THE LITTLE CAT THAT COULD

When Peggy, a one month old kitten, arrived at CCHS she was a pathetic sight. She weighed less than three-quarters of a pound. We don’t know how she was injured, but her left hind leg appeared to be broken and her pelvis and right hind leg were off-kilter as well. She was soaked with urine and our staff suspected she was paralyzed and lacked bladder control. Despite all this, Peggy had a spark! If she was on her last two legs, she didn’t get the memo.

We also had hope for Peggy because she had a good appetite and did not appear to be in pain. She was affectionate and purred readily. We thus decided to set her up as comfortably as possible for the night, and see how she was doing in the morning.

We arrived the next morning and noticed that Peggy had used her litterbox! This was an excellent sign that she could control her bladder. The Medical Staff then decided that the best course of action was to place Peggy in foster care until she gained some weight. Assuming she did well, we would re-evaluate her when she was closer to two pounds.

Peggy thrived in her foster home! While the left rear leg continued to be problematic, Peggy didn’t ask for sympathy. She zoomed around her foster home, dragging her hind legs behind her. She appeared to be a very happy cat.

We ultimately determined that Peggy’s left rear leg was holding her back from leading a fully mobile life, so almost 2 months after her arrival at CCHS, the leg was amputated. Peggy returned to foster care for recovery and rehabilitation. Her devoted foster mom took a video of Peggy that we posted on the CCHS Facebook page. When Peggy came back to CCHS to go up for adoption, she was adopted right away by a family who saw her video and knew she would be a good fit.

Peggy is now thriving in her forever home!
Since 2007, when I became Executive Director of CCHS, I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside many talented, dedicated individuals to make our shared vision of a progressive shelter a reality. With limited resources, we’ve had to prioritize initiatives, often choosing to focus on one goal at a time, while holding off on others. First and foremost we focused on improving animal care. In a second close second came cost-effective improvements and repairs to our aging facility, now close to 24 years old. And along the way we enhanced the quality of services we provide. To the public we’ve known for a long time that our website was due for an upgrade. But something else we always seemed to be more urgent.

Last fall we learned about the LRS Web Solutions 2nd Annual Big Website Makeover contest, offering a $10,000 website makeover to the central Illinois charity that could earn the most online votes. Thanks to our friends and supporters from all over the country (and even a few overseas), who cast thousands of votes, we pulled ahead of the other nine finalists and won the grand prize! As we began the creative process of redesigning our site, we realized that it was also time for a new logo that would be consistent with our new, more refined online appearance.

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SPECIAL THOUGHTS

Your special thoughts are meaningful to those who send them, those who receive them, and those who are helped by them. We make every effort to list your special thoughts in our Love Letters column in every issue. In future issues, your special thoughts will be printed in the Love Letters column. Your thoughts are the most important way to let someone know that you care. People often write to express their gratitude to others. Many of our readers have written to us to say thank you for their special thoughts.

LOVE LETTERS

To the Staff & Volunteers at CCHS,

I find myself writing this awesome story much sooner than I ever thought I would. On Friday, November 4, my boyfriend, Chris, and I took Flynn (formerly Puffy) to his new forever home with the two of us, and our dog, Saint. On Saturday, November 5, Flynn and Saint started a beautiful brotherhood. Today (less than a week after we brought Flynn home) Saint and Flynn are sleeping together on Saint’s bed, Flynn knocking his little paws into Saint’s belly. Our two boys do everything together. They play together, they sleep together, they wrestle together and they get into trouble together. We feel so lucky to have the opportunity to care for this amazing animal, and we feel incredibly grateful to the staff and volunteers at the shelter who helped us meet and help us with our adoption. We are so thankful for the time you have all put in making sure Flynn was healthy and ready to find a forever home. We can’t imagine having any other cat besides Flynn, and we already feel like he’s a part of our family.

Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication, we owe you more thanks than we can express.

Sincerely,
Alexis, Chris, Saint, and Flynn
ADOPT ME!

Max
Max is an athletic dog who would do best in an active home. He is crate-trained!

Easter
Easter is a Netherlands Dwarf rabbit. He is very sweet and likes to give kisses!

Serenity
Serenity is an orange tabby who gets along well with other cats.

Bowser
Bowser is an active dog who loves to play. He would do well in a home with another dog to wear him out!

Chato
Chato is a handsome, loving cat who enjoys playing hide-and-seek.

BY THE NUMBERS...

43 pets went to their forever homes on Thanksgiving weekend.

4,000 pounds of cat litter used every month.

144 dogs strutted at Mutt Strut, 2011.

11 is the number of hours a day that the washer and dryer run at the shelter.

408 nights spent in foster care by CCHS animals in July, 2011. (32 animals)