

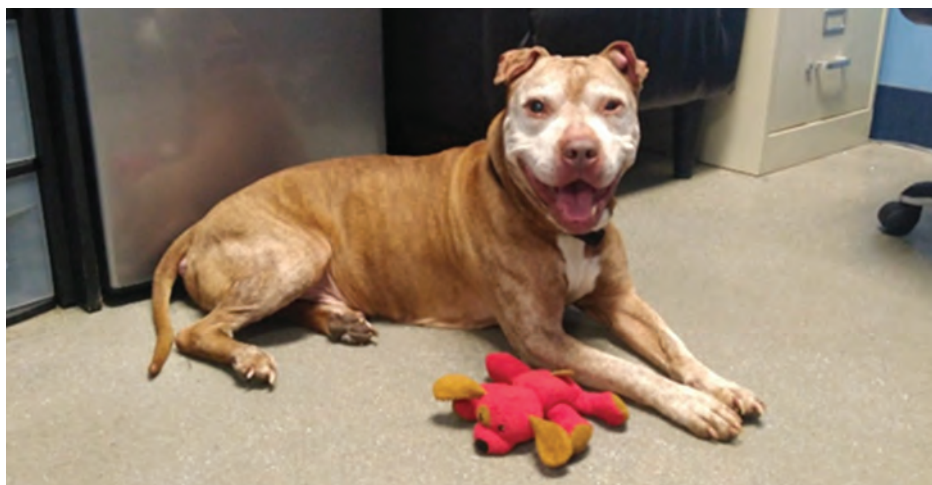
The Journey: Look at Spot Go!

Spot has always been a spirited girl, if not a little misunderstood. She was surrendered to St. Hubert's due to behavioral challenges, and her stress only seemed to increase the longer she was in the shelter.

But despite her fears, Spot waited in the shelter patiently for the right family to come along. A few months after arriving, Spot was adopted into a loving home where she is finally free to be herself (curious piggy snorts and all).

Spot's new family absolutely adores her — you can find her sleeping in bed with them every night! Most recently, Spot — who now goes by her new name Roxy — was seen all dressed up in her holiday sweater as she joined us for Santa Paws, an annual “photos with Santa” event that provides funds to support St. Hubert's.

As you can see in her picture, this sweet girl is enjoying the happy life she always deserved, and it is all thanks to kindhearted people like you who helped give her a second chance!



FROM CRISIS TO CARE:

A Safe Haven for Deuce and Matthew

Deuce is a 13-year-old Pitbull. Matthew is his person. The two have been together since Deuce was a six-week-old puppy.

Recently Matthew lost his home. Because finding a safe home for himself was difficult enough — much less one that would also take a large dog — Matthew made the heartbreaking decision to relinquish Deuce to our shelter while he looked for a place to live.

Here at St. Hubert's, we recognize that pets are an emotional lifeline, especially for people like Matthew. So, we instead offered to enroll Deuce in our Safe Haven program — originally conceived to provide support for victims of domestic violence but expanded to help families facing emergencies — to give Matthew time to find safe housing for them both.

Deuce immediately won over our team, spending his days at our front desk welcoming patrons and his evenings in temporary foster care — often with St. Hubert's staff members! Our team often sent Matthew photo updates of Deuce's antics around the shelter. After 45 days, Matthew found a pet-friendly hotel where he and Deuce were reunited while he continued to look for a permanent home.

Sadly, in this unstable economy stories like Deuce and Matthew's are not unique. We're so grateful for supporters like you who make it possible to keep people and their pets together while we all work, together, to create a world in which all animals can thrive.

A Message from Lisa LaFontaine

For over 80 years, St. Hubert's has been a pillar of hope in our community, protecting animals, supporting families, and advocating for a world in which all animals, regardless of species, size, or temperament, can thrive. Today, that mission is more critical than ever.

I am constantly inspired by the resilience of the people and animals we serve and by the unwavering support of kindhearted people like you. You are choosing to lead with compassion, and it has made all the difference for the animals in our region. Deuce is just one example; this sweet dog was almost relinquished when his person lost his home. But thanks to your generosity, his story had a happy ending. Today, Deuce is back with his human — where he belongs.

As you read this issue, you'll learn more about animals whose lives you have touched; learn how to keep your pet safe and healthy while you're on vacation; and get tips on building a playhouse for your animals!

Most importantly, I hope this newsletter fills you with pride for the lifesaving work you make possible each day. Through rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, pet food pantries, emergency medical care, and more, we are keeping families together and giving second chances to vulnerable animals who deserve a happy life.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support and friendship. I know that together, we will continue to make a lasting impact as we build a more compassionate world for animals and the people who love them.

All the best,



Lisa LaFontaine
President and Chief Executive Officer



Ways to Give Back:

Shop the St. Hubert's Wish List



As a community-centered organization, St. Hubert's relies on the support of friends like you to keep vulnerable animals protected and cherished.

We currently have wish lists with Cuddly and Amazon, through which you can donate towels, blankets, food, treats, toys, and many other quality goods that will ensure every animal who comes through our door can stay happy and healthy while they wait to meet their new families.

Please visit sthuberts.org/wishlist to donate today!

Meet Sophia and her best friend Smudge!

Sophia has loved animals since the moment she first saw her favorite childhood animation: Wild Kratts. That's why she couldn't wait to join the St. Hubert's Youth Task Force, which provides high school students with the opportunity to volunteer on a weekly basis to support the needs of our shelter.

From her first shift, Sophia was drawn to Smudge. This sweet cat spent her days by the windowsill, where she could observe volunteers from a safe distance. Sophia knew she needed to gain Smudge's trust, so for weeks, she left different treats on the windowsill for her and occasionally stuck out her hand so Smudge could get used to her scent.

Eventually, Smudge let Sophia pet her. As the days passed, Sophia slowly increased her affection as Smudge completely broke out of her shell. Today, Smudge enjoys everyone's company — but Sophia's most of all! If her favorite companion visits without petting her, Smudge will stare and meow at Sophia until she gets some attention.

That is the true power of the human-animal bond — a connection that can ease our fears, comfort us in difficult times, and give us the space to give and receive love. “I want to tell other youth interested in volunteering with animals that it is all so worth it, and you learn so much,” says Sophia.

“My time at St. Hubert's will be one I will remember for the rest of my life.” And we are so grateful for her dedication and hard work, which is making a real difference in the lives of our shelter animals! If you're interested in volunteering with St. Hubert's, please visit sthuberts.org/youth-task-force.



ASK ADRIENNE



I travel a lot for work, so I have to leave my dog in the care of family, friends, and daycare. She is very anxious when she's not with me, though, and can be a handful. How can I better prepare my pet for necessary care from others? -Troubled Traveler

Dear Troubled Traveler: When I needed a new pet sitter, I invited them over for a “getting to know you” session. During the visit, we went outside and played fetch. We did this because my three dogs are ball-crazy, so playing their favorite game was the surest way to win them over. When the pet sitter returned, the dogs ran straight to the back door, hoping to play another game of fetch.

On the other hand, my four cats are huge fans of treats and wand toys. Still, one of them was initially taken aback by having a new person in his space. However, within a few days of the pet sitter's stay at my house, she won him over by ignoring him when he showed signs of fear, playing with the other cats with a wand toy, and tossing treats their way. Eventually, he couldn't resist and wanted to join in on the fun. The moral of the story is if you plan on having someone stay at your place, scheduling a few sessions while you are still in town can go a long way toward getting your pet acclimated.

If your pet needs to stay at a friend's or relative's home, make sure your pet has a familiar, safe place to relax, such as their bed, a blanket, or a crate from home. Bring them to the unfamiliar house a few times before your trip and do fun things with the sitter to help build a positive relationship.

If your pet needs to be boarded, call the boarding service and ask if you can send some things from home — providing your pet with a familiar scent can help soothe your pet during their stay. Other options include pheromone sprays and pheromone-infused collars, designed to reduce anxiety. If your pet's anxiety is significant, speak to your vet about anxiety-reducing medications that can be used to help your pet get through a difficult time.

SPECIAL FEATURE

A DIY Playhouse for Your Favorite Companion

If you've ever noticed your kitty jumping in old boxes or hiding under the furniture, then they'd probably love a cardboard house!

Luckily, you can build one in no time — all you need is some cardboard boxes, scissors, and a little bit of imagination. Start by cutting a hole in a cardboard box for your cat to use as a doorway and throw a blanket or some favorite toys in there so they can get comfortable.

Then, if you want to take things to the next level, you can use spray paint, construction paper, or more boxes to personalize your cat's new favorite spot in the house. If you have kids, this could be a great activity to involve them in!



ST. HUBERT'S
ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER
PART OF THE HUMANE RESCUE ALLIANCE

LEAVE A

Legacy

A planned gift can take many forms, from stocks, bonds, and life insurance benefits to a bequest from your will or trust. Some choose a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), which allows individuals at least 70½ years old to donate to nonprofits like St. Hubert's directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions.

Planned gifts have significant advantages — for both you and St. Hubert's. A bequest is easy, revocable, and personally rewarding. If you'd like to explore your planned giving options, just call Valerie DiBiaggio at 862-337-0260 or email her at vdibiaggio@sthuberts.org.

OUR MISSION

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. We believe in and provide services that support the human-animal bond and seek to foster an environment in which people respect all living creatures.

CONTACT US

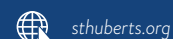
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