

# Paw Prints

Spring/Summer 2005



A Publication of Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue

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*This is your Spring membership renewal newsletter. Thank you for caring for the animals.*

## Buddy: Down But Not Out

Buddy had everything against him. A pit-bull mix, he was saved from death by a young man who was down on his own luck, a young man who didn't have a home of his own, who spent most nights sleeping in the woods with Buddy by his side. Sometimes it would get so cold that the young man would try to find room in a shelter. But if Buddy wasn't welcome, the young man would stay outside with him.

Sometimes the two would stop at Save-A-Pet, and we'd give him cans of dog food so Buddy wouldn't go hungry. This Christmas, we gave him another gift. We offered to have Buddy neutered and vaccinated. As the weeks passed after the surgery was completed, we realized that the young man was not coming back. We were sure his owner knew that his best friend would be safer and better cared for by us. We were sure it broke his heart.



That heartbreak was mirrored in Buddy's eyes. It was that sadness that called out to the nice couple who adopted him. Wherever that young man is today, we wish him well. We hope he realizes what a good thing he did, the day he let Buddy go to a better life.

### Ten Ways You Can Help Save-A-Pet

- 1. Walk a dog.
- 2. Transport an animal to the vet's office.
- 3. Donate a pet store gift certificate.
- 4. Have a yard sale and donate the money to rescue efforts.
- 5. Talk to friends about adopting rescued pets.
- 6. Volunteer to become a foster parent.
- 7. Pay to microchip a rescued dog.
- 8. Groom a dog or cat
- 9. Update our information about breed rescue groups.
- 10. Make a bequest in your will for Save-A-Pet.

### Mission Statement

At Save-A-Pet we believe it is our moral responsibility to protect and improve the lives of abused, abandoned and homeless animals, and to place them in loving, permanent homes. We provide spay and neuter services and any necessary medical care. We work diligently to educate the public, especially children on the importance of pet sterilization and responsible pet ownership.

# *Kittens, Kittens, Kittens*

2004 was a banner year for kittens. One of our foster mothers was raising 17 at the same time. Black, white, gray, orange, tabby — they came in all colors and sizes, one cuter than the other, but all needing to find homes. In this issue we will give you tips on kitten care. But the best tip we can give you is this: spay and neuter your animals. Too many homeless pets are euthanized every year. Our goal at Save-A-Pet is simple:

**NO MORE HOMELESS PETS!**



## *A Guide to Caring for Your New Kitten*

- 1. Offer fresh water and good quality food.
- 2. Give your kitten adequate veterinary care. Kittens need to be tested for and vaccinated against disease, and checked regularly for worms, fleas and ear mites.
- 3. Depending on how many cats live in your household, try to have at least one litter box on each floor. Clean the boxes daily.
- 4. Provide your kitten with scratching posts and plenty of toys. It will save on furniture.
- 5. Kitten proof your home: Remove small undigestible objects like rubber bands and tinsel. Keep appliance doors closed. Hide electrical cords. Keep poisonous plants out of reach.

***Above all, use common sense!***

# No More Homeless Pets

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## To Spay or Not to Spay? It's Not Really A Question

Recently, one of our volunteers overheard the following conversation at a deli. "I wanted to get the cat fixed, but my husband won't let me." "Yeah, it's a guy thing." In this day and age, it is hard to believe that anyone would make a conscious choice *not* to spay and neuter. But, unfortunately, it happens every day. There are so many compelling reasons to spay and neuter and no reason to not.

These are the facts:

- Spayed and neutered animals are better behaved. Have you ever lived with a cat in heat? To attract males, they will yowl and urinate more frequently, sometimes all over the house.
- Spayed and neutered animals live longer, healthier lives. In fact, the earlier you neuter your cat, the better its health will be in the future. Lack of exercise and overfeeding make pets fat and lazy, not sterilization.
- Finally, you must understand the implications of your decision. In 7 years, one female cat and her kittens can produce 420,000 cats. Eight million pets are put to sleep each year because there are not enough homes for them all. In fact, only 1 out of every 5 animals born in this country will find a lifelong home.

We wish someone had said to that woman, "Just do it. Run, don't walk, to your nearest veterinary hospital, and take that cat with you. You won't regret it. And neither will he."

## The Sun Came Out for Sandy



Just like the dog in *Annie*, Sandy was a Wheaten Terrier mix with big brown eyes and a lopsided grin. After living five years with her family, she was dropped off at our shelter because the new baby was allergic. For 3 days, Sandy cowered in her cage, shaking and crying and refusing to eat. Volunteers took Sandy to a pet fair in Port Jefferson. She walked through the mall, looking into every face — especially those of the children there. Then she sat down and cried. Enough was enough, the volunteers thought. We approached a family with two boys. We inquired, "Which one of you do you think Sandy will sleep with?" Forty minutes later, Dad was convinced. Mom was doubtful, but she kept saying, "Look at the boys' faces. "We just looked at Sandy — sitting at their feet, a little uncertain, but no longer shaking. The family had to return her to the shelter that night. They were going to Connecticut on the ferry Sunday morning and did not want to leave Sandy alone on her first day "home." However, in all of our minds was the thought, "What if they change their minds in that 24 hours?" No way! They cancelled their trip and picked her up first thing Sunday morning. The sun did come out for Sandy.

### ***Extreme Thanks For Our Extreme Makeover:***

Save-A-Pet would like to express sincere thanks to Rob Steinberg of Long Island Paneling for donating all new Pergo flooring for our shelter, paneling for our cat room, mouldings and just about everything imaginable. Our shelter has been in desperate need of a makeover, and Rob got us started. We are still in need of additional renovations including: brick work, landscaping, siding, paving/sealing and much much more! If you have a company, talent or skill please call us. We really need your help.

# *Help Us Help Harry*

Harry was found roaming the streets. He was limping terribly and seemed to be searching for his home. A good samaritan found him and boosted this big gentle giant into her car. Not knowing what to do, she brought him to the town shelter. It was apparent by his thick, dirty coat that he must have been living outside most of his life. But Harry's extra sweet temperament is what helped him find his way to Save-A-Pet. When Harry got to Save-A-Pet he was immediately brought to Jefferson Animal Hospital for a complete check up, x-rays and blood work. We were very concerned about his limp. As it turned out the limp was second to a more serious condition. Harry has heartworm. Heartworm can be fatal and the treatment is very expensive. We also found out that his hip is dislocated and has been for years. With your help we will be able to provide Harry with his heartworm treatment. We're not sure if his hip can be fixed later on down the road. For now, he is our "shop" dog, and loves to meet and greet people as they come to visit. Harry hopes you too will come and meet him. Harry is so grateful for the love he gets, but that does not compare to the love he gives.



# *A Christmas Miracle*



How long does a family wait before it decides their dog is never coming home? Sometimes forever. As a puppy, Trudy used to love to chase cars. One morning, on Independence Day, she chased one so far that she could not find her way home again. Her heartbroken family searched for months. They checked Petfinder and other websites — never giving up hope that their prodigal daughter would return. Eventually they adopted Sandy. But they never forgot Trudy. Three and a half years later, a Labrador Retriever mix was brought to Save-A-Pet after turning up at the Brookhaven Shelter. When dogs arrive at Save-A-Pet they are checked for a micro chip by use of a hand held scanner. Those that are not micro chipped immediately get one injected by syringe between the shoulder blades. As it turned out, the black lab mix did have a chip. The chip provides a national database with essential information about the dog's ownership. Save-A-Pet Executive Director, Dori Scofield, set out to find the dog's family. The search took many

twists and turns. The dog had been in several shelters over the years including the North Shore Animal League, where a family had originally adopted her. They had moved in the intervening years, but luckily, had kept the same phone number. A call was made. A week before Christmas, Trudy was coming home. When the family showed up at our shelter, they recognized their dog instantly: it was Trudy! Trudy looked at them intently for a few minutes, then jumped up and started licking the girls' faces. Perhaps she sensed that they were the ones who had not wanted to move to a new home in case their dog returned and could not find them there. Today, Trudy acts as the big sister, keeping track of Sandy. The prodigal dog has returned, with a little luck and a lot of help from the people of Save-A-Pet who went the extra mile to reunite this family. You can call Save-A-Pet for information about their monthly microchip clinics. A little chip can bring you a lot of peace of mind - maybe even a miracle.



# Potcakes on Parade



82 pups have come over from the island of Grand Bahama through Save-A-Pet's Island to Island Puppy Rescue. These little pups are called Potcakes, appropriately, for the crust of the rice and pea cake mixture the islanders cook for their families. The little pups get the leftovers from kind residents. Their conditions for living are sad, but these pups greatly benefited by coming to the U.S. Now finally healthy and happy, here are a few of the now loved and adored Potcakes.



## Matchmaker, Matchmaker



"Kelly" spent weeks going door to door, begging for food. Finally, a nice man brought him to us. We could tell Kelly was old and it was hard to find the poodle beneath all the hair. This little guy had been on his own for a while. But he was so sweet and so grateful for any attention, we knew he deserved the best home. Just a week after his adoption however, his new owner had a stroke and was hospitalized. Kelly was back. A Connecticut couple who had come to Long Island for a visit stopped by our shelter on a whim and asked the million dollar question: "Do you have any black mini poodles for adoption?" We did! Matchmaker, matchmaker.

One of the pleasures of rescue work is making a perfect match of the right pet with the right people. This was one of them:

Dear Dori and Save-A-Pet Family,

I would like to thank everyone at Save-A-Pet for bringing Coco into our family. When we first decided to adopt, we had previewed thousands of dogs on every website in the tri-state area, but the dog that brought us to you was not available. We were nicely told that we were not allowed to leave without a dog and were introduced to Coco.

Although we had some bumps along the way, with Dori's help and guidance we were able to make it through the adjustment period successfully. Coco has been with us for 6 months. We could not imagine her not being a part of our family. She even goes to work with us. Our cat had a hard time adjusting to another animal in the house. Now they play all the time. They even have a morning ritual that we like to call, *Let's see how far the cat's head gets into the dog's mouth today.*

I have enclosed updated photos of Coco. This is her first experience in the snow. She ran around the yard for over an hour just jumping in it. She wouldn't even come into the house. The other picture is her "Christmas Photo." It took about 45 minutes just to get one shot of her sitting in front of the tree. She was so interested in the camera that every time I got her to sit and stay, she would walk over to me and lick the camera.

Thank you for bringing Coco into our family.

Sincerely,

Julie Roth and Family



# Tame to Love

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## Rescuing the Feral Kitten

Every day, Save-A-Pet receives frantic phone calls from people who have spotted a pair of bright eyes under their deck or near a dumpster. These are “feral” cats. They are wild animals who live without owners or homes.

Some kind people undertake the responsibility of feeding these animals, but the job gets bigger and more daunting as these mostly unsprayed cats reproduce out of control. What can you do?

Ideally, feral kittens should be taken from their mothers when they are four or five weeks old. Any younger, and they may not survive. Any older, and they may not be tamed. Be sure to wear heavy gloves and use a towel to pick them up. They can bite hard! If you are bitten, see a doctor immediately. Do not expose them to other pets until they are old enough to be tested for disease.



At first, the kittens will have to learn to trust you. Keep them isolated in a small, confined space. Brush them often; keep your body still and your voice soft. After two days, begin to handle them. Pick them up in a towel, place them on your lap one at a time, pet them gently or groom them with a soft brush, which imitates their mother’s tongue. Then give them a food treat like a spoonful of meat flavored baby food, and put them down. You can do this several times during the day.

Use a flea comb to keep them clean. Under six weeks of age, kittens are too young for flea sprays and powders, but flea infestation can make kittens sick.

After the first few days, sit quietly with the kittens as they eat. Get them to associate your presence with food. Soon you will be able to introduce a string toy, luring them ever closer to you.

When you think they are ready, pet their heads lightly as they eat. With a little luck, the kittens will respond to the food and your gentle touch within about five days. Then they are ready to be adopted.

You will have saved these kittens from a life of cold, hunger and fear, so pat yourself on the shoulder. But please, do not forget to trap the mom and get her spayed. It is the only way to end this cycle.

## Previously Owned Pets and Homes

Previously Owned Pets and Homes: both need love and care. Meredith Kurz keeps busy by selling homes and commercial properties in the area. Not only is Meredith committed to helping you buy or sell your property, she’s offered to help “Previously Owned Pets” from Save-A-Pet find a home as well. For each person who mentions Save-A-Pet while buying or selling a home, or for each person who refers someone who needs those services, Meredith will donate from \$300 to \$500 per transaction to Save-A-Pet.

Meredith’s daughter Katie was the inspiration for this charity. “Katie is a committed and cheerful volunteer,” explained Meredith. “She loves all the animals and they love her. I respect her dedication and drive and want to support her ‘E-pet organization.’” Meredith has earned top production awards, is a Certified Home Marketing Specialist and Buyers Representative and is an active community member. Call Meredith at 631.371.9021 for further information.

# Happy Endings



**"PINKY"** and her sister survived the devastating fire that destroyed their Brooklyn apartment building. But the nice firefighter who took them home couldn't keep them. At Save-A-Pet, her sister was quickly adopted, but Pinky was diagnosed with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). She waited patiently in her kitty condo, isolated from our other cats, lest she infect them too. Four years passed. Then a woman walked into the shelter. She was looking for a dog to provide companionship for a stray cat she had adopted — a cat who had just been diagnosed as FIV positive, the same virus that Pinky had. We had a better idea. Today, Pinky is happy and loved and sharing life with her new sister in her forever home.

**"LITTLE BOY BLUE"** was found wandering the streets, dragging his paralyzed back legs behind him. Could this beautiful little Weimaraner puppy have been thrown away by a heartless person? We thought it was possible, but we knew how much joy he could bring the right family. Luckily, they came to Save-A-Pet and found him. Today, his hindquarters are getting stronger and he is just as frisky and playful as any pup in the place.



**"FRED and VANCE"** were always "best buds." This beagle and boxer were raised together... then surrendered together. As a purebred, Vance would be the most adoptable. But despite the difference in size, Vance followed Fred everywhere. We owed these two the chance to live out the rest of their lives together. When a young man, whose wife was pregnant with their first child, wanted to adopt Vance, he was told that they could not separate the dogs. And so, they didn't. Today the new baby has two "best buds." And that is a happy ending!

Save-A-Pet is a tax-exempt non-profit 501c(3) organization. It is not subsidized by any person or organization and depends solely on donations for its work to continue.

*If you have a Happy Ending to share, call Kerri Glynn at 631.751.4676*



[www.saveapetny.org](http://www.saveapetny.org)

## How Your Donations Can Help

\$30 will sponsor a dog or a cat for a month.

\$50 will help spay or neuter a dog or cat.

\$100 will buy a brick in our memorial walkway.

\$360 will sponsor a cage or crate for one year.

\$500 will provide surgery for a seriously ill or injured animal.

*Thanks to you, every animal who comes into the care of Save-A-Pet is given a wonderful new life. Your donation ensures that Save-A-Pet can continue its life-saving work. Your donation of any amount, large or small, helps these animals and gives them the "happily ever after" love they deserve. Please become a member of our Save-A-Pet family.*

I've enclosed a donation of  \$30  \$50  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_ to help the animals.

For credit card payment:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue 631.473.6333  
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# THANK YOU!



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