



# Paws-itive Partners

Spring – Summer 2025

Hello Paws-itive Partners friends,

As one who loves dogs and cats, we hope you enjoy reading our newsletter about what keeps us busy and what keeps us going. We will tell you about differences we have made in animals and the work that remains.

You received the Paws-itive Partners newsletter because you have shown your support for us. Whether it has been as a foster home, a fundraiser sponsor, a cheerleader for animals or someone who has donated. Your support is so important to doing what we do! We appreciate you.

If you don't have time to read our newsletter and no longer wish to receive it, please let us know. If you prefer to receive Paws-itive Partners' news by email, please let us know that. To be removed from our list or added to email, please call/text your information to 308-530-1516.

Happy Spring, Happy Summer to you and your fur family. *~Paws-itive Partners*

## URGENT SHORT-TERM PET CARE

It's been 16 months since we launched Urgent Short-term Pet Care, and it is in full swing. The demands for USPC are greater and more unpredictable than we anticipated. One month might not have any calls and next month several calls. We carefully consider every request for USPC. The first four months of 2025, we provided care for six dogs and two cats.

USPC's goal is to help cats and dogs during what may be their owner's most difficult time of need. Pets are referred to us through nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health agencies and homeless shelters collaborate with the pet owner and/or family. We customize needs based upon what is best for the pet during the time we have them and in USPC, we have provided much needed veterinary care, foster care, boarding, and in-home care. We have had a pet for as little as five days and as long as 60 days. Our 2025 USPC pets, to date, are Buddy, Sandy, Katie, Beckett, Midnight, Kitty, Ash and Surabi.

Leslie is one of our USPC foster moms and she said this about her experience: "I had the pleasure of being able to welcome Beckett into my home while her owner had surgery and recovered at a rehab facility. Beckett was such a wonderful house guest for the two weeks I had her.

Sandy (Paws-itive Partners member) was very attentive in making sure my household was adjusting well, and most importantly, that Beckett was doing well. We were able to get Beckett in to enjoy a spa day which was such a treat. What an incredible program Urgent Short-term Pet Care is for those who need medical care and have fur children who need cared for during their treatment. It was a great experience for all involved!"

Thank you, Leslie.

## GET 'EM FIXED AND LOVE MY CAT

Paws-itive Partners' mission is Working together to do for animals what they cannot do for themselves" and "do" means spaying and neutering. Stopping animal overpopulation and ending animal suffering by preventing the problem of breeding before it starts.

Paws-itive Partners makes spaying and neutering financially feasible for lower income pet owners. Our Get 'Em Fixed program is for dogs and cats and is available year 'round. Our Lower Income Love My Cat program is available in March and October and spaying and neutering cats costs the pet owner only \$45. Our sterilization programs are the costliest part of Paws-itive Partners but that is what we do. We spay/neuter hundreds of cats and dogs each year.

In March, Husky mom Sara contacted us to help spay her seven-year-old Storm. Storm's surgery turned out more complicated than expected and Sara sent the following: "Storm's surgery saved her life and I'm so thankful for everyone helping me...Her uterus was twisted, and one ovary was full of cysts. There was a tumor plus a nodule. I'm so grateful to you. I'm crying with joy that you could help me." Paws-itive Partners paid the cost of the major surgery. Sara is donating back to Paws-itive Partners so we will be able to help another animal that needs us.

Besides preventing pregnancy, there are many reasons to spay/neuter. These are a few benefits from sterilizing a pet:

~increases life expectancy

~reduces or eliminates the risk for mammary gland tumors, ovarian cancer and uterine cancer in females

~eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and reduces risks for prostate diseases in males

~reduces the desire to roam, improves safety by reducing injury from fighting or automobile accidents (Statistics show that as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered.)



~reduces overall health issues, which is good for the pet and lowers your medical costs

~reduces or eliminates spraying and marking by male cats and dogs.

*A kitten born today can become a mother,  
grandmother and great grandmother  
in one year.*

### **GIVING DAY 2025**

Paws-itive Partners is fortunate to be included in Mid Nebraska Community Foundation's Giving Day. Giving Day is a way that anyone is easily able to help Paws-itive Partners do what we do. Now, through May 7, Giving Day is open for early donating and is an opportunity to help us get a jumpstart raising funds for our cause. We will use Giving Day donations to help animals in our Urgent Short-term Pet Care program.

Urgent Short-term Pet Care is a unique program that helps pets belonging to people in an acute situation involving hospitalization, entering rehabilitation after an accident/surgery or families displaced briefly from their home. Paws-itive Partners started USPC when we were told about pet owners (oftentimes elderly) neglected their own important needs because they didn't have someone to care for their four-legged family members. With a referral from the pet owner's provider such as hospital, nursing home, hospice, mental health services or homeless shelter, USPC customizes a plan specifically for the person's pet until they can return home.

Keep an eye on Paws-itive Partners' Mid Nebraska Community Foundation Giving Day page to hear more about Urgent Short-term Pet Care. If you would like to donate to our cause online go to: <https://www.northplattegiving.org/organization/PawsitivePartners>. If you prefer, your donation can be dropped off at Orr's Dry Cleaning (one of our generous donors,) U-Save Pharmacy (another of our generous donors,) Prairie Arts Center and North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment Office. Check donations can be mailed to MNCF Office, P O Box 1321, North Platte, NE 69103. Checks should be made out to MNCF with a memo donating it to Paws-itive Partners.

### **NORTH PLATTE PET FOOD PANTRY**

The North Platte Pet Food Pantry is open to pet owners who need help feeding their cat or dog. The pantry is located at 5302 South Willow #104 and is open every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

The importance of the pantry continues to rise, and thousands of pounds of pet food are collected, stocked and given out to pet owners every year.

Four months into 2025, Paws-itive Partners has served 664 pet owners and dispersed 13,500 lbs. dry dog

food, 20 cans canned dog food, 5260 lbs. dry cat food and 100 cans canned cat food.

We always appreciate pet food donations. Thank you to Lake Elementary PTO for their large donation of pet food, to Broken Bow Tractor Supply for a pallet of dog food and Menard's for hosting their pet food drive for the pantry.

### **C.A.R.E CARES**

Thank you, Colorado Animal Rescue Express, for your generous grant helping the pet owners using our Get 'Em Fixed spay and neuter program. C.A.R.E. pursues opportunities to improve animal welfare and save lives. Their philosophy is simple: Pets are family.

We are sending big wags and purrs to Lisa and friends at C.A.R.E!

### **EXCUSE ME, REMIND ME AGAIN**

It's common that we forget a person's name, but we remember their pet's name. You might enjoy the names of some pets we have helped recently:

Sandy	Skinny Cat	Hazel Grace
Babboo	Felix	Dale
Mr. Festus	Peppermint	Milo
Chomp	Little Cream	Stewart

### **WOOFSTOCK IS COMING**

Paws-itive Partners' 15th Woofstock is Saturday, August 23 in Memorial Park on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street in North Platte. Activities begin at 10:00 AM and continue until 2:00 PM. Dogs and their humans are invited to have fun, food and oldies music. Vendors will be at Woofstock selling their unique items. We have pup cups for dogs, kid and adult grab bags, dog contests on stage, a special kid activity area, dog services and more. Good Dog Spas offer dog nail trims for \$10. You can enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers right off the NebraskaLand Bank grill for a \$6.00 donation to Paws-itive Partners.

Everyone looks forward to Woofstock T-shirts and chances to win the 50/50 raffle. 50/50 tickets are for sale for \$1/each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Tickets and Ts will be available online ahead of Woofstock.

Woofstock proceeds go to helping animals in the North Platte area. Paws-itive Partners is a 501 (c) (3) organization that relies on fundraisers and donations. We are volunteers, and no one is paid for their work helping animals. We do not have administrative salaries or fees. We do not receive city or government financial support.

### **PAWS-ITIVE PARTNERS WEBSITE**

After many years, Paws-itive Partners has a new website. We are grateful to Amanda Schmidt for building our site with animation, videos, blogs, images and information about Paws-itive Partners. The website offers tips and education about pet care. There are applications for financial assistance and order forms for purchases.

We hope you go to Paws-itive Partners online to explore, click and enjoy the site.

Thank you, Amanda, for giving us so much of your time and thank you for sharing your graphic arts talents. We love you!

### **THANK YOU, NEBRASKALAND BANK**

NebraskaLand Bank surprised us in such a b-i-g way in January. Each year, bank employees contribute a portion of their paycheck to support the nonprofit organizations of their choice. For Paws-itive Partners to be one of the My Fair Share favorites is especially heartwarming to us.

NebraskaLand employees presented Paws-itive Partners with a gift of \$3,347.38! Thank you, thank you, NLB pet lovers. We appreciate your kindness and appreciate our bank taking such good care of us.

### **CONGRATULATIONS, ASHLEY!**

Ashley Goytia-Najera is a Paws-itive Partners member and a member of the Class of 2025 at North Platte High School. Ashley is graduating high school in May. We are happy for Ashley and proud of her, but we will miss her as a friend and active PP member.

Congratulations, Ashley!

### **A FEW MORE STORIES**

When we think we couldn't be any busier, that's when more happen. There are times we get frustrated or sad, but we find that most of the time dedication pays off and things get better. We love working hard to help cats and dogs. Paws-itive Partners is a *pawsitive* group. We know people don't like hearing the negative things that happen, so we usually keep news positive. Here are a few things we have gotten ourselves into recently that became positive for cats and dogs:

January: Paws-itive Partners took a beautiful yellow labrador as a surrender from her owner. The dog was in one of our best foster homes for three months before going to her even better adoptive home. We received an update about Sweet Thing a few days ago and "She's doing great! Even our cats like her – unless she's running through the house and then they're smart enough to get out of her way."

February: A homeless woman's dog gave birth to six puppies in her car. Two days later, her other dog gave birth to seven puppies. Repeatedly, for the next 10 days, there was contact, then lost contact with the woman. She vacillated between surrendering her dogs and puppies to us to not do so. One Saturday morning, the owner called and said we could have Molly and her puppies. We jumped into action before she changed her mind and surrender papers were signed, and we got the fur family. No more uncertainty and homelessness for Molly and her puppies. The fur family was placed in the loving hands of foster mom Reagan. Reagan cared for and nurtured Molly

and her puppies – if you have had puppies, you know how time consuming doing it right is.

Everyone has thrived and now all the puppies have been adopted. Molly is in a foster home awaiting adoption.

Bootsie dislocated her hip when falling from a tree and her distraught owner called Paws-itive Partners to help. The veterinarian performed reduction surgery (manually putting the hip back into the correct position) and the cat is doing well. The owner agreed to make Bootsie an indoor cat where there is no more risk of falling from a tree.

March: We received a phone message and returned the call to the owner of a pest control company. He didn't know what Paws-itive Partners did but wanted to know if we could destroy feral cats from a customer's property! Shocked, we tried making the conversation a teaching opportunity. We talked about trapping, neutering and returning cats and the most effective way to control feral cats. The man asked questions and was receptive to the idea of TNR. We mentioned the cost of spaying and neutering and he said if his customer had TNR'd it would have been less expensive than his fees. It was good to think we might have helped with future problems in a humane way.

April: This has been a month for cats. The area motel owner sounded hopeless. A long-time tenant suffered an "episode," and after her release by the hospital and sheriff department the woman refused to return to her motel room. She was suddenly fearful of her pet cats she had had for many years. She wanted the cats out and the motel owner didn't know what to do. He asked the Animal Shelter and Sheriff Department for help, but they couldn't. An animal lover, the man knew he couldn't just open the motel room and shoo the cats outside.

Paws-itive Partners fed the cats in the less-than ideal-motel room and one cat allowed us to pet him but the other cat stayed hidden. On the fourth day, with a whole lot of effort, we trapped the frightened cats. Milo and Mookie were taken to their first ever veterinarian appointments for examinations, tests and vaccinations. We had kept the motel owner up to date on what we were doing, and he texted us, "I could not be happier with the outcome today. I was in a desperate situation and didn't know what to do. Thank you so much!"

As soon as they completed their veterinary appointments, a Paws-itive Partners member transported the cats to meet up with an amazing cat advocate that has decades of experience helping animals. Ms. Molly has Milo and Mookie and is working on rehabilitation. Checking in with her, we were reminded rehabilitation "is a marathon, not a sprint" and it takes time and patience.

We completed TNR on 12 cats at a home north of North Platte.

We took in two beautiful cats through our Urgent Short-term Pet Care program. They are doing well in



foster care and we anticipate them returning to their family in two weeks.

We received a call from a man who found four kittens nursing on their dead mother. The man called the Animal Shelter, and the shelter suggested calling Paws-itive Partners. We knew we had to save the kittens and in short-order Foster Mom she had everything she needed for the adorable kittens – food, kitten formula, toys, a bed and most important of all, snuggling.

Three days into the kittens' stay, they made their first trip to the veterinarian for checkups. The kittens are underweight but with their raging appetites this won't be a problem for long. One kitten has returned to the clinic for hydrating and an overnight stay, but they are doing well. Thank you so very much Foster Mom Bevie!

*Animal rescue is not about people.  
It's all about the animals.*

#### **PLEASE DON'T LITTER**

If you know someone needing financial assistance to spay and neuter their pet, please suggest they call Paws-itive Partners. Of all the programs Paws-itive Partners has, spaying and neutering cats and dogs is still our primary goal. We prevent unwanted, abandoned, uncared for litters. Our goal is to stop the problem before it starts – prevention is the most effective solution to the problem.

#### **FUR FUNNIES AND QUOTES**

You can trust your dog to guard your house but never trust your dog to guard your sandwich.

~Unknown

“One cat just leads to another.”

~ Ernest Hemingway

“No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens.”

~ Abraham Lincoln

To those non-pet owners, if you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. That's why they call it “fur”niture.

“Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses.”

~ Elizabeth Taylor

Toto was the celebrated Carin terrier in *The Wizard of Oz* and the great patriarch of pop culture. But the patriarch was a matriarch: the role was played by a female named Terry.

#### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

- To spay/neuter – 308-660-5561, 308-650-PAWS or 308-530-1516
- North Platte Pet Food Pantry – 308-530-6954
- Current Paws-itive Partners activities – Facebook
- Mailing address – Paws-itive Partners, P.O. Box 1145, North Platte, NE 69103