



*She had no particular breed in mind, no unusual requirements. Except the special sense of mutual recognition that tells a pet and a human they have both come to the right place.*

ADAPTED FROM LLOYD ALEXANDER

the  
*transformative*  
power



**Pet Helpers**

*We're saving a pet just for you...*

# a day in the life of Pet Helpers



7 a.m.

Chris disables the adoption center's alarm and begins letting the dogs out for their morning exercise while he prepares the kennels for the day's visitors. He and his colleagues will clean and exercise 35 - 50 dogs during the course of the day.

**7:10 am**

A commuter on I-26 pulls over when she sees a strange rustling in the grass along the highway's shoulder. To her horror, she finds a kitten unable to move its back legs. She rushes it to a nearby emergency vet clinic before continuing on to work.



**7:30 am**

In the Greer Spay/Neuter Clinic, Drennan begins prepping the surgical room, where Dr. McKim will perform 40 sterilizations before close of business. Today's surgeries will prevent, just within the next year, the unwanted birth of up to 320 puppies and 480 kittens, most left to wander the woods and highways, vulnerable to disease, injuries and being hit by cars, and pose a health and safety risk to the community.

**8:15 am**

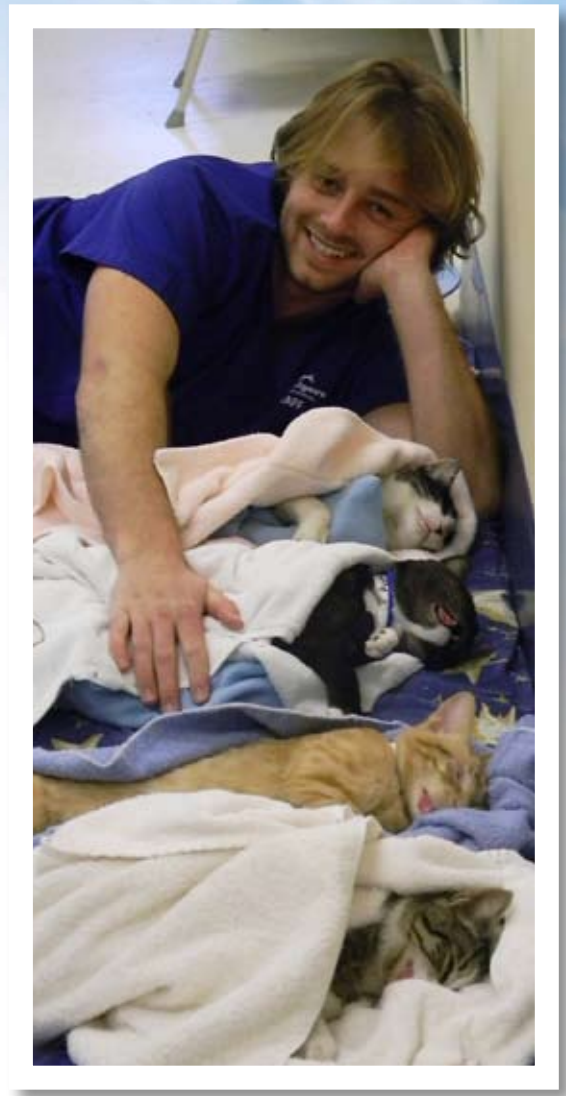
The emergency vet has determined that the injured kitten's legs can be saved, but the surgery will require the services of a highly skilled vet with expertise in orthopedics. Knowing that Pet Helpers' mission includes the willingness and capability of taking on such a challenge, he calls Kristin, the center's operations director.

**8:20 am**

Kristin answers the call on her way to work. She quickly turns her car around to pick up the kitten.

**8:30 am**

Pet Helpers' founder, Carol, passes Kristin as she heads up I-26 to Columbia, where she will testify before a legislative subcommittee on strengthening laws prohibiting dog- and cock-fighting.



*Pet Helpers' mission includes the willingness and capability to take on medical challenges*

*the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.*

MOHANDAS GHANDI (1869 – 1948)

**9:15 am**

Alexis, an eighth-grader from Fort Johnson Middle School who is considering a career in veterinary medicine, arrives at Pet Helpers, where she will spend the day “job shadowing” the vet techs.



**10:40 am**

Using SAFER, a scientifically based canine assessment tool, Donya, Pet Helpers’ manager of animal health and humane programming, determines that Bear’s possessiveness with his food is a behavior that can be modified with training.

**11:50 am**

Keegan, the foster coordinator, calls on the Williams family, volunteers in Pet Helpers’ “Boomerang Gang,” to help Bear. The family takes on the temporary care of dogs who need training to become well-behaved adoptable pets. Pet Helpers’ other foster programs include “Club Med” for pets who are recovering from illnesses or surgery; “Protectors” for those who will temporarily house domestic abuse victims’ pets, until their owners are back in safe housing and can again care for them; “Life Savers” for animals that just need a few days out of the adoption center to de-stress; “Stork Squad” for those who enjoy caring for kittens and puppies too young to be adopted; and “Guardians” for those who enable old dogs to live out the remainder of their life in a home with the love and care they deserve in their golden years.



*noon*

Pet Helpers’ executive director, Kevin meets with leaders from other animal welfare organizations in the Charleston region to brainstorm cooperative ways to further reduce the number of adoptable pets that must be euthanized because of a lack of space or resources.

**1:30 pm**

At the front desk, Chelsea combines free dog food and cat litter to give to a family who’s been hit hard since their dad was laid off and can no longer afford to care for their beloved family pets. Pet Helpers’ Pet Food Bank makes it possible for them to keep their pets during this difficult time.



**1:55 pm**

One of Pet Helpers' "hands-on" board members, George arrives at a shelter in the Midlands that holds dogs for 72 hours before euthanizing them. The corgi/ basset hound mix he brings back to the safety of Pet Helpers' adoption center thanks him not merely with a wagging tail, but with a long, low body that wags everything at once! As George loads him into his SUV, the dog plants a sloppy wet kiss on his ear.



**2:10 pm**

In response to a soft, but insistent meowing, Nancy bottle-feeds a week-old orphaned kitten. She chuckles good-naturedly to herself as she recalls that nowhere in her job description as Pet Helpers' bookkeeper did it say she would be juggling kitten feedings with her regular duties. No matter, she laughs, nuzzling the tiny kitten she calls Monkey. She looks forward to his opening his eyes for the first time any day now.

**2:30 pm**

Pam, one of Pet Helpers' 400+ volunteers and a professional massage therapist, brings her massage chair by Pet Helpers and offers volunteers and staff free 15-minute massages as her way of saying thank you for the life-saving work they do every day.

**2:45 pm**

Terry, a project manager at a local home improvement store, meets with the outreach manager, Lauren, to discuss logistics for Saturday's pilot project to donate and build a fence around the back yard of a low-income family who has kept their large dog chained to an outdoor stake. Lauren eagerly anticipates seeing him run and play freely in the newly fenced yard for the first time in years.



*until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.*

ANATOLE FRANCE (POET/AUTHOR, 1844-1924)



3:10 p.m.

Gabe provides a list of educational resources for a woman who is considering giving away her cat because she is having trouble training him to use the litter box. Pet Helpers' front desk staff assists 20,000 callers and 30,000 visitors a year.

3:15 pm

Also on the front desk today, Jessica calls Leigh, the philanthropy director, to help with a situation that needs her empathetic touch. Leigh comes out to find a couple who, for health reasons beyond their control, must give up their beloved cat Wendy. Leigh puts her arms around the tearful woman, assuring her that Wendy will be safe, loved and cared for at Pet Helpers for as long as it takes for her to find her new home. Though she doesn't know it yet, Leigh will be giving the couple a call next week with the good news that Wendy has found her new home with a family who fell in love with her at first sight.

4:00 pm

Amy assists a guest with filling out a Meet Your Match (MYM) "personality" questionnaire about her lifestyle and type of dog that would best meet her expectations. Based on her answers, she is assigned the MYM color green. "Green" adopters are most likely to be happiest with an energetic dog who likes to be physically active and mentally stimulated. Amy advises the guest to look for green-colored cards on the kennel doors for dogs whose "canine-ality" indicates they would be a good, high-energy match for her.

4:20 pm

Dr. Love is pleased as he finishes surgery on the kitten who was found with broken legs on I-26 this morning. He decides to name her Tibia, smiling that the kitten has truly found her "lucky break" at Pet Helpers with life-saving surgery. The staff already has a "Club Med" foster family lined up to take Tibia to her new home as soon as she's released from the clinic. Her day ends a lot better than it began.



*an animal's eyes have the power  
to speak a great language.*

MARTIN BUBER (PHILOSOPHER, 1878-1965)



6:02 pm

One of the volunteers helping to close up for the night, Karla gives the corgi/basset hound mix a final kiss on the head as she settles him into his kennel, grateful that he made it safely to Pet Helpers before his scheduled euthanasia only moments ago. The staff cut off the lights and lock the doors after another busy day.



10:15 p.m.

Just as kennel staffer Jason relaxes, thinking his work day is over, he receives a call about a stray dog who has become stranded on a sandbar off Folly Beach as the tide comes in to overwash the bar and undoubtedly drown the dog. Jason grabs his kayak and spends the next several hours doing everything possible to save the frightened lab mix. Eventually he successfully rescues the pup, whom he appropriately names Gilligan.

It's already into the wee hours of tomorrow before Jason gets Gilligan back to Pet Helpers. He hopes to grab a couple more hours' sleep, as 7 a.m. is rapidly approaching, when the Pet Helpers Rescue and Adoption Center will begin another day of saving lives in the Lowcountry.

## *your impact*



*days like this are possible because of the generosity of the people and businesses in our community who want to transform the lives of homeless, injured and abused animals, as well as the families who love them.*

## OUR IMPACT

As you have just read, the results of our donors' investment in Pet Helpers are measurable and significant. In 2007, only 37% of animals entering a shelter in Charleston County were released alive, far worse than the national average. In 2011, that rate had improved to 65%. Last year Pet Helpers:

- placed 1,202 pets with new forever families
- assisted 20,000 callers and 30,000 visitors with adoptions and advice regarding their pets
- performed 3,783 spay/neuter surgeries
- trapped, neutered and released 884 feral cats

## OUR INNOVATIVE public programs include:

- a robust and diverse foster care program
- "SAFER" behavioral assessments for dogs
- Meet Your Match (MYM) personality tools for successful adoptions
- Food Bank for lower income families who would otherwise have to give up their pets
- Kind News educational resources for K-12 teachers
- educational summer youth camps and reading retention programs
- "Unchain Charleston" to provide fencing for dogs who would otherwise be permanently chained outdoors

We are proud that much has been accomplished, and we are challenged in that much more needs to be done...

to establish Charleston as a national model of a humane community. Our goal for 2012-2013 is for 75% of pets who come into county shelters to be released alive. We invite you to become a part of making that happen as we expand our capacity through the completion of Phase II of our rescue and adoption center.

### **Giving Levels include:**

Leaders of the Pack	\$500,000+
Top Dogs	\$250,000 - \$499,999
Friends for Life	\$100,000 - \$249,999
Life Savers	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Constant Companions	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Animal Advocates	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Guardians	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Pet Protectors	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Pet Helpers	\$250-\$999
Founders Circle	Planned Giving
Naming opportunities are also available.	



*We're saving a pet just for you...*

*I am joy in a woolly coat, come to dance into your life, to make you laugh!*

JULIE ADAMS CHURCH (CONTEMPORARY AUTHOR)