



**Lakeshore
PAWS**.ORG



From hospice to hope, from shelter to home. Meet this year's comeback kid, Ace.

I've been waiting all year to share Ace's story with you...

We didn't know much about Ace's life before rescuing him from a shelter in Berrien County, Michigan. It was clear that he needed some medical attention as he was physically a little worse for wear, but that didn't phase us. After all, that's how most dogs come through our doors after years, if not a lifetime, of neglect. Just like every Lakeshore PAWS dog, we were prepared to give Ace the medical treatment, training, and time he needed to find his forever home. We were devastated and shocked when we learned that time was not on his side.

During his medical intake evaluation, we discovered Ace had an extreme case of heartworm disease that had likely gone undetected for years. To make matters worse, his heart and colon were weak and enlarged. His body could not handle the preferred, more aggressive treatment that we normally use so we opted with a safer, "slow-kill" method. Unfortunately, we still had to wait until he was strong enough. Those few weeks of waiting were excruciating. His body was quickly deteriorating and he became more miserable in the shelter environment every day. He was so desperate to get out that on more than one occasion, staff opened the center in the morning and found Ace, who had somehow broken out of his kennel, waiting solemnly at the showroom door. Our hearts broke for him.

As more time passed, his health issues worsened and he began to lose weight. We felt helpless. Keeping him comfortable became our number one priority. We put out a plea for a foster family to take him in, knowing full well that his stay with them might be short-lived. A wonderful family stepped forward and agreed to foster him. Not long after, they formally adopted him.

Ace's transition into a loving home made all of the difference. Eventually, he became well enough to start the slow-kill heartworm treatment and his health is improving daily. Five months since bringing Ace home, his family is experiencing a playful side of him that we weren't sure anyone would get to see. They recently wrote to us with an update:

"Ace is such a sweet, goofy boy. He's coming out of his shell and showing more of his personality every day. He loves walks, lounging on the couch, and spending as much time with us as possible. He seems to be feeling a lot better and his cough is subsiding. He's enjoying his new life and we couldn't be happier to have him!"

I've never witnessed a stronger testament to the power of fostering. Along with his amazing family, Ace's happy ending was made possible by our entire community of donors, staff, and volunteers who rallied behind him. I can't help but think about the dogs that are less fortunate than Ace, living on the streets or in shelters that can't afford such extensive medical treatments or are short on foster families. With your help, we will continue to seek those dogs out and commit to their futures regardless of how dire they may seem.

We thank you on behalf of Ace and all of the medically-compromised dogs we have been able to treat due to your generous donations. We thank you on behalf of our staff who can always count on you to answer our requests for last-minute supplies or emergency foster families. And lastly, I personally want to thank you. While always rewarding, this work isn't always fun and it's hardly ever easy. I say it all the time and it will forever be true: you make this possible. You are the reason that over 6,400 dogs have received a second chance at life through Lakeshore PAWS. It's an honor to partner with you and create a little more good in the world, day by day, dog by dog.

In Gratitude,
Jeanne Sommer
Co-founder of Lakeshore PAWS

In 2021, you - yes, YOU! - and your generous gifts helped Lakeshore PAWS:

✓ Increase adoptions to 6,400 through the end of December...that's over 1,000 adoptions this year!

✓ Continue to pull dogs from fellow rescues experiencing overcrowding.

✓ Rehabilitate the dogs in our care through increased socialization, in-depth training, and calmer living conditions, resulting in shorter stays at the center before finding homes.

✓ Rescue more medically high-risk and compromised dogs every year since opening in 2011.

✓ Grow our special needs and hospice programs to cater to dogs that need a little extra love and older dogs deserving of a safe, comfortable place to live out the rest of their days.

**We need your
continued support.**

Our Story. Our Mission. Our Purpose.

Lakeshore PAWS is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization in Porter County established by two businesswomen and animal lovers who simply could not ignore the growing number of animals without homes. Designed for abandoned and unwanted pets in NWI, Lakeshore PAWS is helping one animal at a time.



ADOPTED

Former Lakeshore PAWS alum Picasso promoted to Emotional Support Animal!

Apollo, known as Picasso at Lakeshore PAWS, was found living in a barn with other abandoned farm animals. We aren't sure how long he had been there but based off of his behavior, it was obvious that it had been awhile since he had interacted with humans. Our staff and volunteers worked with him every day for months, trying to train him and gain his trust. Although unsocialized, it was obvious that he was highly intelligent. We knew he needed to be placed in a home that would commit to his training. When his new owner finally came along, it was clear that it was meant to be.

Apollo's owner was a Navy Seal for 14 years. He enrolled Apollo in an ESA certification class so that Apollo could help him cope with the emotional stress that affects many veterans. He has worked hard to socialize, train, and establish trust with Apollo and it's finally paying off. He says that Apollo is the perfect dog. He loves to play with other dogs and regularly enjoys chicken dinners. He even has an extensive toy collection that he treats with the utmost care. We couldn't stop smiling when we learned that he takes his toys out of his kennel to play and neatly puts them back when he's finished! He'd never even think about tearing one up. Talk about a gentleman!

We are grateful to Apollo's dad for his dedication to our boy and to our country. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect match!

Did you kn^ow?

In 2021, it cost us an average of \$420 for each dog we rescued.

This is well below the national average of \$450 to \$900 for no kill shelters.

We truly appreciate your **tax-deductible** donation via mail (see bottom) or by visiting lakeshorepaws.org/donate to make a secure online donation via PayPal.

Your donation to Lakeshore PAWS makes a BIG difference!

- \$50** covers a microchip and one year of vaccinations
- \$100** pays for one dog's spay or neuter surgery
- \$150** feeds an abandoned litter of puppies for a week
- \$250** provides training to dogs during their stay with us to ease their transition from shelter to home
- \$500** is the average cost of a visit to the ER vet for a sick or injured dog

P.S. Lakeshore PAWS does not receive support from the city, state or federal government. Our efforts are made possible by the generosity of animal lovers like you, who are sent this fund-raising letter once a year.

Please, We Need Your HELP!

Lakeshore PAWS **Donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.**

Here is my gift to help homeless animals now and in the coming year. I'm enclosing:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other \$_____

Check enclosed

I wish to charge my gift to: Visa MasterCard AmEx (Please complete the information below)

Charge my gift of \$:_____ to my credit card.

Card no. _____ Exp. date: _____ Security code: _____

Name: _____ Billing zip code: _____ Phone (____) _____

For updates about Lakeshore PAWS, please provide an **e-mail:** _____

