

# THE PET PRESS

HOLIDAY 2025



SafeHaven  
HUMANE SOCIETY



TIS' THE SEASON TO  
*Spread Joy &  
Save Lives*

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



## Dear Friends:

As the year comes to an end, I can't help but reflect on the theme of this newsletter: **Spread Joy. Save Lives.**

At SafeHaven, we live by these four words every single day, in the lives we save, the people and pets we help through our pet food pantry and community wellness clinics, and the children we teach about kindness and compassion towards both animals and people.



Together, we've done incredible work this past year. **Thank you!!**

But as I write this, I'm reminded that animal rescue never stops. Just moments ago, an email popped up in my inbox from a volunteer at another shelter. Her message was heartfelt, a desperate plea to save one of her favorite dogs facing euthanasia tomorrow.

It began:

*"Butterball, oh sweet Butterball. This guy has had a hard life."*

There's no turning away after that. I opened the photo, his eyes are pleading, tired, and full of hope.

She continues:

*"We don't know what his life looked like before he arrived at the shelter, but he came in rough shape - only 50 pounds, missing half his fur, likely from mange. Despite it all, he's easygoing and affectionate. He flinched at first, but quickly warmed up. He's gentle, food-motivated, and loves people. He deserves love and kindness."*



As I read, my heart has already decided: **SafeHaven will help him.**

These are the pleas we receive every day. These are the eyes we see; pleading, hopeful, waiting for someone to notice, to care, to say "yes". Today, because of your generosity, I could say yes to Butterball. **Because of you, we can spread joy. Because of you, we can save lives.**

Thank you for standing beside us; for believing in every Butterball, every cat, dog, and person who finds hope through SafeHaven. Together, we are making the world a kinder, more compassionate place.

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

With gratitude and holiday cheer,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# A Message of Hope

## FROM OUR COVER MODEL, HOPE

### I hoped for a better life...

And before I knew it, I was on a plane from Mexico, bound for the start of my new life at SafeHaven.

### I hoped that someone would notice...

I was in pain, but they didn't see my limp in Mexico. The caring staff at SafeHaven noticed though. After getting me examined by the veterinarian, they discovered arthritis in one of my hips and my other hip was out of its socket. I was going to need costly FHO surgery.

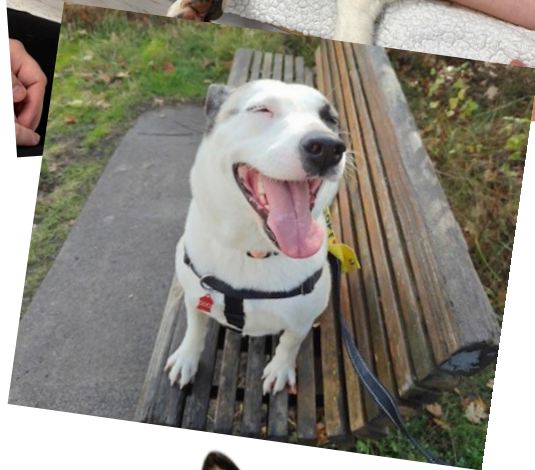
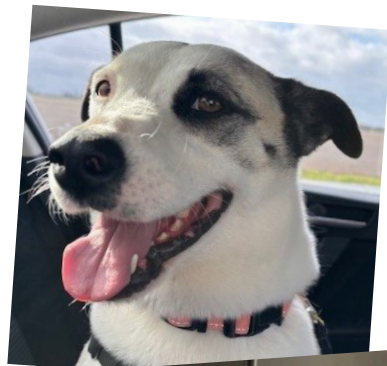
### I hoped SafeHaven wouldn't send me away...

Here I was, a new dog from a far away place, asking SafeHaven to spend money on my surgery. But they didn't even blink! I was scheduled for the surgery as soon as the nice folks at Reid Vet could get me in. And they've taken excellent care of me as I recover. They don't seem to mind that it could be 6-8 weeks before I'm feeling like my old self again.

### Now more than anything, I hope...

For a forever family to call my own this holiday. I've never gotten a present under the tree, or a squeaky toy in my stocking (I've never even had a stocking!). I'm not giving up hope, though, it's not in my nature - or my name.

Don't you want to take me home for the holidays??



## **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](http://safehavenhumane.org)** or use the enclosed envelope.





## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

# Reid Veterinary Hospital



**SPREADING JOY & SAVING LIVES** comes naturally to the wonderful team at Reid Veterinary Hospital. We are so grateful to them for always answering the call when one of our SafeHaven animals is in need, like Hope. And Hallows...and the countless others they have helped save all year long!

### This is Hallows!

You wouldn't know it by looking at this silly picture, but this sweet boy was on death's doorstep - not once, but twice!

Both Hallows and his sister were scheduled for euthanasia in California before SafeHaven swooped in and saved them. Upon their arrival, these two spirited companions were full of energy, playfulness, and a thirst for adventure. However, just days later their health took a concerning turn. Hallows' sister, Eve, was struggling with gastrointestinal issues, and spent two days on fluids, but bounced back quickly afterwards. Hallows on the other hand continued to decline; we could see that he was trying to eat but just couldn't...not even the special boiled chicken that the staff was making him. An ultrasound revealed that he was suffering from intussusception, a serious condition where the intestine folds in on itself, causing a blockage, and was going to need surgery. One phone call to Reid Veterinary Hospital and Hallows was scheduled for his surgery the very next day.



Hallows' surgery was a success, and he is now recovering comfortably in a loving foster home. His foster dad says that he is "bouncing off the ceiling" - just like any other puppy!

**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

### 2025 WINNER:



Best Pet Rescue  
Best Local Non-Profit/  
Charitable Cause

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  
Open daily from 12pm to 5pm.

Need to call?  
Reach us at 541.928.2789.



# Happy Tails



Niko & me at the beach.  
He's always smiling!

## MY MELLOW GUY, NIKO

By: Xavie Davenport

I drove to SafeHaven just after my 19th birthday, and came home with Niko, a 1.5-2 year old Alaskan Malamute. He had been rescued from a high-kill shelter in California and transported to SafeHaven. We had no information about him other than that he was allergic to sweet potatoes. It was him, me, and three roommates in an apartment in Eugene.

Niko has always been a mellow guy, and he quickly became my best friend. He was living the dream - between me and my roommates, he was doing dog park visits, bike rides, and 3-5 walks around the neighborhood daily. The following year, we moved into a big house with a backyard for him to hang out in. Before he got old and started hating the car, he came everywhere with me - literally EVERYWHERE! He even came and sat in on some of my smaller classes when I was still in school.

Fast forward 10 years - Niko is 12, aging very gracefully, and a proud older brother to his two rescue siblings, River (Husky) and Ricky (Red Heeler). His favorite treat is bread (yep, just plain old bread), and his favorite activity is going on a walk down to the Mud Bay in our neighborhood (and then stopping on the way home to eat whatever bone or treat he picked out).

He still wrestles with his younger siblings on occasion and enjoys patrolling the backyard at night before coming in for a nice snuggle on the couch.

I will always thank Niko (and SafeHaven) for giving me the best companion I could've asked for!

**Niko & Xavie  
on their many  
adventures together!**



We LOVE happy tails! Share your SafeHaven adoption story with us by submitting it online at [safehavenhumane.org/submit-a-story/](https://safehavenhumane.org/submit-a-story/).





# Happy Tails

## HANK: FROM ABANDONED STRAY TO OUR BEST FRIEND!

By: Hope Koch

We're the Kochs - Henry (AKA Hank the Human), Hope, and most importantly, Hank the Dog. And no, we didn't give him that name - he came with it.

Hank's early story is a bit of a mystery, but we know he was found wandering the streets of California. He was in and out of a shelter being adopted and returned multiple times - through no fault of his own. Then, due to the wildfires in California at the time, Hank was moved again...this time to SafeHaven! There he was pampered, dressed in silly costumes, and featured on their Facebook page. That's where we first saw him: a pure white, gentle-eyed 9-month old we believe is a Great Pyrenees/Lab mix.



Hank with his mom & dad

We were hesitant about getting a dog at first, but when SafeHaven staff visited my workplace to prepare for Rescue Roundup, everyone raved about Hank - **"He's the sweetest!", "He's the best!"** - we knew we had to meet him. At the shelter, he didn't chase toys or try to play, he just wandered around quietly, content and quirky. We fell for him instantly and brought him home that day.

We soon learned Hank had severe separation anxiety. In just nine months, we were the seventh place he'd lived, and being left alone terrified him. He destroyed kennels, ripped door frames off the wall, even bent the bars on an "anxiety-proof" crate. With full-time jobs and school, we had moments of doubt - he was the sweetest dog when someone was with him, and panicked the moment we left. But we stuck with him. With patience and consistency, Hank finally learned he was safe.



A year later, Hank knows he's home. As I write this, he's lounging on the couch next to me, ignoring his two giant dog beds. We can leave him loose and trust he won't destroy a thing - because this is his home now, too.

Today, Hank is a "water-adjacent" dog - he hates getting wet but loves paddleboarding. He enjoys long walks, fishing trips, befriending every stranger and dog he meets, and occasional pup cups. From abandoned stray to our best friend, Hank's transformation has been incredible to witness.





# The Rule of THREE

Adopting a pet is a special moment. The excitement of bringing a new best friend into your life can also bring big expectations about what our relationship should look and feel like.

Hank's story is a good reminder that from the first meeting, to years of companionship and adventures, lasting love takes time, patience, and space to grow.

To help set up realistic expectations from adoption to building the foundation of a lasting relationship, behavior experts recommend the 3-3-3 rule:

- 3 DAYS** TO DECOMPRESS
- 3 WEEKS** TO ESTABLISH A ROUTINE
- 3 MONTHS** TO FEEL AT HOME

3D	3W	3M
<b>IN THE FIRST 3 DAYS:</b> <b>To Expect...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overwhelmed</li> <li>• scared &amp; unsure</li> <li>• uncomfortable</li> <li>• may not eat or drink</li> <li>• shut down &amp; may hide</li> </ul> <b>To Do...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give them space</li> <li>• stay calm</li> <li>• start daily routine</li> <li>• don't force interaction</li> <li>• don't intro to new people or places</li> </ul>	<b>AFTER 3 WEEKS:</b> <b>To Expect...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• starting to settle</li> <li>• feeling more comfortable</li> <li>• adjusting to environment</li> <li>• learning routine</li> <li>• behavior issues may arise</li> </ul> <b>To Do...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set clear boundaries</li> <li>• work on basic skills</li> <li>• set up their space to encourage good behavior</li> <li>• use positive reinforcement &amp; praise success</li> </ul>	<b>AFTER 3 MONTHS:</b> <b>To Expect...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• completely comfortable</li> <li>• built trust &amp; bond</li> <li>• gained sense of security</li> <li>• set in routine</li> <li>• responding well to training</li> </ul> <b>To Do...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue training</li> <li>• seek additional training/behavior help for unique issues if needed</li> <li>• start introducing to new people &amp; places slowly</li> </ul>

While the 3-3-3 rule is a helpful guideline, every animal is different - it's all about being patient and providing consistency when you bring a new animal home. Adopting an animal is one of life's most rewarding moments, but nothing is sweeter than the relationship you discover over time.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

# Rebecca Swanson



When thinking about the theme of this newsletter, Rebecca has been **SPREADING JOY & SAVING LIVES** as a SafeHaven donor for many years. We asked Rebecca why it was that she chose to support SafeHaven and this is what she had to say:

I've always had a soft spot for animals and grew up bringing home strays - thank goodness my parents didn't object! I guess it's no surprise that all my pets have been rescues.

My initial interaction with SafeHaven was when we adopted our first of 2 rescue cats from the old shelter on Hwy 34. My good friend (and SafeHaven Board member) Osalyn Houser, told me about Maxx, a beautiful boy weighing in at 22-lbs. His claim to fame was being "Mr. August" in the 2015 SafeHaven calendar - he loved being in the spotlight. We lost Maxx to kidney failure several years ago, but the love he brought us will stay with us forever. Then, during COVID, we adopted Minnie, a gorgeous calico with a HUGE personality that makes us laugh every day!



Years ago, I was invited to join the SafeHaven board. Although I couldn't serve then, I volunteered to work on any special projects that came up. The idea for the tree raffle came about after I entered a tree in a Festival of Trees contest in Corvallis. While that particular event wasn't ongoing, I thought a raffle would be a fun holiday fundraiser, so I pitched the idea to SafeHaven. **Now, 11 years later, the Christmas Tree raffle has raised over \$100,000 for the animals at SafeHaven, one \$50 raffle ticket at a time!** This year might be the last year of the raffle, but not the last year of me wanting to do something special for the animals.

With the raffle coming to an end, but still wanting to make a difference for the animals, I talked with SafeHaven about where a donation would serve the greatest need at the shelter. I was shown the exercise area for the dogs which would require a lot of work to make it a more pleasant and practical area for exercising the dogs. I was ALL IN! The funds are being used to make **THE SWANSON 'SNIFF & STROLL' DOG PARK** a reality!

Someone once said "If we have the ability to give, we have a responsibility to give". Helping these animals - who have no voice and no choice - truly makes my heart happy.

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





# AND THE 2025 WINNER IS...

Our lucky winner of the \$500.00 Visa gift card and the professionally decorated tree is Shelley Willis of Albany. Congratulations!

For 11 years in a row, the generosity and support of **Rebecca Swanson** has made this raffle possible. We are eternally grateful to her for her vision in bringing this fundraiser to life.

We also want to thank **Toland Tree Farms** and **Terrill Winn**, Owner of Fort Noel, for always donating such beautiful trees and **Twila Boundy Taylor** and her team at Expressions in Bloom for professionally decorating all the gorgeous trees!



Special THANK YOU to our Raffle Sponsor, Rebecca Swanson!

## WISH LIST

If you'd like to give the pets a gift this holiday season, look for our Giving Trees around the community, or drop off any of our most needed Wish List items whenever the shelter is open!

**Canned Dog Food**

**Paper Towels**

**Hot Dogs**

**Paté Cat Food**

**Large Trash Bags**

**Soft Dog Treats**

**Peanut Butter**

**Kitten Chow**

You can also  
shop our Amazon  
Wish List!





# Community Resources

## WE HELP PETS AND PEOPLE



While there are no official national statistics on pet food insecurity, according to Feeding America, over 47 million Americans currently face food insecurity. With 71% of U.S. households including at least one companion animal, empty dinner plates often means empty pet food bowls.

That's where SafeHaven can help! No one should have to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their pet.

Want to donate towards our Pet Food Pantry? Pet food can be dropped off any day between 12-5pm.

Our Pet Food Pantry is Open Every:

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays** of each month, **9am-11am**

Cat and Dog Food Available For Pickup. No Appointment Needed.


## Pet Therapy Visits

SafeHaven's Pet Therapy program involves scheduled visits with adoptable animals to senior living facilities, Alzheimer's care units, and rehabilitation centers.

These weekly outings on Tuesday mornings provide residents with meaningful interactions and health benefits associated with spending time with animals, such as:

- Increased comfort & emotional well-being
- Reducing loneliness
- Improving social engagement
- Elevating cognitive function

### Did You Know?



According to the National Center for Health Statistics, about 60% of nursing home residents get no regular visitors.

To learn more about our Community Resources or if you'd like to volunteer to help with any of our programs, please visit: **[safehavenhumane.org](https://safehavenhumane.org)**.



# CHANGE A PET'S LIFE DAY

Every day is 'Change A Pet's Life Day' here at SafeHaven, but the rest of the nation will celebrate on January 24, 2026. The day was started in 2009 and has grown into a nationwide celebration to raise awareness about animals and shelters and support the human-animal bond.

We can't think of four animals more deserving of having their life changed by finding their forever family.



## I'm Millie!

As of December 7th, I've spent 1 year at SafeHaven. They've said I can stay as long as I need to, but I'd really like to find a family who's familiar with my active breed instead.



## I'm Leela!

When I came to SafeHaven back in April, I was super shy. But now that I'm in a foster home, I'm starting to blossom. I'm happiest when I'm spending time with my people - could that be you?



## I'm Canyon!

I came to SafeHaven in August, and have been eagerly awaiting my new adventure buddy ever since. If you're up for long walks and lots of exploring, you're my kind of family!



## I'm Bangel!

I'm an 11-year-old gentleman who's loving senior life. Soft blankets, sunny spots, and a perfectly predictable meal schedule are my favorite things - maybe they're yours too?

Even if you can't adopt or foster, this Change a Pet's Life Day, we encourage you to volunteer your time at the shelter, spread the word on your social media, or support SafeHaven by donating supplies or making a donation. However you choose to help, we are so thankful for your commitment and dedication to our furry friends.



## THANK YOU CITY OF ALBANY STAFF

Every year since 2021, City of Albany staff have turned part of their lunch breaks for five days into a friendly competition they call 'Office Olympics' - all to raise money for local organizations doing good work in our community.

**This year, they raised a record \$4,335 for the animals here at SafeHaven!**

Thank you City of Albany staff for your support and dedication to our cause!

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](mailto:mike@safehavenhumane.com) or visit:

**[safehavenhumane.org/diy-fundraising/](https://safehavenhumane.org/diy-fundraising/)**



# Rescue Roundup 2025

That's a wrap on our biggest fundraiser of the year—**RESCUE ROUNDUP**! On September 27th, our incredible supporters gathered at the Knife River Training Center of Albany for a boot-stomping, hoot-and-hollering good time! Together, 275 attendees bid on more than 200 auction items, snagged 150 bottles from the Wine Wall, learned a brand-new line dance, and helped us raise over **\$200,000!**

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported, attended, and volunteered. Because of you, Rescue Roundup makes it possible for us to care for and find homes for more than 2,000 animals each year. Your generosity also fuels essential SafeHaven programs such as Humane Education, Pet Therapy for Seniors, Meals on Wheels, our Pet Food Pantry, and many other community outreach efforts.



Want to get involved in 2026? Contact [mollyj@safehavenhumane.com](mailto:mollyj@safehavenhumane.com)



## Upcoming EVENTS

For more information on these, and ALL of our upcoming Events, please visit:  
[safehavenhumane.org/events/](https://safehavenhumane.org/events/)

Check out some  
of our great Humane Ed  
programs coming up!



# BOW WOW



Returns in February:  
Bow Wow Bingo



Coming in February:  
Our annual Pet Drawing Fundraiser





# ANIMAL ADVENTURE WINTER BREAK CAMPS

SafeHaven's Animal Adventure Winter Break Camps are back - just in time to help fill those long days away from school! Each camp will give kids the opportunity to visit the shelter for a day of fun, friends, and fur. Camps will have an emphasis on animal safety, hands-on time with adoptable animals, games, crafts, and other animal-welfare related activities. For kids currently in K-5 grade.

Cost: \$75 per child, per camp



SIGN UP FOR ONE OR BOTH DAYS:

**December 23rd, 9am - 4pm**

**December 31st, 9am - 4pm**

**Space is Limited! Register Now!**

[safehavenhumane.org/winter-camps/](https://safehavenhumane.org/winter-camps/)

Have Questions or Need More Information? Please Contact Katie B. at (541) 928-2789 ext. 116 or [humaneed@safehavenhumane.com](mailto:humaneed@safehavenhumane.com).



## PETS & pajamas MOVIE NIGHT

Pets and Pajamas is a fun and easy way to get your kids involved with SafeHaven Humane Society, and have a little time for yourselves too. Each night includes pizza, popcorn, a little soda, time spent with our wonderful adoptable animals, and a movie.

**MOVIE TICKET  
\$22  
EACH**

**SHOWTIMES**  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**UPCOMING SHOWINGS**  
December 19th  
January 16th  
February 20th  
March 13th

Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

<https://safehavenhumane.org/pets-and-pajamas-registration/>

For more information, please visit our website at  
<https://safehavenhumane.org/petspajamas/>  
or contact Katie B. at (541) 928-2789.



## Furry Tales STORY TIME

Every 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month

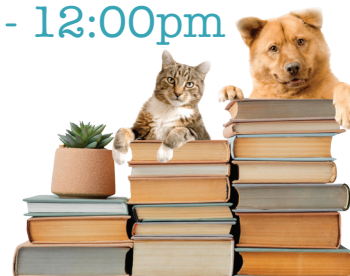
**11:30am - 12:00pm**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

January 5th & 19th

February 2nd & 16th

March 2nd & 16th



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](mailto:HumaneEd@safehavenhumane.com)  
or call 541.928.2789.



# Send a Custom Greeting Card



Looking for an easy way for you to Spread Joy & Save Lives? Send a custom electronic greeting card while making a donation in your friend or family members' name. It's as easy as:

1. Select the greeting card you want to send
2. Add your personal message
3. Make your donation
4. And send!



Recipients will receive their e-cards immediately, or you can schedule them to send at a later time.

**Learn More & Get Started Here: [safehavenhumane.org/more-ways-to-give/e-cards/](https://safehavenhumane.org/more-ways-to-give/e-cards/)**

## 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.

Join SafeHaven experts for an upcoming event focused on estate planning and ensuring your pets get the love and care they deserve after you're gone.

Attorneys will be present to answer any questions you have about creating a will.

**Saturday, January 24th 9-10am**  
SafeHaven Community Education Room

Please RSVP to Mike Irwin (541) 928-2789 ext. 120  
or [mike@safehavenhumane.com](mailto:mike@safehavenhumane.com).





# "Hey, What Kind of Dog Is That?"

"We adopted Collins, now named Flicker, from SafeHaven back in September. She has been an amazing pet! She is incredibly smart, loves people and other dogs. We take her everywhere and she draws a lot of attention. Nobody is a stranger to her! We did a DNA test and wanted to share the results."

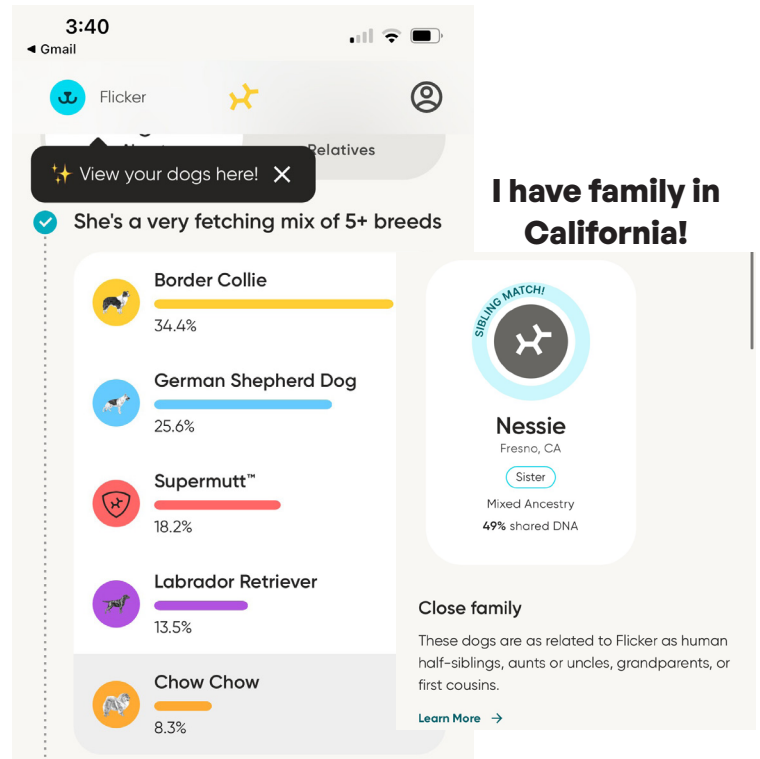
- Flicker's Forever Family



## What my parents thought I was:

50% Attention Hog  
25% Social Butterfly  
15% Border Collie  
10% Sock Thief

## What I actually am:



Take advantage of this special offer and support SafeHaven in the process!



## Exclusive deal for new pet parents!

As a new adopter, receive a special discount on your Embark DNA Test. Plus, we'll donate a portion of the proceeds back to your shelter.



Scan here to buy now and support your shelter



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](http://tncrealty.com)**