

FOUR PAWS TO LOVE NEWSLETTER 2016



Saving Lives
& Joining Hearts

Dear Friends and Family,

We are celebrating 2016, our third year! This year has been a difficult year for the two legged family members of Four Paws to Love, but even with all that went on in our personal lives we were able to rescue 176 animals! These animals came from all over Northern and Central California, including Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara and Kings Counties. All of these animals were at risk of euthanasia. Four Paws to Love was able to foster them in loving homes, provide socialization and medical care then work at finding forever families for them! Some are still waiting for that forever family to come along!

We were also recognized for our work in the community by being the charity of choice for a float at the Capitola Begonia Festival! Casa Finkle worked long hours to create the "Intergalactic Begonia Explorer: Mission 14.64" float and won first prize! The prize money was awarded to Four Paws to Love to support the work we do. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all involved.

We would like to thank all of the volunteer staff at Four Paws to Love: Kim (animal intake), Adrienne (adoptions), Jenny (grant writer and PetSmart events), Mark (IT), and Jenifer (support, including pick up and delivery of kittens). Without our dedicated staff, volunteers and their families, we would not be able to keep Four Paws to Love running. There are also the wonderful shelter workers on the front lines that work so hard to get the animals into our care to save their lives.

We would especially like to thank our foster parents who are the backbone of our organization! We would not be able to save any animals at all if we did not have the support of these truly loving people who take the animals we rescue into their hearts and homes and make them the wonderful companions that are able to be adopted into forever families. You can join them in saving lives by opening your heart and home to an animal in need. Even if you can only foster one cat, a litter of kittens, a dog or puppy a year it makes a huge difference! You can find a volunteer/foster application [here!](#)

Finally, a huge thanks to all of our adopters. We would be nowhere if we didn't have fabulous people like you that take these special animals into their families and give them their forever homes!

Thank you *all* for being part of the Four Paws to Love family.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017,

Four Paws to Love Board of Directors

Annette Hogue
Christine Kiuchi
Terry Marino

Donations

We thank our generous donors who helped us rescue so many animals this year. Donations and adoption fees are what keep Four Paws to Love running. We do not receive any government funding. All of our staff and Board members are *unpaid volunteers* so every penny you give goes to help the animals we rescue. If you are able to give even a small donation at this time, it will help us start 2017 stronger than ever, and increase our ability to rescue even more animals in the year ahead. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3), so your donations are tax-deductible.



FAVORITE RESCUE STORIES FROM 2016



George

George came to us from a local shelter with many medical issues including a severe skin infection that took many months to resolve. We worked to heal him of those but after a few months, we discovered he had Stomatitis, a severe, painful inflammation of the gums due to ulcers. We didn't know he had the condition until it was advanced because he is such a sweet and calm kitty, he never showed any signs. The only way to treat it was to remove all of George's teeth, an expensive procedure. We worked for a long time to raise funds from grants and individuals and eventually had enough to get the surgery. George recovered well and shortly thereafter was adopted into a wonderful home! He is now a comfort animal to a woman in a memory care facility. He is perfect for her because he is so loving and attentive. We are thrilled that George is now healthy and happy in his forever home and that this woman has benefited so greatly from George being her loving companion.



Mayor

Mayor was found last year scrawny, dirty and covered with sticky stuff from mouse traps at the Mayor of Santa Clara's office, hence the name. Mayor has an amazing personality and is SUCH a sweet and social cat that everyone who meets him quickly falls in love. Mayor struggled with some chronic sinusitis but as his immune system improved he overcame that. All the same he was sent for x-rays of his nose area to see if there were any foreign bodies causing irritation, when it was noticed that he had blood in his urine. An x-ray of the bladder showed no findings there but it did show that both hips were bad and he was in need of a double FHO (Femoral Head Osteotomy - removing the ball off the femur at the hip joint).

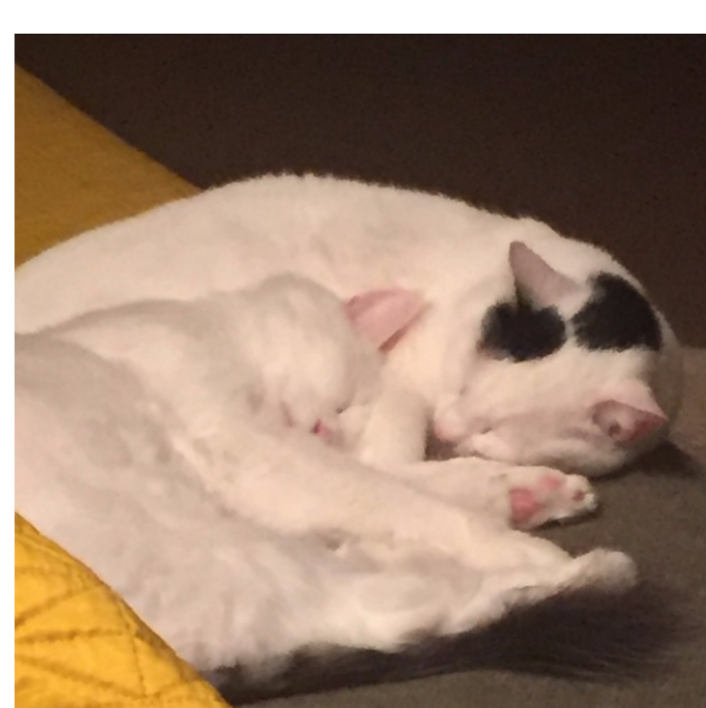
After a lot of diagnostics to figure out what was causing the blood in his urine, stress was determined to be the cause. Due to his very outgoing and sweet temperament it was never suspected that he was in constant pain from his hips. He was put on some pain control to see if that relief would resolve the blood in the urine, and it did. So it was determined that the surgery had to be done soon in order to allow Mayor to feel better and become adoptable. The Humane Society of Silicon Valley agreed to do the surgery and Mayor came through with flying colors. Then the hard part began - his foster mom brought him home on the day of surgery and made him as comfortable as possible. At this point he wasn't able to walk or get up to use the litter box so he needed a few days of intensive care. He gradually began to get up on his own and his foster mom began physical therapy by helping him stretch and within a few weeks he was walking around the house and getting up on the couch slowly.

We all had a chuckle because it took months for him to grow his fur or "pants" back after being shaved for the surgery and looked like he had forgotten to get dressed all the way, leaving his back end bare for the world to see. He finally has his pants grow back and he still has the most amazingly mellow and sweet personality. Mayor has been through a lot but his spirit continues to shine. Mayor still needs a forever home so if you are looking for an indoor-only companion to sit and relax and chill on the couch (but stay off the counter tops because he can't jump that high!) and be sweet as can be, this is your guy!



Peggy Sue

Peggy Sue was a sweet and playful Russian Blue kitten that came to us from a local shelter with just three legs. When she arrived at the shelter, her back right leg had been almost completely severed and had to be amputated. After her surgery, the incision opened up twice so that Peggy Sue had to be sedated again so the surgeons could close it. During one of these surgeries her little body began to fail and had to be rushed to the emergency vet hospital for treatment where she thankfully recovered. She later developed a hernia after her spay surgery so had have another surgery to repair that. But after all of these complications, she finally fully recovered and became a healthy, happy kitten. We rescued her shortly thereafter and Peggy Sue was soon adopted with another beautiful Russian Blue mix kitten, Mr. Smokey. Her new family says: "Peggy Sue is very outgoing and has drawn Mr. Smokey out of this timid ways. They have two modes - sleep and zippy play! We have thought we should have named our girl Zipper as having only three legs has not slowed her at all. She outruns Mr. Smokey!" We are thankful that we gave this beautiful girl and her "brother" a chance at a wonderful forever family".



Hopsy and Emmy

Emmy was a leftover kitten - her brother Peter got adopted even though he was so shy and frightened that when his new people came to meet him, he peed all over them in sheer terror. They loved him anyway and took him home all the way to Milpitas in their wet clothes. But Emmy, all white but for a couple of spots on her head and the upper side of her tail, didn't get chosen that year. She moved to another foster home and waited for another 2 years, hanging out with the other foster cats who came to the house, played with her, and then went on to their own forever homes. She stayed upbeat and turned into an affectionate girl who loved to walk around talking about what she thought could be improved and then climb into empty laps to settle down, but she HATED the adoption fairs. She would crouch, miserable with her ears flattened down, in the back of the cage and growl at anyone who tried to pet her. It was like she didn't want to be adopted.

One day Peter's (now called Hopsy,) adopters called. They wondered if his sister was still available because they thought he might like a friend. Arrangements were made, Emmy was bundled into a carrier and driven to Milpitas to be reunited with her sibling in his welcoming home. The courier was treated to the sight of Peter disappearing up the stairs and then fed a fine Georgian meal (Eastern Europe)! Emmy began exploring and adapted fairly quickly. Within a few days she was hanging out with her brother, in a couple of weeks they were comfortably sharing the couch for naps. Now Emmy is a happy, snugly girl that has been re-united with her sibling in a wonderful, loving home.



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