

ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter - Summer 2019



- Rez Dog Rescue
- Cat Introductions
- Fosters Needed!
- and more...



Shelter Info

Stafford Animal Shelter

3 Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-2111
Fax: (406) 222-4938



Website: www.staffordanimalshelter.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Email address: info@staffordanimalshelter.org

The shelter is just east of Livingston off Hwy 89, exit 337

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.



STAFF

Executive Director

Steve Leach
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Director of Operations & Outreach

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Veterinary Technician

Kylee Jeffers

Animal Caregivers

Nicholas Radovich, Supervisor
Sara Shier, Asst Supervisor
Alex Delorey
Evin King
Lolee Nave

Facilities Manager

Charles Worth

Veterinarian

Dr. Julie Kappes, DVM

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Letter from the Executive Director

“Pigeon” is our cover girl for this 2019 Summer edition of our tri-annual newsletter. She is a graduate of our highly successful Rez Dog program where over 500 animals have been put up for adoption and ultimately placed in



suitable, permanent homes in our communities. Stafford works with several groups in 3 of Montana's largest Indian Reservations. Pound Puppies out of Ft. Peck and Wolf Point, Help Every Pet of Hardin on the Crow Reservation and a network of volunteers on and around the Blackfeet Reservation are the legitimate rescue groups we partner with. The abundance of animals on Montana's Indian Reservations can pose a daunting task for all of us to get our arms around. Spaying and neutering these animals in our care can only exponentially improve the situation there. Since unvaccinated animals pose a health risk to shelters, we have established a precise protocol that diminishes the chance of bringing in communicable disease to our facility. Our Rez Dog partners agree to vaccinate all animals and provide fosters for each for at least 10 days to establish a medical history. They also fill out required forms describing the animal's intake and disposition toward humans and other pets. This vetting process has gone a long way to assure the happy adoption outcomes we desire. Pigeon was found scavenging the dump on the Crow Reservation. She had a leg wound that was severely infected and spreading to the hip. After examination, the veterinarian prescribed immediate amputation. We found a gentle foster family in Lauren Dalzell & Michael Inman who, along with their children, provided a quiet, comfortable space for her recuperation which has been very successful. Of course, as expected, Pigeon has been made a permanent member of their family. We know many of you cherish your Rez Dogs as we have gotten very few of the 500 dogs returned after adoption. They are too lovable to part with. Please come on down to the shelter and meet the next member of your family. - Steve Leach



Pigeon with her new family

Supporters of the Past Year

Supporters allow the Shelter to keep our doors open to all pets in need, serve them without delay, and quickly place them in homes. A very big THANK YOU to:

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...and Thank You to the many anonymous donors and those donating through on-line and social media fundraisers!

Stafford Animal Shelter would also like to thank the following foundations and organizations for contributing grants to the Shelter this past year for implementation of special projects or for support of our daily operations. Thank you for being there for us when we put out the call for help! We couldn't be here for the animals without you!

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Banfield Foundation, Community Closet, Cross Charitable Foundation, Humane Society of the US, Maddie's Fund, Mildred Y. Manion Charitable Foundation, Northwestern Energy, Park County Community Foundation, Pedigree Foundation, Petco Foundation, Petsmart Charities, and Sweet Grass Community Foundation



Bark in the Park!

Come join us at our free, family-friendly, fundraiser “Bark in the Park” and help raise money for the shelter!



The fun begins with a 5K Fun Run/Walk sponsored by Small Dog Realty. The course rounds the Yellowstone River and through the streets of historic Livingston! Friendly, vaccinated dogs on leashes and children under 13 are welcome to join for free! Pre-registration is \$25.00; day of event \$30.00. (race fees are tax deductible). Registration forms available on our website. We recommend that you check in by 9:00 am to receive your bib number and familiarize yourself with the course map. Fun Run starts at 10:00. Check in at the Miles Bandshell Park near the Civic Center parking lot at 229 River Drive and the Yellowstone River.

The festivities continue from 11:00 to 3:00ish (depending on the number of contestants) with the ever popular dog contests in the City Pool and Miles Bandshell Park. Events include fastest dog, best trick, dress like your favorite animal, pet and owner lookalike contest, fastest obstacle course with dog, speed swimming, longest dock jump, Stafford alumni parade and more. Our event will be emceed by the fabulous duo of Victoria Bell & Pam McCutcheon. Don't forget the cats and zoo critters, we have a coolest photo contest, so bring photos with you. Events are only \$5.00 with all money donated to the animals.



We'll round out the day with fun raffle prizes, a demonstration from the City of Livingston's K9 Bobi, kids activities, a festival of local pet friendly businesses and food vendors including our Mark's In & Out sponsored “Hot Dogs for Shelter Dogs” (vegan dogs included), beer from Katabatic Brewing, Wilcoxon's Ice Cream and more... Bring your appetite, your pets and your family and help raise money for a great cause! Visit www.staffordanimalshelter.org for more updates. We hope to see you there!

Event sponsors:



Any Green Thumbs Available?

Summer is in full swing here & the shelter grounds look lush and full of flowers. For those of you who have not been here recently, we have entirely fenced in the property and we have 3 off leash play yards for dogs to exercise, 2 outdoor “catios” for the kitties and large garden and sitting areas for potential adopters & volunteers to enjoy time with our animals. With a small staff that concentrates on operations and animal care, we rely on volunteers to come help us with the weeding, gardening, filling the bird feeders, trimming trees, etc. Recently our Business Partners CEM Bookkeeping & Ace Hardware along with Cat Moody, Christine O'Donnell and her children, donated and planted our new flower bed at the entrance of the shelter. We also had the Bozeman Barracuda Swim Team come and rake out the play yards and collect the rubbish that had blown onto our fence line. Yard maintenance is an ongoing project and we are currently recruiting volunteers or groups to help us. If you can dedicate a couple hours a month to tend the grounds for us, please contact adavis@staffordanimalshelter.org for volunteer opportunities. Thank you to all who pitch in to help keep our shelter just as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside!



Adoptable Beauregard, Male 6 years, enjoying one our 'catios'

Managing Intake with Scheduled Surrenders

We have benefited greatly from our relationship with The School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. We have successfully completed our year-long fellowship, with an emphasis on managing intake. One of the changes we have made is we now schedule surrenders with the owners. Knowing animals are coming in on an agreed upon date helps us in our preparation and ensures the preventative measures we take with all animals are executed by our animal care and medical staff in the proper manner. Before the animal is surrendered to the shelter, we engage in counseling to establish the reason or reasons for the owner giving up their pet in order to determine if we might be able to provide assistance that could help keep the pet in their home. If it's a behavioral, medical or financial issue, we may be able to provide outreach

assistance that could make a difference. In the event our assistance would not provide the needed relief, we ask the owner if they have tried rehoming the pet privately. Since nobody knows an animal better than the owner, they are often best suited to select a home that would give the animal the greatest chance for success.

If we have exhausted all the alternatives to surrender, we support the owner's difficult decision. We assure the owner that we will be there for the animal until a suitable home is found. We have created a "family room" where a pet can be surrendered with privacy and dignity, free from judgment and the public eye.

We believe in a managed intake approach in order to avoid overcrowding and ensure we have the resources to meet the needs of all our animals. We do not euthanize for length of stay, space or overcrowding. We are able to adhere to that policy by properly planning for the arrival of surrenders and transfers. Our surrender fee is \$75, but that fee is reduced to \$25 when appointments are scheduled.



All cats who wander are not lost...
staffordanimalshelter.org

Healthy, friendly, well-fed cats are probably just taking a stroll and not actually stray. Most cats are savvy enough to tour the neighborhood safely. Before bringing a cat to our shelter, please check with neighbors, observe the cat's behavior & don't feed them. Most likely they will return home. If not, we're here to help!

LOST AND FOUND

Remember, if you are missing a pet, please check the "Lost and Found" page on the shelter's website, the shelter's Facebook page or call us to file a lost report. Also use the community's social media pages as a way to reunite lost pets. Every pet should wear an ID tag or have a microchip. In the event your pet is found stray, identification can ensure a happy reunion!



See lost or found pets in Gallatin & Park Counties on the Bozeman Lost Pet Facebook page

Welcome Home Kitty!



When adopting any shelter pet we recommend allowing time for the newcomer to adjust to you and their new situation. They just lost their family, turned up stray, or bonded with shelter staff and patience is a must when welcoming in a new best friend. We perform dog-to-dog introductions here at Stafford and we're happy to help you introduce your current dog to a potential shelter dog. We no longer perform dog-to-cat or cat-to-cat intros here as research has shown the information we gather on cats in a stressful shelter environment is not accurate. The behavior in these intros does not predict the behavior in a home. Slow and steady wins the race when it comes to felines, so this introduction is best suited for you to do and we can provide some tips on introducing a new kitty to your pack!

Cats are territorial animals so they need their own space. Set up a room designated just for your new adoptee. Large kennels, guest rooms & mudrooms work great. Provide their own bedding, toys, litter box, scratching post, food & water. Let them get to know your other household members by sniffing under the door for a day or so. The next step is to feed them on each side of the door, put their respective bowls next to the door so they can smell & hear each other. This associates them with something enjoyable! It's important you play with each of your animals so the scent transmits back



and forth on you as well. After a few days, put up a baby gate so the animals can see each other & continue to feed them side by side. Give them a break for a couple hours and continue to repeat this process until there is no hissing or growling. When they start playing through the gate or lying next to each other, it's time to lift the gate. Even cats and dog who get along well need their "safe space". Make sure you have designated areas where each pet can get away from each other (if they choose), cats prefer high spaces like cat trees or furniture. Give your dog a bed or a kennel away from your litterbox. Always have one more litterbox than you have



cats so they don't develop bad habits. You may need to live with a baby gate on your guest room to give your cat(s) a space room. And most of all be patient. It may take 3 weeks before your new animals are cuddling, but we have 1,000s of happy adoption stories that show blended families can get along "purrfectly" if you give it a chance!

FOSTERS NEEDED!



The shelter is looking for more new fosters to help care for kittens, puppies and special needs animals in a home environment. We are thankful for all of our amazing fosters who provide these critical services but sometimes it can be a struggle to find an available foster at short notice when demand is high. At any time the shelter can have 20-30 shelter animals receiving care in foster homes. Kitten season often doubles that number. More fosters can ensure the right temporary home can be found, especially in an emergency. Fostering is not just rewarding, it saves the lives of animals. Some may need more intensive care like bottle feeding or scheduled medicines while others may just need a quiet space to de-stress in a spare room. Shelter staff will provide training, support and all supplies necessary for care. A short application is required to help us match the needs of animals to your home as well as understand any preferences you may have as a foster care provider. Please contact the shelter for more information. We need you!!



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Colmey Veterinary Hospital
Cottonwood Veterinary Hospital
Crazy Mountain Veterinary Service
Double Diamond Veterinary Hospital
Hardaway Veterinary Clinic
Sleeping Giant Animal Clinic
Yellowstone Veterinary
Services

Cool Cat (\$250-\$499)
All Service Tire
Amazing Acres Pet Resort
At Home on the Range Pet Cemetery
B Bar Ranch
Big Timber Dental
Coffee Crossing
Copper Moose Oil & Vinegar
Dean Hendrickson State Farm Insurance
Double T River Ranch
Edward Jones, Stephanie Cunningham
Homestead Bed & Breakfast
Insty Prints
Katabatic Brewing
Logan Auction Service
Montana Farrier Supply
Neptune's Brewery
Outhouse Heating & Plumbing
Rick's Refrigeration
Simkins Hallin
The Obsidian Collection
Yellowstone Physical Therapy



Thank You for Another Great Fur Ball!

Our community came together to celebrate & fundraise at our annual Fur Ball Fundraiser presented by Chico Hot Springs Resort. Our "Blue Moon" themed event raised 15% of our annual budget and we have so many people to thank for donating to our animals. Without the support of local businesses, volunteers & staff this event would not be possible. Their generosity saved lives.





Special thanks to: Our hosts Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa, the Davis family, Chico's Kitchen and Special Events staff, Auctioneers Jimbo & Chris Logan, and Shelly Besler.

Fur Ball 2019 Volunteers: Sarah Bowersox, Jim Bynum, Stephanie Cunningham, Elizabeth Davidson, Kate Fairbairn, Megan Fishback, Angie Froke, Sarah Homans, Danny McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Drew Myers, Hannah Pauli, Shannan Piccalo, Vicki Regula, Kammie Roberts, and Julimarie Wistey. Flower arrangements donated by Eve Art and Sleeping Giant Leadership Class.

Auction item donors: A Silent Feather, Ace Hardware, AE Noble and Associates Inc., Alicia Davis & Drew Myers, Alston & Diana Chase, Andy Art, Anna's Antique Treasures, Anonymous, April Christofferson, Ashley Noble Wild Photography, At Home on the Range, B Bar Ranch, Bethanie & Denise MacLean, Bissel Insurance, Blue Bean Coffee Roasters, Blue Slipper Theater, Brant Oswald Fly Fishing Services, Brian Ertel, Carol & Sal Lalani, Carrie Holder, Catherine Lane Home Interiors, Cheryl Manidol, Chloe's Barkery, Chris & IA Williams, Chris Hillegass, Clarke's Custom Iron, Clyde Park Tavern, Coffee Crossing, Colin & Seabring Davis of Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa, Copper Moose Vinegar & Oil, Corral Restaurant, Cory & Diane Pulfrey, Cowboy Grille, Dan Bailey Fly Shop, Deer Haven Ranch, Dillon Smith Woodworking, Dr. Ava Riccardi, Drs. Klausen, Eagle's Nest Lodge, Elichai Fine Jewelry, Emigrant Outpost, Emigrant Vacation Cabin, Eye Care Professionals, Fiesta En Jalisco, Follow Ur Nose BBQ, Gil's Goods, Gone to the Dogs, GS Hardware, Hali Kirby, Jack Yardley, Janice Drout Massage, Jewel Salon & Spa, Joanne Berghold Photography, Judith Forseth, Julimarie & Chad Wistey, Jurvi Girlz, Karen Vaughn, Kellem's Montana Saddlery, Kintla Couture, Leslie Nelson, Lisa Marshall Pottery, Livingston Home Outfitters, Livingston Kite Company, Livingston Pilates, MacNeil Lyons, Maranda Lee, Mark Davidson, Mark's In & Out, Matt's Meats, Michael Leach, Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply, Mustang Catering, Mystery Ranch Backpacks, Nancy Jurvakinen, Neptune's Brewery, Out of the Blue Antiques, Pat Bigelow, Peggy Reich, Pet Safe, Pet Smart, Petco, Phyllis Bedbury, Pura Vida, Railyard Fitness, Red Ants Pants Music Festival, Rowdy River Guides, Sage Lodge, Sandy Erikson, Sandy Leal, Second Story Studio, Second Street Bistro, Shane Quimby Vacation Rental, Shannon Kirby, Special Lube Livingston, Steve Spencer, Summit Aviation, Sweetwater Fly Shop, Tah Madsen, The Beanery, The Element Hotel, The Frame Garden, The Mint, The Murray Hotel, The Obsidian Collection, The Office, The Old Saloon, The Owl Lounge, The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, The Spur Line, The Wine Gallery, Timber Trails, Tom Shellenberg, Tracy Raich, Travel Company-Dan Vermillion, Tumbleweed Bookstore, Two-Bit Saloon, Vicki & Joe Regula, Vicki Van Buskirk, Victoria Rusnick, Victoria Bell & Dennis Schuler, West Paw Designs, Whiskey Creek, Wonderland Cafe, Woods Rose Market, Yellowstone Angler, Yellowstone Gifts & Sweets, Yellowstone Lodge & Grill, Yellowstone National Parks Lodges, Yellowstone River Motel.



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