

Dog (Peaches) collapsed in snow to die---Missouri German Shepherd Rescue calls in some Kansas City friends-- EMERGENCY services are happening RIGHT NOW!!!!



HELP WITH PEACHES!!! and other pets who need relief from pain and suffering.

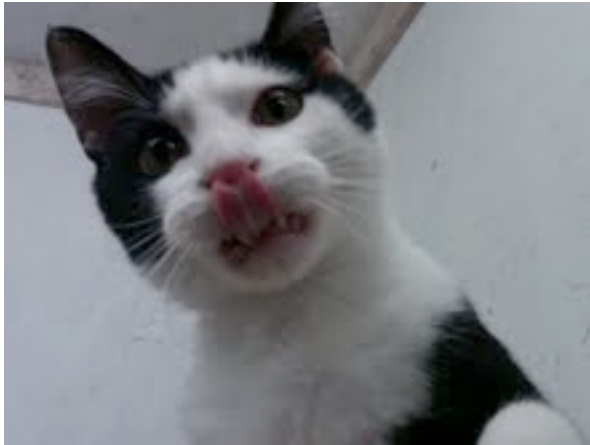
Routine veterinarian care can be costly even if the pet is your own, but when you find an injured pet where would you go if animal control is not available to assist? Tonight, the local Missouri German Shepherd Rescue group found a dying dog lying in a foster care parents yard. The dog could not get up and was barely breathing. As they have done many times in the past, the rescue group called their friends at The Pet Connection for much needed help. They wanted to see if anything could be done to save the dogs life. The dog had a temperature of 90 degrees upon arrival and was obviously suffering from hypothermia. She could not get up, move, and was barely breathing. The technician and staff members went to work warming the

dog and calling in a veterinarian. Before the vet arrived, a t-touch (professional animal massage/energy work therapist) was called in from N2Paws to assist with its recovery. Another vet tech drove in and started the pet on iv fluids. Once the veterinarian was in house, it was determined that the pet, who was now able to move its head, had a severe infection. All staff volunteer their time for these types of emergencies so that these pets are not forgotten and humane care can be something that is available to everyone. The infection probably caused the collapse and then the pet suffered from hypothermia while it laid there to die. In Kansas City, options in the past have been dismal or even slim depending on your location and the type of problem you have. Because of this low cost comprehensive service, dogs like Peaches might have a second chance. In addition to the second chance, funding from the community has been provided in many cases and is much needed in this instance. Peaches will need about \$1100 for her immediate care and surgery. She has a severe uteran infection and she has such a horrible entropion that she cannot open either one of her eyes and will need to have both eyes operated on. This poor baby was wandering around with no food, in the cold, without being able to see. At specialty this would cost thousands of dollars. At 6:30 PM a stabilized Peaches was sent to foster care on IV fluids in hopes of withstanding surgery first thing on Monday morning.

Missouri German Shepherd Rescue has often been assisted by The Pet Connection's low cost programs. Besides adoptions, obedience, and behavior, TPC offers rescue group at cost vet care so that they can afford to provide to Kansas City's homeless dogs and cats. Because of the money saved by using these services, the group was able to afford to rescue over two hundred more dogs last year alone.



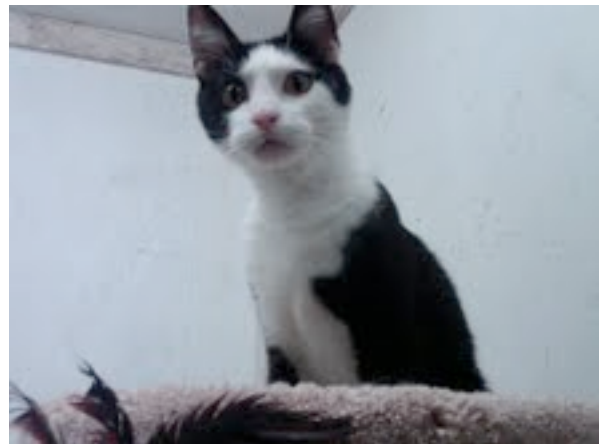
The problem is that often times second chances can come too late. Director Melody Kelso notes that she can't forget that 3 months ago a gentleman came to clinic to have a huge tumor removed from his 2 year old dog. His pet had been to a veterinarian and the \$2000 surgery had been needed over 4 months ago. He was trying to save the money. If he had known about The Pet Connection sooner, the dog may have had a better chance to survive. As it was, the tumor had grown so large that removal was not feasible and we watched him cradle his young pet in the corner of our surgery suite for hours as he cried over her death. We would have been able to correct the situation for just a few hundred dollars based on his current income status.



Helping feral cats seems like a simple task as long as they are spayed/neutered, something that The Pet Connection does for just \$5. However, often times other cats join these colonies and have other complications that need to be addressed. An elderly and disabled woman comes hobbling in the doorway. She can barely walk, having surgery herself just a few days ago and was told not to drive but brought an injured kitten in anyway. She was crying and cradling, who is now Josh, in her arms. The young kitten was on her porch eating food that she leaves out for the many stray cats that are dumped in her area of town. His lower face had been degloved.

The cat needed major reconstruction surgery, our veterinarian was very skeptical that we could put him back together and have any success for recovery. As it is though, Josh has made a full recovery and his face is very sweet. No one can remember the mangled and deformed Josh that came in just a few months ago, now we just struggle to raise the funds for his unpaid vet care. It was a total cost of about \$1200. The kitten purred and acted normal otherwise. so Dr. Kennedy went to work doing emergency reconstruction surgery. Josh now lives at the adoption center and has many visiting friends.

The Pet Connection only services homeless pets and/or low income persons. All people must qualify for service. This effort was coordinated with several Kansas City veterinarians throughout the last decade and is not in competition for local vets. We often refer our clients to local veterinarians when they are able to afford full service clinics and have no desire to service those that can afford other options. This service needs to be common knowledge so that more pets can benefit from a life with out pain and unnecessary suffering.



"The need to get spay/neuter resources out there to reduce the number of pets going into the animal shelter is huge, but the additional ability to save lives of pets where they would have otherwise been lost and/or to make pet owning affordable for more people is priceless. With so many homeless animals in our community, everything to find homes must be done. The wrap around services that we feature are key to making Kansas City a no kill city."

Of all the stories, this is our founding directors favorite. An elderly gentleman was crying as he met me at the door this morning with a cat cradled in his arms. What's wrong with your kitty? she asked. He said, it's not what is wrong with my cat, it's what is wrong with my wife. This cat is my wife's constant companion as she lies dying in her bed from cancer. He's only 4 years old and if I have to go home and tell her that her cat is going to die before she does it's going to be a huge devastation. The cat had a urinary blockage and the emergency clinic had quoted \$2200. He had not even been home after he had received the news, he had just drove around. Tears rolled down his face as he handed the cat to us and asked if there was anything that we could do. And again, for a few hundred dollars, Dr. Kennedy worked her magic again and The Pet Connection raised necessary funds....this 4 year old cat was able to lay in his owners bed to give her the comfort and companionship that she needed. Pets are our family and there are a lot of them without homes. If vet care is unobtainable many people who love animals will cease to be pet owners because they will be devastated by their inability to eliminate or impact their pets conditions. Hopefully with programs like this, less animals will die. Because in a community where 20,000 animals die because homes were not found, every one needs to be encouraged to be pet owners.

If you would like to visit Peaches or Josh tonight and donate towards their care and recovery, please call 913-575-9401 and ask for Jason and/or 913-575-9826 and ask for Melody. Otherwise donations and volunteer inquiries can be received at www.thepetconnection.net or mailed to 5918 Broadmoor, Mission, KS. 66202.