



# Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue

*The Little Rescue with a Big Heart*

Non-Profit 501 (c) 3

Winter 2019

## A Thousand Reasons

As we say farewell to 2018, we look back on a year of hope and healing, unexpected blessings and more lives changed than we could have ever imagined. THANK YOU to our volunteers, donors and supporters for helping **1,000 dogs and cats**. We provided emergency veterinary care assistance, low cost spay and neuter services, training, boarding and supplemental food. Because of your generosity, we reached our donation goal of **\$1,000** on Giving Tuesday this past November. This is what a mission-driven organization, like-minded partners, dedicated supporters, and an awesome community can do together!

## Silver Lining

The Caring Hearts Thrift store sustained significant damage the first week of January when a car drove through the front of the building and we are extremely thankful no one was injured. The store will be closed for the next 8-12 weeks to make the necessary repairs. During the closure, the store will be unable to generate the precious funds needed to support our mission. Even so, we see the silver lining all around us - in the outpouring of support, compassion of friends and the offers of help from so many who have reached out to us. This is just a bump in the road, and we remain more committed than ever to continue changing the world one life at a time. We are truly blessed and we will reopen as soon as we can! Stay tuned...



## Contact Caring Hearts

- Phone: 573-789-9247
- Email: [caringhearts8@yahoo.com](mailto:caringhearts8@yahoo.com)

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## A Blessing in Disguise



Hi, my name is Mr. Brown, and boy do I have a story to tell.

It started out as a beautiful sunny day – I was having fun fishing with my family at the creek - when out of nowhere a storm popped up. Lightening crashed and I bolted back to the truck to hide. Then another crash of thunder scared me so bad that I tried to jump through the window even though it was rolled up. I bounced off and slammed to the ground. That's how I hurt my leg. I tried to be brave, but I admit I cried a little.

We didn't realize how bad I was hurt until the next morning when my leg swelled up twice its normal size and turned purple and black! My mama has the kindest heart. She's always helping other people, but she was having a rough time and didn't have the money to take me to the vet. That's when she found out about the nice folks at Caring Hearts and Fresh Start. They offered to pay my vet bill so I could get better!

Next, mama rushed me to the vet, and the X-Ray showed I had a spiral fracture – not an easy thing to fix. Rather than risk a complicated surgery, she made the tough decision to have my leg amputated instead. While I was under anesthesia, I would get neutered too. The last thing mama needed was more dogs because of me. That's when they discovered one of my boy parts hadn't descended and was wrapped around my intestines! The vet said I would have been in real trouble if they hadn't found that when they did. So in the end, hurting my leg was really a blessing in disguise and maybe even saved my life.

Mama says she doesn't know what she would have done without the nice folks at Caring Hearts and Fresh Start. I just know I feel so much better and get to spend a healthy, happy life with the people I love most.

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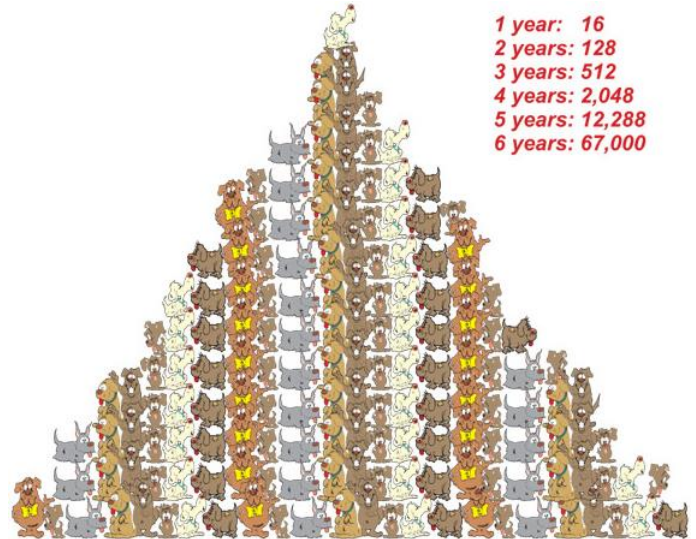
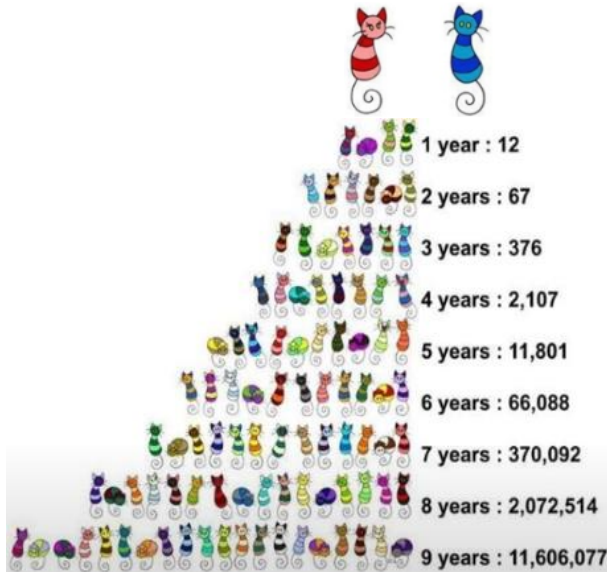
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## The Truth about Cats and Dogs

While millions of animals continue to die in shelters every year due to overpopulation, we can all do our part to reduce needless suffering by simply spaying or neutering our pets and supporting Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programs in the communities in which we live. If you have an unaltered pet and need help with spay or neuter services, please reach out to Caring Hearts to find out about low cost options. The pictures below depict the result of unaltered dogs and cats over a six to nine year span. Its simple math – Spay and Neuter programs work.



### Our 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.

### Vision

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

### How You Can Help

#### SHOP

- (Temporarily Closed) The **Caring Hearts Thrift Store** is located at **113 North Main Street** in Laurie, Missouri – all proceeds help community animals in need
- **Amazonsmile.com** and select **Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue** as your charity of choice

#### DONATE

- Dry cat or dog food (We are in desperate need of DRY CAT FOOD!!)
- Your time – be a volunteer!
- Pull tabs from aluminum cans
- Best Choice labels
- **Financial Contributions** – no amount is too small
  - CLICK DONATE on the Caring Hearts Facebook page
  - CLICK DONATE on Caring Hearts website at [www.caringheartsanimalrescue.org](http://www.caringheartsanimalrescue.org)
  - MAIL CHECKS payable to Caring Hearts to PO Box 1684, Laurie, MO 65038

### Board of Directors

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 Laura Cullom – Vice President and Co-Founder

Judy Tookey - Secretary  
 Carla Miget - Treasurer  
 Tonya Doherty – Social Media Coordinator

Martha Moulder - Advisor  
 Doris Zieman - Advisor

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Spring 2019

## Changing Lives Together

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us celebrate the Caring Hearts Thrift Store Grand Re-opening on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have missed our community family so much over the past couple of months, and we are so excited to be back in business. It's hard to describe, but there's just something special that happens when you walk through the doors at Caring Hearts. Whether you're a shopper, a volunteer, a visitor or a member of the community; you are one of us. So far this year, your support has allowed over 250 animals to enjoy happier, healthier lives. Together, we are making the world better one life at a time.

## Upcoming Event

Join us at Porters Building Center on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll have hot dogs, baked goods, giveaways and more! If you have an unaltered pet, we can help. Spaying or neutering our pets is the single most important step we can take to lower the number of homeless animals and the euthanasia rate in America.

**Where:** 223 North Main Street, Laurie Missouri

**When:** Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 11AM – 2PM

## A Legacy of Love



Caring Hearts received an anonymous donation in memory of LUCY (pictured above). We were privileged to meet Lucy when she visited the Thrift Store last year. She was very sweet and affectionate. Giving a legacy of love is a beautiful way to honor the life of a beloved pet. If you are interested in learning more about how your gift can help the community, please contact us.

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## Safe in the Arms of Grace



Hi, my name is Ninja. I was saved by the love of a little girl named Grace and her family who never gave up on me.

I was outside exploring like any other cat when WHAM - something happened and I knew I was in trouble. Somehow I made it home, and my family rushed me to the vet. My leg was shattered in 15 places, my tail was broken and I had a 6" infected gash down the length of my body. The vet cleaned and stitched my wound, and a drain tube was inserted from my shoulder to my hip. I would need to get my leg and tail amputated, but the vet wasn't sure I would survive that long. I was in really bad shape. The doctors prepared my family for the worst, but I wasn't giving up. I heard Grace's mom say they weren't giving up either.

I had been at the vet for about a week when I started feeling much better. I had the surgery to remove my leg and all but 2" of my tail, and was finally well enough to go home with my loving family. Grace's older brother, Tyler stepped in to do all my post-surgery care, which wasn't easy. He flushed the holes left from my drain tubes and gave me my medication twice a day. I will forever be grateful for this.

I don't think I'd be alive today if it weren't for the wonderful care I received at Chapman Animal Clinic, the financial help from Caring Hearts and mostly the love of my amazing family who never gave up on me.

When people look at me now, they may feel sorry for me, but I feel like the luckiest cat in the world. It was worth it all to be back where I belong...safe in the arms of Grace.



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## Facebook Feedback...

- "What a wonderful organization, helping countless fur babies get the medical care they need. Such a blessing to our community."
- "Awesome people with big hearts! Helped get the kittens spayed and neutered that my neighbors just left when they moved out."
- "Caring Hearts helped me with a huge emergency. I couldn't have saved my cat without them. I'm forever grateful."
- "All donations and funding go to help and rescue animals. *The little rescue with a big heart* truly describes this operation..."
- "Came home to my dog attacked by a big coon. Punctures all over, just paid rent and funds were low. Caring Hearts saved my baby."
- "They are amazing! I don't know what I would have done if I didn't find them! We are eternally grateful!"
- "I want to thank Caring Hearts for helping me. The first time when I found a kitten in the road that had a horrible wound on its leg that was sadly too bad to be saved. But they stepped up. And then again they helped when my 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. The 5 star system isn't enough to rate such a beautiful organization."
- "This place helped me more than imaginable! I could never repay you ladies for the dedication and kind heartedness you made me feel. Thank you!"
- "Excellent caring people. Love these ladies. Thank you for caring and helping with our critters."

## 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.

## How You Can Help

### SHOP

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Summer 2019

## Saving Lives

Your generous donations to Caring Hearts have provided emergency veterinary and low cost spay/neuter assistance to more than **500 community animals** this year. In addition, every month you **feed another 290 hungry dogs and cats.**

Out of the **526 animals helped** with veterinary care, **216 cats** and **66 dogs** were altered. Providing spay/neuter assistance is the single most important service we can offer to combat the overpopulation of unwanted pets and the almost 1.5 million animals killed in shelters every year. Thank you so much for your continued support – we could not do this life changing work without you. You are truly saving lives!

If you or someone you know has a pet that hasn't been spayed/neutered due to financial reasons, please let us know. We are here to help.

## THANK YOU for Your Support

In addition to donating gently used items to the Caring Hearts Thrift Store, our supporters have come up with creative ways to generate precious funding to help more animals.

- **Facebook Birthday Fundraisers** – we received over \$1,600 this year from supporters who created birthday fundraisers for Caring Hearts. It's super easy and feels great to give back.
- **Aluminum Can Recycling** – by recycling aluminum cans and donating the money you receive to Caring Hearts, we can help more animals in need. Every donation helps, no matter how small.
- **Amazonsmile.com** - select Caring Hearts Dog and Cat Rescue (EIN 81-3375617) as your charity of choice. When you shop **Amazonsmile.com**, a portion of your purchase price will be donated to Caring Hearts at no cost to you.

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## Angels Among Us



Hi, my name is Bella. I'm not fat; just a little fluffy. Some say I'm big boned, but don't judge me - my mama has me on a diet now. Speaking of mama, I gave her quite the scare and I'm so thankful to be alive today to tell you all about it.

The timing couldn't have been worse. Mama had just escaped a really bad situation with just the clothes on her back and I was all she had to hold on to. Within a few days, I started feeling really sick and couldn't go potty even though I tried as hard as I could. My mama saw blood where I had tried to potty and rushed me to Osage Animal Hospital.

Dr. Jeff explained I would need tests to find out what was wrong with me – tests she couldn't afford. Mama felt so helpless and heartbroken – like she had failed me somehow. That's when mama found out about the good people at Caring Hearts and Blue Moon. They paid to get all the tests I needed, and do you know what those tests uncovered? A HUGE stone in my bladder, the size of a jawbreaker candy! Well no wonder I felt so awful.

Mama started to cry again because she found out the surgery to fix me was very expensive – more than she would ever be able to afford. They talked about "letting me go", but I didn't like the sounds of that, and talking about it just made mama cry even more. Dr. Jeff told mama to wait another night before she made a decision, and in the meantime, he would keep me comfortable.

By that next morning, wouldn't you know - everyone at Osage Animal Hospital had fallen in love with me. I mean, what's not to love? I'm fluffy and fabulous! It wasn't long after that I got the surgery I needed and started feeling like myself again. It was wonderful.

Mama says there are angels among us, and I'm inclined to believe her. As much as she has been through, she desperately needed to see there is still kindness and compassion in this world and out of everything that happened to us, that was the best gift of all.



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## America the Beautiful

When we think about Independence Day, we often think of delicious food, family and friends, and fireworks that light up the night sky. However, for many, fireworks can be a source of distress and isolation: Veterans suffering from PTSD, children on the autism spectrum, and many pets (and their owners) just to name a few. If fireworks are part of your summer celebration plans, please consider a location away from your neighbors or maybe attending a community fireworks event. Showing kindness in this way will allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and happy summer with family and friends.

## Luke and Delilah



Last year, a boy named Luke lost his life-long best friend, a chocolate lab named Sampson. Luke's parents shared that losing Sampson had been really hard on Luke, and they hoped to find another dog that could help Luke find his "happy" again.

Caring Hearts reached out to animal rescue partners across Missouri and Kansas for help and before long, a friend of *Paws and Claws Animal Rescue* in Kansas, pointed us to a perfect match - a sweet chocolate lab, heeler mix puppy who needed a boy as much as Luke needed a new best friend.

Thanks to the partnership of Paws and Claws volunteers, we were able to bring these two soulmates together and share another happily ever after story. The puppy, lovingly named Delilah, is enjoying her forever home, and it's safe to say, Luke has found his "happy" again.

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