not new to HSPC. I started as a shelter care cleaner in 2018 and have grown into the position. I took Animal Play Group Alliance classes earlier this year.



Originally from Wisconsin Rapids I am a graduate of Lincoln High School. I have always loved animals and was “that kid” who begged her dad for puppies. I have fond memories of taking stray cats out of the garage and into my bedroom. We lived out in the country and I have owned horses, cats, dogs, and most animals you would find on a farm. My passion for animals really grew after we adopted a Shih Tzu. I groomed him and trimmed his hair. From then on-- I wanted to be a groomer and have animals in my life forever.

This is the job I have always wanted as I am not only around the animals I love, but around people who are like me. We all care about the animals and their future.

I’ve come to see HSPC as more of a family than a place of employment. From the help with my animals to everyone’s support after my family home caught fire a few weeks before Christmas, I don’t think I could ever thank my HSPC co-workers enough for all they have done for me. I couldn’t ask for a better place to be. I hope to keep our values strong and our love for the community and its animals stronger.

Besides me there is a staff of seven of us working shelter care for the animals. Some of the things we do are making sure the kennels are cleaned and sanitized for every animal. The animals feeding time is quite important as some of them have special food and dietary restrictions. We set up cages and kennels to keep the animals safe and we also provide them with fun toys. This year has been interesting because we are also doing a lot of special cleaning due to the pandemic situation.

I am a proud mother of a three year old son Dominick; who keeps me on my toes when I get home. My hobbies include camping, canvas painting, and caring for my own four dogs Leejay, Royal, Bo, and Titan.

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# Introducing our Adoption Coordinator

Here’s a short fun fact—HSPC’s Adoption Staff has a combined forty plus years of animal handling experience! At the department’s helm is Emily Carlson with Deb Klein, and Kala Blasi completing the team.

Emily was promoted from a Humane Officer to the Adoption Coordinator in April. Emily’s promotion comes with vast experience in HSPC Animal Control, law enforcement relations, front desk, and animal behavior. Emily is an avid animal lover and her family includes five dogs.

While we are closed to the public, adoptions are still going strong. Go to the Adoption tab at [www.hspcwi.org](http://www.hspcwi.org), and fill out an online application for your new best friend.

We were quite amazed at how well the adoption process has progressed the last few months. Instead of standing in line to view animals along with other adopters you have the luxury of viewing them online in the comfort of your own home. Once you see one you would like to meet you simply fill out the application form. Uh oh—was not the pet for you? No worries-while you are at the shelter you have the opportunity to meet other candidates on a one-on-one basis. From application to appointment- meet the fur buddy of your dreams.

Emily would like to take the time to remind future adopters that the animals that come to our shelter are often without

a known background, history or even their name! We don’t know if they have been exposed to kids, car rides, dog parks, storms, elderly folks, walked up stairs, lived inside a home or outside, etc. These animals sometimes take days or weeks to transition into their new surroundings here. Their lives from before coming to the shelter are a thing of the past and that is a lot to endure! Once that pet gets adopted and taken to its new home, he/she will need to adjust once again to its new surroundings! These animals will need patience and understanding-they have gone through a lot in just a small period of time and they deserve a happy ending!



Left to right Deb Klein, Emily Carlson, not pictured Kala Blasi

# Help Preserve Our Future - Please consider a Bequest

## What is a Bequest?

A bequest can be to a person, or it can be a charitable bequest to a nonprofit organization, trust or foundation. Anyone can make a bequest—in any amount—to an individual or charity. Bequests can be simple—"I give \$1,000 to my grandson"—or complex, with conditions about how the gifts can be used.

Whoever you are, whatever your situation, you can make a big difference and help create a better world for Portage County animals into the future. Without the generosity of people like you, we could not offer the support we do for the lost, hurt, stray or surrendered domesticated animals we work with on a daily basis.

## Yes! You need a plan.

Inevitably you will face major changes in life. It helps to have a plan ready to face the decision making process ahead of time. You can create a secure future for you and your loved ones by reviewing your estate plan every few years or whenever you have major life changes. Do any of the following apply to you?

- Purchase or sale of large assets, such as a home
- Marriage or Divorce
- Tax changes that impact you, such as the CARES ACT
- Received an inheritance or a windfall
- Retirement
- Open, sell, wind down or close a business
- Recently moved
- Changes to the family
- You wish to designate a Power of Attorney
- Add or remove beneficiaries

By strategically selecting which assets to go to loved ones and which go to the animals at the HSPC, you can make a plan to give the most to both.

## A Time to Give Thanks

At this time of year we give thanks to our animal lovers and the businesses in our community that stand by us and support our work with the animals. We appreciate your help and thoughtfulness.

Many local employers match their employees' charitable gifts to the Humane Society of Portage County. The required matching gift form and rules vary by company. Contact your Human Resources department for details.

How does it work? An employee sends us a monetary donation and the employer matches the gift. This act of kindness reflects the generosity of the employee/donor.

Thank you, **AIG, Delta Dental, Sentry Insurance,** and **WPS** for having a matching gift program.

## Why the Humane Society of Portage County?

We believe in securing forever homes. HSPC currently has a 97.5% LIVE animal release rate. That means out of every 100 animals at our facility; we find homes for over 97 of them. Please help us maintain this goal for the future of our Portage County animals. Our mission is to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect and over population of companion animals while seeking adoption of these animals into compatible homes, and teaching awareness and respect for all life, thus helping to build a better community.

## Where does my money get used?

For many animals uncared for; your donation means their second chance at life. The health of our animals is vital. Your kindness provides spays, neuters, chipping, emergency surgeries, medicines, enrichment and other necessities utilized to keep our animals in good health. Your bequest ensures our buildings are safe, secure and updated for our animals' needs. We can work with you, your attorney, or financial planner should you have a special request or idea.

## Important Details to Note

HSPC is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. Our legal name is "Humane Society of Portage County". Our address is 3200 Iber Lane, Plover, WI 54467. Our EIN number is 39-1189598.

Thank you for your interest on our animal's behalf. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Sherri Galle-Teske  
Executive Director  
Humane Society of Portage County  
(715)344-6012 email: executive.director@hspcwi.org

## What is Giving Tuesday?

According to Wikipedia—"Giving Tuesday" refers to the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It is a movement to create an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season.

To us—it means a lot more! Since we have had to cancel a number of HSPC events this year we are asking your help in making "Giving Tuesday" a happy day for our animals. Giving Tuesday means being able to purchase the medical supplies to help our little ones keep healthy, replace some old worn out kennels, special foods, enrichment toys, more sanitation materials, cozy warm beds, and much more for the furry family we house in our shelter.

Mark your calendars for December 1st. Visit the HSPC website or FaceBook page and press the DONATE button to help. It is appreciated more than words can say....

## Reunited - Our Favorite Status

One of the statistics we are most proud of is our 97.5% live release rate. It takes a team's efforts to achieve this result. Humane officers, veterinary staff, adoption counselors and shelter care staff all coordinate their efforts to ensure each animal coming in to our custody gets the best outcome possible.

Reuniting lost pets with their owners is one of our most satisfying experiences. Dogs get reclaimed at a higher rate than cats. In 2019, 213 stray dogs come into our possession and 205 of them were reclaimed by their owners. This is a 96% reclaim rate. During 2019 we took in 577 stray cats and 84 were reclaimed for a 14% reclaim rate.

It doesn't matter what the species of a lost animal is. The animal's owner is typically looking for their lost pet. Here are some of the ways we help get pets reunited. When a stray animal arrives we scan them for a microchip and if a chip is found we contact the person in the the microchip registry. We take their picture and post it in the lost and found animals section of our website.

Part of our intake process is a computerized match of our found animal with photos and details of animals reported as lost.

Shortly after the animal appears on the HSPC website our FaceBook administrator posts the animal's picture and pickup location on FaceBook. Frequently lost pets are identified by the friends or relatives of the owner. The details of a found dog are also forwarded to the non-profit organization Lost Dogs of Wisconsin.

If you lose a pet go to the HSPC web site [www.HSPCWI.org](http://www.HSPCWI.org) to see if the animal is in our custody. If we don't have your pet, please post the missing animal details and a photo on our lost and found page.

[www.HSPCWI.org](http://www.HSPCWI.org)  
[www.FaceBook.com/HSPCWI](http://www.FaceBook.com/HSPCWI)

The following stories are examples of lost and then reunited pets.



Yoda was reported missing August 15.



When a stray cat was brought to the shelter on August 29 (above), she was barely recognizable as the beaming Yoda that was being sought. However, a match was made, and Yoda's family has her home again!



Honey was brought to the shelter limping and we suspected she might have been involved in an accident. We transported Honey to Mosinee for emergency veterinary treatment. The following day Honey was reunited with her owner.



This is Calsafer, who was recently posted as a "lost bird" and then happily reported FOUND. Calsafer's owner says:

*"He was found by a neighbor and returned Saturday about 4 pm! We got back to our house from walking our dogs, and there Calsafer was in his cage (which we moved outside), with a note from the lady who found him!! He landed on her husband's head as they were sitting outside. They were walking around the neighborhood asking people if they know anyone who lost a bird, and my neighbor just happened to ride by on a bike to say "YES" she knew where the bird belonged.*

*Amazing! He would have probably froze to death last night because it was so cold.*

*Thanks so much for offering this service on your website and social media."*

**Don't wait to see if your pet returns home.**

**Please post a Lost Animal entry on HSPC's web site.**



# What does transferred mean - Havana's story



Havana came to HSPC August 16, 2019. She was found as a stray cat in the Town of Linwood. We knew right away that this one year old kitten needed help. She had labored breathing and she was not eating or drinking. Two of her interesting characteristics were walking in circles and purring when touched.

During the first two weeks at the shelter Havana was syringe fed special food. Her appetite improved and soon she could eat on her own if she had help remaining steady.

There were a couple of theories on what Havana's problems were. After the results of lab tests were reviewed it appeared that Havana had most likely been poisoned causing vision loss and neurological problems.

After 60 days Havana had gained weight and circled much less than when she arrived. She had improved enough to be spayed and microchipped. Soon after Havana began spending time out of her cage sharing the Executive Director's office with Sherri Galle-Teske.

Havana was twice listed as one of our longest residents in our March 2020 and May 2020 newsletters. In June 2020 Havana had a dental procedure to clean her teeth.

When we were unable to find a forever home for Havana we knew we had to

find her a place that would love her as much as we did and could provide her a higher quality of life.

After 10 months and 23 days at HSPC on July 9th 2020 Havana was transferred to the Safe Haven Pet Sanctuary in Green Bay.

We continue to follow Havana's life on FaceBook. The FaceBook comments and pictures below are from Safe Haven.



**SH:** Safe Haven Pet Sanctuary Inc. is feeling happy. New arrival!! Meet Havana!! She's partially blind in at least one eye, and she circles when she walks, due to exposure to a toxin before her time in rescue. Her eyes are always kinda big, because she's trying really hard to see. Other than her quirks, she's purrfect!

**HSPC:** *Thank you Safe Haven Pet Sanctuary Inc. for taking Havana as a transfer from HSPC. We know she will flourish under the care of your staff and the attention of your supporters, and maybe she will even find a kitty posse to hang with*



**SH:** Havana is partially blind and has a few neurological tics due to being exposed to a toxin at a young age.

This spunky little gal arrived from the Humane Society of Portage County and is really starting to charm our regular visitors.

**HSPC:** *Once an HSPC kitty, always an HSPC kitty (in our hearts). So glad to see a happy Havana at Safe Haven Pet Sanctuary Inc. where she was transferred in July after spending almost a year with us. Havana was a special needs kitty, and Safe Haven is an exceptional organization that gives every cat its best chance at a home and a happy life while it waits.*

**SH:** Good day, Sidewalk Humans! Stop on by our kitty sanctuary and get your paws on some of our new merchandise! These swell tumblers really stand up to abuse. Trust me.....I knocked them over 5 times before this photo <teehee>" - Havana



**SH:** Stop in to Safe Haven to see this cutest little kitten, Buoy. He was found alone in a boat shop and now finds comfort snuggling with Havana, who's hidden in the back of this comfy little cat house hideaway.



## Happy Tails - stories about adopted animals & shelter visitors



Wilhelmina Polzin says "Some photo updates on Oz, he got two new cat trees for Christmas, and his favorite activities are sleeping and running at a top cat speed through the apartment!"



Danielle Marie says "Bean (aka River) lounging on the cat tree with Meeps (found as an injured kitten; not from HSPC). While Meeps doesn't generally get along well with others, and they have opposite personalities, they became good friends within a week after bringing Bean home."



Josephine Castle says "Mittens, formally called Marlboro came to her forever home. Thank you to the workers at Portage County Animal Shelter for all the hard work that's provided not only to Mittens but all the animals."



Janel Slowinski says "Several years ago I sent you the photo on the right of me and my girl "Honey". We adopted her from the Humane Society of Portage County in November 2006. She came in as a pregnant stray, who eventually had 11 puppies while staying with her foster family. The photo on the left is recent. Since she was a stray – we don't know how old she is, other than she has been with us for nearly 14 years. She has slowed down a lot, but still enjoys life. We know our days with her are numbered and we are making the most of every one of them. She is the sweetest girl."



Deanna Marie says "VICTORIA was adopted back in February and I have been updating every once and awhile with how she has been adapting to her new environment and home with us as her new parents. I am very happy to say that she is now HOME. She sleeps with us every night. I believe it is her favorite time of every day. To snuggle with us and have us to herself."



Amy Thieme says "I would like to thank you for being a part of the best gift ever. Humane Society Portage County allowed me to adopt the most loving and sweet Toby over 11 years ago. Today, he crossed the rainbow bridge and my heart is broken as he left the biggest paw print on my now empty heart."



Nicole Stockwell says "Spring of 2010 we adopted Little Chum Chum. My kids named him Milk because he was white, at that time! He was a ball full of energy! Up until a few years ago he could jump several feet in the air and catch a fly in his paws. Arthritis has slowed him down and with the help of supplements he can finally get back in the cat tree. Despite the fact he had to have most of his teeth removed years ago he grew to be a big boy. He loves to sleep on his back. And has been known to wake me up by turning on my bedside touch lamp, to bright, when his food bowl has been empty. Thank you for him!"

*Editor note: we added our kitten picture of Little Chum Chum inset lower center. You can see that he WAS white!*



Crystal Weir says "It's four weeks since I adopted Maggie. I've been seeing some big changes in the last week! Maggie is starting to feel comfortable and more trusting of her new home. She's gone from a brave dog who was a bit timid and had some trouble hiding her mistrust to a confident, smart dog who is feeling very comfortable, is learning the routine, and is starting to show her personality. She is finally able to relax and sleep well, not jump up at every noise as she has been. I'm so glad I found her!"



"My name is Cassie Vandelaarschot (Dewey), and I adopted Rupert from Portage County Humane Society on April 15th, 2016. This year is our fourth year together, so I wanted to reach out with an update. When I first adopted Rupe he was very anxious, high energy, and untrusting. He was a handful to say the least. I met my now husband just months after adopting Rupe. He slowly grew to trust and love my husband. Two years later, we had our baby boy. We were nervous that Rupe would resent our baby for receiving more attention. Well, he was great. He was curious, but knew that he had to be gentle. Rupe has been a great addition to our family. He no longer runs away, barks at any noise, and most importantly he loves my kids."

Months after my husband and I moved in together we adopted two cats from Portage County, Jack and Doodle. When we first brought them home the pets needed to all be in a separate room. But slowly, they integrated and grew to love each other. Jack and Doodle act like brothers and truly love each other. They both get along great with Rupert. Jack acts more like a dog than a cat, and Doodle would do anything for pets and attention. The cats are also great with our kids. We are very grateful for our pets and are blessed that they are a part of our family. The Vandelaarschots"  
*Editor note: Rupert is the dog, Jack is the dark cat, & Doodle is the grey cat.*



Caitlin Meaney says "We adopted our kitty Prim (formerly Aloha) in January of this year. This spunky young lady has won us all over (dogs included!), and we are so grateful to be able to share our home and love with such a lovely little monster. Thank you all for all that you do!"



Jill Williams says "We had to say goodbye to our baby on Thursday night after 11 great years. We adopted her as an 8 week old pup. She loved her spot in the grass in the backyard, kissed anyone within reach with her giant tongue, and always made me smile when I found her in her crazy sleeping positions. Thank you for allowing us to give her a great life. She will be greatly missed."



Vicki Gove says "The kitty we adopted from you is a tortie. She was profiled on the news at 5 that December. Her name was Aubrey, #18585. Adopted 12/15/17. She had kittens prior to our adopting her. Her name is now Sadie. We call her "the dervish" because she's a bundle of dynamite. She's now our youngest and she's just stolen our hearts. How did we ever get along without her in the family? She has 3 older sisters and older brothers. Here she is in her nest of packing paper. She loves that. Why buy cat toys??"



Michaela Katlyn says "Just wanted to send a little update on Luna (skor) adopted November 2019, her personality is exactly what we were looking for, she is so sweet and cuddly but also wild and crazy which is very entertaining. This is her this morning (she was very sleepy after being up all night playing)"



Carol Duquette says "In 2009, we adopted Barney, a gorgeous, long-haired boy who had been returned to HSPC twice due to problems getting along with other cats. We faced similar issues with him and ultimately decided it would be best for him to live in our bedroom away from our other animals. Ten and 1/2 years later here comes Marko....six months old, full of fun and lots of kitten energy. He had been shy at the shelter, but blossomed when he came into our home.

One day Marko shot past me and ran into our bedroom, literally jumping on top of Barney and acting like he had found his long-lost best friend. I don't think Barney knew what hit him, but Marko didn't give up. He licked and wrestled, and eventually Barney started playing with him. There was never any hissing or fighting, just instant brotherly love.

Today the two are inseparable and Barney has never been happier. I think Marko's pretty happy, too."



Sean Andrew says "puppers!!" (Alumnus Kobe on the left and his buddy Kratos)



Tessa Lee says "It's nearly been 9 months since we adopted Chewie and we honestly couldn't imagine our lives without him now. He is the sweetest, most gentle and lovable cat. He has so much personality and is a true gentle giant. He loves his Star Wars cat toys, catnip and lots of naps (he's a very loud snorer!). Thank you again HSPC for all you've done for him. He is completely spoiled now and loved and adored beyond words."



Bille Baker says "It has been one week since we adopted Bob. Our sweet little wild child! Lol. He is doing well learning the eating schedule and exploring all areas open to him. A few are blocked off until he gets older. Our dog Curtis and Bob get along great. Bob likes napping with who ever might have a free lap. And what he lacks in size he makes up for in his voice! Loud! Bob also has a great purr. We love him dearly no matter what he gets into."



Mona Danke says "Today is my 2 year Anniversary with Misty/HSPC Snow White. She is a sweetheart. She is beautiful, loveable, & good with her "sister," - my 14 year old kitty. I love how they snuggle together - and how Misty grooms Goldie. Thank you HSPC for my beautiful Misty - and all the care & love you give to all the rescued animals!"

## Adoptions April - August 2020

Jessie Adam  
Christina Adamski  
Colleen Angel  
Sage Anthony  
Jordan Auberg  
Erin Auer  
Tanya Augustine  
Jason Bacher  
Bille Baker  
Cindy Balz  
Anthony Beck  
Rebecca Bezzi  
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Lysandra Davis  
Devin Dean  
Alexandra Lothe  
Jody Disher  
Taylor Duranceau  
Stephanie Dziemarski  
Hayley Entzminger  
Maggie Erickson  
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Tristan Firkus  
Jordann Flewellen  
McKenna Folz  
Heather Foster  
Renee Fountain  
Kelly Frank  
Payton Gaber  
Janet Gilbert  
Clair Gliśczyński  
Hailee Godin  
Kitty Gordon  
Amy Gray

Shelley Green  
Dylan Grose  
Tyler Gudvangen  
Amanda Guenther  
Lisa Hahn  
Zoe Hale  
Patricia Hall  
Grace Harbridge  
Josephine Hartung  
William Held  
Laine Henke  
Leigh Henline  
Jean Higdon  
Cassandra Hilliard  
Sheri Hines  
Cheryl/Doug Hoffman  
Mary Hoffman  
Ann Hoffmann  
Jennifer Hollis  
Lisa Huber  
Melissa Huebschman  
Alexis Iwanski  
Darcy Jarman  
Jaci Jerome  
Shirley Kastner  
Elizabeth (Liz) Kelley  
Jane Kelly  
Cherie Klessig  
Danielle Kliegl  
Jessie Knopp

Bethany Kobiske  
Ashlyn Kohler  
Seth Kollmer  
Virginia Konop  
Stephanie Kuehn  
Dayanara Kuklinski  
Andrew Kutchenriter  
Daniel Lang  
Alyssa Larish  
Winnie Lau  
Ryan Leinweber  
Karen Lemke  
Jody Lewis  
Dawn Lonsdorf  
Kali Lund  
Corrina Lyster  
Lydia Martin  
Sarah Meilahn  
Spencer Menzia  
Cheri Meyers  
Corinne Mish  
Dr. Sean Mooney-Leber  
Ashley Mortel  
Samantha Nelson  
Rhyann Nemzoff  
Ashley Nightengale  
Katelyn Olson  
Sarah Olson  
Rachael Omernik  
Terry Oxley

Riley Parker  
William Payne  
Jamie Peplinski  
Kenneth Picha  
Katelyn Pietroske  
Lori Prevost  
Kenny Radermacher  
Mary Reid  
Sarah Resch  
Dustin Richards  
Justine Riesterer  
Murrion Roff  
Amy Rossi  
Ashley Rowe  
Staci Rubenzer  
Carrie Ruffner  
Elaine Sawyer  
Yvonne Scheffler  
Ann Schlegel  
Nicholas Schmitt  
Alexandria Schmitz  
Frances Schmitz-Zweber  
Kevin Schultz  
Scott Scott  
Theresa Seidl  
Nikki Shefchik  
Heather Shelbrack  
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Johnathan Suwyn  
Joel Thompson  
Emily Tomsovic  
Sara Turner  
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Christine Vanpatten  
Amy Victory  
Alicia Wagner  
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Pamela Walters  
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Seth Wehrs  
Brenda Weinfurter  
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Emily Weiss  
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by Amy & Randy Worzalla

**Breakfast Group!**  
by Rita Leary

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by Dorothy Rathjen

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by Chet Konkol

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by Humane Society of Portage County

**In Memory of Java**  
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Thanks to the many folks who have brought us items during the Covid Pandemic when we were unable to record your name.

Our animal care services are entirely dependent on contributions from our donors! If we missed recognizing your donation, please email executive.director@hspcwi.org to inform us about the omission. We will recognize your donation gets in the next newsletter.

## Active Volunteers April - August 2020

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 Kitt Covi  
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Donna Smith  
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 Dominic Vanier  
 Leigh Ann Vanier  
 Jerry Wypych

The Covid Pandemic has impacted our ability to have have volunteers at the shelter. We miss our volunteers and look forward to a time where they will be back with us. Many of the folks listed here are helping foster kittens.

### Address Updates - Are you getting extra copies of our newsletter? Do you need an address correction?

Let us know how we can help. e-mail: [address.corrections@HSPCWI.org](mailto:address.corrections@HSPCWI.org)

Phone 715-344-6012 Mail HSPC, 3200 Iber Lane, Plover WI 54467

We will need to know the old name & address and the correction required.

### Adoption Updates! In the "Paws to Read" March 2020 edition, we showcased our longest term residents.

**Paws to Read**  
 In a special Paws to Read edition, we featured our longest term residents. These cats have been with us for years and are now looking for new homes. We encourage you to visit our website for more information on these and other cats available for adoption.



**Baracuda**  
 Adopted 5/22/20



**Havana**  
 Transferred 7/9/20



**Sprint**  
 Adopted 5/8/20



**Ambrose**  
 Adopted 4/14/20



**Raven**  
 Adopted 4/9/20



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## Calendar of Events

Yoga 4 Paws December 10, 2020  
 a virtual event  
 hosted by Ana Marie Yoga &  
 Stevens Point Embroidery & Screen

The Covid Pandemic caused the cancellation of most of most of our 2020 fund raising events. We are hopeful that our events will return in 2021. We are currently planning:

Walk for Wags	June 27, 2021
Canine Mayor Voting Begins	June 1, 2021
HSPC Open	July 21, 2021
Beer & Cheese for Pets Please	October 2021



Walk for Wags - June 27, 2021



HSPC Open - July 21, 2021



Canine Mayor Voting June 2021



Beer & Cheese for Pets Please  
 October 2021



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