



Holiday 2018

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 furever 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.

Special-Needs Kitties are VERY Special to the Pet Paw-see

2018 has been a very busy year for the Pet Paw-see. We brought almost 250 cats and kittens into our foster program this year, giving them a second chance with a loving family.

Many of these animals have arrived with serious and life-threatening injuries or ailments. Take our sweet little **Abbie**. A kind person found her near Benton Lake, limping across a road, hoping to find a safe place to heal after losing a game of tag with a vehicle. A vet visit and x-ray showed a fractured femur and injured tail. Her leg was too badly damaged to be saved and was amputated. Four days after her first surgery, her second surgery removed her tail. This poor kitty underwent two difficult surgeries in less than a week and although they were tough on her, she has rebounded and now lives with her *furever* family. We are all happy to report that Abbie found a home with members of the Pet Paw-see who had adopted another special needs kitty years ago.



Abbie wasn't the only badly injured kitty needing our help this year. In October, a tiny kitten named **Tuffinit** (Toughin' it) was found near Ulm; cold, emaciated with newly broken ribs and an old fracture to one of his little legs. This poor boy had a very "tough" start in life with both recent and partially healed injuries. It's hard to fathom so much bad luck for such a young kitten. Luckily he found the Pet Paw-see and got proper medical care for his battered little body. With good food and a loving foster home, this precious kitten healed and found his *furever* person. We don't know where he originally came from, but we are so happy that someone cared enough to call our rescue group. Without help, this kitten may never have known how nice it is to feel good again. Thanks to our generous donors we will continue to help kitties like Tuffinit.



Abbie



Tuffinit



Claire



Chevy



T'Challa

Black Cats are Beautiful 🐾

One of the biggest challenges the Pet Paw-see faces is to find loving homes for the many black cats we get into our foster program. We often have close to a dozen black or mainly black cats. To us, they are beautiful, but most people pass right over them for the more colorful calicos, Siamese, or orange tabbies. And, we go through streaks when it feels like all we get are black kitties.

The volunteers always try to highlight their beauty, but most potential adopters don't seem to be interested. We watch people come into Petco and look down the row of cages at our cats. They seem to unconsciously walk right by the cages with black kitties as if they were invisible. The volunteers try to "bling" them up by putting fancy, colorful collars or bow ties on them, and sometimes it works. We have heard the same from other shelters and rescues; the black dogs and cats are the hardest to place.

Years ago, we had so many black cats that we advertised a black cat adoption event at Petco. We called the event *White Tie, Black Cat Adoption Day*. Each kitty got a crocheted white tie to wear around his or her neck. One of the gals printed cute signs for the cages with sayings on how wonderful black cats were, but nothing seemed to help. We got NO adoptions that weekend, which was incredibly discouraging.

Even the longhaired black cats are passed over. We recently had one who came into our program with horrible mats.

Claire had to be completely shaved; the mats were too close to her skin to brush out, so the groomer gave her a very cute lion cut. She left the hair on Claire's head, tip of her tail, and feet *au naturel* except for a good brushing. The coat on her body was clipped very short. Claire looked spectacular and got a lot of attention. But it took her awful condition to result in her getting any notice at all. Claire was a lovely kitty who had everything going for her except the color of her coat. Eventually, she found a home.

We always celebrate when we adopt out a black cat or kitten. They get the short end of the stick only because of their coat color. It's not fair to these fabulous felines, and we will continue to try creative ways to find loving homes for our black beauties.

The poster at left demonstrates how many black cats we sometimes have in our care. All the cats on this page except Claire are available for adoption as this newsletter goes to print. Please consider adding an elegant ebony to your feline flock. All a black cat wants for Christmas is a home.



Taz



Magic



Ace



Jimmy



Hard to Place Kitty Finds Home

Every shelter and rescue group has animals that are passed over for adoption time and time again. Maybe the animal is too old, unattractive, or has the personality of Attila the Hun—and no



one is interested in taking a chance on him or her. The Pet Paw-see gets a number of these kitties. Sometimes it seems as though about one quarter of our cats are unadoptable. Often it's because they don't get along with other cats, dogs, adults, children, or in the case of a cat named Ribbon, absolutely ANYTHING THAT BREATHES AIR!

Ribbon is a beautiful, longhaired gray and white kitty who hated everything and everybody. She spent most of her year-plus with us housed at Petco or boarding facilities. We couldn't put her in a foster home because she had zero tolerance for anything she didn't like, and her dislikes changed with the weather.

Many people saw Ribbon and commented on how stunning she was as she posed sweetly on her cat tree in the habitat. Some even asked about adopting her, but we were hesitant to find her a permanent home. She was unpredictable and scary. **Ribbon would hiss, spit, and lash out at anyone who tried to talk to her, never mind pet her. Despite her very hostile behavior, we all loved Ribby and wanted to find her a furever home.** She could never go to a home with kids and we were afraid she would beat the tar out of a small dog. Even a large dog would be fair game for our dear Ribby.

For over a year, we were busy adopting out other cats and kittens while poor Ribby just languished in her suite in the habitat. Her issues with life were beyond our experience and we didn't know how to help her. What we really needed was to have Jackson Galaxy, the host of My Cat from Hell, spend some time with her, but central Montana is quite far off the beaten path for him.


Each week, we tried to befriend Ribbon and she seemed responsive to our attention for a short while. Regrettably, after a few minutes she would turn into psycho kitty. Unbeknownst to us, a gal had been visiting her and wanted to adopt her. We did a Pawsibility (a trial adoption) and crossed our fingers. Although she had a rough first week in her "maybe furever home," she eventually settled down. After about a month, her new mom said Ribby was doing great and she wanted to complete the adoption paperwork. **Amazingly great endings do happen even with our hard-to-place kitties.**

Out in the Cold



A kind cat-owner who had been feeding many neighborhood cats left her home to live in an assisted living facility. Sadly, her domestic cats, Miss and Bartholomew were dumped outside to fend for themselves.

Cats that have been living indoors, receiving regular meals, will not revert back to hunting for their dinner. These animals have no clue how to survive. Many people wrongly assume a cat who has been living indoors with a family and eating kitty kibble will automatically be able to hunt for food if dumped outside. That is completely incorrect. Many cats who suddenly find themselves homeless end up starving to death, hit by cars, or killed by predators. If they have lived the easy life of a house cat, they are not likely to return back to their wild origins.

Luckily Miss and Bartholomew had a  guardian angel neighbor who called the Pet Paw-see for help. They were humanely trapped and brought into our program for vet care and adoption. Both have found new homes where their food bowls will never be empty and they won't be left out in the cold.



AT PETSMART



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We are so grateful to Petsmart and Petco for housing some of our adoptable felines. Please support these stores and thank them for helping us!

Piper is a gorgeous girl and Wade is still a rambunctious kitten. Both are looking for love in all the right places!

From January through November 30, thanks to people like you, we took in 88 cats and 149 kittens and gave them needed medical care. We found adoptive homes for 79 cats and 94 kittens.

71 felines are awaiting their furever homes. Sadly, two kittens died and 15 cats were compassionately euthanized in the arms of a Pet Paw-see volunteer.

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.

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 cats and litters of kittens. Every month, we must turn away 40-50 of these felines in need. It's heartbreaking.

Could you help us save more cats? Our largest expense is veterinary care.

In addition to emergency services, disease testing, vaccinations, worming, ear mite treatments, and spay/neuter surgeries all add up! Every pet saved costs \$175 in basic care, on average. We truly need your help!

By year-end, our vet bills will add up to more than \$73,000.

If you can't give financially, please consider volunteering!

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.
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AT PETCO



Don't let Lionel's his rugged looks fool you. He is a great cuddler. You can even turn him over and hold him like a baby. He is a mellow boy with beautiful fur and a distinctive look with his one bent-over ear.

Tiegen has been waiting a long time for his furever home. He gets along well with other cats and would love to meet you!

It's a cold, cold world.

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!