

# THE UPAWS Pet Gazette

# FROM THE MANAGER

Dear friends and family of UPAWS,



First, I'd like to introduce myself and tell you a little about me. My name is Sarah Evers, and I am the new UPAWS Shelter Manager. I am originally from Pennsylvania, where I graduated from Wilson College in 2011 with a Bachelor's in Veterinary Medicine. I then worked in veterinary clinics for 6 ½ years and passed my state boards to become a Certified Veterinary Technician. I transitioned to shelter medicine, where I was the manager of my local humane society for 3 ½ years until my boyfriend and I moved to the Upper Peninsula. We have called the U.P. home for two years now, along with our 7 German Shorthair Pointers: Emma, Benelli, Remington, Winchester, Beretta, Crickett, and Kimber. I transferred my State license to Michigan, and I am now a Licensed Veterinary Technician.

Holiday

2023

And this is where my UPAWS story begins...

Like my previous predecessors I have my goals and aspirations for UPAWS. When our new building was constructed, the vision was to grow and expand UPAWS. With that in mind, the facility included a surgical suit and a separate surgical space, hoping to offer spay and neuter surgeries for shelter animals. That dream hasn't yet become a reality, but it's about to change very soon.

Sarah with her dog Crickett.

One of my ultimate objectives for UPAWS is to have our vet center fully functioning by the spring 2024. Thanks to our staff, board members, and volunteers' dedication, we've made significant progress on this project. Furthermore, local veterinarians have committed to donating their time to perform surgeries at UPAWS. With their support, my expertise, and the hard work of the UPAWS staff, we can significantly reduce the time it takes for animals to receive spay and neuter procedures after entering our shelter. This will make the process more efficient and shorten the time animals need to spend in our foster-to-adopt programs, leading to faster adoptions. A fully operational vet center at UPAWS will bring benefits beyond our shelter's walls. I am incredibly excited to be a part of this journey, as it will ultimately positively impact our community.

Even though I have only been a part of the UPAWS family for a little over five months, I have come to appreciate the organization and the people who dedicate themselves to it and its mission. Being able to help those animals that cannot ask for help on their own is one of my greatest life passions. At my previous shelter, my motto was "I'm going to save them all," and I am beyond grateful that I can keep that drive going. I want to thank the community for always believing in UPAWS and supporting us even when times are tough. Together, we really can save them all!

#### Sarah Evers, CVT, LVT UPAWS Shelter Manager

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#### **Upcoming Events**

UPAWS Holiday Shop Now thru December 30th Location is at UPAWS in the Community Center

UPAWS Raise the Woof Comedy Show January 19, 2024 River Rock Lanes & Banquet Center Ishpeming, MI

> Cause for Paws A Party for Pets

March 16, 2024 Holiday Inn Marquette, MI



As we approach the holiday season, our hearts grow warmer and more compassionate towards those in need. Being committed to the welfare of our furry friends, we often receive inquiries about accepting Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from individuals required to take minimum distributions from their IRAs. The great news is: yes, we gladly accept them!

If you hold an IRA and are mandated to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), even if you don't necessarily need or want the funds, this can present an incredible opportunity for you to make a charitable contribution while potentially gaining financial benefits. Many folks find this strategy particularly advantageous.

While we cannot provide personal financial advice, we wanted to share this attractive option to spark your curiosity. We strongly encourage consulting your financial advisor to determine if a qualified charitable distribution strategy aligns with your unique circumstances. To guide your decision, here are some key considerations:

1. Minimize Tax Liabilities: By redirecting your RMD directly to UPAWS, you can potentially reduce your taxable income, avoiding additional tax burdens associated with taking the distribution as income.

2. Future-Retirement Strategy: Lowering your IRA balance through QCDs can result in diminished future required minimum distributions. This can be especially beneficial if you do not depend heavily on the distributions for your living expenses.

3. Amplify Your Impact: Thanks to the unique nature of QCDs, you can make larger charitable gifts than cash or other assets would allow. Unlike conventional donations, there are no limits on the value of gifts that can be deducted from your tax return, as they are based on adjusted gross income (AGI). This opens the door for you to enrich the lives of our furry companions with substantial contributions.

4. Unrestricted Contributions: If you prefer to make charitable donations directly to UPAWS, rather than contributing to a foundation or donor-advised fund, QCDs enable you to do just that. This way, you can have an immediate impact on the causes you hold dear.

We understand the importance of giving back, not only during the holiday season but all year round. As the Board President here at UPAWS, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the compassionate individuals who have, or are considering, using QCDs to support our shelter. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of these furry angels.

Before I conclude, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a healthy, joyful holiday season. May the presence of your furry companions bring warmth and happiness to your hearts.

Warm regards,

Leslie Hurst UPAWS Board President "The unconditional love you get from a pet is something you carry with you for the rest of your life."

– Actress Kyra Sedgwick

# YOU MAKE OUR SPIRITS BRIGHT

**Adoption updates bring us immense joy!** We're thrilled to learn that the pets we once cared for and adored, who were once homeless, have found happiness and a loving home. These heartwarming tales showcase that every animal deserves a family and a place to call home, proving that their lives truly matter.



Lacey, a senior cat who once was trapped in fear, defensive, not wanting to be touched, and was unable to experience the world due to her blindness. It was seeming like it would be a long time before she was adopted.

But fate had other plans for Lacey, as a caring couple crossed paths with her. They had lost their beloved blind cat when they

stumbled upon Lacey's profile on Petfinder. Despite the long distance between where they lived in New York and UPAWS in the U.P of Michigan, they felt an overwhelming desire to provide Lacey with a nurturing home. Unfazed by the distance, the couple set out on a road trip to bring Lacey home. They made it to UPAWS, and it was meant to be; they adopted Lacey!

**From her new family:** Now settled into her new home, Lacey truly radiates a sense of belonging. She has adapted well and can often be found lounging around, easy-going in her surroundings. As I write this, Lacey peacefully dozes off next to me, now she craves touch and connection!

Lacey's arrival has transformed not only her own life but also the lives of those around her. She is living proof that love and patience can help even the most frightened and defensive creatures learn to trust and love again. We adopted **Rocky (formerly Comet)** in February 2023. He's a big, musclely guy that came with a lot of issues and an incomplete backstory. When he first arrived, he was anxious, worried, having bathroom issues, and easily triggered by people and other animals. We wondered if we made the right choice, but I'm glad we stuck it out and gave him a chance.

He's grown leaps and bounds in the months that we've had him. His whole demeanor has changed and he is a happy boy now. He loves his backyard and he loves walks. He's also working on his love for his two cat siblings (Benny & Pawdrey, also adopted from UPAWS).

I've attached his "glow up" photos because the difference between when we first got him and four months later is just unbelievable. Look at that smile!

Thank you ~ Holly, Ally, Angelina, Rocky Rococo, Benny Bojangles, and Pawdrey Hepburn



Month 1

Month 4

Have you adopted a pet from UPAWS and witnessed a positive transformation in your life? Share your story with us! Simply email us a photo along with a brief paragraph highlighting how your adopted furry companion has brought joy, and love, & happiness into your life. Email your story to happytails@upaws.org and inspire others to consider adopting a homeless pet!

# Keep Your Pet Safe this Holiday Season



- Some foods can be dangerous for pets, so it's best to stick to their regular diet.
- Holiday plants are beautiful, but they should be kept where your pet cannot reach.
- Tinsel and ribbon can be dangerous or lethal if swallowed.
- Keep tree needles swept as they can become stuck in your pet's throat and paws.
- Keep your tree bright and your cords covered to avoid chewing.
- Avoid glass ornaments or keep them high to avoid shattered glass and cuts.
- Holiday visits can be stressful on your pet! Give them a room where they can get away to be alone and ask guests to watch that your pet does not escape outdoors.

### **↓** VOLUNTEERING: OUR SUPERHEROES

**Calling all animal-lovers!** UPAWS wants to extend a HUGE thank you and endless appreciation to our volunteers! You are more than just helpful hands – you are our true superheroes, saving the day for countless furry friends in need. Without you, our shelter simply could not function. We are eternally grateful for your unwavering dedication and the extraordinary impact you bring to our cause and to all the animals you have helped.

We've got pawsome news to share: after a three-year hiatus, **our dog walking program is BACK** with a bang! We're over the moon to announce that our lovable pooches can now go on delightful strolls and enjoy the company of our fabulous volunteers. But let's not forget our charming kitties and small critters who also deserve some playtime, and cuddles during their stay.



Dog walking is back! Woody, pup for adoption, loves walks with volunteer Aaron!

Now, let's dive into all the exciting ways you can lend us your superhero powers. Interested in taking charge and making a big impact? Join one of our committees! Whether you have a knack for planning unforgettable events, a fair and open mind for leadership, a gift for captivating audiences, or an eye for creative designs, we've got a committee just waiting for your superpowers to take center stage. When we see our volunteers stepping up and leading the way, our hearts do a happy dance!

But wait, there's more! Speaking of leading the way, our fundraising opportunities will have you feeling like a superhero with a cape billowing in the wind. From organizing fun-filled help at our Pop-Up Shop, to helping with Strut Your Mutt, or even creating irresistible merchandise or helping to gather prizes for the upcoming Cause for Paws—a Party for the Pets event, the possibilities are as endless as the love we have for our furry friends. Together, we can make a big impact and raise those much-needed funds to support our shelter.



To every incredible UPAWS volunteer, we want to express our gratitude for all the amazing things you've done. Whether you've walked dogs, provided affectionate cuddles, organized fundraisers, or dedicated your time to cleaning or serving on committees, your efforts have left an everlasting impact.

In our hearts and in the hearts of every animal you've touched, you are true heroes.

If you're interested in volunteering, grab your cape and get in touch with us today! Together, we can be the heroes that animals in need deserve. Just head to our website link: https://upaws.org/the-shelter/volunteer-opportunities/ FUN-raising! Volunteer Barb and 'Spot' at our annual Strut Your Mutt Fundraising event.



## THE BEST FRIENDS NETWORK AWARDS UPAWS

UPAWS is proud to share that we have achieved a remarkable 98% save rate, recognized as a No-Kill Shelter by the esteemed Best Friends Animal Society in 2022. This incredible achievement stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to the animals we adore.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, generous supporters, and loving adopters who have been there with us through thick and thin, playing an integral role in UPAWS success.

Each and every one of you are making a tangible difference in the lives of countless animals, and together, we are creating a kinder world, one precious creature at a time. Thank you!

# **UPAWS HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP**



**Attention all pet lovers!** This year, the UPAWS Holiday Pop-Up Shop is back. We're excited to announce that the UPAWS Holiday Pop-Up Shop has moved from the mall and is now located at UPAWS itself in our Community Center!

We'll have tons of new styles of t-shirts, sweatshirts, sherpa blankets, jewelry, puzzles, candles, and unique items. Plus our 2024 UPAWS CALENDAR! We are counting on your support! Even though the shop location has changed, our mission remains the same - to help our shelter animals.

So please drop by our Pop-Up Shop and lend your support!



# Give the Gift of Love



Gifts from UPAWS provide your friends, and loved ones with the warm feeling of caring, loving and sharing.

**Gift Donation:** Make a gift donation to UPAWS in a family or friend's name. A card will be mailed to the gift recipient acknowledging your gift in their honor.

Adopt a Pet ~ Gift Certificates: Purchase a UPAWS gift certificate and bring the recipient to the shelter at a later date so that they can choose their new addition to join their family.

**Sponsor a Shelter Pet :** Give the gift of a "Shelter Pet Care or Adoption Sponsorship" by sponsoring a shelter dog or cat or small pet. Your sponsorship can help homeless pets in our care. We will send the gift recipient a holiday or special occasion card with information on the pet that you sponsored for them.

Learn by calling us at 906-475-6661 or emailing info@upaws.org.

# Become a UPAWS GEM



When you become a UPAWS Giver Every Month (GEM) you are providing gifts that can be used by animals in their hours of need. GEMs are special because their gifts are continuous.

> Contact us at 906-475-6661 or at info@upaws.org to learn about our Giver Every Month program.

Help animals all year round by making a monthly gift today!

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#### **Special Thank You to:**

Aiden Bordeau who sold custom wood burn signs to help.

First Bank, Marquette for their "Fun Friday" campaign

Fox Subaru, Marquette for their fundraiser. Marquette Hope Church

**Lucy Johnson** ran the Mqt. Half Marathon & raised donations for us!

**Select Realty, Mqt.** for their "Fur, Feathers & Photo" fundraiser.

All of the youth, groups and classes that help UPAWS

#### In Honor of:

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Margaret Dorow From: Jill Hamlin

Dawn Drake From: Lisa Lapenna Mike Gannon From: Cynthia & Larry

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Girl Scout Troop 5055 From: Steffani Baker Halle From: Janet Sullins

**Courtney Larson's Graduation** From: Brenda Salisbury

Mary & Daniel's Wedding From: Zach Sedgwich

Ziva & Zara Mattson From: Raymond & Dolores Mattson

Kallee McCone's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday & H. S. Graduation From: Ryan McCone

Jimmy Mundane From: Timothy DeMarte Northern Orthotics & Prosthetics From: Karina Jousma

Taylor Peterson's Wedding From: Brenda Salisbury

Melissa Rauch From: Victoria Abrams Pete & Ann Sheret From: Christian Freitag Pete Sheret From: Kent Clow Sabrina Suardini's Birthday From: A friend

#### In Memory of:

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Moses From: Nancy Hamlin Murphy Dodge From: Rita Dodge

**Odie** From: Dean & Nancy Warlin

Peanut From: Clare Smith

Posie From: David Renault

Precious Guttman From: Suzanne Guttmann

**Reggie** From: Mary & Paul Jacobson Ron Burgundy From: Paul & Shawn Olson Rosie From: Sheri & Kim Morrison Russell Beerling From: Mollie & Dale Corlett

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Ollie, Eevee & Cecelia From: Ann & Garrett Ony, Pepper & Marley From: Marisa Lackev

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Puddy From: Carol & Thomas Pence Rosie Morrison From: Sheri & Kim Morrison

Roxy & Kona From: Brenda Salisbury Swix Wodzinski Andreae From: Kristin Andreae

#### Greetings and warmest wishes for the holiday season!

UPAWS and the shelter pets would like to express their gratitude to all those who have shown their support, volunteered their time, made donations, and opened their hearts to adopt this past year. Your selfless acts have provided these animals with a renewed hope for a better life.

But our work is not done yet. There is still an opportunity for you to make a lasting impact! By making a tax-deductible gift to UPAWS today, you can continue to support our shelter pets in 2023 and beyond. Your generosity can truly make a world of difference, providing them with the care, love, and

resources they need to thrive. Thank you for always stepping up to make a difference in the lives of these deserving animals.



Help the animals! Every gift, large or small, helps your furry and feathered friends, one and all!	815 S. State Hwy M553 Gwinn, MI 49841	NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 157
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Here are some examples of what every dollar can do:		
• \$25 provides medication or antibiotics for a shelter animal in need.		
• <b>\$50</b> is enough to microchip five shelter cats or dogs to help them find their families if lost.		
<ul> <li>\$100 provides enough to spay, neuter, vaccinate, &amp; vet check a shelter dog or cat.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>\$250 provides a much needed dental for a senior shelter cat or dog.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>\$500 provides urgent emergency surgical assistance for a shelter animal in need.</li> </ul>	Printed on I	Recycled Paper

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