



# KEARNEY AREA ANIMAL SHELTER

*Animal Tales*

**Support**  
**Adopt**  
**Volunteer**  
**Donate**



## December Happenings to Benefit the Shelter

### Give Where You Live is December 6th– Please Donate!

Thursday, December 6th is the official Day of Giving in Kearney!

The Shelter is having our Giving Destination Meet and Greet at the Shelter from 1-5 p.m. that day. Come out and donate, see exactly where that donation goes, and get to know your local animal shelter!

If you can't make it out that day, you can donate online here: <https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/Kearney-Area-Animal-Shelter>.

Thank you so much for helping to keep KAAS running, we couldn't do it without you!



### Join us December 8th for some Santa Paws Fun!



Santa Paws 2018 is scheduled for Saturday, December 8th from 10a.m. to 2p.m. Stop by the shelter for some fun!

Photographer, Kristine Silvers, who owns Halsey Ann Photography, will take your pet's picture with Santa Paws. For a \$20 donation you get a fabulous photo of your pet with Santa Paws and you help to cover the costs of vetting and caring for an animal at the Shelter.

There will be incredible raffle items, cookies and cider. Please joins us for a fun day and meet some of our available shelter pets available for adoption!

## An Adoption Story – Aster



Hi, my name is Aster. I LOVE tennis balls and lots of cuddles. My mommy is a naturalist for one of the state parks so I've had lots of running room on the 22 miles of trails I've started to explore with her. We see all sorts of cool animals when we hike; salamanders, snakes and even tree frogs! (Yes, Nebraska has tree frogs!) My favorite trail is the one with the big oak tree that we sit and rest under at the end of the hike. Mom takes a picture of me and that tree with each season that comes to pass.

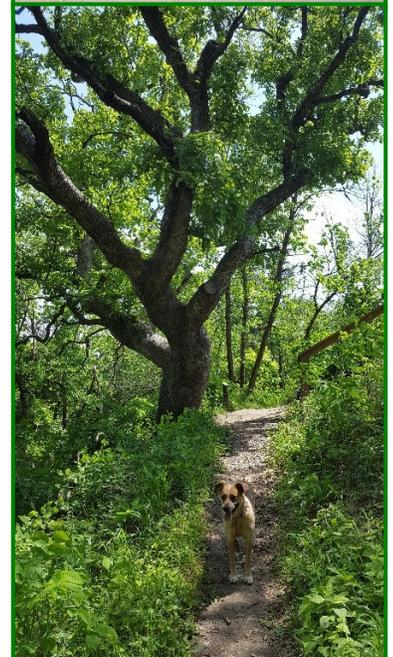


I have come so far, starting out on the streets all alone, to all the nice people who loved me at Kearney Area Animal Shelter, and now I have a big house and backyard all to myself. Did I mention I love tennis balls? I play with those things all the time tossing them into the air and catching them again; at least I haven't broke anything of mom's... yet. Mom thinks she'll start me on agility training next. She says I'm too smart for my own good and it might help. I don't know what that is but it sounds like fun to me! I have won the hearts of all those I meet. My mom's coworkers, her boyfriend, her mommy and daddy, and even the vet I see, thinks my ears are cute all perked up. When I stay with grandma and grandpa, I get to play with their doggy, Ace. He's a lot bigger than me and scared me at first, but now he shares his bed and cuddles me. I'm so happy that I found my furever home with my mommy. She takes good care of me, let's me run on the trails next to her (even off leash sometimes... but



shhhh mommy says I'm not supposed to tell anyone), let's me play catch with my tennis balls in the house and even lets me steal her pillows in the middle of the night.

My name was Rosa, but it's Aster now. Adopted 04.29.2018.



## Thank You to the City of Kearney!

The Shelter owes a big thank you to the City of Kearney!

They consistently help the Shelter with our Information Technology needs. They have assisted us with our electrical needs changed the light bulbs outside. In addition, the Kearney Police Department came to the Shelter and did a de-escalation training with the staff.

We are so grateful for their efforts to help us keep our costs down and providing assistance where they can. Thank you!!



CITY OF  
**KEARNEY**  
HEART OF NEBRASKA

## Adoptable Animals Available at the Shelter

Meet Jefferson! He is a VERY intelligent boy who is full of energy. Jefferson would need a home that has a very active family to help him burn off some of his energy.

Daily walks or runs would be incredibly beneficial for Jefferson. Escaping has become a hobby of Jefferson's and he has become a pro at it! For this reason he would be a dog that would need a very secure outside situation. Jefferson is also a dog who would need to be on a leash at all times during walks to ensure he does not run off to explore. If you think Jefferson would fit perfectly in your home, stop by the Shelter and meet him today!



Sunflower is one playful kitten with plenty of energy!

Because of that, she will do best in a home with no younger children, but she can be tested with other animals. Sunflower is a beautiful and loving cat.

She is ready to find her forever home; so stop by the shelter today!

## An Adoption Story 2 - Beck, Adopted 09.27.2017



Beck arrived at the Shelter as a frightened, malnourished, and abused little guy. After spending a few months getting healthy and gaining weight, Beck was adopted! His new home included two older shih-Tzu sisters, named Lola and Claire. They were suspicious of him, but soon his big personality won them over and now they are forever friends.

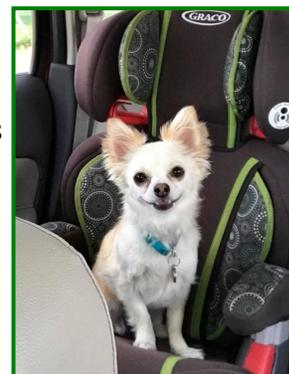


Beck's transition into a home was filled with new learning experiences. At first, he would hoard food, hiding piles of it under the couch, in corners, and any little nook he could find. Beck covered and hid from his new human mom constantly. He would only sleep in hidden away places, like a basket of clothes under the bed or in the back of closets. Often, his new momma would search for him for a long time, convinced that he was missing.

Gradually, Beck adapted to his new life and realized that the food bowl would always be filled, and when someone reached down for him, he wouldn't be hit or hurt. He became more and more comfortable sleeping around other dogs and humans and began to play and smile all the time!



It has been a year since Beck's adoption and only a few behaviors from his former life remain. He won't eat with other dogs or humans, preferring to take his food into another room. But Beck's sweet and easy nature has made everyone who meets him love him!



## 2nd Annual Moonlight Masquerade a Success!

The Kearney Area Animal Shelter Board of Directors hosted the second annual Moonlight Masquerade on October 26th at The Archway. The event included a silent auction, giving tree, photo booth, caricatures, delicious food, a wine pull, and amazing music by the OK Sisters and Friends

The evening was a huge success, raising over \$30,000, which will assist the Animal Shelter to educate people about the proper humane care and treatment of companion animals; to encourage and promote pet adoption and population control; to prevent animal cruelty, suffering and neglect; to provide shelter for abused, neglected and homeless companion animals.

Thank you to all of our Animal Ambassador Sponsors: **Bruner Frank L.L.C, Cottonwood Veterinary Clinic, Kearney Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth Loeske, DDS, Lucky Dog's Place, NAPA Auto & Truck Parts, Mary Stevenson, Tito's Vodka, and Dr. Lissa Woodruff.** Also, thank you to The Archway, The Cellar for the delicious food, Eakes for all the printing, and to all the volunteers who helped us organize the event.



## S.O.S: Sustain Our Shelter - We Need You!

Did you know that the Kearney Area Animal Shelter must rely on a reserve fund to meet our expenses and cover the cost of operation each month? As that resource continues to be depleted, it has become clear this cannot be our long-term solution.

In hopes of cementing our future, we are asking if you will consider becoming our partner in protecting and caring for the lost, abandoned, and abused pets of Kearney and all of Buffalo County by participating our new S.O.S. Project. If we all give a little, we can accomplish a lot and Sustain Our Shelter! You can join us by **visiting our website and clicking on the Donate button!**

When you click **Donate**, you will have the opportunity to select a specific amount you would like to donate on a monthly basis using your debit or credit card, and for as long as you choose. While any donation is appreciated, we are truly hoping you will choose to commit to becoming a vital part of our long-term success by opting to donate on a recurring basis.

As a show of our appreciation, you will be acknowledged on our website and in our quarterly newsletter. Qualifying donors will receive one of our exclusive S.O.S long-sleeved shirts.

Our objective is to establish a consistent and reliable means of funding our operation through recurring donations, allowing us to continue serving this area. We at the Kearney Area Animal Shelter are thrilled to play a part in bringing homeless pets together with their new families and reuniting lost pets with their owners. Keeping them safe, healthy, and off the streets in the meantime is our passion and our privilege.

With your support, we can continue to serve this community until they all have homes!



## A Must Watch-Netflix Anthology Series, “Dogs”

The Netflix original series, “Dogs,” is a six episode docuseries that tells truly heartwarming stories of dogs and their journeys to find homes. Although the series title implies that the stories are all about dogs, each episode is as much a story of humanity and resilience.

The stories are touching and feature Rory, a sweet and obedient medical service dog matched with an epileptic young girl named Corrine; Zeus, a beautiful Siberian Husky separated from his owner, Ayham, a Syrian refugee living in Berlin; and Justin Timberlake, a dewy-eyed mutt among a group of 30 dogs rescued from an overtaxed shelter in Dallas and brought to New York City so he can be adopted.



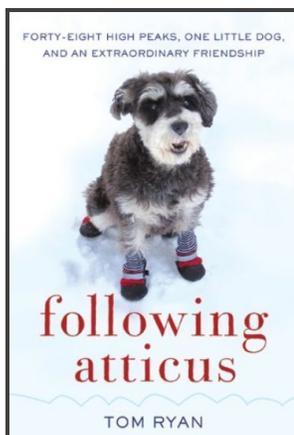
**“THE ABILITY TO TELL A HUMAN STORY THROUGH A NON-HUMAN NARRATIVE IS WHAT DOGS MANAGES TO DO BEST.”**

**-Esquire Magazine**

A love for dogs is something we all have in common and this program celebrates that love. If you love dogs, you’ll love this show!



Welcome to the inaugural...and possibly the final, edition of The Shelter Scoop! For as long as KAAS will allow me, I will make recommendations about whatever strikes my fancy. In this issue...It appears Old Man Winter really means business this year people! If you have plans to hibernate by the fire until the Spring Thaw, please consider enjoying one of the following pet-centered books.

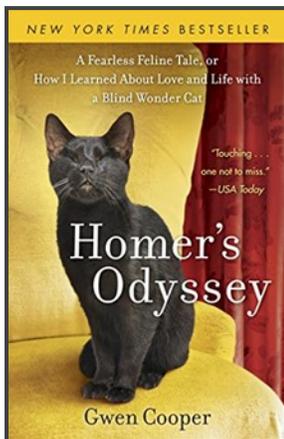


**Following Atticus by Tom Ryan:** This book has been around for several years and is one of the few I have read twice. It is the colorfully told story of Tom and his best friend Atticus M. Finch, an independent miniature schnauzer. I use the term “friend” in the literal sense. Tom raises Atticus from puppyhood as a partner in life more than as a pet, which suits the independent singleton pup’s personality just fine.

Tom is the owner, editor, and publisher of a small-town newspaper in the quaint and scenic Newburyport, MA. One day he agrees to take in an abandoned, elderly schnauzer. Sadly, Max was with him only a short time before he passed away, but he inspired Tom to continue sharing his life with a canine companion. After much thought, he selects a miniature schnauzer, who was born an only puppy, gives him the middle name “Maxwell” in honor of his late friend, and the adventures begin.

The book humorously documents the daily goings on in Newburyport, the duos’ interactions with the quirky townsfolk, and the unique way Atticus is raised. Detailed descriptions of the beautiful scenery provided by the surrounding mountain range makes you feel like you are right there with them. The story really takes off when Tom decides that he and Atticus will honor the memory of a late friend by hiking all 48 peaks of the White Mountain range not once, but twice in single winter season to raise funds for cancer research. Since neither sedentary, overweight newspapermen or fluffy little dogs are known for their rugged hiking abilities, this endeavor makes for a very entertaining book. While this is a great “dog story”, it is so much more and will appeal to those who have never owned a dog, as well as those who have.

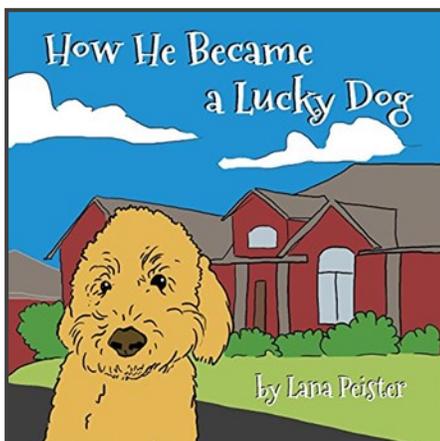
I will reference a quote from Tom Ryan to describe my feelings as I neared this book’s end: *“I have come to judge a good story as one that makes me feel as if I’m losing a friend when I read the final page, close the book, and put it down for the last time.”* The good news is that Tom wrote a second book several years later titled “Will’s Red Coat”. Stay tuned for a review in the next issue of Animal Tales.



**Homer's Odyssey by Gwen Cooper:** There are tons of great dog books out there, but cat stories are a bit harder to come by. When was the last time you heard about a cat jumping in to a raging river to pull their owner to safety or running messages across a World War I battlefield, huh? Well, this isn't quite that, but I think you will find Homer to be a hero in his own right and Gwen's writing style to be enjoyable.

Gwen Cooper was determined to say "NO" when it was suggested she adopt a four-week-old stray kitten. Her life was complicated. She already had two cats, an anemic bank account, and had just been through a break up. After all, she couldn't save every pet with a sad story that crossed her path, but...she agreed to meet him anyway. Homer was recovering from surgery. He'd had a horrible eye infection that had required surgical removal of both his eyes. He was totally blind.

Upon meeting this tiny kitten, she was moved by the "innate source of courage within him, some inborn willingness to engage the world openly and joyfully, that even all the hardship and suffering he'd been through hadn't taken away from him". She ended up taking him home not out of pity, but admiration. I know you will enjoy reading about how Homer, Gwen, and her existing feline family adapt to their new situation, including being separated for days due to the World Trade Center collapse and fending off an intruder that broke into their home in the middle of the night. In the end, Homer the Wonder Cat did more to fulfill his human's life that she could have ever expected.



**How He Became a Lucky Dog by Lana Peister:** Here's one for the kiddos! It's not often in a town the size of Kearney you can find a book published about a local celebrity Goldendoodle written by his hometown mom. That alone makes this book worth a look. The fact that it also provides an important lesson about making sure you are ready to bring a pet into your life and has a happy ending makes this an easy choice for your child.

"Joey" was originally adopted by a family who did not have permission to bring a puppy into their home. As a result, at just 4 months of age, he was forced into the unknown and on to another family he'd never met. Suddenly, he was being called "Franklin" and wondering how long he would get to stay in this new place. He was loved by his family, but it wasn't long until there was a new human baby on the way, which meant no more time for Franklin. Off to a foster home he went to face new smells, unfamiliar people, and an uncertain future.

**Spoiler Alert:** Our furry protagonist eventually becomes "Lucky" when the Peisters adopt him from foster care. Lucky even ends up being the inspiration for a specialty shop and working as a Therapy Dog! You can read about his road to success by picking up a copy of the book, which features rhyme scheme writing - sure to make it a fun read for the little ones, at Lucky Dog's Place Pet Boutique in Downtown Kearney. You can keep track of Lucky and his siblings Indy and Nilla, on the shop's Facebook page. If you're lucky, you might even get to meet them when visiting the shop!

Lana and her husband Cam have been longtime supporters of the Shelter, as well as other charitable causes in town, and donate a portion of their shop's profits to the Shelter each month. They and their canine kids also give of their time by participating in Kearney's Therapy Dog program. Lana currently serves as a member of the K.A.A.S Board of Directors. Thanks Lana and Cam!

# Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!



Thank you to **Morris Press!** Every month, they donate the printing of the Animal Shelter adoptable posters. We deliver these to area businesses, who post them. These posters are an important tool for adoptions. We appreciate Morris Press for helping us get our animals adopted!



Thank you to volunteer **Karla Wild** for removing the mulch and replacing with pea-gravel. She has also been working diligently on making our outdoor yard space dig-proof.

Karla volunteers a lot of her time and talents ensuring that the Shelter is safe and looking its best. Thank you so much, Karla!



A very special thank you to Bob Scriven, who donated memorial money in memory of his wife, Janice, who lost her brave battle with cancer. This memorial enabled the Shelter to purchase a new washing machine, which was desperately needed. Thank you, Bob for thinking of the Shelter and our deepest condolences for the loss of your wife.



Did you know that a portion of every purchase made at **Lucky Dog's Place** is donated to the Shelter? Plus you are supporting a local business! Thank you, Lucky Dog's Place!

## About the Kearney Area Animal Shelter

### Board and Staff

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Elizabeth Roetman, President            | Steve Lind      |
| Marion McDermott, Past President        | Amy Martinez    |
| Darcie Nightingale, Treasurer           | Carol Wahl      |
| Lana Peister                            | Krystal Webster |
| Kate Fly                                | Karla Wild      |
| Loralea Frank                           |                 |
| Emeritus Board: Scott & Rochelle Morris |                 |
| Staff: Olivia Derr, Executive Director  |                 |



### Our Mission Statement

The mission of Kearney Area Animal Shelter (KAAS) is to be a leader in enhancing the human-animal bond by providing pet owner support and homeless animal care for the citizens of Buffalo County and the surrounding region.

### Our Objectives

- ◆ To educate people about the proper humane care and treatment of companion animals.
- ◆ To encourage and promote pet adoption and population control.
- ◆ To prevent animal cruelty, suffering and neglect.
- ◆ To provide shelter for abused, neglected and homeless companion animals.
- ◆ To provide a responsive team of individuals who will serve the public in a prompt, courteous, and friendly manner every day.

### Contact Information

Kearney Area Animal Shelter  
3205 W Hwy 30  
Kearney, NE 68845  
308-237-7387

info@kearneyanimalshelter.com  
www.kearneyanimalshelter.com

### Hours

Closed Monday  
Tuesday-Friday 1pm-5pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Sunday 12pm-4pm

### Did you know?

- ◆ A donation to the Kearney Area Animal Shelter directly impacts animals in YOUR community.
- ◆ 66% of our budget comes from generous donations. Your contribution stays local.
- ◆ Our animals have no time-limits and we never euthanize for space. We are dedicated to finding the perfect home for each pet in our care.

**Adoptions: 8,421**  
**Reclaimed by Owners: 5,345**