



# The PAW PRINT



## PERDITA & PONGO PLUS THREE



**Perdita at the shelter**

*It's not often that a whole doggy family shows up at Animal Allies, but that's exactly what happened last fall.*

Perdita, Pongo, and their three puppies had a rough start in life: all five were rescued from a neglectful situation where they had been chained outside and abandoned. But they didn't let their traumatic experience damp their high spirits: both 2-year-old Perdita and 5-year-old Pongo are happy, bouncy pups who love to play.

However, now these playful youngsters had a litter of week-old babies of their own. When the new little family came to the shelter, the puppies were just three warm black balls of fur. Fortunately, young, high-spirited Perdita turned out to be a caring and attentive mother. She was obviously very hungry and, throughout her stay in the shelter and in foster care, continued to eat ravenously to keep up with her babies' nursing.



**Pongo says hi from his kennel**

Though a devoted mother, Perdita wasn't overly protective. She didn't seem to feel that humans were a danger to her little ones, and trustingly allowed staff and volunteers to take them from her for vet treatments or cuddles.

Parenting duties are not evenly distributed in the animal world. Just two weeks after their arrival at Animal Allies, carefree dad Pongo was cleared for adoption. And he couldn't have been more pleased:

he loves people and car rides and is a huge social butterfly. He was ready to start his new life out in the world of people! Meanwhile, mom Perdita had to stay in AAHS care for two more months while she nursed her babies, then weaned them, then waited for her milk to dry up before her spay surgery. Along the way, though, she got lots of her favorite things: pets, snuggles, and belly rubs.



**Mowgli, the snuggly one**

The three puppies grew fast from helpless round infants into wild, zippy puppies. They loved to wrestle and fight with each other, run



**Winnie, the playful one**

around like crazy and chew on toys. Mowgli was the snuggliest, Winnie the most playful, and Bambi the most curious.



# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



## Winter Greetings, Dear Friends!

Much like the year 2020, 2021 was also difficult but I'm hopeful for a better year ahead. I'm so proud of the Animal Allies team for their ability to continue to adapt our business in response to the pandemic so we can continue to carry out our mission to provide a loving home for every pet.

As we quickly move into the New Year, this is a great time to look back at our accomplishments last year. Thank you for your generous gifts of time, money, talent, love and advocacy in 2021. Here are a few highlights from last year. 985 pets were adopted into loving homes and 93 were returned to their home. We achieved a 97% Live Release Rate which means that of the hundreds of animals that came to us, 97% were either adopted or transferred to another rescue. Our Live Release Rate continues to be among the best in the nation. Our amazing volunteers contributed more than 36,000 hours to help us accomplish all of the important work needed to carry out our mission and foster volunteers opened their hearts and homes to provide temporary housing for 329 pets needing more time to grow or to heal from medical

or behavioral issues. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers!

Due to the pandemic, our humane education team was limited with in-person activities but still conducted 31 off-site visits and 73 on-site events to share humane education learnings with adults and children throughout the region. Our skilled medical team vaccinated 1000 animals, conducted 10 Chip and Tag Clinics in the community where they microchipped almost 300 pets and also performed almost 700 spay and neuter surgeries. For the fourth year in a row, we were awarded first place in the Best Non-Profit Organization category in the Duluth News Tribune's Northland's People's Choice Awards!

The New Year is bringing some changes to our Board of Directors. We said goodbye to Board Treasurer, Jennifer Smith, as her term ended on 12/31/2021. John Strange is the new Board Treasurer. Candy Madich will continue to lead us as Board Chair, Christina Knetsch will continue as Board Vice-Chair and Rebba Olson will continue as Board Secretary. We welcome two new Board members, Brianna Holbeck and Ruth Westra. Thank you to all of our Board members for their dedicated service! We are excited for the New Year and look forward to continuing our success in 2022! Thank you for all that you do in support of Animal Allies Humane Society so we can successfully carry out our mission to ensure a loving home for every pet. Wishing you and your family every happiness in the New Year!

Gratefully yours,

Julie Waltenburg  
Executive Director  
T: 218-722-5341, Ext. 215  
E: juliewaltenb@animalallies.net



**If you've included Animal Allies Humane Society in your estate plan, please fill out the form at [FreeWill.com/Record/AnimalAllies](https://www.FreeWill.com/Record/AnimalAllies) or through this QR Code to let us know. We want to say thank you and update our records!**

4006 Airport Rd, Duluth, MN 55811 • (218) 722-5341 • animalallies.net  
Open Tuesday through Saturday, Noon to 6pm and Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.



# HUMANE EDUCATION

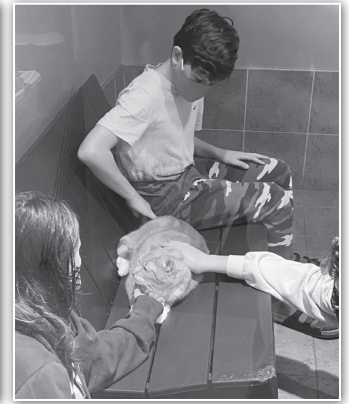


All our work at Animal Allies is vitally important. Saving an individual pet instantly changes the world for the better. But to benefit all pets and people, there is no more important investment than our work with Humane Education. By teaching respect and care, we can build a better, kinder community for years to come.

Humane Education is a field of study and approach to teaching that draws connections between human rights, animal protection, and environmental sustainability with the goal of preparing people to be compassionate, dedicated solutionaries, able to identify unjust, inhumane, and unsustainable systems and create solutions that enable people, animals, and nature to thrive.

Here at Animal Allies, we believe there is no age limit on learning how to be a better animal advocate in our community. Thanks to years of programming here in the Northland, we have cultivated a very pet friendly area. Yet there are always new topics to explore and new ways to engage the public. Animal Allies offers school/program visits, summer camps and birthday parties, among many other learning opportunities available.

Humane Education Manager Nicole Facciotto says she's excited about continuing to expand our reach in 2022. "My goal for the new year is to continue connecting with new organizations to get our programming to as many community members as possible. Ensuring the Twin Ports is a well educated, animal welfare savvy community is very important to our mission. Whether it be teaching a pet safety course in a classroom, or coordinating a Pet Away Stress session at a local nursing home, if the want is there - it's my goal to be there in 2022". If you are interested in learning more about our Humane Education programming email [nicole@animalallies.net](mailto:nicole@animalallies.net) or visit [www.animalallies.net](http://www.animalallies.net).





# PERDITA & PONGO PLUS THREE



**Winnie, the playful one**

All together they were a whirlwind, and quite a handful for their mother. When it was time to wean the puppies, Perdita seemed more than ready to enjoy some hard-earned "me time" away from her boisterous babies. As a mother, Perdita rose to the occasion and gave her litter the most loving care. But once they could fend for themselves, this little mama wanted to have her own life. Soon enough, she was able to!

Just a few months after being rescued, Perdita went to her new home. Her adopter gave her the perfect name: Ripley! After her tough experiences and her hard work as a mama, Ripley has seamlessly adapted to life in a loving home. "She's such a great dog. She's settled in well and is the biggest snuggle bug. She



**Ripley getting pampered in her new home**

always wants to curl up with my sister and me," says her adopter. "She met all the nieces and nephews and was so gentle with all of them."

Much like her puppies, Ripley has turned out to be a champion chewer who enjoys ripping apart toys. She and her family have big plans for the summer.

"We plan on going on lots of hikes, lake outings, and long walks once it's

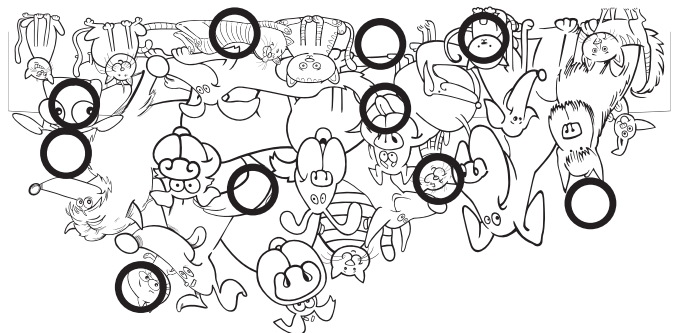
warm enough. We love her so much!" We are so proud of Ripley for overcoming the odds and raising her little family with love and care. At her young age, she can look forward to years of adventures and snuggles, and she has certainly earned them all.



**Ripley loves to chew toys**

Located on Page 10

## FIND 10 DIFFERENCES ANSWERS





# 🐾 🐾 **VOLUNTEERS** 🐾

## 🐾 🐾 **BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW** 🐾

*By Shirley De La Torre*

Volunteers at Animal Allies really stepped up their game as we rounded out 2021. From the plethora of applicants this summer and fall, to the high number of volunteers that got fast tracked to higher ranks, to those that helped tackle all the events that came our way for fall and for the holidays. Volunteers were AMAZING!

Dog Buddy mentors worked double time training and leveling up new Dog Buddies. New Cat Buddies stepped in to become weekly regulars - which gave our veteran Cat Buddies a bit of much-needed support. Event volunteers had A LOT to do with our ShelDon stuffings, and a slew of holiday event needs. I also had the most wonderful Volunteer Coordinator Intern, Sienna Lomasi-Wanstall, who was a wonderful source of support and innovation!

And we all had lots of fun in the process! There are not enough words to say THANK YOU thoroughly enough, to convey just how much we value our volunteers and how grateful we are for everything they do for us. As we enjoy a bit of winter slumber and quiet time, we are eagerly looking forward to spring! In the spring we will resume training new volunteer applicants again. We will also launch a formal strategy for our Dogs Play for Life enrichment program for our shelter dogs.

Staff and Volunteers – Coming together to make it happen!



***Intern Sienna Lomasi-Wanstall and volunteer Jennifer Johnson braving the cold at Holiday Market***

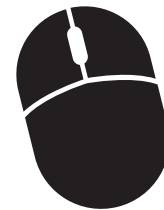


***New Dog Buddy Ellen Burkland was fast tracked to Level 2***



***New Cat Buddies Paul and Denise Danilewskie***

# GIVING FOR FREE: AS EASY AS A CLICK



If you're shopping anyway, take a few extra seconds to make your purchase benefit the animals. Here are some ways to "give" to Animal Allies without spending an extra penny!

## Target Circle

Through the end of March, Target Circle has selected Animal Allies to participate in its Community Giving Program.

The Community Giving Program allows Target Circle members to earn and cast votes to direct Target's charitable giving among participating nonprofits. Target awards grants to nonprofits based on Target Circle members' votes, giving more funds to those receiving a higher percentage of votes.

Target partnered with in/PACT and The GoodCoin Foundation to choose nonprofit partners working in communities near their store locations. Each nonprofit partner was selected based on criteria including their mission, programming, and their area of impact. Animal Allies was chosen for the months of January-March 2021.

Loyalty program members earn one vote each time they make an eligible purchase at Target, online or in-store.

### Here's how:

**In store:** At checkout, scan your Wallet barcode in the Target App, or scan the barcode on your receipt with the Target App within seven days of purchase.

**Online:** To earn a vote on an online purchase, make sure you're signed in to your Target.com account.

All votes are cast online. When the last vote is cast on March 31, grant funds will be allocated accordingly, and we will receive the donation by the end of May!



## AmazonSmile

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the nonprofit of your choice. They also occasionally offer promotions that increase the donation amount on particular products. All you must do is order your Amazon purchases through AmazonSmile.



### Here's how:

Visit smile.amazon.com. The site will use your regular Amazon account. If you don't have one, you can sign up. You will be prompted to choose a nonprofit, and the site will remember the same nonprofit every time you log in. When shopping, eligible products are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation."

You can check at any time to see how much your purchases have "given" to the animals. Since signing up as an eligible nonprofit, our supporters have earned \$8,799.78 for Animal Allies—and all for free!

## Grounds & Hounds

Grounds & Hounds Coffee Co donates 20% of all proceeds to animal rescue organizations around the country, including Animal Allies. The company chooses innovative and impactful programs to receive funds. If

you're ordering coffee online, Grounds & Hounds ensures that you are helping dogs, too. [groundsandhoundscoffee.com](https://www.groundsandhoundscoffee.com)





# COMING IN FROM THE COLD: FROSTY'S STORY

On November 23, 2021, a Saginaw resident found a little black cat hiding in her garage. The cat was almost frozen and, though breathing, unresponsive. Alarmed, the good Samaritan called Animal Allies asking how to transport the fragile kitty to the shelter without further endangering her. This fast acting may have saved the cat's life. All bundled in blankets, she arrived at Animal Allies soon after she was first found.



**Getting fluids on arrival at AAHS**

At the shelter, bundled up in blankets, the little black kitty remained unresponsive. Medical staff went to work checking her vitals and figuring out what emergency treatment she would need right away. Her body temperature was so low that the thermometer couldn't register a result. Her breathing was deep and very slow: just two breaths per minute, compared to the normal 20-30 breaths per minute of a healthy cat.

She was chilled, emaciated, and dehydrated. An IV with warm fluids helped hydrate her while slowly and carefully raising her body temperature. After about an hour, to everyone's great relief, she regained consciousness. We named her Frosty.

And as soon as Frosty woke up, she was hungry! She scarfed down the small amounts of wet food that vet staff offered her. Poor little Frosty was skin and bones: though she appeared to be an adult, she only weighed about 4.2 pounds. To safely grow bigger and stronger, Frosty would need to gain weight

slowly through carefully feeding. When malnourished animals eat too much in the days after they are rescued, they can develop refeeding syndrome, which can lead to cardiac arrest. It might seem counterintuitive, but if allowed to eat her fill right away, this hungry girl could hurt or even kill herself.

Medical staff set up a feeding plan to get her the calories she so desperately needed without allowing her to overeat and get sick. They set her goal weight at six pounds.

Over the next ten days, Frosty got slightly more food each day until she was up to the full recommended daily amount for her size. That was a happy day for this ravenous girl!



**Frosty feeling much better**

Medical staff kept a close eye on Frosty's appearance, demeanor, and litter box, checking for signs that she could be in danger of getting sick. But she kept steadily gaining weight. As she ate and grew healthier, Frosty's true personality began to show. She is sweet and wiggly with a calm, peaceful spirit.

Finally, on January 5, six weeks after her arrival at Animal Allies as a limp, emaciated little bundle of fur, Frosty hit her goal weight of six pounds. She was spayed and given a final once-over by the vet. On January 12 she was cleared for adoption. She went to her new home that same day.



**Cuddles at the shelter**

simple, cool-headed emergency response followed by patience and careful long-term monitoring to turn an endangered pet's life around.

We are grateful to Frosty's quick-thinking finder and to everyone who contributed towards our Healing Hearts and Paws Fund and towards her individual care. It is so comforting to know we live in a community that cares for pets when they are most in need.



**With her new family**

Frosty's experience is a reminder that not every life-saving medical intervention here at Animal Allies includes a dramatic surgery—sometimes it takes

# TRIBUTES

The following tributes were received in October, November, and December.  
 If you do not see your listing in this issue, look for it in the next.  
 If you see an error regarding your donation, please call and let us know: (218) 722-5341, Ext. 214.

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 The Leblanc Family





# MEET VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

## SHIRLEY DE LA TORRE

### How long have you been with Animal Allies?

2 and a half years.

**Where did you grow up?** Florida. Moved to MN when I was 17 years old.

### What do you like best about working for AAHS?

That everyone - no matter their position - is all about the animals and their well-being! I have worked for other shelters and no one can hold a candle to what Animal Allies offers. With Fear Free, Dogs Play For Life, and the intense enrichment animals receive, Animal Allies sets the bar very high!

### Do you have any animals?

Two kitties - Cosette and Nedjem. Long haired divas to whom I have pledged eternal servitude.

### What do you like to do for fun?

Walk along the lake and search for lake glass, snow shoeing, long walks in the woods, hanging with friends. Big Beargrease fan! I also do tarot cards, and intuitive readings, and love to just hang with my kitties, sipping tea, listening to music and admiring my many crystals.

### What's your favorite animal transformation story?

Lumpita/Bellvedere! She was soooo frightened and sooo withdrawn. Thanks to time, patience, and an amazing foster, she bloomed into a sweet and social kitty. I remember discussing Quality of Life for her and I was afraid of what a possible outcome might be. But she surprised us all!

### What's life like on the volunteer/administrative team?

Busy and varied! As Volunteer Coordinator I am primarily training and managing the database for volunteer info. I also conduct reviews, meetings, buddy sessions, trouble shoot, have one-on-one sit downs, and create opportunities for acknowledgement, enrichment and fun for the volunteers. As a part of the admin team I also help with events, ShelDon projects, development, customer service, and more. Never boring! But what a wonderful thing to have a part in so many roles and be able to have a positive impact.



### Lasting words of animal wisdom:

From Suzanne Clothier:

"There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other. To those who have never lived through its turnings or walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible.

Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given."



animal allies

HUMANE SOCIETY

Bringing Pets and People Together



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SATURDAY • JUNE 4TH 2022**

**We will be back at Bayfront Park this year!**  
**There will be exciting activities, contests, prizes, food and more.**

Watch for details in our next Pawprint and on our Facebook page!



# SAVE A LIFE BECOME AN ANIMAL ALLIES MEMBER



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Animal Allies Humane Society does not sell or give contact information to any other organization.*

## Payment Method

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

- Check or Cash  
 Credit card  
 VISA     MasterCard     Discover

ACCT # \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to join other supporters who have made gifts of appreciated stock. Please contact me with the Animal Allies account and DTC numbers. I prefer to be reached by \_\_\_\_\_

You can also **Access Transfer Information** online at [animalallies.net/give](http://animalallies.net/give) then click on the **Give Stock** button

Create your legal will at [freewill.com/animalallies](http://freewill.com/animalallies).

## Thank you for your donation

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of Person, name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of Person, name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of Pet, name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of Pet, name \_\_\_\_\_

## Send acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership levels

- Miriam Carlstedt Society - Animal Lover**  
**\$400 Monthly\* / \$5,000 Annually**  
 This level provides spay/neuter services for all the animals in our shelter for one month.
- Animal Champion**  
**\$250 Monthly\* / \$3,000 Annually**  
 This level provides extra care for an animal to treat ailments such as heartworm, specialty surgical procedures, medical conditions or broken bones.
- Animal Hero**  
**\$80 Monthly\* / \$1,000 Annually**  
 This level provides in-house dental procedures for 4 shelter dogs.
- Animal Angel**  
**\$40 Monthly\* / \$500 Annually**  
 This level spays/neuters a mother and her litter of 6 puppies.
- Animal Protector**  
**\$20 Monthly\* / \$250 Annually**  
 This level provides food for 4 dogs for one month at the shelter.
- Animal Friend**  
**\$10 Monthly\* / \$100 Annually**  
 This level vaccinates 10 dogs against disease.
- Animal Rescuer - \$60 Annually**  
 This level provides our life saving transport van with a tank of gas.
- Animal Ally - \$30 Annually**  
 This level microchips 3 pets to help them return home should they become lost
- Student/Senior - \$25 Annually**  
 This level feeds a mother and her 7 kittens for one week.

## All Members Receive:

- 10% off Adoption Fees
- 10% Retail Discount
- 10% off Humane Education Activities
- Continued Subscription to *The Paw Print*
- 2022 Membership T-shirt
- "Third Thursdays" Membership Appreciation Day  
*Save 20% on adoption fees and retail purchases.*

## \*Become a Monthly Sustaining Member!

For more information, or to become a Sustaining Member, visit [www.animalallies.net/member](http://www.animalallies.net/member) or call (218) 722-5341 Ext.214



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Be the first to know! Sign up for email notifications on our website or follow us on Facebook to learn about exciting events and adoption promotions!



# FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



(SEE PAGE 4 FOR ANSWERS)

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Muriel Whiteside and the trustees of the Muriel Whiteside Charitable Trust who provide a generous annual gift to help the homeless cats and dogs we serve. We are humbled by the ongoing support and could not achieve our mission without you. Thank you!

