There was a time, years ago, when you could look in the classified ads from a newspaper or a local buyers guide and see advertisements for pets. It might be puppies for sale, animals to rehome, or kittens to “give away to a good home”. This was popular for quite a while, but then it seemed to go away. I can remember for years seeing few to no classified ads for animals in local publications. However, now the trend seems to be coming back. In the local buyers guide in the community where I reside, it has recently been routine to have over twenty ads for puppies for sale. This typically includes a mix of pure - bred dogs and some of the popular designer dog mixes. The other thing that I have noticed is that the prices for these puppies has generally come way down from what they were a couple of years ago. Some of the prices actually seem quite inexpensive.

This has been an unscientific observation of mine, but something has definitely changed. We do know that puppies were extremely popular during the pandemic (the term “pandemic puppies” or “pandemic pets” became popular due to this phenomenon). Many breeders ramped up their breeding programs to meet the demand, and many others jumped on the breeding band wagon hoping to capitalize on the situation. They did very well for a while, but as expected, the market started to get saturated and sales started to decline. Some breeders found themselves with an excess inventory of puppies that they could not sell. This certainly had something to do with the decrease in prices. It all makes sense.

Not all, but many breeders are still struggling with their sales. If the available homes for new pets is truly saturated, it will take some time before this resolves, possibly years. From a rescue/shelter perspective, we know that the inventories of animals in rescues is climbing nationally, and this in turn is resulting in longer stays for pets in shelters (and sadly an increase in euthanasia in some parts of the country). While these pets are not necessarily surrenders from the “pandemic pet” population, there certainly is a connection in terms of population dynamics.

Personally, I have never been interested in acquiring a pet from a classified ad. The source of all my pets has always been through rescue, and I cannot see doing it any other way. I look at the pets for sale ads more out of curiosity, bewilderment, and concern for the pets involved. As trends go, I’d be glad to see this one reverse again, which would be a sign of better times.
Thousands of animals come through our doors each year. Some receive their medical exam and vaccinations and are adopted the same day, but there are others whose stay with us is not so brief. Gracie fell into this second category. An eight-year-old Great Pyrenees, Gracie arrived at Fox Valley Humane Association with her six-year-old sister Ella. Ella only required a few vaccinations and a minor dental cleaning and she was adopted within a few days, but Gracie’s initial medical exam exposed a couple of serious issues.

We often learn lessons from animals that enter our lives and Gracie was no exception – we were quickly reminded of the importance of daily tooth brushing! After examining Gracie’s mouth and noting oral pain, we suspected she would need more than just a couple of teeth pulled. Under anesthesia our veterinarian discovered significant gingival recession and gingivitis, and in fact, every remaining tooth in Gracie’s mouth was diseased in some way and could not be salvaged. A full-mouth extraction (removal of all teeth) was required.

While under anesthesia, we seized the opportunity to x-ray her hips to determine the cause of the “old lady strut” that was noted on her initial exam. As is common in extra-large dogs, we found signs of hip dysplasia that she appeared to have been dealing with most of her life. Her right hip bone was only barely in the socket, and a large amount of arthritis had developed within the joint. Despite these challenges, Gracie was a wonderfully stoic dog. She quickly won the hearts of all the staff with her fuzzy polar bear appearance and her gentle personality, but we knew that as calm and sweet as she was, she was also in constant pain.

Health issues like Gracie’s are not always appealing to potential adopters. Her eight years young was actually old for a Great Pyrenees. She would need to be on a perpetual diet of soft food and would need lifelong pain medication for her hips.

Everyone at the shelter knew she was special and had high hopes that our toothless, drooly polar bear would find a perfect home - and she did! A wonderful family who had recently lost their special boy (also adopted from FVHA) took on this special old gal with no hesitation. We are overjoyed to have played a special role in giving Gracie a chance to live out the rest of her golden years happy and pain free with her new family.

"Gracie is doing great, and adjusting perfectly. She has now taken over as Queen of the house, she is definitely the matriarch.

She is a wonderful dog and pretty spunky…and once we get some weight off of her hips she will be able to live a happy life."

-Melissa, Gracie’s mom
Your financial support makes this life-saving work possible!

Strays and Surrenders: 133!

Spay & Neuter Services: 189 cats and 44 dogs!

Surgeries: 340!

Life-saving & life-enhancing measures by our Veterinary Team:
An emergency reproductive surgery, two mass removals, a toe amputation, a leg amputation and an eye removal.

Vaccines administered: 635!

Adopted Pets: 100!

Become a pet life-saver!

Wishlist

- Adult Cat Food-Dry (Iams and Purina One)
- Cat Litter-Non-Clumping
- Kitten Food-Canned
- Paper Towels
- Adult Dog Food-Dry (Iams and Purina One)
- Dog Collars-Size L
- Dog Leashes-Non-Retractable
- Dog Harnesses-Size L
- Potty Training Pads
- Menard's Gift Cards - Help us purchase privacy panels for our outdoor kennels!