

December 2006

## THE PAW

Volume 6

*Newsletter for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Area Humane Society*

~A Loving family~

Pulling into the driveway of Jane and Shannon Hinrichs' home for a visit, it looked just like all the other homes in the area. A quaint, 2 story, white farm house with a pasture of horses, an area of goats and chickens.

Jane was waiting for me on the porch. We greeted each other and went inside. I'd heard a little bit about the family from Lindy, our President. It wasn't until I was inside that I started to realize this wasn't your ordinary family, rather a very unique and special one. Their family exceeded everything I'd heard about them.

In 2003, the Hinrichs were your typical family living in Harrold with their 3 children, Ryan (now 11), Cheyenne (9), and Hawkin (7). This was soon to change as they considered adding to their family by opening up their hearts and their home by adopting children in need.

After looking at a recommended adoption website, they came across a picture of a little girl from Bulgaria named Maggie. They immediately fell in love with her. In May of 2004 Maggie was happily adopted by the Hinrichs family.

In September of 2003, they came across a picture of a little boy from Russia named Peter. They prayed several months that he would find a loving home. In November of 2003 their oldest son, Ryan, asked them, "Why can't we give him a home?" The couple didn't have a good answer, so they decided to say yes to Peter as well. In April of 2005 Peter was adopted by the family.

Maggie (5) and Peter (5) were each born with physical disabilities. Maggie has had surgeries on her hips to help correct some of her disabilities. Peter was born with Cerebral Palsy and fetal alcohol effects. Jane said, "When Peter and Maggie were available for

adoption, neither of them had even one other family interested in adopting them. Both would have been institutionalized if we hadn't adopted them. It just seemed like the right thing to do."

After adopting Maggie and Peter they decided to open their hearts by adopting cats and dogs too. "We thought, there are plenty of animals who need homes who would be wonderful family members. Why not adopt pets too?" Jane responded.

In May of this year the family moved to their current home in Blunt. They had been renting homes that didn't allow indoor animals.



**From left to right: Cheyenne, Peter, Ryan, Maggie, Hawkin, Shannon and Jane in the front. Pets pictured; Citrus, Scooby, Zeeko and Mickey. (Huckleberry was camera shy.)**

It was little Maggie that had her mother looking for cats at the Humane Society. Maggie would pray every night before she went to bed for a "Big Fat Yellow cat". Jane decided to go on petfinder.com and see if there were any yellow cats for adoption. She found the Pierre Humane Society. She visited the shelter and after looking ended up adopting Citrus, a big fat yellow cat, to fulfill her daughter's dream cat!

Jane found out Citrus had left behind a special kitty friend, Huckleberry, back at the shelter. She decided soon after to adopt his friend Huck as well. To this day, the two cats are still good friends. Also, about a month ago Jane adopted a cat named Mickey. He didn't work out with his original family and had no where to go. Mickey is adjusting well. Jane figured there would be some adjustments for him, but didn't want to give up on him.

Jane and Shannon also have saved 2 dogs, Scooby and Zeeko. It was fun to watch Scooby with his family. He hangs out wherever his family is. You can sense the curly haired dog is proud to be part of the family. Jane says Zeeko gives her a sense of security. He is a bigger dog and when an unexpected guest arrives he warns them by barking before they even get out of their car.

I asked Jane in what way the animals play roles in her kid's lives. Jane replied, "The animals really have made a difference in my son, Hawkin's life." Hawkin suffers from severe disabilities and retractable epilepsy. Jane actually figured out from a game of flash cards one day that he would like to have a dog. He grabbed the dog card from her and wouldn't let go of it. This was very unlike him due to his poor motor skills. That is when Zeeko came into the picture.

Hawkin's motor skills have started to improve having the animals around. When a cat or dog comes to visit his lap he tries to pet them. When he is laying down for a nap in his bed, nearly all the cats and dogs cuddle up around him and help keep him warm. Actually, this is where Citrus was hanging out when I came to visit!

All the adopted pets help complete their family. They are the pieces that complete this loving and happy family. Jane says, "I think of all our pets as part of our family, for as long as they live."

Thank you so much Jane and Shannon for making a difference in this world! You are making dreams come true for your children and at the same time helping any four legged creature that comes your way. It was a pleasure to meet you all! Have a Merry, Magical Christmas!!!

### *'Oh Christmas Tree...'*

This year the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Humane Society was chosen by the Department of Tourism as a non profit organization to have a large Christmas tree at the capital. The Department provided us with the tree, money to buy decorations, and actually decorated it for us! It is filled with hand made ornaments featuring animals that have been adopted throughout the years and animals that are currently for adoption. It looks great! The tree can be found on the main floor of the Capital on the East wing in front of the window.



### **Donation Wish List:**

**The Humane Society could always use donations of the following:**

- Kitten Iams
- Cat Litter
- Purina Dog Chow
- Bleach
- Paper Towel

### **Holiday Precautions!**

Christmas is soon approaching and that may mean a lot of new decorations and shiny ornaments for your pet to check out. Here are some things pet owners may not think are dangerous or unsafe for our furry little friends this time of year. *Please* keep these following tips in mind for a fun and safe holiday season for all:

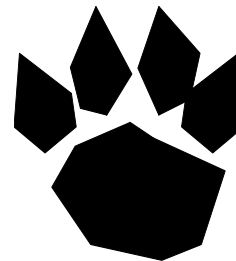
- **Make sure to watch pets around burning candles.** Cats and dogs can receive burns from the hot wax or flame. Also, pets can knock over candles easily which could lead to a fire.
- Certain **holiday foods can be toxic to your pets** if ingested. Poultry bones can get stuck in a pet's mouth, obstruct his throat, or perforate his intestines. Foods like chocolate, macadamia nuts, raisins, grapes, coffee, alcoholic beverages and even bread dough can be fatal if ingested in quantity by a dog. Rich, fatty foods can cause upset stomachs.
- **Keep plants out of reach from your pets.** The poinsettia can cause digestive upset and irritation to a pet's mouth and stomach. Holly Berries are extremely toxic when ingested. Just a couple berries will cause vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause digestive upset as well as cardiac problems. Hibiscus plants and those in the lily family can be harmful to pets, causing digestive problems and even renal failure.
- **Decorate with care.** Don't hang glass balls where your pets can reach them. Tinsel can cause intestinal obstructions if ingested. Garland is more pet friendly. Make sure to check your floor for any ornament hooks that may have dropped. Keep electrical cords and tree lights out of your pets reach. If you have a real tree, don't add preservatives to the water in case your pets try to drink from the tree stand. **If you have cats, make sure they don't have access to any ribbons.** When ribbon is swallowed it can become lodged in your cat's intestines and can be fatal if not removed immediately.

### **Get your Popcorn!!**

We have many, many great animals in the Humane Society's care right now. We have a full house of cats and kittens at the shelter and also some really great dogs and puppies in foster care. Please visit our website at [www.pets4adoption.org](http://www.pets4adoption.org) to check out their pictures and descriptions. If you are interested in setting up an appointment to look at any of our animals please call **223-CATS** and a volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.



**Popcorn** is a 1 1/2 year old neutered male orange tabby cat. Popcorn spends his days soaking in the sunshine, playing with toys and playing a game of tag with his buddies. He would love to have a home and family of his own and wouldn't mind if he had to share his new home with other pets, just as long as he gets some one - on - one time with you. If you are looking for a fun loving cat, Popcorn is your guy!



*Cats and dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole...*

Check out our web address or Call (605) 223- CATS!

[www.pets4adoption.org](http://www.pets4adoption.org)



***Upcoming Events and Meetings:***

- **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** – The taking down of the Christmas tree at the capital – If you would like to help Kim with this please contact her at [scottandkim@pie.midco.net](mailto:scottandkim@pie.midco.net) for details.
- **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** - We are having the monthly general membership meeting at 7 pm located at our facility on Pierre St. in Pierre. **It's election time!**
- **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** - General membership meeting at 7 pm at our facility on Pierre St. in Pierre.

**~DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR BRAND NEW 2007 HUMANE SOCIETY CALENDAR~  
~T-SHIRTS AND MAGNETS ALSO AVAILABLE, MAKES GREAT GIFTS! ~**

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I hope you enjoyed your issue of 'THE PAW'. A big thank you goes out to the Hinrichs for taking time out of their busy day for an interview and picture! Thank you to Betty Truax for donating the expenses of copies for the last PAW's issue. This was very much appreciated! Please contact 223-2287 if you are interested in Popcorn or any other of our animals. If anyone would like to become a member of the Humane Society please fill out the attached form and send it back to the address provided. Look forward to Volume 7 in February! Also, thanks for all the great feedback you have given me on the newsletters - I am glad you all have been enjoying them. *~Amanda Ames, Secretary of the Humane Society~*

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**PIERRE-FORT PIERRE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 954, Pierre, SD 57501-0954

Yearly Membership Categories:

Student \$5 (under 18)     Senior \$5     Individual \$10 (1, over 18)     Family \$20 (2+)     Business \$50

I cannot become a member at this time; however, I am enclosing a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to further assist the Pierre-Fort Pierre Area Humane Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal    Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether you would be willing to be an active member:

Yes, Call me when needed.

No, I'd rather not be actively involved