



Lewis County Humane Society

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MEET MUFFIN MAN

The Blessings of Foster Care

Muffin Man, Cupcake's only surviving kitten, is healthy and thriving in "foster care". Mama Cupcake had difficulty giving birth and then surgery to treat pyometra (infection). She needed to have a feeding tube placed and is on antibiotics for the pyometra and a severe upper respiratory infection. She was unable to care for Muffin Man.

Muffin Man is being syringe fed kitten formula, helped to pee and poop, kept warm in a fleece lined carrier with a heating pad and his teddy bear. He weighed 5 ounces at birth. Muffin Man obviously needs a lot of care since his Mama is unable to be here for him. When fostering a Mama Kitty and her litter, Mama does all the work of caring for the kittens!

Opening our hearts and homes to fostering saves lives by providing a haven where kittens will not be exposed to illness, and will receive individualized care, affection, and socialization. Kitten fosters are like "Crossing Guards", providing temporary protection. We volunteer our time and love to escort them to safety and their loving forever homes. Kittens develop at lightning speed and require specialized care for the first eight to ten weeks of life when they transform from defenseless babies into independent little lion cubs. The time commitment for fostering depends entirely on how far from adoption age kittens are when entering foster care.

Watch for an update on Muffin Man and Mama Cupcake in the next Newsletter!



This is why fostering &/or adoption is important!

**This is what it does for the animals when they get the care
and compassion they deserve!**

These are the before and after pictures of Zeus! Three months apart!

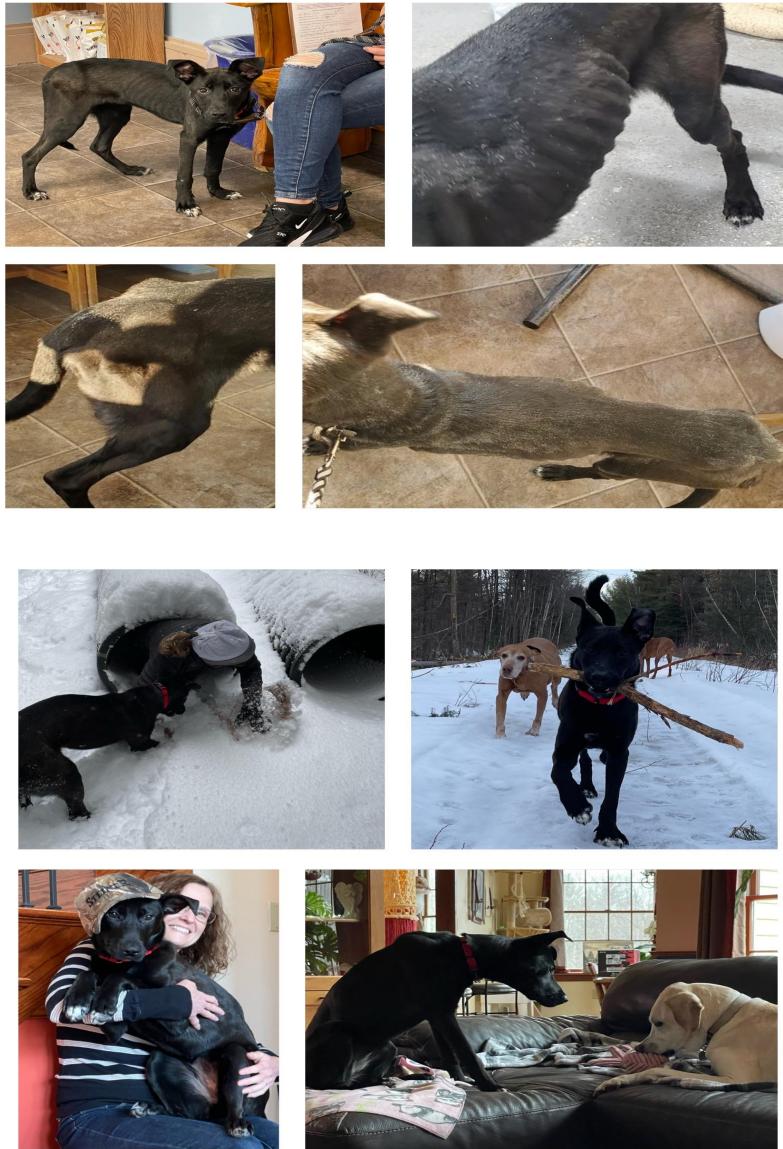


MEET DAISY - A FOSTER FAIL

Daisy was surrendered as a very emaciated little girl, and had some pretty bad skin issues. She had bad diarrhea at the shelter, Cheryl & Jay fell in love with her immediately. They took her home to foster her. She was pretty sick at first, and the vets even tested her for Addison's disease, which is a wasting disease. Thankfully the tests came back negative. All she needed was plenty of TLC, and she is thriving. She's gained 20 lbs, and is loving her new life with all her doggie brothers & sisters, and even has kitty friends.

She became a foster failure, and was officially adopted on March 14th.

DAISY - BEFORE & AFTER



WHAT IS PET FOSTERING?

Pet fostering provides temporary care to shelter animals who need to live in a home environment prior to adoption.

Animal welfare organizations work to place lost, abandoned, abused and relinquished animals in permanent homes. This helps relieve overcrowding and reduces an animal's stress by providing a temporary and supportive sanctuary while he awaits permanent adoption.

Shelters and rescues try to match dogs and cats with homes that best fit the needs of both the animal and the pet foster's lifestyle.

WHEN TO THINK ABOUT BECOMING A PET FOSTER

There are many wonderful reasons to become a foster parent to a shelter dog or cat in need:

- Privilege of offering a needy animal a safe, comforting, and supportive environment while they wait to be adopted
 - Help socialize a shelter pet to enhance his adoption potential
 - Reduce the animal's stress, which improves his adoptability
- Enjoy the benefits of pet ownership if you are unable to keep a full-time pet due to lifestyle or other restrictions

While fosters often get attached to their charges, most 'give up' the pet to adoption because they recognize it's in the best long-term interests of the animal to have a permanent home.

'FOSTER FAILURES'

Sometimes volunteers become so attached to the animals in their charge that they legally adopt them. When some fosters are caring for animals for an extended period it is natural that strong bonds develop that can lead to foster failure.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A PET FOSTER

Every adoption organization has its own policies when it comes to fostering. Volunteer fosters need the cooperation of family, flexibility, patience, a compassionate nature, and some knowledge of animal behavior.

The sponsoring organization may conduct a home visit prior to a first-time foster receiving an animal and require that an individual's own companion pets are up to date on all vaccinations and fixed (spayed/neutered).

Tick expert predicts huge season for ticks & lyme disease!

Despite the lingering cold temperatures and the ever-present chance of more snow, tick season is officially here.

BLACK LEGGED TICKS: The blacklegged ticks are also known as the deer ticks. These ticks are capable of spreading the Lyme disease bacteria Borrelia. These ticks leave a rash known as etherna migrans Or bull's eye if they carry the Borrelia bacterium. This is a prime symptom of Lyme disease. The statistics state that about 70 to 80 percent of Lyme disease patients may see the appearance of the rash on their skin. Immediate treatment is required to avoid any long term effects, which includes: Short term memory loss, Arthritis, and Lyme carditis. Early removal can mitigate the occurrence of the disease as it takes 36 to 48 hours of biting for the tick to spread the disease to the host. They are an orangish-brown color while unfed. They are bluish-green after feeding. The female ticks are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in size while males are $\frac{1}{16}$ inch. Like all ticks, the nymphs, which everyone should look out for, have six legs while the adults have eight legs.

BROWN DOG TICKS: The brown dog tick has multiple other names such as kennel tick or pantropical dog tick. The brown dog tick can survive in warmer climates. These ticks can survive best in areas with tall grass, fields to first transitional zones, and wooded regions. They require a high humid climate as they absorb water from the air. These ticks, unlike most ticks, can survive and complete life cycles inside homes. It is important to check yourself and your dogs for these ticks. The kennel ticks are reddish-brown in color. They measure up to 3.18 mm in length. The females, after feeding, may enlarge and become larger multiple times their actual size.

LONE STAR TICKS: Lone star ticks also have common names such as Northeastern water tick, cricket tick, or turkey ticks. These are found in various parts of Upstate New York. Male and female lone Star ticks are different from one another, called sexually dimorphic. Females can be identified by their white star-like spot on the middle of their scutum. The males have small white dots on the margins of their backs. They are reddish-brown in color. The females can be found 4 mm -6 mm in size. These ticks are oval in shape. They are flat while unfed, but after a blood meal, they may get engorged.

AMERICAN DOG TICKS: American dog ticks are also known as wood ticks. These ticks are brown in color and have white or gray markings on their body. They can grow from 5 mm to 15 mm in length. The females are bigger than the males. The females tend to get bigger in size after feeding. The American dog ticks find hosts using the scent of the animals. They tend to prefer large mammals, including humans. So they are likely to be found on the side of roads. These ticks are present in shrubs and grass. These ticks may feed on large mammals such as dogs, humans, etc. The dogs are likely to bring this to the homes of humans and hence transfer it to them. They may survive without a meal for 2 to 3 years.

Fleas & Ticks: More Than Just a Nuisance

Although fleas and ticks pose a threat to pets year-round, these pests become most active during the warmer months - **In NY State the season is generally April - December!**

Ticks are blood-sucking parasites that attach themselves to animals and people. Once attached to a host, ticks feed voraciously. As they feed, ticks can transmit a large number of diseases.

These include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and ehrlichiosis (a bacterial infection.) Ticks also cause skin wounds that may lead to bacterial infections and can also cause anemia.

There are more than 200 species of fleas affecting dogs, and these can also transmit disease and cause tapeworm infections and anemia. Some dogs are very sensitive to fleabites and suffer from serious allergic reactions of itchy, red, and scabby skin and even hair loss. Many people believe that their dogs are safe from fleas and ticks after the first frost, but unfortunately, this is not at all true. Some species of ticks, including the ones that cause Lyme disease, can remain active in fall and winter months, too.

Fleas have four developmental stages: egg, larvae, pupa, and adult. When it's cold or there's no host on the horizon, flea pupae, which is the stage before adult fleas emerge, have the ability to stay in their tiny cocoons nestled in your couch or rug until the weather gets warm or they find a host.

A solitary adult female starts laying eggs the day after its first ingestion of blood, producing up to 50 eggs per day and about 2,000 in its lifetime. So it doesn't take long to have an infestation on your dog and in your house — leading to a costly and time-consuming extermination process.

When temperatures rise, flea eggs are safe to hatch outside, and ticks can thrive in woods and tall grasses. This is also the time of year that you and your dog are more likely to spend hiking and walking and enjoying nature. However, it doesn't take warm temperatures to put your dog at the mercy of these pests.

The best defense against fleas and ticks is to keep your dog on a year-round flea and tick preventive medication as recommended by your veterinarian.