



Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue

The Little Rescue with a Big Heart

Non-Profit 501 (c) 3

Winter 2018

A Year of Compassion and Growth

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded how many lives have been touched by the generosity and compassion of Caring Hearts donors and supporters. **A total of 325 animals were helped during 2017**, far surpassing our expectations. None of this would have been possible without YOU!

We also opened a Thrift Store in April to generate additional funding, and were humbled and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from our local community of Morgan and Camden County, Missouri, as well as donations across the state from Saint Louis to Kansas.

The Thrift Store contributions were so abundant, that within 6 months it became necessary to expand our storefront to better accommodate and streamline the donation intake process. Not a bad problem to have! We were also blessed with financial contributions from supporters on the East Coast to California.

Although our main goal is to improve the lives of dogs and cats, we've discovered that human lives have been enriched along the way as well. You see, many of the animals helped by Caring Hearts – about 80% - are beloved pets, which without our assistance would not be enjoying the quality of life they do today. In addition, the Caring Hearts Thrift Store, which generates the majority of our animal care funding, provides a much more affordable way for families to purchase basic necessities like clothing and household items. It's a win-win for the animals and the people!

Want to help? In addition to donating gently used items, you can also help support our mission by donating the following:

- Pull tabs from aluminum cans
- Best Choice labels
- Dry or canned dog and cat food
- Your time – consider volunteering
- Financial contributions
 - Shop AmazonSmile.com and select Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue as your charity of choice
 - Click the DONATE button on the Caring Hearts Facebook page
 - DONATE through the Caring Hearts website at www.caringheartsanimalrescue.org
 - Make checks payable to **Caring Hearts** and mail to: PO Box 1684, Laurie, MO 65038



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Flower's Long Journey Home



Flower, (aka "Wildflower"), has spent the last three months fighting for her life from injuries sustained being hit by a car. Just a few weeks prior, she and her sibling were dumped in Laurie, Missouri and left to fend for themselves – they were only kittens at the time.

Although it was late at night, we are so thankful a Good Samaritan saw the accident and called Caring Hearts. Flower's sibling was scooped up with Flower, and off they all went to Lake Pet Hospital in Eldon. X-rays revealed a broken pelvis, and later we would learn that Flower had sustained other internal injuries from the accident as well.

Flower has fought her way through a broken pelvis, numerous laser treatments, pneumonia, bladder surgery, and procedures to repair a large wound from torn stitches after her surgery. Although Caring Hearts covered the veterinary expenses, Flower's recovery would not have been possible without the good folks at Lake Pet Hospital and Flower's extra special guardian angel, Anne Bishop, who stayed by her side every step of the way. We cannot thank Anne enough for her compassion and dedication to Flower's full recovery, and for never giving up on her.

In the meantime, the Good Samaritan (that originally contacted us the night of Flower's accident) welcomed Flower's sibling into her home, where she has been thriving ever since. Thankfully, this Good Samaritan has opened her heart and home to Flower as well, and cannot wait to reunite the siblings.

Although the journey was long, we are so thankful to everyone involved in Flower's rescue, care and recovery. It won't be long now before Flower is playing with her sister again in her "happily ever after" forever home.



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Cold Weather Tips

If your dog stays outside in cold weather for more than potty breaks and walks, he will need a warm, dry place away from the cold and wet. Provide him with an **insulated airtight** doghouse that is **raised up off the ground** at least a few inches, and is equipped with a **door flap to keep out drafts**. Also, make sure the doghouse always has **dry bedding**; a lot of hay or straw is a good insulator and they can burrow down in it. Please remember that dogs are social animals and you are their family. **They want to be with you**, so don't leave your dog outside in the cold all the time.

Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use **plastic food and water bowls**. When the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

A good rule of thumb – **if it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet**. If you encounter a pet left in the cold, we encourage you to contact local law enforcement agencies because pets left outside in extreme temperatures, especially without food and shelter, are at risk of hypothermia, frostbite and even death.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

We cannot begin to express our appreciation to the selfless volunteers for their many contributions to this organization - their commitment is reflected in everything they do. Our volunteers are the foundation of Caring Hearts, and without them, none of the good work we do would be possible. If you would like to join our team, please contact us to learn about the many volunteer opportunities available - we'd love to hear from you! Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.

About Us

We are a small group of dedicated individuals who are passionate about saving animals and making a positive difference in the community. Caring Hearts is supported solely by donations and fund raising efforts. We are 100% volunteer run and operated and committed to improving the lives of animals, their owners and the community.

Mission

To make a positive difference in the lives of dogs and cats by promoting health and well-being through community outreach, animal welfare education, and low-cost spay/neuter assistance.

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To make the world a better place one life at a time.

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Marlene Evans – Event Coordinator

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Spring 2018

Pay It Forward

A friend of Caring Hearts was so moved after reading a story in our fall 2017 newsletter that she decided to start a "Pay It Forward" grant (aka Cole Cares) specifically for people in the community who are trying to get their lives back on track, and just need a little help.

In the past, Caring Hearts volunteers have taken money out of their own pockets to help people in need purchase basic necessities from the Caring Hearts Thrift Store. Now, thanks to the Cole Cares grant, we can help more people in need find hope through random acts of kindness. Although our mission is to help animals, our goal is to share kindness and compassion throughout the community.

2018 Gold Seal

Caring Hearts was recently recognized for our transparency with a 2018 Gold Seal on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than 8 million visitors per year and a network of over 200 partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. In order to get the 2018 Gold Seal, Caring Hearts shared important information with the public using our profile on www.guidestar.org. Now our community and potential donors can find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress. We're shining a spotlight on the difference we help make in the world.

How You Can Help

Shop at the Caring Hearts Thrift Store at 113 North Main Street in Laurie, Missouri. Consider donating:

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A Future for Finley



Hi friends! My name is Finley. A very nice family adopted me when I was 8 weeks old. They brought me to my new home to meet the whole family and get settled in. My first day was great! Everything seemed to be perfect. I had a nice new home, a big family that loved me and even a cat to play with!

But by the end of the second day I started to feel yucky. I wasn't hungry or thirsty. All I wanted to do was sleep so my new mom took me to the puppy hospital to see why I didn't feel good. The nice puppy doctor looked at me and did some tests. They found out I had a virus called Parvo. It didn't sound good for me. I was scared.

I overheard the puppy doctor tell my mom it would be kind of expensive to make me feel better again. My mom said she didn't quite have enough money then to pay for my treatment and medicine. She wasn't sure what she was going to do.

But the puppy doctor told my mom about a place that might be able to help save my little life. That gave me and my mom hope and even made my mom cry. Mom called Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue and they said they would help my mom take care of the cost that day!

My family and I will never forget how kind and compassionate the nice lady at Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue was. We are forever grateful! Thanks for caring enough about me to give me this awesome chance at a happy life!

Forever Grateful,
Finley



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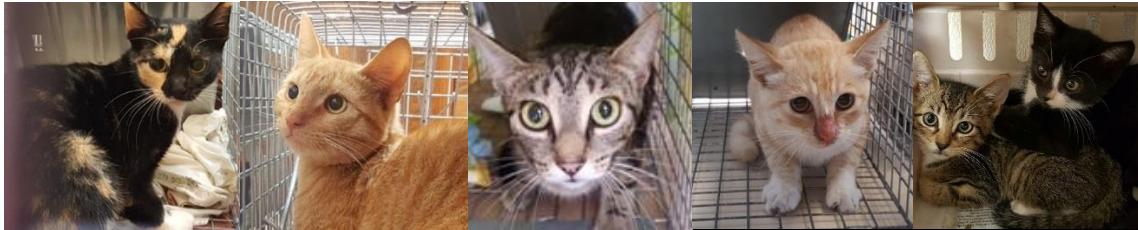
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Puppies and Parvo

So far this year, Caring Hearts has helped 120 dogs and cats with veterinary expenses, out of which 8 were puppies and dogs with parvo. Even with our help, one did not survive. Parvo is a very serious and fatal virus. Symptoms of parvo include lethargy, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, fever, loss of appetite and severe weight loss. Anyone who has watched a puppy suffer from this life threatening illness can tell you how important it is to vaccinate your puppies and dogs. If your puppy or dog shows signs of contracting parvo, take them to a veterinarian immediately. It can mean the difference between life and death.

Springtime in Missouri

Spring has sprung, and Caring Hearts is ramping up for another exciting year of TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) outreach in an effort to help our homeless community cat population live happier, healthier lives. Here are a few of the 75 TNR feline friends we helped last year.



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- Phone: 573-789-9247
- Email: caringhearts8@yahoo.com
- In Person: **Caring Hearts Thrift Store** 113 North Main, Laurie Missouri, 65038
Open 10AM – 4PM Thursday, Friday Saturday and Monday

Visit us Online

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Summer 2018

This is Community

Because of you, more than 300 dogs and cats in need received assistance with veterinary care expenses this year; a third of which received low to no cost spay/neuter services. You also fed hundreds of hungry animals and covered transportation and boarding costs for lost and abandoned pets.

You took in strays and nursed them back to health and trapped feral cats so they could be spayed. You shared posts from our Facebook page to help reunite lost pets with their owners and became a voice for animals others had given up on.

Our goal at the beginning of the year was to improve the lives of 500 dogs and cats in 2018. Thanks to you, we are on our way to surpass this goal. None of us can do it alone, but we are seeing what's possible when we all work together – we are creating a better life and future through simple acts of kindness and compassion every day.

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Jo-Jo's Journey



Jo-Jo Visiting the Caring Hearts Thrift Store

Hello! My name is Jo-Jo. I know I don't look it, but I am 15 years old. My mom adopted me when I was only 8 weeks old, so we've been together a long time. Mama calls me her "kid" and takes such good care of me. My life was wonderful, full of fun adventures, long walks and lots of play and snuggle time.

Then a couple years ago, a lump showed up on the back of my leg. It wasn't bothering me, but mama wasn't taking any chances. She took me to the vet straight away. The doc said it wasn't anything to be concerned about, but told mama to keep an eye on it.

Over the next couple of years, the lump continued to grow, and it inevitably started to hurt – I felt sick and didn't want to play anymore. That night I felt the lump burst and my mom rushed me to the vet. The lump had ruptured and we were told I needed surgery right away.

Mama has always taken such good care of me, but she didn't have money for an expensive surgery. She started to cry which made me feel even worse. Then the nice folks at Lake of the Ozark Animal Hospital told her to call Caring Hearts. She did, and she started to cry again, only this time it was different.

I was able to get the surgery I needed and I can't tell you how much better I feel! After I had time to recover, mama took me to meet the nice people at Caring Hearts. I don't usually warm up to strangers, but I could tell right away these humans were different. They gave me treats and made me feel so special – it was wonderful.

Thank you to everyone that helped me get the surgery I needed, but especially for helping my mama. She can't imagine life without me, and now she doesn't have to.



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Looking for a companion? Consider adopting a new family member from our friends at *Stover Animal Rescue*. To meet your new family member contact Stover Animal Rescue at (573) 377-4355 or stoveranimalrescue@gmail.com



Dakota is a beautiful 6 year old German Shephard mix that has been selected to take part in Caring Heart's first sponsored training program! Dakota is a sweet boy who just needs a little help learning to trust. Thanks to the kindness of a local dog trainer, Dakota will gain the confidence he needs to embrace the world and enjoy a happy life. We are so excited to see what the future holds for this beautiful boy!

***Buddy** is a super sweet kitty who gets along well with children and other cats. He was abandoned by his owner and left to fend for himself for months. You would think he would be distrustful of humans, but he just continues to show love and affection to everyone he meets. Buddy is looking for a forever family that can give him the life he's always deserved.

Ellie is a precious 6 year old black lab with the kindest eyes. She has been at the shelter since May 15th, is house trained and gets along great with children and other dogs. She was surrendered by her owner and doesn't understand why she is in a shelter. If you are looking for a great family dog, look no further – Ellie's your girl!

Jack is an adorable 6 year old beagle mix. He is house trained and gets along great with children and other dogs. Everyone who meets Jack falls in love with him. He is very gentle and well-mannered, and would make an ideal companion animal for a less active household.

***Eva** is a 3 year old super affectionate kitty. She came from a hoarding situation so it took her some time to adjust and trust people. Eva will need a less active home and a patient family that can continue to show her that not all humans are bad. Eva is a favorite at the shelter, but she is finally ready to find her forever home.

Tucker is a spunky 1 year old chocolate lab. He is very friendly and LOVES to play in the water. He gets along well with other dogs and has patiently been waiting for his forever home since May 31st. Tucker would fit in well with an active family where he can run, play and go on adventures.

**Adoption fees have been sponsored by friends of Stover Animal Rescue*

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- Phone: 573-789-9247
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Fall 2018

The Greater Good

With the help of this awesome community and friends of Caring Hearts, we have made life a little better for more than 1,000 dogs and cats (and one bunny) in less than 2 years. From the beginning, our goal was to improve the lives of dogs and cats in need - whether owned or homeless, healthy or injured.

We've covered expenses for emergency veterinary care, low cost spay/neuter, training, boarding, and supplemental food for the hungry. To do this, we partner with other non-profits, local businesses, veterinarians, trainers, rescues, and individual supporters who share our mission.

It truly takes all of us working together for a purpose bigger than ourselves. Recently, we requested help with cat and dog food. The response was incredible, and we were once again reminded we are not in this alone. We only had to ask, and this incredible community reached out with open arms!

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Gizmo Gets his Groove Back



Meet Gizmo – a very special kitty who beat the odds with the help of his devoted family, Fresh Start, Caring Hearts and the good people at Lake Pet Hospital.

One evening like any other, Gizmo came in the house after his outdoor adventures that day. His family heard him coughing and quickly became concerned because it sounded like he was trying to dislodge something from his throat. He was able to breathe, but the cough “sounded scary”. After checking him over, his family decided to keep a close eye on him through the night to monitor his condition.

The next morning, Gizmo began coughing up blood, at which point his family rushed him to Lake Pet Hospital in Eldon. X-Rays revealed that Gizmo did not have anything lodged in his throat, but instead had a collapsed lung! They were also advised that Gizmo’s heart had shifted to the other side of his chest.

No one knew what had happened to poor Gizmo, but they were certain they needed to act quickly if this little fella was going to have a fighting chance. The veterinarian began draining fluid from the collapsed lung, but couldn’t guarantee Gizmo would pull through.

After two heart-wrenching weeks, Gizmo’s cough went away and he began acting like his old adventurous self again. His family was overjoyed and confessed they didn’t know what they would do without Gizmo. “There’s just something special really about him.”

Thank you to the wonderful staff at Lake Pet Hospital and our partners at Fresh Start for saving this precious life and giving his family a “happily ever after”.



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What People are Saying About Us...

"Just like the name, wonderful people caring for all."

"I want to thank Caring Hearts for helping me twice in the last week. The first was with a kitten I found in the road that belonged to a neighbor. The cat was in very bad shape and had a horrible wound on its leg that was sadly too bad to be saved. But they stepped up. And then again today they helped when the same neighbor showed up at my house with a very sick puppy. Their hearts are huge and they really care about the animals that need help. They also help spay and neuter which saves so many lives. The 5 star system isn't enough to rate such a beautiful organization. Thank you so much for helping the animals. I think very highly of what you do, and your strength gives me hope."

"Highly recommend going to Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue and Fresh Start Rescue if you ever need any help! I found a stray cat that had a broken leg and they are taking care of the vet bill so I can help the cat get back to normal! They are extremely patient, nice and understanding while dealing with your situation and I want to thank them for helping me!"

"Where to start...If I could give Caring Hearts a 10 star rating I would. My 8 week old puppy got really sick overnight. We took him to the vet and he was diagnosed with Parvo. I was not prepared for such a large bill on top of finding out my puppy had Parvo. The animal hospital gave a number for Caring Hearts. I called crying because I'm asking for help from people I didn't know existed more than 5 seconds ago. My puppy might not make it, and I am alone figuring all this out. Yet they helped. They helped me pay the vet bill that day to get my puppy the medication he needed to survive. We will donate this back so other families can save their fur babies. I won't ever forget this. Thank you."

A Few of the Faces Helped



1. **Brutus** treated for Parvo
2. **Cain** had hematoma lanced on ear
3. **Big Guy** neutered
3. **Bo-Bo** treated for wounds sustained from a dog attack
4. **Lucy** spayed
6. **Bonnie** had leg amputated due to a lawn mower accident

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