

Tails of **LAST HOPE**



Making furever pawsible for forty years!

FALL 2025



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the leaves begin to change and the days grow shorter, our hearts at Last Hope are full of gratitude for this amazing community. It is because of your tireless support that we have been able to bring a season of new beginnings to so many animals in need.

This fall, we reflect on the challenges we have overcome and the countless lives you have helped us save. Your compassion is a powerful force, and it is the fuel that keeps our mission alive and our momentum strong.

In this newsletter, you will see the faces of some of the animals who have found their forever families and read about the incredible impact your contributions have made. From emergency medical care to finding a warm bed, every act of kindness makes a tangible difference.

We are also looking ahead to the holiday season. The colder weather can bring new challenges, and we need your continued partnership to ensure every animal in our care is safe, warm, and well-fed. Whether you are considering adopting, fostering, or donating, your involvement is crucial.

Thank you for being part of our rescue family. Together, we can continue to make a difference—one animal at a time.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jenny Williams



COVER STORY

CHARLIE—THE HEELER WHO STOLE MY HEART

LISA HAWKINS, VOLUNTEER FOSTER WITH LAST HOPE

Sometimes, the dogs we take in to help end up rescuing us. Charlie's journey from a frightened stray to a beloved family member shows how love, patience, and trust can change everything.

In December 2025, I received a call from Castle Rock Kennels about a Heeler needing a foster home. I didn't hesitate—my answer was yes. He didn't have a name, so I called him Charlie. When I first met him, he was nervous but curious. I brought two towels—one with my dogs' scent and one to help him get familiar with mine. I gently rubbed them over him and told him softly, "I'll be back."

When it was time to bring him home, I knelt, slipped on his collar and harness, and led him to the car. The ride was quiet, but I could tell he was uneasy. I realized car rides made him nervous, so I started sitting him in the front seat and holding his paw—small gestures that helped him feel safe and build trust.

Once home, Charlie met my dogs—the "girls"—and everything went smoothly. But he was unsettled that first night, pacing and exploring—it was clear he'd never lived inside before. Over the next two weeks, he wandered, observed, and slowly began to adjust. I didn't push him; I let him find his comfort zone, and he gradually learned it was okay to be inside and on furniture, that toys were fun, and bones were part of his new world.

As he settled in, I researched the Heeler breed—smart, energetic, loyal, and sometimes mischievous—which helped me understand what he needed. Sure enough, he soon showed his playful side: leaping over a four-foot fence and chasing the UPS truck. We replaced the fencing, but I knew he craved a home with space to run.

Despite a few meet-and-greets, Charlie wasn't fully ready to settle. He was cautious and retreating, which made me realize—maybe he'd already found home with us. Over time, he claimed his space here. His cautious steps turned into joyful sprints, and he became a loyal protector, always watching. Charlie's story reminds me that patience, trust, and unconditional love can turn a scared, lost dog into a loyal family member.

What started as a foster effort became an irreplaceable bond. Charlie gave me far more than I expected—a daily lesson in resilience and love.

Today, Charlie is a happy, content boy. He has lots of friends, lots of toys, and a wonderful and loving home. I am very blessed that Charlie chose me, and I can't imagine my life without him.

If fostering has ever crossed your mind, I encourage you to try. You just might change a life—and in the process, find your own.



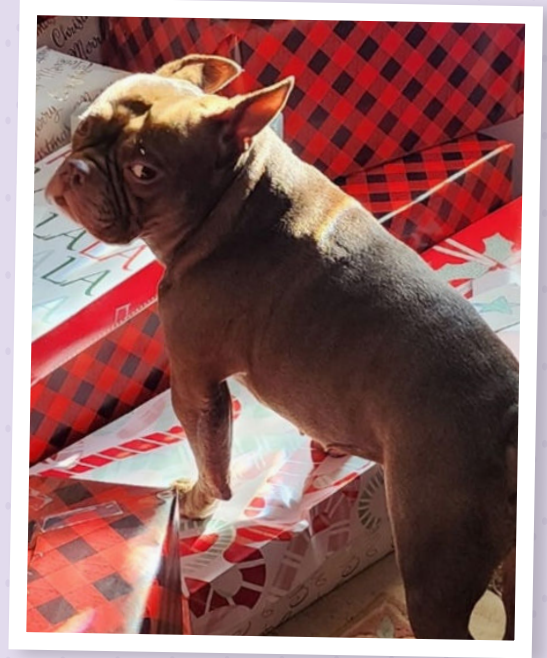
PAW-SOME STORIES!

SCHMOO

Schmoo came to Last Hope Rescue as a malnourished stray French Bulldog. She had visible ribs, spine, hips, and pelvis, and was diagnosed with a non-life-threatening cleft palate, which created an opening into her nasal cavity. After consulting specialists, the decision was made to forgo surgery, so she now eats large kibble and is carefully watched during meals to prevent aspiration.

Despite her rough start, Schmoo is a happy, lively girl who loves people, dogs, and exploring. She's also quite the character—snorting, snoring, and passing gas like a true Frenchie. She's stubborn, quick, and an escape artist!

Now living on a farm with her forever family—parents, siblings, a fellow Frenchie, and other animals—Schmoo enjoys the outdoors, sunshine, and patrolling her domain. She often keeps her dad company on the ATV and rules her farm life with plenty of love and mischief.



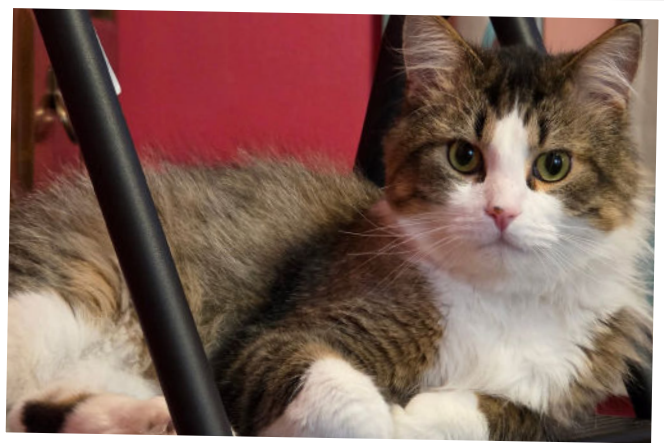
NACHO

We were contacted by a kind woman about a cat with a severe wound on his neck, which turned out to be the size of a tennis ball. Without help, he likely wouldn't have survived. Despite his pain and dressing changes, Nacho never stopped loving those caring for him. On his first day with his foster, he eagerly sought kisses, head boops, and love.

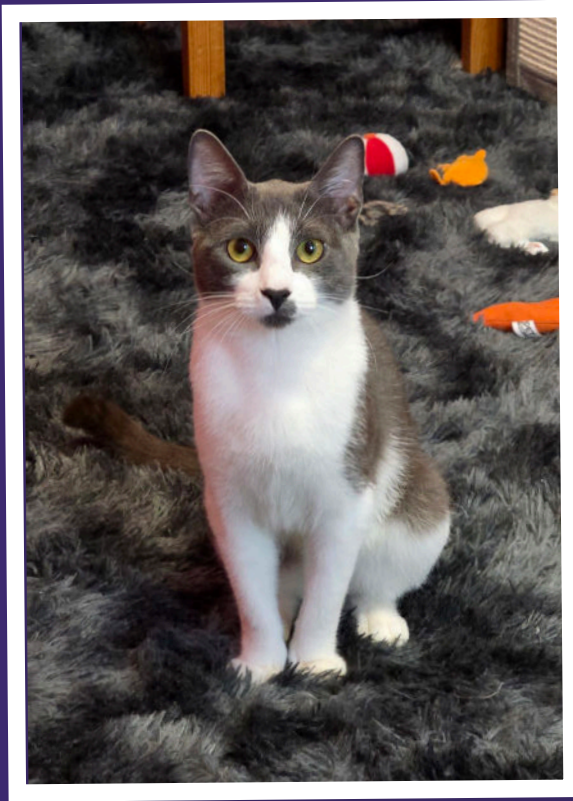
Nacho quickly won everyone's heart. He believes everyone is there to love him and adores wand toys. He has cerebellar hyperplasia, making him a "wobble cat," with the cutest head tilt. His uncoordinated hunting style kept his foster laughing during play.

He was also the ultimate lap cat, curling up in arms for naps and charming everyone he met with his affectionate personality. His foster calls him the most "people-oriented" cat she's ever known.

Nacho was adopted by a loving couple who fell in love with him instantly. He settled right into his new home and is now a very cherished family member living his dream life—and we couldn't be happier for him.



SHY GUY



We receive many calls about cats needing re-homing, but this call was unlike any other. During a dangerous heat wave, 30 cats were living in a garage without air conditioning—caught in a crisis. We sprang into action, making plans and reaching out as temperatures soared.

One of those cats was Shy Guy, who arrived traumatized and terrified. He refused to come out of hiding, but his foster discovered he was confident when alone, exploring and napping quietly. The moment he heard noise, he would hide again. Despite this, he desperately wanted love. When his foster gently pulled him out to clean his infected ears, he'd purr and lean in for pets—showing his true affectionate nature.

Finally, Shy Guy slowly came out on his own, jumping onto his foster's lap and curling up for cuddles. He became a loving snuggle buddy, often seeking kisses and belly rubs while purring happily. But his separation anxiety was severe, and he would cry for hours when left alone. With medication and time, he gradually adjusted.

Because of his rough start, Shy Guy still has some manners to learn—like not using hands to play—and needs a patient, understanding home. He's in love with his foster family, and they adore him, but he's still searching for his forever home. Until then, he's receiving plenty of love, pets, and playtime, waiting for the perfect family to come along.

FRED

Parvo is a five-letter word every rescue fears—a deadly virus that can be devastating and costly if not caught early. We've faced it multiple times—sometimes with success, sometimes with heartbreak.

Fred's journey with Last Hope started when he was rescued as a stray with his sister, Ethel. He quickly settled into his foster home, full of puppy energy, but within days, he became sick and lethargic, vomiting uncontrollably.

We rushed Fred to the vet, where he tested positive for Parvo. He was transferred to AERC, hospitalized, and started aggressive treatment. The first 24 hours were critical, but because we caught it early, there was hope. With round-the-clock IV fluids and meds, Fred fought hard.

He was weak and exhausted at first, but he never gave up. Gradually, his energy returned, tests improved, and he started eating again. By Day 3, he was inhaling his food and asking for more—signs he was turning the corner.

Today, Fred is a happy, healthy puppy—playful and ready for his forever home. His survival was thanks to early detection by his foster and lifesaving care from our vet partners at AERC.



We couldn't save pups like Fred without our fosters, veterinary teams, and supporters. Every success story reminds us why we fight—because every life is worth saving.

RIVER & MAGGIE

THE DYNAMIC DUO



This is the story of River and Maggie (known at Last Hope as “Stripes”). In just over two months, these two girls have become inseparable best friends. They live with the same loving foster family, Cindy Daniels, who soon after decided to adopt both of them!

River, a striking black-and-white Border Collie/Jack Russell mix, came to Last Hope on September 10, 2024. At six months old, she was full of energy, intelligence, and puppy joy—loves to run, jump, herd, and play. She’s quick to relax after her busy moments, but her protective instincts can switch on in an instant. She barks at cars, which triggers her guard dog behavior, turning her from a sweet girl into a snarling protector. Her family is working with a trainer to help her stay calm around triggers. Despite her progress, River felt lonely and sad, so they thought a canine companion might help her stay active, engaged, and better adjusted.

Maggie arrived in May 2025 from St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a three-month-old puppy. She’s a lively, outgoing girl who loves to play, tug-of-war, and chase. Her breed is unknown, making her future size unpredictable, which originally made some adopters hesitant. But her big personality and joyful spirit made her a perfect fit for River’s family.

Enter River's and her parents.

When they decided to adopt a friend for River, they carefully chose someone to match their energetic, loving lifestyle. Their first meet-and-greet at River’s house was perfect. River, protective but curious, moved her toys and kept her favorite toy on the bed. Maggie immediately chased her and jumped up to play. Outside, they chased each other happily in the yard, tails wagging and paws flying—clearly life-long friends in the making.

Today, River and Maggie are best buddies. Maggie is the playful “little sister,” often stealing toys, treats, and even toilet paper, while River, more reserved, quietly steps away when Maggie’s mischief gets too wild. The two love running, playing, and exploring their home and yard together. River, who once felt lonely, now has a lively partner to share adventures and help her come out of her shell.



COMPASSION IN ACTION

Community-powered stories of generosity, love, and second chances.

WINNIE'S SWEET MISSION FOR LAST HOPE



A few weeks ago, a young girl named Winnie stopped by with a heart full of kindness. She had spent her time baking and selling treats in her community with one goal in mind: to raise money for Last Hope. Through her efforts, Winnie turned sugar, flour, and a whole lot of love into a generous donation to help animals in need. Her sweet gesture reminds us that no matter your age, you can make a big difference for homeless pets. Thank you Winnie for proving that kindness is the most important ingredient of all.

MEET LAST HOPE'S EVENT VOLUNTEER, AUSTIN

My name is Austin, and I've been an Event Volunteer with Last Hope Animal Rescue since May 2025. I enjoy helping at adoption events, fundraisers, and community activities, and I love sharing information about upcoming events.

I started volunteering because I adopted two dogs through Last Hope: Jasper, a 9-year-old greyhound mix adopted by my dad, and Jackson, a 3-year-old border collie-spaniel mix that's mostly my own.

I enjoy working with the fosters and coordinators, helping people with the adoption process, and supporting a cause I care about. I also believe volunteering and fostering is a great way to meet new people and support local animals.

In my free time, I spend time with friends and family, volunteer at local organizations, dance, and walk my dogs.





LAST HOPE

ANIMAL RESCUE

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Donations were made in honor and memory of loved ones and special pets as a reflection of their lasting impact.

- In honor of my nephew Dan's birthday, donated by Mary Schannach.
- In memory of Patricia Loeding, by John Hoeffner.
- In memory of our cousin Jane, by Heather Mewhinney.
- In honor of Stacy Luns and Troy Wollin's wedding, by Nancy Peterson and Deborah Frank.
- In honor of Steve and Marijo's marriage, by Heather Voorhees.
- In memory of Steve Beckman, by Samantha White.
- In memory of Delilah Stribling-Vergara, a beloved dog who lost a short battle with Leukemia on August 21. Her dads, Ray and Daniel, loved her very much. Made by Clare and Ethan Chapman (Delilah's aunt and uncle).
- In memory of Harriet, beloved dog of the Granquist family, donation by Ruth Erickson.



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

OUR STAFF

Jennifer Williams - President
Meghan Finch-Kleven - Operations Manager

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Last-Hope.org

LAST HOPE OFFICE

Tuesday - 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
7590 150th St W, Apple Valley, MN 55124

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