

## Nothing short of a 'Miracle': Feline gets new leash on life after being injured in house fire

SUNDAY, 20 JANUARY 2013 11:57 MISTI DREW



HARVEY BREWERS - With burns to most of her body, peeling skin on her nose, face and pads of her feet - ears that are slowly falling off, 'Miracle' the cat earned her name in a most difficult way.

It was the early morning hours of Jan. 9 at the home of Joann Snyder in Gilbertsville. Flames erupted near the back porch area of her mobile home, quickly spreading throughout the residence, within a short amount of time destroying everything and claiming the lives of three family pets.

Snyder's daughter, her husband Jason and special needs brother Ricky escaped, but not without injury.

Amid the wreckage was another victim, hurt more severely than one could tell at first glance.

The family relocated to Snyder's daughter's home just down the road. There they took the remaining pets in the household agreeing to accept offers of assistance from the public.

The family surrendered several animals to the Marshall County Animal Shelter who worked to save two more of the small pups born to a litter just a few weeks before. One

survived and one is still fighting for her life.

While no one knows exactly where Miracle was during the time of the fire, she was close enough to receive numerous injuries.

Hazen turned her over to rescue volunteer Misti Wagner, who in turn, found an area veterinarian who was willing to help.

Lenita Flanary, owner of Flanary's Veterinary Clinic in Reidland agreed to sponsor the care of Miracle using proceeds from the 'Bitsy Angel Fund,' a donation account founded in honor of Flanary's own beloved pet pomeranian who passed several years ago.

Patients and visitors of the clinic often donate to help support animals just like Miracle in need of a helping hand.

Wagner took Miracle to the clinic the following day where a thorough exam indicated the cat's injuries were more extensive than the obvious singed coat and apparent smoke inhalation, as previously thought by her owners.



Wagner said Flanary (pictured right) made the decision to shave her completely to avoid the possibility of Miracle continuing to try to groom herself, ingesting the harmful toxins and fire debris.

Miracle is now on a combination of topical and oral medication to treat her burns and possible secondary infections caused by her injuries.

Wagner says Miracle will be undergoing ear surgery in the coming weeks and will also be spayed.

In the meantime, Miracle, who has been recovering at the Wagner household, has found herself a new forever home, it seems.

“We love her and just want to make her a part of our family,” Wagner said. “She has a long road of recovery ahead of her with her injuries being far worse than we initially thought. We have fallen in love and I guess now she will be a Wagner too.”

Making donations to funds like the ‘Bitsy Angel Fund’ and to the Marshall County Animal Shelter’s donation account helps to provide medical care for animals like Miracle and the other animals injured in this house fire.

If you would like to help assist these organizations, please call 898-9738 (Flanary) or 527-0954 (Marshall County Animal Shelter.)

You can also donate online to the shelter by going to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/marshallcountyanimalshelter?ref=ts&fref=ts>.