



# The Scoop



10060 Mallory E Pkwy Unit D • St. James City 33956 • (239) 283-9100 • www.helpingpawsanimalsanctuary.com

## Holiday Wishes Grant From Petco, Halo and The Ellen Show

By Marnie Miszewski

A while back it was announced on the Ellen Degeneres Show that a lucky shelter would receive \$100,000 in the Holiday Wishes Grant with Petco and Halo. All we had to do was submit up to 5 stories of happy endings.

With my busy schedule, I completely forgot about it. Thanks to our Facebook friends who gave me some friendly reminders, I was able to get 2 great stories in.

I thought I would let you read one of my submissions. This somewhat unbelievable story is 100% true and what I hope will be worthy of some sort of prize. So keep your paws crossed and let me know what you think! (I was only allowed 500 words and you know I can tend to ramble on so it was extremely difficult to keep it short so I had to cut a lot out. <- Like that!)

### In Sickness and In Health

Lorraine Farrington was a lonely 78 year-old woman when she walked into Helping Paws on Valentine's Day in 2011. She lived alone and she needed a pet to keep her company. Helping Paws had just instituted their "Seniors for Seniors" program, promoting the adoption of older cats for older people, and she was intrigued.

Because she used a cane at the time, she was afraid an overly active cat would trip her. With almost 150 kitties to choose from, she never made it past the first room. Her eyes immediately locked onto a scruffy old Tomcat named Sylvester. Sure he had some scars and he kept his head cocked to the side as if he was hard of hearing, but he was a Hurricane Charlie rescue and he owned it. It was love at first sight.

As time progressed Lorraine's mobility issues progressed as well. Marnie from Helping Paws visited her and Sylvester every 6 weeks to trim his nails and offer what assistance she could. Sylvester loved life with his mom. He had his own chair next to her and enjoyed her screened in lanai. Everything was purr-fect until May of 2012.

Marnie was due to trim Sylvester's nails and when she got to the house, there was no answer. She heard a faint cry for help and rushed in. She found Lorraine on the bedroom floor with a scared Sylvester nearby watching. Marnie called the neighbor and 911. Sylvester needed to go live at Helping Paws for a while.

Lorraine needed two surgeries, weeks of therapy and rehabilitation. Everyone at Helping Paws was afraid for Sylvester's future because it seemed that Lorraine could no longer live on her own.

After 6 months, Lorraine was moved into an assisted living apartment and told she could keep Sylvester! In preparation for his move, Marnie trimmed Sylvester's nails and took him in for his annual vet check up and shots.

October 20, 2012, Marnie delivered Sylvester to his new home. Everything in the small apartment had to be wheelchair accessible for Lorraine. That meant elevating Sylvester's things. Marnie did what she could to help the kitty adjust and showed him the new feeding station. It took a can of Friskies to get Sylvester to perch up on the new little table to eat his food. The litter box was more of a challenge. Sylvester had a perch to climb on. After a few tries, some treats and a lot of begging, he gratefully used it.

Sylvester has completely adjusted to life at the facility. The staff gives him treats and he follows Lorraine everywhere. Everyone at Helping Paws wished for Lorraine and her "Valentine," Sylvester, to be reunited for Christmas and our wish came true. Santa Claus better watch out though, Sylvester sleeps protectively at the foot of her bed!

\*\* It should be noted that all nail trims and Sylvester's boarding were performed free of charge for Lorraine and the shots/vet visit was paid for by Helping Paws.



Sylvester

### Mark Your Calendar!

Yard Dog Charlie is doing it again! He is throwing a combined benefit party for Helping Paws and the Pure Breed Rescue on Wednesday, December 11, from 6pm-9pm at the Twisted Conch, 837 SE 47th Terrace, Cape Coral. "Christmas for the Fur-babies!" Come out and support us if you can. If you've never heard Charlie, you're in for a treat! He's talented, funny and wonderful for helping us. Thanks Charlie!



## Peters Purr-spective...

November is infamous for doomsday (day light savings time). I figure that's why we have the big Thanksgiving dinner. Yes it's a great day with left over turkey people send, treats and extra dinner (canned food), but it is a feeble attempt to justify what was purr-petrated on us.

Let me explain this to you. A cat is a feline of habit. You start by making the rules and we expect you to follow them. Okay canned food is at 3 pm and dry food left out for grazing. That's our schedule and we're okay with that.

UNTIL that day! Stomachs were growling all over the shelter! You couldn't hear yourself think. Then the pacing began, followed by murmurs (where's the food)... soon panic! It was 3:05 by our stomachs... Where was the food? It was necessary to but our bodies into sleep mode to conserve energy. It's hard to sleep with all the stomach growling. Tempers were starting to flair. It stopped being funny at 10 after, but now 55 excruciating minutes have past. Have they forgotten? Are we out of food? Is there a famine? Will we have to start eating the biggest among us? That would be Gizmo. (Thankfully I keep myself in lean, fit condition. There isn't a tender morsel on my body!)

Would you believe the food came AN HOUR LATE!?! By that time we had all eaten a little more dry food than normal, but we still gorged! What's the excuse? "Daylight Savings Time Peter" (insert sing song voice) My editor will not print my response, but you can guess!

Thankfully by the end of the week our tummy clocks were reset. In spring we have to go through it all over again, but at least we get eat early!

Happy Thanksgiving and remember your cat has been driven up the wall smelling that bird cooking. Share!

If you are having a Tofurkey don't.

Peter Draggin',  
Resident Philosopher