

Paws & Claws Adoption Center

Volume 3, Issue 1

November—December 2011

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Puppy Size

This is a copy of an email which I received long before the thought of working at an animal shelter had entered my mind. I kept it tucked away in my files and now feel that this is an appropriate time to share the story.

"Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this," the mother told the volunteer.

"What is it she keeps asking for?" the volunteer asked.

"Puppy size!" replied the mother.

"Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know...we have seen most of them," the mom said in frustration.

Just then Danielle came walking into the office.

"Well, did you find one?" asked her mom. "No, not this time," Danielle said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed.

"You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "don't worry, I'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt that she was being too particular. "It's this

weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration.

"We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs.

Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted.

Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one.

One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

"Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it! she screamed with joy. It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No not size—the sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed, she said

"Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you

told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said.

Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!"



Frosty & Yule—Dumped behind Paws & Claws on 12/18/11.



Chere - Spayed & Declawed Available



Bert
Adopted



Ginger
Spayed—Available

NEEDED

- Paper Towels
- Clumping Cat Litter
- Dog/Puppy Food
- Cat/Kitten Food
- Chlorox
- Peanut Butter
- Dog Collars
- Leashes
- Toys
- Treats
- Computer Paper
- Cleaning products

Where Paws & Claws Got Its Name

I would like to provide you with some insight into how our Paws & Claws got its name, and introduce you to a truly lovely lady named Erna Rose Badstieber. I was proud to provide the finances to back the loan when PVHS bought the former Platte Valley Vet Clinic building in 2005. I had the privilege of deciding whom the building should be name for...and there was no doubt in my mind that that person was Erna Rose Badstieber, one of the original founders of the Platte Valley Humane Society. Even though the building is most often referred to as “Paws & Claws”, (and by the way, this name was chosen from 37 entries submitted) it is important to remember that it is “The Erna R. Badstieber Paws and Claws Adoption Center” as its sign reads. Erna was born Aug 20, 1911 and died Nov 22, 2002.

Though she was blind, she worked for and loved animals until the day she died. She was the “Voice of the Humane Society” on the radio, working off information she typed on her Braille typewriter. This building will keep her memory alive in Columbus forever. I know she is looking down on us, from heaven, with her beloved dog “Daisy” and I am sure she is proud. Today Erna’s friend and sole-mate, Debbie Potter follows in Erna’s footsteps as spokeswoman for the PVHS. God’s blessing on these two fine women.

Kathy Orr

The following was copied from the Columbus Telegram.

“Erna R. Badstieber
August 20 would have been the 100th birthday of Erna R. Badstieber, one of the original founders of the Platte Valley Humane Society. The Erna R. Badstieber Paws and Claws Adoption Center is named in her honor. Mayor Mike Moser signed a proclamation declaring Aug. 20 as a day to remember and honor her. (Deb Potter and Kathy Orr received the proclamation on behalf of the center.)”

A copy of the proclamation hangs in the front office of Paws and Claws along side a photo of Erna with one of her beloved dogs.



Waldo — Adopted ↑
Rose — Available →



Frito - Neutered,
Housetrained
Available

Website Update

For those of you who have not looked at our website lately, please take the time to go to www.pawsandclawsne.org and check it out.

The website is updated 3-4 times a week so that you can see what we have available, who has been adopted and keep abreast of the events and fundraisers we are working on.

In the near future, my plan is to have an online store where you can purchase items for the pet lovers and later to add unique pet items that are hard to find locally.

We are also adding a page for lost and found. Please check it out frequently so we can get more of these wonderful animals reunited with their owners.

The City of **Columbus**

RESPONSIBLE • RESPONSIVE • REPUTABLE

Administration Office (402) 562-4232

Fax (402) 563-1380


PROCLAMATION

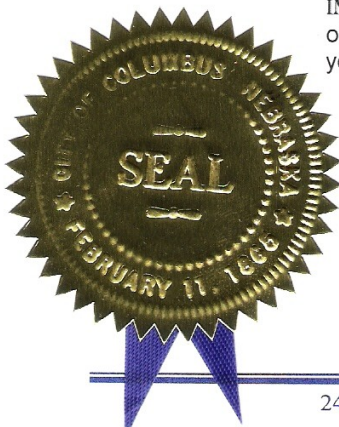
- WHEREAS,** Erna Rose Badstieber was born August 20, 1911, in Platte County, Nebraska; and
- WHEREAS,** Erna's parents were George and Mathilda (Schleifer) Rambour, Sr.; and
- WHEREAS,** Erna had three brothers (Louis R., Walter E., and George F. Rambour, Jr.); and
- WHEREAS,** Erna graduated from St. Bonaventure High School in 1929; and
- WHEREAS,** Erna married Albert Badstieber on October 2, 1946; they were blessed with a daughter, Judy Hemberger of Estes Park, Colorado; and were a happy couple until 1959 when he passed away; and
- WHEREAS,** Even though Erna was blind, she wrote ads for the local radio station, worked for Columbus Brewing Co., and later volunteered for the Animal Shelter. In the 1960's she was one of the founders in organizing the Platte Valley Humane Society; and
- WHEREAS,** Erna was a member of St. Bonaventure Church, Franciscan Missionary Union, Christian Guild, Platte Valley Humane Society, and Platte County Historical Society; and
- WHEREAS,** The Erna Badstieber Paws and Claws Adoption Center was named in memory of Erna when it opened January 1, 2007; and
- WHEREAS,** we remember Erna Badstieber today, August 20, 2011, as it would have been her 100th birthday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL L. MOSER, Mayor of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the day of **August 20, 2011**, as

"ERNA BADSTIEBER REMEMBRANCE DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, to be affixed this 20th day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven.


Michael L. Moser, Mayor





Lady—At Paws & Claws, prior to adoption

Which lives the longest, dogs or cats?

Cats have an average life span of 13 to 14 years as opposed to just shy of 11 years for dogs. However, for dogs there is a huge difference depending on the size of the animal. The really large breeds tend to have much shorter lives, for instance a Newfoundland is considered to be quite old at 8 or 9 and a toy poodle may live for 15 or more years.

For cats, the average varies mainly with the environment that it lives in. Outdoor cats don't live nearly as long as indoor cats which have been known to have a lifespan of up to 20 years.

Successful Adoption—Our Lady is now a Belle!

We adopted Belle to replace a great dog, who had to be put down due to Cancer. Annie was big black, hairy, and around 60 pounds, so is Belle. Kind of scary how similar they look at a glance. I just like big, Black, hairy mutts. One thing we did not want, after Annie had left us was to deal with a puppy. By adopting a 2 year old dog, we got the house breaking part, the up at night part, and the teething part beat.

Everything you can find online about adopting a shelter dog is true. It takes time for the dog to decide your are okay, and every week Belle revealed a little more about herself to us. Belle took to us as being okay right away. She was respectful, but not very affectionate. Every week she has shown us more of her personality and quirks, and grown closer to us. After 16 weeks, she is finally to the point, where she will ask for attention. For a long time it seemed she did not know how to respond to our attention.

Twelve years ago, when Annie came to us as a twelve week old puppy, I started to walk her every morning and night to help house break her. The every evening walks did not continue as a daily occurrence, but the morning walks in every kind of weather continued. The worst day came when Annie was unable to make her morning walk with me. It is just not the same to walk alone, I really enjoy a dog's company.

Belle took to the morning walk right away with a vengeance, and is most impatient to get out the door in the morning. We usually cover a mile and a quarter during the work week, and a minimum of two miles on Saturday and Sunday.

Belle is pure dog, every time she knows the car is leaving, she wants to go along for a ride. She has always been very well behaved in the car, knowing her place is to stay in the back seat. Her favorite place in the world is the dog park. She has become very social with both the humans, and other dogs. I usually take to the dog park several times a week, as we live very close to the park.

We usually coordinate to meet Roxy at the park, Roxy is a Great Dane, and Belle and Roxy play and provide great entertainment to all who watch them play together. They are like Mutt and Jeff. Belle has some real endearing traits. She usually will follow one room to room, and stay with you. She really likes to be left alone from time to time in the back yard (fenced). She seems to really enjoy just laying in the grass, with an occasional roll over on her back to just roll in the grass. She is a very striking good looking dog, with soft luxurious black fur. All of her toes are white, and she has a nice patch of white from under the tip of her muzzle, with a white cross on her chest down her belly. She has beautiful golden brown

eyes, not brown or gold, but distinctive. Her big pointy ears are very insightful of her mood. On alert they are straight up. When she is quiet, they are laid back, almost out of sight. Most people who like dogs like Belle immediately.

Belle is a good dog, and she is continually learning to be better. I am glad we found her to adopt.

Doug

As a massage therapist, it's important to have the mood set when the client comes in. I work out of my home. Belle from the first was a real asset. She was very proper dog, sitting up straight and quietly waiting to be invited to say hello to my client. She has endeared herself to a few of them, some even bringing biscuits to be prof-fered before the massage. She has a sweet disposition. Even when our daughter moved back in with 2 cats, Belle has tolerated them but cannot understand when they turn tail and run when she tries to herd them.

Sue



Belle
Today in her new home.

Recent Happenings

Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped support the Annual Platte Valley Humane Society Bake Sale December 10th & 11th at the 30 Center Mall. There was a wide variety of goodies that could satisfy anyone's sweet tooth. So, thank you bakers! With everyone's help, we were able to raise a little over \$800.00 to benefit the Paws and Claws Adoption Center. Congratulations to our raffle winners Ann Neiman, winner of the gourmet cake with glass display, and Ruth Lind, winner of the poinsettia and gift cards (thanks to Colonial Antiques, El Tapatio, & SAPP Bros.).

Thank You & Happy Holidays!
Mandy Kamm

Pet Walk

Once again the Annual Pet Walk was very successful thanks to Cindy Geiser and Sue Fricke for their time and effort to plan and coordinate the event. The weather cooperated and there was a nice turnout of people with their pets to enjoy the walk, music, prizes and company of other pet lovers. Thanks to everyone who gave their time and talents to make the day fun filled.

Garage Sale

We were all happy with the turnout for our first annual Barken Bargains Garage Sale. We had over 50 booths with everything from toys and clothing to jewelry, and furniture. If

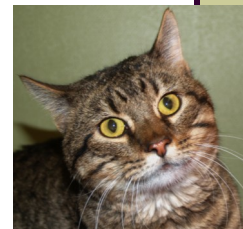
you did not walk away with a treasure, then you just didn't look hard enough. We will start planning for our 2012 garage sale in the near future, so keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. We want to say thanks to: Melinda Velecela's diversity club for helping set up and take down the tables and clean up. To all the volunteers who helped the day before the sale to organize, and during the sale at the entrance door and with the Paws and Claws booth. To Ag Park for allowing us to use their wonderful facility, to the Columbus Telegram and KLIR for helping to promote the event and especially to all the vendors and shoppers who made it run so smoothly. I hope everyone had a fun day.
Jan Berry



Vodka Redbul
(aka Sophie)
See Story below.

Calendars

We still have the 2012 Platte Valley Humane Society Furry Friends Calendars available at Paws and Claws for just \$10. Please stop in to get yours before they are all gone.



Tommy
Available

As we start to plan for our 2012 activities, we are asking for help in planning and volunteering at the many events we have each year. Please read through the list of volunteer activities (Attached to the back of the newsletter), mark any of them that you would be interested in helping with and return the form to:

Platte Valley Humane Society
P.O. Box 251
Columbus, NE 68602

Letter from Brownie

Hello Nice People at Paws & Claws,
My name is Brownie, but you called me Mocha when I lived at your house. On Feb 5, 2012, I will be celebrating my 1 year anniversary living in Schuyler with my Now family. It's taken me a while, but I think I finally have them trained the way I want them. When the weather is nice, I let my man-person take me for a walk thru the cemetery. It's nice and peaceful there and we don't have to worry about vehicle traffic. I would like to take off and chase those squirrels out there, but I'm not allowed to. I like it when my woman-person sits in her recliner I

jump onto her lap and make myself at home. And if I give her my sad pathetic look, that's always good for a doggie treat. Just want to wish everyone there (2 legged and 4 legged) a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you all.
Brownie



Happy Adoption

Dear Paws and Claws,
We just wanted to wish all of the Paws and Claws staff a Merry Christmas. We adopted our girl at the end of April. Her name was Sophie and she was a blue brindle pit bull. I had my eye on her for a few weeks and went over to your facility and my husband and I fell in love with her. We did change her name to Vodka Redbul. She is the love of our lives. We had to put our basset hound down this summer due to her age. That was devastating for us. Vodka had some big shoes to fill and boy did she fill them. No dog will ever replace our basset hound, but Vodka sure has filled our lives with love and laughter. She is the most loving dog, loves to go on walks, snuggle, give kisses and just loved being with you. She goes everywhere with us. I cannot image life without her. We cannot thank you guys enough for bringing her to us. We did adopt another pit bull from the Omaha facility about 5 months later. His name is Schlitz. They are both buddies and keep us entertained. I have enclosed a picture of the both of them. Yes they both sleep in bed with us. Vodka wanted to send a donation to Paws and Claws this Christmas and thank the staff for taking such good care of her while she was there. Again, thank you for all your hard work you guys do. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Marci, John & Vodka Redbul Kugler (Photo Top Right)

PLATTE VALLEY
HUMANE SOCIETY

Erma R. Babsteiber -
Paws & Claws Adoption
Center
2124 13th St
Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 402-562-5683
E-mail:
pawsandclawsne@hotmail.com



OMG — My picture is
going to be on the
Internet?

We're on the Web
www.pawsandclawsne.org



Happy New Year to everyone!

In 2011 we set a goal to adopt out an average of one animal per day for the entire year. By Nov 29th we had reached that goal and continue finding homes for other animals. This success, was not easy to achieve and it was not done by any one person, but was a joint effort by everyone involved. I would like to take this time and space to "Thank" the following.

My friendly, hardworking and knowledgeable staff

Volunteers who get the know the dogs and cats and tell others about them.

The board of directors for the Platte Valley Humane Society

The volunteers who update "Pet-finder", take pictures, and write the weekly ads for the newspaper.

All the people who help with fundraisers throughout the year. The animals available are discussed at each one of these.

Individuals who come in looking for animals, the people who adopt animals from us, and those of you who forward information to friends looking for pets.

KLIR radio station for doing the weekly radio spot about our pets and the Columbus Telegram for spotlighting our Pet of the Week ad.

Local businesses for allowing us to use their facilities when we have "Adopt-A-Pet" days and "Grill-outs" during the summer months.

This list goes on and on, there is no way I can thank everyone here, but I appreciate each and every one of you who has helped in any way to find even one of the animals a new home.

Thanks!

Jan Berry

2012 Goal

Let's all start now to see if we can't come up with ways to increase the number of lost pets that are reunited with their owners. This is one area that I continue to be baffled by, We see dogs with new collars, painted nails, necklaces, dresses, fresh haircuts, and recent surgeries. We just know someone will come looking for them, yet it does not happen.

There are dogs and cats that are so friendly and well behaved that they had to just come out of a home where they have been loved and well cared for and again, we get no calls about them.

Nationally, the percentage of cats that are claimed is extremely low and we are no exception to the rule. I want to change that.

*** We will be offering to



microchip pets (dogs & cats) the last Sunday of every month here at Paws and Claws or at a local business that would allow us to use their place to get the word out about how many animals we could help save.

If we can could get every dog and cat in Columbus and the surrounding area microchipped, then the number of animals successfully returned home would go up dramatically.

*** We will be listing all of the found animals that are brought to Paws & Claws in the classified ads in the Columbus Telegram every Sunday.

*** We are adding a page to our website to show lists (and pictures when available) of animals lost or found in the area. Maybe you will recognize one so that we can get it returned to the owner.

*** We are working on getting a daily radio announcement telling what animals have been found and are at Paws & Claws.

If you have any other ideas of what can be done, please contact Paws and Claws.

Thanks!



Danielle
Spayed female—Available

