



# Holiday 2017



Dear Friend of the Pet Paw-See,

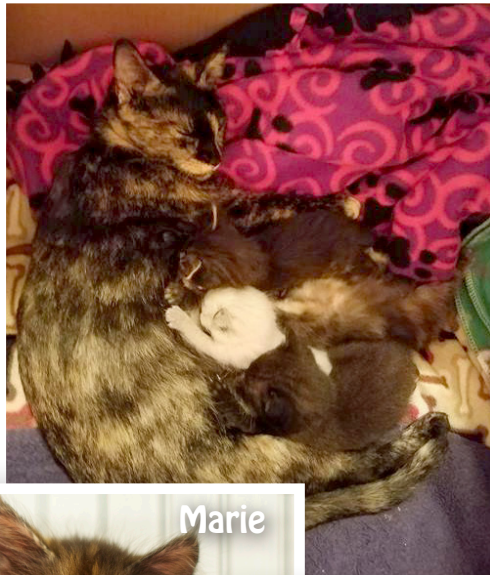
Once again, we look back at a year filled with so many happy endings thanks to the support of our donors, foster families, volunteers, and the loving people who stepped forward to give needy cats and kittens the furrever homes they deserve. **Because of you, cats who had been abused, abandoned, injured, or born to a feral mother become beloved family pets.** We are so very, very thankful.

## A Mother Learns to Trust

One very hot day last June, a woman noticed a plastic tote on her property with a frantic cat next to it. The cat had been clawing at the tote, trying to get into it. The Good Samaritan opened the tote, and to her surprise and horror, found five tiny kittens. Sadly, two were dead and three others were barely alive in the hot, airless tote. The woman called the Pet Paw-see for help and rushed the mama and kittens to our vet. The precious babies were dehydrated, hungry, and scared. Their eyes were matted shut. They received medical care, IV fluids, and kitten formula. Mama Duchess and her babies were safe.

Then, another call came. Two more kittens were found along the very same road the next night. They were whisked off to the clinic. Duchess heard these new kittens. They weren't the same age as hers, but Duchess went wild until the new arrivals, Uncle Waldo and Abigail, were placed with her own babies, Toulouse, Marie, and Berlioz.

Pet Paw-see put out an urgent plea for a foster home. Long-time dog rescuers Courtney and Andrew stepped up. They had a spare room where mama and babies could be safe and secure. **"It was our first time fostering a cat and kittens."** Courtney and Andrew dove right into it. **"Duchess was so protective of her babies at first. She kept moving them and trying to hide them from us,"** says Courtney. "We had to handle and weigh them daily, and it made Dutchess very nervous." As the kittens grew, so did the mother cat's trust in her human guardians. "When the babies got bigger, Dutchess wanted to venture out of the spare room to enjoy a little break from her motherly duties. "She'd lie on my chest while I watched TV, getting her own share of attention," says Courtney. **"It was a neat transformation to watch as Duchess learned to trust. It was an awesome experience."**



Marie



Abigail



Uncle Waldo

Marie, Uncle Waldo, and Abigail found loving, furrever homes.

Dutchess, Toulouse, and Berlioz are residing at the Petco Habitat, waiting for their loving, forever homes.



Duchess

*Duchess is a sweet and loving cat who's also quite playful. She likes to be held and petted, and will tell you nicely if she's had enough. After what she's been through, she deserves a loving family of her own.*

*Berlioz is a wild man. He is full of energy when he gets out of his cage at Petco. He runs around with his sister Toulouse or likes to run behind the cages where he can cause mischief without getting caught. You have to wait until he is tired to cuddle. He likes it then, but it's on his terms!*

*Toulouse has an active kitten spirit combined with a very sweet disposition. She plays hard with her brother Berlioz, but when tired of playing she'll cuddle up with you for love and attention. She'd be fine in a home with other cats, kids and dogs (with proper introductions, of course).*



Toulouse



Berlioz





Raja

*Raja had bounced from home to home until he met Leah Zins at a Petco Pet Paw-see adoption event. It was love at first sight for both of them!*



## The Purrfect Match

**The amazing bond between animals and their human friends is portrayed in the story of Raja Kitty and Leah.**

In 2013, Leah underwent nearly 11 hours of surgery for cancer in her spinal cord, which left her in a wheelchair. While healing in her Great Falls family home, Leah benefited from the company of Maize, a Pet Paw-see cat her parents had adopted. Maize became Leah's therapy cat and helped her with her long and difficult rehabilitation. Once Leah was able to live on her own, she moved to Missoula to work as a web designer and graphic artist. She missed Maize and wanted her own kitty friend.

Meanwhile, a cat named Raja had been trapped with a feral colony and brought to a spay/neuter clinic. Unfortunately, he was rehomed several times before coming to the Pet Paw-see. Now, life was about to change for this handsome tabby. Raja and Leah met at a Petco adoption event and immediately bonded. Leah told us what Raja means to her: "When I first moved to Missoula, I didn't know anyone. Raja made me feel grounded." She adds, "As soon as I come in the door, he jumps up on my lap and rubs all over me. He's such a sweetheart. I call him Noodle because when he's on my lap he completely relaxes." When he's not sleeping in her lap, Raja follows Leah around the apartment like a puppy. **He provides unconditional love, companionship, and stress relief.** Leah says, "I'm his therapy human and he's my therapy cat." Sometimes the answer to the question "Who rescued who?" is not obvious at all.



## Snow White and the ~~Seven~~ Nine Dwarfs

**A kind lady who cares for ferals noticed a female cat with a terrible wound on her abdomen.**

The Pet Paw-see was called into action and the injured feline was rushed to our vet. The cat was suffering from severe mastitis and her abdomen had ruptured. Since it was obvious she was a nursing mother, the vet asked our good Samaritan to go back and look for babies. Snow White was treated with antibiotics, and while waiting for the medication to work, nine tiny kittens were found and brought to her so she could nurse them. After a few days, the vet sutured her abdomen, but Snow White was still in serious condition. **Who knows how many days she had been like this while still trying to nurse her kittens?** (Not all the nine kittens were hers; some were newly born and some a bit older, but she still tried her best to care for all of them.) The kittens were returned to Snow White after surgery, but her wound re-opened, which required another surgery. To give Snow White time to heal, the kittens were taken to loving foster homes to be bottle-fed. Sadly, the smallest of the babies passed away. With time and loving foster care, Snow White healed and is now a healthy young cat who found her furrever home. The remaining eight kittens thrived in their foster homes, and six have been adopted.

Rescues like this add to our substantial medical expenses. Thanks to donations from you and many generous Pet Paw-see donors, this sad beginning resulted in a happy ending.

Snow White



Jadon



Preston



*Snow White found her furrever home but her kittens Jadon and Preston are at PetSmart while waiting for their own happily ever after stories.*



## Not another fish story ...



**Two tiny kittens were found last summer by a young man at a fishing access in Cascade.** The boy brought the two babies home where they were allowed to live outside. After a few weeks, one of the kittens was missing and the other was limping badly. Being outdoors is risky business for young kittens.

The Pet Paw-see was asked for help. Cascade, was brought to our vet where an x-ray showed she had a femoral head fracture of her back leg. The vet performed surgery to remove the ball of the femur and did his reconstructive magic to allow her to walk again.

Cascade was not a feral kitten, which tells us that she and her sibling were born to a tame cat and most likely dumped at the fishing access. It's hard to imagine how someone can do that to helpless baby animals.

In our work with children, we try to instill the idea that companion animals like cats and dogs are important members of our families to be cared for with love and respect. If we can change a child's attitude, that gives us hope for the future.



**We are so grateful to be able to showcase our beautiful, adoptable cats and kittens at both Petco and PetSmart!**

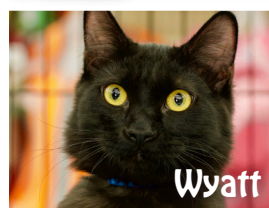
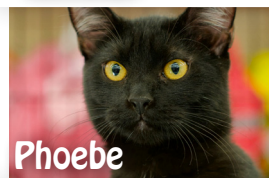
## Hope Springs Eternal



**Who would leave this gentle mama and her two tiny babies at Giant Springs State Park and just walk away?** We are grateful to the park ranger who found the first kitten. It was adopted by one of the park employees. A few days later, we got another call that a very thin, scared mama cat and two more kittens were found and needed help. The babies were easy to trap and were taken to our vet. Mama Elise took her time going into the trap, but our dedicated volunteers don't give up. She and she was taken to a foster home for a lot of good food and TLC. We are happy to report that Elise and her kittens found their furrever homes.

Unfortunately, this was just one example of many of the phone calls received by the Pet Paw-see this year; people finding litters of kittens dumped in remote locations with or without their mothers. We take in as many as possible, but are limited to available foster homes and budget. It breaks our hearts to turn any animal away.

Please help us spread the word on the importance of spay/neuter. There are low-cost spays and neuters for dogs and cats available in our community. If you know someone who needs help, have them call 452.SPAY.



## Doing Our Best to Help Ferals and their Babies

**A Great Falls property owner called the Pet Paw-see for help with several families of cats and kittens living under a deck.** The unaltered cats were being fed but were reproducing as only cats and rabbits can. Our volunteers set humane traps and were able to rescue nine of the ten kittens to join our foster program. One little guy, Butch, proved a challenge to the trappers.

His schedule was too full chasing bugs and playing with candy wrappers to be bothered with our trapping plans. Another challenge was that the property was busy with people coming and going all day and into the evening, so, most of the time, the cats and kittens were hiding. Our Pet Paw-see volunteers decided the only way to trap Butch and the adults was to set the traps around midnight and wait well into the wee hours to see if any would be caught. It worked, but only on Butch.

The adults left for quieter locations. Unfortunately, the adults are all back at the site and have MORE babies in tow. This sad cycle of unwanted litters will only end when everyone values the importance of spaying and neutering. Until that day, we will continue to help where and when we can.

*Several of the kittens are still available, including Butch, Cassidy, Phoebe, Wyatt, and Prue.*



Dusty



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*Dusty and Shadow have been waiting a long time for a home. Dusty is a sweet and gregarious female.*

*Shadow is a frisky and rambunctious boy who loves to play, play, play.*

*Do you know a someone who has a soft spot in their heart for cats?*



Shadow

You may have noticed that we are not currently involved in dog rescue. Since there are two shelters for dogs here in Great Falls, our group chose to concentrate our efforts on cat rescue. The need is great. The local shelters are often full and are not involved in helping homeless feral cats and their kittens. **Since January 1, thanks to people like you, we've helped 212 cats and kittens find adoptive homes and get medical care.** \_\_\_ felines are awaiting their furrever homes.

We are so grateful to our foster families for the love and care they provide these cats in need. Dedicated foster moms and dads make our work possible. Read about one family's fostering story on the front page. **If you'd like to try fostering, please call us.** When we don't have enough foster homes, we pay for kenneling at various clinics and boarding facilities. It is so much healthier for a cat or kitten to spend their foster time in a loving home. Every day, we get phone calls about a cat or litter of kittens. Every month, we must turn away \_\_\_\_\_ animals!

**Could you help us save more cats?** We truly need your help! Our largest expense is veterinary care. Disease testing, vaccinations, worming, ear mite treatments, and spay/neuter surgeries all add up! Every pet saved costs \$175 in this basic care, on average. **By year-end, our vet bills will add up to more than \$65,000.** We buy food and litter in huge quantities. Cages, carriers and humane traps are expensive, too. **Your support directly helps the animals in our care.** **If you can't give financially, please consider volunteering!** Please call us.

**During the holiday season we are filled with gratitude.** Because of folks like you, many feral-born kittens aren't cold and hungry ... they're in warm, cozy homes with loving pet parents. **We are so thankful for your past support and wish you the blessings of the season.**

For the animals,

Leslie Raynes,  
Pet Paw-see Founder

For more information, please call  
406.231.1132.

Pet Paw-see is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Tax ID 26-1973398



Baby Black



Bug

*Baby Black is another kitty who has been waiting patiently for her loving guardian and friend.*

*We have had a few special needs cats with cerebella hypoplasia. Bug has a mild impairment and would make a great companion.*

*Learn more at [petpaw-see.com](http://petpaw-see.com).*



Help us help the homeless.

## Imagine cats living outdoors this winter.

Sadly, they are out there. But your thoughtful gift of \$15, \$25, \$50, or more could help us save abandoned and neglected cats trying to survive terrible winter conditions. You can be their hero.

With your generosity, we can help homeless and abandoned cats. They are depending on us!