



Paws-itive Partners

Fall 2023 – Winter 2024

Hello friends,

Paws-itive Partners has been busy, busy, busy. We'll tell you some of the good, the bad and the ugly that's happened since our last newsletter, but most of it will be good, as we stay paws-itive! There is so much good in the world – good people, good communities and good animals. Paws-itive Partners is fortunate to be able to be part of all this.

Thank you for making time to read our newsletter. Thank you for being friends of Paws-itive Partners.

Giving Day and Giving Day 2023

Paws-itive Partners is fortunate to participate in Mid Nebraska Community Foundation Giving Day. Through proceeds from Giving Day last May, Paws-itive Partners, North Platte Animal Shelter and MNCF built a meet and greet area at the animal shelter. The fenced area is a big, comfortable place for potential adopters to get acquainted with dogs awaiting new homes. A large portion of the meet and greet area is covered with a new roof that provides protection from the weather. There's a picnic table, a platform for dogs to climb on and a water dish. Like the sign in the area says, "It's a good day to save animals."

MNCF End of Year Giving Day has just begun. Again, this provides many non-profit organizations an opportunity to benefit from hundreds of generous individuals and businesses. If you participate in MNCF End of Year Giving Day, we hope you will consider Paws-itive Partners. All proceeds go to replenish what we use for emergency veterinary care and spay/neuter.

Newcomers in North Platte

As North Platte is experiencing new growth and development, the North Platte Newcomers organization has reintroduced itself. Newcomers' director Kathy Brown is providing Newcomer packets to residents moving into North Platte. The packets include information about local businesses and organizations and can be picked up at the Municipal Light & Water office. We have Paws-itive Partners information in the packet so new residents can read about what we do and how we can help pets and their owners.

Emergency and Short-term Pet Care

In recent years, we've received an increased number of pleas for help with temporary pet care. We are talking about pets belonging to people that became hospitalized, entered hospice, were displaced and suddenly homeless, died unexpectedly. Situations have been referred to Paws-itive Partners by service agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelter, assisted/senior living facilities, family members and more.

The need for pet care keeps on happening; we've received three pet care requests in the past two weeks. With the help of agency and facility professionals, Paws-itive Partners is

developing a system for helping pets in situations such as we mentioned above.

We don't have enough Paws-itive Partners members to do this alone and we need to recruit community members. Would you be able to dog sit in your home for two days? Can you spare three days to make twice-a-day visits to feed an elderly person's cat? Could you foster a pet in your home while a patient rehabs before returning home? Can you pay the cost of boarding a pet for a few days? Paws-itive Partners is challenged to meet these needs.

The help we need doesn't require highly specialized abilities – it takes compassion, pet skills, love and a desire to aid pets and people in need. Other humane organizations that have Emergency and Short-term Pet Care programs have found a desire in the public to offer up their homes and time for this to support some of the most vulnerable pet owners. If you have the slightest interest in Emergency and Short-Term Pet Care, please call so we can visit. We want to make this happen and we need help to do so. Please call 308-530-1516.

Wreaths and Trees

Prairie Arts Center's Festival Of Trees opens November 17th and continues through December 9th. The holiday trees, wreaths and décor are originals by local businesses, artists and individuals. Our own Dianne Morales created a large candy cane shaped wreath. Thank you, Dianne, for participating in the Festival of Trees. All Christmas decorations are for sale by bidding and benefit PAC.

Paws on the Platte

If you know what Paws on the Platte is, you know it's a unique event that emerged our town in community art. The first Paws on the Platte took place in 2018, followed by another in 2021 and, it's returning in 2024! We are excited to announce a pack of life-size, custom designed, fiberglass dog statues will arrive in February. The unfinished statues are being sponsored by area businesses and individuals. Upon arrival in North Platte, each statue goes home with an area artist. If you have seen Paws on the Platte dogs from the past, you will agree the imagination and talent of artists is almost beyond words. The artists create individual masterpieces of art.

After the dog statues are completed, they make a grand debut and go on display in businesses and stores as well as with sponsors and artists. The finale comes at a lively, competitive, fun auction in July. That's another part of Paws on the Platte that is almost beyond words.

Paws on the Platte dogs posed in a sitting position the first time and in a begging pose the second time. We haven't announced what the 2024 dog pose is but it's fun and unique. Follow our Facebook to learn more.

Helping Animals

The first nine months of 2023, Paws-itive Partners paid for over \$1500 veterinary care to animals at North Platte Animal Shelter and in the care of law enforcement.

In our Spring-Summer newsletter, we told you about some out-of-the-ordinary ways we got to help dogs and cats. Here are a few more ways we've helped since our last newsletter:

In April, a very thin black lab was running in the country near Hershey. People couldn't coax and catch the frightened

dog. The lab disappeared until being seen in North Platte 26 days and 14 miles later! Paws-itive Partners snapped into gear and went on the lookout for the dog we named Hope. It took two days, but we trapped Hope near South Sycamore and Phillip. After receiving veterinary care and TLC from her foster family, Hope was adopted by loving human parents and sibling dogs Hank and Gus. The ironic ending to this story is that Hope was adopted by one of the rural families that tried catching her weeks before. Hope is home!

Hit by a vehicle in May, a miniature Aussie was facing the possibility of euthanasia. Paws-itive Partners was contacted and took ownership of the dog. Teddy was in extreme pain, was very timid and appeared under socialized. He underwent major surgery for his broken femur and a few days later went to a Paws-itive Partners member's foster home to rehab. It was no one's fault that Teddy reinjured and rebroke his femur. And he was still awaiting hip surgery. The difficult decision was made to amputate the leg Teddy still wasn't using. Teddy, renamed Skipper, made a miraculous recovery and doesn't miss the leg he doesn't have. Skipper is adopted to two wonderful, active, loving parents. He jogs with his parents and fur siblings every day. Go, Skipper, go!

There was a car-semi wreck on I-80 between North Platte and Sutherland in June. A service dog named Daisy Mae was ejected from the vehicle and disappeared. The owners were hospitalized. Paws-itive Partners hung posters at truck stops, local businesses, rest stops and farms. We combed the area, searching ditches, culverts and pastures on foot; we utilized a drone. It was several days before Daisy Mae was found and tearfully reunited with her owners. The owners didn't have money for veterinary care and Paws-itive Partners provided that. Daisy Mae suffered injuries but was in good health considering the ordeal she'd been through.

Last summer, animal control officers were called to a home with an excessive number of dogs and cats in the house. No rabies vaccinations, of course. Paws-itive Partners paid to have three dogs and eight cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

An elderly North Platte woman took a starving Doberman from a yard where he was chained to a tree. The Doberman pup should have weighed 70 pounds but weighed only 40. The woman cared for Deisel, but his size and energy proved too much. In August, Deisel was transported to a Doberman rescue where he was adopted into an active, young family.

Helping Animals, Part Two

We want to think everyone loves adorable kittens and puppies, right? Sadly, that's not the case. Following are happy-ending stories involving people who got involved and did the right thing:

We received a call about two 4-week-old kittens that had been at the front door of an 80-year-old lady for a couple days. She couldn't catch the kittens but supplied food, water and a shelter box on her patio. One kitten disappeared and one kitten stayed around. Paws-itive Partners provided a plan and live traps but that very day, when we arrived, we found the kitten snuggled in the lady's lap. :) Unable to keep the kitten, the lady let the kitten be adopted by a Paws-itive Partners member the same day. Now, the rest of this story is that a couple weeks later, two more kittens, certainly from the same

litter, showed up at the lady's patio. Within an hour, a TNR volunteer had both kittens. TNR socialized the kittens and they have been adopted.

It was 100 degrees at the time security cameras recorded a Toyota pull up by a trash dumpster and stop. The driver took a box out of the bed of his truck and (literally) dumped kittens from the box onto the ground! The following morning, employees called Paws-itive Partners when they found three kittens and the discarded box by the trash dumpster. We went to the store and the employee and Paws-itive Partners found two more kittens. We took the defenseless kittens to the animal shelter. Paws-itive Partners provided veterinary care and medicine for three of the kittens. We visited the shelter five days a week to play with and socialize with the kittens, making them adoptable. Police identified the man that disposed of the kittens and cited him for multiple counts of animal neglect and abandonment. Unfortunately, we haven't had any success finding any information that charges were filed with the court in this City case. The wonderful part of this story is all five kittens went to new homes within two days of being released for adoption.

Another day in September, there was a couple selling puppies and kittens from a truck parked across from Walmart. A 14-year-old boy got a puppy and took him home without asking his parents. The parents found out about the puppy late that night and there was a battle. Paws-itive Partners was called the next morning to help. We contacted one of our amazing foster homes and that afternoon the puppy was in foster care. It might be a record-breaking foster failure (less than 24 hours) when the puppy went from foster status to adopted status!

Congratulations and Happy Graduation

We met Millie when she was 9 months old and being cared for in a foster home. We tried finding the just-right home for Millie but without luck. She was even featured on KNOP's Pet of the Week, but without luck. Millie was a sweet puppy but was a super-high energy girl and needed a lot of attention.

Finally, after researching the possibility, we found a great option for Millie. In July, Millie was accepted into Second Chance Pups, a 9-week dog training program at Nebraska State Penitentiary. Millie went to Lincoln and was matched up with her primary handler and two secondary handlers. Millie was with one of her handlers 24/7. She was a good student and she thrived with all the attention. Paws-itive Partners was privileged to watch Millie receive her Good Canine Citizen and Second Chance Pups graduation papers on September 8, 2023. Millie was one of seven graduating dogs in attendance. The stories told by instructors and handlers were heartwarming and the graduates were inspiring.

Please Don't Litter

If you know someone needing financial assistance to spay and neuter their pet, please suggest calling Paws-itive Partners. Of all the programs Paws-itive Partners has, spaying and neutering cats and dogs is still our primary goal. We work to prevent unwanted/abandoned/uncared for litters. We work to stop the problem before it starts – prevention is the most effective solution to the problem.

In 2023's first 10 months, we have provided financial assistance to spay and neuter 505 dogs and cats! If the average cat litter is 4-5 kittens and dog litters vary from 1-12 with the

average litter being 6 puppies, imagine the suffering that's been prevented by all these spays and neuters!

North Platte Pet Food Pantry

North Platte Pet Food Pantry provides pet food for hungry pets. During the first 10 months of 2023, Paws-itive Partners volunteers served 1,579 pet owners. We are grateful to our major food provider, Walmart Distribution Center, and many other businesses and individuals for taking care of us. Not only does the Pet Food Pantry give dry dog and cat food, but also canned food, cat litter, toys and supplies.

To give you an idea of how busy the pantry is, from January through October 2023, Paws-itive Partners dispersed *39,368 pounds of dog food and 23,778 pounds of cat food!* This does not include the canned pet food we give away.

There aren't a lot of requirements for pet owners using the pantry. We do ask that their dogs and cats are spayed/neutered, or owners are actively working toward getting them fixed. The pantry wishes to assist as many pet owners as possible, so we limit the use of the pantry to once monthly and a maximum of 12 times annually. Dog breeders are not allowed to use the services of North Platte Pet Food Pantry.

Woofstock 2023

This was the year we resumed Woofstock, after the break from Covid. It was the day at Memorial Park for dogs and people. The weather was very hot but that didn't keep attendees from having fun. Woofstock had vendors selling pet-theme items, there was free dog ice cream, informational booths about emergency pet care, service dog training and more. We enjoyed Nebraskaland Bank's grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Songscape DJ Kevin Winder entertained us throughout the day. Thank you, Woofstock sponsors, participants and everyone that attended. It was a lot of fun and we'll see you in 2024 for a groovy time.

Fur Funnies

Q: What do you do when it's raining cats and dogs?

A: Nothing, as long as it doesn't reindeer.

Chestnuts roasting by an open fire, kitty nipping at your nose...

In the eyes of a dog, a Christmas tree is a giant, gloriously decorated fire hydrant. ~Unknown

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

There's so much that makes Christmas "the most wonderful time of the year." There are carols, baking, peaceful reflection, writing cards, sipping hot cocoa, renewing traditions, services at church, having more family and friend time – for most, it add up to a "holly, jolly Christmas." After you "deck the halls" and wake up from "dreaming of a white Christmas," please take a moment to think about gift-giving.

If you are looking for a meaningful gift, you might consider a financial donation to Paws-itive Partners. If you donate in someone's honor, that person will receive a Christmas card from Paws-itive Partners telling them about your gift in their name.

A financial donation to Paws-itive Partners can spay/neuter a beloved pet. It can purchase food for a hungry dog or cat. A donation can provide veterinary care in an emergency. It can give a second chance to a pet in a new home.

Staying in Touch with Paws-itive Partners

-To spay/neuter – 308-660-5561, 308-650-PAWS or 308-530-1516

- North Platte Pet Food Pantry – 308-530-6954

- Current Paws-itive Partners activities – Facebook

- Mailing address – P.O. Box 1145, North Platte, NE 69103