

# SS Humane Society gets \$10,000 grant from Petco

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A story about adopter Camilla being reunited with her cat, Sabrina, has won the South Suburban Humane Society a \$10,000 grant through the Petco Love program.

“Each year we promote the Petco Love story writing campaign to our adopters. We don’t know if anyone does until we’re asked to verify an adoption,” said Emily Klehm, SSHS executive director. “We were notified (in November) that we had an adopter who wrote a winning story,” but Klehm didn’t know the amount of the prize until the presentation Dec. 1 at the Petco, 17930 Halsted St. in Homewood.

The \$10,000 grant will help the humane society with continued expenses related to adoptions and lifesaving initiatives, including veterinary care and spay and neuter services, basic vaccines and microchips.

The story was entered into the next contest to increase the SSHS winnings by \$25,000. Voters got to select from 100 stories in the Petco Love program by persons and families who tell how adopted pets have changed their lives.

Camilla was in a domestic abuse situation. Unfortunately, when she left she couldn’t take her cat. It took time for Ca-



Camilla’s story about finding her lost cat, Sabrina, won the South Suburban Humane Society a \$10,000 gift from Petco Love.

milla to get her life back on track. Sabrina remained with Camilla’s ex-husband and his new partner.

Then Camilla learned they both had died. She went in search of her cat. Sabrina had been left for adoption with SSHS. The two were happily reunited after several years apart.

“We now in 2020 established a program called Pets Are Family that allows for temporary fostering for people who find themselves in a situation like Camilla found herself in,” said Klehm. “The program didn’t exist then. (Camilla) is exactly the reason it exists now. If we had the program and she was aware of

it, she could have come to us, we could have taken Sabrina in and we could have fostered her until Camilla got back on her feet.”

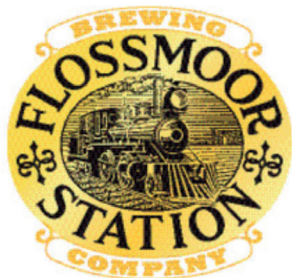
The Pets Are Family program has helped several families so far, and Klehm said SSHS intends to continue that special outreach for persons and families in need.

Anyone interested in pet adoption is welcome to check out the South Suburban Humane Society’s website to see available pets at SSHS’s two locations, the Homewood Adoption Center at 2207 183rd St. and the Chicago Heights facility at 1103 West End Ave. Both are open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Klehm said SSHS has an almost equal number of dogs and cats.

SSHS is also accepting donations. Check out the SSHS website at south-suburbanhumane.org or mail donations to SSHS at 1103 West End Ave., Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411.

Work on South Suburban Humane Society’s new building in Matteson is progressing after some delays due in part to supply chain issues. Klehm said the building is about 75% under roof and work is starting on electrical and plumbing work. She expects to have the facility fully operational in May.



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