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 need-

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 par ents, Jason and Melanie Dinham at the 25th Annual PAWS WALK on July 28, 2015.



Homeward Animal Shelter

1201 28th Ave. N. Fargo, ND 58102

Homeward

TITLE SPONSOR: PATRICK LUGER, MD

- MUSIC BY RETRO DISC DJ

- 1/2 MILE FUN WALK

- INFLATABLE GAMES

- YOGA WITH YOUR PET

- PRIZES & GIVE-A-WAYS

- FACE PAINTING

- РНОТО ВООТН

- FREE NAIL TRIMS - VENDOR BOOTHS

- AND MORE!

Animal Shelter

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

TUESDAY, JULY 19 | RHEAULT FARM

www.homewardonline.org

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

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

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!



https://www.facebook.com/HomewardAnimalShelter Check out our website at: www.homewardonline.org

Every Dollar Counts!

Because every dollar counts towards making a difference in the lives of our shelter animals, we encourage you to raise a 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.

2016 NEWSLETTER 2

Special Edition PAWS WALK EXTRA

Homeward Animal Shelter

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 bazəl), will lead the 26th Annual PAWS WALK as the Event Grand Marshal, proudly representing shelter

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.



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

Bazzil's Background: Q&A With Our Grand Marshal and Family

about his background story?

We adopted Bazzil on 5/9/10 from Homeward Animal Shelter. He had been in foster care for months. He was running along a rural highway in freezing rain. The foster family's Dad stopped, not wanting him to get hit & the family decided they'd just foster him from the start.

Our vet, and our observations of him, indicated he was a year old when we adopted him. So now his birthday is also May 9th. He just turned 7 this year.

What made you decide to adopt a pet?

We love animals. We had talked about someday getting a dog for a long time. For years, we traveled a lot and were gone almost every weekend. That wasn't fair to a dog so just kept thinking about "someday". When our lives involved less traveling, we started going to the shelter periodically to check out which animals were there. Liz also had begun volunteering in March 2010. We saw his picture a few times and finally decided we should meet him.

Does Bazzil have any other siblings?

Bazzil has two kitty-puppy brothers. He works hard to teach them how to be dogs, so we call them kitty-puppies instead of cats Both also are HAS alumni

Vin was adopted on 7/30/13. He was technically a foster beginning on 3/6/13. Although, we loved him from the beginning and wouldn't have let him go. Vin has learned from Bazzil to flop over for tummy rubs.

Earl was adopted on 10/9/14. In August of 2014, he was given 6 months to live by a vet due to cardiomyopathy. We said we'd give him a family until his heart didn't work anymore. That diagnosis was almost 2 years ago and he is going strong. Earl has learned from Bazzil that you have to sit nicely when you want something

Bazzil watches out for his brothers. When they first came home, he was so excited and would watch them closely. If they cough or gag, he will leap up and race over to them to make sure they are okay. He is still trying to understand that when they wrestle each other, they are not fighting. He runs over to break them up if he thinks they are playing too

How would you describe Bazzil's personality?

Bazzil is all about love & joy. He is a gentle boy who loves love. He is joyful and taught us how to find joy everyday around us. He thinks all people should be his friends and loves kids. All the neighbors know him, the UPS man is his buddy, and they know him at the bank.

Bazzil also loves almost all animals. We say almost all

around, and Bazzil just doesn't understand why they don't want to play with him. He guarded a baby bird trying to hop out of the yard. He gently carried a dead baby bird and tried to bury it.

Bazzil likes to be close to his family members and keep track of all of us. He also believes he is an excellent helper. Whatever you're doing, he will try to "help" you do it. We call him the ForeDog (like Foreman) because he'll check your work too.

What's Bazzil's favorite pastime?

Bazzil loves hugs & kisses & snuggles. He loves to play with his toys while his family is around him Car rides are fantastic. Even going to the vet is a fun thing.

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

Unbelievable impact! It's hard to imagine our lives before he was part of them. He makes us laugh, shows unconditional love, and to find joy everywhere you can

Is Bazzil excited to be the Grand Marshal for the 26th Annual Paws Walk?

Bazzil is crazy excited to be Grand Marshal at the doggie party in the park (aka Paws Walk). He has advised us that he might need a shower & brushing before the event in case someone takes a picture.

What is Bazzil's favorite part about Paws Walk every year? What is he most looking forward to

Bazzil loves meeting everyone that comes to the doggie party in the park - people & dogs & cats. There are so many friends to make. There are so many trees & rocks to write your name on. There are so many butts to sniff. If it was up to Bazzil, the party would last for a week.

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

Be patient. Find the pet that makes sense for your family. Don't worry about how a pet looks but look at their personality & energy. Adoption is the way to go!

Continued on page 2.



Thank You **PAWS WALK** Sponsors!

Title Sponsor:

Patrick Luger, MD

Platinum Paw Sponsors:

BlackRidgeBANK CI Sport Doggy Depot **Natural Pet Center**

Golden Paw Sponsors:

Bell State Bank & Trust **Comstock Land Company** Dale Carnegie Training Inc Designer Homes of Fargo-Moorhead Floor to Ceiling Carpet One Floor & Home Freddy's Lefse, Inc

Silver Paw Sponsors:

Bremer Bank Border States Electric Conmy Feste Ltd Glacier Snow Management Haugen, Moeckel and Bossart InHealth Specialty Pharmacy Invisible Fence Jordahl & Associates Luther Family Buick GMC Montgomery, Goff & Bullis Rover's Playhouse Scenic Landscaping Valerie J. Axt. CPA Wells Fargo West Fargo Animal Hospital Western State Bank



THANK YOU! Please pick me.

I cannot attend the 26th Annual

PAWS WALK but I want to help!

Please return this form and fill out your information in the enclosed self-addressed envelope to the

Homeward Animal Shelter with your check or money order. If you wish to use your credit or debit card,

please fill out the information on the envelope provided.

I would like to make a Paws Walk donation of:

\$75 Matching Gift

To learn more about Jones, call the shelter at 701-239-0077.

Bronze Paw Sponsors:

Animal Health Clinic Casey's General Stores Cornerstone Bank dogIDs Games to Go

General Equipment & Supplies, Inc. Hatch Realty

Mechanical Insulation & Supply, Inc. Monkeys Allowance

Northwestern Bank **OK Tire Store**

Ostrom's Hardware

Pet Nannies Plus Prairie Winds Veterinary Center

Shack on Broadway Sharon J. Windels, CPA

Southgate Veterinary Hospital Two Rivers Veterinary Hospital Yuppy Puppy Dog Hotel

To learn more about Nova, call the shelter at 701-239-0077.

Upcoming Events:

Summer Open House - August 1, 2016 Wags, Whiskers & Wine - October 28, 2016

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more details to come!

Join us as we stride for strays at the

26THANNUAL

Tuesday, July 19th, 2016 **Rheault Farm**

PHONE:

6 p.m. Registration Begins, 7 p.m. Walk Begins

A Fundraising Event for the homeless cats & dogs of Homeward Animal Shefter!

Address, City State, Zip

2016 Pledge Form PARTICIPANT/TEAM NAME:-ADDRESS:

To learn more about Zayla, call the shelter at 701-

239-0077.

Bazzil - Continued from page 1. Anything else you would like to add?

We did a DNA test on Bazzil and he is lab. great dane, and bloodhound.

Within a few months of adoption, Bazzil figured out that his mommy is hard of hearing. He would tell her the phone is ringing if she didn't respond to it. He now tells her when the microwave dings and the dryer buzzer goes off too.

Our furry family members travel with us. Bazzil has been all over ND & MN, and even rode along to Boston.

Bazzil likes to be sung to when he's tired & snuggling. He likes to be cheered for and he also believes that anyone on the phone should say goodbye to him before hanging



Event Rules:

- \$25 minimum donation to participate in the walk.
- Dogs must wear I.D. and be on a non-retractable leash at all times during the event. Dogs must be kept under control.
- Walkers must clean up after their dogs.

Individuals that raise \$75 or more receive a FREE Paws Walk T-shirt! Teams that raise \$150 or more receive two FREE Paws Walk T-shirts!

For more information on this event or to print off additional Pledge Forms please visit our website. www.homewardonline.org. Donations can also be collected online at: https://www.razoo.com/us/story/26th-Annual-Paws-Walk

Our Homeward Alum, Bazzil, will proudly lead the walk as this year's Paws Walk Grand Marshal!

