

Contact: Mandy Evans
Executive Director, PAS
208-265- 7297
208-304- 8285 cell
Mandy@pasidaho.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAS Helpline Assists Pet Owners Facing Difficult Circumstances

Pet owners in the Inland Northwest who are considering taking their pets to shelters now have support from the Panhandle Animal Shelter (PAS) through a new program called PAS Helpline. PAS Helpline is designed to help people find alternatives to surrendering pets. The program is available to pet owners in the Inland Northwest and offers solutions, ideas, as well as resources for those in need. In many cases, pet owners who are considering surrendering their pets would rather keep them, but they are unaware of the solutions that would make this possible.

"Last year, we experienced a significant increase in owner surrendered animals to our shelter. We see firsthand the devastation people experience when relinquishing their pets. Some people make the selfless decision because they believe surrendering is best for their beloved dog or cat. We want to keep families together and beloved animals out of the shelter," said Mandy Evans, Executive Director of PAS.

Helpline works simply by making a phone call to 208-217-4453, or by sending an email to helpline@pasidaho.org. PAS has found the challenges faced by pet owners can be resolved with just a little extra help, saving owners from the heart break of surrendering pets to shelters. In some cases surrendering is the best option, so PAS created a new method to reduce the stress on the animals and owners by creating Home to Home, a website where owners can promote their animals for adoption.

You may have read about the Home to Home program this past August. Princess, a calico cat living in Coeur d'Alene, was featured in *The Daily Bee* article "Home to Home – PAS Program Helps Pets Avoid Shelter Life." If you didn't see the article, which ran in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* also, Princess's owner had to move to a nursing home because of Alzheimer's disease, so Princess needed a new home. The owner's daughter, who was unable to keep Princess due to her rental agreement, called the PAS Helpline and, with the guidance of the PAS representative, decided to post Princess on the Home to Home website, www.home-home.org, so that Princess could be re-homed without a shelter stay. It worked! Princess was adopted and lives in a new, loving home. Princess isn't the only success story, five other Home to Home adoptions have occurred since the site's launch in August 2016. More instances of Inland Northwest pet owners choosing alternatives to surrendering their pets are sure to follow as PAS Helpline becomes more readily known.

To learn more about the programs offered through Panhandle Animal Shelter or to seek assistance, visit www.pasidaho.org, call 208-265-7297, or visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/pasidaho.

PAS Helpline aims to help owners keep their pets whenever possible and is made possible

thanks to the Petco Foundation.

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