

Northwoods Humane Society – Melissa Merrill, Volunteer

My mom always called me her Mother's Day baby. Yes, it is my birthday month! What better way to celebrate than to share this special occasion with the Northwoods Humane Society? It only makes sense, since they have provided me with priceless gifts since I was a little girl. From a young age, my parents taught me the importance of "adopt don't shop". That's how my relationship started with the NHS.

Celeste, my childhood cat who was with me from eighth grade until my early 30s, was adopted from the NHS. The years we spent together encompassed so many milestones. Shared secrets as an angsty teenager. Moving away from Hayward together as a young adult. Watching her mother Clove and Sage when they were kittens. She was such a gentle cat that loved to be outside and followed my dad around the house. Celeste's markings are like Sage and Clove's, which always make me smile.

Clove and Sage are my latest treasures discovered at the NHS. Their story is one of the main reasons I am so grateful for the NHS rescue efforts. Their mom was deceased leaving five female kittens behind. The kittens were rescued by the NHS before they were harmed or reproduced. They were a little over three months old when I adopted them. Now they're 7 and run our household. Their personalities are complete opposites. Clove is our middle girl who loves midnight snuggles, daily play time with mom and always enjoys a good snack. Sage is our baby who loves a good toy mouse hunt, lays on every piece of her dad's clothing and always demands a petting session.

The love of animals changed my life. They made me keep going when I wanted to give up through walks and play time. They made me become a better person through their unconditional love and affection. They made me healthier through increased activity and emotional support. They gave me purpose at a young age through my passion to protect and adopt them. My life is better for every single one of them.

Please help my lifelong mission to rescue and adopt animals in need. There are several ways you can assist! You can donate to the Northwoods Humane Society. Proceeds are used to rescue animals throughout the United States. If you can't donate financially, your time is priceless. Want to smile endlessly? Walk a dog and watch the wonder of the world through their eyes. Need to relax and escape for a little bit? Let a cat purr next to you and soothe your nerves. Most importantly, please consider adopting available animals through the NHS. Just remember, they are a big responsibility (with bigger rewards) and require your full commitment.

A year older. Another year shared with our fur babies. More snuggles, more play time, more laughter, more memories. Every morning, Clove follows me around the house and keeps me company. We gossip back and forth while I get ready for work. Every evening, Sage snuggles between her dad and me to get her nightly cuddle time. She takes over my blanket, her purrs loud and content. Maybe I adopted them, but 7 seven years ago, Clove and Sage rescued me. Now that's worth celebrating!

Dates to Save: May 24 – Dining for Cats and Dogs – Lynn's Custome Meats and Catering – Hwy 63 – Hayward – 10:30 to 2

