

THE PET PRESS

FALL 2025



SafeHaven
HUMANE SOCIETY

THE RESCUE STORY OF
Romeo & Juliet

A Quarterly Magazine for Rescue Animal Lovers Compliments of SafeHaven Humane Society

REMEMBERING GUNNER

THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT I EVER RECEIVED



Six years ago, on my birthday, I got the best present I never knew I needed. His name was Gunner. He didn't come wrapped in a bow - he came running out in front of my car on a lonely stretch of road, lost and afraid. You could tell he was searching for "his person" and had been spotted by many people for weeks. He wouldn't allow anyone to help him...until that day.

I'll never forget the moment. My heart jumped into my throat as I slammed on the brakes. When I got out, there he was - wide eyes, ribs showing, and a tail that wagged cautiously. He was leary of me. I knew he had been dumped, that he was scared and tired. Without thinking, I opened my car door and said "Load up, Let's go home". It took me saying that two times before he ran past me and jumped into my car, heading right for the front passenger seat. Even though I wasn't looking for another dog, in that moment he found his "person" and in my heart I knew he was mine.

From that day forward, Gunner was my shadow, my adventure buddy, my comfort on hard days, and my reminder that sometimes life brings you exactly what you need when you least expect it. He filled my home with muddy paw prints, fur on every piece of clothing I owned, and a kind of love that only a good dog can give. He greeted me at the door like I was his whole world, every single day, no matter how long I'd been gone. He taught me about loyalty, forgiveness, and finding joy in the simplest things. He was my BEST friend.

The day I lost him started like every other morning - with a walk before work. He stumbled and seemed tired and didn't want his treats when we got back...not even hotdogs which were his favorite. I thought he was feeling a little 'off' so I kissed him goodbye and told him to be a good boy until I got home. I got the call at 2pm that I needed to get home right away - something was really wrong with Gunner. As soon as I saw him, I knew. I could see it in his eyes, his breathing shallow, but his tail still wagged, just a little bit. It was the hardest call to make, but it was time. He needed me to be strong for him even as my heart was breaking in two.

I hope wherever he is now, he knows how loved he was - how loved he still is. I'm so grateful for every moment we had together. I'll cherish our early morning walks, his sloppy kisses, and the quiet moments when he laid his head in my lap and made the world feel okay as I petted his head. Thank you Gunner, for choosing me. You were the best dog I could've ever asked for, and I'll carry you and your love with me for the rest of my days.

When we say at SafeHaven, Pets are Family,
we mean that with all our hearts!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Storm".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Get To Know Our Cover Models:

THE RESCUE STORY OF ROMEO & JULIET

In 2019, one week before leaving on a three-week vacation, Keith and Annie Kendrick met a dog who would change their lives. Keith, a volunteer at SafeHaven, noticed Romeo immediately when he arrived on a transport from Oklahoma. Quiet and calm, Romeo stood out—not barking, just watching the world with gentle eyes.

The Kendricks had lost their beloved dog, Peaches, to cancer only a month earlier. They knew they'd adopt again someday, but they hadn't expected it to happen so soon. Still, they couldn't pass up such a special dog. With their vacation looming, they arranged for friends to care for Romeo until they returned. By the time they came home, Romeo had spent more time with those friends than with them—but he quickly settled in as part of the family. Romeo enjoyed being the only dog for about a year, until another unexpected encounter brought Juliet into their lives.

While vacationing in Hawaii, the Kendricks visited the Kaua'i Humane Society. The shelter offered a "field trip" program where visitors could take dogs out for the day. Wanting to help, they asked to walk a pit bull—one of the most commonly overlooked types in shelters. That's when they met Crescent.

Crescent had clearly lived a rough life. Emaciated and dirty from her time on the streets, she weighed only 36 pounds and likely had puppies. Though subdued during their walk, she climbed into Keith's lap during the car ride and rested her head out the window. She showed no interest in treats or toys, but something about her touched them deeply.

They hadn't planned on adopting another dog, but after spending just a few hours with her, they were smitten. The shelter, overwhelmed and over capacity, encouraged them to bring her back to the mainland. They agreed—and renamed her Juliet.

Today, Romeo and Juliet are thriving together. While Juliet has some behavioral challenges, including resource guarding and dog reactivity, Romeo is her perfect companion. With patience, training, and lots of love, Juliet has blossomed—and now weighs a healthy 53 pounds. The two dogs love snuggling on the couch, and Romeo has taken on the role of Juliet's personal therapy dog.

Did you know: SafeHaven has a new online Resource Library with information to help pet parents experiencing behavioral issues? Check it out today at safehavenhumane.org/resource-library/.



Romeo & Juliet's story is one of love, healing and second chances.



Is your pet ready for their model moment?

Don't let your pet miss out on their chance to be a cover model! Take part in the LIVE AUCTION at Rescue Roundup on September 27th and give them a chance to be a star.

Happy Tails

HOW HOWARD & BUDDY BECAME A FAMILY

By: Howard Friedman

This story has a sad beginning but a happy ending.
Please read on.

I lost my wife, Lori, in February 2022. I was sad but I had Penny, who we adopted from SafeHaven in 2008, to console me. Then she suddenly passed away in April 2022. Two losses in two months left me sad and lonely and it took a while for my ship to right itself. In January of this year I knew what I needed...another dog to keep me company and share my life. My first thought was a senior dog since I'm a senior citizen - that would work well, right?



Buddy & me in our first family photo!

After checking out a few candidates, none were a good fit for me. Then Chris took me to visit Mickey. As she told me, "Mickey is a young (two year old) old man." I visited him for a while and realized that he is a very laid back guy. This could work out! To be certain, I took him for a ride in the car and while we were driving I kept asking him, "Are you doing OK buddy?" After thinking about it overnight I went back to SafeHaven and told Buddy (his new name) to pack his bag, grab his toothbrush and say goodbye to his friends because he was heading to his forever home!

During that first week, I thought that perhaps he wasn't the right dog for me. He was very quiet and sedate. He didn't play with toys or interact with me. He didn't woof. I spoke to Chris at SafeHaven about this and she said to give him more time as the move was stressful for him. Now that we've been a family for months, he's made great strides! He may never be very demonstrative and that is ok with me. He has become more vocal (howling and not barking) and I like it. He even joins me in bed at night and that is OK, too.

He spends most of his time moving between sofas in the house and loves to ride in my car. He enjoys driving with the top down.

As I said in the beginning, this story has a happy ending. Buddy and I are a family and I tell him that several times a day. The moral to this story is to always give your fur babies a second or third or more chance. They can get as confused as we sometimes get. I cannot thank SafeHaven enough for urging me to give Buddy a second chance!



We LOVE happy tails! Share your SafeHaven adoption story with us by submitting it online at safehavenhuamne.org/submit-a-story/.

Happy Tails

RINNI'S LONG ROAD TO FOREVER

By: Mike & Burmah Rainbolt

Right before Thanksgiving last year, we adopted a beautiful German Shepherd named "Roxy" from SafeHaven. She turned seven years old on Thanksgiving day and we decided she needed a more fitting name for her regal nature. Inspired by the legendary Rin Tin Tin, we renamed her Rinni. Like her namesake, who was rescued from a World War I battlefield in France by an American soldier and went on to star in 27 silent films, our Rinni is smart, resilient, and full of untold stories.



Rinni is all smiles with her mom & dad!

Rinni's journey to us was long and difficult. She began life as an unnamed breeding dog in Montana. Eventually, she was adopted by a young woman in Idaho, who loved her but eventually had to rehome her due to unforeseen circumstances. Rinni was entrusted to a kind man in Eastern Oregon—handpicked by her previous owner—but when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Rinni was sent to a German Shepherd rescue group. In turn, they transferred her to SafeHaven, where luckily she stayed just three days before finding her way to us.

From the moment she arrived, we knew she had endured more than her fair share of hardship. Shy and emotionally fragile, she clung tightly to my wife, Burmah, and made it clear: she had found "her person". Over time, Rinni has begun to heal. She's still cautious with strangers, but with us, she's gentle, loyal, and loving. Her transformation has been nothing short of inspiring.

We believe Rinni is finally where she belongs. God willing, this is her forever home—and we're so thankful to be part of her story.

SafeHaven Humane Society is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization that relies on donor support for its adoption, education & medical programs. We are not affiliated with any other humane organizations and we do not receive any government funding or tax dollars.

Our Tax ID is 93-0676661

See all the latest news and cuteness online by visiting:

SAFEHAVENHUMANE.ORG

Or come visit us at the shelter:

32220 Old Hwy 34
Tangent, OR 97389

We're open seven days a week from Noon to 5pm.

Need to call? Reach us at 541.928.2789.

WE LOVE TO SEE THIS PAW!

Want to know what those paws on the photos are? For only \$25.00, you can show a homeless animal they're not alone. You may not be able to take them home, but you can still change their world. We encourage you to share your sponsored pet with your friends and family and help us find him or her a home! Once you sponsor a pet, they will receive an 'I'm Sponsored' paw on their photo and on their kennel so everyone will know they are loved...and once your sponsored pet has found their forever home, you will be notified about their happy new beginning!



INNER CIRCLE DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Robert Longo



Kol now with Ryder

For more than 20 years, Robert adored his purebred female Rotties, raising 2 that each lived more than 12+ years (pretty great for Rotties). But after his second one passed, one of his OSU students who worked at an animal shelter mentioned that "mixed breeds tend to be healthier than pure breeds".



Kol as a baby

In March of 2020, Robert was ready for his next fur angel. This time, instead of a breeder, he came to SafeHaven and found adorable Kol who was just 10-weeks old and weighed 15 lbs. He wanted something smaller than his Rotties and since Kol's mom was only around 50 lbs he figured Kol would be perfect!

Fast forward 5 years and Kol is a 115 lb puppy who is incredibly gentle and affectionate and has grown into his oversized ears and paws.

Now Robert regularly goes on the SafeHaven website to see how many dogs do not yet have a sponsor, and then sponsors them all. Why? "I just cannot bear the thought of these dogs not having a safe, loving forever home. I even had my Trust revised to make sure after I cross the rainbow bridge to meet up again with my Rotties, that SafeHaven will continue to thrive."

Thank you Robert for all you do to help the animals at SafeHaven!

Are you ready to sponsor a pet and help change their world?
To learn more, visit: safehavenhumane.org/more-ways-to-give/.





PETS ARE FAMILY

AGAINST THE ODDS: HOW SAMSON KEPT HIS LEG THANKS TO COMPASSIONATE CARE & SAFEHAVEN SUPPORT

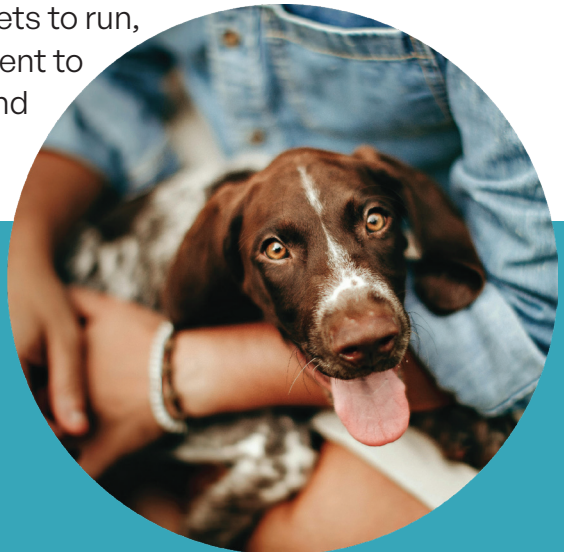
When four-month-old Samson was brought to his primary care veterinarian on March 11th, his family faced a heartbreaking situation: their playful pup had suffered a serious humeral fracture. The prognosis was daunting. Due to the complexity of stabilizing this type of break—particularly in such a young dog—surgical repair was not only risky, but prohibitively expensive. Amputation, although more affordable, seemed to be the only viable option to ensure Samson's comfort and quality of life.

Determined to do what was best for Samson, his family applied for assistance through SafeHaven's Pets Are Family Fund, which enabled them to pursue care at our onsite veterinary clinic, where costs could be more manageable. Surgery was scheduled for March 20th. But when Samson arrived, something unexpected happened—he was starting to use the injured leg.

After a thoughtful discussion and a careful physical exam, SafeHaven's veterinarian along with Samson's family made a bold decision: postpone the amputation and try conservative treatment with rest, sedatives, and close monitoring. Over the following weeks, Samson returned for multiple rechecks and follow-up X-rays.

Then came the moment we'd all hoped for. On May 8th, Samson's final X-rays showed complete healing. Against all odds, his leg was not only saved—it was fully functional.

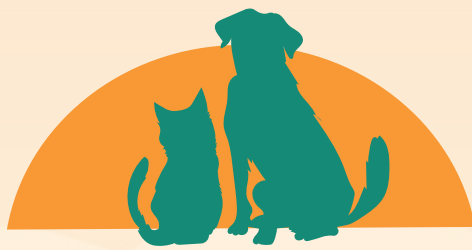
Thanks to the Pets Are Family Fund, which covered all of Samson's exams and imaging, and the dedication of his family and our veterinary team, Samson gets to run, play, and grow up on four healthy legs. His story is a testament to what can happen when compassion meets persistence—and when a little dog refuses to give up.



Pets Are Family Fund

SafeHaven is working hard to keep families and pets together. If you need financial assistance with spay/neuter costs, emergency or necessary veterinary care (up to \$400) or behavioral/training support to prevent surrender, you can apply for a grant from the Pets Are Family Fund.

LEARN MORE AT: safehavenhumane.org/pets-are-family.



Presented by



RESCUE ROUNDUP

WHAT

THIS EVENT INCLUDES A BBQ DINNER, A LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION WITH MANY ITEMS FOR YOU TO BID ON, AND A HONKY-TONK GOOD TIME
BENEFITING SAFEHAVEN HUMANE SOCIETY!

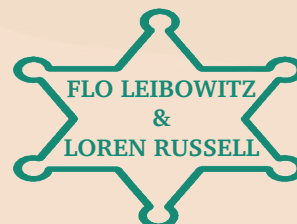
WHEN

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025 AT 5:00 PM

WHERE

KNIFE RIVER TRAINING CENTER
35973 KENNEL ROAD IN ALBANY, OREGON

Thank You To Our Supporting Sponsors



TICKETS ARE \$65 AND CAN BE RESERVED ONLINE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19TH - OR PURCHASE THEM AT THE DOOR.

SAFEHAVENHUMANE.ORG/RESCUE-ROUNDUP/

Don't Miss Out:

Participate In These Upcoming Events



BOW WOW



JOIN US FOR BOW WOW BINGO!
THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH,
FEBRUARY – NOVEMBER!

6:00 – 8:00 PM
SCHMIZZA PUBLIC HOUSE, LEBANON

Please bring cash – small bills work great!



FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL WAY TO SPEND TIME AS A FAMILY?

Join us for a Family Volunteer Day - a special one-time opportunity for families to roll up their sleeves and make a difference for animals in need!

During this hands-on morning, families will work together on a variety of fun and impactful activities which may include:



CLEANING PROJECTS



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



ANIMAL SOCIALIZATION

This event is a great introduction to volunteering for both kids & adults, and a perfect way to model compassion and community service as a family. All ages are welcome, but children (youth under 16 years old) must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. One adult may supervise up to four children.

Space is Limited! Register Today at:

safehavenhumane.org/group-volunteering/

UPCOMING DATES:

October 18th, 9am-12pm

November 15th, 9am-12pm

December 13th, 9am-12pm

Questions?

Contact Katie at

HumaneEd@safehavenhumane.com
or call 541.928.2789.



Furry Tales STORY TIME

11:30am - 12:00pm

UPCOMING DATES:

October 27th

November 17th

December 1st



Join us for Furry Tales, a heartwarming story time experience where young children and their grown-ups can enjoy a morning of reading, creativity, and cuddly moments! Designed for children ages 6 and under (accompanied by a parent or caregiver), Furry Tales is a great way to introduce little ones to animals in a calm, positive environment while encouraging a love for books and kindness to all creatures! Free to participate but space is limited.
No registration required - just drop in and enjoy!

Each session includes:

- A fun, animal-themed story read aloud
- A simple craft related to the tale
- A chance to meet one of our friendly adoptable animals (based on availability)

Questions?

Contact Katie at HumaneEd@safehavenhumane.com
or call 541.928.2789.

Adopt One, Help Many
That's The Rescue Effect



Don't miss out on
WAIVED adoption fees on:
October 22nd
October 29th

Bring your pets, great and small, to the
Blessing of the



October 4, 2025

12-2 pm

SafeHaven Humane Society

On World Animal Blessing Day join Jackie Saling and Renee Windsor-White, animal chaplains, for a blessing for your beloved pet. The event is inclusive, non-denominational and will not have a religious affiliation.



Holiday Open House

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1

10 AM TO 5 PM

BOTH LOCATIONS!

33650 OR-99E Tangent, OR 914 S. Second St. Lebanon, OR

JOIN US FOR A STOREWIDE SALE!

PLUS... Sweat treats, holiday merchandise preview, design ideas & a drawing for a prize basket!

For a full list of our upcoming events, visit: safehavenhumane.org/events/

HOLIDAYS AT SAFEHAVEN

IN ITS FINAL YEAR!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE



**SUPPORT THE ANIMALS AT
SAFEHAVEN BY PURCHASING A
\$50 RAFFLE TICKET!**

The winner will receive a
full-size fresh Christmas tree donated
by Terrill Winn, owner of Fort Noel,
professionally decorated by
Twila Boundy Taylor, AIFD and a
\$500 Visa gift card!

(Estimated retail market value of prize: \$1000)

★ **THANK YOU REBECCA SWANSON
FOR SPONSORING THIS RAFFLE
11 YEARS IN A ROW!** ★

Starting September 10th:

Purchase Your Tickets At The Shelter or Either Gift & Thrift Location!



Only
200
Tickets Sold!

safehavenhumane.org/events

SAVE THE DATE!

Here Comes Santa Paws

Save the Date! Santa Paws will be back on
November 22nd & 23rd from 10am-2pm at the
Albany Coastal Farm Store. Santa Paws is one
of our favorite, long-standing events, or shall we say
holiday traditions.

Bring your family (and your pets!) to get a family photo
taken with Santa. Keep an eye out on our social media
and website to learn more and join us!

For more information visit safehavenhumane.org/events



THE GOLDEN AGE

According to Petfinder.com it can take up to FOUR TIMES as long for senior animals to get adopted as their younger counterparts. We don't get it! Senior animals tend to be house-trained and have long ago left behind their destructive phase, are calmer and are great couch companions for binge-watching your favorite TV shows, and they aren't going to dart beneath your feet or tackle you when you get home.

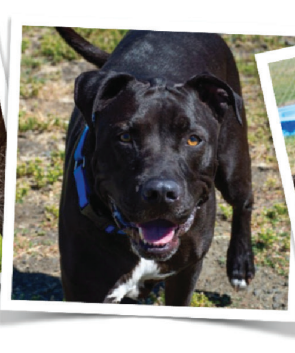
November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month!
But why wait? Don't these adorable senior animals deserve a second chance at love right now?



Clover



Jade



Axel



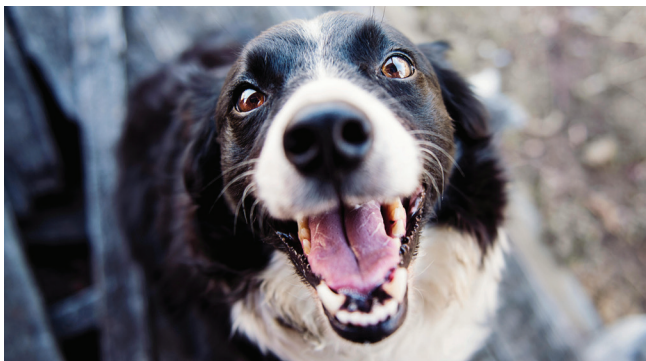
Ada



Bangel



Artemis



The Eyes Have It

Many people who adopt senior pets say they swear their animals know they're getting a second chance, and their gratitude is evident in their eyes.

YOU Can Change Their World!

Our work is 100% funded by private donations, and your gift is **guaranteed** to change the life of a homeless animal. Please consider giving today.

Visit **safehavenhumane.org** or use the enclosed envelope.



FOSTER HERO SPOTLIGHT:

Sorcha Tinch

We wanted to give a **HUGE** shoutout to one of our amazing foster volunteers, Sorcha, whose dedication and attentiveness quite literally saved lives.

Sorcha had been fostering ZoZo, a pregnant cat in need of a safe and loving place to give birth. Thanks to Sorcha's incredible care and her ability to stay in tune with ZoZo's needs, she noticed something wasn't right when ZoZo went into labor. Acting quickly, Sorcha contacted our veterinary team, and because of her prompt response, ZoZo was able to receive an emergency C-section - saving both her life and the lives of her two precious babies!

But Sorcha's compassion didn't stop there! When four newborn kittens tragically lost their own mother, Sorcha and ZoZo opened their hearts once again. ZoZo, under Sorcha's gentle guidance, welcomed the orphaned kittens as her own, ensuring all six babies received the care and love they desperately needed.

It's because of fosters like Sorcha that we're able to save lives, create happy endings, and give animals the second chance they deserve. Thanks you Sorcha, for your extraordinary heart, quick thinking, and life-saving actions. You are truly a hero to ZoZo, her babies, and all of us at SafeHaven!!



THANK YOU BENTLEY'S!

During the month of June, our amazing friends at Bentley's Coffee hosted a special fundraiser - donating \$1 for every pup who came through the drive-thru at any location.

Thanks to your support (and those adorable canine passengers), **\$2,845** was raised to help animals waiting for their forever homes!

Are you interested in hosting a third-party fundraiser for SafeHaven? For more information, call Mike at 541.928.2789 ext. 120, email him at mike@safehavenhumane.com or visit:

safehavenhumane.org/diy-fundraising/.

FOR KIDS, A MORE HUMANE WORLD STARTS IN SUMMER

836 Campers | 10 Weeks | Unlimited Memories

SafeHaven Summer Programs provide a fun and educational experience for kids in the community. More than 800 young animal advocates participated in our summer programs this year.

A typical day at camp includes socializing with animals, games, crafts, and building skills and knowledge to promote empathy as well as build strong, trust-based relationships with our animal friends.

By fueling a child's passion for animals and seeing animal welfare in action, we give them an idea of what their communities need and how they can be involved.

BUT THE FUN DOESN'T STOP ONCE SUMMER ENDS!

SafeHaven offers programs year-round for your kids to learn compassion and respect for animals, strengthen their learning & leadership skills, and of course...have FUN!

For More Information & To Register, Go To: safehavenhumane.org/youth/.

HAPPY TAILS READING PROGRAM

45-minute time spots
available during normal
business hours.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Upcoming Dates:
September 20th, 10am-12pm
October 11th, 10am-12pm



PETS & PAJAMAS

Upcoming Dates:
September 19th, 6-9pm
October 24th, 6-9pm
November 21st, 6-9pm



LEAVING A LEGACY: *Joan Marie Gerke*



In a touching final gesture that reflects a lifetime of quiet generosity and deep love for animals, Joan Marie Gerke, has left her entire estate to SafeHaven Humane Society upon her passing in May at the age of 81. She will be remembered on our Legacy Leaders wall, along with the names of others who have graciously chosen to include SafeHaven in their estate plans.

Joan never married and had no children, but she filled her home and heart with what she loved most: her cats, a rotating collection of antique treasures, and fond memories of her many fishing trips from her younger days.

**SHE MAY HAVE LIVED QUIETLY, BUT HER LEGACY WILL SPEAK VOLUMES
FOR GENERATIONS OF ANIMALS TO COME!**



WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

You can make a profound difference in the life of animals in our community by including SafeHaven in your will, retirement plan or living trust.

To learn more visit:

safehavenhumane.org/legacy-leaders/

SPECIAL...FOR MORE THAN JUST THEIR NEEDS

At SafeHaven, we have a special place in our hearts for special needs animals, like Dell, Scarlet Oak, and so many others!

At first glance, Dell may look a little different from other kittens. His front legs are a touch shorter than his back, his eyes never fully developed, and a heart murmur means his future is uncertain. But don't tell Dell any of that, because he certainly hasn't noticed. Dell charges through life like a pint-sized daredevil... who forgot to read the instructions. He barrels around the house at full kitten speed, only to run smack into walls, chairs, and sometimes his own foster mom's legs. New environments spook him easily, and his response is pure comedy: he instantly puffs up like a tiny, arched cartoon cat, ready to defend his honor against... a lamp.



Even though there's more supervision needed than an average 3-month-old kitten, Dell's foster mom is smitten with him, "low-key obsessed," she admits. And Dell is just as obsessed with her. When he isn't on a mission of chaotic exploration, he's glued to her side, purring like a little engine that never runs out of gas. Despite the challenges he was born with, Dell lives like any other kitten...playful, mischievous, and full of love. No one can say how long his journey will be, but one thing is certain: every day with Dell is a gift. His joyful spirit proves that a little imperfection doesn't make life any less beautiful, it just makes the love a little bigger.

Scarlet Oak started her journey as a tiny kitten rescued from the branches of an oak tree. From day one, she was a nonstop purr machine and an expert in snuggles. After a couple of successful weeks in foster care, Scarlet Oak was quickly adopted out with another kitten. As one of the kittens continued to grow and grow, Scarlet Oak wasn't growing like her sibling. She kept getting sick and couldn't keep food down. SafeHaven's medical team discovered she had megaesophagus, a condition that makes eating a real big challenge.



Her owners were afraid they couldn't give her the support she needed and brought her back to SafeHaven to receive the care she needed. So, the SafeHaven staff got to work building creative upright feeders and Scarlet Oak, true to form, purred through every attempt, but nothing was working. Then came a beautiful act of teamwork: a community member stepped in and donated special elevated bowls that changed everything for Scarlet Oak! Now she can eat safely, all while filling the room with her trademark purrs. She will always need a helping hand with feedings, but with help from her forever family and the help of gravity, Scarlet Oak has every chance to grow as big as her namesake.

Find out more about Dell, Scarlet Oak, and a few of our other wonderful special needs animals like Lucky, Dundee or Minx at **safehavenhumane.org**.

SafeHaven Humane Society
32220 Old Hwy 34
Tangent OR 97389
Return Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Albany, OR
Permit No. 13



**TOWN &
COUNTRY**
REALTY

Proudly serving
Linn & Benton Counties

**Real Estate Questions?
We're happy to help!**

541-757-1781
455 NW Tyler Avenue
Corvallis OR 97330

tncrealty.com