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Surrey Is Not A Place In England

By *Susana Gluck*

Of unknown origin and uncertain age, Surrey is a special black cat who came to Pet Haven a couple of years ago, via Saint Paul. "Her mouth was a disaster," says Mary Ann, Pet Haven's Cat Adoption Director. "Her gums were red. There was a line wider than ¼ inch on her upper gums and into her throat. It was the worst I had ever seen."



Because of her gum disease, all of her teeth except her upper and lower two central teeth and the canines had to be pulled. Mary Ann and her daughter Deb fostered her for a whole year until her mouth was fixed.

Enter Linda and Richard, cat people who had lived overseas for many years. They had recently lost their Siamese, Cyrus. "We have always had Siamese cats," Linda explains. So they looked for another Siamese at a Texas Siamese rescue organization's website but did not find one. They then checked petfinder.com and found a couple of Siamese cats at Pet Haven.

Linda and Richard called and talked to Mary Ann about these kitties, but Mary Ann had other ideas. She talked to them about Surrey.

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No Room For Rottweilers

By *Sheila Goeken*

Dressed in a befitting angel costume, the 96 lb. Rottweiler knew something good was about to happen. As Tala worked the room at the Pet Haven Tuxes and Tails event last October, everyone she met saw her inner angel.

Tala came to Pet Haven via a young family- a serviceman, his wife, and two children. The family acquired Tala in Japan and she traveled with them to several countries overseas. When it was time to move back to the states, however, the family had trouble finding a place that would permit a Rottweiler to live with them. The family tried for six months to rent a place that would accept the entire family. Finally they had to give up their beloved Tala.



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Surrey battled health problems and a long wait for a permanent home, but her patience has been rewarded with a loving forever home.

Tala was her own good luck fairy at this year's Tuxes and Tails gala, where she met her new family for the first time and made quite an impression!

From Siamese To Surrey

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“She was very astute at matching us up with the right animal,” says Linda. “Mary Ann is a genius because this cat is the absolute antithesis of Cyrus. Cyrus was tall, white and loud, had blue eyes, and was a boy! And Surrey is short and dark, quiet, and a female! And she is such a sweet, sensitive girl!”

“At first I was very nervous, because Surrey would crawl under a bed and not get out,” says Linda. That eventually changed and Surrey now spends long hours looking out of the window and sleeps with them at night. “She is doing great!” Linda says. “It’s a testament to her spirit that her time of pain and on the streets didn’t harm her personality. She is playful, smart, sweet, and she is my girl!”

Linda wants Pet Haven to know that, “(Pet Haven has) spent a lot on her and I know that. I will always continue to support Pet Haven because of what you have done for Surrey. I am extremely grateful, as is my husband Dick, that people we didn’t know made the decision to save her based on the belief that her life was of value, and it is. It brought

Surrey is the polar opposite of everything Linda and her husband were looking for in a cat, but taking a chance paid off- they couldn't be happier together!

us happiness and filled the large void left by Cyrus. We always tell Surrey she’s beautiful.”

And so are Linda and Richard, Mary Ann and Deb, and the countless volunteers, vets, donors and fosters that help save lives and bring happiness to all critters, two- and four-legged. Some people are just like that- year-round Valentines.





DOVER DOG DAYS

Bring your pup to a pet-friendly lunch!

Enjoy a menu prepared exclusively by Chef Dwyer of Dover Restaurant and raise money for homeless dogs and cats. Doubletree will donate 10% of brunch sales to Pet Haven.

Sunday, March 9th • 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dover Restaurant, Doubletree Hotel
1500 Park Place Blvd., St. Louis Park
Reservations recommended • 952-582-5333

Questions? Email specialevents@pethavenmn.org

The 'Rottweiler of Love' Lives Up To Her Nickname

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In the meantime, Molly was looking for a new dog to bring into her family. Once she convinced her husband, Mike, that it was the right thing to do, they started searching for the right dog. Molly was thinking a small dog; Mike thought a larger dog. As they scanned the Internet, something drew them to the 96 lb. Rottweiler named Tala. They agreed to go to a Petco adoption event to meet Tala. But even though Molly had compromised on the small dog, Mike still wasn't ready to make the commitment.

One More Chance

Then in October, Molly was asked to attend a fundraising event to support Mrs. Minnesota International 2007. Molly, being a candidate for Mrs. Minnesota International 2008 and a dog lover, was looking forward to the Tuxes and Tails event to network and raise awareness for her cause, preventing sexual violence.

As Molly strolled around the room, she noticed a Rottweiler dressed in angel wings. When she heard the name Tala,

she realized it was the dog she and Mike had had their eyes on previously. She went up to Tala, who was on her best behavior and a little excited to see her. Molly became so enamored at this point that she called Mike to see if he would give Tala another chance.



A happy ending- Molly's family has a new member to love and Tala has a wonderful new home.

The next week, Molly and Mike adopted Tala with the understanding that if things didn't work out, they could bring her back. The first test

was five-year-old daughter Claire; Tala loves children. Then the cats; Tala tolerates cats. They were somewhat concerned when Tala would growl-moan, but since she was on her back getting scratched they soon determined that it was Tala's way of saying, "ahhhh, that feels good."

In fact, Tala proved to be the perfect dog. Well, except for the time they couldn't find her until they heard something strange in the bathroom. Tala had accidentally shut the bathroom door with her back end and locked herself in. Mike had to take the doorknob off with a screwdriver to get her out. And then, as with all dogs, there's that uncontrollable desire to check out the garbage. Nonetheless, Tala is now a permanent member of Molly's family. They have dubbed her the Rottweiler of Love because everyone she meets falls in love with her. "She just wants to be loved," Molly says. Molly looks at it this way, "If the only reason for me to run for Mrs. Minnesota International was to get Tala, then I have already won."

In Loving Memory of Val

By Tyler and Max

Val was an amazing, sweet, beautiful Rottweiler from Pet Haven, and she was our beloved baby until this past Dec 27th, 2007, when at age 12 and after a year of growing use of assistive devices, much vet care, alternative medicine, and narcotic painkillers we had to admit that she was now totally non-ambulatory and in a lot of pain due to arthritis, and not able to enjoy life any longer. She passed away surrounded by loving family after spending Christmas being spoiled by everyone.

Val liked to lay in the snow in her final days to cool her sore joints. We found a harness that gave her months of extended life; it was an amazing device and we were so thankful for it. We used it to carry her around (we called it "pretend walking" since she liked to move her feet even though they were barely touching the ground). We even rigged up a backpack setup to use it to carry her up the stairs on Tyler's back. She was, as always, amazingly tolerant of all of this rigmarole and smiled her way through it all.



Val takes a break and rests her sore joints in the snow.

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Enjoying Senior Moments

By Susan Simons

We often hear that cats have nine lives. Although this is not true, a lucky cat named Maggie is probably enjoying her second life. Maggie is a senior feline who was rescued by Pet Haven from a local impound. She had been turned in as a stray. Many (if not most) older, unclaimed companion animals in shelters or impounds are euthanized. A longtime cat foster, Becky, heard about Maggie and immediately brought her home. "Maggie loves people and gets along with all the other cats and kittens in my home," says Becky. "A couple of my friends come over, and Maggie immediately went to them for attention. Although she is a little arthritic and limps a little, she is just a sweetheart."



Maggie's making the most of life and enjoying her senior years.

Becky is just one of many Pet Haven volunteers who know the joys of fostering and adopting senior cats and dogs. "I love old cats. They seem to have special sweetness, a sense of who they are and how they should be treated." Becky's home is sometimes referred to as the "Red Tabby Rest Home" because of the many senior cats she has taken in over the years.

Sue Simons, a dog division volunteer, agrees with Becky about the joys of senior companion animals. She has fostered many dogs and puppies through the years and has a special affinity for the senior dogs. "They are so appreciative for the simple things they receive... a tasty meal, some well-placed scratches

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Remembering Val

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We are so thankful to Pet Haven for giving us the gift of this amazing dog. We came to a Petco meet and greet looking for an apartment-sized dog, and came away smitten with Val the (then 104 lb) Rottweiler. You even gave us a non-standard one-week "give back" period since she supposedly didn't like cats, and we had two! It turned out that Val loved cats, she just needed to learn some manners with them.

Val was the type of dog that made all of our fellow dog owner friends jealous. Our friends wrote her a song, and grieved almost as much as we did. Every day we miss her big smiles, insatiable appetite, gentle spirit, growly talking, hi-fives, total cuddly love-muffiness, ability to count dinner plates, furry ruff, rott wrinkles, eyebrows, and kisses ('air kisses' and big wet ones). It feels impossible to capture what a great dog she was.



Val is missed by her loving family and a large circle of friends. Photo courtesy Kristen Jamieson.

Paw Tawk

By Bernie and Becky Sheldon

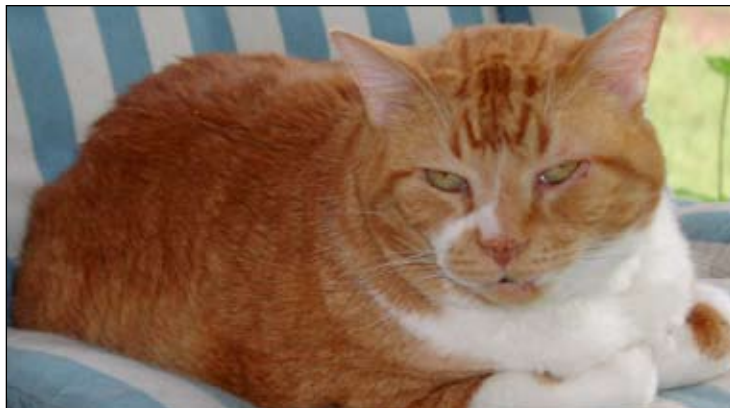
I hope you are all staying warm this winter. Momma and her neighbors helped to rescue a homeless cat this winter. Momma put out food for her and tried to coax her into the live trap. She was too smart for that. We cats are pretty wise you know.

When it started getting so cold momma really worried and said we need to get her inside as soon as we can. I thought what is it with the “We” stuff, I remember when “We” took in Maggie and she stayed. Anyway, whenever “Lolita”, as momma called

her, would hear any noise and see any movement in the house she would run. One cold day she was sitting on the porch steps and momma took some really stinky cat food- yum- and went out the garage door with it. Lolita ran but momma called her and she started to meow and come a little closer. After a

while she ate some and then came up to momma and started rubbing against her legs. Momma got her in the garage and fed her lots more.

Anyway, she is now in the “foster cat room” and is looking for her new



home. Momma says there are many homeless cats and dogs and when Pet Haven takes them in, they often need a special food to make them healthy again. Momma says it costs Pet Haven a lot of money to help all these homeless cats and dogs – can you help by making a donation?

Bernie (above) and Bernie's momma are helping Lolita (left) adjust to life off the streets; hopefully she'll be adopted and find her own 'momma.' You can help Pet Haven rescue homeless animals like Lolita by making a donation.



The Best Is Yet To Come For Senior Animals

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and tummy rubs, and a chance to take long naps in the sunlight.” The last dog Sue fostered and adopted from Pet Haven was Spanky. He was 15 when he came to Sue and lived 3 ½ more years. “I knew I wouldn’t have him for many years, but I know he gave as much to me as I did for him.”

Like most senior cats and dogs, Spanky was mellow and had wonderful house manners.

Senior companions easily bond with people and fit well into busy lifestyles because, unlike puppies, they need less

training. They are amazingly resilient and adaptable when they move into a new home. Seniors have usually lost their homes due to changes in their human’s life, not by any fault of their own. Please consider the joy a senior cat or dog can bring to your life. Having “senior moments” will be most rewarding!

Spanky found a new lease on life when he was adopted from Pet Haven at age 15.



Happy Tails

Do you have a Happy Tail to report? Email editor@pethavenmn.org with your story and a photo, and your story could be included in the next issue of Pet Haven Ink!

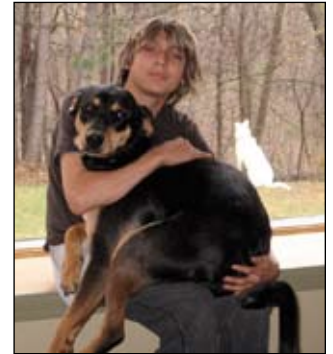


Raja (formerly Penne)

Penne (now named Raja) is shown in the foreground, and her new friend, Kiara, are enjoying life and games together. Her new owner says that it only took two days for them to become friends and both are happy and active having another buddy to play with and play like puppies do. Both girls are very similar in age, just under a year.

Mika

Mika is such a love and is great with our puppy Tessa. She loves to go on walks down by the woods near the high school. She and Jacob continue to have their special relationship; she sleeps with him no matter where that might be. We are so grateful to have her and she has been a great addition to our family.



Merlin (formerly Rummy)

Merlin had a tough time adjusting to Homer the puppy in his new home. Now they are great friends- Merlin just had to teach Homer when enough was enough. Merlin loves to cuddle and take rides in the car. He sleeps with us at night, and purrs so loud he wakes us up!

Tori

Tori may well be the best dog in the history of the world! She comes to work with me every weekend and has many fans at the kennel- human and canine! She has met most of my family, and especially enjoys going to my brother's house to play with his dog. They chase each other around the jungle gym in the backyard.



Crash

Crash is loving his new home with two dogs to play with and two people to love him. In 2006, on Dec. 26, he was hit by a car and had surgeries and an extensive recovery. This year he had his very own tree to sleep under. What a difference a year can make!

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Spotlight on Adoptable Animals

By Jeff Surine and Mary Ann Cameron

Tango

Tango, a 4 year old rat terrier, came to us from a shelter in Louisiana with a broken leg. After surgery and lots of TLC in his foster home, he now tears around the house at warp speed. The only evidence of the injury is when he is outside in extremely cold weather when he shows



a bit of arthritis in the limb with the metal plate. At 14 pounds, he's not timid at all about stairs. In fact he could beat any track star up or down a flight without a problem.

Tango loves to play, either entertaining himself or even better when he engages someone else to throw a toy so he can fetch it. Tug of war is also a favorite pastime. Tango is very affectionate and if he can't be playing he likes to cuddle. Curling up between his people on the couch is heaven for him. Since he doesn't have a tail he must realize that he needs to wiggle his whole back end to demonstrate when he is happy to see you.

Tango is still waiting for his forever home. If you are interested in meeting this southern boy, send an email to dogs@pethavenmn.org.

Owen

Owen is a short haired black male kitten with a white stripe up one side of his nose. He is playful, goofy, has lots



of fun kitten antics, and likes to snooze on your lap. He is a bit of a talker so he will have comments to make about needing attention or food or a game with you. If you are looking for a playful kitty with antics that will keep a smile permanently etched on your face, then Owen is just the guy for you. For more info email cats@pethavenmn.org.

Tango (at left) and Owen (above) are only two of the Pet Haven animals looking for a home. Are you the one they're waiting for?

Happy Tails

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Murphy

Thank you for our little Murphy! We just adore him. He has brought so much joy and laughter into our home. Every day he kisses and cuddles a little more and loves to follow us around the house. He loves to play fetch, go for walks, take naps and give kisses. He loves to roam our home and sniff everything in search of food. Thanks for doing all that you do for all the pets in need of good, "fur-ever" homes. We love little Murph, Murph!





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About Pet Haven

Pet Haven, Inc. of Minnesota was founded in 1952 and is a charitable non-profit organization. Your donations to Pet Haven are tax-exempt. Pet Haven's mission is to rescue and re-home cats and dogs, spay and neuter to reduce overpopulation, promote responsible guardianship through educational programs, and advocate on behalf of companion animals.

Pet Haven has no staff. Volunteers do all of the organization's work. Volunteers are always needed and there are a variety of ways you can help. We currently have a tremendous need for foster homes. Please read more about our foster home program on our website and contact us to volunteer. You'll be glad you did!

Pet Haven Ink

Quarterly Newsletter for Pet Haven Supporters

Articles: Mary Ann Cameron, Susana Gluck,
Sheila Goeken, Becky Sheldon,
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