

# 4 Luv of Dog Rescue

Fargo, ND rescue devoted to rescuing and rehoming dogs



## The Daily Bark: Pleas from the Pound and Other Happenings

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## 4 Luv of Dog Rescue: How it All Began

4 Luv of Dog Rescue is an independent, non-profit organization run completely by volunteers. It was founded by one woman with passion for all dogs and a special concern for the bully breeds.

Kish Hilmert founded the rescue after moving to Fargo, North Dakota in 2005. Initially she did not have access to dogs in local pounds so her focus was the transport of homeless animals. She arranged transport for dogs of all breeds in pounds that had run out of time.

She sent mass emails to other rescue groups throughout the United States in an attempt to find shelters with space available to house the dogs, therefore giving them another chance at finding a permanent, loving home.

When she located an available shelter, a request was sent via the internet to volunteers who had signed up to assist her with animal transport. One of her personal pets is the result of the first transport she arranged in Fargo.

As more and more people in the Fargo-Moorhead area learned of the work Kish was doing to help dogs in need, volunteers joined her efforts to help save the many dogs who had run out of time at local and regional pounds.

Owners needing to surrender their dogs, who did not want to take them to a local pound, called Kish for help. Other local rescue groups were unable to handle the large number of homeless dogs in the community by themselves.

As the volunteer base grew over the next few years, many people applied to provide temporary foster homes for the dogs in need of a transition home.

4 Luv of Dog Rescue, a no-kill animal rescue group, grew from that point. We became incorporated in May of 2008, and acquired federal 501(c)(3) non-profit certification in May of 2009.

Foster homes are a vital resource for our rescue since we have no shelter facility. The foster home base has grown from around 20 at the end of 2008 to the current level of 45 to 50 active foster homes, but we still need more.

Rescued dogs in need of a foster home are temporarily housed and cared for at a local boarding facility.



Our organization receives no government funding, we rely on fundraisers and your generous donations to help pay for the expenses we incur while caring for the dogs. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.



To donate using PayPal please visit our website and look for this graphic. It is linked to our PayPal account so all you have to do is click!

[www.4luvofdog.com](http://www.4luvofdog.com)

## Your Financial Support is Needed

4 Luv of Dog Rescue needs financial support to help cover the many expenses we incur each month.

These include: food, boarding, grooming, crates/kennels, beds, toys, collars, leashes, bowls, chews, treats, ID tags, brushes, medication and veterinary care.

For more information about our rescue, or to submit a donation via our PayPal link, please visit our website.

If you would prefer to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to 4 Luv of Dog Rescue and mail to the following address found on the back.

Thank you from all of the volunteers with 4 Luv of Dog Rescue, and especially a big woof! of thanks from the dogs you will be helping to save!

We could not do this without your financial support!

**“We have saved over 335 dogs since July of 2008. So far this year alone, we have adopted out over 240 dogs, an average of 24 per month.”**

**Current volunteer needs:**

- **Become a Foster**
- **Grant Writing and Researching**
- **Reference Checking**
- **Home Visits**
- **Newsletter**
- **Advertising and Marketing**
- **Fundraising**
- **Printing and Distributing Posters**

*If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.*

**Mark Twain**

## Our Impact on the Fargo-Moorhead Community

Every few seconds, a homeless animal is euthanized in the United States. 4 Luv of Dog Rescue is dedicated to rescuing and re-homing dogs before they become another grim statistic.

Sadly, the number of dogs in local pounds has increased steadily over the past three years. The number of dogs euthanized had been relatively stable until 2008 when there was a 23% decrease. So far in 2009, the number euthanized has decreased even more.

We firmly believe that this decrease is due to the number of dogs we have rescued and we are determined to see the number drop even more.

We do not discriminate based on a dog's breed, age, size or possible medical issue. All dogs are treated equally and every effort is put forth to provide needed veterinary care and to find a new "forever" home for the dogs.

Our rescue has had a major impact on the homeless dog population in the greater Fargo-Moorhead area. We have saved over 335 dogs since July of 2008. So far this year alone, we have adopted out over 240 dogs, an average of 24 per month. Without our rescue group, most of these pets would no longer be alive, let alone thriving in a new home.

In addition to rescuing and re-homing dogs, we strive to help educate the community on proper pet care, the value of training and socialization, the importance of spaying and neutering and the danger of unfounded breed discrimination.

Along with details about the available dogs taken in by our rescue, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, a variety of informational pet care tips and links to other resources can be found on our website. We encourage you to explore our website and learn more about us.

Our site can be found at:  
[www.4luvofdog.com](http://www.4luvofdog.com)

## 4 Luv of Dog Volunteer Opportunities

4 Luv of Dog Rescue is an all volunteer organization. We have no paid staff.

Volunteers can donate as much time as they are able and most often can set their own schedule.

The first step to becoming a volunteer is going to our website and filling out a volunteer application. The process is quite simple and only takes a few minutes.

After you complete your application, it is sent to a processor who then forwards it to our Volunteer Coordinator.

Once your application is received the information is entered into the volunteer database. Within one week you should start to receive emails on upcoming volunteering opportunities.

Our current volunteer needs are: grant writing and researching, reference checking, home visits and working on the newsletter.

Although these jobs do not allow you to interact with the dogs personally, they are still very important.

Without people to write and research grants our rescue could not function as we receive no funding from the government. Helping this area could be as simple as surfing the internet.

Reference checks require an internet connection, email and phone. Each potential foster or adopter must supply personal and veterinary references as well as their landlord's contact for approval if they are not home owners.

Additionally, before they are approved to take a dog into their home, they must have a home visit, which ensures the dog is going to a safe environment. Volunteers are given specific instructions and a form to complete. They must have transportation and be 21 years of age or older.

Other opportunities include: dog walking, transportation, Adoption Days, printing and distributing posters, advertising and helping with fundraisers such as our Silent Auction, selling Herberger's Community Day coupon books or candy bars.

If you are interested in helping, please fill out an application and specify your areas of interest and availability. Other suggestions are always welcome!

## Winter Pet Care Tips

Our rescue does not believe that any pet should live outside; however if your dog has an outdoor kennel there are simple steps you can take to keep it safe.

Dog houses must be elevated and have a door to prevent moisture accumulation and block the wind. Dogs should have enough room to stand up and turn around inside; yet it should be small enough to retain body heat. Remember to insulate with a layer of bedding, such as straw and to provide them with a warm blanket and pillow. You can also research and find an acceptable heat source.

Water dishes must be heated to allow constant access to water, not ice. Thermal units designed for this are available at many pet care stores.

Longhair breeds can be outside for longer periods of time than those with shorthair. Other factors to consider include age and health. If your dog has an outdoor kennel you need to consult your veterinarian to find out what conditions are acceptable for specific breeds.

During your daily routine, your dog will go in and out a few times. On your way back inside wipe its legs, paws and belly to remove any salt, antifreeze or other chemicals that could hurt your dog should they be ingested while self-grooming.

Anti-freeze is deadly to pets. It tastes sweet and is hard for animals kept in the garage to resist. Look for "safe" non-toxic anti-freeze and clean up spills immediately. Contact your veterinarian as soon as you suspect your pet has ingested anti-freeze or any other chemical.

Outdoor animals typically need more calories in the winter to allow their body to produce more heat. Increase the amount you feed your pet if they are allowed to go outside.

Additionally, indoor pets may actually need fewer calories to avoid weight gain due to the decrease in activity and find indoor alternatives to walks/runs.

If your dog gets lost during cold, stormy weather, they may lose their scent and not be able to find their way home.

Because of this it is very important to make sure pets have ID tags on their collars with your contact information.

It is also important not to leave your pet alone in a car during cold weather as it can act like a refrigerator; they could develop hypothermia, frost bite or even freeze to death.

If you live near water, be very cautious about letting your dog off the leash. Animals can easily fall through the ice and become trapped.

Puppies cannot handle the cold as easily as adult dogs and it may be more difficult to housebreak during the winter.

Smaller dogs should only be outside for short walks. Go ahead and put a sweater or coat on your pet if they tolerate it. This will help a little, but you cannot depend on it to keep them warm.

Pets lose most of their body heat from the pads of their feet, ears, and their respiratory tract. Your dog will start to shiver which lets you know they have had enough of the cold, so pay attention to their cues.

**4 Luv of Dog Rescue does not believe that any animal should be an outdoor pet. We believe that cats and dogs are pets but also members of our families. Adoptive and foster homes are not allowed to keep their pet outdoors for any extended period of time.**

Some information in this article was taken from: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The American Animal Hospital Association and The American Humane Association

## Herberger's Community Day Fundraiser

4 Luv of Dog Rescue is currently selling coupon booklets for Herberger's Community Day Sale.

With a donation of \$5.00 you will receive a book that includes a coupon for \$10.00 off a purchase of \$10.00 or more. You will also receive many 10 to 20 % off coupons to be used throughout the store the day of the sale.

The Community Day Sale is on Saturday, November 14th, 2009. 4 Luv of Dog Rescue receives the entire \$5.00 donation for the coupon books.

Volunteers will be selling them at the West Acres Herberger's on November 11th from 6pm to 8pm, November 12th from 6pm to 8pm and November 13th from 4pm to 8pm.

If you would like to purchase a coupon book to prior to those dates please stop by the Natural Pet Care Center.

If you are interested in volunteering to help us sell the coupon books, please contact Lauryn Whitmer, our Volunteer Coordinator at:

[volunteer@4luvofdog.com](mailto:volunteer@4luvofdog.com).



**Herberger's Community Day Sale  
November 14th, 2009**

## Contact Information

4 Luv of Dog Rescue  
c/o Natural Pet Center  
3037 13th Avenue South  
Fargo, ND 58103

**Phone: (701) 205-0190**

Please understand that our phone number is monitored by volunteers. If no one answers, leave us a message that includes:

- Your name
- Phone number
- Why you are calling
- The best time to reach you

We will make every attempt to return your call within 48 hours.

Email us at one of the following:

[info@4luvofdog.com](mailto:info@4luvofdog.com)  
[fosters@4luvofdog.com](mailto:fosters@4luvofdog.com)  
[volunteer@4luvofdog.com](mailto:volunteer@4luvofdog.com)  
[donate@4luvofdog.com](mailto:donate@4luvofdog.com)

***Becoming a foster home is one of the most important things you can do to help our organization. Please consider becoming a foster today!***

***Apply online at:  
[www.4luvofdog.com](http://www.4luvofdog.com)***

## A Foster Experience

Fostering animals was never something I thought of. I always loved animals and have never been without a pet. I own several now and they give our family so much love and joy.

I thought my three pups and kitties were all I wanted until a friend told me she was fostering a dog for 4 Luv of Dog Rescue. It didn't take her long to convince me I would be a perfect foster mom too.

Bringing the first foster into our family was an experience I will never forget. He was adorable, crazy, energetic and so full of love he didn't know how to get it all out! For a couple of days it was a challenge teaching my dogs to accept him and helping him adjust to a new home.

Once adjusted it was wonderful to watch the interactions between all of them. Since then, each foster we bring home has been accepted into the "pack" more easily.

They have all been an absolute joy to have for the time they are here.

I thought I would be heartbroken as I placed each dog into new forever homes; but knowing that I had given them love, affection and training while they were with me which helped them blossom into great dogs, made watching them go much easier.

Each time I tell myself I am going to take a break before taking another one, but it doesn't take long to see a helpless, sad puppy or dog with eyes that melt my heart, and I am on my way to pick them up!

Fostering an animal is not always easy; many of the dogs have been neglected or abused. Teaching them that they worthy of love we give them is a fosters' number one goal.

Next, we begin to do basic training; teaching them not to jump up, house and crate training, sit, stay, etc. Many dogs already know these things and it always makes me wonder how they ended up a sad, lonely, homeless pet.

Through fostering we get to know the dog's true personality; which is invaluable when placing the

dog in the perfect home. We are able to learn if the dog gets along with cats, other dogs, small children, etc.

Most 4 Luv of Dog's dogs are placed in foster homes. But unfortunately there are not enough for all of them. If there is not room for a dog, we sadly will have to turn animals in need away or place them temporarily in boarding.

Foster homes provide love and shelter for the dog, while 4 Luv of Dog Rescue provides the food, kennel and pays for the medical expenses. Dogs can be in foster homes for days, weeks or months.

It is preferred that a dog stay in the same foster home until he or she is adopted, but a foster home has the right to say at any time that they are unable to continue the care for the dog, for any reason.

Even if you are only able to provide a temporary emergency foster home, that is extremely helpful to our rescued dogs!

For more information and a foster application please visit our website.

## Help Us Win the Shelter Challenge

The Animal Rescue Site is hosting a special challenge for eligible Petfinder.com shelter and rescue groups. A \$20,000 grand prize will be awarded to the organization with the most votes and a \$1,000 state prize will be awarded to the organization in each state with the most votes.

Although the competition is tough for the grand

prize we are hopeful that with your help we can win the state prize for North Dakota!

With the help of supporters like you our rescue won the last two state challenges!

To help us win, all you have to do is go to our website and click on the Shelter Challenge graphic

which is a direct link to the Animal Rescue Site.

From there you can click on the purple "Click Here to Give - it's Free" button, and then on the "Vote Every Day" button.

You can vote once each day through December 20th. So please remember to vote daily and tell all of your friends. Thank you!!

