

Tails of **LAST HOPE**



Making furever pawisible for over thirty-five years!

FALL 2024



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Warmest of Autumn greetings from Last Hope to our fellow animal lovers! As we enter the season featuring a holiday centered around giving thanks for the blessings in our lives, I want to thank all of you who support our rescue organization through fostering, donating supplies, gifting money, and volunteering for us. Our organization could not do the excellent work it does without your support!

It has been an extremely busy spring and summer for Last Hope, and we continue to be inundated with calls about animals who need our help. Throughout the past several months, our selfless volunteers have often dropped everything to assist with critical cases calling for immediate veterinary care. I cannot emphasize how much their dedication to Last Hope's mission is appreciated. In the following pages, you will have the opportunity to read about a few of the many wonderful animals we have helped this past year, and these stories are sure to leave you heartened. I hope these stories will also serve to stress the importance of our organization and its work within our community.

This past June, many of you attended the open house for our new location, and I thank you for joining us in celebrating this exciting development for Last Hope! Over the past eight months, this new space has allowed us to provide temporary housing to our dogs and cats while we work to find them foster homes and, ultimately, forever homes. Last Hope's new home not only offers our animals shelter but also provides them with a vast outdoor space in which they may run and play. I cannot stress enough the impact our move to this facility has had on the efficacy of our organization.

I want to close by saying that our organization would be unable to do its excellent work without you! YOU are the most essential component in ensuring Last Hope continues to save and find homes for as many animals as possible. I want to thank every one of you who has contributed to Last Hope in the past and emphasize that you are a vital part of this organization. We at Last Hope are grateful to our supporters for helping us fight for our vulnerable rescue animals, and we thank you in advance for any help you may offer to this organization in the months and years ahead.

Jenny Williams



COVER STORY

WALL-E THE BRAVE



JACQUELYN FAUST

Wall-E's story begins as a four-month-old puppy. She came into the care of Last Hope along with her sister, Eve. She was energetic, cuddly, and a little sassy. She was the perfect puppy, and I was so excited to find her the perfect home. I knew she would not be in my care for long, or so I thought.

A week after Wall-E's spay, she got sick and got sick fast. I immediately reached out for help, and Wall-E was admitted to South Metro Animal Emergency Care. She was diagnosed with Parvo, a contagious virus with a 91% fatality rate. My family and I were terrified for her life. Wall-E worked her way into our hearts, and we would not lose her. Wall-E's story was not going to end with Parvo.

The dedication of South Metro Animal Emergency Care saved my Wall-E, but the road to recovery would take strength and determination. Wall-E returned to my care after a week at the vet. Wall-E was frail and lethargic. I was advised to take every precaution to stop the spread of Parvo because she was still contagious. She needed to be quarantined for 4 weeks, with strict rules on anyone entering her space. We had a bleach foot bath to clean our feet before and after entering her space. We had smocks to wear while in her space. The sanitation process was overwhelming. She had endless meds and a terrible skin rash. Wall-E and I both fought very hard to get her healthy and healed. As time passed, Wall-E finally returned to her energetic, sassy, and brave self. She was perfect again, and it was time for her to find the perfect mom.

The search for Wall-E's mom stopped when I met Addy. Addy checked all the boxes I needed to let this brave, incredible puppy go. Addy and Wall-E were the perfect match, and they connected immediately. As hard as it was to say goodbye, I was overjoyed to have Wall-E start her beautiful new life and live happily ever after. Wall-E now goes by Roo and lives a healthy, happy life filled with love. According to Addy Roo, Wall-E might be the most spoiled foster to date.



PAW-SOME STORIES!

RUDY

Hi everyone! My name is Rudy, a 6-year-old Shih Tzu. I came to Last Hope after my family's lifestyle changed. They took great care of me, starting with a vet checkup and a shot for my allergies (which I wasn't thrilled about). My foster mom was wonderful—she let me sleep in her bed and even gave me a bath and a fresh haircut. I felt amazing!

My next adventure was an adoption event where I loved meeting new people. A nice lady later visited me at my foster home, asked lots of questions, and gave me lots of pets. It felt like a perfect match, and now I'm happily settled in my new forever home. Thank you, Last Hope, for helping me find my new mom!



PACINO

On a hot summer day, local animal control reached out to Last Hope about a cat who had been brutally attacked by another animal, leaving him with his nose completely torn from his face. We knew we had to fight for this little guy, so we contacted our vet partner, who rushed to help. Inspired by the character in Scarface, they named him Pacino. After receiving stitches, Pacino went to stay with one of our amazing volunteers, who quickly realized she couldn't imagine life without him. Pacino had found his forever home!



Jeff is a tough little kitty who came to Last Hope due to a good Samaritan finding him on the side of the road with a severely injured leg and bringing him to a local emergency clinic. Last Hope was called to take in this poor boy, and those who cared for him at our rescue in the following days were astounded at his sweet disposition and love of affection and attention despite his suffering. Surgery was performed to remove Jeff's leg after it was determined the injuries to it were too severe to treat, and it was at the animal hospital where he received his surgery that Jeff met his new mom; a tech there fell in love with him at first sight and adopted him! Jeff is now a happy tripod in a loving, forever home!



HERSHEY AND COCOA THE CANDY KIDS

A good Samaritan rescued two kittens, Hershey and Cocoa, but Hershey was so frightened he wouldn't come out from hiding, even for treats. One of our fosters brought him home, hoping a safe space would help him open up. A few days later, the woman who rescued them called again—Cocoa, now separated from her brother, had stopped eating. Realizing the siblings were deeply bonded, the foster quickly reunited them.

Once together, the two kittens hid under the recliner, refusing to leave each other's sides. Gradually, their foster mom helped them feel comfortable. As they settled in, the "Candy Kids," as she affectionately called them, started to show their playful personalities. Hershey loved to chase toys, often flopping right onto Cocoa, who looked on with the feline version of an eye roll. They both discovered how much they enjoyed cuddling on their foster mom's lap.

Finally, the day came for adoption. A kind man came to meet them, and despite initial shyness, they warmed up, with Cocoa even giving him a gentle kiss. They had chosen their new human.

In their forever home, they quickly made themselves comfortable. Hershey found new joy in playing with water, while Cocoa claimed the tops of the cupboards as her throne. Their new human has loved every minute with them, quirks and all.



LASSIE

CINDY DANIELS



Lassie, a timid two-month-old Blue Heeler mix, came to Last Hope Rescue after her breeder deemed her “non-adoptable” due to her extreme shyness. Right away, her foster mom, Cindy, saw that Lassie was deeply fearful—so much so that it took thirty minutes just to coax her out of her crate. But with patience and care, Cindy began to earn Lassie’s trust. Over the next few days, Lassie gradually opened up, becoming affectionate and playful, enjoying games of fetch, tug-of-war, and chasing toys. Though still hesitant with strangers, especially men, Lassie became Cindy’s “Velcro dog,” always by her side, but cautious of the outside world.

After a few months, Lassie was adopted by a family with children and a cat. To prepare, Cindy recommended training classes and careful introductions with the cat. Despite the initial excitement, things quickly became challenging. Lassie started showing signs of fear aggression—growling, snapping, and trying to escape. Unsure how to handle these behaviors, the family eventually returned her to Last Hope.

When Lassie saw Cindy again, she ran to her with excitement, showering her with kisses. Cindy knew she needed more structured support to help Lassie overcome her fears, so she worked with Last Hope’s trainer, Brenda Suggi. Brenda’s assessment revealed that Lassie had taken on a protective role due to her lack of confidence. She suggested using a slip lead for better control, reinforcing her trust in her humans to protect her, and giving Lassie “a job” to help her focus. Cindy followed these recommendations, and over several weeks, Lassie’s behavior improved.



One day, a family spotted Lassie’s photo at a local coffee shop and reached out to meet her. Knowing about her history, they took a gentle approach—patiently giving her time, speaking softly, and allowing Lassie to come to them. After several visits and introductions to their children, they made the decision to adopt her.

Now, three months into her new life, Lassie has made great progress. With the support of her family, she’s completed obedience training, and her new mom ensures she feels secure on their walks together. Though Lassie remains cautious around strangers, she has found her place in a loving, protective home. Surrounded by people who understand her needs, Lassie has finally found the stability she needed to flourish. From a “non-adoptable” puppy to a devoted family member, Lassie is now living her very best life.



THANKSGIVING DAY SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET

Thanksgiving Day may be one of your favorite holidays, but it can be dangerous for your pets. Following these tips will help ensure that your furry friends don't suffer a holiday emergency.

Limit Special Treats

Stick to your pet's usual diet on Thanksgiving. While a small bite of cooked turkey may be fine, many traditional dishes can make pets sick. Foods with onions, garlic, grapes, or raisins can be toxic, potentially causing anemia or kidney failure. Lactose in mashed potatoes may trigger diarrhea in sensitive pets.

Watch your raw turkey—pets can snatch a bite quickly, risking salmonella and other bacterial infections. Turkey skin, whether raw or cooked, is high in fat and may cause pancreatitis. Avoid giving turkey bones, which can splinter and injure your pet's throat.

Other dangerous foods include: Chocolate, yeast, scallions, foods with xylitol, and raw eggs.

Prepare a Sanctuary for Your Pet

Some pets love everyone; others become anxious or fearful around strangers or groups of people. If your pet doesn't like large, loud gatherings, it may be happier spending the day away from the Thanksgiving festivities.

Before the guests arrive, place food, water (and a litter box if you have a cat) in a quiet room and close the door. Stop by the room periodically to check on your pet.

Make Sure Your Dog or Cat Wears an Identification Tag

As you say goodbye to guests, your pet may try to slip outside. An ID tag with your pet's name and your contact information boosts the chances of a quick reunion if they get lost. Even if your pet is microchipped, ID tags are essential, as neighbors won't have microchip scanners.

Take Out the Trash

Even a well-behaved pet may be unable to resist temptation when the trash can is unattended. After all, the trash can contains all the Thanksgiving foods that are usually off-limits to your pet. Food isn't the only thing you must worry about in the garbage. The string used to truss the turkey can wrap around your pet's intestines if swallowed, requiring emergency surgery.

Use Restraints When Traveling

Unrestrained pets can be seriously injured in a car accident and may distract you while driving. Use a harness attached to a seat belt or secure their carrier in place, and always keep pets in the back seat to avoid airbag injuries. Don't let pets stick their heads out the window, as this can lead to head or eye injuries from obstacles and debris.

Put Decorations Out of Reach

Pets are naturally curious about new Thanksgiving decorations, but a cat might knock over a lit candle, or a dog could eat non-edible items in seconds. Keep decorations out of reach and remove centerpieces after your meal.

If your pet eats something they shouldn't or needs a checkup, we're here to help. Call our office with any questions or to schedule an appointment.





LAST HOPE

ANIMAL RESCUE

Foster Home Based 501(c)3 No-Kill Non-Profit
Companion Animal Rescue

IN LOVING MEMORY

We appreciate your support and generosity. Your contributions have impacted the lives of animals in need, enabling us to persist in our mission of offering them love, care, and a brighter future.

Donation made by Larn and Vicki Manthey, in loving memory of dear sweet loveable Jenny a cherished family member of Steve and Diane.

Donation made in memory of Nala and Taeja from Lynette Wiegel.

Donation in memory of Evelyn Wallesverd, a lifelong animal lover who passed away in January 2024, made by Janis Helgeson.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!
WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU
ADVANCING OUR MISSION.

OUR STAFF

Jennifer Williams - President

Meghan Finch-Kleven - Operations Manager

Office: 651-463-8747

Mail@Last-Hope.org

Last-Hope.org

LAST HOPE OFFICE

Wednesday - Saturday, 8 AM - 4 PM

2413 210TH STREET EAST FARMINGTON, 55024

ADOPTION EVENTS

Adoption Days are held on Saturday at PetCo in Apple Valley from:

11 AM - 2 PM

1st & 3rd Saturdays are Dogs

4th Saturdays are Cats

7590 150th St W, Apple Valley, MN 55124

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!

