

# ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter Spring 2021

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**Stafford Animal Shelter**

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



**Website:** [www.staffordanimalshelter.org](http://www.staffordanimalshelter.org)

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Email address: [info@staffordanimalshelter.org](mailto:info@staffordanimalshelter.org)

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

**Regular Hours:** Wednesday - Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

**Covid-19 Hours:** By Appointment, see website



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Brenda Johnson  
Liz Kever  
Evin King  
Lolee Nave  
Nicholas Radovich

**Facilities Manager**

Charles Worth

**Veterinarian**

Dr. Julie Kappes, DVM

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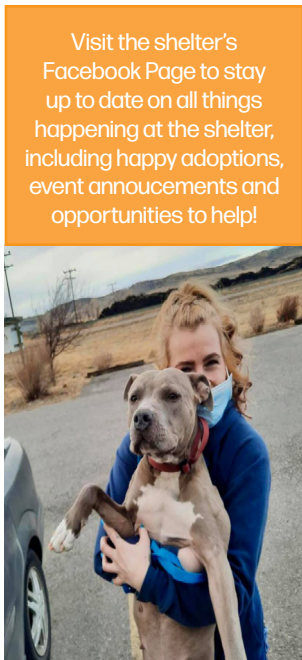
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Covid has undoubtedly changed the world and how we all operate within it. Businesses have had to adjust to greatly reduced traffic and less involvement with their customers. Relationships suffer as a result and financial investment into those businesses takes a new look of less is more. The shelter world is not immune to these changes in fact we suffer from the same Covid restrictions as do our business partners. Walk in traffic has been eliminated for the past year. Group activities have also been curtailed. All classes and instruction opportunities have been conducted through Zoom. Fundraising, as we know it, does not look the same. Our annual Fur Ball was cancelled as was Bark in the Park, Santa Paws and Pottery class, Bingo, Pints for Paws and others. The Government helped supplement income with their Paycheck Protection Program but going forward that help might not exist. Now, as the vaccine roll out is at full speed, we hope to see an environment where operations start looking more normal and events can again be scheduled. We have tentatively booked Fur Ball for October at Chico (watch social media for dates and when to purchase tickets). Bark in the Park should happen in August, and all other group activities could resume this fall. With all that said, our expenses remain constant, and your support remains our lifeline for continued uninterrupted services. We cannot thank you enough for helping during the pandemic!



Since the advent of Covid our animal counts and length of stay have gone down considerably. Year to date, our animal intake numbers are down 31%. Our animal length of stay for dogs is 8 days vs 16 days. Cats showed similar results in LOS reduction. We have no definitive answer to why these trends have happened and have no crystal ball as to if they will continue after the virus runs its course. "Clearing the Shelters" has been a national movement where intakes and LOS counts have been down dramatically everywhere and that is a good thing! My gut feeling tells me that you, our community, are the reason for these improving numbers. People have more time and their hearts have widened in this crisis. You have stepped up helping our shelter survive this virus both with your commitment to our animals and your financial support. We are the only animal welfare organization in Central Montana which is an enormous responsibility that we take very seriously. We know you share our deep concern for the unwanted animals in the counties we provide services for. This is an essential mission and we have been recognized, by authorities, as an essential business. Many of you have shown that you value our efforts with your support, which is a critical ingredient to our health and longevity. Thank you very much!

It is a pleasure to state that with our current staff of 12, our animal care technicians and managers have acquired in excess of 51 years of experience here at Stafford. The continuity for the full and part time employees is at an all time high. To me, this statistic is as important as any benchmark we calculate. An experienced staff dedicated to the Stafford mission statement helps us treat and care for more animals in need. This continuity will ultimately determine the degree of our success. The % of adoptions to intake is at an all-time high and our euthanasia stats are at an all-time low so kudos to folks who make this happen.

- Steve Leach

**Stafford Animal Shelter's Mission Statement:**  
Stafford Animal Shelter prevents animal distress by caring for displaced animals, facilitating adoptions and reunions, minimizing pet overpopulation and pioneering humane education & community outreach.

# In Memoriam

## People Honored with Memorial Donations:

Marie Anderson	Joan Horan	Janet Nebeker
Eve Art	Steve Houlie	Sean O'Brien
Stanley "Skip" Burns	Norton Howe	Virginia Peters
Ruth Conlin	Kari Howe	Tom Peterson
Gary Cowan	Leroy Jorgensen	Jim Ricci
Julie Danaher	Alan Kahn	Harold Richardson
Randy Dean	Bill Kamrath	Paul Rigler
Ann & Herb Deutsch	Walter Kirn	Norma Shapiro
Ella Duffy	Nathan Kovash	Olga Smart
Jeffrey Durham	Douglas Jo Kurk	Bernice Stetzner
Jacobus Johannus	Gale Kair	Bob Strachan
"Co" Engelhart	Steven Larsen	Dale Trapp
Janice Ewan	Steve Masera	Bruce Vanica
Arlene Graham	Svend Mauland	Melissa Williams (Barnes)
Martha Hampson	Sloane McCue	Jan Wood
Wanda Hargis	Lucille Miles	



## Eve Art

There hasn't been a Fur Ball without Eve Art. When Eve and her husband Mike owned Chico Hot Springs they collaborated to start our annual major fundraising event that continues to this day. Eve, with her daughter Andy's help, would donate and arrange the flower centerpieces and happily high-bid on auction items all to benefit our animals. A couple of years ago, she adopted her best pal Roogie from us, a Golden Retriever who was by her side till the end. We will miss her wit, passion, flair, and we are grateful for the years of support! Our hearts are with her girls and the many who loved her.

## Sloane McCue

A bright light in our community was lost when Sloane McCue passed away. Sloane volunteered here at Stafford and she donated her graphic design skills for many past event posters & signage. She was a frequent guest of Fur Ball with PFL owners Andrew & Victoria Field, where Sloane was a longtime employee and friend to many (including ALL the office dogs). She and her husband Don were Stafford adopters and Sloane would be the first to pick up a stray dog and help a kitten in need. Her trademark was to make colorful, cheerful photo collages for all her family and friends on their birthdays. She left the world a more beautiful place and we will miss her.



The shelter extends our sympathies and condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the people and pets honored here. Our hearts and thoughts are with you.

You can honor the memory of a beloved person or pet with a donation to animals who will thrive because of your gift. Honorees will be listed on our memorial boards, newsletter, and a personal letter announcing your generosity will be sent to those you'd like notified.



## Pets Honored with Memorial Donations:

Blackford's Hunter	Labossiere's Csilla
Bower's Calli	Labossiere's Mister
Campbell & Vollers' Shamus	LeProwse's Sofie
Campbell's Jet	Lund & Witte's Big Foot
Clotz & Bearden's Reese	Marvin's Theo
Colbert's Max	McCutcheon & Vellinga's "Bob the cat"
Day's Buddy	Miller's Moose
Dyleski's Curry	Mitchell's Ruby
Endicott's Katie-Fly	Nichols' Kephart
Fitzgerald's Bodhi	Nicholson & Carlson's Sampson
Graybeal's Ginger	Nightingale's Jasper
Green's Rex	Njaa's Jessiebell
Grunig's Sunni	Olsen & Bernard's Artemis
Hagen & Lipton's Molly	O'Reilly's Molly
Haydon's Annie	Parriott's Sophia
Hoffman's Cheddar	Redmon & Clement's Marlin
Hoffman's Princess Laney	Regula's Willow
Hondorf's Brooklyn	Rykken's Sally
Iobst's Herbie	Small's Scruff
Jurack's Agnetha	Soll's Jasper
Jurack's Friday	Stack's Buddy
Jurack's Sassy	Swan & Strong's Beef
Kessler & Cahill's Gemma	Taylor's Boris
Key's Tor	Westby's Riley
Knoll's Cheech	Wilson's Zoe
Knoll's Missy	

## "Bob the Cat"



Recently our friends and donors Pam McCutcheon and Corey Vellinga lost their beloved "Bob the Cat". A formerly feral cat that they tamed into a cuddly house cat, he was always on adventures. Any time we saw Pam we had to ask "which house is Bob at today?" because after they moved, he famously traveled the 2 miles back to their old home 61 times! He was a well-loved friend and character who will be greatly missed by his fans.

## The Housing Crisis & Pets

Housing is probably one of the most highly discussed topics in our community and classifying it as a crisis would not be off base. The lack of options, both for rent and purchase, at any income are at a minimum. Our beautiful area has always drawn people in, but during Covid, many have migrated here from overcrowded cities and suburbs seeking solace. Employers realize the benefits of telecommuting so many are looking to permanently set up residence in Montana. Existing rentals are being converted to vacation rentals. The lack of available senior friendly housing doesn't allow them to move from their homes, much too big or burdensome for seniors to care for, the same homes that would be excellent starter homes for larger families. We have many excellent organizations collaborating on this issue in Park County but until things improve, we continue to see the heartbreaking effects here at Stafford.

Our cover cat Stash was surrendered after his mom could not find any affordable housing or pet friendly rentals. She even tried to live in her car with him until she realized that was not feasible as there were no housing options in sight. We often hear people postulate "I'd never give up my pet", but the truth is, sometimes there is no other option, and sometimes it's the loving choice to ensure they have the best life possible. The decision is never taken lightly here at Stafford either and we consider it a great responsibility. We promised her that we would find him a home worthy of her love. We posted him on our social media and 11,000 people saw our plea. Thankfully he was adopted by a wonderful woman the very next day, promised fulfilled.

Stash's story is one of many whose families were torn apart by the lack of available housing. Hank the German Shepherd, Cooper the Belgian Malinois and Journey the Tabby cat (seen here) are some who's homelessness turned happy ending thanks to our adopters opening their hearts. Knowing they are healthy, happy and safe is the silver lining in these bittersweet situations.

70% of homes have pets and we're hoping to see more landlords allow pets. We know from studies that there are actually benefits to renting to pet owners. Most become long term renters since they are so grateful for the availability, which means less turnover for landlords. They are more than willing to pay higher rent and security deposits. They're responsible for their pets so they keep consistent schedules, maintain jobs and take care to secure the property. Studies also show pet owners tend to be more mentally well balanced and overall healthier, happier, contributing members of the community. Brooke Laird owner of Key Montana Property Management & Vacation Rentals in Livingston has several pet friendly rentals. Not only does she realize pets are an important, healthy part of families daily lives and experiences here in Montana, she sees allowing them in rentals as a solid business decision. "We encourage owners to allow pets on their properties when possible, it opens the rental pool up to a wider range of tenants", she adds "Overall we've had great experiences with people and their pets and find they will happily pay a cleaning fee or higher deposit for the benefit of keeping their pets with them". We hope with new housing solutions on the horizon, more pet friendly landlords will step up and help keep pets with their families.



photos: top, Stash homeless no more; above, left to right: Craig & Hurt's Journey helps tie flies; Hank has someone to grow up alongside; Cooper found 2 new best friends

# Community Pet Companionship Services for Seniors

Senior citizens represent 24% of the population for Park County. That percentage is considerably larger than the national average. It is a fact that the pandemic has highlighted isolation in vulnerable groups. Senior citizens are one of those groups and many of them live alone. It is accepted, that in Park County, there exists a lack of services and government programs for wellbeing, emotional and mental health to help serve these vulnerable segments of the population. Seniors also face financial challenges while living on fixed incomes with little financial assistance. As a result of these statistics Stafford has decided to establish a community pet companionship program intended to keep pets in senior homes and introduce pet ownership to all seniors who want one. We can launch this program offering a variety of valuable services to our senior population.

The Organization of Greater Good has designated Stafford as their representative in the State of Montana to distribute large quantities of pet food to our local communities. Greater Good also provided leashes, collars, beds and bowls, to ease the pressure on new adopters. As a result of this designation the benchmark for our senior program was



to provide pet food for all seniors that need it. This core service also has a delivery component for shut-ins and folks without transportation. The programs service menu also includes financial as-

sistance for veterinary care as well as transportation to the senior's veterinarian of choice. The program will also offer free boarding for those in crisis with health or housing issues. For seniors who decide they want to adopt we have waived all fees associated with that adoption. These services are not free and requires additional fundraising efforts. Grants and earmarked donations have been requested and we hope that an influx of funds will help us sustain this initiative indefinitely. We have branded this program Furever Friends Services and are exploring collaboration with several entities in our County. We intend to collaborate with area social services organizations to identify pet owners in need. We have to collaborate with the local veterinary community as well in order to provide pet wellness needs or urgent services including financial and transport assistance.



Tom adopted his new Furever Friend soon after his beloved Stafford alum cat, Jack, passed away. Mr. Frederiksen, a senior stray who was never reclaimed, has found a loving home with Tom, who now has many names for his new companion including Mr. Fred Underfoot and Mr. Softy! Happy adoption, indeed!



Last week we set out for the High Line in Northern MT. Deliveries were made to Havre, Shelby, Cut Bank and Browning to the local food banks there. They were excited to get the large quantities of pet food for their towns. As we approached the food bank in Browning, a group of people were waiting. They had heard we were delivering pet food and lined up to get what they needed for their dogs and cats. Many of the folks waiting were seniors! So the Furever Friends Program was launched providing valuable services!

Above: some of our recent senior adopters, finding a new companion at the shelter; the shelter's pet food bank, providing free pet food to any pet owner in need, just one of the many community services the shelter offers to help loved pets stay in their homes



## Parvo and Bobby B.

When Stafford was one of seven shelters honored to participate in the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinarian Shelter Medicine Fellowship, we knew that the experts would teach us many new things. That was an understatement, as our operational approach to animal care has been totally refined based on the education U of W provided the Fellows. One of the topics for the fellowship was treating parvo and distemper in the shelter environment. Dr. Sandra Newberry, who is the Dean of the school, wrote the book on treating parvo and distemper in shelters. Since the fellowship we have treated several cases of these serious diseases with great success. We have many alums who went through the treatment after testing positive who are now in wonderful homes.



Bobby B, now Carson, was nursed back to health by a wonderful foster family and was lucky enough to find a forever home at the same time!

The most recent case was a dog named Bobby B. who came to us from our rescue partners on the Crow Reservation. Bobby was a beautiful, 10-month-old male who was well behaved and very social. When he started vomiting and having diarrhea, we tested him and the test came back positive for parvo. We immediately isolated him in our barn and began treatment for the disease. This arduous treatment is tough on the dogs and on the staff. Strict protocol has to be adhered to in order to mitigate spread. These protocols demand wearing gowns, head coverings, gloves and booties which are discarded after each visit. Deep cleaning and sterilizing are daily requirements. The isolation is hard on the dogs especially these young pups, so when treating, we have to build in time for play and socialization. After three weeks of intense treatment Bobby B tested negative. We needed two more negative test each one



week apart before we could clear Bobby for adoption. We advertised for a foster who could execute the procedure of no contact with any other animals in the community until three negative tests were realized.

Whitney and Charles Martin were up for the task to be the foster for Bobby B. and took the lucky guy into their home. The rest is history, as the entire family fell for Bobby from afar and the Martin's son-in-law, Phil Rheubottom, put in an adoption application for this guy. "I want to put in an application to adopt Bobby B. My in-laws are Charles and Whitney Martin. They are currently fostering this beautiful and sweet dog. We got to meet him from a distance earlier today and my family instantly was head over heels for him." We joyfully completed the adoption and Bobby B, now called Carson, is in this wonderful home. Thanks to the Martins and their extended family!

## Alumni Update - National Parks Litter

Back in October we received a call from Beth, a Park Ranger in Glacier National Park. She is familiar with Stafford's work through our network of volunteers on the Blackfeet Reservation. Sadly she had found a mother dog who was hit by a car orphaning seven, four-week old puppies. The puppies embarked on the long drive to the shelter having to stop along the way to be handfed formula every couple of hours. As we do with all infant puppies, we perform intake exams and then we arrange for foster homes to take them in groups until they were cleared medically and old enough to be spayed/neutered & adopted out. As a tribute to their birthplace they were dubbed the "National Parks Litter": Glacier, Rainier, Bryce, Zion, Kenai, Arches & Yellowstone.

We found these puppies wonderful homes. Some were adopted by their foster families and some by their friends so most of them get to have regular play dates with each other. Even though they are all from the same mother, it's clear from the DNA results more than one father was in the mix. Some of them take on the traits of Malamute / Akita, while others look more like a German Shepherd / Rottweiler. It's fortunate that these owners all have the availability to network and meet each other but since we value our adopters privacy, we don't release contact information. Instead we started a "Stafford Animal Shelter Montana Alumni" Facebook Group and hashtag #sashelteralumni on social media. This way you can voluntarily join to share your pets photos, DNA results, arrange play dates and share happy updates with fellow adopters. Since the launch it's been a great joy to see the many cats and dogs that have come through the shelter. Although our original intent was to set this page up for the public, we find it provides daily inspiration for the staff too. Nothing makes us happier than seeing the animals we cared for in their new homes. Please join today and keep sharing the love!



Pictures, from left to right: Top Row: Bottle Baby Zion; Bryce (Moe) Happy Adoption!  
Middle Row: Rainier (Annapurna) and Arches (Eroy) on a play date; Glacier in her element  
Bottom: Kenai was born to love the snow; Yellowstone (Jake) is a beautiful mix with 1 blue & 1 brown eye

# 2021 Business Partners



**Thank you** to all of the generous local businesses who choose to support Stafford Animal Shelter! We ask all of our newsletter readers to support these businesses! We couldn't be here for the animals without the generosity of our community's business owners who have a place in their hearts for the 1000+ homeless, unwanted and abandoned animals coming to the shelter each year.

## Leader of the Pack (\$10,000+)

Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa

## Best in Show (\$5000 - \$9999)

Printing for Less.com, Inc.  
Spectec Thunderbird International  
Yellowstone National Park Lodges by Xanterra

## Friend for Life (\$3000 - \$4999)

Rx.Coffee  
Small Dog Realty, Pam McCutcheon

## Top Dog (\$2,000 - \$2999)

Joanne Berghold Photography  
(Joanne & Billy Berghold)  
Nevin's Glass

## Pick of the Litter (\$1000 - \$1999)

American Bank, Livingston  
Bridger Animal Nutrition  
Hill's Science Diet  
John Mabie, CPA, P.C.  
Jon Ellen Snyder - ERA Western Landmark  
Mark's In & Out  
The Obsidian Collection  
Raich Montana Properties  
Raney & Raney, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts  
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## Pet Patron (\$500 - \$999)

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Eyecare Professionals & Mountain Eyewear  
The Firehouse Gym - Big Timber  
First Interstate Bank, Livingston  
Gardiner Market  
Livingston Tree, Lawn & Snow Removal  
Sky Federal Credit Union  
The Spur Line  
Tech Electric  
Yellowstone Appliance

## Veterinary Business Partners

All Creatures Veterinary Service  
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Outhouse Heating & Plumbing  
PetCo  
PetSmart  
Ruggles Excavation  
Simkins Hallin  
The Stockman  
Western Glass Company  
Yellowstone Physical Therapy



## Puppy Sleepovers

**W**ant all the cuddles, cuteness and puppy breath without the long-term commitment? We can make all your dreams come true! It sounds like an infomercial, but it's the basis for a wonderful program we have here at the shelter called the "Puppy Sleepover Program". We took in 396 puppies last year and even though their average length of stay is less than 24 hours, sometimes they need to stay in the shelter overnight when they're not adopted. Although we vaccinate on intake, puppies are still developing their immune systems, making them one of our most vulnerable populations. To avoid transmission of infectious disease and stress caused by being separated from littermates, we ask our foster families to help. We have several amazing "on call" fosters that we can call upon every day around 4:30pm when puppies are not adopted. The fosters come and pick them up for a sleepover in their home. Once a foster is approved, they are provided the supplies (kennels, bedding, toys, food etc.) so they just keep the set up ready and waiting for their puppy duty. When puppies are on sleepovers the main goal is to have them relax, interact with the resident adult dogs and get lots of TLC! Then they report back to the shelter the next morning rested, relaxed and ready to meet their forever families.

Foster Kristen Galbraith signed up to be one of our first sleepover homes. Her high schoolers help as well sharing lots of activities and affection. She says "Our lives are much more fulfilled offering a temporary safe haven for shelter puppies.

We see them thrive from our human attention and we see them learn so much from our older dogs!" Sleepover foster Angie Matos travels for work, but when she's in town, she lets us know she's available and we put her on call. She says "Just knowing that I'm doing a small part to help the incredible team at Stafford Animal Shelter has been rewarding! It's vital to be able to socialize these dogs and goes a long way to them having healthy, happy lives."

Having these accommodating and caring fosters is essential to the success of the sleepover program and the mental and physical wellbeing of the puppies. We're so grateful for their help! If you'd like to apply to become a puppy foster, please email [adavis@staffordanimalshelter.org](mailto:adavis@staffordanimalshelter.org) for an application.



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**AUCTION ITEMS**

**ACCEPTING NEW (COLLECTIBLE) VALUABLES OR EXPERIENCES THAT CAN BENEFIT OUR HOMELESS PETS!**

**"Now" & "Then"!**  
Share photos, DNA results, find littermates & meet fellow SAS adopters in our alumni group!

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#sasherteralumni

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