



Paws for News

BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

December 2014



Happy Tales or Happy Tails?

After our last edition of *Paws for News* came out, there was a bit of discussion on whether our stories about adoptions should be “Happy Tales” or “Happy Tails”. May I suggest that it’s a matter of perspective and how physically attached you are to a tail? From the viewpoint of our adopting families, these are clearly “Happy Tales” - stories of how adopting a pet has brought joy to their home and changed their lives. From the perspective of the adoptee, it’s more about having a Happy “Tail”. Whether it’s the elegant tail of a mature cat, the tiny tail of a kitten, a cropped tail of a spaniel or long tail of a shih tzu, every animal leaving the shelter on their way to their forever home carries a very happy tail! It’s all a matter of perspective! During this Holiday Season, we sincerely hope that you have taken some time to reflect on your own personal Happy Tale!



Greta's Special Christmas

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Greta is an adult female German Short Hair pointer dog that came to BENCHS in 2012. She was not a young dog then - we guessed maybe 9 or 10 years old. She was adopted and went home. Recently we got a call from the adoptive family telling us that they had recently had a new baby and there were changes in their work days schedule. They felt that Greta was not going to get the attention she deserved. Although we were concerned that we would struggle to find a new home for a 12 year old dog, a date was set for her to be surrendered. We were concerned that Greta would be calling the shelter "home" for a long time. These grey muzzles are a challenge!

But no! The same evening her photo and bio were posted on petfinder.com, we got a call! Another young family also had a new baby but were finding they were home more hours each day and they thought adopting a senior dog was a great plan. Greta was able to spend Christmas with her new family. A Christmas miracle!



My First Christmas, by Emmet

First, I need to tell you that I am an 11 month old Springer Spaniel who was adopted from BENCHS in March. My dad works long hours, so I spend a lot of time at Grandma's and Grandpa's. I also need to tell you that I am an expert at escaping my kennel; my grandpa has tried zip-ties, carabineers, and wire to keep me in.

On the day before Christmas Eve, things were pretty busy at Grandma's house. But I had nothing to do. I sat by Grandma as she baked peanut butter dog treats. When the dog treats were baked, Grandma took them out of the oven and left them to cool on the counter. I pretended to behave but those treats smelled so good. Nobody noticed me being good and no one gave me a treat!

Suddenly Grandpa called, "Kennel!" and I went right into



Only 2 Days Left to Reach our Goal!

In early November, we set an aggressive fundraising goal for the remainder of 2014. We were determined to double the donations received during our letter campaign in 2013. As of December 28, we have \$35,000 in pledges and donations compared to \$22,000 received last year. To reach our goal of \$44,000, we need an additional, \$9,000! If you have already made your year-end donation to BENCHS, we are very grateful. If you have not yet made your donation, please consider making one on or before Dec. 31. And if you are unable to donate at this time, please share the story of the good works done by BENCHS with your everyone you know! We are so blessed to have the support of so many caring people!

[If you would like to make a donation, please click here:](#)

[**Donate**](#)

Past Events

Barnes & Noble Book Fair
\$552

Christmas Bake Sale at Pet Expo
\$875

Kiwanis Holiday Lights
Nov 27 - Dec. 31

my kennel, turned in a circle and lay down. Then Grandpa and Grandma left to do last-minute Christmas shopping. I was feeling very lonely. The smell of those treats found its way right to my nose. "Now is my chance," I thought. I found the one small place Grandpa hadn't wired, pushed against it and there was a gap. It was a tight squeeze, but I was free!



When Grandpa and Grandma got home, I was waiting at the door. Grandma went to the counter and saw that not a single dog treat was left. "Emmett!" she shouted. "Bad Dog!" Grandpa yelled.

"You shouldn't have left me alone," I thought. "It's not my fault when something that good is right in front of me." Suddenly I didn't feel so well. My stomach ached from too many dog treats. I went back in my kennel and laid down.

The next day, all my favorite people came to Grandma's and Grandpa's house. There was colored paper flying everywhere! Finally, Grandma gave me some of the pretty paper. It smelled just like peanut butter. I ripped the paper and found peanut butter dog treats! Santa had brought me a present! But this time I only ate one.



The Dogs of Pine Ridge

Early in December, we received a call from a woman at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In November an 8 year old girl was sliding near her home on Pine Ridge reservation and was killed by a pack of dogs. The tribal leaders had decided that all dogs on the reservation would be killed. The caller was able to persuade the elders to allow her to remove puppies and young dogs from the reservation. She began calling no-kill shelters asking if any might be able to take some of the dogs to save them from death. Without hesitation, we agreed to take as many as we possibly could. Don Nelson made several trips to Sioux Falls to pick up these gentle, quiet dogs. Most of the young adult dogs and older puppies have already found loving homes. Lab mix, Mary and her eight 2-week-old puppies will remain at the shelter for a bit. We are so proud that BENCHS has a reputation that extends beyond Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties and that we were able to help these dogs to find loving homes. Thanks to Don and Katherine Nelson for their hard work in making this Happy Tale happen!



There is still time to visit Holiday Lights and vote for BENCHS as your favorite nonprofit tree. The tree features photos of our recent photo contest top vote-getters!



Upcoming Events

January 1-4 - Kiwanis Holiday Lights Take Down

Contact Susan at info@benchs.org if you are able to help.

Dog Walker Training

January 11 or 25

Noon

Rose Sale

Jan - Feb 14
Plan now to support BENCHS by buying Valentine Roses for your Sweetie!

Watch our [website](#) for more information





Home for the Holidays

We've found our new homes!



2014 Annual Report

Be on the look-out for our 2014 annual report sometime in January. This has been a very exciting year for BENCHS, and we want to share that excitement with you. We'll include more happy tales about happy tails.

Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

[WoofTrax](#)

Drop your **aluminum cans** in the container at the rear of our parking lot for recycling



Signup to Volunteer Today!

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)

[Student Volunteer Form](#)



Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

Happily at home at 1250 North Drive, Mankato, MN • 507.625.6373

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