

Cecil - King of the Cats: Q&A With Our 1st Runner Up and Family

It was a tight race for the coveted Grand Marshal title and after battling it out and remaining neck and neck throughout the contest, meet our 1st Runner Up, (for the second year in a row) Cecil – King of the Cats. Here's a little Q&A with Cecil and his family, Melanie and Jason Dinham. To view all our Paws Walk Grand Marshal Contestants and learn more about them, visit: <https://my.360photocontest.com/PawsWalkGrandMarshal>.

When did you adopt Cecil, and what do you know about his background story?

We adopted Cecil in February 2015 after having fostered him since April the previous year. Cecil entered the shelter as a stray in Jan 2014. He was very dirty, I thought he looked like he'd been living in a car engine. He was soon diagnosed as having diabetes. He got to be a pretty sick little dude when he wasn't responding to treatment and quit eating. My husband and I had experience with feline diabetes so Cecil came to stay with us in April. Cecil quickly responded to his new medication, food, and the freedom of a foster home and was in remission within about a month, no longer needing insulin.

What made you decide to adopt a pet?

Cecil is a cat the wins your heart over immediately. He is a jokester, a snuggler, a just all around great cat to have around. There is no doubt we loved him from the first day we met him. While fostering Cecil, we took on another diabetic foster cat from a different shelter. Cecil and ChrisFarley became super bonded. Every time you'd turn around you'd find those two snuggled up. The idea of separating the two didn't sit well. For months, it saddened us to see no interest in adopters for Cecil. Then Cecil did finally start getting some people coming to meet him. This social, fun loving cat would run and hide in the basement every time a potential adopter came over. ChrisFarley would run interference with the adopters for him. We finally got the hint that Cecil and Chris were telling us they were already home.

Does Cecil have any other siblings?

Haha, this list seems to change daily! Sadly, Cecil lost his BFF ChrisFarley to cancer in December. Cecil has four Homeward Alumni siblings: Avalon, Mittens, Opal, and Ruby. He also has a recent fellow diabetic foster failure named Anikan. Cecil is the baby of the family.

How would you describe Cecil's personality?

Cecil is a total goofball. He has mellowed out a little as he's gotten older and does enjoy a good nap, but he is still crazy as ever.



Left: Cecil and his parents, Jason and Melanie Dinham at the 25th Annual PAWS WALK on July 28, 2015.



What's Cecil's favorite pastime?

Cecil loves to nap, sleep, and wrestle. I think the order of his favorite changes each day.

What kind of impact has adopting Cecil made in your life?

Having Cecil around makes us laugh every day no matter how bad of day it is. Almost every morning we wake up to this smiling little orange cat wedged between us, and a day starting like that has to be good, right?!

What is Cecil's favorite part about Paws Walk? What is he most looking forward to at the event?

Cecil loves to get out and meet his admirers. He is most looking forward to getting admired and told how handsome he is by all the people there.

What advice do you have for people who are thinking about adopting a pet?

Don't look past the "special needs" pets. Look closer at those pets that need a special diet, might be scared at the shelter, or for whatever reason might just seem a little "less adoptable". Those hidden gems can be the most wonderful amazing personalities you will find.

Anything else you would like to add?

Cecil would like to encourage everyone to check out the pets at the shelter and consider adopting them. If you can't adopt, support the shelter by donating. He, along with many other pets, will be collecting donations for the Paws Walk or get out and join in the Walk yourself!



1201 28th Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102

Join us as we Stride for Strays at the 26th Annual

PAWS WALK

TUESDAY, JULY 19 | RHEULT FARM

For more information on this event and how you can participate visit:
www.homewardonline.org

**6PM REGISTER
7PM WALK BEGINS**

**TITLE SPONSOR:
PATRICK LUGER, MD**

- 1/2 MILE FUN WALK
- FREE FOOD
- MUSIC BY RETRO DISC DJ
- INFLATABLE GAMES
- FACE PAINTING
- PHOTO BOOTH
- YOGA WITH YOUR PET
- FREE NAIL TRIMS
- VENDOR BOOTHS
- PRIZES & GIVE-A-WAYS
- AND MORE!

BAZZIL
2016 Grand Marshal
Homeward Alum, Bazzil, will proudly lead the walk as the 2016 PAWS WALK Grand Marshal.

THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE SHELTER ANIMALS

\$25 MINIMUM DONATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WALK



Every Dollar Counts!

Because every dollar counts towards making a difference in the lives of our shelter animals, we encourage you to raise at least \$75 in pledges. Raising pledges is easy! Here are a few tips to help you get started.

- Set a goal and start fundraising today.
- Ask friends, neighbors, coworkers and relatives to sponsor you.
- Ask local businesses and restaurants that you frequent to sponsor you.
- Ask if your employer has a matching gift program.
- Designate a "sponsorship jar" that you, your family and friends can put spare change in.
- Send an email or letter to relatives and friends asking them to sponsor you.
- Leave a "sponsor me" message on your voice mail.
- Set up your own online fundraising page for this event at: <https://www.razoo.com/us/story/26th-Annual-Paws-Walk>
- You can print off additional pledge forms at: <http://www.homewardonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2016-Paws-Walk-Pledge-Form.pdf>.



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

Check out our website at: www.homewardonline.org

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RESCUE. SHELTER. PROTECT. REHOME.

Stride for Strays at the 26th Annual PAWS WALK

It's that time of year again... the **26th Annual PAWS WALK** is right around the corner on Tuesday, July 19th at Rheault Farm. Join us as we Stride for Strays at this fun-filled family event helping to raise much needed funds for the homeless dogs and cats of Homeward Animal Shelter. **Registration for the event begins at 6 p.m. and the ½ mile fun Walk will start at 7 p.m.** In addition to the Walk, the event will include: free food by MSUM catering, music by RetroDisc DJ, a photo booth by Timeless Images Photography, inflatable games, face painting, yoga with your pet, free nail trims, vendor booths, prizes, give-a-ways and more. This is a fundraising event for the homeless dogs and cats of Homeward Animal Shelter. **All proceeds help to provide food, shelter and veterinary care to the shelter animals as they await their forever homes.**

Donations for PAWS WALK are collected by participants prior to the Walk. A minimum \$25 donation is required to partake in the PAWS WALK Event. Gifts of \$75 or more will be matched by our generous sponsors, up to \$18,000. Individuals who raise at least \$75 or more get a free PAWS WALK t-shirt, teams that raise \$150 or more get 2 free PAWS WALK t-shirts. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 individuals who raise the most and the top 2 teams who raise the most.

You can find a pledge form to collect donations on page 3, you can also print additional copies at: <http://www.homewardonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2016-Paws-Walk-Pledge-Form.pdf>. PAWS WALK donations can be collected online, start your very own online fundraising page at: <https://www.razoo.com/us/story/26th-Annual-Paws-Walk>.

A photo contest was held to select this year's PAWS WALK Grand Marshal. The contest was open to any dog or cat who would want to proudly lead the 26th Annual PAWS WALK and represent shelter pets everywhere. We had 10 dapper contestants participate in this year's contest. We're proud to announce the 26th Annual PAWS WALK will be led by one of Homeward's very own and finest alumni, Bazzil! Bazzil (pronounced bāzəl), will lead the 26th Annual PAWS WALK as the Event Grand Marshal, proudly representing shelter

animals everywhere.

Bazzil was adopted into his forever home in May of 2010 by Liz and Alexander Simon of Fargo, ND. To help you get to know our Grand Marshal, Bazzil, a little better we did a little Q&A with his family.

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Above: Bazzil smiles and sits proudly with his family, Liz and Alexander Simon and his cat brothers Vin and Earl.

