



DuPage Animal Friends

Helping All Pets Have A Home



December 15, 2017

Dear Friend,

If you would like to be a hero to homeless pets and give them a second chance at a happy and healthy life, then we have a way you can make a difference this holiday season.

Every day, stray pets are brought to the safe haven of DuPage County Animal Care & Control (DCACC). Sadly, many are never reclaimed by their owners. And unfortunately, every day area residents relinquish their pets for a variety of personal hardship reasons.

As the area's only immediate open-admission animal shelter, DCACC won't turn away any animal that walks through its doors. It lovingly takes all animals in need. But the animal shelter has limited space and is too often at full capacity – *as is the case now*. It's an ongoing challenge to rehome healthy pets to make room for others arriving daily.

You can make a direct impact on the lives of shelter pets.

DuPage Animal Friends is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 charitable organization, which means your gift goes straight to work to save the lives of dogs, rabbits, cats, guinea pigs, birds, hamsters, and other domesticated animals.

Your gift is needed today.

“Every day is Christmas in our house filled with the love Rubeus gives us.”



From homeless to adopted, Rubeus finds a forever family!

Lee met Rubeus in August at NBC's Clear the Shelters event at DCACC. She and her family were not expecting to fall in love with a pup, especially after recently losing their beloved dog. But Rubeus quickly grabbed ahold of their hearts and wouldn't let go. Thanks to donors of DuPage Animal Friends, pets like Rubeus received fee-waived adoptions at this wonderful event to help find forever homes and free up life-saving cage space for other animals in need.



DCACC is not funded with property tax dollars. The shelter is self-supported through fees, fines, and rabies tags. But that is not nearly enough to care for the 3,000 pets that are left at the shelter each year.

The shelter animals rely on charitable donations from community members like you.

How does your gift help homeless pets at DCACC? Your donation funds:



Adoption programs to help find homes for harder-to-place pets, such as senior pets and bonded pairs, as well as when the shelter is full



Urgent medical care for pets that would otherwise be euthanized due to a lack of funds needed to pay for costly procedures



Surgical equipment, enrichment items, and educational materials for which the current shelter budget does not allow



Your donation helps not only in one of these areas, but goes to work in all 3 initiatives!

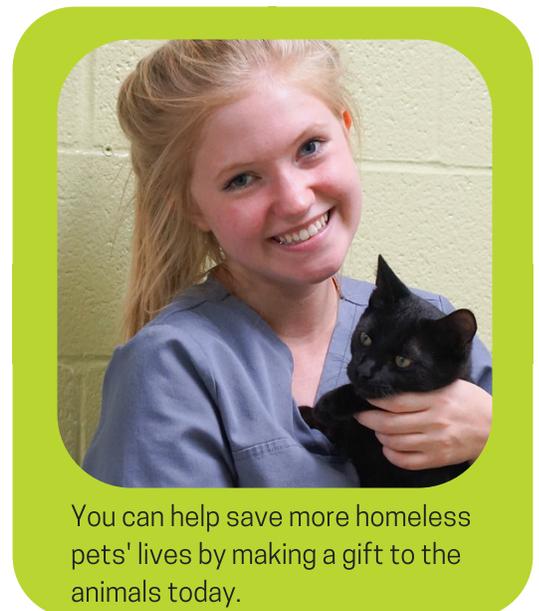
Unfortunately, through no fault of their own, stray and surrendered pets arrive at the animal shelter each day looking for hope. They are counting on you to make it possible for them to find their Happily Ever After. With your help, we at DuPage Animal Friends are committed to helping every single adoptable pet find a new family. We can't do it without you.

YOU are their hero!

What most people do is pretend that a happy ending is guaranteed for every animal that arrives at the shelter. After all, they think, we're an affluent community whose taxes ensure the most positive outcome for all.



But you know differently. You know that many homeless pets, regardless of the socio-economic climate, need additional resources combined with a well-executed plan to be rehomed successfully.



You can help save more homeless pets' lives by making a gift to the animals today.



Think for a moment about what it would be like to live in a place where a once-loved, healthy family pet ends up in the animal shelter due to a family hardship. Because of a lack of resources, the pet does not get a second chance.



Now, imagine being part of an innovative, compassionate, and generous community where the local animal shelter is thriving. It has progressive adoption and rescue programs to help all animals, regardless of breed, age, or health, find new homes quickly. It has funding to pay for urgent care, medical equipment, animal enrichment, and animal training – everything needed to save them all.



Which community do you prefer?

Won't you join us in helping abandoned and unwanted pets in DuPage County today? No gift is too small. Every dollar counts.

On behalf of the precious pets in crisis that find themselves without a family, but in the loving arms of DCACC staff and volunteers, **THANK YOU!** May your holidays be joyful.

Yours in saving homeless pets,

Julie Cooper
President
DuPage Animal Friends

P.S. The animals need you today. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift right now. You can also give online at dupageanimalfriends.org. Thank you for being a hero to shelter pets!



DuPage Animal Friends' Past President Laura Flamion and new President Julie Cooper.

Laura has served on the board for the past 4 years. She now has a new role as Operations Manager at DuPage County Animal Care & Control. We look forward to working closely to strengthen DCACC's efforts helping all animals in need.

If you would like to know more about DuPage Animal Friends, I am happy to meet donors like you at the animal shelter (120 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton) for a tour and chat so you can see how your financial contributions make a difference. Feel free to contact me at jcooper@dupageanimalfriends.org.



Shelter pet stories to warm your heart

Snickers Finds His Hero ❤️ Age is Not a Disease

Last year, a very old Dachshund named Snickers was surrendered to DuPage County Animal Care & Control after his owner passed away. Snickers was in pretty sorry shape with a heart murmur, multiple masses, and rotten teeth. He was given only months to live.

Dogs like Snickers are hard to rehome. People normally want young, active dogs with which they can spend a lifetime. Snickers might have lived his remaining days in a shelter, but thankfully he encountered Susan. In fact, as soon as Susan saw Snickers' picture and heard of his troubles, she rushed to adopt him.

Deciding Snickers had too much spunk for his grim prognosis, Susan made an appointment with her veterinarian who made a bold decision to perform a dental even though Snickers had many serious health risks. Snickers came through the procedure with flying colors, and thanks to the loving care of Susan,

he lived to see his one-year adopt-a-versary! Snickers and his fur brother even came by the shelter for a visit and to pass out treats to DCACC staff to celebrate Snickers' one year of living and loving life. Soon after his visit, though, Snickers' health began to decline. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

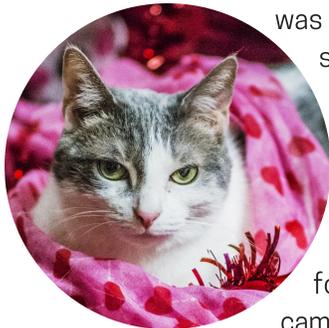


Adopters like Susan have such generous spirits, looking past the gray faces and into the animals' loving hearts. They know that while some pets do not have years left, they certainly have many precious moments to share.

Donors like you help DCACC care for animals who would otherwise not receive a second chance at life. Thank you for your year-end gift.

Pearl's 11-Month Wait ❤️ No Animal has a Deadline

Some animals get adopted lickety-split. And some wait and wait and wait. Such was the case with Pearl. This 8-year-old beauty, who was surrendered because of her family's allergies, had some obstacles. Although sweet and friendly, Pearl didn't enjoy the company of other pets. So, the adoption floor at the shelter was not an option.



DCACC volunteer Kathi lovingly stepped forward to foster Pearl in her home. Months later, more good fortune came Pearl's way when a wonderful woman decided that they

were the perfect match! Donors like you make it possible to provide reduced-fee adoptions to help place pets into new homes. While it took 11 months to rehome Pearl, it's a testament to DCACC and DuPage's pet-loving community's commitment to saving homeless animals. Please help animals today by making a donation to DuPage Animal Friends. Thank you for your generosity.

