

**As the year draws to a close**, we again bring you stories of animals that came into our custody in 2022, this year the vast majority in need of critical care — and most with very happy endings. This year, Illinois Humane again fulfilled its mission investigating cruelty and neglect matters, with a number of successful prosecutions. We do this work as volunteers — yes it is intense, time consuming, detailed work requiring at no cost to our local communities. Our budget is dedicated to the

training and skill. It is a service provided by our volunteers animals that are the victims of these cases, and we have also for the past several years accepted animals requiring critical veterinary intervention from local animal control.

We take full custody of these animals and this year we would like to highlight stories of their placement in loving permanent homes. We have had some wonderful placements in the last many months, folks coming forward to foster animals and ultimately adopt them. And, angels coming out of the blue, able to provide loving homes for animals with special needs.

Please take time to read the stories, and enjoy the photos. They are the animals' stories yet also your stories, possible due to your generous support.

## Cuddles

In the middle of May 2022, Illinois Humane accepted a transfer from the Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control named Cuddles. Many changes had taken place for this little girl in her previous homes, and her current person needed to give her up. Little Cuddles was way overweight. A rat terrier, weighing 24 pounds, she not surprisingly had difficulty breathing and also experienced fainting episodes — both the result of a stressed heart. She had severe dental disease. And cataracts. Nonetheless, she was absolutely adorable.

The first priority was her weight. Illinois Humane was able to secure foster care with all the right stuff. Foster Mom insisted on a disciplined diet, and Illinois Humane's medical care included three different heart medications. Foster Mom got her out for regular measured walks that increased as Cuddles ability to tolerate exercise improved. Soon the fainting spells disappeared. Her breathing improved. Key to the weight loss, really bringing fun to everyone's life, were Cuddles foster canine siblings. They not only welcomed her, but she turned out to be the long awaited ready playmate one of her siblings so dearly wanted. In a remarkable short time, Cuddles shed eight pounds.

With the special capabilities of Dr. Larry Baker, Northgate Pet Hospital, she received the significant dental care that was needed despite her heart condition. This work included repair of an oronasal fistula (hole in the mouth roof due to severe decay). The repair gave Cuddles her full bark back! Foster Mom indicated that the relief the little girl experienced due to the dental work gave her new life, celebrated to the hilt by having her bark back!!



## Teddy

Adorable. “I am in love with him”. These are the words that come to us within minutes of anyone and everyone meeting Teddy. Teddy was among four pups impounded late in May of 2022 having been left in small crates, outdoors in the rain, no food or water and the sanitation was terrible. The owner knew the dogs either had parvo virus (often fatal in puppies) or had been exposed to it. One of the pups, infected with parvo, perished shortly after the four were impounded. The other three were held and tested, all three ultimately testing negative (a negative test is not guaranteed to be conclusive).

Illinois Humane conducted the neglect case investigation in cooperation with other agencies. Coordinating the documentation, Illinois Humane prepared the matter for prosecution and charges were filed.

The pups were maintained first by the Animal Protective League, given its expertise with parvo cases, and once beyond the isolation stage, the remaining three pups were held by Sangamon County Animal Control. Two showed no symptoms and returned to full health. Little Teddy never tested positive, but also never got over digestive issues that resulted in bloody stool. Teddy had a voracious appetite yet did not gain weight; he became increasingly thin and ultimately became so weak his life was in danger. At this point animal control sought Illinois Humane’s help with diagnostics and supportive care.

Teddy has responded to intensive supportive care by gaining weight and recovering strength, but his symptoms are still not resolved and the cause remains unconfirmed. Diagnostics have explored all possible maladies, and exploratory surgery has been done to facilitate biopsies of a variety of tissues for all manner of infections. Teddy’s foster Mom has been a saint given the symptoms we have been struggling with. Little Teddy will eliminate in his crate at least once through the night. He is better, much better, but all is not yet resolved. We need little Ted to keep melting hearts; we will get to the bottom of his condition yet!



## Gilles



An Alsatian Shepherd, given an Alsatian name, that ended up causing endless pronunciation debates! A DNA test showed that he is indeed a German Shepherd/ Great Pyrenees mix. Gilles came to Illinois Humane in late May 2022, accepted from local animal control field services with a severely broken back leg that was horribly swollen and bruised – believed to be several days old. Gilles was also terribly thin. He had no identification, no one claimed him. A fix was possible, requiring University of Illinois specialists. The ultimate medical rehabilitation also addressed a distressed hock on the same leg.

Gilles’ foster home, Maureen and Randy, are long time members of the local rescue community. Maureen was just retiring when Gilles came into Illinois Humane’s care. Gilles was going to have a very involved recovery. Physical therapy and return visits to the university hospital would stretch over months. It could not have been more of a miracle that Maureen and Randy answered the call when they did, to foster this boy. Early on they agreed to ultimately adopt him. Also early on, they changed his name! His new name is Teddy.

## Toad

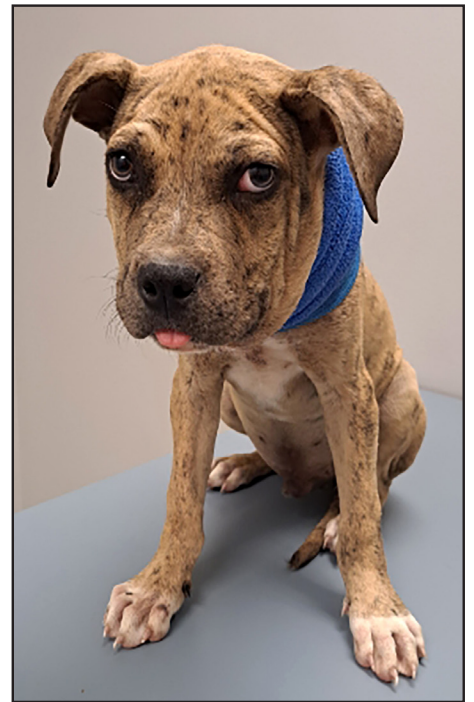
This little pitty boy’s name is Toad? Once healed, his big brown eyes did give a bit of the appearance of a toad.



In June of 2022, Toad was recovered by Illinois Humane's investigations team when his owner refused to relinquish him for care he needed. Toad's collar had grown into his neck so badly, it was threatening the jugular vein. The doctor was able to cut out the collar, but the owner walked out of the clinic without providing additional treatment, taking the puppy with her with a mere bandage covering the horribly gaping wound. His right eye had begun to bulge due to fluid buildup. The owner refused to relinquish the animal to the vet clinic so they could provide the care.

Illinois Humane's investigator Angela Hayes visited the owner's home immediately upon receiving information about the situation, secured the dog for emergency care, and aptly used all procedural tools available to secure impoundment of the animal and refer the case to prosecutors. The owner pled guilty to the cruelty charge.

Toad was still young and puppies fortunately are healing machines. In many cases collar cut injuries have to heal from within due to a lack of tissue to adequately stitch. It is a process of debriding and healing that requires sedation, bandaging and monitoring of the wound. Very fortunately, in Toad's case, the wound was able to be stitched. Illinois Humane provided all needed supportive care, and little Toad is now way down the road to recovery. He was fostered and since adopted by one of his veterinary care givers.



### Baby Dog



Baby Dog is an older girl, probably close to 14. In April of 2022, she came to Illinois Humane via Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control from animal control field services, screaming and crying in pain unable to stand. As it turns out, it was a horrible case of arthritis, her hocks badly swollen and her joints unable to support her weight. With proper medical treatment, Baby Dog is today living the life in her foster home, fully mobile. She jumps and prances when it is time for walks. She gets along beautifully with her foster home canine siblings. Baby Dog's case has been a true miracle of medicine, and a lesson in what a great life our treasured seniors can continue to enjoy with the right care. Hats off to Baby Dog's foster Mom, despite the screaming pain we heard in the beginning, she was willing to turn this girl's fortunes around with patient care and dedicated work with the veterinarian to gain the right mix of medications that will keep Baby Doll comfortable and active into the future.

### Sadie

In June of 2022, Sadie was recovered by Illinois Humane's investigators from terrible conditions. She was tethered in a crate, dirty rain water, no food. A neighbor put a tarp over the crate after about the third day of rain. An owner or caretaker was never located, so no one to prosecute. Sadie came to life in her foster home, and her new Dad (formerly the foster home, thank you new Dad !!) has every intention of spoiling her to make up for her prior existence.



### Max A Mil

Very early in August 2022 a report came in that a small dog had been hit by a SUV. Our investigator went to the location, it was dark, she could not find the animal and almost gave up. But didn't. Little Max A Mil was found at the side of the road. An obviously older Yorkie, his head was injured, and he was very thin — weighing 4.2 pounds. His owner was located. She had no transportation, and no money to pay for care. Illinois Humane retained custody, working with local animal control reviewing the condition of the dog.

The head injury, very fortunately, resolved without signs of concussion. Evidently the SUV had just rolled the dog. The weight condition

was worrisome. One look inside the mouth by a dental specialist explained it. His dental condition was terrible, so much so that it was painful for him. Illinois Humane insisted the dog be retained under impoundment for further evaluation. The owner, still desiring to reclaim the dog, agreed to Illinois Humane administering all needed care.

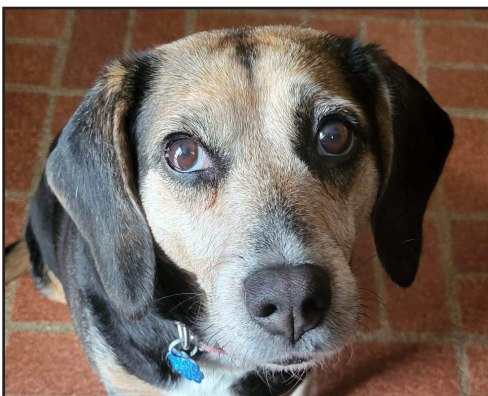
In the course of the dental evaluation, diagnostics revealed little Max had a severely collapsed trachea . . . so much so that he had to receive special supportive care before dental surgery could be attempted. Then, in the course of the dental surgery, it was observed that he had an old jaw fracture that resulted in degradation of much of that portion of his jaw. These two conditions explained why Max had a cough (the collapsed trachea) and why his face appeared slightly deformed on the right side. Max miraculously made it through all the surgical work. Max now weighs a respectable five pounds, his proper weight. The old fracture cannot be treated, there is nothing to be done. The trachea will require ongoing care and monitoring. The owner ultimately relinquished little Max to Illinois Humane for the lifelong care he will need.



## Placements



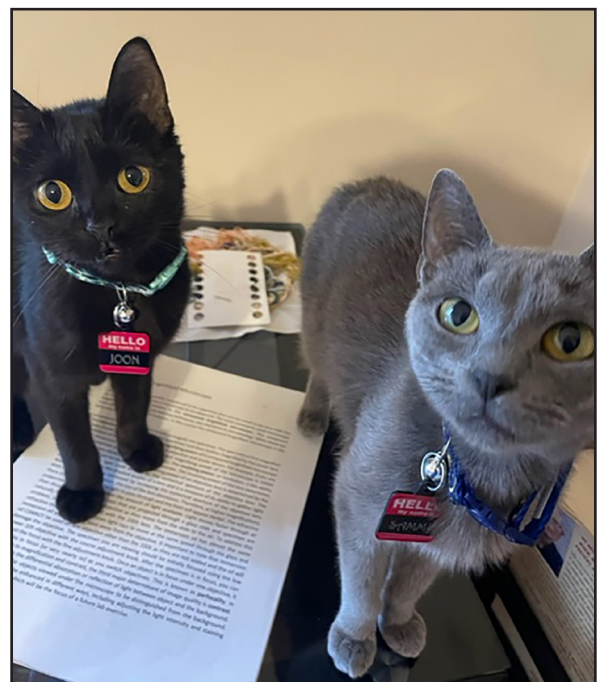
**Daisy** and **Riley** were abandoned by their owner. The owner's mother stepped in, madened by her daughter's behavior and determined to help the dogs. She could not adopt the animals herself, but working with local shelters, these animals found their safety net. Illinois Humane reached out to a past foster home, to see if they might be able to foster the two older dogs — and love flourished. Not only could they foster, but they immediately decided to adopt the pair.



**Trixie** and **Wolfie** are a pair of young cats that came to Illinois Humane from a situation all too common in our communities, senior citizen self neglect. Pets are often involved in these cases. When intervention is finally successful, the animals need considerable veterinary evaluation and updated wellness treatment as well as a period of supportive care. The good news for this pair is that their foster Mom has absolutely fallen in love, feels they are too spoiled at this point to live anywhere else, she has adopted them.

**Travis** and **Phoenix**, survivors of the deadly 2021 disease outbreak at Sangamon County Animal Control, became fast friends in foster care. They

were fostered by the good folks at Rediscover Your Dog (RYD), with whom Illinois Humane has a long standing relationship. Phoenix is a looker, and the calmer of the two. But he learned to match strength and ability with his more rambunctious foster sibling, who would pound on him mercilessly to play. Travis is the one who absolutely drilled himself into everyone's heart. He was sick when he arrived in foster care, his foster Mom gave him strict orders "don't die" and the game was on. He learned to take his meds, to eat properly. And in





return, he endlessly entertained. He was kept isolated at first, but that didn't keep him from batting his dry food under the door at any one who walked by. He particularly liked to do this with the dogs that came by. He learned how to make the slack mill go by running on the tread underneath. His food bowl was a favorite hockey puck. When the two boys, close in age, were fully recovered and ready to be adopted, hope beyond hope was that they could be placed together. And with all the luck in the world, Sally, who had just lost her two older cats, was looking for a young cat. She fell in love with the two. She could not be more excited about having young cats again. She and her husband turned their home into a young cat heaven. She refurbished the pet stroller to accommodate the two together, and many a new cat toy were ready for the boys when they got home. The two cats are still legend at RYD; the placement with Sally and her husband also legend in the category of happy endings.



**Ashley** came to Illinois Humane when Donna, the popular pet section manager at Big R of Springfield, suddenly passed away. Petite Ashley, a beautiful little girl with looks of a Russian Blue, was blind due to mature cataracts.

She has a little ability to discern shapes and shades with one of her eyes. She also had recurring ear infections, and a granulation in one ear that aggravated the tendency toward infection. Despite her physical limitations, she was a very personable kitty, active, an insistent affectionate lap cat, and it wasn't long before she made it clear in her foster home that she wanted to be a full participant in the household. But that would not be possible at her foster home, where there was a revolving door of fosters, best she be kept separate. After a year, her aggravation, which she voiced loudly, was terribly heartbreaking. If only we could find a home for her.

And then came the email from Libby. Her contribution to animal rescue and care was taking in blind cats. She had just lost one, and unfortunately was on a path to losing another. She would be willing to adopt Ashley. She was a former veterinary technician, serving 13 years as such, who had moved on to a career in cyber forensics. She worked from home. Could the potential be more perfect, and indeed it turned out to be. Ashley moved in with Libby early in the spring of 2022. The day of the transfer, all of the other kitties in the home greeted the newcomer at the door, calmly, directly. One would not know they were blind, they were very, very well adjusted kitties. Unfortunately, Miss Ashley was not as congenial. She was scared. Her new siblings seemed a little hurt by Ashley's hisses and growls, but gave her space. Their Mom was now going to have to tend to the newcomer. Ashley was going to have to find her way around a new living space, slowly, section by section of the sprawling ranch (appointed with ample cat furniture and furniture throws for comfy cat naps). Libby had a strategy all planned out and graciously kept Ashley's foster Mom updated with photos and videos for a good number of weeks.



As the weather warmed, Libby came to understand just how much Ashley enjoyed the outdoors. In her original home, Ashley would accompany the two small dogs in the home outdoors to spend time outside. Libby set Ash up with accommodations to allow her plenty of outdoor time. Ashley now, these days, spends much time sleeping in the sun in the fresh air. And those ears, the vets finally could not tolerate the granulation any longer and performed surgery to make sure it was not cancerous. It tested benign. Tough girl that she is, Ashley sailed through the surgery and the recovery, despite an ear full of stitches. There are angels on this earth, there are very good people, there is

good in this world . . . there is reason to take heart. There is Libby, with her house full of blind cats, who has provided the very best home for our precious little Ash.

**Albert** was a hold out, he was captured as a kitten from his birth outdoors to a feral mother, a week later than his siblings. As is notoriously so with ferals, a late capture can make all the difference in the world. He never did tame down like the others. Hence, he spent many years in Illinois Humane foster homes, semi-personable, not personable, unable to be handled, 100 percent elusive. It varied. The

one constant is that we just did not know what we would be able to do with him. He is a looker, all white with a few scant black markings. All the kittens were impacted by conjunctivitis when they came in, Albert even more so given the condition had another whole week to stew. Add the fact once he was ensconced in civilization, he was difficult to treat. Today, Albert's right eye bears the tell tale impact.

Yet, there came a point, quite out of the blue, when Albert started to seek attention from his foster Dad. He wrapped himself around his legs, and reached up when foster Dad came in to feed him. He steadily became more and more outgoing and affectionate. We received an inquiry about him, white cats tend to draw attention. We tried the adoption, warning that it may take a great deal of time for Albert to fully warm up in his new home. Patience ran thin, very thin, in the new home way too soon and Albert came back. We were afraid this would be a very significant setback, that it would be months again, if ever, that Albert would warm up. Fortunately, it was only weeks.

Albert's foster Dad recently decided to move, leave the area to a new job and closer to an ailing parent. Oh boy, what now. As it turns out, foster Dad had become as fond of Albert as Albert is of him. He agreed, he would find pet-friendly housing for both his dog and for Albert, and adopt Albert. Albert loves both foster Dad and his canine sibling. He is adjusting better than could be expected to the move. With much relief, and much gratitude, this is yet another heartwarming 2022 placement.

**Lola** is a beautiful black and white kitty, young and slender when she came to Illinois Humane. She had been hit by a car, recovered by animal control and transferred to Illinois Humane for care. Her surface wounds were treated. Her left front leg at first was not weight bearing but gradually resolved on its own. She was shy. She preferred to remain elusive, in a single room of the home. She loved foster Mom, would sit on her lap for hours. Lola was the home office kitty, which suited her just fine. But, she had a good appetite. The combination of elusive and healthy appetite resulted in a significant weight gain. She needed a home, where she could assimilate and

be distracted from the food bowl. She needed it now, before she gained any additional weight.



Almost on cue given the need, Roni contacted Illinois Humane looking for a cat for her mother, Patricia. The kitty she and her mother originally picked out may not have been the best choice, so attention was diverted to Lola. Patricia lived alone. There would be visitors. The visitors may include canines. But for the most part, Lola would have the home and Patricia to herself. Roni felt it might be a good fit, and was on board to give it a try. Roni was a very experienced pet owner, she could see that Lola and Patricia had potential as a good pair. She was right.

Lola stopped hiding amazingly soon after arriving at Patricia's home. We soon received a photo of Lola on Patricia's lap and a photo of Lola in the mix in the living room when the daughters were visiting. And just recently, at the 2022 Thanksgiving gathering, Lola did not hide at all and in fact went nose to nose without incident with her canine cousin. Patricia came into Lola's life in the nick of time, before any additional dangerous weight gain, in a home with all the right factors to allow Lola to assimilate consistent with her temperament. A perfect placement.

## In Tribute

### Frankie and Jack

Frankie, a toy poodle, and Jack, a jack russell, came to Illinois Humane from animal control field services a month apart. They both were older dogs, with age-driven life-threatening conditions.





Jack was recovered the last weekend in May, abandoned on a street corner. He was barely conscious, and had a tremor. He was in need of significant dental intervention. With a fair amount of deliberation with the treating vet, it was decided it was worth a try to see if he could be stabilized. In the course of a number of weeks Jack did stabilize, parameters becoming near normal. During these times, he enjoyed a lot of love in his foster home, got around on his own quite a bit, even interacted with his canine foster siblings. But, after two or three declines from which he did bounce back, and right before he was to receive the dental care he needed, he crashed again. It had become all too obvious he was indeed failing overall, no amount of support was moving him toward being able to maintain any semblance of quality of life on his own. We had tried. He lived his last days with significant care, in a loving environment.



Frankie's story mirrored Jack's. She too had been abandoned, brought in by animal control field services. She had a very large mammary tumor. She was stabilized, she gained some weight. The mammary tumor was so large it inhibited her movement, and had to be uncomfortable. It was removed. While she was under, it was detected that she had small lesions in her lungs. Now was the waiting game, to see if the condition causing the lesions was aggressive or not. Unfortunately, it was and we lost Frankie about a month after we lost Jack.

We give tribute to these two little lives. Our intervention allowed them to live out their very last days in a loving environment with medical and supportive care—they slipped from this life as comfortably as possible.

## Pally

Pally was 22 years-young when he passed away in January 2022. He was a sanctuary animal. He had quite the diagnosis back in 2013 when he first came to Illinois Humane. After a major seizure, he had been diagnosed with a brain tumor that at best gave him six months to live, or so was the prognosis. He was put on phenobarbital to control the seizures. He was FIV positive. It was decided he would be maintained in foster care for his remaining few months. He beat the odds!

Pally was a beautiful orange tabby with ample personality. If you, as a human, were accepted into his world you were the target of endless affection. If not, good luck providing him with any care, particularly administering his meds. Pally loved

his foster Mom, he loved his pet sitter of many years. Those twice daily meds, no problem if they came from Mom or his pet sitter, Sue. With the right humans involved, Pally would wear costumes for photos – thus helping with fundraisers and special promotions. He was a little fractious (more than a little) in the vet clinic. But his one vet, Dr. Armour, was fascinated by him. She finally administered an advanced FIV test, to try to understand if he truly had FIV. He did.

Pally lived for many years, tolerating twice daily doses of phenobarbital, with an alleged brain tumor and with a significant case of FIV. He was spirited. He was an inspiration. In his last months, despite a fairly good case of arthritis, he strode around his foster home large and in charge. One look at him and you knew he was a force. He is missed dearly.





**Illinois Humane deeply appreciates your past support, especially in the last two years.** Your contributions have made an undeniable difference in the lives of the animals in our care, our committed fosters, and in those whose families have been extended by an additional four-legged member. The vast majority of our funding, your donations, is used to pay for the medical needs of the animals that come into our custody. We continue to dedicate our budget to their care.

***We so appreciate your contribution to our mission,  
and ask for your continuing support.***

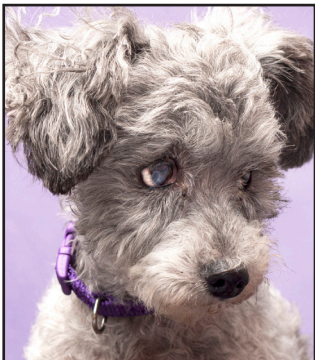


PHOTO CREDIT: Emily at BlueWolf Photos

**IllinoisHumane | P.O.Box512 | Springfield, Illinois62705 | [Info@illinoishumane.org](mailto:Info@illinoishumane.org)**