



WHEN THE WORLD FREEZES, WE DON'T

We're in the middle of a deep freeze—days of below-zero temperatures and wind chills that turn the air sharp and dangerous. Most of us are doing what you *should* do in weather like this: staying inside, layering up, and keeping time outdoors to a minimum.

But **for animals left outside**—lost, dumped, abandoned, or simply forgotten—**there is no “waiting it out.”** No warm car. No door that swings open at the right moment. In weather like this, time isn't measured in hours. **It's measured in survival.**

While the region freezes, **rescue shifts into high gear.** Our volunteers become weatherproof in the way only people with soft hearts and stubborn determination can. They drive roads most people avoid. They carry traps, blankets, treats, leashes, carriers—and hope. They do outside activities in the kind of cold that steals your breath, because somewhere out there is an animal whose body is already doing everything it can just to stay alive.

Finding the animal is only part of the story. Sometimes it takes hours. Sometimes it takes multiple tries. And when the moment finally comes—when the trap door closes, the leash slips on, or the carrier latches—you can almost feel the whole team exhale.

Then comes the part most people never see. Intake isn't glamorous, but it's love in a thousand small actions: a weight check, a meal gently offered. It's flea treatment, medications, and baths that turn the water dark. It's warm blankets, quiet voices, slow movements, and constant cleaning—over and over again.

It's also the messy, unfiltered side of rescue: mange and fleas, parvo worries, ringworm, coughs, limps, and wounds that stay with you. It's cleaning up what sickness leaves behind, then disinfecting everything—again. It's scrubbing kennels and mopping floors, running endless loads of laundry, and making late-night vet runs followed by early-morning check-ins.

And then, we watch. It's small, but we recognize it every time: the animal finally rests. You can see it in the way they sink into a blanket like they've been holding themselves up for weeks. It's one of the quiet miracles of rescue—when **survival turns into relief.**

Rescue One-Liners
“Are you trying to set some kind of state record with dog rescues this month?”

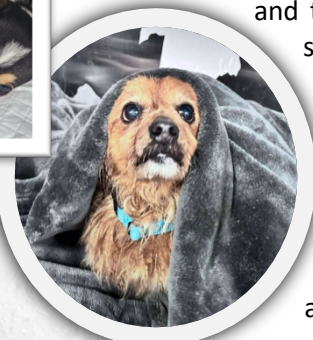
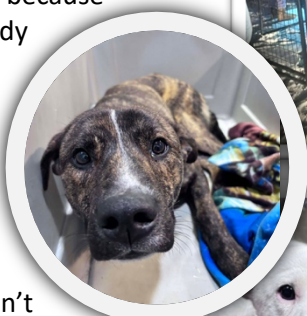
That's the part rescue doesn't share as often, but it's real. It's heavy. And it's carried quietly by people who keep showing up anyway.

Hope isn't pretending the hard parts don't exist. **Hope is walking straight into them**—again and again. It's pulling on one more coat and heading back out with a trap. It's the foster who says “yes” to just one more, even when they're exhausted. It's the late-night drive to the emergency vet and the early-morning check that follows. It's neighbors sharing a post, dropping off supplies, or giving so we can answer “yes” when the next call comes in. In weather like this—when the cold is ruthless—hope is a whole team of people refusing to look away.

And because of it, animals who would not have made it through these temperatures are now sleeping in safety—finally warm, finally fed, finally able to rest.

Thank you for being part of the community that makes that possible. Every share, every donation, every foster application, every message of support—**it all matters.**

In weather like this, it matters more than ever.



GIVING HEARTS DAY



GIVING HEARTS DAY

EVERY CRISIS HAS A BEGINNING
PREVENTION IS HOW WE END IT

Giving Hearts Day is one of those rare days that reminds us what's possible when a **community comes together**. For 24 hours, people across the region rally around the causes they care about—supporting hundreds of participating nonprofits through one easy, secure giving platform.

For our rescue, Giving Hearts Day doesn't just help, **it changes outcomes**. It means more animals get help sooner. It means fewer animals suffer in silence. And it means we can invest in the kind of work that stops the crisis before it starts: **prevention**.

Why prevention matters

Unplanned litters can quickly turn into hunger, illness, and homelessness. The need grows fast—and once it's here, it's heartbreaking and seemingly impossible to untangle. That's why **spay and neuter is one of the most compassionate, effective tools we have**.

Right now, we spay/neuter **over 1,000 animals each year**. This Giving Hearts Day, we're raising **\$80,000** to expand those efforts, so fewer animals ever reach the point of needing rescue.

The impact you make is real

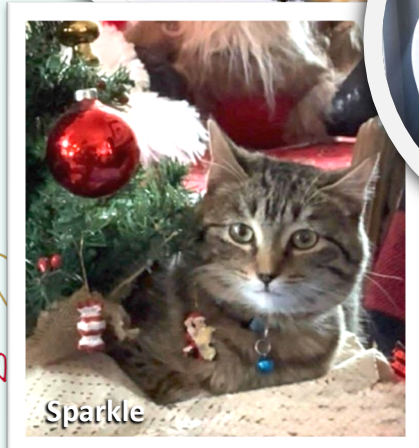
We want you to know that **your gift doesn't just support a rescue—it supports results**. Because of donors like you, we can:

- prevent suffering before it starts
- help families and communities with accessible spay/neuter resources
- reduce overcrowding and strain on shelters and pounds
- give animals a healthier start and a better chance at a loving home

With so many worthy causes...

There are many incredible organizations taking part in Giving Hearts Day and we're honored to be part of that community of good. With so many worthy causes, we know every gift is a meaningful choice—if you're able to support our rescue this Giving Hearts Day, we'd be truly grateful.

If you've ever donated, shared a post, fostered, volunteered, adopted, or simply cared—thank you. **You are the reason prevention is possible. And you are the reason fewer animals have to be rescued at all.**



H
A
P
P
Y

T
A
I
L
S

Meet *Jasper*,

You'd never know it now, but Jasper had a rough start. What he's chosen to be anyway is the best kind of reminder: dogs don't dwell, they live. And Jasper lives with his whole heart.

This spunky guy has one speed: FUN! He's full of personality, always ready for his next adventure, and he'd thrive in an active home where he can burn energy, play hard and soak up all the love.

Jasper may do well with other dogs with a proper introduction, but fair warning - anyone who meets him tends to fall head over heels pretty fast.



446

Animals currently
in our care

84

Furry Friends
adopted in
January

WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

We recently took in two dogs from the local impound who were severely emaciated—so thin it's hard to describe without your stomach dropping. Their photos, as heart-breaking as they are, tell the truth: **suffering like this doesn't happen overnight.**

Here's the part we can change—together.

These dogs came from a home where there were multiple animals in need. Not everyone feels safe speaking up. Sometimes people worry about being wrong. Sometimes they fear conflict or retribution. Sometimes they assume someone else will call. But **animals can't always wait** for "someone else."

If you ever see an animal in obvious distress—extreme thinness, injuries, no shelter, no water, untreated illness—**please report it.** Call Animal Control or your local law enforcement non-emergency line and request a welfare check. You don't need proof. You don't need to investigate. You just need to **make the call.**

That call can be the moment an animal finally gets a chance.



In Memory Of...

Glenn Mitzel, given by Kristal Fields

Glenn Mitzel, given by Nicole Waxweiler

Genie Schiwal, given by Deanna Berg

Boots Baby, given by Debra Patterson

Jesse Zarr, given by Cady Rutter

Jesse Zarr, given by Tara Schmitz-Watson

Jesse Zarr, given by Mickie McNulty-Eide

Jesse Zarr, given by Scott Zarr

Jesse Zarr, given by Lacy Yunker

Jesse Zarr, given by Michelle Borowicz

Jesse Zarr, given by Cheryl Hanggi

Jesse Zarr, given by Helen Lorenz

Jesse Zarr, given by Carol Fox

Jesse Zarr, given by Carmen Reknow

Jesse Zarr, given by Kathryn Pellerite

Jesse Zarr, given by JD Bubel

Jesse Zarr, given by Mary Wray

Jesse Zarr, given by Jennifer Peterson

Jesse Zarr, given by Deirdre A. Forstner

Jesse Zarr, given by Vincent Erhardt

Jesse Zarr, given by Milissa Meckle



With heartfelt gratitude, we acknowledge the memorial gifts received this month. Each donation honors a life remembered and directly supports the animals in our care.

ADOPTED DOGS

Morty, AL, Zena, Cooper, Nix aka Jax, Rhea Ripley, Kirkland, Bob, Lady, Ryder, Lainey, Yellow, Olive, Nola, Purple, Rocko, Minnie, Fluffy/Gemma, Eddie, Holly, Georgia, Buddy, Raven, Knox, Nakeeta, Minnie, Al Pup-pone, Wookie Bear

ADOPTED CATS

Liko, Kaipo, Trevor, Misty, Sheridan, Pirate, Mole, Cleo, Milton, Annie, Cernelian, Piper, Leilani, Duncan. Poppy, Oliver, Matty, Ash, Gru, Danny, Leia, Bumper, Wyatt, Violet, Kidder, Nyx, Lucy, Montrail, Renville, Bloom, Curtis, Aster, Lily, Carmen, Surrey, Sunni, Wels, Branch, ZigZag, Sol, Grug, Kovo, Holly, Quill, Mamacita, Molly, Farah, Fiona, Onyx, Benny, Mocha, Richard, Caesar, Eclipse, Gordie, Blake, Luigi, Billy

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAINTING CLASS/MEET & GREET

Feb. 6th | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Dakota Nuts & Candy



B-I-N-G-O

Every Thursday, 6 p.m.
GIDEON'S BREWING COMPANY
Great Prizes | Cash Play only

GIVING HEARTS DAY

February 12th



BLACKJACK

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays | 6 p.m.
DJ's Pizza & Lounge | 70 Santee Rd | Lincoln

NDSC SAFETY & HEALTH CONF.

Feb 23rd | 10-2 pm | Meet & Greet
Feb 24th | 10-1pm | Meet & Greet

PETSMART MEET & GREET

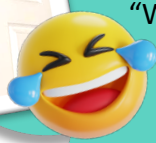
Every Saturday | 11am – 2pm

DOG TRAINING CLASSES

With Trainer Nancy Gerhardt
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced
Visit Eventbrite for details



Cat Logic
-from fosters



"Why are cats like this?"

"Because they can be..."

KEEP YOUR EYE ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE EVENT INFO!

You grow what you feed - so let's feed the businesses that feed rescue. When you support our rescue-friendly partners, you're helping keep this work moving and showing our community that it's worth investing in kindness.



These adorable faces are waiting for their forever families.



SULLY



KRINGLE



TONKA



NALANI



ZANE



THEO



BESSIE



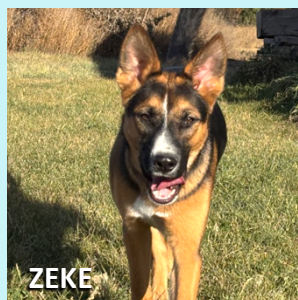
AUTUMN



CISCO



PIERCE



ZEKE



PAX



CHARLOTTE



MARLEY



CHEEZY



KOVA

Thank you for showing up for animals in all the ways you do. If you're able to support us on Giving Hearts Day, please know it makes a lasting difference - today and all year long.

