



PET TALES

2009 HOLIDAY ISSUE

“JACKI-IN-THE-BOX” a story of hope

I'm in a cardboard box with my brother. I feel the box being placed on the ground. We must be outside, I hear the wind whistling. It sure is dark and cold in this box. We have no blanket to keep us warm, so we huddle together to stave off the chill – and, because we are scared. Very scared. I hear the clap of thunder and feel the raindrops pelting the box. I don't know how long we've been in here, but it feels like a very long time. I feel pain, and I'm weak and tired, but the fear keeps me from sleeping. I hear my brother sneezing a lot – I know he's got a bad cold that is making it hard for him to breathe. And then, more thunder.

We hear footsteps. In fear, we huddle even closer together. Now we hear a voice. We know that some voices are good, but some voices can be bad, very bad. Suddenly, the box is moving and we are lifted up off the ground. We fall a little to one side. We hear a door open. The wind stops. The door closes and the box is put down again. We hear the sound of tape briskly ripping off of cardboard. We are frightened even further - What will happen next?

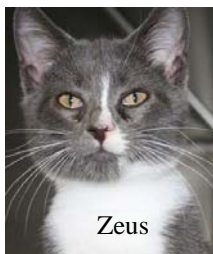
I see a glimmer of light. The box opens, the light floods in and there is a kind face looking down at us. She cries out in dismay “Oh, you poor little things”. We immediately know that she's one of the good voices. We think maybe she's our Angel. I see the relief on her face as she realizes she's rescued us in time. We are filled with hope. She picks up my brother first and gives him a hug. Then she starts to pick me up, and her relief turns to horror. She gasps. I see the tears well up in her eyes.

Both my back and front leg have several bloody punctured areas and are very infected. She is sickened by the pus dripping from the abscessed wounds. She feels the heat radiating from me and knows I have a raging fever. She looks into my eyes and sees they are half closed. She quickly puts me back in the box. She leaves the room. My hopes fade. My optimism turns to defeat. I thought she was our savior. But now, we've been abandoned again.

Soon I hear footsteps and more voices. Again I am scared and I cower. But I quickly realize that these are more kind voices, concerned voices - indeed, angelic voices. My Angel is back, and this time she's got her posse with her. One picks up my brother and gently cleans his eyes and nose so he can breathe a little easier. She wraps him in a blanket and gives him medicine to help make him well. She tells him she will name him Zeus - the god of thunder. Another carries me off, I feel a tiny sting, and I drift off to sleep. When I wake up, I have slits in each leg so the infection can be flushed out. They flush my wounds several times a day. It was kind of scary at first when they placed the tip of the syringe at one slit and pushed the antiseptic solution through so that it came out the other slit – I thought I was leaking! Well, technically, I guess I was. You see, I also had some drain tubes inserted into me to help the infected fluids drain out of the wounds. It isn't very comfortable and I have to wear a collar that looks like a lampshade so that I won't bite at the drain or pull it out. They give me pain medications to make me more comfortable and lots of antibiotics to try to get rid of the infection. Each time they give me medicine or flush my wounds, the Angels wrap me in a blanket decorated with jack-o-lanterns. They call me Jacki and tell me what a trooper I am. That I am so brave. They give me kitten formula for a treat. I purr and roll on my back for a belly rub.

The Angels are so kind to me and I start to perk up a bit, but I can tell that they are still very worried about me. Being only 8 weeks old and weighing barely 2 pounds, I don't have a very strong immune system yet. Although the swelling has gone down a little, I still cannot walk very well. They're afraid that the infection may have reached into my bones. I can tell from the tone of their voices that that's not a good thing.

My front leg is improving. I can walk on it now, even though there is still a lot of swelling. My back leg, though, is not so lucky. The infection is still deep, and they've discovered that the ligaments are so torn apart in my joints that they won't be able to be fixed. I hear them discuss amputation. I again see the tears well up in her eyes. They will do it tomorrow. They assure me it will make me feel better, and I'll be able to walk again, run again and play again. I believe them. I know they're doing what's best for me. I know they love me so much. I miss not being able to play with my brother Zeus. He was the lucky one. He only had a bad upper respiratory infection.



Zeus


No, wait. When I really think about it, I know we are BOTH the lucky ones! We've been given a chance to grow up and live happy, fruitful lives with a loving family. A lucky family, if you ask me! What a perfect match, loving kittens with a loving family -- Lucky kittens with a lucky family! Adopt us and let us show you how grateful a kitten can be. *You will not believe your luck.*



Jacki

The story of Jacki and Zeus are an all-too-familiar one at Adopt-A-Pet. Unfortunately, so many more of our animals also have stories to tell. Tragic stories. Stories of abuse. Stories of loss and abandonment. We often wonder if they could talk what they would tell us – and then we sometimes think that maybe it's just better that we not know. Only through your support is Adopt-A-Pet able to tend to these little ones and offer them hope. Offer them life. At Adopt-A-Pet we go the extra mile to do everything we can to save the little lives that land in our lap. We are grateful to have the support of all of you that allows us to offer these animals the care that they need. Without you, there would be no Jacki, there would be no Zeus, there would be no second chances. And though sometimes it's hard for us to stay upbeat and not get depressed when we think of what all of these innocent creatures' stories must be, if you could just once look into the eyes of these precious animals and see the hope that they project back to you, you'd understand what keeps us going, what keeps us motivated. Jacki and Zeus will have a great life with a loving family, we will make certain of that. But, there will always be another silent mew, another tail that longs to wag, another animal desperately needing the hope that we can offer, to take their place. Each just as desperate. Each just as deserving.

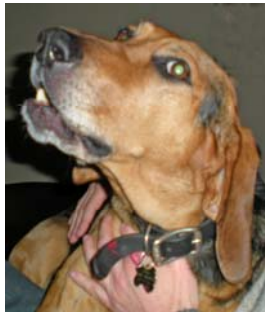
We know that the holidays are busy, hectic and expensive times for everyone, but so many innocent animals are still in great need. In fact, the need has never been greater. Every year we think it just can't get any worse -- and every year it does. In today's hard times, so many more animals will suffer neglect, abuse, abandonment and homelessness. YOU are their ticket to their tomorrow. YOU are their ticket to life. Those of us who love animals must remember that as times become more difficult, the often-forgotten animals need us *that* much more. Adopt-A-Pet appreciates any support that you can offer us, whether financial or just a note of comfort. We DO read your letters and cards, and we love getting them. Your kind words give us strength. Happy stories give us motivation. Your generous donations give us the ability to offer that special gift of hope and life to the next deserving creature.

In the spirit of the season, we wish you all a peaceful holiday and many happy stories. 

And, speaking of Happy Stories . . .

We are attaching a picture of Jethro, the foxhound we got through Adopt-A-Pet two years ago. He has turned into the sweetest hound imaginable. We are so lucky you found him on death row for us. We are always happy to support your efforts any time possible. Thank you for all the great work you do!

Fred and Ann



My name is Raven and you may remember that I had a rap sheet and was on parole looking for a new leash on life because I had a couple of 'fear biting' episodes with a family who thought they wanted to adopt me! Honestly, I think I was just waiting for a different set of parents as it was love at first sight when they first saw me and I saw them. They came to rescue me and all will be happy to hear that while my new parents thought they were adopting me, they didn't realize I wanted to adopt them just as much as my forever family.

I, of course, get all of the hugs, kisses & cuddle time I could possibly ever want. I also like to wrestle in the bedsheets while my family is trying to make the bed, and playing tug-of-war & fetch can amuse me for hours!! I've found I also like to please my new family by learning new commands & manners as well and, to be honest, I have to admit I enjoy the rewards & praise I earn as a result!



So now that everyone knows I am fine and truly happy, I would be remiss if I did not thank Adopt-A-Pet for having faith in me and giving me a second chance at life as well as my foster family who took me in, helped me work on my bad manners, and loved me enough to let me go to my forever family.

Love, Raven & my family, Erwin & Maureen



Have we got a dog! We love her! She is very smart and very good. We've had no problems with her. Thanks for bringing her to us!

Jack and Joan

We wanted to let you know that our Dora is doing just fine. She runs all over the house and gets along with everybody. She goes from one room to the other seeking attention and we love it. She climbed up onto my bed at 3:00am the other night and slept next to me. After I go to work, she hangs with my parents the whole day. This cat is a bundle of energy and fun. I look forward to coming home from work every day just to play with her. Thanks for rescuing her. We love her.

Suhail and Family



THIS...

2010 Calendars now available! We are pleased to offer two different calendars this year: Sutton Studios "Dog Days" and "For The Love Of Rescues" – both are AWESOME calendars that you will LOVE! See previews on our website where you can also place a mail order, or pick one up at any of our upcoming events! Limited quantities so don't wait!



Entertainment Books are still available, but only through December. See our website for pick-up locations, or order one to be mailed to you!



If you shop at Dominick's, don't forget to register your Fresh Values card at escrip.com (or call 800-700-5655), and designate Adopt-A-Pet as your charity. EVERY time you shop, year round, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to us.



Calling all cooks! Send us your favorite recipes. One or ten, we need them all! We are creating a new Cookbook that we hope to have finished sometime next year. "Name" your recipe and be sure to tell us if it's for people or pets.



When making your donation, check with your employer to see if they have a Matching Gifts program or a Giving Campaign! We are happy to provide literature or come to your business to make a presentation to show your employees how valuable their donations can be to your community's homeless pet population.

OUR WISH LIST

- Grocery & Pet Store Gift Cards
- Office Supply Store Gift Cards
- Copy Paper, White & Colors
- Two-Pocket Folders
- Scoopable Cat Litter
- Cat Food, dry and canned
- Cat Toys and Cat Treats
- Dog Chew Toys (no rawhide)
- Dog Biscuits and Treats
- Revolution, Frontline & Heartgard
- Collars, Harnesses and Leashes
- Kitty Condos and Cat Trees
- Scratching Posts
- Dog Beds & Cushions
- Paper Towels
- Wire Dog Crates



Come walk with us in the Wilmette Holiday Parade to show your support for animal rescue.

When: Nov. 21. Staging begins at 9:30. Parade runs from 10:30 – 11:15

Where: CTA parking lot, corner of Linden and 4th St.

All dogs welcome as long as they are people- and dog-friendly. Bring your dog on a 6' or shorter leash.

Join us afterwards at Wilmette Pet Center for our tree lighting ceremony!

Call or email us to sign up!

AND THAT...

Want an EASY way to help? Please use the enclosed Jewel Shop & Share tickets. Just do your shopping on the dates noted (save your big holiday shopping for these days!), hand the ticket to the cashier, and Jewel will donate a percentage of your purchase to us. Tickets are copyable, so make as many as you need to hand out to friends, family and co-workers!



Give the ultimate gift this year to the people on your list. Give the gift of compassion, the gift of hope, the gift of life. When you make a donation in honor or in memory of a person or pet, we will send the recipient a beautiful holiday card (donation amounts are not disclosed unless specifically requested). Just include a note with your check indicating the name and address of the person who is to receive the acknowledgement.



When doing your estate planning, don't forget Adopt-A-Pet in your wills and trusts and as beneficiary of life insurance policies. Legacy gifts ensure that we can continue your personal commitment to helping homeless and abused animals after you are gone.



Did you know that Adopt-A-Pet is an all-volunteer organization? Do you think volunteering might be for you? Come to one of our New Volunteer Orientations where you will learn more about Adopt-A-Pet and how you can fit into our organization. We are always in need of more kind heart to join our cause! Check our website for dates and locations!





"HOWLIDAY HAPPENINGS"

Our ELVES are ready again this year – nice and early, before the holiday rush!
Mark your calendars now and come join us for the festivities!
We always love seeing you and your adorable pets!
Have a photo taken, buy an ornament, help decorate our Trees of Hope,
donate a Wish List item for a shelter pet,
Or just stop in to say hello and have a cup of Holiday Cheer!

Sunday, Nov. 15, 10:00 – 1:00
At: Morton Grove Animal Hospital
9128 Waukegan Rd.

Santa Claws & Hanukah Hound Pet Photos
by pro photographer Tom Rizzo!
Only \$10 for a fun print in a holiday frame.

Caricature Portraits by Patrick! Only \$15
for a 9 X 12 custom drawing of your pet.

And, new this year . . .

Pet Psychic Beverly Koeppel! Get a psychic
reading of your pet, living or in spirit.
Beverly will tune in to your pet's energy.
Bring your pet, or bring a photo. Special
pricing for this event of only \$1 per minute!
Wow!

Free Refreshments!

Appointments
recommended.
Call 847-965-4010
to sign up.



Sunday, Dec. 6, 12:00-4:00
At: Wilmette Pet Center
625 Green Bay Road

Santa Claws & Hanukah Hound
Pet Photos by expert photographer
Rhonda Holcomb!
\$10 for a fun print in holiday frame.

10% of ALL STORE SALES today will
be donated to us! Come do your pet
food and supply shopping!

Saturday, Dec. 5, 10:00-2:00
At: Wiggly Tails Doggie Daycare
1915 Holste Rd., Northbrook

Santa Claws & Hanukah Hound Pet Photos
by ace photographer Jim Czerwinski!
Only \$10 for a fun print in a holiday frame.

Howliday Boutique! Crafts and Gifts for
the Pets and Pet People in your life!

Bake Sale for People and Pooches!
Refreshments for Everyone!

No appointment needed!



DECORATE YOUR HOLIDAY WITH LOVE ... and Hope

This holiday season, make sure you're barking up the right tree!

Adopt-a-Pet's homeless dogs and cats need donations throughout the year -- but especially at holiday time when many people are focused on other things. What's more, since our calls to take in homeless or soon-to-be homeless pets have nearly tripled this year, we are constantly at or above capacity and in need of more support than normal to pay boarding fees for animals when there is no foster home available.

In the spirit of the season, we have placed Angel Trees of Hope at some of our partner locations where you, our Angels, can stop in and buy an ornament, make a donation, help fill our naked trees with Ornaments of Hope, or drop off a wish list item to help make an animal more comfortable while it awaits its forever home.

Wilmette Pet Center
625 Green Bay Rd., Wilmette
847-521-6750

Wiggly Tails Doggie Daycare
915 Holste Rd., Northbrook
847-272-4141

Des Plaines Family Pet Clinic
965 Rand Rd., Des Plaines
847-299-3800

You can honor your own pet by buying one of our Ornament of Hope decorations and filling in your pet's name to be displayed on our Angel Tree, and taking home one of our "Pawprint of Approval" ornaments for your tree at home to show that you helped give a homeless pet Hope for a brighter, loving future.

