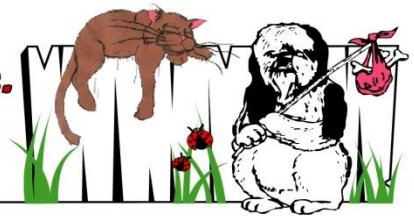


Stray No More, inc.

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• **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program** • **Pet Education** • **Adoptions**
www.straynomore.org

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Happy summer **Stray No More** family members!

It's time to celebrate **Stray No More's** twenty years of service to the community and fortunate animal rescues! The organization is still hard at work trying to live up to its empowering name-Stray **NO** More! Time to flashback ... its July 17, 1994, Lisa Fitzpatrick and Sandy Hightower in great anticipation, drove down to Homestead, FL. Their mission for the day was to bring 3 dogs back from a "Hurricane Andrew" dog camp (a few ladies had rescued 50 dogs after Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in August 1992). Due to the lack of funding, the dogs did not receive proper medical treatment and they all lived outdoors with little shelter. As they had anticipated, the dogs were in terrible shape. That incredible day, Lisa and Sandy returned with 5 dogs instead of 3! They also were without funding, but managed to take all 5 dogs to the vet spending their own money. It didn't take them any time to realize: **to truly make a difference in the lives of animals, they needed to form a 501©3 nonprofit organization!** Triumphantly, one year later, Stray No More *pawsitively* began its animal-saving journey!

It quickly became overwhelming and impossible to rescue EVERY animal. Consequently, they realized that in order to make a TRUE impact, the number of animals to be rescued had to be reduced! In November of 1997, **Stray No More's Low Cost Spay/Neuter program** began to make an impact-thanks to caring area veterinarians and a generous grant. Slogans evolved like: "Neuter or Spay it's the Only Way", "Spay and Neuter it Stops the Killing", "Let's PAY to spay and neuter all pets!"

In August 1995, Stray No More's board of directors (made up of mostly teachers) decided it was time to educate the future generation on proper pet care and the responsibilities pet ownership. Stray No More started the first humane education clubs in Palm Beach area schools naming them P.E.T.S. CLUB (P=people, E=Education, T=together, S=saves the pets)!

Stray No More truly consists of 3 parts: the rescue and placement of abandoned animals in forever loving homes, providing the low cost program to get pets "fixed" at an affordable price, and teaching the much needed information to children so that they will grow up and be responsible pet parents.

When putting together this special newsletter, which involved going through the thousand of rescue pet pictures, stories, and thank you letters; something very important struck me. Stray No More could never have accomplished so many rewarding rescues, or provided a spay/neuter program, if it wasn't for the hand of God. HE has guided us and helped to provide the financial means necessary to run this organization. *It is so rewarding to see HIS hand at work with the animals. We feel grateful to be doing the Lord's work for the animals and their human companions.*

And now for a few "Unusual" Rescue Stories....

ELLA: On a hot summer night, at 10 p.m., Sandy Hightower stepped out the front door of her home in Vero Beach to take a picture of the full moon. At the front door sat a very sick Calico cat crying up a storm. She called and reported the lost sick cat – no owner was ever found. Ella (named after Ella Fitzgerald because she sang so much!) survived only one week in her home. During that week, Ella was loved, provided medical treatment for her jaundice/liver failure, fed whatever she would eat and given the special treatment she desperately needed. Thanks to the people who donate to Stray No More. Those donations go to pay for the necessary medical treatment to help animals like Ella – even if it is for only a short time on earth.

HAGEN: This incredible story of Hagen made it in the news and on TV! Hagen was discovered at night lying in a ditch on Hagen Ranch road in April 2001. He was a 6 month old black pit bull puppy that had been used for pit bull fighting bait. It was assumed he was discarded and left to die in that ditch. With time, lots of love, consistent training and money for medical treatment, Hagen began to regain strength. Hagen owes his recovery to his completely devoted and loving foster parents-the Shearouse family. He was available for adoption for many years but, the right “potential” parents never came to adopt him. (Stray No More wants to ensure the right home for each pet. Each potential pet parent is interviewed and a home visit is conducted before any adoption.) Unfortunately, the people who were interviewed to adopt Hagen did not meet the adoption requirements. **SO, Hagen lived his whole life in his Stray No More “foster home” from 4/01 to 2/13 (when he went to Heaven)!** He became a regular member of the Shearouse family. Hagen got along great with their permanent pets and other fosters. He went on vacations, cruised in the boat with his life vest, and slept in bed with his foster parents. Hagen definitely had a wonderful life! A special thanks goes to our great vets, people who donated, and his foster home!



Hagen, first day of rescue

1 month later



3 years later!



SCUBA: While most of the dogs and cats SNM has rescued over the past 20 years (about 1,300), are eventually adopted, some of the animals spend their whole life in foster care. Once SNM legally rescues and places a pet into the organization, that pet will live in a foster home (like Hagen) until adopted. In 2009, an orange tabby male cat started roaming around the Hightower’s home and neighborhood. He was unaltered and feral. Finally, after six months, a feeding schedule was established. The schedule made it easy to set up a time to have him humanely trapped. He then went to the vet for tests, neutering, and vaccinations. The feral tabby (now named Scuba) was released back into the Hightower neighborhood. Scuba, feeling safe with the Hightower’s, decided to live in/out of their garage and front yard. After 3 years, he was trapped again. He needed his 3 year rabies shot, and a check up. Scuba had to have a tooth pulled and a growth removed on his back. When he came home from the vet this time, they put him in their spare bedroom for recovery. Within a few months he learned to enjoy being petted and brushed. He is today, after 4 years, an indoor cat getting along with dogs and other cats. Scuba LOVES to play with toys and he loves his brushes. Thanks to God for bringing them this feral cat and eventually getting him to live indoors. Fortunately, SNM was able to provide the funding for his medical treatment over the years! One of the many SNM miracles!!



Scuba, the once feral, now domestic cat!

Kodi: This unaltered male dog, covered from head to toe in briars, was walking down the middle of a four lane highway at 6:30am. It was January 2014 and only 38 degrees outside! Mark Hightower stopped his car in the middle of the road and called this helpless dog over to his truck. He and his wife took the dog to Animal Care and Control to see if his owners had reported his disappearance. He was a pure bred Pomeranian. The chance of an owner showing up was favorable- but NO ONE came (which was a good thing since it was obvious he was neglected and possibly abused). After a week, the dog (named Kodi) was placed into Stray No More's adoption program. Thankfully, he was quickly adopted into a wonderful loving home. Kodi had been diagnosed with kennel cough and after 3 months of vet care, the kennel cough never cleared up. A quick decision was made to get him to a specialty vet. Unfortunately, the diagnosis was not very good. He had a collapsed trachea. Kodi is presently being treated for this but, one day he may need a stent in his trachea. This operation will cost \$4,500. Stray No More will be raising the money for the surgery to help Kodi continue to live a normal life.

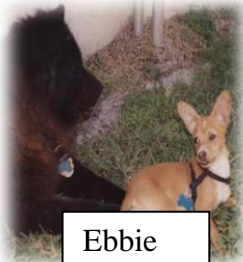


Kodi- safe and secure.

Missy: Missy was a pure bred Cocker Spaniel, one of 79 puppy mill dogs that Animal Care and Control seized in 2004. Because she was in such bad shape; blind, rotten teeth, bladder infection, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Ehrlichia (both tick borne diseases), she was unadoptable. Her whole life was spent in a cage delivering puppies for human profit. She was saved by SNM, who provided the medical treatment and gave her a second chance at the Shearouse's as a permanent foster. She will be remembered by her wagging tail and saying THANKS FOR THIS NEW LIFE!



Missy



Ebbie



Toffy



Angel

Ebbie: This rescue took 38 days! Sandy first saw Ebbie walking down the side walk on August 7, 1998. She tried to get her, but to NO avail! Ebbie was like a *feral* dog. After working with a behavior therapist on how to build trust with Ebbie, Sandy was able to feed her twice a day. Eventually, a professional sharp shooter had to shoot her with a tranquilizer. Finally rescued, she was rehabilitated at the Hightower's home and lived a exciting life until 2011 (her predicted age was 15). Ebbie, though a purebred chow, acted more like a poodle!

Toffy: This puppy was thrown into a trashcan in the middle of the night. Luckily, someone heard her cries and rescued her. Sandy Hightower fostered this *mangie* puppy for only a short time. Her neighbors fell in love with her and adopted her, mange and all! Toffy lived a blessed 14 years with the Billingsleys.

Angel: This young cat was DUCK-taped up in a box, and left in the middle of the road in 2001. Thank goodness someone stopped and looked in the box! She had a broken leg which needed immediate surgery. Angel was adopted by the Smiths who also had Bailey, a SNM dog.

Thanks to everyone who has helped Stray No More help the animals!