Ellie the Bunny’s Happy Tail

This hippity-hoppity Happy Tail is about Ellie, a rabbit who was adopted from us back in July and is flourishing in her new home! Eleanor, (formerly Birdie) was found outside, scared and alone, and brought into our care to find her furever family.

Her mom fell in love with her all the way from Indiana, and drove hours to pick her up and bring her home!

She says, “Eleanor is doing great! We have a million nicknames for her: Ellie, Ellie-nor, Miss Ma’am, the list goes on. She has a lovely playpen setup for the nighttime in our bedroom, but during the day she has free roam of the whole downstairs! She is such a confident bunny! She has a sweet disposition and can make friends with anyone.

In fact, she has been an asset in terms of socializing foster kittens to respect small critters. She LOVES kittens! I’d find them snuggled up together all the time.

Ellie is such a special bunny. I have never met another one quite like her! We love her so much, and can’t thank you enough for letting us be her forever home. We can’t imagine a day without her!”

Because of supporters like you, Ellie was able to be rescued and now lives hoppily ever after—thank you!
Paws, Claws & Corks 2021

Paws, Claws & Corks has become a beloved annual tradition for animal advocates in West Michigan and this year was no different. Although there were necessary changes to the event format due to the COVID-19 virus and mandated restrictions in place, Humane Society of West Michigan was still able to host an incredible evening featuring tastes from fantastic local restaurants, exciting auction packages, and, most importantly, celebrating the work and continued mission of our organization throughout the difficult past year.

Over 400 guests enjoyed the 9th annual Paws, Claws & Corks event on Monday, March 15th, 2021. This year’s hybrid format allowed guests to stay socially distanced while still enjoying fine wine, great food from Noco Provisions, Two Scotts BBQ, and Shaker & Swine, and fun Pawty Packs filled with goodies for themselves and their furry friends at home!

Participants heard the stories of Griffin, Grace, and Frankie – three animals whose lives were changed forever by HSWM. Grace and Frankie were a bonded pair of sisters who spent the first two years of their lives in a small outdoor kennel, never knowing the luxuries of a home and true love, who found their forever home that defines their lives were changed forever by HSWM. Grace and Frankie were a bonded pair of sisters who spent the first two years of their lives in a small outdoor kennel, never knowing the luxuries of a home and true love, who found their forever home that definitions are so incredibly lucky to have Tom’s legacy lives on even after his passing with his incredible, passionate personality with the most infectious personality. You can be having a bad day, and the second you see just got better! Lynn primarily works as an adoption counselor and helps families find the perfect pet for their home, but she’s always willing to help wherever she’s needed! We are so incredibly lucky to have him on our team. Thank you, Lynn, for all that you do!

Lynn started volunteering with HSWM in 2015, and hasn’t stopped since! She is an incredible, passionate woman with the most infectious personality. You can be having a bad day, and the second you see Lynn (or her famous chocolate chip cookies) you know your day just got better! Lynn primarily works as an adoption counselor and helps families find the perfect pet for their home, but she’s always willing to help wherever she’s needed! We are so incredibly lucky to have her on our team. Thank you, Lynn, for all that you do!

Welcome spring!

As animal welfare organizations across the nation prepare for our “busy season”, some amazing data is emerging from pandemic-related animal services. Demand for adoption has skyrocketed and more animals are being housed in foster homes than ever before! Utilizing foster homes allows for a large reduction in stress and illness of the animals and we are able to learn valuable information on how these animals do in a home environment and what type of family will be best for them.

At HSWM, our return rates have dropped significantly and we are learning that our community can be our “shelter". Recently, families facing hardship have had an increased need for pet food assistance, low-cost veterinary care, behavior support, and so much more, and HSWM is tailoring our programs to meet this need. The generosity of this community has allowed us to help bridge the gap and keep pets where they belong— with the people that love them. The model for animal welfare is evolving and we are so thankful you are supporting us as a part of it!

Holly Guild – Executive Director

Did You Know?

Humane Society of West Michigan offers a variety of programs to help support pet owners in the Grand Rapids area!

We provide services such as…

Walk-in Microchipping
Stop into our Admitting Department Tuesday through Friday, between 1-4pm to get your pet microchipped for only $15!

Low-income Vaccine Clinic
These clinics allow those who qualify to make an appointment and get their pets vaccinated at just $10 - $15 per vaccine!

Kibble Konnection
A pet food bank program, in partnership with Access of West MI Food Pantry network, which provides pet food to families in need.

Thank you to our leading sponsors!

Meijer
Donald Tassell
Fox Subaru
Joyce Wisner
Pet Supplies Plus
Haslem Law
Sleepy Hollow Pet Cemetery & Crematory

Volunteer Spotlight

Griffin came to us with extensive burns all along his back, but with time, love, and daily bandage changes, our vet staff helped him heal and find his purpose helping others!

Grace and Frankie have found their forever home! Their story is incredible. When they were rescued, they were found infertile. But, they are now able to have a successful litter and give birth to healthy puppies! Griffin is a slow starter, with extensive burns all along his back, but with the help of Michelle and her team, he has been able to find his purpose helping others!

Honoring Tom Huedepohl

HSWM is proud to have the opportunity to recognize Tom Huedepohl at Paws, Claws & Corks 2021! Tom was a dedicated helper who cared deeply about animals in need. He loved animals his whole life and chose to give back to those at HSWM through volunteering. Tom not only gave his time and love to the pets in our care, but also chose to provide financial support to help HSWM fulfill our mission. Tom’s legacy lives on even after his passing with his generous support through a bequest. We are thankful to have the opportunity to honor Tom!

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