



# Paws-itive Partners

## Spring-Summer 2023

Hello friends,

About the time we thought the snow and low temperatures would never end, here came Spring, and now Summer is right around the corner. We hope you find a few minutes to enjoy the sunshine, sip an iced tea or lemonade and read up on what we are doing.

In this newsletter, we'll tell you about day in and day out activities of Paws-itive Partners as well as not so frequent events. Most of what we do we really enjoy but some things are more difficult to deal with. Our newsletter stays positive and we share *pawsitive* news.

We're told the economy is on the upswing, but many of the pet owners we work with haven't seen that yet. There have been an increased number of requests for financial help to spay and neuter and more pet owners are using the pet food pantry. We continue receiving financial requests for veterinary emergencies. These are the times we especially appreciate our supporters and friends that donate to what Paws-itive Partners does. Thank you!

### **Giving Day**

Mid Nebraska Community Foundation's North Platte Giving Day is May 3. Giving Day is an event for donors wanting to help their favorite nonprofit organizations. People can make donations through Giving Day and help Paws-itive Partners win additional cash prizes and matching prizes.

If you wish to participate before Mid Nebraska Community Foundation's official Giving Day, MNCF is already accepting donations. Go to Mid Nebraska Community Foundation's North Platte Giving Day to give online from your smart phone or drop off a donation at their office at 121 North Dewey or Orr's Cleaners, U-Save Pharmacy or Prairie Arts Center.

Paws-itive Partners plans to use our Giving Day donations to build a "meet and greet" area at North Platte Animal Shelter. The outdoor area will be fenced and shaded with seating, a water station for dogs and platforms for dogs to climb on. A meet and greet area allows an animal shelter dog to meet its potential adopter (and their other family dog) in a neutral territory. The off-leash space will be large enough to allow the dogs to set the pace of introduction and interaction and to socialize in a safe, friendly manner. The goal of a meet and greet is to increase the likelihood of successful dog adoptions.

If donations to Paws-itive Partners on Giving Day exceeds our portion of building the meet and greet area, we will place the balance of donations into a special fund for emergency medical situations. In recent months, we have cared for dogs and cats in lower income families hit by vehicles, had tails mangled in engines, humane euthanasia to end suffering, and much more. It will be heartwarming and beneficial to have medical funds available to help with serious or life-threatening emergency care.

### **Woofstock 2023**

After cancellations since 2020, Paws-itive Partners' Woofstock is coming back! Woofstock is a day of "fur-filled" fun in Memorial Park in North Platte. Give your dogs and family a rockin' day to remember at Woofstock 2023. Join us from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 19.

Songscapesdj Kevin Winder will be at Woofstock entertaining with 60s, 70s and 80s music. Bring your dog to show his or her talents during Strut Your Stuff time. Veterinary clinics, non-profit organizations and vendors will be present. Come ready for unique shopping. You can take a chance purchasing 50-50 Raffle tickets before or during Woofstock. We'll have grab bags for kids and free ice cream for dogs at Woofstock.

Have you tossed your pennies and loose change in jars or cans at home? If so, bring them to Woofstock and add them to Pennies for Paws. Fundraising for animals adds up one penny at a time. New Harbor Construction will be at Woofstock accepting pet food or monetary donations for North Platte Pet Food Pantry.

Bring your appetite to Woofstock! Nebraskaland Bank is grilling hamburgers and hot dogs from 11:00 – 12:30. Lunch is \$6.00. There will be other food items for sale at Woofstock too. One of our biggest attractions is Woofstock's original T-shirts. Watch Paws-itive Partners' Facebook for the announcement when we begin selling Woofstock 2023 commemorative T-shirts.

To be sure, Saturday, August 19 will be a groovy day!

### **Don't Litter – Fix Your Critter**

Paws-itive Partners' motto is "Working together to do for animals what they cannot do for themselves" and one thing they cannot do is control pet overpopulation. Animals cannot dial a phone or schedule a veterinary appointment. But. You. Can. You can take your pet to be spayed or neutered. You can help someone else take their pet. You can talk with people about the importance of spay/neuter to reduce overpopulation, to reduce the risks of cancers in pets, to reduce roaming and improve behaviors.

Paws-itive Partners sponsors three spay and neuter programs that help lower income pet owners year-round. Thus far, 2023's requests for financial assistance is running ahead of 2022. We just finished Love My Cat in March and, as bills come in, we expect to reach *190 cats spayed/neutered in one month!* (Go veterinary clinics!)

### **Coldwell Banker Community Open House**

Paws-itive Partners will be at Coldwell Banker Community Open House Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Open House brings together 150 businesses, organizations and individuals for the public's entertainment. Paws-itive Partners' booth will offer pet education, financial assistance to spay/neuter and talk about North Platte Pet Food Pantry. Stop by to visit, share a story about your pet and ask questions about Paws-itive Partners.

### **We Do More**

You know we preach spay/neuter, spay/neuter, spay/neuter, but we do other things too. We co-run North Platte Pet Food Pantry (see below for that), give rides to veterinary appointments, trap/neuter/return, assist finding lifelong homes for displaced pets, pay for emergency veterinary care for animal shelter and other pets, when we are able. And we foster dogs and cats.

Let's talk about fostering. We always have a need for pet foster homes and would like to build a list of approved fosters. How nice it would be to have homes waiting before the need arises.

Becoming a foster allows a person to experience first-hand how to make an immediate impact on the life of an animal. Fostering can last from a few days to several months, depending on the individual animal. Fostering can be a life-affirming project for an individual or entire family. Fostering teaches patience and compassion. Fostering is fun and rewarded by seeing the animal develop the personality and confidence it might not have been able to show before. Fostering offers the company of pets to those unable to make a long-term commitment.

Are you interested in learning how you can help a dog or cat in need of temporary care? Please contact Paws-itive Partners.

### **Fun Fur and Feather Facts**

~If your cat approaches you with a straight, almost vibrating tail, this means he/she is extremely happy to see you.

~A bird's heart beats 400 times per minute while resting.

~Ancient Egyptians saw dogs as god-like. They lived in lavish palaces, had their own servants, ate only the finest meats and were decked out in jeweled collars.

~The name Collie means "black." Collies once tended black-faced sheep.

~Cats are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness.

### **North Platte Pet Food Pantry**

The number of pet owners using North Platte Pet Food Pantry continues growing every month. In January, February and March, alone, 599 came to the pantry for pet food. We have been busy, busy, busy. We dispersed 12,119 pounds of dog food and 10,400 pounds of cat food!

To use the pet food pantry, pet owners are required to have their pet spayed/neutered – we help them do that. We ask pantry users to take only the amount of food they need so we can help others. The pet food pantry doesn't condone buying pets from breeders and we discourage adopting another pet during the time they are unable to purchase their own pet food.

Thank you to Walmart DC, The Salvation Army, Menards, Tractor Supply and all the individuals who have donated pet food to the to the pantry. You help fill empty food bowls and hungry tummies.

### **New Beginnings for Pets**

We are thankful for people becoming increasingly aware of the quality-of-life an animal deserves. More people are standing up and speaking out for the well-being of pets. Oftentimes, Paws-itive Partners is contacted to help with owned, stray and displaced pets. We do our best to help. We knew 2023 would be a busy year when the first request for help came January 1<sup>st</sup>!

On New Years Day, we were called to the home of a very sick cat. The cat had already been sick for two months and, with our convincing, the owner surrendered his cat to us. Paws-itive Partners provided extensive medical care and found an excellent foster home. Cat is adopted and is healing because of the amazing love of his new family and excellent veterinary care.

Later in January, we received an anonymous call about a puppy confined outdoors with no shelter. We went to the address, saw the very thin, unprotected puppy that had no access to food or water. We reported it to the authorities. It turned out well because the owner surrendered the puppy and Paws-itive Partners spayed/neutered the other dogs in the home.

The first week in February, a woman contacted us for help to spay and neuter the neighborhood cats she fed. (We support people feeding homeless cats.) We arranged help to trap the cats to have them vetted and neutered.

Still in February, here came another anonymous call and this time about a family with 25 cats in the home. Most of the cats were unspayed/unneutered and actively reproducing. We helped spay/neuter most of the cats. Nearly all the cats have been adopted through the shelter.

A senior dog's owner died unexpectedly in February. Through Paws-itive Partners the dog found a foster home in Kearney. Paws-itive Partners provided veterinary care until the dog became a "foster failure." A foster failure happens when a foster parent falls in love with the pet and rather than fostering they adopt the pet forever.

During the same time we were helping with the 25 cats, a woman with disabilities had to move out of state and surrendered her beloved cat to Paws-itive Partners. Cat was adopted in record-time and the cat is doing great.

These are just a few ways we have been allowed to help pets. Sometimes it's a whirlwind and sometimes it's a breeze. For sure, it's never a dull moment.

### **Paws-itive Partners Facts**

~Paws-itive Partners has provided over \$40,000 veterinary care to animals staying in North Platte's city-owned Animal Shelter!

~Paws-itive Partners Humane Society is 25 years old in 2023.

~Lincoln County Detention Center currently has nine cats living in its jail and socializing with jail inmates. Paws-itive Partners has financed the jail cats' veterinary care for chronic medical conditions, vaccinations, spay/neuter and special diets.

~Paws-itive Partners Humane Society turned 25 years old in 2023.

### **Connected**

To spay/neuter – 308-660-5561, 308-530-1516 or 308-650-PAWS  
North Platte Pet Food Pantry – 308-530-6954

To stay current on Paws-itive Partners activities – Facebook at Pawsitive Partners Humane Society

Mailing address – Paws-itive Partners, P O Box 1145, North Platte Nebraska 69103

### **How to Walk a Human – A Dog's Guide**

*Humans need exercise. If they don't get exercise they become "chubby." It's up to you to save them.*

- 1.Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wandering off or running away.
- 2.Your human probably needs breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
- 3.Bark frequently. Humans have a short attention span.
- 4.When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up. Good aerobics.
- 5.Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
- 6.Do not allow your human to shorten the walk.
- 7.Once you are home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.

~Paw Prints, January 2023

**Please remember Giving Day, Coldwell Banker Community Open House and Woofstock. We will be there!**