

Dalton Living

July/August 2024

**Pets
Issue!**

LOCAL RESCUE PROVIDES
'Little Bit of Heaven'
FOR CATS AND KITTENS

FREE



Exotic Pets

**LIFE LESSONS
FROM LAMBS**



Theresa Persaud, the owner and adoption director of Little Bit of Heaven, pets Mo, a cat that the organization rescued.

'For every cat we help, we changed a life' **Local rescue provides 'Little Bit of Heaven' for cats and kittens**

BY DANIEL MAYES

If you walk into the PetSmart in Dalton, head about midway towards the back of the store, turn to the right and look behind the glass, you'll see an array of sleeping and playing cats, each waiting for a family to bring it home.

And, chances are, you might also see Theresa Persaud — the owner and adoption director of Little Bit of Heaven Rescue — or one of the handful of volunteers that helps power the organization that takes in cats from across

northwest Georgia and gives them a shot at finding a home.

"I come up here every day," Persaud said, scratching behind the ears of a black and white cat, Mo, as she speaks.

It takes a lot of work looking after so many cats. There are lots of bowls to fill, litter boxes to change and messes to clean up. But Persaud and the organization's volunteers make time each day to make sure the cats are cared for.

She does it for the thousands of cats that the organization has rescued and adopted out.

At any given time, the glass-enclosed rooms at PetSmart house several cats of various ages. Some of the healthier and more socialized cats spend time together in a main room, playing and eating and napping alongside each other. Others stay in smaller, more private areas to account for any special needs.

"I hear people say that it's sad to see them here," Persaud said. "But I've seen them in much worse places. I don't think it's sad for them to be here. It makes me happy for them because this is their opportunity to find a home."

Persaud has been rescuing cats since 2011, but officially started Little Bit of Heaven, a nonprofit organization, about three years ago.

An animal lover, Persaud originally had the idea to start a rescue for Akita dogs. She went to pick up a dog that was set to be euthanized and saw a group of kittens in need of rescue too.

"They had kittens, and they said they didn't have anybody to take the kittens," Persaud said. "I just felt bad for them, and I took them."

"I found out that, here in Dalton, there was a greater need for the cats," Persaud said. "There are a lot of dog rescues, but, even now, there is just really me that is out there just for the cats. That's what made me want to start Little Bit of Heaven."

Persaud had done some work assisting McCracken Kitty Kat Rescue, which operates in Cleveland, Tennessee.

"They taught me how to do the spay and the shots," she said.

Because operating an animal rescue doesn't stop when an animal is taken out of a bad situation or off of a euthanasia list.

Persaud's cats also aren't ready to immediately be put up for adoption when she takes them in either.

"A lot of times when we get cats, we're not able to just take them right back out and adopt them because we have to make sure they are healthy enough to be spayed and that their body can handle the shots," Persaud said.



Sometimes it's a simple check-up followed by the shots and the procedure — Little Bit of Heaven doesn't put a cat that hasn't been spayed or neutered up for adoption — but other cats have other health problems or sustained an injury.

One cat, a male Maine Coon mix named Charlie, had lost most of the fur around his neck.

"When he came, he had a hair-loss issue and I had to allow his hair to grow back so he would look a little more appealing to someone who wanted to adopt," Persaud said. "He was one that I felt hopeless with because he looked so bad."

But Charlie found a home in 2020, and today lives a healthy life with a full neck of fur with his family.

Some cats stay with Little Bit of Heaven for six months to a year before they are even ready for adoption. Persaud keeps the cats in need of more attentive care at her home until they are ready to be put up for adoption.

Persaud recalls one cat that lost part of its tail in a fire. Another was shot and came to Little Bit of Heaven in need of surgery to have the bullets removed. Both found a home after being nursed to good health.

"When you see the transformation after you see them on death's door..." Persaud said. "You get to see them leave and go into a home and people send you update pictures. That makes it worth it."



The rescue charges a small adoption fee for each cat. The fee helps pay for the medical and supply costs of keeping the operation going, alongside donations. More information about the rescue, including information on how to donate or volunteer, can be found on its Facebook page, facebook.com/LittleBitOfHeavenRescue or at its website, sites.google.com/view/littlebitofheavenrescue.

Each cat adopted and each donation helps Persaud and her volunteers save the life of more area cats.

Little Bit of Heaven can't get to every cat in need — Persaud compares it to "dipping water out of the ocean with a teaspoon" — but Persaud is proud for each cat she is able to place in a loving home.

"It's just very overwhelming at times," she said. "But, the way I look at it is that for every cat we help, we changed a life."

“ I found out that, here in Dalton, there was a greater need for the cats, There are a lot of dog rescues, but, even now, there is just really me that is out there just for the cats. That's what made me want to start Little Bit of Heaven. ” — Theresa Persaud

PRIVATE FITNESS ROOMS

Look Better. Feel Better.




habitsfitnessacademy.com

Dalton Daily Citizen



Vickie Volhein
Account Executive

308 South Thornton • Dalton, GA 30720
706-272-7745 • Cell 706-280-7416
Fax 706-272-7743
vickievolhein@daltoncitizen.com

Dalton Living CALHOUN magazine




Barton Family Dentistry

BILLY BARTON D.M.D. BARTON FAMILY AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY





1435 Broadrick Dr. Dalton, GA
(706) 226 - 3404
bartondentistry@optilink.us