

ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter **Spring 2022**

Inside:

- Rosie Fund Recipients Look to a Healthy Future
- Become a Foster
- Win a Trip to Yellowstone National Park!

and more...





Stafford Animal Shelter
3 Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-2111
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www.staffordanimalshelter.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Email:
info@staffordanimalshelter.org

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

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

Adoptions are by Appointment, see website

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Veterinarian
Dr. Julie Kappes, DVM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Nikki Fox
Secretary & Treasurer: Karen Greathouse

Board Members:
Andy Art, Hannah Barney,
Gwen Strachan, Julimarie Wistey

Letter from the Executive Director

With the advent of 2022 upon us, we look forward to life returning to some semblance of normalcy after the upheaval caused by the pandemic. While we were all tried and tested the last couple of years, we came through the Covid turmoil a stronger organization. It took a concerted team effort and resolve to concentrate on the "Mission" of being the advocate for all unwanted and misplaced animals in our community—a daunting task that we are proud to be responsible for. Of course, we can't and don't do it alone, thanks to all of our community's efforts—your donations, volunteering of your time and a foster network that provides much needed special care. What's the saying? "It takes a village?" Well, it does!

This year we have had intakes for 190 animals through the 23rd of March. That is on par with the number of intakes for the same period a year ago. We are noticing that this year we have seen an increase of animals that have an injury or a condition that needs immediate medical attention. This fact made it evident that we need to upgrade our medical capabilities to keep up with the medical demands thrust upon us. We have invested in equipment that will help us deal with the many conditions we see that need diagnoses and treatment. Many of you know that we have embarked on a major initiative to offer our community alternatives to surrendering their animals to us. Greater Good Org. has designated us to be their distributor of pet food throughout central Montana. We also work to raise money to fund our Vet Assistance Program as well as providing counseling for behavioral issues. Good news—as of today the rate of surrendered animals is down 23% from the same period a year ago!



The shelter's veterinary team
hard at work

The MAAWP (Montana Association of Animal Welfare Providers) is an emerging organization that hopes to share best practices with animal welfare providers and, ultimately, work to establish a benchmark for standards of care. The reality is that there is a wide range of discrepancy of conditions and average length of stay around the state. There are shelters where the length of stay is unacceptable and the motives for operation very much in question. Unfortunately, there are no legally established minimum standards of care and no enforceable legal actions that can be taken when care is determined to be substandard. It is our goal to research and establish minimum standards of care for welfare providers that can be measured and graded so that such providers can be given specific steps for improvement. We have seen several instances where adoptable animals have been housed in a shelter for years, not days, which is totally unacceptable. In such situations, we want to have the means to enforce those minimum standards, for the sake of the animals.

The Indian Reservations in Montana and Wyoming continue to work on controlling the population of animals in their communities. We are helping with several spay and neuter clinics on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet Reservations this coming summer. We continue to take animals needing special care that are presented to us from the rescue groups associated with these tribes. Many of you have adopted these guys and swear that they are incredible dogs. Many were free roaming dogs that got along well with others and are very social. They've learned food is more abundant when one is well behaved! We have found our relationship with the tribes to be a hugely positive experience.

And Fur Ball is back on! We have been given the green light to have our big, in person, dinner event at Chico on May 20th. It's been a 2-year hiatus for our most successful annual fundraiser, and we are excited that Fur Ball is back. We look forward to seeing all our friends face-to-face. We will raise a glass and toast to all of you who support Stafford Animal Shelter. See you then! -Steve Leach



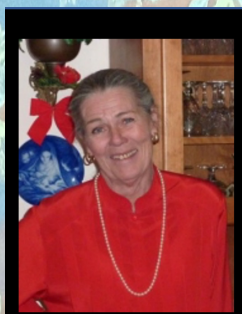
In Memoriam



Judy Roy



Carol Davis



Carol Kirby

People Honored with Memorial Donations:

Louis Armentaro
John Berst
Gary Britt
Dallas "Earnie"
Bullock
Marie Daven
Carol Davis
Dick Dehn
Jody Finitzer
Renate Fisher
Judith Harris
Douglas Holm
Carol Kirby
David Kirkpatrick
Elizabeth Lahren

Joan-Nell Macfadden
George Martin
Lila Mae Matson
Roger Nack
Shawn Olson
Joyce Owen
Wayne Pierson
Joene Rahn
Betty Ratliff
Al Richards
Judy Roy
Lee Stewart
Peggy Williams
Carol Woodley

Pets Honored with Memorial Donations:

Art's Roogie
Ball's Molly
Bartz' Jezebel
Bernard's Satchmo
Bernard's Titan
Blaylock's Hairy
Bronken's Zeegy
Buckreus' Suri
Bushnell's Pi-O-Pah
Chase's Willow
Chase's Flower
Cowett's Sadie
Doyle's Sinny
Drahos' Sage
DuBois' Sweet Sasha Sue
Eller's Bogey
Ertel's Hobbs
Flammang & Ewanic's
Maggie
French's Elbert
Frisk's Toby
Gidley's Revy
Graham's Josie
Green's Daizy
Hall's Roscoe
Hansen's Donnie
Hanson's Poncho
Hilborn's Lucy
Jurack's Friday

Kleine & Caliri's
Butterscotch
Loftice's Bella
Lyness' Tommy
Madsen's Thule
Mallack's Grover
Mallack's Bing
Martin's Loki
McCormick's Mackey
McCutcheon's Piper
Miller's Elliot
Ongaro's Pearl
Peterson's Zoey
Rote's Coral
Scanlin's Jack the Cat
Scanlin's Tigger
Skinner's Elsa
Stack's Scout
Tietz's Katie
Toresdahl's Lilly
Van Buskirk's Maxwell
VanZeel's Istari
Wade's Leesa
Ward's Dubs
Welch's Daisy
Whitten's Pepper
Whitten's Bailey
Wood's Blanca
Wood's Holly
Ziggy Stardust



**Kleine &
Caliri's
Butterscotch**



Frisk's Toby

Stafford Animal Shelter extends its 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 walls, in our newsletter and a personal note announcing your generosity will be sent to those you'd like notified.



Nowhere to Go but Here

Every day here at Stafford, homeless, unwanted animals are left at the shelter with no other place to go! Recently, many of the animals presented to us have had challenging medical conditions that needed to be treated immediately. Gunshots, car accidents, persistent infections and chronic disease are recurring conditions frequently presented to us. These animals do not have owners or sponsors to pay for the needed treatment, which means that responsibility falls on Stafford. We don't take it lightly.

Our cover boy Ben was one such animal. Ben was in the pound in Miles City for months before the ACO decided Stafford was the best place for him. He came to us and upon intake exam, we found nasal discharge which we treated as an infection with antibiotics. When Ben didn't respond, we took him for an X-ray which showed he had a bullet lodged in his muzzle that needed to be surgically removed. It took three veterinarians to get the fragment out. After a week in recovery, Ben showed that he was feeling 100% better and he began to play and socialize with all staff. He was placed up for adoption and soon after a young man from Bozeman clicked with Ben and formally adopted him for his lifelong companion.

Rosie Fund Recipients



Ben



Acorn



Clara



Annie



Reese

Acorn was a puppy from Help Every Pet of Hardin who was hit by a car. He couldn't put any weight on his back left leg. During exploratory surgery it was determined the leg was far too damaged to be fixed. Amputation was the only option. When we picked him up after his surgery, it was evident how successful the surgery was as Acorn was bouncing off the walls, ready for adventure in his wonderful new home in Livingston!

Clara was a Pit mix with a wonderful disposition, who was brought to us by the police as a stray. After a few days with us, we observed a large amount of blood in her kennel. It was after hours so Sara rushed her to PETS in Bozeman where she had emergency pyometra surgery for an infected uterus. They removed the uterus and when she returned to the shelter, we treated her with antibiotics and pain meds. She responded well and made a complete recovery. She was put up for adoption and her new mom took her home as a foster to adopt. After just one week Clara was formally adopted by a very happy new owner.

Annie was another HEP dog from Hardin. On intake we noticed Annie had something wrong with the right side of her face. There was excessive scarring from injuries that were consistent with having been attacked by a wild animal. Due to the resultant scar tissue, Annie could not blink her eye. Our medical staff performed a tissue release surgery to loosen the skin and allow Annie to blink and use that eye again. The surgery was a complete success and Annie is now a happy, active pup in her new forever home.

Reese was a kitty from Emigrant who was brought to us as a stray. On intake we noticed a very inflamed foot due to a traumatic injury. The bone in the joint of the big toe was exposed and beyond repair. Our medical staff amputated the toe at the first joint. This surgery relieved the pain and allowed Reese to once again use that foot. As is the case with many of our animals, Reese was adopted by a Stafford employee and is as playful as ever in his new home.

As you can see, many of the animals we take in come to us with medical issues. Some require a variety of diagnostic evaluations and treatments from our medical staff. The persistent problem was always the availability of local vets and the cost of contracting out treatment and diagnostic advice from local clinics. We felt we would have much more control and efficiency if we were able to perform analysis and diagnosis, with subsequent evaluation and treatment—all on site. The most common conditions we see presented to us that need professional medical intervention are blood work, dental work and X-ray evaluation. It is my pleasure to announce that through fundraising, grant applications and, of course, your generous donations, we were able to secure enough funds to purchase (at a discount) a Mini X-Ray SA100+HF machine. We were also able to purchase a US2 Chem Analyzer Blood Machine to test liver and kidney functions, as well as to determine if an infection is present. We were given a used, but perfectly sound Ultra Sonic Dental Machine from one of our veterinary partners. This rounded out our ability to diagnose, treat and surgically relieve serious medical issues. This ability is dually effective. On one hand, we are able to get treatment to our animals immediately, which shortens their suffering and secondly, we do not incur the costs associated with veterinary visits.

We are now capable of providing 360-degree care, from intake to outcome, at a much faster rate. This has given us the ability to shorten both suffering and length of stay!

Catson the Course



We are lucky to have some great volunteers that help us with our mission and one of those special ones is Dennis Schuler. Along with his wife Victoria, they donate, foster & adopt and we have fondly given him the moniker "The Cat Trapping King of Livingston". Over the years Dennis has donated countless days, nights and game cameras to surveillance missions so we can rescue & monitor community cats. Just last winter in sub-zero temps, he was the head of the team & staff who sat round-the-clock at the garbage green boxes to capture kittens and pregnant mothers who had been dumped. It took a couple weeks of stakeouts, but we successfully fixed and rehomed them all.



Recently Dennis helped with a new crew at one of his favorite spots, The Livingston Golf Course. A family of strays, often referred to as feral cats, showed up at the club maintenance shop looking for a job. In exchange for patrolling the rodent population in outbuildings, Pauly the course's superintendent agreed to pay them in food, water and shelter. These are domesticated cats that were never socialized so they are deemed too fractious to be pets but live just fine in the Montana climate. They are hearty & resilient and some caretakers report over time they even warm up to people. Still these cats are not ideal pets and it's inhumane to keep them in kennels at the shelter, they often hurt themselves trying to escape and being indoors only causes them great mental stress. So when we have a situation where a caretaker steps up to help and allows them to stay, we are thrilled to support them and the cats!



In order to keep the population healthy and prevent more cats from being born or moving in, it was important to identify and vet them, enter The King. Dennis armed with night vision cameras, live traps and cans of Friskies set out over a week to catch the 5 cats and bring them into the shelter. Here our medical team first checked to see if they were missing pets, then evaluated their behavior for adoptability, gave them medical exams, full vaccinations including rabies, inserted microchips, spayed/neutered them and tipped their ears. Ear tipping is a safe and humane procedure done under anesthesia to indicate that a cat is "fixed". This is a universally recognized sign for community cats and the hope is if one is spotted they are left at peace to return to their home close by. Since they are microchipped, if they are ever brought to the shelter, we can return them to their safe haven. Once the

course cats recovered from surgery, Dennis rereleased them to the shed, complete with warm bedding and blankets, and they got right back to business. TNR (trap-neuter-release) missions like this are a win-win for the cats and the community and we're always here to help. And as an added bonus, the golf course thanked us by generously donating a golfing package to our Fur Ball fundraiser!

Foster an Adult Dog



Even the best animal shelter can be a stressful place for dogs so foster families are an important part of our network. Studies have proven that shelter stress makes animals more susceptible to disease, creates undesirable kennel behaviors and suppresses the true personality of the dog. Thankfully our length of stay at Stafford is less than 10 days for adults dogs, but there are times when that is not the case and foster parents provide temporary respite for these residents.

Katie is one of our most helpful and frequently used adult dog fosters and we're so grateful for the time she donates to us. She makes an ideal foster parent because she works from home, has no other pets and isn't ready for a long-term dog commitment. She travels often so the flexibility of being a foster works well with her lifestyle and is a huge benefit to us. She can take a dog into her home for weeks at a time and offer feedback on what they're like outside of the shelter. This information helps us pair them with an appropriate family. Most recently she took home Pita, a long-term stay dog who was suffering from severe separation anxiety in the shelter and could not settle down despite our best efforts. Once in her home, immediately Pita started to relax, engage with her Kong toys, go for hikes and learned all sorts of tricks! When Pita let her guard down we saw a playful, intelligent girl who was just in need of extra attention and mental stimulation to be a great pet, all helpful feedback for future adopters. Katie also trains her fosters on the most basic

house manners, exposes them to new experiences, networks them to family & friends and most importantly provides a calm and safe space so the dogs can really blossom!

The shelter provides all the food, supplies and veterinary care while a dog is in care and fosters provide all the TLC. Fostering adults can be very rewarding and there are many benefits to both the dog and the foster parent, the biggest being they played a crucial role in finding a home for a homeless dog! We are always in need of more fosters, if you can help, please contact us!



Fur Ball

Fur Ball 2022 "A Coat of Many Colors"



After a 2 year hiatus, finally we're having our first big "live & in person" event! Our biggest fundraiser of the year, Fur Ball, hosted & sponsored by Chico Hot Springs, will be held Friday, May 20th. The pandemic of 2020, and 2021, has really put a damper on our events so we are ready to see everyone and have a great time celebrating! Our theme this year will be "A Coat of Many Colors" celebrating the array of pets we accept and that all are welcome here at Stafford. We're also encouraging our guests to don their most colorful coats for this festive & fun occasion.

At 5:30 we will be starting with a cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction while enjoying music from Shelly Besler and guest photos from Ri Mason Photography. We will follow at 7:30 with a fabulous dinner from Chico, presentations from shelter leadership, the award for Volunteer of the Year to Cat Moody and a live auction with Logan Auction Services.



Steve with Volunteer of the Year,
Cat Moody!

attendees for their support and enthusiasm this year since we missed the last two planned Fur Balls. The money we raise at this event is critical for our operations and all the funds from the night go directly for the care of our shelter animals. We hope to tempt with great silent and live auction items like weekend get-a-ways, ski passes, theater tickets, dining experiences, guided fishing trips, jewelry, fine art and more! All items have been donated from supportive business in our community and we are grateful. If you'd like to have your business highlighted at our auction, please consider donating to this great cause.

We will have a smaller seating capacity for spacing requirements. This means our event is sure to sell out quickly as many guests and business partners have already pre-ordered tables. We do have some individual tickets for \$125. Please email Alicia Davis at adavis@staffordanimalshelter.org to purchase tickets as soon as possible.

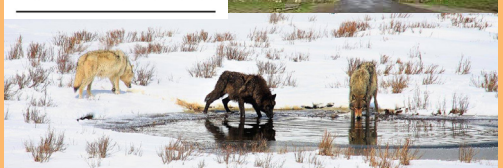
For those unable to attend, you can still support us. We will be having a Yellowstone National Park Trip raffle again! This year we are pairing a guided wildlife watching tour donated by Yellowstone Wolf Tracker and an evening horse drawn, chuck wagon ride and dinner for 4 to Roosevelt, donated by Yellowstone National Parks Lodges. 2 nights hotel accommodations in Gardiner, MT will also be provided so the winner can plan a trip to our nation's first national park for this unique experience! This is a perfect opportunity for out-of-towners to support our shelter. Tickets are \$20 each and only 500 will be sold. Great odds for a great trip! Winner will be announced at Fur Ball. See website to purchase tickets: staffordanimalshelter.org



Fur Ball's auction will feature art, jewelry, adventures and more! Included this year is (clockwise from top left): Ron Reme's "Heading Home" donated by Sue & Mike Dailey; Deluxe Natural Wood Chicken Coop with Enclosed Run donated by Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply; a Wine & Spirits Collection donated by Colin & Seabring Davis, Chico Hot Springs; Ski Passes donated by ShowDown; Astea's Silver Antique Button Equine Jewelry Set; and more!

Win a Yellowstone National Park Trip!

Raffle tickets \$20 - 1 in 500 chance!



2022 Business Partners

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

Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa

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

Joanne Berghold Photography

(Joanne & Billy Berghold)

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)

Nevin's Glass

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

49er Diner, Bar & Casino

American Bank, Livingston

Bridger Animal Nutrition

Eyecare Professionals & Mountain Eyewear

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

Sibanye Stillwater

Tech Electric

Yellowstone Appliance

Pet Patron (\$500 - \$999)

A.E. Noble & Associates

Allied Storage

Amazing Acres Pet Resort

Arrowhead Electric

Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices, Bozeman

CEM Bookkeeping & Tax Services, Cat Moody

Cilla Mae's Old Fashioned Fudge

City of Livingston

Cottonwood Veterinary Hospital

Crown Creation Cabinetmakers

Double T River Ranch

East Main Liquor

The Firehouse Gym - Big Timber

First Interstate Bank, Livingston

Gardiner Market

Help Desk Montana

Livingston Home Outfitters

Livingston Tree, Lawn & Snow Removal

Sky Federal Credit Union

The Spur Line

Veterinary Business Partners

All Creatures Veterinary Service

Alpenglow Animal Hospital

Animal Care Clinic

Colmey Veterinary Hospital

Cottonwood Veterinary Hospital

Hardaway Veterinary Hospital

Sleeping Giant Animal Clinic

WellHaven Bozeman Pet Hospital



Cool Cat (\$250 - \$499)

At Home on the Range Pet Cemetery

B Bar Ranch

Black Dog Rehab

Coffee Crossing

CN, LLC Bookkeeping

Colmey Veterinary Hospital

Copper Moose Oil & Vinegar

Dee-O-Gee

Edward Jones, Stephanie Cunningham

Elk River Art

First West Insurance

Graybeal's All Service

High Country Wildlife

Insty Prints

Livingston's Ace Hardware

Logan Auction Service

Montana Farrier Supply

Murdoch's Home & Ranch Supply

Neptune's Brewery

Oie Motor Company

Outhouse Heating & Plumbing

PetCo

PetSmart

Ruggles Excavation

Simkins Hallin

The Stockman

Western Glass Company

Wilson Hotel Big Sky

Windy Way Rock Shop

Yellowstone Physical Therapy

Yellowstone Wolf Tracker

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 homeless, unwanted and abandoned animals.



Patience & Positivity Pay Off

In sheltering we educate about the "The 3-3-3 Rule" which we ask adopters to follow. In the first 3 days newly adopted dogs are fearful, unsure of their new environment & overwhelmed. In week 3 they are settling into a routine, letting down their guard & sharing their personality. By month 3, they are establishing trust & a bond and realize you are their new family!

It's important to remember that any new relationship isn't just "plug & play" it takes time to get to know each other and the same goes for dogs, especially dogs who just lost everything they've ever known and find themselves in a shelter. Most people expect a lot from a newly adopted dog: potty trained, off-leash trained, good in the car, good with strangers, loves cats, loves kids etc.. And most of those things will come with time, but it's critical in those first 3 months that adopters help with positivity and patience! Our training philosophy at Stafford is "positive reinforcement", this is a practice that avoids aversive tools such as shouting, physical correction, isolation, choke chains, prong & shock

collars, etc. Instead it couples positive experiences & items with new stimuli & situations. This means using food, affection, toys, etc., and pairing them when your dog has a new experience. Taking your time will reward you with a lasting bond with a trusting, confident dog.

This was the case with little Franco, a formerly stray puppy who was found with his brother. Understandably they were timid and fearful of people when first arriving at Stafford. Puppies like this usually have a longer length of stay at the shelter until those special adopters come along willing to give them a look. Enter MaryCatherine Hamm. It was love at first sight with Franco when her family adopted the shy little guy. (And their friends adopted his brother Gerome so they can have playdates!) It took a couple days for Franco to trust her and approach but with tasty treat incentives he jumped that hurdle and many more. In just a few weeks he went from hiding in a kennel to romping and playing with friends at the park! Mary found adopting a shy pup a rewarding experience and says "I would say the biggest thing we did to get him out of his shell was to have patience! He needed a lot of reassurance that he was in a safe & loving home. He has blossomed into a friendly energetic puppy, a little TLC and positivity went a long way for us, He's the best!"



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Non-Profit
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AUCTION ITEMS



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



"THEN" & "NOW"!

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

facebook.com/groups/sashelteralumni
#sashelteralumni

Maisy McAdam
was part of the
"presidential litter"
who started as an
orphaned pup &
now has the
coziest home!



Photos: Rick McAdam

Leader of the Pack:



Best in Show:



Sponsor and printer of this
fundraising newsletter



Joanne Berghold
Photography

YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK LODGES
Legendary Hospitality by Xanterra

Friend for Life:

