FURRY FRIENDS
rockin' rescue
BISMARCK-MANDAN

PAWS-ITIVE PRESS

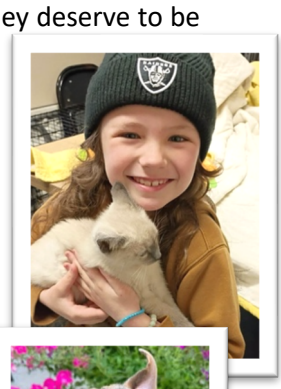
November 2026



GRATITUDE LIVES HERE

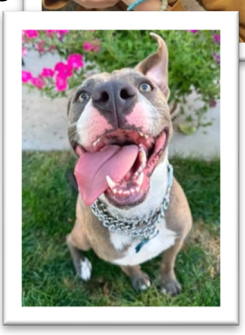
Rescue has a way of breaking your heart and filling it at the very same time.

We often share the difficult parts because so much of rescue is difficult—the animals who arrive frightened or hurting, urgent veterinary needs, heartbreaking calls and constant worry about where the next animal will go. Those stories are real, and they deserve to be told.



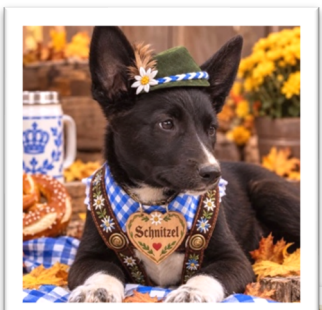
But they are not the whole story. **There is also tremendous joy in rescue.**

It's there when a frightened dog offers the first tentative wag of a tail, when a sick kitten begins to eat, when an animal who has known neglect discovers a soft bed, a full bowl and gentle hands, when a foster sends a photo of a once-shut-down dog sprawled across the couch, or when an adopter sends an update confirming an animal is exactly where they are meant to be.



As we enter the holiday season, we find ourselves especially **grateful for every animal brought to safety**—and for the privilege of watching them heal, learn to trust and begin again.

We are grateful for our fosters, who make room in their homes and hearts. For our volunteers and staff, who keep showing up for the feeding, cleaning, walking, transporting and countless other tasks that make rescue possible. For our veterinary team, whose skill and compassion help animals feel better and move toward healthier lives.



We are grateful for adopters who welcome a new family member, and for donors, community partners and gaming supporters who help keep this work going. For everyone who purchases something from our wish list, attends an event, shares an animal's story or encourages a friend to get involved. You may see your contribution as one small thing. We see how all those things come together to change lives.



And we are grateful for the animals themselves. For the sloppy kisses, rumbling purrs, ridiculous sleeping positions and happy reunions. For the dogs who believe every visitor came specifically to see them and the cats who graciously allow us to serve them. For the laughter, companionship and everyday moments that remind us **how much joy animals bring to our lives**.

To every person who makes those moments possible: thank you. Because of you, more animals will know kindness, comfort and family. And because of them, our lives—and our community—are filled with more joy.

That is something worth celebrating this holiday season and all year long.

OCTOBER

BY THE NUMBERS

361

Animals served by rescue

94
Adoptions

166
Spays/Neuters



THE IMPACT MADE SO FAR THIS YEAR

1,155	642	1,362
Animals served	Adoptions	Spays/Neuters

Every number has a face. Every act of kindness makes a difference.

WE MISSED THE MONTH. WE WON'T MISS THE MESSAGE.

October may be over, but their need for foster and forever homes is not.

We have a small newsletter confession: October was National Pit Bull Awareness Month, and while we celebrated our pitties on social media, we missed giving them their well-deserved spotlight in these pages.

Consider this us catching up—because these dogs deserve more than a month of attention anyway.

And honestly, with the sea of blocky heads, wiggly bodies and wildly enthusiastic kisses around here, nearly every month feels like Pit Bull Awareness Month at Furry Friends.

There are days when we wonder if we have quietly become a pit bull rescue. Right now, the vast majority of the dogs in our shop are pit bulls or pit bull mixes, each waiting for a foster home or a family of their own.

They are goofy. They are affectionate. They are loyal, smart and full of personality. Some believe they belong directly in your lap, regardless of whether all 60 pounds of them actually fit there. Others want nothing more than a warm bed, a good chew toy and a person who will finally choose them.

But before many people ever meet them, they see the label.

Pit bulls are so often judged by their appearance rather than their individual personalities. They are passed over because of assumptions, housing restrictions or stories that have little to do with the loving dog standing right in front of us.

Too many spend months—or even years—waiting.

They are the underdogs. And we love underdogs.

We love watching a frightened dog begin to trust. We love seeing a pittie who has been overlooked finally realize that a family has come for *them*. We love the big smiles, the ridiculous sleeping positions, the happy tail thumps and the wholehearted way they love the people who give them a chance.

So yes, we missed the official month. But we refuse to miss the message.

Throughout this issue, we'll introduce you to some of the incredible pitties currently waiting in our rescue. We hope you will look at their faces, learn who they are and help us remind others that every dog deserves to be seen as an individual.

Maybe you can foster. Maybe you are ready to adopt. Maybe you can share their stories until they reach the person they have been waiting for.

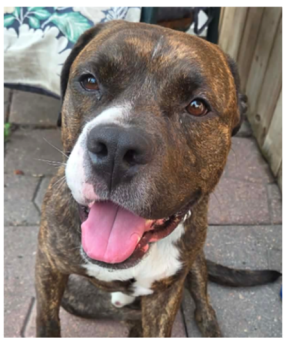
October may have been their official month—but these dogs need us right now.

GOOD DOGS - STILL WAITING

Meet the Underdogs



TANK | 1 year | 70 lbs.
Smart, affectionate, and always up for an adventure, Tank would love an active family. He prefers female dogs but may do well with males after slow introductions.



ROCKY | 4 years| 51 lbs.
A belly-rub collector and kiddie pool enthusiast, Rocky is a gentle, lovable goofball who enjoys people and dog friends. He's ready to be your loyal sidekick in a cat-free home.



LUNA 2.0 | 6 years| 70 lbs.
Confident, affectionate, and full of fun, Luna is ready to be part of the family! She can do well with dogs after proper introductions. A cat-free home is best and small children aren't recommended.



LADY| 3 years| 60 lbs.
Adventurous, affectionate, and full of energy, Lady is ready for a sidekick who shares her enthusiasm for life. This beauty is eager to explore with her new family!

MYTH BUSTING

Rescue comes with plenty of myths—and we're here to gently set the record straight. This month, our spotlight on pitties is a good reminder that a dog's appearance can lead to assumptions before we've even said hello.

THE MYTH: You can tell what a dog will be like by its breed.



THE TRUTH:

A breed label doesn't tell the whole story. Dogs who look alike can have very different personalities, energy levels, and needs.

Breed tendencies can offer clues, but a dog's experiences, health, training, and environment also influence behavior. Getting to know the individual dog helps us understand which home may suit them best.

The pitties featured here are a perfect example. Some want an adventure buddy. Others treasure belly rubs. Their comfort with dogs, cats, and children varies too.

Look beyond the label and meet the dog.

Adopted Dogs

Kodiak, Smokey, Gromit, Thena, Bruce, Hank, Mop, Morticia, Gwin, Maize Mae, Suzie, Pearl, Pumpkin, Bandit, Dolly, Monkey, Peanut, Pickles, Delilah, Follie, Cheddar Bob, Gidget, Wishbone, Fozzy, Charlie, Zeus, Carlie, Gertie

Rabbit: Bear



Adopted Cats

Travis, River, Baxter, Jazmin, Gary Oak, Cheese, Sammy, Wellsbury, Gus, Zoey, Mickey, Caitlin, Blueberry, Kiwi, Missie, Elf, Putters, Onyx, Watson, Clover, Tini, Leonardo, Owl, Kenny, Strawberry, Pineapple, Grape, Tawny, Lucky, Cadbury, Cleo, Pip, Gibson, Garvey, Fiona, Thackery, Molly, Mabel, Lanie, Speckles, Beau, Rory, Pete, Lloyd, Louie, AJ, Lady Grey, Ash Ketchum, Dove, Amelia, Hebron, Hazel, Butterscotch, Spice, Sphinx, Zava, Nerys, Bueller, Huff, Beard, McKenzie

Gaming helps. It doesn't cover it all.

"You have gaming sites - you must have plenty of money!"

We hear this often, and we understand the assumption. But the dollars going into gaming don't all come to rescue.

For every dollar spent in gaming, approximately 9-12 cents ultimately reach FFRR. The rest goes toward prize payouts, taxes, and the expenses of operating gaming.

Those cents add up to meaningful support, and we are grateful for our gaming partners and patrons. That income isn't guaranteed. We've lost ctwo gaming sites in an extremely competitive environment, with sporting organizations and other charities seeking many of the same locations.

These organizations have missions to support, too. There are simply many worthy causes competing for a limited number of opportunities.

Meanwhile, the animals still need food, shelter, and veterinary care. That's why donations, grants, fundraisers, and community support remain essential - even with gaming.

Every source of support matters. ***Every dollar helps us say yes to an animal who needs us.***

A GIFT THAT KEEPS SAVING LIVES—YEAR AFTER YEAR

Most days, we talk about what animals need right now—veterinary care, food, shelter and a safe place to land. But we must also make sure help will still be here for the animals who need us years from now.

The Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue Endowment Fund, held by the North Dakota Community Foundation, helps protect the future of our mission. Gifts are invested as a permanent resource, with a portion available each year to support our lifesaving work. An endowment gift is not used once and gone—it keeps helping, year after year.

North Dakota donors may also receive a meaningful tax benefit. Individuals who give at least $5,000 during the calendar year—through one gift or several combined gifts—may qualify for a 40% North Dakota income tax credit. North Dakota businesses may qualify for the credit on gifts of any amount.

To give online, visit the North Dakota Community Foundation donation page and select Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue Endowment Fund.

Checks may be made payable to North Dakota Community Foundation, with our fund's name in the memo line, and mailed to:

NDCF | PO Box 387 |Bismarck, ND 58502-0387

Checks intended for the 2026 tax year generally must be postmarked by December 31.

We don't know what calls will come tomorrow. But together, we can help ensure that when an animal needs us, FFRR will be here to answer.

Your gift can become more than help for today. ***It can become a legacy of safety, healing and hope.***

Happy Tails

This is what it's all for: the happy updates, the well-loved faces, and the animals who have found their people.

Thank you for helping turn second chances into stories like these.













Welcome Home



WINTER IS COMING. THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IS YOU.



We know what's coming. This is North Dakota, after all. Soon enough, we'll be digging out our winter coats, finding our gloves, and wondering where we put the snow shovel. For animals without a safe, warm place to go, winter is something far more serious.

The cold brings a whole new level of urgency to rescue. An animal who is already struggling to find food, water, and shelter faces even greater danger when temperatures drop. And while the need grows, our space does not.



That's why the first line of defense is you. You are the person who notices the dog outside without adequate shelter. The neighbor who realizes someone is struggling to care for their pets. The person who sees a cat trying to find warmth and decides to do something.

Please start close to home. Bring pets indoors and prepare for shorter outdoor trips as conditions worsen. Check gates and fences, update identification and microchip contact information, and make a plan for your animals if a storm disrupts travel or power.



Then consider who else might need a hand. A bag of pet food, help fixing a gate, or a conversation about a warmer place for an animal may prevent a desperate call later. Sometimes people need help and don't know how to ask.

If you care for outdoor or community cats, prepare dry, weatherproof shelters with straw bedding and dependable access to food and unfrozen water. Tap your vehicle's hood and check around the wheels before starting your vehicle, too. Cats may be seeking warmth there.

If you see an animal in danger, please don't assume someone else has noticed or that help is already coming. When safe, help them reach shelter while you contact their owner, animal control, or a rescue. Report suspected neglect to local authorities.

And if you've been thinking about fostering, we need you. A foster home gives an animal a safe place to land and creates room for another who needs us. Donations, supplies, transportation, and sharing requests for help matter, too.

We'll continue to help as many animals as we possibly can. You know we will. But we also know we can't help them all, and that's a hard thing to say.

So please think about where you can step in. You don't have to solve every problem. Help the animal in front of you. Help the neighbor who is struggling. Make room if you can.





Please don't underestimate what your help can mean. To an animal facing the cold, it could mean everything.



WINTER ACCORDING TO YOUR PET

The dog: Snow is AMAZING! Let me out! Let me in! Let me out! Why are you putting your boots away?

The cat: I've reviewed the forecast. I'll dig into my blanket until April.

The senior pet: You enjoy that fresh air. I've spent years finding the warmest spot in this house, and I'm not giving it up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOTS HAPPEN CLINIC
November 18 | 4:00-6:00 pm
The 701 Venue | Mandan, ND

DARTS FOR DOGS | CORNHOLE FOR CATS
November 21 | Send-It 24/7 Cornhole | Mandan, ND
Silent Auction and Taco-in-a-Bag
Darts @ Noon | Switcholio @ 3pm

LIVE RAFFLE DRAWING
December 8 | 7 pm
The 701 Venue | Mandan
Will be streamed on Facebook Live

PETSMART MEET & GREET
Every Saturday | 11am – 2pm
PetSmart | Bismarck

B-I-N-G-O
Every Friday | 6 pm
DJ's Pizza & Lounge | Lincoln

B-I-N-G-O
Every Thursday | 6 pm
Gideon's Brewing Company
Great Prizes | Cash Play only

BLACKJACK
Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays | 6 pm
DJ's Pizza & Lounge | 70 Santee Rd | Lincoln

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



These adorable faces are waiting for their forever families.

































As we head into this season of gratitude, we're thankful for every person who makes room for rescue in their life. Because of you, more animals are finding comfort, belonging, and families of their own. Here's to full hearts, happy tails, and a little less room on the couch!

