Come join us for our annual summer fundraiser Bark in the Park! It will be held Sunday, August 23rd. The fun begins with a 5K Fun Run/Walk at 9:00. Check in will begin at 8:00 at the Miles Park Band Shell, near the Civic Center. The scenic course follows the Yellowstone River and tours some of the streets of historic Livingston. Friendly, vaccinated dogs on leashes are welcome to join. Early registration is highly recommended; pre-registration is $25.00 per runner 13 and older while day-of registration is $30.00. Children under 13 run for free (no strollers please). Register online at www.racemontana.com or email pr@staffordanimalshelter.org for a registration form. Race fees are tax deductible.

A special thank you to our Big Dog event sponsor Small Dog Realty for underwriting the race! Additional race sponsors include Bozeman Running Company, Livingston Veterinary Hospital, Murdoch’s Home and Ranch Supply, and Black Dog Rehab. Special prizes will be awarded for fastest man, fastest woman, fastest teen, and fastest dog.

The fun continues at 10:30 with the ever popular dog contests at the City Pool and Miles Park Band Shell including speed swimming, longest dock jump, best canine swimsuit, fastest dog, best pet and person costume duo, and children’s obstacle course (with their dog). Don’t forget the cats! Bring a picture of your cat to enter into the Coolest Cat Contest. Your feline friend might just win the prestigious title of “Coolest Cat in Livingston!” Events are only $5.00 each to enter. We end the day with a Shelter Dog Alumni Parade, so bring your Stafford dog and have them join in the parade. (We love to see them with their happy, forever families!)

But wait, there’s more! Enjoy a hot dog booth sponsored by Know Thy Dog, craft beer from Katabatic Brewing, The Spay/Neuter Project’s lemonade stand, shaved ice, and other local food vendors. Delight in activities for the whole family, like meeting a camel courtesy of Camel Discovery in Paradise Valley, watching a demonstration by Livingston’s canine and equine Police Officers, seeing an agility demonstration from the folks at Gray Ghost K9 Academy, meeting the gentle giants of United in Light Draft Horse Rescue, petting an alpaca with Shorn Natural Fiber Store, face painting, fun photo ops, a craft table for the kids, wading pools for the dogs, and many other animal themed booths and vendors. We will also be raffling off 4 seats in the alumni section to an MSU home football game on September 26th. A special thank you to the Needlemans for this generous donation. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20 and can be purchased at the Shelter or online at staffordanimalshelter.org.

We hope you join us in our celebration of animals at Bark in the Park! All funds raised will help provide care for Shelter pets as they await adoption. To learn more email pr@staffordanimalshelter.org, call (406) 222-1313 or visit staffordanimalshelter.org. Bring some sunscreen, chairs,
My first eight months as Executive Director at Stafford have been eye opening. I have experienced the whole gamut of emotions and struggled through situations that challenged the day-to-day operation of the shelter. From the break-in February 6th to the outbreak of ring worm in the cat wing in June, our resolve has been tested. Our staff and volunteers have risen to the occasion, however, and we are on the path to normalcy.

The challenges we face are all made worthwhile when an animal in need is paired with a loving home. Timber is a prime example. He was a special needs Border Collie mix whose time at the shelter proved to be lengthened by his medical needs. Timber was born with his femurs too short for his body. Upon examination, a local veterinarian said he would probably require surgery as he aged. This fact discouraged many potential adopters. We pleaded Timber’s case to a growing network of incredibly responsive resources, including social media, and caught the attention of a young man named Tim. Tim lives in Spokane and is the conductor of the Eastern Washington University Orchestra. He had never had a dog and wanted to make a difference in an animal that had such special needs. Tim meticulously researched how to be an effective dog owner. He called countless times to ask questions about Timber, and dogs in general. Tim asked if he could formalize the adoption once his school year was completed, which would allow him to devote his entire summer to bonding with Timber. Delivering Timber to Tim last month was one of the highlights of my time here at Stafford. Tim and Timber are having a wonderful summer full of adventure!

Emotions can run high on a daily basis. One day in March we got a call from the Sheriff who was at the home of a man outside of Wilsall. The man had been battling cancer. The Sheriff was alerted by neighbors when they hadn’t seen him in a day or two. Tragically, when the Sheriff went in the house, he found John had passed away and his animals were laying by him. John had two Coon Hounds and a cat that needed the Shelter. We drove up to the house and found the Sheriff and coroner holding the dogs, Roy and Sally, and the kitty. We loaded them in our van and as we backed out, I noticed John had a vanity plate on his truck that read “Roy’s Ride.” The next day John’s oncologist called and said all John talked about in his final days was those animals. She told me she wanted to provide for them. Today Roy and Sally live in a loving home—one they had visited often with their owner—in the same area they grew up in. The cat was adopted by the new residents of John’s home.

The shelter holds a thread that can weave the community together. Regardless of political and religious preference, animal welfare is universal. It is so gratifying to strengthen that thread as I work with so many of you on our common mission. Thank you for the indispensable support you never fail to give Stafford and its dedicated staff.

Steve Leach, Executive Director
Sustaining Supporters of the Past Year

Sustaining supporters allow the Shelter to plan an annual budget, open our doors to all pets in need, serve them without delay, and quickly place them in homes. A very big THANK YOU for the past year of sustaining support:
Knocking on Wood- Adventures with Ringworm
By Dr. VanDelinder

If there’s a word that makes animal shelter workers cringe and knock on wood any time they hear it, it is probably ringworm. While not a terribly scary disease for the infected individual—symptoms on animals include hair loss with crusts and scaling of the skin—it can mean emotional stress on the staff and animals, financial concerns, and risk of transmission to the public.

So why is this little fungus so frightening to us? Ringworm is transmitted via infectious spores which can be very difficult to detect. A cat with no clinical signs may come into the shelter with spores on its fur, from there the spores can be carried via hands, towels, litter boxes, dishes, even air currents to a more susceptible target. This is one reason why all animals who come into our shelter go into a room separate from the main population for about a week—treating them as potentially infectious and not mixing blankets, bowls, or even staff between intake and main populations to reduce possible spread of disease. On intake we now scan all cats with a Wood’s lamp as a screening test for the fungus. The Wood’s lamp produces an ultraviolet light which will cause about 50-80% of the fungal strains to fluoresce, helping reduce the risk of bringing ringworm into our population.

The second issue with ringworm is that it’s a little complicated to treat. Because cats are carrying the spores on their fur, we use a two-pronged approach of treatment. The first is oral antifungals for at least 3 weeks, which most cats tolerate really well. The second course of treatment is referred to as “Lime-Sulfur Dipping.” This involves giving every cat a bath in an orange liquid which smells of rotten eggs. So the obvious take away from all this is that we need to be very cognizant of the well-being of each cat throughout treatment, as it has the potential to be very stressful for them. Fortunately, or unfortunately, kittens are our most common ringworm patients, and they tend to deal with all of this pretty well. Treatment then continues for at least 3 weeks, or until we have 3 weeks of negative cultures for an individual.

Finally, ringworm has the potential to shut down the everyday operations of an animal shelter. We have the responsibility to provide care and housing for homeless animals, which has the secondary result of improving public safety and health, something that we take very seriously. In keeping with this standard, we opted to close our cat area to the public to help prevent transmission of ringworm to our visitors and volunteers. Over those three weeks, all the cats on the adoption floor received their weekly baths, had their cages and rooms cleaned to the satisfaction of any white glove test, and lost their scratching posts and toys, as they would be nearly impossible to confidently disinfect.

We are still treating a few ringworm positive cats, but the majority of the population has been cleared for adoption. And while we’ll continue to be on the lookout for any new cases coming into the shelter, you might also see us knock on wood from time to time.

Wish List

We want to extend our sincerest thanks to the many people who have responded to our recent ringworm outbreak by donating items to the cats and for helping us to recuperate some of the massive financial cost. We are thankful to be in an area where folks are so supportive of the Shelter and of our cats.

There are still several items on our wish list. We would love donations of the following: funding, cat toys, 16” x 12” litter boxes, scratching posts, cat trees, small carriers, large wire dog kennels, mop bucket, three step step ladders, and bedding. We are also always grateful for Clorox bleach, unscented fabric sheets, 2’ x 3’ cork boards, carabiners, dish soap, hand soap, paper towels, medium and large exam gloves, indestructible dog toys, wild bird seed, chew toys for rodents and rabbits, plastic milk crates, dog collars, Tidy Cat non-clumping litter, Science Diet canned kitten & puppy food, Feliway diffuser refills, printer paper, pens, distilled water, brightly colored duct tape, HP 61XL black and color ink cartridges, black Sharpies, and plastic clothes pins. Please drop off items Tuesday through Saturday between noon and 5 pm and ask for your receipt (donations are tax deductible!) Or, if you’d rather stay in, check out our wish list on Amazon.com; just click Wish List and search for “Stafford Animal Shelter.” Thank you!
Meet Our New Development Director

In March, Stafford welcomed its new Development Director, Alicia Davis. Prior to coming to the Shelter, Alicia had worked in Montana as a managing director of an e-commerce business and before that as a commercial insurance broker in New York City. Alicia had been a dedicated volunteer and frequent visitor at Stafford since moving to Livingston in 2008 to be closer to her family and to the peaceful life in Montana.

As an outspoken animal advocate in the community, Alicia was asked to join the Stafford’s Board of Directors. It was at the same time that the outgoing Development Director resigned and that position became available as well. Says Executive Director Steve Leach, “When the position opened up and we learned Alicia was interested, we leaped at the opportunity to bring her on board as Development Director.” She felt that joining the Shelter staff would give her more of an opportunity to make a difference in the everyday lives of homeless pets by speaking on their behalf, educating the public, and fundraising for their care.

It quickly became apparent that Alicia would benefit the Shelter in ways that extend well beyond her job description. Her business acumen, creative skills, and marketing experience are just what Stafford needed at a time when resources had been stretched to their limit. Alicia’s positive energy—regardless of the challenges and heartbreaks inevitable at the Shelter—is matched only by her compassion and love for our animals. For Alicia “This was not just a career move for me, but a culmination of my lifelong passion for animals, helping them is my calling. I am here first and foremost to be an advocate for the unwanted animals in our community.” She says “The past six months at the Shelter have been more fulfilling than my entire career in business, I’m so proud of the work we do here.”

For her first three months, all while planning our most successful Fur Ball ever, she has got by with little sleep after a litter of four abandoned two week old kittens (whom she named “The Beatles”) were brought to the Shelter and in need of foster care. She took them home and bottle fed them every two hours, socialized them, and helped find them forever homes. One of those little kittens, Georgie, has now become a member of her family in a home which she shares with her partner Drew, dogs Annie (aka “Nanners”) and Peanut (a Stafford alumnus), plus her 15 year old NYC cat Chelsea.

“Alicia was already a part of this community. She’s so personable and intelligent. Plus she brings a passion for animals,” says Leach. “She’s a natural for development work and we are very fortunate to have her.”

Stafford’s already-big heart grew another size with the recent arrival of Alicia Davis. If you haven’t already had a chance to meet her, please drop in and say hello!

Who Trained Who? Shelter Dogs & Trainers Learn Together

Know Thy Dog, a training, boarding and doggie daycare facility located in Bozeman is collaborating with Stafford Animal Shelter to introduce the Shelter Dog Academy ‘Who Trained Who’ program. KTD interviews and selects novice trainers from around the country to participate in a six-week Dog Training Apprenticeship, which concludes with the apprentice completing a two-week board and train program with a Stafford dog. The selected dog will be housed at KTD for the duration of its training and available for adoption at the end of the two week program. KTD is also offering free lifetime private lessons for adopters of the Shelter Dog Academy graduates with our certified training coaches. The two-week board and train program focuses on the individual dog’s training and social needs with an emphasis on improving behavior to increase adoptability and improve chances for a successful permanent placement. As part of the program, Shelter Academy dogs also play in KTD’s doggie daycare, become crate trained, take social training field trips around town and are exposed to cats and other critters they may meet in their new home.

Know Thy Dog owner, Kelly Engel, considers this a win-win program. It’s an amazing opportunity for a novice trainer in an Apprenticeship program to be able to have a hands-on learning experience. Kelly, also a board member with the Stafford shelter, has a long history of working closely with shelter dogs. This program is a culmination of Kelly’s greatest passions, helping people and helping dogs. Or as she says, “helping people help dogs.”
Earlier this year, we got a call from the owner of Absaroka Dogsled Treks. They were retiring some of their Siberian Husky sled dogs and inquired about using Stafford’s network to find them good homes. Though these dogs were still fairly young and in good health, they could not tolerate hard work in the warmer temperatures of Montana. Even pulling a sled in 40 degree weather could cause them to overheat quickly. We felt that finding homes for them would be a great service to provide to the sled dog industry. We made a trip out to Absaroka Dogsleds and brought Ulu and Nikolai back to the Shelter. These hard working, gentle dogs had never lived as pets. They had not been in a home environment and may have never seen stairs.

They were however wanting to please and willing to learn. The staff bonded with them and, with the help of dedicated volunteers, we all worked to make them sociable and suitable for adoption. Sure enough, several weeks after they arrived both Ulu and Nikolai got great homes.

Julie Gordon, who adopted Nikolai, says, “Nikolai loves his new found freedom in his new home and has found another best buddy in Journey. He still has some shyness to overcome but shows us a little more of his playful personality every day.” Ulu also lives with another Siberian whom she immediately adored.

The experiment was a resounding success and we would take more of these guys in a heartbeat.

Stafford Animal Shelter’s 16th annual Fur Ball was a smashing success! It is truly a pleasure to say that, once again, this year raised more money than previous years. All proceeds from the event went directly toward feeding and caring for animals who come to Stafford in need of our services. Of course, we could not do this without all of you and would like to say a very big “Thank you” to the following people and businesses:

**Auction Item Donors:**
- 2nd Street Bistro & Murray Bar
- 360 Pet Medical
- A Silent Feather, Absaroka Dogsled Treks at Chico
- Hot Springs, Ace Hardware
- Alicia Davis, Alston Chase
- Andy Art
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- Astley Jewelry, At Home on the Range
- B Bar Ranch, Battle Ridge Construction
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- Colin Davis & Chico Hot Springs
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- Jed Steele & Steele Vineyards
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- Traci Isaly
- Treat-Animal Wellness
- Virginia Muldoon
- Wendy Deans & Rafter D Training
- West Paw Designs
- Wheatgrass Saloon
- Wild Horse Steel Works
- WomenRidersNow.com
- Word of Mouth Leather
- Xanterra Parks & Resorts
- Yellowstone Valley Lodge.

**Volunteers:**
- Andy Art
- Eve Art
- Victoria Bell
- Cindy Black
- Maureen Byrne
- Sue Dailey
- Kelly Engle
- Nikki Fox
- Peter Fox
- Angie Froke
- Roxanne Haidle
- Jeanne Knox
- Amanda Leach
- Natalie McGrath
- Debbie Nelson
- Vicky Regula
- Kammie Robeszrts
- and Kristin Williamson.

**Special Thanks to:**
- Our hosts Chico Hot Springs & Day Spa, Chico’s Kitchen and Special Events staff, Colin Davis, the Art family, Auctioneer Jimbo Logan, the Hollowtops, Big Sky Photo Booth, PrintingforLess, Town & Country, Dr. Chris Kenyon and her dog Gwen, and each of our guests and auction bidders.
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Business Benefits
Business Sponsors provide crucial funds and receive multi-media publicity exposure year round. There are support levels to fit every budget and you may benefit now while making payments later during your best fiscal season. Contact the Development Director at (406)222-1313 or pr@staffordanimalshelter.org to access thousands of Shelter supporters who loyally follow the Shelter’s Pet of the Week Enterprise ads (example pictured right), website, Facebook and other social media, events, and more!

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A special thanks to our friends at Katabatic Brewing Company for hosting a Shelter fundraiser, “Pints for Paws” through their “Beer for a Cause” program. Katabatic is a dog friendly brewery in downtown Livingston. They generously donated $1 from each pint served to the Stafford. It was a great success and filled with community support, spirit and Stafford Alumni dogs! We had custom made pint glasses made for the event and 100% of the proceeds went to the Shelter. There are still a limited number available for sale, so stop in the Shelter, pick one up and show your support of animals. Katabatic will also be volunteering their time to serve their delicious craft beer at Bark in the Park. Owners Brice and LaNette Jones are avid animal lovers and can be seen volunteering at the Shelter excising and running our dogs. We are so grateful for all their support, they are a great example of how a local business can make a BIG difference in the community! 

Local Brew Supports Local Pets
 Autos for Animals: Help Pets & Get a Tax Break

Even if it’s not running, you can donate your old vehicle, get a tax deduction, and we can use the funds to care for the many animals we welcome. Everyone wins! It’s easy to schedule a pick up and they accept many types of vehicles, not just cars. To learn more, fill out the online form on the link on our “Help Pets” page at staffordanimalshelter.org, call us at 406-222-1311, or call the Car Donation Wizard directly at 877-957-2277. As for your new car, how about some stylish Stafford Animal Shelter license plates? These raise a significant amount of funds to feed our animals every year and can be purchased at any time, regardless of your license plate renewal date, and are available statewide.