When we found out that world renowned dog trainer and TV personality Cesar Millan, “The Dog Whisperer” was coming to Bozeman we were excited at the chance to hear him speak. Cesar is famous for taking the most hard to place dogs and rehabilitating them. He is especially drawn to misunderstood “bully breeds” like Pit Bulls and Rottweilers and works with them at his Dog Psychology Center in California. Our Development Director, Alicia Davis, took a long shot and emailed him, asking them to come visit Stafford when they were in the area. Assuming he receives thousands of emails a day from people asking him to help, it was no surprise we didn’t receive a response. That’s until Alicia opened her email the day before the show and was pleasantly surprised to find a response from Cesar’s assistant dog trainer. They would not be able to visit the shelter, but they did invite us to the show to speak about our shelter and highlight some of our adoptable dogs. We were thrilled for the opportunity and quickly arranged staff, volunteers and suitable dogs for the show. We all got to meet with Cesar beforehand, he was very interested in our Rez Dog Program, and our high placement rate. He suggested that we help him transport eligible dogs from overcrowded kill shelters in California and rehome them in Montana. He also had his crew send us information on recruitment for Search and Rescue dogs in California as they are looking for sporting dogs and working dogs that we tend to have in Montana. Cesar is an outspoken advocate for “Don’t Shop, Adopt” and was very supportive of our work and spoke about it before he introduced us on stage. He demonstrated corrections on our dogs for exuberant puppies, hyper active adolescents, overexcited walkers who pull on the leash, food snatchers, toy obsessed dogs and those with a strong prey drive. The highlight of the evening came when he met Montana. Montana’s handler brought her out onstage with Cesar’s Pomeranian named Benson. Montana could not focus on anything but going after Benson’s fluffy little tail. The front clip leash and gentle leader were not working well and Montana was very anxious and pulling to reach the small dog. Cesar then had his turn at our girl. With a very simple leash technique and his calm and assertive energy, he had her sitting and lying down as the Pomeranian pranced in front of her. She was content. For those of us that know Montana, it was a true joy to watch and it inspired hope. Montana has since been adopted. Our experience with Cesar and his crew was one we will not soon forget.

Fur Ball 2016 - Adoption: The Choice is Black & White

We are so excited to announce that our annual “Fur Ball” will be held on May 20th, 2016 graciously sponsored and hosted by Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa! This year our theme is “Adoption: The Choice is Black and White”. We are encouraging festive black and white attire and hope to have a big turnout of our most loyal supporters. Tickets are selling very quickly and, as always, we expect to sell out shortly. Tickets are $100 dollars each. If you are not able to attend there are still other ways to help! You could donate an auction item for our silent or live auction. Not only will donating to our auction get your name and logo out in the community but your tax deductible donation will also help raise funds for the animals, what’s more rewarding than that? You can also purchase a luxury raffle ticket. There are great odds of winning as we only sell 100 tickets. The winner can then choose ANY item from the live auction selection. The choices include fine art, artisan jewelry, vacation packages, fly fishing trips, custom furniture, etc. Auction item photos and descriptions will be updated on our website and social media so you can make your selection when you purchase your ticket. Available online, by phone or at the shelter. Please call our Development Director Alicia Davis at 406-222-1313 or email pr@staffordanimalshelter.org with any questions about Fur Ball. We hope to see you there!

Smoker/Grill from Ace Hardware
Turquoise Bracelet from Deer Haven Ranch
Electra Cruiser Bike from Timber Trails
Instant Wine Cellar from Colin Davis & Chico
We have made and are in the process of making significant improvements to our Shelter from an operational standpoint. Our fence project has been completed by Head Fencing. Four heavy gates were installed along with additional fencing to make the grounds around the physical plant totally secure. We no longer have concerns of an animal escaping and running into the road. We have also purchased from Shor-line Kennel Co. 7 raised indoor/outdoor kennels with drains for our barn. This will double the capacity in Dog Quarantine. The Bonnie Allchin Charitable Foundation provided the funds needed for these two ambitious capital improvements. Berg’s Overhead Door Co. donated and installed 2 overhead doors in our Dog Main and Quarantine covered kennels. Those kennels were 3 sided and extremely cold in the winter months. After the installation of the doors the temperature was improved by over 20 degrees. We are there for the animals because the community is there for us. We are very grateful!

It is in our mission statement that we take in all animals. Stafford’s Zoo continues to be a point of differentiation from other shelters in our area. Last year we cared for 155 of these sometimes exotic critters. We had dozens of Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, and Birds but also we had the occasional Snake, Tarantula, Ferret, Gecko and Sugar Glider. These animals primarily eat vegetables and we have decided to establish a garden this spring to make the program more sustainable. Any green thumbs out there?

Alicia, Nick, and I are attending the Animal Care Expo Conference in May. The conference is geared toward animal shelters and has a very useful curricula to improve anything from shelter operations, handling aggressive dogs, improving cat adoptions to improving community involvement. We were awarded scholarship money from the ASPCA to help differ the costs for this very worthwhile conference.

We continue to experience phenomenal happy adoption stories like the unlikely tale about Duke. Duke was a large, old, Brindle Pit Bull that was dropped off at the rest area between Livingston and Big Timber in December. He endured a very cold spell that left him riddled with muscle spasms as he tried to fend off the sub-zero temperatures with his own body mass. He apparently was fed sporadically by people who stopped at the rest area. A family that was staying at the rest area in their motorhome attempted to catch the traumatized dog and finally did so after 5 weeks of trying. They brought him to the shelter which must have felt like the Ritz Carlton to Duke. He was an imposing figure. After Darcy Cook of Black Dog Rehab performed several sessions of physical therapy to loosen the muscles and a steady diet along with the socialization administered from our staff Duke was ready for adoption. Lisa and Don Hartmann of the Hartmann Sign Co. were looking for a larger dog. They are regular volunteers at Stafford and bonded with the big Pit on their walks with him. They adopted him and are now inseparable. The big old guy finally has what he deserves - a loving responsible family that will let him live out his life without fear of abandonment.

- Steve Leach, Executive Director
Stafford Animal Shelter appreciates the many generous donations made in honor and in memory of beloved people and pets. Below are the names of those who have had honorariums or memorials made in their name.

### People

- Jennie Adams
- Bud Albrecht
- Martin August
- Bob Baldner
- Patricia Barry
- Keith Bekeman
- Mauril Belaud
- Ani Bell
- Ruth Bergsing
- Thomas Blevins
- Stan Bradley
- Mary Ann Burns
- Ayn Cabaniss
- Harry Carson
- Wally Case
- Linda Ann
- Chamberlain
- Helen Chapman
- Webster Counts
- Arlyn Creek
- Ronald ‘Papa’ Bear’ Dahl
- Ken Deboer
- Herb Deutsch
- Rochella Devine
- Elise Donohue
- Bobby Easterling
- Emma Ellison
- Bruce Erickson
- Geral & Merilyn Floyd
- Randy Fowle
- Stacy Gaffney
- Greta Grabow
- Abigal Hanson
- Janet Hanson
- Toby Harris
- Wilda Harris
- Jim Harrison
- Linda King
- Harrison
- Max Hawkins
- Kate Hein
- Janet Henderson
- Suzanne Hoefler
- Agnes Huiett
- Jane Jarrett
- Breeann Johnson
- Yvonne Johnson
- Douglas Kenyon
- Virginia Larkin
- Connie Lehner
- Joe Lehner
- Arnold Levinstein
- Gretchen Lilly
- Steve Maggio
- David Marchwick
- Kim Marchwick
- Wayne Marchwick
- Mary Ann Meyer
- Robert McCabe
- Russ Miller
- Roxanne Moore
- Eunice Nelson
- Cody O’Connell
- Gertrude O’Connor
- Laural Olofson
- Anna Marie Poling
- Debbie Ramer
- Reba Reich
- Margie Ruggles
- Bud Shipley
- Berlin Skinner
- Bill Steele
- John Stillman
- Raymond Tostovernik
- Sam Turley
- Evie Vietz
- Lynn Weaver
- Mike Werle
- Jack Wertz
- Debbie Wicks
- Juanita Tecca
- Wilson
- Earl Wood
- Ellen Woodbury
- Irene Yager
- Zane Zazzarino

### Pets

- Anderson’s Quigley
- Beyer’s Andrew
- Blakeman’s Skip
- Boyer’s Sydney
- Brekke’s Hoss
- Brunner’s Wolfgang
- Burn’s Jet
- Ceglio’s Indy
- Chase’s Chocolate
- Cohen’s Lucy
- Corrigan’s Cooper
- Cummins’ Calamity
- Da Feltré’s Crossford & Janosch
- Dailey’s Mama Cat & Kittens
- Dodge’s Puck
- Ellington’s Duce
- Erickson’s Allie
- Evanson’s McCoy
- Farr’s Amy Lynn
- Pedro & Chisholm’s Ace
- Field’s Jessie
- Floyd’s Buddy
- Gerdés’ Sammy
- Goodman’s Mercury & Random
- Graham’s Sylvester
- Guile’s Eddie
- Hanson’s Ivy
- Hardesty’s Winchester
- Hassalbald’s Stella
- Hendrix’s Spencer
- Hilborn’s Maggie
- Ivey’s Cooper
- Krebs’ Mama Cat
- Leal’s Princess
- Lynch’s Jasmine
- MacConnell’s Maggie
- Makowsky & Hoffman’s Mr. Kitty
- Martin’s Emma
- Mast’s Alister
- McGrath’s Finoula
- Meyer’s Isabeau, Cody & Palmer
- Njaa & Stringer’s Buster
- Parisi’s Twix
- Paulsen’s Lucky
- Pepper’s Ozzie
- Power’s Molly
- Pressley’s Oscar O’Leon
- Reich’s Laddie
- Reynolds’ Sammy, Ginger & Yvonne
- Robb’s Miss Grey
- Roth’s Pierre
- Sarver’s Heidi
- Scanlin’s Samantha
- Skinner’s Berlin
- Stanton’s Jet
- Stewart’s Ben
- Stordahl’s Daisy
- Stovall’s Badger & Trotter
- Swanson’s Ben
- Swindlehurst’s Kitty & Molly
- Taylor’s Sadie
- Todd’s Thiebault
- Ulrich’s Chi
- Van Cleve’s Schatzi
- Vejtasa’s Teena & Mitch
- Visscher’s Scrappy
- Wahl’s Dottie
- West’s Sneakers, Grey Guy & Momma Kitty
- Ziebarth’s Buddy
- ... and Zeus, Ben, Climber Cat, Copper the Mule, Gambler, Kiche the Magnificent, Robbie, Sammy & Bucky

In memory of Patricia Barry

The Shelter has established ‘The Patricia Barry Memorial Fund’, donations may be sent to the Shelter.

In memory of McGrath’s Finoula
**Laser Therapy by Dr. VanDelinder**

Stafford Animal Shelter recently took in a very sweet dog who was dealing with a large wound over his knee. Due to its size and chronicity, the two options for him were either a skin graft – which would be costly and difficult in such a mobile area, or supportive care allowing his body to heal itself over a longer period of time. Given the circumstances, the shelter and his foster parent decided to give his body the chance to heal the area without surgery. To assist with this healing a Class 3b Veterinary Laser was used in his treatment protocol.

More and more veterinary clinics are starting to use laser therapy for their patients, especially as we start to see an increase in studies and success stories in animals. In fact, some studies have suggested that laser therapy is more beneficial in animals than humans, possibly because of tighter control of our pets’ diet and exercise habits.

There are two types of lasers that pet owners may encounter at their vet’s office, Class 3(lower power) and Class 4 (higher power) – the one used in our case was a 3b. These lasers have been widely used for years in veterinary medicine, especially in racehorses, and now in our small animal patients. Typical applications include wound healing, pain relief in arthritis, and even repairing nerve damage.

So what is happening in the body during these treatments? Studies show that the introduction of photons to certain cells in the body can increase ATP production, which increases the movement of ions that regulate processes like muscle contraction, blood coagulation, and gene expression. Data has also supported theories that photon absorption by molecules in the cells can lead to increased cell proliferation and cell motility. This means that the cells involved in wound healing, like fibroblasts, neutrophils, and macrophages, can be stimulated by a laser treatment to move in and help heal the affected area. These cells also happen to be important in anti-inflammatory processes, leading to the pain relief sought in our arthritic pets.

As for our Stafford alum, he continues to heal and build new skin cells around his wound, and he happily lives with his new owner.

A special thank you to Black Dog Rehab for use of their laser in Ace’s treatments.

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**Annie’s Song**

It’s not unusual that on any given day at Stafford something happens that we have not seen before and can, at times be rather shocking. The story of Annie was one of that variety. Annie was delivered to the shelter early one morning by a concerned citizen of Big Timber. She was found foraging for food at the Big Timber land fill. She had a serious leg injury that was wrapped and looked infected.

Annie was a beautiful Labradoodle who was sweet as could be even though she was in severe pain. We agreed the wound needed urgent medical attention. One of our staff was headed to 360 Pet Hospital in Bozeman to see a friend who worked there and took Annie to get immediate attention. She was very ill and diagnosed with Gangrene in the leg. Amputation was the only course of treatment. Annie’s leg was taken at the hip that day with her recovery scheduled at 360. She was such a fighter wanting to please even after such a major surgery.

She had become an instant favorite here and apparently the same feeling was expressed at 360 Pet Medical. Kim Goodwine, who works there, unequivocally told me she would adopt and care for the dog she named Annie. The recuperation was challenging but with Kim’s loving hand, Annie got stronger. She is thriving at Kim’s place and providing a wealth of joy and inspiration. Thank you Kim!
Scoots, a 13-year-old Calico, was our longest resident last year. She was here for 476 days until the perfect family saw her post on Facebook (and so did 6,405 other people). It could not have come at a better time, the shelter was wearing on Scoots, the light in her beautiful green eyes had faded, she lost the spring in her step and no longer happily ran to greet us. As a staff favorite, we gave her the run of our break room, but she still spent may hours by herself. Since she was declawed, she did not get along with other cats in the shelter environment, she would allow us to hold her, but only for short periods of time before she became stressed and nervous. We put out the call for the help that she so desperately needed, and it was answered. See update from Scoots’s new owner – it’s proof that with a little patience and compassion one person has the power to positively influence an animal and change it’s life for the better.

“I’ve had Scoots now for 4 months now. It has been easy, yet challenging. She had rotten teeth that needed to come out. The next few days were rough while trying to give her pain meds, she would see me and run and hide. The experience completely ruined the trust we had built. I gave her space and about 2 weeks later she was running around the house like a crazy cat, meowing and just wanting to play. She climbed up in my lap and for the first time rubbed her head all over my face. She now loves to be petted, brushed and just loved on.

We were told Scoots may not do well with other cats, dogs and children, but we were willing to try the proper introduction with a baby gate and lots of patience! Scoots finally trusts my son enough to pet her and play with her. (That’s pretty huge for her.) We also have another cat Lucy (Stafford Alum “Merriweather”) and she and Scoots have a mutual agreement that they can sleep by each other and eat in the same room. By all means they are not best friends but tolerate each other and respect each other’s space. Scoots is no longer afraid of my dogs, at all. She will walk by them to get where ever she wants to go. She no longer swats at them if they move. When they get excited she just goes down to our bedrooms and hangs out by herself.

Just last week she has decided that sleeping on a bed with a human in it isn’t such a bad thing! She especially loves cuddling with my husband, she loves him so much.

Here is my one piece of advice, people need to realize when adopting a senior pet that they are just like foster children. It takes time to adjust to a new home, time to adjust to new people and pets, time to feel comfortable enough to start being themselves and most of all time to learn how to trust again. Nothing can be rushed”.

Sounds like the wait was worth it for our girl Scoots!

People seem to be attracted to the family atmosphere and hominess we project here at Stafford. As a result we sometimes are the shelter of choice from communities that are miles away. We have significant donations, adoptions and heartfelt surrenders from Billings, White Sulphur Springs, Big Timber, Bozeman and last month as far away as Miles City. We got a call from the animal control officer in Miles City. He said they were breaking up a hoarding situation where 12 dogs were living in close quarters which posed a danger to their health and wellness. He said they were breaking up a hoarding situation where 12 dogs were living in close quarters which posed a danger to their health and wellness. He said he had heard good things about Stafford and asked if we could take some? We agreed to care for three of the little guys. They were Pomeranian mixes who were extremely cute and with the demand for small dogs we were certain they would find homes quickly. We were right. They were adopted right away and went to new homes in Livingston and Bozeman. Thanks to the Humane Society in Billings for their support, too!
By Jasmine Hall
Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

Rodents, reptiles and tarantulas, oh my!

Stafford Animal Shelter accepts any kind of pet in need - from eight-legged arachnids to winged macaws and sitheny ball pythons. Since the opening of the Stafford Zoo five years ago, the shelter has admitted a large array of exotic pets. Since January 2015, Stafford has housed 46 rabbits, 38 guinea pigs, 32 birds, 25 rats, four ferrets, three pigs, three snakes, two hamsters, two arachnids, one mouse, one gecko and one sugar glider.

Stafford's acceptance of exotic pets

Stafford Executive Director Steve Leach and Development Director Alicia Davis said Tuesday morning most zoo residents have come from the Bozeman area. They said Bozeman-area residents have easy access to exotic pet stores and no shelter that accepts the animals: “All Heart of the Valley takes is dogs and cats,” Leach said. “So I bet more than 50 percent of our exotics come from Bozeman.”

Davis and Leach said many shelters do not accept exotic pets because the expenses associated with their care, including daily disinfection of the animals’ quarters, diet requirements and individual care needs. In addition, the small adoption fee does little to offset Stafford Zoo expenses.

“We will never make money running the zoo,” Davis said. “It’s more about helping the animals … it’s a losing department, but we look at it as providing a much-needed service - where would all these homeless animals go?”

Like dogs and cats, Stafford officials agree many of the unique pets have come to the shelter as surrenders, usually because pet owners did not realize expenses or care requirements associated with having an exotic pet. The most common surrendered as well as the most adopted zoo animals are guinea pigs and rabbits. Davis said many surrendered exotic pets are “impulse buys.” “I would say 90 percent (of exotic pets) are surrenders,” Davis said. “… Most of them are people who spontaneously buy them in a pet store, take them home and then realize it's not something they want to keep.”

Unusual animals

Some unusual zoo surrenders have included ducks relinquished by college students, a pot-bellied pig that traveled with his truck-driving owner, and two diamond doves that were anonymously left inside the zoo’s door.

“In some cases, the doves came from someone’s backyard who just didn’t want them anymore,” Davis said. “They just dropped them in here and left,” she said of the doves. “We don’t question it because we’d rather have them with us anyways, but sometimes we just don’t know where they come from.”

Two of the zoo’s most unusual residents, the ball python and tarantula, came to the shelter as rescues. “(The ball python) is brothers with the tarantula,” Davis laughed. “Not brothers, but they came from the same household.”

Davis’ favorite zoo pets were 9- and 28-year-old chatty macaws that were adopted last week. Leach said the birds are expensive, usually selling for around $1,000, and are very rare. “They’re amazing,” Davis said. “… They’re beautiful, to see colors like that in nature - rich turquoise and gold - and they’re so loud.”

Exotic care

Davis and Mitchell agree that exotic pet care is different from common domestic household pets, such as dogs and cats, with the largest difference in animals’ diets — snakes eat mice, arachnids eat crickets, and rabbits and guinea pigs eat fresh vegetables. Mitchell said rabbits eat two cups of greens per pound of body weight and with the heaviest rabbit resident weighing 12 pounds, that’s a lot of plants. “The balance of their diet is important,” Mitchell said. “If you give them a bunch of fruit of course they’re going to have diabetes and complications.”

Although some exotics’ diets are simple, such as the rats who can eat cat food, they often receive additional treats as well. For example, the rats are often given cat treats as shelter cats’ risk of obesity keeps them from eating the treats. “When people make donations they might not realize what’s it’s being used for,” Davis laughed. “The rats love the treats.”

In addition to diet, important aspect of the exotics’ care at Stafford is exercise. Mitchell said exercising the animals outside their cages is common such as letting “finger trained” bird sit on people’s fingers. “We let everybody run around,” Mitchell said. “The rats can do agility courses, which I never knew,” Davis laughed. “That’s a fun fact. People setup little popsicle stick agility courses... you can see it on YouTube.”

While some zoo pets such as the ball python and tarantula are “more for show” and do not require as much exercise, Mitchell said it is still important to maintain their cages regularly, as well as socialize them. “You can’t just get them in a cage and have them live in there the rest of their lives,” Mitchell said. “They definitely bond… they need to be loved on. Even the gross ones.”

(Reprinted with the permission of The Livingston Enterprise)
Have you checked out Stafford Animal Shelter's new website?! We decided it was time for an update, and with the help of Brad Bunkers and Engine 8 Design in Bozeman, the new website was launched in March 2016. It’s the same address (www.staffordanimalshelter.org) just a new look and some exciting new features. Visitors to the site will notice our bright new color scheme of teal blue, green and orange to match our new logo design. We also made the navigation easier and the pages more readable, all focused on promoting our furry residents as well as ways to support the Shelter. Most exciting, we have added a new donation feature to allow for recurring monthly donations with a credit card through PayPal. Just click the ‘donate’ button on our homepage, complete the form and if you’d like, click the ‘monthly’ box and you can have a recurring donation to the Shelter automatically deducted from your credit card each month. Becoming a Sustaining Member of the Shelter couldn’t be easier and we have thank you gifts for monthly donations! Also, see our Business Partner’s logos on our website, with links to their websites. Let’s support those that support the Shelter! We hope you like the changes and the new look.

In an effort to be more sustainable and cut costs, the shelter has decided to start its own garden to grow food for the zoo critters, grass for the cats and beneficial herbs for the dogs. We plan on growing kale, spinach, carrots, dill, sage, strawberries, sunflowers, daisies, chamomile and so much more! We are asking for the community’s help to build and tend the garden. We are looking for raised beds, soil, bed liners, covers, sprinklers, hoses and, of course, all the seeds and starters. We estimate the project to cost $400 so of course we would appreciate monetary donations, a business sponsor and/or gift cards. We use the “Amazon Wish List” tool to keep our needs current and updated in real time, but we certainly encourage people to purchase the items from local businesses when they can. Look up Stafford Animal Shelter on Amazon for our complete list of items for the garden. We are also looking for lawn care and landscaping services. After years of donating their time to the shelter the Tilton Family of Yellowstone Turf Home and Agriculture is taking a break since Karyn Tilton was accepted into Veterinary School. (Congratulations!) We will miss their dedication and support of the shelter and are so grateful for their years of generosity. If you have a green thumb and would like to help with the garden, the yard or the landscaping please contact Alicia Davis at pr@staffordanimalshelter.org or 406-222-1313.
Top 10 reasons why partnering with our shelter is good for your business!

1. 80 million homes own a pet and spend $61 billion dollars annually.
2. In Park County 65% of homes have pets.
3. Stafford has 15,000+ visitors annually in the shelter and at our events & fundraisers.
4. Our Facebook page has 2,500 hits per day.
5. Our website has 500 hits a day. Your logo and link could benefit from this traffic.
6. Your company connects with Stafford’s fans.
7. Your employee morale is raised knowing their workplace saves animals’ lives.
8. Our “Pet Patron” logo could appear on your website and in your storefront advertising that you support the shelter.
9. Your logo is front and center at our fundraising events, on our website and on our newsletter with a circulation of 3,000 distributed 3 times a year.
10. Your standing in the community is enhanced by potential customers identifying with your contribution to animal welfare.