

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Each animal that comes to the Northwoods Humane Society has its picture taken. The photo usually is shared on Pet Point where potential adopters visit on-line to find their possible new family member. Often the photos appear on Facebook. The photos and their stories reach the right soul and eventually each animal finds its forever home.

Our cats pose for their shots over Lisa Lew or Angie Larson's shoulder and the dogs often pose in front of a background. In most cases you hear other staff members making enticing sounds so that the animal looks at the camera. Of course there are the photos of the cats and dogs with their new adoptive families as they leave the shelter.

Hopefully, each pet owner has a good distinct picture of their pet(s) in case the pet is lost or for some unusual reason you have to prove that the animal is your pet.

The following is a story written by our volunteer writer Melissa Merrill, (formerly Spero) who lovingly shares stories about 'Pepper' and this one is about Pepper's glamor shot.

Have you ever taken a picture of your dog? Yes? Awesome! Is your entire camera roll full of your dog? Another yes! Can you remember the last photo you and your partner took together? I'll wait. I just have to scroll some more. Just need a few minutes. There we are! Oh wait, that's Josh with Pepper. Scrolling. Scrolling. Aha! A picture of us from our wedding...over a year ago. This leads me to my picture perfect memory with our Pepper Princess.

*Someone* (I won't say her name, but she wrote this article) took so many pictures of Pepper that when a cellphone comes out, Pepper hides. I tried to take a video of her yesterday and she turned her back on me once she saw the cellphone. What is a fur mama to do? Pepper is 11. We know our time with her is winding down. It was time to capture her beauty.

Luckily, I entered into a photo contest for owners and their older dogs. We won!

We color coded to match Pepper's black-hued fur. She was the star after all.

Anyone who has a shepherd knows they can be a bit high strung. Pepper was anxious and not having this photo session. We had to hold her down for photos. We managed to get a decent one of the three of us, although Pepper had her tongue sticking out. The best family photo? Josh and me trying to hold Pepper down for a family shot. Her head is turned sideways. I'm laughing. Josh is smiling and holding his girls.

Pepper tried to escape the entire shoot. We were chasing her, along with the camera woman, to get some decent photos. I can't say she calmed down, but she did accept she was stuck for a bit. Josh and I managed to get some professional couple photos, which we had never done.

I'm sure you want to know what the best photo was? I wish I could share it with you! Pepper is on the couch with her tongue hanging out. Her ears are perky, yet wonky crooked. Her paws dangle in front of her. The panting smile on her face is at the center of the picture.

I have had Pepper for over 10 years now. It's still not enough time. Capturing her essence and having a permanent memory of her personality is priceless.

Speaking of Pepper, she sleeps peacefully on the couch. Her legs twitch as she dreams. I can only imagine what her dreams pertain to. What I do know, is I will always be here when she wakes up. Without my cellphone, of course. Some images are permanently ingrained in my mind and no pictures are needed.



Dates to Save: March 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 – Bingo at Powell’s on Round Lake – 6 p.m.  
April 26 – Spay-ghetti and No Balls – Vet Center – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
May 23 – Dining for Cats and Dogs – Lynne’s Custom Meats and Caterring - 10:30 – 2 p.m.  
June 7 – The Eagles Cover Band – Raise the Woof – Park Center