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## Home For Life® The Animal Sanctuary Of St. Croix Valley

### MISSION

The mission of **Home for Life**® is to provide loving, lifetime care for dogs and cats who are unable to find homes due to old age, disabilities or medical or behavioral issues.

To foster and inspire empathy and compassion through an array of innovative, cost effective and replicable model programs which combat the causes of animal neglect, abuse and abandonment.

### DESCRIPTION/VISION

**Home for Life**® is a new kind of animal shelter, the long-term animal sanctuary. **Home for Life**® provides lifetime care for the special needs animal, the cat or dog who, while still able to lead a quality life, is unable to find a home due to age, chronic treatable disorder, handicap or similar reason. Once an animal comes here, it truly has a **Home for Life**®.

### LOCATION

**Home for Life**® is located in Star Prairie, Wisconsin on 40 acres beside the Apple River.



### A THIRD DOOR

Most shelters offer two options for animals: adoption or euthanasia. A typical family home is not appropriate for every animal. Those animals who are old, or who have disabilities, health or temperament problems may do better in another setting. **Home for Life**® believes that these special animals deserve an alternative that will meet their needs. Hence, a "Third Door" was created. **Home for Life**® animals enjoy a quality life, where they can be themselves, run and play, and be loved and cherished for as long as they live.

### LONG-TERM VISION





**Home for Life**® has created a prototype sanctuary facility that serves as a model for the establishment of future **Home for Life**® sanctuaries around the country. **Home for Life**® believes that animals should live in a setting that is appropriately scaled to allow for individual attention and specialized care which is why **Home for Life**® is able to give its residents a quality life and not just a warehoused existence.

### FACILITIES

**Home for Life**® was once undeveloped farmland and everything from electricity to heat, water, well and a road had to be brought in or constructed. In addition to a **grooming salon**; **kitchen** for food preparation, equipped with a sanitary sterilizing unit for washing animals' dishes; **laundry room** with commercial washer and dryer; and plenty of **storage** for animal food and supplies, current facilities include:


- 🐾 **Catteries** with heated ceramic tile floors; large windows and skylights; heating and air conditioning; piped in classic and jazz music to create ambiance and a serene environment; futons, cat trees and hammocks for relaxing and napping; and hand-sewn fleece pads and blankets.
- 🐾 **The Porsche and Mercedes Steffens Oasis for Feline Leukemia Cats building**, offering a comfortable and loving haven (with the same amenities as the catteries) for the **Home for Life**® population of feline leukemia cats and kittens who arrive from all over the country.
- 🐾 **Cat runs** in all catteries and the feline leukemia building, providing spacious outdoor areas (enclosed for protection) for cats to use at will, and featuring bird feeders and bird baths outside the enclosures for entertainment.
- 🐾 **Doggie apartments** with heated tile floors; large windows and skylights; heating and air conditioning; futon couches and hammocks; and quilts, blankets and fleece pads, as well as seven-inch thick orthopedic cushions for older dogs



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**Doggie Townhouses** ranging in size from 160 to 320 square feet, providing the same amenities as the doggie apartments, designed to house fractious dogs who need to live in either smaller groups, solo or in pairs due to unpredictability with other dogs.
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**Dog runs** attached by dog doors to all dog apartments so dogs can go in and out at will to an enclosed protected area.
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**Off-leash “bliss” area** boasting big fenced fields and grassy areas for running free.
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**Memorial Garden**, inspired by “Dog Chapel” by Stephen Huneck and designed in a labyrinth, symbolic for a quiet oasis, ensuring that cherished animals are forever home.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

**Home for Life**® animals participate in community outreach programs, completing the “circle of empathy”- they become willing ambassadors of compassion, taking the empathy shown them and passing it on to other vulnerable members of society. Outreach programs include:

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 The **Pet Peace Corps programs**, fostering a stronger bond of mutual respect between humans and animals by having them work toward a common mutually-beneficial goal:
  - **Peace Creatures**®, a collaborative program with the Tubman Family Alliance of the Twin Cities and the Women of Nations Shelter in St. Paul, Minnesota, uses volunteers, staff and animals from **Home for Life**® to teach peaceful conflict resolution to families impacted by domestic violence.
  - **The Renaissance Project**, now in its 11th year, pairs younger **Home for Life**® dogs with at-risk teens from Boys Totem Town in St. Paul, Minnesota. The teens train the dogs with the goal of having the dogs attain their therapy dog certification. **Home for Life**® dogs trained in The Renaissance Project by the boys then go on to participate in other outreach programs with the elderly, families at domestic abuse shelters, and patients at the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview, and the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center. The program has become a model for other area shelters and rescue groups that have started their own outreach efforts.



- **Sit\*Stay\*Heal**, a collaborative program that began with the Fairview University Hospitals to bring solace and joy to children undergoing treatment for cancer in the University of Minnesota's pediatric oncology ward. Sit\*Stay\*Heal now serves:
  - Adult **critical care patients** at Fairview University Hospital's cardiac and oncology floors
  - Adult and pediatric (ages 4-12) patients at Fairview University Hospital receiving treatment for **mental health conditions**
  - Patients at Fairview University Hospital's Good Samaritan **Long Term care facility**, suffering from Huntington's, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and young adults recovering from traumatic brain injuries
  - **Veteran and active military members** at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center's Polytrauma Unit, one of only four such units in the country, helping with severe injuries (including brain injuries) to more than one physical region or organ system
  
- **Senior Outreach Program**, in which **Home for Life®** staff, volunteers and animal residents visit nursing homes throughout the Twin Cities for therapy work with the elderly

## OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to community outreach programs that give back, **Home for Life®** offers one-of-a-kind programs to help animals, as well as partnering with national programs helping people and animals:



Angel Care-**Home for Life®** is the only sanctuary in the nation that offers this unique program that provides permanent care for pets that lose their caretakers. Angel Care is designed to provide a safety net for personal pets while still assisting in the care of all **Home for Life®** residents. As part of this special donation program, if an enrolled member should become deceased or be required by age or failing health to move to a long-term care facility while their pet remains alive, **Home For Life®** will accept the pet and care for it as long as it lives. If the enrolled member remains healthy and able to care for their pet throughout its life, then **Home For Life®** will use the donation to support other less fortunate animals, and the enrolled member still benefits from the tax deductible donation.



**Roots & Shoots® -Home for Life®** is an affiliate of this global program, founded by Dr. Jane Goodall, designed to engage and inspire youth of all ages through service learning projects. Based on the principle that knowledge leads to compassion, which inspires action, **Home for Life's® Roots & Shoots®** participants plan and implement service projects demonstrating care and concern in three areas: the environment, animals, and the human community. Research has shown that **Roots & Shoots®** has a long-term impact on young people, teaching them that they can make a difference in the world, increasing their confidence and instilling new interest in protecting the environment and animals.



**Emergency Medical Care Fund**-As one of the country's only care for life sanctuaries, **Home for Life®** is often called upon to help desperate animals whose needs are beyond the scope or capacity of other shelters. Often other shelters will simply turn these animals away. Occasionally, a shelter will take in an animal with special needs, and then later recognize that the dog or cat will require ongoing, complex care that an adoption-focused organization cannot provide. In such situations, **Home for Life®** offers another chance (the "Third Door" option) for animals who are not candidates for adoption but who can still lead a quality life.



**Education-Home for Life®** volunteers and animal residents give presentations free of charge to area clubs, schools, and community and youth groups.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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