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Pet Tales

SPRING / SUMMER 2006

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Happy Endings

Creating families—four paws at a time—for 25 years

Once upon a wishful time, 25 years ago

A group of women had a dream to change the status quo

Far too many homeless pets were headed towards demise

There had to be a better way to save these precious lives

Shelters? There were far too few; most needing overhauling

And soon these four gals realized that they had found their calling

They quickly got together, aligned with just one vet,

They wrote some bylaws, begged for funds, and formed Adopt-A-Pet

A concept yet unheard of -- a shelter without a nest?

But they took the chance and forged ahead and put it to the test

Their goal was very simple; they started kind of small

They knew that realistically they couldn't save them all

Quality, not quantity, and careful adoption screening

They broke the mold and gave the catchphrase "foster home" new meaning

Saintly vets and volunteers have helped the mission grow

Into one of the most successful Chicagoland does know

First one cat and then a dog... then two, then five, then ten

Now 14,000 once-doomed pets have breathed new life again!

Although our leader Gloria is not with us anymore

Her spirit has inspired us to carry on this urgent chore

With her example as our guide, we keep working toward a day

When every cat is cherished, and no dog "thrown away"

So as we bid farewell to days gone by, the challenges we have braved,

We say hello to the coming years, and more animals to save

Until the world's a better place for little mews and pups

A huge job lies ahead of us -- We never will give up!

As long as there's a hungry dog left homeless and to roam,

As long as there are kittens that are born without a home...

As long as man thinks it's okay to abandon his best friend

We'll stay and do our darndest to reverse this shameful trend

We offer our sincerest thanks to all who've shared this dream;

We always hope for more kind hearts to come and join our team.

Our gratitude we send to those too important to be missed:

Our loyal supporters -- that means *you* --
without whom we'd not exist

Old friends, new friends, friends to be, and all our volunteers

Thanks to you we're on our way to 25 more years!



- 1. Do your grocery shopping at Jewel or Dominick's.** With the enclosed Jewel Shop & Share and Dominick's Benefit Days tickets, simply shop on the dates listed and present the Adopt-A-Pet ticket to the cashier. Adopt-A-Pet will receive 5% (Dominick's) or 7% (Jewel) of your total. Photocopy the tickets to share with family and friends or to use during multiple visits or to; call us for more; or download a printable version at <http://adoptapet-il.org/grocery>. (If you forget to bring a ticket with you on your shopping trip, save your receipt and hand it in the next time you shop. We'll still get credit!)
- 2. Purchase a 2007 Entertainment Book.** Priced at \$25 and available in August, these books are chock full o' dollars-off and 2-for-1 coupons for hundreds of area restaurants, hotels, movie and live theaters, services, and attractions. Use it once and it can pay for itself! Please visit <http://www.adoptapet-il.org/entertainment.php> to pre-order your books, or mail back the enclosed response slip.
- 3. Sign up at iGive.com and shop your tail off!** Nearly 700 favorite name-brand stores donate a percentage of your purchase to us every time you shop! You'll also receive offers exclusive to iGive members (like free shipping and money-saving coupons). It's FREE, private, and easy. From the "Fundraising" page of our website (<http://www.adoptapet-il.org/efundraising.php>), click on the "iGive" box and follow the instructions. For each new Adopt-A-Pet-supporting member who shops within 45 days of sign-up, iGive donates an additional \$5 to our cause.
- 4. Drop by one of our PetSmart Adoption Events and buy an extra bag of pet food, cat litter, treats, or any other items from our Wish List** (see next page). Any of our hard-working, blue-shirted volunteers will graciously accept your donation and see that it's distributed to our foster animals.
- 5. Spread the word by telling family and friends about Adopt-A-Pet.** We're always looking for wonderful adopters for our animals, as well as a host of volunteers to help keep Adopt-A-Pet up and running. From foster homes and adoption counselors to pet transporters and envelope stuffers, if you've got the time, we've got the work to fill it. New Volunteer Orientations are held once each

month at various locations. For more information on volunteering, visit <http://www.adoptapet-il.org/volunteer.php> or call 847-870-8999.

- 6. Send cash the easy way: straight from your computer.** Adopt-A-Pet is now set up to accept donations through PayPal. At <https://www.paypal.com>, all you need is a checking account or credit card and our paypal account address (adopt-a-pet@comcast.net) to send us the funds.

Upcoming Events

Adopt-A-Pet is out and about, so mark your calendar with these important dates. As the dates draw near, be sure to check our website (<http://adoptapet-il.org>), as dates and locations are subject to change

- July 29 & 30**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Arlington Heights Petsmart
- July 31 thru August 2**
Jewel Shop & Share Days and Dominick's Benefit Days
- August 7 thru August 9**
Dominick's Benefit Days
- August 12 & 13**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Northbrook PetSmart
- September 9 & 10**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Northbrook PetSmart
- September 30 & October 1**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Arlington Heights Petsmart
- October 7 & 8**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Northbrook PetSmart
- November 5**
Adoption Show 10 am to 3 pm
Northbrook PetSmart

Visit our website — www.adoptapet-il.org — for the latest Adopt-A-Pet events and to see all our available pets.

Featured Pet: Zeke, our Sweet Setter-Hound Mix

Hi, all! I'm Zeke, a 3-5 year old mixed breed who enjoys walks, back rubs, and quiet time with my special person (or people). I'm a big guy at 73 lbs, but I'm calm as the day is long. I'm perfectly housetrained and don't even need my crate anymore because I never chew anything that isn't mine for chewin'. To encourage you to take me for walks, I promise I'll stay right by your side and never pull on my leash — not even

if I see a squirrel or bunny (though I will stop and point at it!). I really prefer the peace and quiet of an adult home. Too much activity can make me a bit nervous, and little kids seem to move too fast and unpredictably for a couch potato like me. You really should come and meet me. If you scratch my back and talk nicely to me, I'll give you the most loving over-the-shoulder smile you've ever seen!



With summer temperatures soaring, be sure your best friend stays safe and cool

- ❖ **Schedule a spring or early summer check-up at the vet**, and include a test for heartworm, if your dog isn't on year-round preventive medication. Also, ask the doctor to recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.
- ❖ **Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle.** Even with the windows open, temperatures inside a parked automobile can quickly become dangerously high. Shade offers little protection, because the sun shifts.
- ❖ **Carry a thermos filled with cold, fresh water** when traveling with your pet.
- ❖ **Schedule outdoor playtime in the early morning or evening** when it's cooler, but never after a meal or when the weather is humid.
- ❖ **Don't leave your dog standing on hot asphalt.** The body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.
- ❖ **Avoid beaches unless you can guarantee a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water** for your pet.
- ❖ **Keep your pet inside** in a cool part of

the house during the heat of the day.

- ❖ **Be mindful of special breeds and special needs.** Brachycephalic or snub-nosed dogs (like bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos and shih tzus) and those with heart or lung diseases should stay in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible. Older and overweight animals also are especially sensitive to heat.
- ❖ **Avoid toxins on the street.** Steer your dog clear of areas that have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals, and avoid coolant spills or other automotive fluids that may have leaked from vehicles. If you suspect that your animal has been exposed, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888- 426-4435) immediately.
- ❖ **Help prevent summer skin problems with good grooming**, especially for dogs with heavy coats. A good haircut helps prevent overheating. Shave the hair to a one-inch length (not down to the skin; doing so removes your dog's protection from the sun). Brush cats often to maintain healthy skin and coat.

- ❖ **Only use sunscreen and insect repellents labeled specifically for use on animals.** Ingestion of human sunscreens can result in drooling, diarrhea, excessive thirst, and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.
- ❖ **Don't leave unscreened windows or doors in your home open.** Your pets could jump out or fall.

Source: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Adopt-A-Pet Wish List

Call 847-870-8999 or email donations@adoptapet-il.org to donate any of the following items or services to our cause, or stop by one of our Adoption Shows to say "hello!"

- Scoopable Litter or Crystals
- Dog and Cat Food (especially cat!)
- Dog Biscuits and Chew Bones
- Postage Stamps
- Copy Paper, White & Color
- Two-Pocket Folders
- Inkjet Cartridges #78 & #45
- Humane Hav-A-Hart Traps
- Frontline, Revolution, and Heartguard
- Choke Chains, Gentle Leaders, Harnesses
- Leashes and Collars
- Kitty Condos/Cat Trees
- Scratching Posts, Cat Toys
- Large Dog Beds & Cushions
- Bath Towels
- Paper Towels & Cleaning Supplies
- Grocery/Pet Store GiftCards
- Newsletter Printing Services
- Literature Printing Services

Featured Pet: Lola the Wonder Dog

I am Lola, and people who meet me immediately think "Dog on springs!" The truth is, I'm just a young girl who's feeling good and loving my second chance at life. I'm a 27-lb terrier mix, all white with one tan spot on top of my head, and I'm pleased to tell you that I'm super-smart, super-playful, and super-friendly with dogs and people alike. I'll train up very quickly once someone takes the time to teach me. Come and meet me today! We can totally goof around together!



Featured Pets:



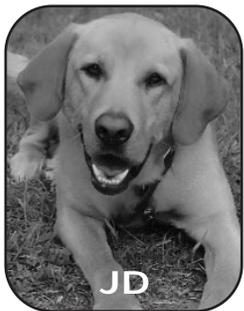
Merlot & Sangria, Tuxedo Sisters

We're Merlot and Sangria, we're about a year old, and we're looking for a home together. Both of us love attention and enjoy bathing each other, snuggling with both people and other cats, and PLAYING! Merlot loves to do flips in the air trying to catch feather toys. Sangria enjoys feather toys, jingle balls, and just about anything else that moves. Instead of purring, she prefers to make tiny chirping noises. She likes being brushed, adores being petted, and both girls snuggle and sleep with their foster mom every night.

We sisters have a little trick we do for our humans. If you sing to us, we stop whatever we're doing and come straight to you.

We would prefer a home without small children or other animals. But don't worry! We promise to give you all the love you'll ever need!

Dear Adopt-A-Pet: I cannot say enough about JD since he became a member of our family. He seems to be the happiest when he is pleasing me. We have been inseparable since I brought him home; I even take him to work with me. He cannot get enough of car rides — he



loves them, probably because ice cream is usually part of our trips. He had a distrust of other dogs, but I slowly introduced him around and now he can't wait to go visiting at our friend's homes. I know he cannot wait until he is all cleared [from heartworm treatment] to fully play again. He is wonderful with all children, he knows the difference between a teen and a baby, and he is so gentle with the small ones. I have neighborhood

cats that congregate on my deck, and he is so gentle with them. I have a habit of bringing them in and feeding them, taking them to a vet and getting them neutered, and JD likes to "take care" of them. His training is coming along very well and he thrives when we are spending time "playing" games. He is going to start Advanced Obedience in August.

I have not once gotten upset with him until last night, when he [decided] he was going to act crazy at midnight. JD started whining, which is something he only does when he has to go out, and I know we had just went for our evening walk at 11:00 pm. **He pawed me, which is something he never does and he started barking at the door;** then I knew something was wrong, because he never barks unless someone he hasn't met comes into the yard. So **I got up and opened the door with leash in hand and was overwhelmed with smoke. The house next door was on fire** and then I heard the sirens. JD was warning me; needless to say I spent the rest of the night showing him just how much I appreciate him. This was the second time he had stepped up to protect me. Last week we were on one of our walks and a neighbor's [dog] got loose and was at my face in 20 seconds flat. JD jumped in front of me and stopped the dog from attacking me, the dog backed down, and JD stood him off until his owner got there.

For those that are considering adoption, please look toward the older dogs. They have so much to give and are so grateful. Please don't judge by first impression. JD was pretty rambunctious, but I spent time during our first visit to really see him. Remember these animals are coming from mostly horrible starts in life, caged up from shelter to rescue, and if they need medical the lock-up time could be longer. You need to take the time to gain their trust and faith in humans again. Trust me it is well worth the time and effort. They give back twofold what you give them. In the 6 weeks that I have had JD, he

has given me more than I could have ever imagined, a friendship that I know will never be able to be compared or ever be severed. Thank you so much for the opportunity to have this wonderful 81 pound teddy bear as part of our family. — Teresa

Dear Adopt-A-Pet: Hi! I'm writing to give you an update on Eddie's new city life. He's doing great, although I suspect at times that he is a little spoiled. We gave him a last name. He is now Eddie Picklestick, and we call him "Eddie" or "Pickle." He still loves to be picked up and held like a baby and puts his head on your shoulder. He eats with us and sleeps with us and unfortunately wakes me up to eat. **Sometimes I wake up and he's just lying next to me patiently. That earns him a treat.** They just opened a pet salon next to a spa close to us so I told Johnny [Eddie's Dad] that when he goes for a massage he can take Eddie next door for a boy's spa day. He says I'm ridiculous.



Thanks again for helping us get him. We can't imagine having another cat. He is certainly unique! — Sarah K.

Hi, Adopt-A-Pet ! Just wanted to let you know that Butterscotch is a doll! I've just adopted her as a pal for my one year old Torti, and they are getting along just great! Was it love at first sight? No, but within two days they were playing and chasing each other around. Butter is a talker and is positive that I understand what she is saying. **This was a great match, she is such a sweetie.**



Considering when I first saw her (as she zoomed around the Foster Mom's home never stopping for a good view), she has settled in like she has lived here for years. Thanks so much! — Betty M.

To our friends at Adopt-A-Pet: Bam is the best dog ever! He has fit in wonderfully!!! We just love him. He went to the doctor yesterday, [and] everything was great. He is sleeping through the night — in bed with us. He loves going for walks around the block [and] playing with his new toys. He is eating good. He loves riding in the car. He is very loving [and] a very big lounge lizard. He sleeps all the time, on his back, with his feet sticking in the air. **We couldn't have asked for a better dog.** Thank you again for the new addition to our family! — Beth H.



Hi, Adopt-A-Pet! You may have known us, Rumba and Cha-Cha, from a couple of years ago. When we were kittens we were dumped on someone's doorstep. Adopt-A-Pet then took us in. Our foster mom went on vacation so we were staying at PetSmart while we waited for her. During our stay this man pointed us out to his wife (which was unusual, as we later found out he didn't like cats very much). They talked about us to their kids (the kids told us that) [and] finally their children got their parents to adopt us. **Two years later we are living in a happy home with a grandma, parents, and three kids.** Thanks, foster mom and Adopt-A-Pet!
— Love, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and family

P.S. Our dad loves us now that he knows us!