

e-Thoughts — Loving our four- legged friends

November 2016 Newsletter



Our e-Thoughts feature provides close-up views on topics and areas of interest from everyday life.

There was a recent news story about sharing that I found very touching. It was about a teenage boy, Sean Martin, whose beloved dog died.¹

Like anyone who loses a pet, Sean was terribly sad. He took his dog's toys, dishes and bed to the local shelter to donate them — as well as to get the memories out of the house. But what he found at the shelter changed his life.

Sharing helps to heal

He found himself drawn to the animals in the shelter. He felt better about his loss when he spent time with the dogs and cats, playing and interacting with them. The shelter pets responded lovingly to him. While their basic needs were met at the shelter, they didn't have much social and play time before Sean came on the scene.

Sean loved being with the pets and saw what a difference he was making. Taking the idea further, Sean helped start a non-profit organization called Kids Adopt a Shelter.²

KAS chapters — now in several places around the country — help kids support shelters and shelter pets. Volunteer teens visit their local shelter and give the animals lots of cuddles and love. They help out around the shelter and reach out to the community when supplies are needed.

The teens even plan an annual “fashion show” adoption party. They dress up the animals in cute and funny costumes and invite the public to the event. It's fun for all and, most importantly, it leads to many adoptions.

The story proved something I've learned before: Young people can teach and show us wonderful things. There are so many ways to share and so many values to it. What an inspiration!

¹pix11.com

²www.kidsadoptashelter.org