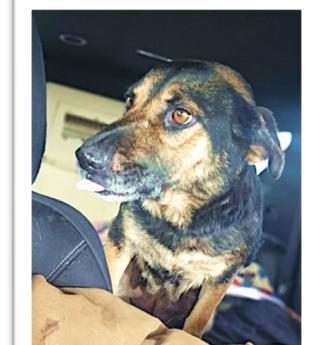




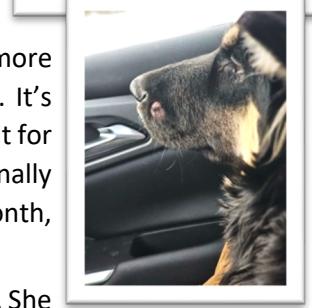
AFTER THE HOLIDAYS - THE QUIET MONTH THAT ISN'T

From the outside, January looks like a slowdown. The decorations come down, routines return, and the world gets quieter. In rescue, it rarely does.

After the holidays, the calls keep coming—often with a different kind of urgency. Pets are surrendered when schedules change or homes feel too hectic. Families facing hardship run out of options. And for animals without safe shelter, winter doesn't just feel harsh—it can be deadly. Cold hides suffering in plain sight: behind outbuildings, under porches, down rural roads, in places most people don't look when the wind bites.



January is when rescue becomes less about big moments and more about endurance: supply runs, medical care, careful monitoring. It's volunteers driving in brutal conditions because an animal can't wait for better weather. It's the quiet wins that keep us going—an animal finally eating, finally sleeping, finally relaxing enough to exhale. This month, that reality has a face.



We recently took in a new dog who was surrendered by her owner. She had been kept outside. Somewhere along the way, she gave birth—apparently without anyone realizing it—and none of her puppies survived. As if that loss wasn't enough, she was allowed to roam, and was hit by a car.



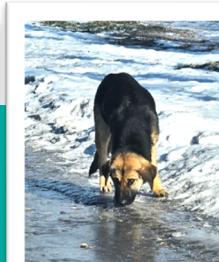
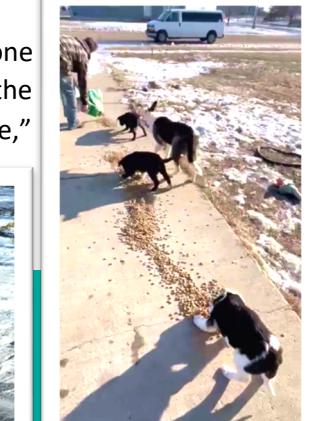
Our volunteers picked her up and brought her to safety. Now she's warm, fed, and finally getting the care she should have had all along. Right now, we're focused on what she needs most: comfort, healing, and time—the kind of time that lets a dog stop bracing for the next hard thing.

And she wasn't the only one. That same weekend, our team picked up several more dogs—each with their own story and needs. While their stories may be different, they all share one truth: **they have a chance now**. A chance to rest. A chance to heal. A chance to learn what safe feels like. A chance at a family.

Those chances depend on one thing we never have enough of: **open foster homes**. Fostering is what turns a rescue "yes" from a hope into an actual plan. It gives us the ability to say, "*Bring them—we have somewhere for them to go.*" It creates breathing room and saves lives—especially in winter, when time matters and shelter is survival.

If you've been wondering how to help—this is it. **More fosters mean more lives saved.** It's that simple, and that powerful.

Because of our fosters and volunteers, these dogs aren't alone anymore. And with a few more helping hands and open homes, the next weekend like this can end with even more "picked up," "safe," and "on the way home."



*thanks
for your
support*

We're grateful to the



Dakota Cat Café and their visitors who support the rescue animals with their generous donations.

Thank you, Kelle, for your generous donation for the animals!



Your support is SO appreciated!

ROUGH START – BRIGHT FUTURE

Meet **Fefe**,

She's a sweet, medium-sized mix with charm, smarts, and just enough diva to keep life interesting. Rescued from the impound, she's been patiently waiting over seven months for her forever family. Thanks to her wonderful foster, she's truly ready.

Fefe loves being near her people, is crate trained (with a little commentary), and once she feels safe, she settles right in. She's an A+ snuggler, a fan of tennis balls and squeaky toys, and happiest with a mix of playtime and relaxing by your side. 🎾

She does best with bigger dogs who respect her boundaries – no small kids, cats, or tiny pups, please. With the right home, Fefe will be your loyal, affectionate, slightly sassy sidekick. ❤️

ADOPT ME



Farah



Jasper



Grug



Bucket



FOSTERING: THE HELP THAT SAVES LIVES

People often tell us, "I wish I could do more." If you've ever felt that way, we want you to know something simple and true:

Fostering is one of the most powerful ways to help.

A foster home is more than a place to stay. It's a soft landing. It's a quiet room after a loud, scary world. It's a warm bed, a full bowl, and a chance to finally take a breath. For many dogs (and cats), it's the first time they've ever experienced safety—real safety—in a way their nervous system can believe.

And here's the part we don't say often enough: fostering changes the foster, too.

You get to witness the moments that make rescue worth it—first tail wags, first toys, first deep sleep, the day a shy dog chooses to lean into you. You see confidence return. You watch personalities bloom. You become part of a story that ends in a family, not a cold night.

Worried you don't have everything you need? We've got you. Our rescue provides what your foster needs—from **food, bedding, and toys to all vetting and medical care**. We'll also support you every step of the way, with guidance, check-ins, and a team that truly has your back.

And fostering doesn't have to mean a long commitment. Along with regular fosters, we urgently need **short-term fosters**—people who can step in for a **weekend, a few days, or a week** when our foster families need to travel for work, take a vacation, or handle life stuff. That temporary care is a *godsend*. It keeps animals stable, safe, and comfortable—and it keeps rescue moving.

And yes—fair warning—fostering is a little addictive. Once you see that first deep sleep or tail wag, it's hard not to want to help again. But the gift goes deeper than that: there is something profound about knowing you didn't just help—you **literally saved a life**. That kind of purpose stays with you. It's a gift you give...and a gift you get back.=

If you've been waiting for a sign that you're needed, this is it. You don't have to do it perfectly. You just have to do it with care.

LOVE FINDS A WAY

Some friendships start with a **meet-and greet**.

Some being with a **foster home** and a comfy couch.

Some take just one look that says, "**That's my dog**."

However it starts, we're grateful it ends in **forever!**

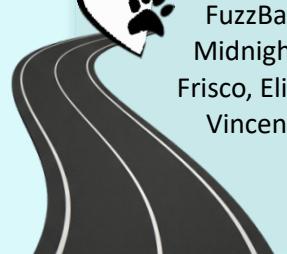
ADOPTED

Adopted Dogs

Strawberry, Nala, Penny, Shorty, Ham, Tucker, Miller, Butters, Jack, Lil Miss, Princess Peach, Scout, Nieko, Maggie, Boy, Chevy, Champ, Katara, Tessa, Carol, Mario, Orange Girl, Raven, Sadie, RC

Adopted Cats

Tabitha, Butler, Danica, Darwin, Millie, Violet, Sherlock, Crash, Eddie, Nacho, Hopper, Betty, Tucker, Maggie, Peaches, Simba, Buddy, Brooklyn, Maddie, Tinker, Kipper, Mishka, Bounce, Carlos, Misaki, Kiara, Tsuki, Taiyo, Princess Mochi, Bluey, Duchess, Blackberry, Cocoa, Earl Grey, Precious, Citrus, Phineas, Sparkle, FuzzBall, Dublin, Dobby, Midnight, Randy, Steven, Frisco, Eliot, Cooper, Milly, Vincent, Veronica, Milo, Elliott



**Six numbers.
Thousands of
meals, meds, miles,
and moments of
care behind them.**

DECEMBER SNAPSHOT

BIGGER PICTURE

102

Animals Taken in (Dec)

77

Adoptions (Dec)

82

Spay/Neuter Surgeries
(Dec)

443

Animals in Our Care
(Current snapshot)

894

Animals Spayed/Neutered
(2025 total)

1,424

Animals Served
(Came through rescue in 2025)



Taiyo & Tsuki



Pearl & Oakley



THERE'S A NEW KIND OF COZY - AND IT COMES WITH WHISKERS

In mid-December, the **Dakota Cat Café** opened its Cat Lounge in Lincoln, and we're thrilled to share that our rescue cats and kittens are being featured there as adoptable lounge residents. We are grateful for this partnership because it creates something truly special: a warm, calm space where our cats can be seen, loved, and discovered by the people who may become their forever families.

Here's how it works: patrons can grab a coffee and a snack, then spend time in the Cat Lounge for playtime, snuggles, or simply relaxing while a cat chooses to curl up nearby. It's a low-pressure, joyful way to connect and it gives our cats positive human interaction,

Why this is so good for our cats

Time in the Cat Lounge isn't just cute (though it absolutely is).

It's meaningful for our adoptable cats and kittens because it helps with:

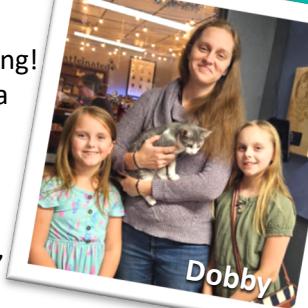
- **Ongoing socialization** with gentle, friendly visitors
- **Confidence building** in a home-like environment
- **Extra enrichment** through play, curiosity, and routine
- **More chances to meet the right match** - the perfect forever family

For many cats, that combination can be the difference between being overlooked and being chosen. And YES! Adoptions are already happening! Cats are finding homes through the lounge. These early adoptions are a wonderful reminder that when you bring people and pets together in the right setting, connections happen quickly and lives change.

The café recommends making a reservation for the Cat Lounge so you can plan your visit and ensure you'll have space. Walk-ins are welcome, but availability may be limited.

If you've been considering adoption, this is a wonderful way to meet cats in a relaxed environment. And even if you're just stopping by, your visit helps our cats practice trust, enjoy companionship, and get the love they deserve while they wait.

Thank you to Dakota Cat Café for helping us shine a brighter spotlight on adoptable cats and thank you to everyone who visits, shares, and supports these animals on their journey home.



UPCOMING EVENTS



B-I-N-G-O

Every Thursday, 6 p.m.
GIDEON's BREWING COMPANY
Great Prizes | Cash Play only

BLACKJACK

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays | 6 p.m.
DJ's Pizza & Lounge | 70 Santee Rd | Lincoln

PETSMART MEET & GREET

Every Saturday | 11am – 2pm

DOG TRAINING CLASSES

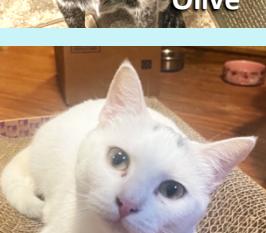
With Trainer Nancy Gerhardt
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced
Visit Eventbrite for details



You can't buy love - but you can rescue it.

RESCUE - FOSTER - ADOPT

These adorable faces are waiting for their forever families.



As we welcome 2026, we're deeply grateful - for every adopter, foster, and supporter who helped bring animals to safety. Thank you for being part of our rescue family. Please keep sharing, spreading the word, and cheering on our adoptables as we head into a new year of second chances and happy tails.