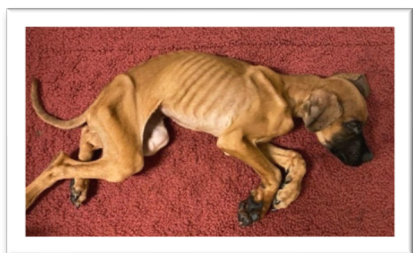




IT HAPPENED HERE - CHAMP'S STORY

It was a Sunday morning when local animal control called about a dog found near the North Hardee's in Bismarck - a dog in truly rough shape.

The photo shared with us that morning — the same one we share here — stopped us cold. It was **the kind of image that makes your heart sink before your mind can even catch up**. The pup in the picture, who would soon be known as *Champ*, was barely clinging to life. His frail body was little more than skin and bones. It seemed almost impossible that he could still be alive, and even less likely that he could survive. He was rushed in for emergency vet care.



The photo began to circle through our team — many of whom were at a rescue event that morning. Conversations went quiet. Phones were passed from hand to hand. And as we all looked at that image, one question echoed in every heart: **How could anyone let this happen?** With that question, heartbreak quickly turned to resolve.

The veterinarian who examined Champ told us that in all his years practicing in the area, he'd never seen a pup in worse shape. Champ was dangerously emaciated, severely dehydrated, and, as if that weren't enough, tested positive for Parvovirus — a deadly disease that attacks puppies who haven't been vaccinated.

And that's what makes his story even more heartbreaking.

A simple, inexpensive vaccination could have spared so much suffering. While the cost of a parvo vaccine is minimal, the cost of saving a dog from parvo runs into the thousands. And then there's the emotional toll on everyone fighting for that animal's life.

The cost of prevention is small. The cost of neglect is enormous.

Champ was hospitalized for several days, receiving intensive care from the veterinary team. Fluids, medication, nutrition, warmth, and compassion — everything possible to give him a fighting chance.

When he was finally stable, he went home with an incredible foster family who named him Champ. Within days, he began working to stand on his own — shaky but determined. He started eating, he found his voice again, and his bloodwork began to improve.

Champ still has a long road to recovery, but thanks to the love and dedication of his fosters, he's finally safe, cared for, and cherished — exactly as every animal deserves to be.

Champ's story must serve as a wake-up call. **This happened here, in our community.** Someone knows how Champ got to this condition — and someone made a choice to let him suffer.

We're asking for your help. If you have any information about Champ's owner or breeder, please contact the Bismarck Police Department. **Every bit of information matters.**

We also hope his story reminds everyone how important vaccinations are. They're simple, affordable, and they save lives.



Because someone always knows, and silence only protects cruelty.

We're committed to giving Champ everything he needs to heal and thrive — just as we do for every animal who crosses our path. But there are so many more out there who need help. If only we could help them all. If only the world were perfect and rescue wasn't needed at all.

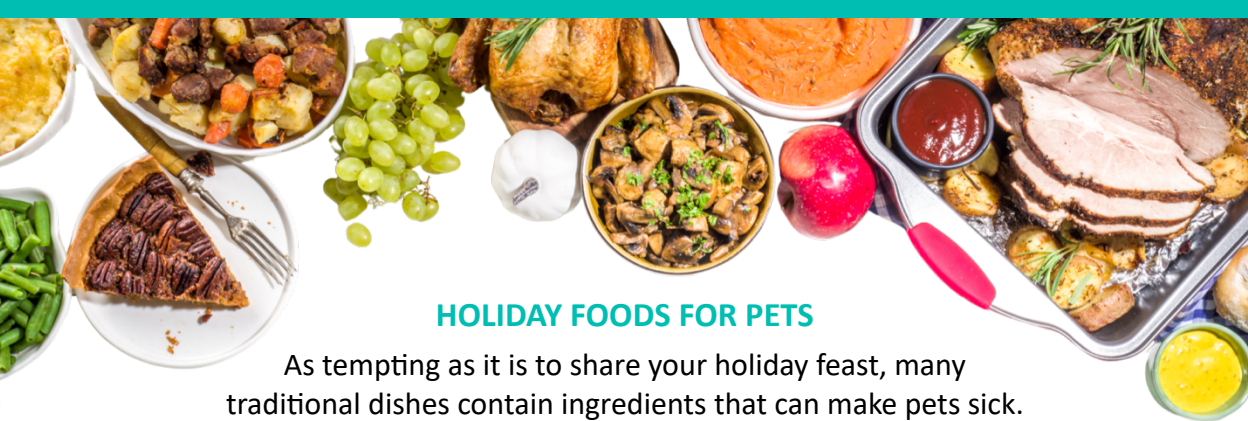
Until that day comes, we'll keep showing up — for Champ, and for every soul like him. Because they deserve nothing less.

PetSmart hosted an Adopt Joy event.

Thank You

for your continued support!





HOLIDAY FOODS FOR PETS

As tempting as it is to share your holiday feast, many traditional dishes contain ingredients that can make pets sick. Keep it simple, unseasoned, and pet-safe with this quick guide.

✓ OK to Share (Plain & in Moderation)

Turkey (white meat)

No skin, bones, or gravy

Potatoes

Boiled/baked, no butter, milk, or seasoning

Pumpkin

Plain cooked or canned, not pie filling

Cranberries

Fresh only, skip sugary sauce

Veggies

Green beans, peas, carrots, or sweet potatoes

Apples

No seeds or core

Bread/Rolls

Small bites, plain and fully baked



⊘ Keep Off the Plate

Ham or fatty meats, gravy

Too rich; can cause pancreatitis

Onions, garlic, chives

Toxic; damages red blood cells

Grapes & raisins

Kidney failure risk (especially for dogs)

Chocolate, desserts, alcohol

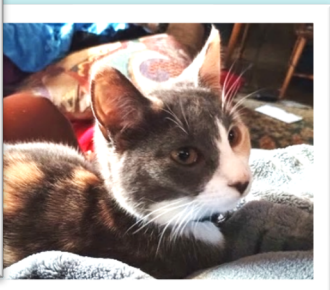
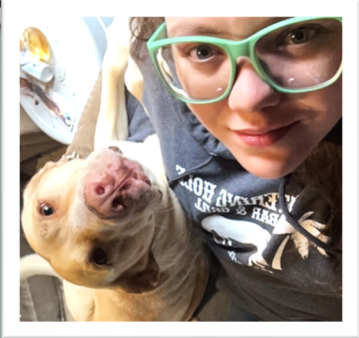
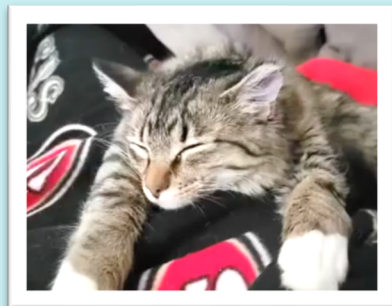
All toxic to pets

Stuffing & seasoned foods

Usually contain unsafe ingredients

Pumpkin or apple pie

Nutmeg, sugar, butter = no-go



- HAPPY TAILS -

ROUGH START – BRIGHT FUTURE

Meet *Sol*,

When Sol first arrived, he was just another stray — unsure, thin, and quietly observing the world from a safe distance. But with a little time, a lot of care, and plenty of cozy blankets, his true personality began to shine.

Today, Sol is a confident, affectionate young cat who's found his rhythm — and his purpose. Whether it's greeting volunteers, keeping other cats company, or curling up in the perfect sunbeam, Sol radiates warmth. His playful nature and gentle heart make him impossible not to love.

At around 2 years old, Sol is ready for his next big step — a forever home \of his own. He's social, charming, and always ready to make you smile. We're not sure yet how he feels about dogs, but we do know he's got a bright future ahead.





FROM ONE VOLUNTEER'S HEART: A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

I didn't start volunteering in rescue because I was looking for something new to fill my time. I started because, truthfully, I had lost faith in people. **I was weary of the world** — of greed, power struggles, and decisions driven by convenience instead of compassion — of money meaning more than kindness.

Animals have never let me down — not once. They've been my comfort, my laughter, and my quiet companions through both joy and heartache. They've loved me through my darkest moments. **Maybe it was time I returned that love in a way that made a real difference.**

From the moment I stepped into this rescue community, something shifted. I started small — helping where I could — but before long, I was immersed in it. **Each small act of kindness felt meaningful in a way I hadn't experienced in years.** And as I gave more of myself, something beautiful happened: I realized I was the one being healed.

What I've received through this rescue — through the animals, the fosters, the adopters, and every single volunteer — far outweighs anything I've given.

I've seen the look of relief in a rescued dog's eyes when they realize they're finally safe. I've witnessed adopters fall in love — truly in love — with their new family members. And I've stood beside a village of people who give their time, their hearts, and their energy to make sure none of these precious souls are forgotten.

I continue to be in awe of those I stand beside. I watch their persistence, see their love and commitment, and witness their open hearts fill with both sorrow and joy. In rescue, we see so much that is bad — people who abandon, neglect, or abuse animals. You'd think rescue would harden your heart and reinforce that negative view of humanity. But for me, it's done the opposite.

The positive force that emanates from this village is inspiring. The people here are role models for me in so many ways, reminding me every day of the **kindness that still exists in this world.**

We are, after all, just people — imperfect, emotional, and sometimes stretched thin. We stumble. We disagree. We get tired. But at the end of the day, we're all here for the same reason: to make a difference. And in this village, we give each other grace when grace is needed, because we know that hearts like ours sometimes carry a heavy load.

To every volunteer who gives up sleep for bottle babies, to every foster who makes room for one more, to every adopter who opens their heart, and to every supporter who believes in our mission — thank you. **You remind me daily that goodness is alive and well. You remind me that compassion is still stronger than indifference, and that together, we can create change.**

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself filled with deep gratitude — not just for the animals whose lives we've touched, but for this incredible village of people who keep showing up. Who care. Who love. Who give. Who hope.

Because of you, I feel part of something extraordinary. And I am grateful beyond words to stand among you - Lynn, FFRR volunteer



ADOPTED DOGS

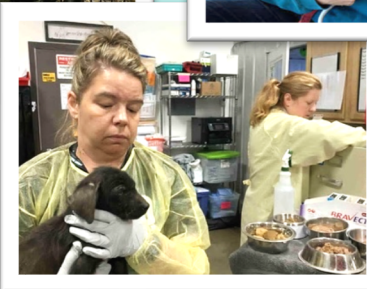
Delilah, Merrit,
Butterscotch, Dusty,
Shasta, Angel,
Bambi, Sparky,
Bogey, Ziggy, Elsa,
Junior, Hope, Louie,
Greta, Wonder

ADOPTED CATS

Maya, Luna, Churro,
Nacho, Indie, Nadja,
Onyx, Tulle, Bonk,
Blaze, Snowflake,
Axle, Mittens, Larry,
Wakka, Smudge,
Ryder, Trixee,
Marayna, Dorito,
Lance, Kate, Pippa,
Hildy, Johanna,
Ladle, Apollo, Kraut,
Ayra, Sausage, Vega,
Fluffy, Pringle,
Hopps, Cannoli,
Mika, Jerry, Pebbles,
Penny, Ace

ADOPTED

Arnold - parakeet



Be Part of Something AMAZING

Join the VILLAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

DARTS FOR DOGS and
CORNHOLE FOR CATS

Nov 15 | Registration starts at Noon
SEND-IT! 24/7 Cornhole, Mandan

FURRY FRIENDS PAWS & PIZZA

November 16 | starting at 11pm
The Firepit | 307 N 3rd St. Bismarck
BOGO draft beers and MORE

ROCKIN' 50's
FFRR BENEFIT NIGHT

Dec 3 | 4-8 pm
Rockin' 50's, Bismarck

B-I-N-G-O

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

BLACKJACK

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

PETSMART MEET & GREET

Every Saturday | 11am – 2pm

DOG TRAINING CLASSES

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



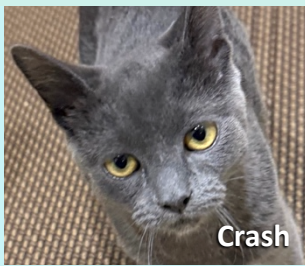
JOIN THE VILLAGE! - It takes a village to rescue, heal, and rehome the animals who depend on us — and there's a place for everyone in ours. Whether you open your home to a foster pet, lend a hand at events, or simply spread the word, you're part of something bigger: a community built on compassion.



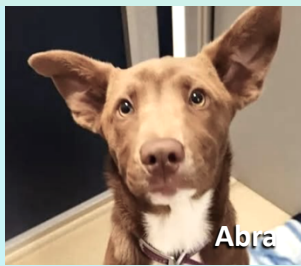
These adorable faces are waiting for their forever families.



Cisco



Crash



Abra



Zigzag



Trixee



Snow



Rosie



Scout



Bruno



Chimp



Tilly



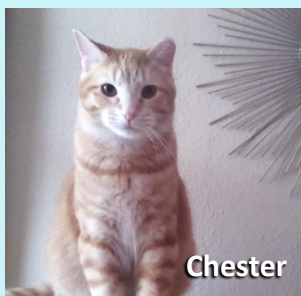
Meadow



Precious



Andie



Chester



Doug

As we close this month's newsletter, we're reminded that rescue is built on gratitude - for the animals who trust us, the people who support us, and the community that shows up, again and again to make hope possible. Thank you for being part of this incredible village.

