Noah's Ark Animal Foundation

NOAH'S ARK • PO BOX 748 • FAIRFIELD, IOWA 52556 • WWW.NOAHSARK.ORG

Out With the Cold, In With The Mew • Spring 2015 Newsletter

The Tale of Socks' Toes

On Feb 14th, 2015, Socks was relinquished to Noah's Ark. It was a sad day for Socks. It seems that Socks decided not to use the litterbox anymore and it was too much for his owner. As the former owner filled out the surrender paperwork, it was mentioned that Socks was all four-paws declawed. A light-bulb went off in the shelter staff's heads! That's why Socks was not using his litterbox! He must have pain in his paws when he scrapes in his litterbox! The owner also mentioned that there was a claw growing out of one of Socks' back toes.

Socks settled into shelter life quickly becoming a favorite of staff and visitors. His charming personality covered any discomfort he was having with his paws, but Noah's Ark staff could tell this sweet guy was in pain. They decided that something must be done to help Socks and took him to the vet clinic for a thorough exam.

Socks had x-rays done of all four paws and it was very apparent what was wrong! The majority of his toes had bone and claw fragments within the scar tissue along with two abscesses. In order for Socks to get around, he had to walk on the curled tips of his toes. Ouch!

Something needed to be done!

Dr. Jennifer Doll at Iowa Humane Alliance in Cedar Rapids, Iowa was contacted. After taking a look at Socks' x-rays, she put him on the surgery schedule the following week. Socks' surgery was a success! Following is a letter regarding Socks' surgery from Dr. Doll.

Socks settled into shelter life quickly

Today we removed a fragment of the 3rd phalanx from each of Sock's 18 digits. The associated pads were salvaged in their entirety. Loose fragments of claw were found within the scar tissue of digits 1 and 3 of the LF paw.

An abscess was found in digits 4 of the RF, paw and 3 of the LF paw.

As expected scar tissue and chronic flexion of the toes after the initial declaw distorted the anatomy of the remaining toes, making the pad and skin of the under surface of the toes constricted. This made closure of the sites difficult without removing the very tip of the 2nd phalanx on digits 2 and 4 of the RF paw, and 3 and 4 of the LF paw. Incidentally, the RF paw's 5th digit is partially dislocated at the 1st joint. This should have no consequential effect on Sock's ability to walk Hopefully this puts an end to Sock's discomfort. There is significant flexion of his toes, but hopefully the absence of the bone fragments will make it less significant as he is walking on the curled tips of his toes.

Please let us know how Socks is doing as he heals. He is a wonderful kitty! —Dr. Doll

Great news! Socks recovered at the shelter for a couple of weeks with shredded newspaper for litter, antibiotics, pain medication and lots of TLC.

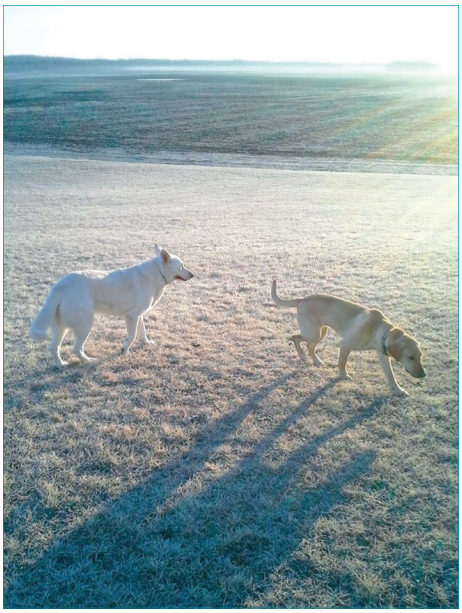
Norm and Socks

And Socks' story has an even happier ending! Socks found his forever home.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation for Socks' declaw repair.

Happy Endings

"If there is one spot of sun spilling onto the floor, a cat will find it and soak it up." —J.A. McIntosh



Lucy

Here is an early morning update on Lucy. We adopted Lucy on Saturday and she spent her first weekend in her new home. All is going well and Lucy just loves her sister dog Jade.

— Wendy

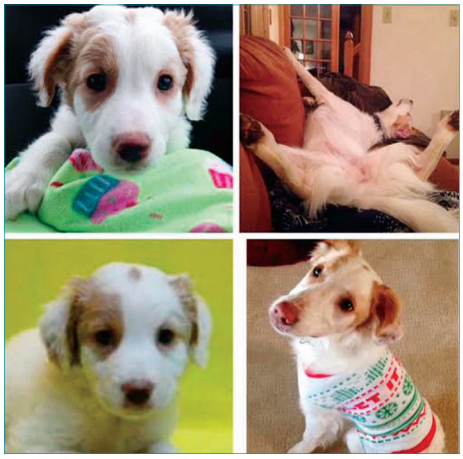
Sheldon and Leonard

The kittens are doing great and we are so happy to have them in our lives. They keep us very entertained!

— Danielle

Nikki

To our friends at Noah's Ark, We wish to thank you for helping us find our fur baby, Nikki! She is playful, goofy, and full of love.



Also, she loves chasing our other dog, Kodi, around the yard, playing catch with Dad, and taking naps in Mom and Dads bed. It's impossible for anyone she meets not to instantly fall in love with her! So attached is her before and after picture. We cannot thank you guys at Noah's Ark enough for leading us to her!

— Rachel

Bear

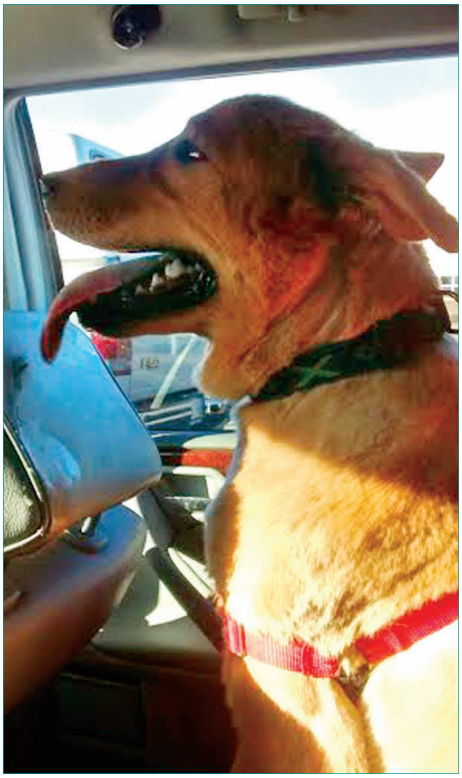
It took him about 20 minutes to decide he was happy here. He seems like he has lived here all his life. We love him already. Thank you for all you do.

— Chad

Chloe

This is Chloe I adopted her 12/26/2004. She has been such a great addition to our family.

— Sandy



Oscar

Oscar, 2 years with us, riding in my car, perfectly seating. I love my Oscar, faithful friend and excellent company!!!!

— Monica

"Animals don't lie.
Animals don't criticize.
If animals have moody days,
they handle them better
than humans do."
— Betty White
"If You Ask Me"

Success Stories!

Did you adopt an animal from us?

We would LOVE to hear from you. Email friends@noahsark.org with a picture and story about how your new addition is doing in their new home. You may be published in the next newsletter. ***—Dawn***

Happenings at the Ark

"You can judge a man's true character by the way he treats his fellow animals." —Paul McCartney

A Banner Year!

In 2014, 969 spays and neuters were performed with help from Noah's Ark Caring Community Spay Neuter Assistance Program. This proactive program dramatically reduces the number of unwanted spring litters and homeless cats and dogs. Many thanks to our special donors and foundations who make this work possible, including the Miccio Foundation, the Animal Relief Fund (Addie Hazel Meeker Trust), PetSmart Charities, Inc., Carol Kline, Claudia Roscamp, Suzanne Smelcer Robinson Trust, the City of Fairfield, and Helen Guy, Trustee for the Catherine "Miss Kitty" Glann Foundation. Donations to Noah's Ark can be designated to continue this work.

Helpful tips to stop unwanted scratching

Here are some simple tips:

- **Regular nail trimming**
- **Provide stable scratching posts and boards around your home. Offer different materials like carpet, sisal, wood, and cardboard, as well as different styles (vertical and horizontal). Use toys and catnip to entice your cat to use the posts and boards.**
- **Nail caps called Soft Paws® or Soft Claws® can be glued painlessly to a cat's claws to prevent damage due to scratching. These items can be purchased at pet supply stores or through your veterinarian.**
- **Double-sided sticky tape like Sticky Paws® can be applied to furniture to help deter a cat from scratching that surface. When the cat goes to scratch there, the tape feels funny to their paws and they learn not to use that surface anymore.**

Please raise a paw… don't declaw!
Your kitty will thank you!

Facts about Onychectomy

(also known as declawing)

Here are some facts about declawing. The cat's claw is not a toenail. It is closely adhered to the bone. Declawing is actually an amputation of the last joint of the cat's "toes". If performed on a human being, declawing would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle. Declawing is not a humane act. It is a painful surgery, with a painful recovery period. And remember that during the time of recuperation from the surgery your cat would still have to use its feet to walk, jump, and scratch in its litter box regardless of the pain it is experiencing. Wheelchairs and bedpans are not an option for a cat.

There are many better ways to treat behavior problems other than radical and irreversible surgery.

Many Thanks!

Thank you! Thank all of you.

You are all of our wonderful adopters, donors, foster families, volunteers, the veterinarians who work with our program: Fairfield Animal Hospital and Veterinary Clinic, PC and our adoption partners, Clive PetSmart® and the Rescue Waggin'®, made 2014 an amazing year for Noah's Ark. Your generosity allowed us to rescue over 500 dogs and cats and place them in their forever homes.

Amazing outcomes don't come from passion and commitment alone.

They happen because the hardworking staff at Noah's Ark has the resources to make it happen: food, medication, cleaning supplies, training, and so much more. Noah's Ark receives no government funding for this work. All of our work is supported solely by private donations and grants. And you, each of you. If our work in 2014 helped make your vision for animals come true, please consider a donation to help us continue our work in 2015.

Thank you so much from all of us!

"Petting, scratching, and cuddling a dog could be as soothing to the mind and heart as deep meditation and almost as good for the soul as prayer."

— Dean Koontz

Yes, I want to help save the lives of stray and homeless animals.

100% of your donation goes directly to help the animals and programs of Noah's Ark Animal Foundation.

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ Other_____

Please indicate if you have a preference as to how your donation is used:

☐ Food, medicine, shelter, and care of stray and abandoned dogs and cats

☐ CCSNAP Community spay and neuter program—because there aren't enough homes for them all!

☐ Please send me information about planned giving opportunities benefitting Noah's Ark including endowment gifts, gifts of annuities and stocks as well as remembering Noah's Ark in my estate planning.

Checks are made payable to Noah's Ark Animal Foundation.
Mail to P.O. Box 748, Fairfield, Iowa 52556.

If you would like to use a credit card to donate: Please go to our website at www.NoahsArk.org and click on "Donate"

Please help us conserve our limited funds by checking below if you cannot donate at this time:

_____ **I am unable to donate at this time, but wish to continue receiving your newsletter.**

_____ **Please remove my name from your mailing list.**

Noah's Ark is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt corporation founded in 1988. Donations are tax deductible.
The Foundation's officers for the year 2015 are David Sykes: Chairman and President,
Richard Sarnat: Vice President, Tom Paton: Secretary, Tim Kluender: Treasurer, and Dawn Safrit: Director.

Noah's Ark operates an Iowa licensed animal shelter at 1986 Gear Avenue, Fairfield, IA 52556.
Hours are Tues through Fri 1:00 – 5:00p.m. and Saturday 10:00 – 4:00p.m.

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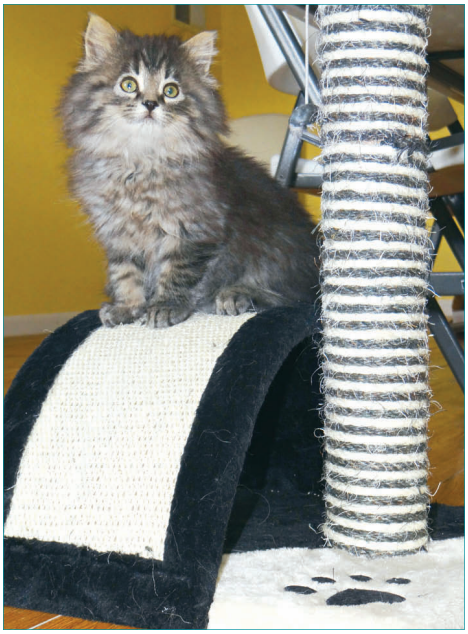

Ash contemplates his new scratching post

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