

CrossRoads Adoption Program - Love Until the End

Cross was a spunky senior pit bull mix who came to us with a terminal diagnosis of cancer...but he didn't know that. He was sweet, playful and enjoying life to the fullest. He was feeling no pain or discomfort and we saw no reason to end his life prematurely. Even with love and care from staff, Animal Logistics Manager KC Campbell did not want to him live his final days in the shelter, so she took him home.

As Cross enjoyed all the comforts of home and the companionship of her resident pets, she kept a watchful eye on his condition.

"We had a mini bucket list. We took walks in special places and he had privileges, such as sleeping on the bed and going in and out as he pleased. He had lots of pampering. After two months it became clear that it was time to let him go," said KC. "It was awful and it was beautiful."

Cross' legacy is the CrossRoads Adoption Program. Although the pets in this program may only have a short time left, we believe that while their personalities still shine, they deserve to know the love and comfort of a real home. A handful of staff members and volunteers have cared for pets on the final leg of their journey and we recently opened this program to the public as we sought a home for Meg.

Kailin Smith saw Meg's story on the news. Meg reminded her of a kitty she used to have and she



reached out to learn more. Although a bit nervous at first,

she felt reassured by the information that staff provided. Meg had chronic anemia and a possible mass on her gall bladder, but wouldn't need extensive care, only a daily pill.

Meg found a home through our CrossRoads Program, which is for pets that may have limited time left.

Kailin reports that Meg is doing great! She bats her jingle balls around and her favorite spot is still the bed she brought with her from the shelter. As their nightly ritual, Kailin scoops up Meg in her bed burrito-style and they watch TV together.

She adores Meg and the feeling is mutual. But Meg is clearly in charge, which is always a good sign for a cat. When Kailin gets home, Meg follows her around. She chirps at Kailin when it's time to time to eat and, should she stop petting Meg before she's had enough, Meg lets her know with a little swat.

Kailin's philosophy is simple and we couldn't agree more. "The passing of a pet is inevitable and no pet should die alone. I just want to give her the best life she can have. It's not a burden, but an honor."

MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE



Your gift
will be
doubled!

DETAILS INSIDE

MHHS WELCOMES NEW CEO, ASHLEY JEFFREY BOUCK

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We are excited to introduce our new CEO, Ashley Jeffrey Bouck! Following a nationwide search, we were pleasantly surprised to find Ashley so close to home. Her stellar record as a not-for-profit leader, combined with her intelligence and warmth, left all who met her throughout the process in complete agreement that she is the right person, in every way, to lead MHHS toward a vibrant future.

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to fund expansion of their Albany location, which will enable it to double the number of girls served by its programs.

With the opportunity to lead MHHS, Ashley found herself drawn to another cause that aligns with her personal passions. She is honored and excited to bring all she has learned in her 15 years of not-for-profit work to an organization she has admired for many years.

The board, staff and volunteers could not be more excited to have a new CEO with deep roots and meaningful connections in our community, as well as her expertise in all facets of not-for-profit management. With Ashley's arrival, MHHS is poised for a new era of exciting growth, as we continue to set the gold standard for animal welfare in the Greater Capital Region and lead by example for others in New York State and beyond.

"I can't wait to meet everyone – from our volunteers to supporters," said Ashley. "If they are anything like our amazing staff, I know we will get through this hard time and come out even stronger."

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Ashley is pictured with Lennox, adopted from MHHS. She and her husband Michael live in Guilderland with two daughters, Carmela and Adrianna, and another kitty, Lilly.



Ashley's professional path has been always driven by her personal convictions. Following a cancer diagnosis – which was found very early and treated successfully during her senior year at Siena College – she went to work for the American Cancer Society. There she developed programs to provide early detection services to those without health insurance. She later worked in fundraising capacities to fuel those services. As a credible and compassionate advocate and spokesperson, her own success story inspired hope in others.

Ashley's drive to take on a major leadership challenge brought her to Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region, whose mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by teaching them to value themselves, take risks and develop their strengths while navigating gender, economic and social barriers. She admits they took a chance on her when, at 30 years old, she was chosen to lead the well-loved, 80-year-old organization. As executive director, her job encompassed the roles of CEO, CFO and COO. During her 8-year term, Girls Inc. reestablished financial stability and growth. This included successful execution of a \$1.2 million capital campaign

Essential and Extraordinary Care and Support

As the COVID-19 crisis began to unfold, we took swift measures to protect our community while continuing to provide essential services. With over 200 pets in our care at that time, we knew that reducing our population would be critical to protecting our team.

Within just a few days, staff and volunteers came together to move more than 60 animals into foster care. From the time we instituted an adoption-by-appointment policy to making the tough but necessary decision to close for adoptions 17 days later, 115 animals found loving homes.

Our team reduced the in-shelter population to around 100, which enabled us to decrease the number of staff needed onsite. With high spirits and unwavering commitment to caring for the pets and keeping each other safe, our essential staff continue to do their jobs. This includes not only basic care, but also providing surgery and medical treatments, exercise and enrichment, as well as responding to emergencies and the many questions and requests we receive daily. We could not be more grateful or more proud of their dedication.

Our pet food pantry, which is experiencing a significant increase in requests, has remained available to the public. A plan to deliver food to those who are ill or in quarantine came together, thanks to a core of dedicated volunteers, and is helping pets and their people in a time of dire need.

We are grateful beyond words to our donors and all those whose work and generosity continues to help us carry out our mission at this most uncertain time.



Before closing to adoptions due to COVID-19, more than 100 caring adopters came forth to welcome new family members. We were able to assist fellow rescue organizations by taking more than a dozen of their animals into our adoption program.



Even with restrictions in place, our essential staff continues to provide critical care and respond to emergencies as they arise.

Generous product donations from Benson's Pet Centers, as well as individuals, have kept our pet food pantry in good supply.



Double Your Gift Today!

Thanks to the generosity of several board members and donors, we are offering a **Matching Gift Challenge**. For a limited time, your donation will be matched up to a total of \$10,000! We hope you'll take advantage of this chance to **DOUBLE** your support for the animals by using the enclosed envelope to make a gift, or give online at mohawkhumane.org/match2020.

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Gala for Animals Rescheduled

Our signature fundraising event, originally planned for June, will be rescheduled.

Please stay tuned for details!

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Happy Tails

Send to: happytails@mohawkhumane.org



Bueller
He's getting lots of love from everyone in his life. Thank you so much.
- Jenna M.



Carmella
Carmella and I chose each other. She gets along so well with all my friends and family. I love having her around as my new best friend!
- Danielle A.



Baxter
Baxter has changed my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart
- Meghan S.



Hansel
I don't know who's more in love, him or us! Thank you.
- Julie L.



Zoey
I am grateful we found each other.
- Angela K.



Winston
He is a great, goofy, lovable, energetic, wild fur child.
- Rachel R.



Rocky
His days have been full of ice fishing, hiking, long naps and playing with his new favorite toys.
- Jennifer P.



Georgie
She's the sweetest, loudest, softest lady around and I love her more each day.
- Gail F.



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Animal Care Center
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Spay/Neuter Clinic
4255 Route 50
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.886.9645

Let's be social! Here's where to find us.

