

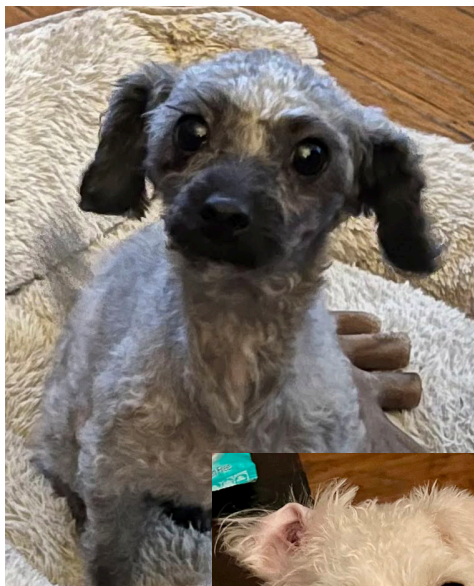


## *'Tis the Season for Love, Joy and Hope*

To Our Supporters, friends and volunteers,

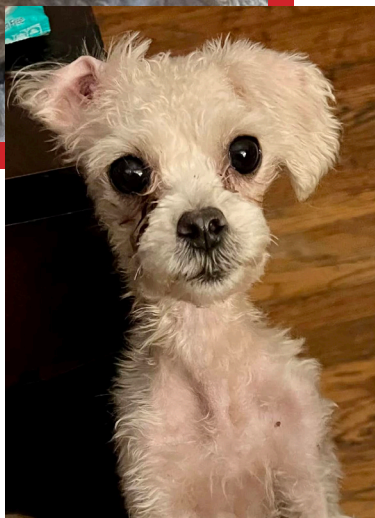
As we approach the close of another remarkable year, we reflect on the countless lives touched and transformed through the unwavering dedication of our animal rescue community. In the face of challenges, both anticipated and unforeseen, we stand together as a beacon of hope for those who cannot speak for themselves. From heartwarming tales of recovery to the resilience of animals overcoming adversity, our shared journey has been one of compassion, commitment and countless second chances. As we gather the threads of these stories, we invite you to join us in celebrating the victories and looking ahead to a future where every creature has the chance to know safety, love and a forever home. Your support has been the backbone of our success and as we navigate the year's end, we humbly ask for your continued partnership to ensure that our rescue efforts thrive, and that the coming year brings even more tales of triumph for those who rely on us for their chance at a better life.

*Here are some of our heartwarming stories this year...*



### *Lucy & Ethel*

Lucy and Ethel are two of the most inspiring dogs we rescued and rehabilitated in 2023. These poor girls were found emaciated and literally hours from death. One of our rescue partners was alerted to the situation and we quickly stepped in to help. They were found in Newark and unfortunately none of our volunteers were available to get them and take them to the vet. We called Summit Dog and Cat Hospital to ask if they had two spots to treat and board them. They of course agreed and two of their employees even stepped up to go to Newark and grab Lucy and Ethel. We were so grateful for their generosity. They immediately started to receive treatment. Lucy weighed next to nothing and could barely stand. Ethel was also very thin but at least had a little more life to her. It was touch and go for a few days while the vets worked tirelessly to get them IV nutrition and antibiotics. Slowly both girls started to improve and every day was a new milestone. Standing, sitting, tail wagging, eating a normal meal were all celebrated. After two weeks in the hospital they were finally able to go into a foster home. While in foster they flourished into amazing little dogs. Lucy was the firecracker of the two, chasing other dogs around, playing with toys and creating fun chaos wherever she went. Ethel was more



low-key. She liked to sleep in her favorite dog bed or play fun police while Lucy and the other dogs were playing. Soon it was time for them to go up for adoption. Lucy was adopted first into a home with another wonderful little dog. She has definitely taken over the house but is learning every day how to be the best girl she can be. Ethel got adopted shortly after and is with an amazing couple where she is the queen of her castle, goes on walks with the neighborhood dogs and gets to sleep in her parents bed every night. We are eternally grateful to everyone involved in Lucy and Ethel's journey.

**Visit our very own Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/bestfrienddogandanimaladoption>



## Nosey

Nosey's story is one we see all too often in the rescue community... but his journey is one for the story books. He was found outside by a Good Samaritan. He was cold, hungry and suffering from a horrific leg injury. The family didn't know what to do so they took him to Plainfield Animal Hospital to see if they could help. They didn't have the money to pay for his treatment, so Dr. Alex stepped up to do most of the work herself and paid for his bloodwork and other treatment. He was at the hospital for three weeks while his leg wound was treated. He quickly became a favorite of the staff and they were desperate to find him placement. Although his leg was healing, he soon had another setback. When his bloodwork came back, he had tested positive for Feline Aids (FIV). Although it was not a death sentence, it did make it harder to find him rescue placement. Dr. Alex had reached out to ten different rescue groups who could not take him in. Then she finally reached out to our Director of Cat Adoptions and of course we decided to help. Nosey was finally healed enough, had been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and was ready to go into his new foster home. He spent about five months in foster before we received an amazing application from a young lady who had grown up with FIV positive cats and now living on her own, was ready to adopt. It was love at first sight and Nosey was adopted into a loving home. At the time we didn't know if he was cat friendly because of his injuries we didn't want to take the chance to introduce him to other cats. Well, we are happy to report that his adoptive mom rescued another FIV positive cat and now they are living the dream as brothers and best friends. We are so thankful to Dr. Alex and Nosey's finders for making his new life possible.



## Karma

Available for Adoption!

Karma is a mesmerizing Shepherd-Husky mix who'll bring boundless love, laughter, and liveliness to your home! She currently resides at a board and train facility in Central New Jersey. This almost two year old beauty is waiting for her lucky person or family to sweep her off her paws. Karma's pedigree, courtesy of Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption Inc., ensures that she's a majestic, one-of-a-kind canine you won't find anywhere else! Karma is all about that #WorkHardPlayHard lifestyle. A working breed, she loves staying active, but also adores snuggling up on the couch with her human for some well-earned downtime. Her love language? Sweet kisses that will make your heart melt. Toys, treats, and food are no problem for Karma, as she's gentle as can be. Fully housebroken, crate trained, and delightfully intelligent, she's a graceful dog who'll make your life a walk in the park. Karma gets along great with older kids and is best suited for a home without other pets as she prefers to be the queen of her castle. She loves her walks and handles them with ease. As a Shepherd-Husky mix, Karma is seeking an experienced owner or family who will continue to help her shine with her professionally trained on-leash skills. With a little love and patience, she's guaranteed to be the furry friend you've always dreamed of.

Available for Adoption!

## Zsa-Zsa

Miss Zsa Zsa is about two years old and was rescued from the streets of Elizabeth after being dumped in a colony being fed by one of our volunteers. She proved to be friendlier than originally expected when she was trapped, so we decided to put her up for adoption. She is currently in a foster home and is a very quiet girl. She can take time to warm up and most of the time keeps to herself thinking she is one step above all humans as you can see by the look on her face. Her name basically says it all...Zsa Zsa believes she is a princess and will demand all the pets once she loves you. She absolutely loves all the head and neck scratches she can get...she will even head butt you for more. Zsa-Zsa does suffer from chronic sinusitis, which is untreatable, but it doesn't bother her one bit. Sometimes you might think you have a pig in the house, but no...it is just Zsa Zsa breathing. At least you would always win at a game of hide and seek since you can hear her breathing. In her foster home she sits on her cat tree looking out at all the action on the street while continuously judging the humans walking by. She would do great in a quiet home either by herself or with another low-key cat who doesn't mind being one notch lower on the totem pole of her hierarchy.







## Thrift Shop

**Best Friend Thrift Shop**  
at 1750 E. Second Street, Scotch Plains  
Hours: Wed 11-3, Fri 11-4, Sat 10-4 and Sun 11-3  
We have had the shop for over 20 years.

**Our shop is instrumental in financially supporting our rescue efforts!**

The Best Friend Thrift Shop needs your support now more than ever. Please consider shopping for your holiday decorations, gift items or just a warm pair of new gloves, a hat or scarf. We have collectibles, books, household items, dog coats, dog and cat toys. Many of our items are new! Our jewelry is phenomenal and our special jewelry consultant can help you select a perfect gift.



We are always in need of **good, quality, in season donations**. Due to space constraints it is best to call ahead for an appointment, 908-322-2502. Our shop also serves as a drop off point for new gift items to be used for our tricky trays. **We also accept cat food donations** for our fosters and feral colonies. Volunteers are always needed and if interested you can fill out a volunteer application on our website [www.bfdaaa.com](http://www.bfdaaa.com).

**Visit the shop's very own Facebook page:**  
Search for "Best Friend Thrift Store"

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## Why People Choose to Foster

Fostering through Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, Inc is something every true animal lover should experience. Watching the dogs and cats personalities develop while they learn the love and comfort of living in a home environment and not in a shelter or on the streets is most rewarding. Dogs and cats who are fostered, truly get a second chance at an amazing life when they have the opportunity to decompress and learn in a home. Living in a shelter or at a boarding facility will never show their true personality. The only way to learn everything we can about them is to see them in a home. That is how we can match the right dog or cat with the perfect home. We always set our foster homes up for success and are with them every step of the way. Every dog and cat we place in a foster home means another one we can pull from a shelter or save from the streets.

*Be a foster...you are literally saving a life!!!*

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## Fundraising

**2023 welcomed a year with several successful fundraisers.**

There were two successful Tricky Trays – one at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Westfield and one at the Deutscher Club in Clark. We also had a Plant and Bake Sale for Mother's Day, Two GIANT yard sales, participated in the Christkindlmarkt and hosted Pictures with Santa.

Next year we are planning three Tricky Trays – one for our bi-annual Debbie Staib Memorial Pierogi Tricky Tray, one at the Shackamaxon Country Club and one at the Deutscher Club.

**Our Best Friend Thrift Shop continues to be a success and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!!!!**

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## Thank You!

A warm thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time to not only raising money for our rescue, but take the time to care for our animals and make their lives enjoyable until a permanent home is found.

It takes only a little bit of your time to help us help the animals. If you can foster an animal, walk a dog, work at the thrift shop or distribute flyers please fill out the volunteer application online at

[www.bfdaaa.com](http://www.bfdaaa.com)



# Our Community of Volunteers

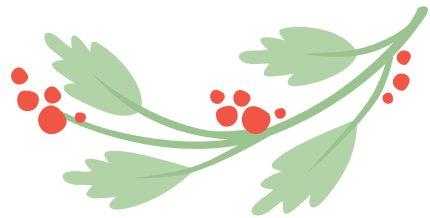
## JANUARY 2023

We are so grateful to Jersey Animal Welfare Society for sponsoring us to be their partner at the 2023 Super Pet Expo in Edison New Jersey. We showcased eight of our adoptable dogs and six of our adoptable cats...most of which have been adopted.



## JANUARY

We continued our partnership with News 12 New Jersey when they invited Muffin, one of our adoptable dogs and her foster Dad Vance to be featured during their Paws and Pals segment. We are happy to report that Muffin was adopted by her foster family.



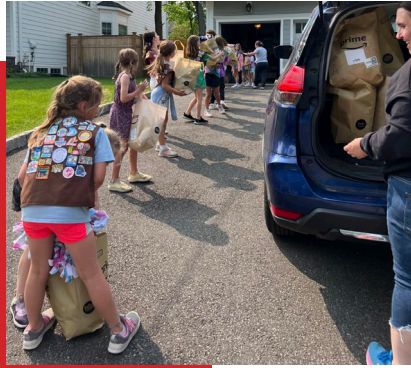
## MARCH

THANK YOU to **Kate Friedman** and the **North Plainfield Middle School** for once again allowing us into the classroom to discuss what we do, how we save animals and how the kids can learn about animals.

Students chose businesses in the Cranford area, and began writing them letters. They are hoping not only to raise money with their letters, but also raise awareness for the need to adopt rescue dogs rather than shop for them. In addition to this writing project, Student Council will also be selling paper paw prints for \$1. For one week beginning in March, students and faculty were able to purchase any number of paw prints. The purchaser's name was written on each paw and they were displayed in the hallway. All money raised went to saving one dog from a high kill shelter. Students who participated in the fundraiser were entered into a contest, and the winner had the opportunity to name the newly rescued dog.







## MAY

Two local Girl Scout troops out of Westfield New Jersey spent weeks making one hundred fleece blankets for our adoptable dogs and cats. We showed up to collect the blankets and had a chance to meet the girls and learn about their process and the amazing posters they made to showcase our adoptable dogs and cats.

## JUNE

L'Oréal USA Gives Back Volunteer Day  
Three volunteers including our very own board member, Lauren DeNoma came to help us organize our thrift shop.



## AUGUST

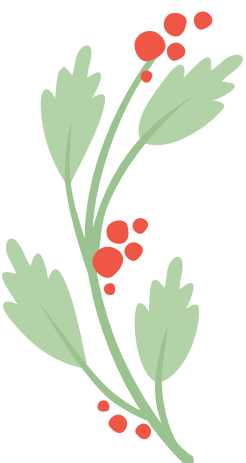
We wanted to send a big thank you to Scotch Plains Township, NJ and all our volunteers for a wonderful adoption at **DOGUST**. Fun was had by all, especially our puppies who got to play in the pools and have some yummy doggy ice cream!!! We love to get out in the community and show off our wonderful dogs!!!



## DECEMBER

Here Comes Santa Paws!

Visit us this year on **Sunday, December 10th from 11-3pm**  
Garwood First Aid Squad, 401 2nd Ave, Garwood, NJ







## *In Memoriam*

This September we lost one of our most amazing volunteers. **Yvonne Kleinberg** has been a Best Friend volunteer for many years and was a staple at our thrift shop. If you ever had the chance to visit us, you surely would have seen one of her beautiful window displays. She was always smiling while greeting customers and talking about her favorite furry friend Pickles who she adopted from our rescue. Yvonne was such a wonderful person inside and out. She always put her heart and soul into everything she did and we couldn't be more proud to have called her our friend. We miss her so much but know she is looking over us every day. Thank you so much to her family for sharing her with us all these years.

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### **NOT SURE IF YOUR COMPANY HAS A MATCHING GIFT DONATION PROGRAM?**

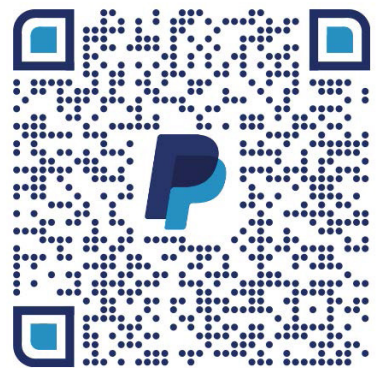
**Contact your HR Dept. We are an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
Need more information to apply for your employer's matching gift program?  
Email us at [bestfrienddogadopt@gmail.com](mailto:bestfrienddogadopt@gmail.com)**

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## *Donations*

**Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, Inc.** is a not for profit charity which exists only through donations that we receive from caring people in the community, our fundraisers throughout the year and the success of the Best Friend Thrift Shop, located at 1750 East Second Street, Scotch Plains.

We are continually in need of funds to continue our life saving program. Monetary donations can be mailed to Best Friend, P.O. Box 335, Cranford, NJ 07016 or with Paypal through our website, <https://bfdaaa.com/donations> or use **PayPal's QR code** on the right for your convenience.



We have partnered with the **Kuranda Shelter Beds Program** to receiving Kuranda beds for our dogs living at a boarding facility. If you are interested in donating a Kuranda bed, please visit <https://shelterbeds.org/donate/136358>.

*Please visit our pets waiting for their forever homes at [www.bfdaaa.com](http://www.bfdaaa.com)*

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

With Love from the Animals,  
Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, Inc.