2020: Wow—One Crazy Year for the Record Books!

Looking Back on 2020

It was a tough year and unlike any in recent history. As individuals and as an organization, we have struggled with uncertainty, stress, anxiety, fear, sadness..... so many competing emotions as we have grappled with the pandemic, the illnesses and loss of loved ones, friends and strangers, and the impact on non-profits and businesses in our community.

However, this year has also brought compassion, resiliency, reflection and strength. Our animals have brought us much needed joy, laughter and playtime. At the shelter, we have saved thousands of lives- by keeping pets in homes where they are loved but in need of medical care, by reuniting lost families, by finding new adoptive homes, and by providing food, shelter, medical care and so much more. This work would not have been possible without each and every one of you who stuck with us during these difficult days.

As we turn the calendar to 2021, the problems we’re facing won’t magically disappear. But, we can enter this year with hope, strength and kindness- and a readiness to help each other and the animals. We’re so glad you’re part of the GAHS family and we wish you a brighter New Year!

Katie Lisnik, Executive Director

Magnolia’s Chance to Blossom

Magnolia, who came to us in mid-December after being hit by a car, miraculously only had road rash and some scrapes. After receiving medical care, we discovered she was also pregnant, and found a loving foster home where she could recover and bring her little ones into the world.

Her foster family noted, “She trusted us and purred from the beginning. On 9/30, I woke up and Mags had five healthy kittens nursing! We went with a Great Gatsby theme, so we had Jay, Nick, Tom, Myrtle & Daisy. She was instantly a great mom. When the kittens were around 3 weeks old, I discovered that Magnolia had ringworm disguised with her road rash on her forehead. Of course, all the kittens had it as well, covering their little feet, and then spots on their legs and faces. For the next 3-4 weeks, the kittens and Mags had to be lathered up gently with anti-fungal cream.

Magnolia was a champ for letting me handle her kittens so frequently. When they would meow, she would come right over and lick them and ask me for it back. She’s actually a fairly petite cat with a long and soft gray coat. You wouldn’t know she had ever been hit by a car, her wounds healed up perfectly. She likes attention from her foster parents. She loves, loves her wet food. She’s a miracle.

With her babies ready to move into loving homes, Magnolia also was ready to find her “fur-ever” home and very quickly found an adoring family to call her own!

A New “Leash” on Life for Jazz

Jaxx came to us in need of immediate medical care and a lot of TLC. This little fella not only had a severely matted coat and a thin frame, he was also anemic and very much in need of extensive dental care.

Jaxx certainly was a sad sight to see, but this poor boy quickly stole the hearts of the shelter staff- but he was far too scared and shut down to accept love. Fortunately, through patience and behavioral support he began to trust again- plus he felt so much better with a shave and proper nutrition! Our Behavior Services Coordinator even worked with him using the “umbilical cord” technique in a modified baby sling, pictured. Over time he began to understand that humans mean love, attention and food- all good things!

With steady progress in our care, he was soon ready for adoption- and he quickly found a new mom and sister. His adopter let us know the following: “I now call him Pax, as it means peace and he has surely found it. He is just a bundle of love. He has fit in perfect, and really taking a liking to his new girl Zoey. She loves cuddling him, So do I...”

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Thank you for being part of our work. Despite the setbacks, together we still made 2020 a great year for needy pets.

SavingPetsInMaine.org