

ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter

Winter 2023



INSIDE

- Love is Patient
- Seniors Are Sweet
- Helping Our Community
- New Merch & more...

Contact Us!

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



Website: www.staffordanimalshelter.org
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!
Email address: info@staffordanimalshelter.org

The shelter is open 24/7 for safe stray drop offs. We are open by appointment 7 days a week or by walk-in Wednesday - Sunday from Noon - 5:00. Visit us!



STAFF

Executive Director
Lauren Smith
LSmith@staffordanimalshelter.org

Director of Administration
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Canine Specialist
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Veterinarian
Dr. Julie Kappes, DVM

Animal Care Supervisors
Daisy Castro & Alex Roberts

Animal Care Coordinators
Analeese Harrison
Sarah Jane Lamb
Grace Nutting
Lucia Nziengui Boussengui

BOARD

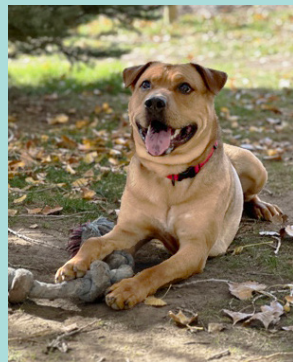
President
Gwen Strachan

Vice President
Darcy Cook

Directors
Andy Art
Stephanie Cunningham

Hannah Pauli
Chris Raley
Vicki Regula

Facilities Assistant
Dale Fowler



Adoptable Odie is enjoying off-leash time in our newly improved, fenced play yard! Odie is almost two years old and he's a big fan of playing tug & romping around outside. Come visit him today!

Letter from the Executive Director 🐾

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Stafford Animal Shelter is proud of the many repairs and improvements made to our facility in 2023. Although burdened with a tragedy, it is warming to hear the community share their positive perspective on the shelter that YOU supported to save! If you have not yet been in, I encourage you to stop by!

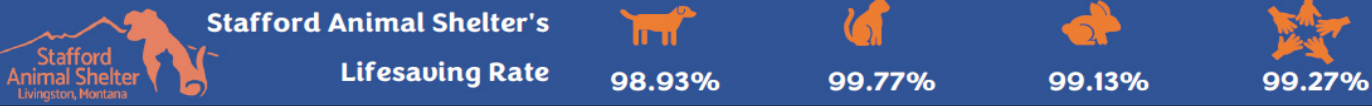


Stafford has most recently completed the repairs on our fences that were damaged related to the pressure of the swift flood waters. The fencing has been improved to now stand six feet tall to ensure the safety of our canines. In addition, Stafford Animal Shelter is grateful for our supporters and the Glassybaby Foundation for their commitment to our animals' wellbeing to execute the removal of the gravel from our indoor canine kennels and to install drainage and concrete. The concrete will allow proper disinfection and decrease the opportunity for infectious disease to infect our animals. Thank you to the Mildred Y. Manion Charitable Foundation & Argent Trust for their dedication to our animals providing paneling for our dog kennels and new stainless steel ported cat enclosures for Cat Quarantine. According to The Association of Shelter Veterinarian's guidelines double-sided housing is a shelter requirement for cats and canines. The grant increases our on-site canine capacity by six! The previous cat kennels were donated to the City of White Sulphur Springs Animal Control.

Across the nation shelter and rescue organizations are facing a staffing shortage. Unfortunately, Stafford Animal Shelter has been challenged with recruiting and retaining our staff. According to Best Friends's Staffing Shortage Survey Data, "Staffing is down 87% of all organizations that responded." The most cited reason (71%) for staffing shortage for organizations was "Unable to recruit, hire, and maintain staffing levels." Therefore, we have prioritized work-life balance by increasing accrual of paid-time-off, initiated a Simple IRA for our staff and acknowledge that the team is the root of our organization celebrating their growth, development, and strengths. Please take this into consideration as our team is working hard to provide all our clients with the best experience.

I am happy to share our Board of Directors has officially voted Gwen Strachan as President and Darcy Cook as Vice President. Stafford Animal Shelter is grateful for the many years of service and dedication former President, Sue Dailey and former Vice President, Nikki Fox provided our organization! Our team at Stafford Animal Shelter is excited to kick off 2024 and we can only do this with support from YOU!

Lauren Smith
Executive Director

Animals Served 11/1/22 to 11/1/23	Dogs	Cats	Zoo	Total
INTAKES				
Owner Surrender	106	219	85	410
Stray	93	102	27	222
Transfer In	240	102	1	343
Return	21	4	2	27
Emergency Boarding & Clinic Services	6	1	0	7
Total Intakes	466	428	115	1009
OUTCOMES				
Adoption	351	333	60	744
Return to Owner	72	9	2	83
Transfer Out	7	0	11	18
Died in Care	1	12	0	13
Euthanasia*	5	1	1	7
Total Outcomes	436	355	74	865
				
Stafford Animal Shelter's Lifesaving Rate	98.93%	99.77%	99.13%	99.27%
<p>*Stafford Animal Shelter does not euthanize for lack of space or resources. We have no restriction on length of stay. Animals are welcome with us as long as they need to find a family. We accept all domestic pets regardless of species, age, breed or medical condition. Only animals that are too ill or injured to be treated, or deemed behaviorally unsafe, are humanely euthanized.</p>				



Our Sincerest Gratitude!
 Some special people in our community, *and very special to Stafford*, have decided to retire recently. They have been exceptional advocates, volunteers, fosters, adopters, donors & business partners (or all of the above!) We want to recognize their dedication and thank them for their support of our shelter & animals. **Happy Trails!**

Commissioner Bill Berg - Park County
Dr. Duane Colmey - Colmey Veterinary Hospital
Sue Dailey - SAS Board President
Colin & Seabring Davis - Chico Hot Springs
Nikki Fox - SAS Board Vice President
Chief Dale Johnson - LPD
Officer Steve Kunnath - LPD
Lisa Lowy - City of Livingston

Are you required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA? Great news! You can make a direct transfer from your IRA account to Stafford Animal Shelter and you can receive a tax benefit for doing so. A charitable IRA is a wonderful option for people 70.5 years and older, that's because it allows you to make a gift to our animals and the distribution won't count as taxable income! To learn more please contact Lauren Smith at 406-222-1311 or Lsmith@staffordanimalshelter.org



Love is Patient

On September 20th Stafford Animal Shelter received eleven hound dogs who needed our help! Beverly, Lwaxana, Data, Deana and her seven puppies. Our animal care team stepped up and right in to rescue these hounds, their only hope was in our hands. Our animal care team is not here to judge, but rather to serve and help all animals in need! It was apparent the dogs were in poor condition and extremely under-socialized.

From their intake examinations, it was decided to house them in our Bon K9 Rescue Center, to ensure the health and safety of our other dogs and puppies. During our intake procedure, animals receive vaccinations and dewormer to prevent communicable disease. Our cover model momma, Deana, remained with her puppies as we began the weaning process. The puppies, as suspected, were infested with internal parasites, and quickly began shedding dead worms. The three adults were moved to our main building, once medically cleared by our veterinarian team and made available for adoption.

Soon after the puppies' condition began to change. The puppies were observed to be lethargic, with a decreased appetite and loose stools. Consequently, they tested positive for Parvovirus, a life-threatening, but preventable virus when provided sufficient vaccination. Deana was ready to rest and Stafford was ready to save her puppy's lives! The treatment for this virus requires around the clock supportive care for all seven puppies. Our animal care team poured their hearts and sweat into this litter. Stafford is happy to share all seven puppies survived and have already found their loving homes.



However, their mother Deana needed some more socialization before finding her family. Luckily she spent her days in a foster home with three other dogs. Deana's foster mom shares her experience as a foster:

"To foster a shy and scared dog like Deana is to watch your love and patience, heal and grow. The bond you build with a shy dog is something you will always cherish. Watching them come out of their shell and feel love is the most rewarding feeling."

All the patience paid off, Deana has been adopted by a very understanding and loving family! She will never be bred again and she will be loved forever.



Stafford Animal Shelter acknowledges there is an overpopulation of animals in our own community and surrounding areas. We are committed to providing resources and assistance to individuals to be able to spay and neuter their animal(s). We are also aware and recognize the difficulties the people of Montana and our local community are facing with access and affordability to find pet-friendly housing and veterinarian care. Our mission is to support our community in maintaining healthy animals and finding alternatives to surrendering their animals. Please see our "Friends for Life Article" on the next page for more information.

Unfortunately, the other two other adults are still awaiting to find a foster or adopter. Beverly and Lwaxana are both females, around eleven months old and have been in the shelter for over a month. Both ladies are making great progress, but will require a patient owner, willing to build their trust and love, preferably with a confident dog. Fostering them would grant a much needed break from the shelter environment and an opportunity to work on socialization and trust in the outside world. They are both dog-friendly. If you are interested in opening your heart and home to either of them, or becoming a foster, please contact Christa at CNelson@staffordanimalshelter.org.

Stafford Animal Shelter is grateful for all our supporters who make this lifesaving work possible. Stafford Animal Shelter relies on the continued support from each of you. Your contributions go directly back into our local community and toward our efforts to keep people and their pets together and healthy!



Friends For Life

Stafford Animal Shelter’s mission expands beyond adoptions to address the increased local need for access to veterinarian care, alternatives to surrender, pet food, pet-friendly/affordable housing and safety net services.

Meet Scout, a handsome German Shorthaired Pointer, who was diagnosed with Addison’s Disease that requires: routine lab work, daily medication, and regular costly treatment. Scout’s vet shared with his family their two options were to humanely euthanize or surrender their dog since they were unable to afford his treatment. Scout is part of the family, and Stafford was able to help support some of Scout’s care through our “Friends For Life” program! People and pets belong TOGETHER.

Meet Fergus, a Stafford Animal Shelter Alumni, who is pictured in his owner Gene’s lap, licking his face. Fergus’ itchy skin bumps improved on antibiotics, antihistamines, and bathing, but the skin problem rapidly returned when the medications were completed. Bathing helped to reduce Fergus’ itchiness, but bathing Fergus every day is not practical for Gene. The veterinarian did not recommend giving Fergus daily antibiotics, antihistamines and possibly corticosteroids due to the side effects on his long term health. Therefore, Stafford was able to assist Gene with providing a safe skin allergy injection to bring comfort and relief to Fergus. Gene had been stressed and worried, watching his best bud scratch and chew himself, constantly. Now they are both experiencing some relief.



Meet Stephen and Buddy. Stafford Animal Shelter cared for his fourteen-year-old Australian shepherd when he was in rehab for COVID-19. After his loved animal had passed, he looked for a companion to keep him company. Stafford recognizes that everyone deserves to experience the unconditional love an animal provides; therefore, Stafford was able to support Stephen financially by covering his pet deposit at his rental property. Buddy and Stephen are a bonded pair, just as it should be.

Please share Fergus’s, Buddy’s and Scout’s story with others. If you would like to contribute to our “Friends For Life” fund to help other pets and people in need, please visit our website at www.staffordanimalshelter.org Click Donate and choose “Friends For Life”. If you need assistance for your animal, please reach out to Stafford Animal Shelter, we’re here to help.



Stafford Animal Shelter welcomes volunteers. If you are interested in supporting our shelter with your time and skill, please drop in anytime between Monday-Sunday 12-5pm, our animals and team greatly appreciate your commitment to our animals. Don’t have time to spare? Consider purchasing items off our Amazon Wishlist, adopting or donating!

Would you be willing to exchange one of your dinners to provide dinner for a homeless pet? If so, monthly automatic donations are an easy & convenient way to make a commitment to feed and care for an animal in need. Sign up online!

🐾 Preparations for your Pet

Eleanor was originally adopted in 2019 from Stafford Animal Shelter. Unfortunately, Eleanor's owner's health declined and she was admitted to Hospice Care. Therefore, Eleanor found herself back at Stafford Animal Shelter looking for her second chance. Although end-of-life planning is difficult and emotional, Stafford Animal Shelter encourages pet owners to have a plan for their beloved pets.

It's unfortunately all too common for people to forget to factor their pets into their end-of-life plans — and even if they do, those plans can often fall apart. If sending your animal to a family member or friend, life changes and caring for an animal could become a burden or plans may fall through.

One option is to explain all wishes in a will. In that case, leaving a pet to a specific person or organization who would act as their caretaker after their owner has passed. In addition, a certain amount of money can be passed on to the person or organization to cover the costs of food, supplies, and other luxuries the animal might need. A pet trust is a legal agreement which reserves money specifically for the care of a pet, and those funds are managed by someone who is required to spend them per the specifications. When creating a trust, cost should be a factor, as it is not cheap.

If the individual does not have a friend or family member who can commit to caring for their animal, following their death, Stafford Animal Shelter is ready and committed to every pet's happiness and future. Stafford's adoption counselors advise and recommend pairing senior pets with seniors, for this very reason. The client and animal's age should be a factor when adopting an animal.

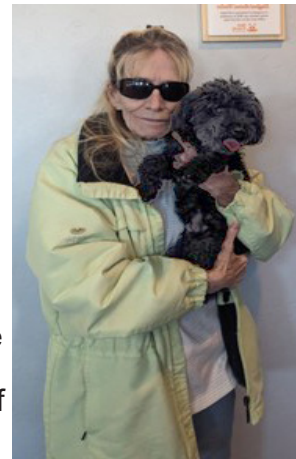
Whichever route is chosen, it's most important to have a plan that's carefully considered. That way you'll be assured that the furry loved one who's given so much will be cared for after their owner is gone — which is exactly what they deserve.



In October, Cricket had been dropped off at Stafford Animal Shelter, by the Police Department, after her owner passed away. Unfortunately, there was no plans made on Cricket's behalf; therefore, we welcomed her with open arms. Cricket was observed to be scared, confused, and anxious, at the shelter. Therefore, Cricket was quickly placed in a foster home to begin to relax and grieve the loss of her beloved owner. Happily Cricket was adopted and started her next chapter.

Eleanor had the same fate:

"When we saw the post about Eleanor and how she needed a new home because her owner was placed in hospice, it touched us, so we went straight to Stafford Animal Shelter to meet her. We immediately fell in love and decided to welcome her to our home. The adoption process was made easy by the friendly, helpful staff, and I felt comfortable that they truly cared about Eleanor's wellbeing. I couldn't imagine how confusing the sudden change in circumstances was for Eleanor. Although she understandably does not want to let us out of her sight, her transition to a new home has been a joy, and she is getting lots of attention and exercise socializing with her new sister, Autumn, as well as other playmates on the local trails. In just a few weeks she has settled in and has stolen our hearts." - Rod & Laurel



Stafford honors our supporters who made a gift in their will to ensure a sustainable future for the shelter. If you would like to discuss how to include Stafford in your estate planning, or you already have, please contact Lauren Smith at 406-222-1311 or lsmith@staffordanimalshelter.org

🐾 Seniors Are Sweet!

November was "Adopt A Senior Pet Month". Moon, 18 years old and J Zem, 17 years old were brought into Stafford Animal Shelter on August 1st as an owner surrender. Their owner took four months to make this emotional decision, as her health was declining and she was struggling to provide them with the care they needed and deserved. Stafford Animal Shelter receives many senior pets who are scared, stressed and stunned. Therefore, Stafford Animal Shelter encourages pet owners to plan for their pet's future, too. Unfortunately, senior pets are not the right fit for everyone; although, Stafford Animal Shelter and our "Cat's Classics" fund increases their adoptability by sponsoring their adoption fee or assisting with their medical needs to ensure they enjoy their later years in a home. Our adoption team encourages seniors to adopt seniors! After almost two months at the shelter, J Zem was adopted!



18 year old Moon



17 year old JZem, now Mushroom

"I adopted J Zem (renamed Mushroom) in September of 2023. I have a 16 year old cat who lost his companion of 14 years in June. He was devastated when this happened and I wanted to find a companion for him. I also wanted to adopt an older cat who might have a more difficult time finding a home and who would need extra love and care. Mushroom brought love and companionship into our house again and is slowly getting used to my other cat Scruff. The staff at Stafford Animal Shelter were greatly helpful and made the adoption process quick and easy. I am very happy I found Mushroom and I feel lucky to have her as a companion in our household. Thank you Stafford!" -Dean



**Mushroom & Moon
at home with
their new
best friends!**



**HAPPILY
& EVER
AFTER!**



Santa Paws

SAVE THE DATE

December 2nd
Livingston's Holiday Market



Join Us! Bridger



BREWING

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Pints with Purpose!

*3 Mondays in December
@ Bridger Brewing Bozeman
for Stafford fundraising
with raffles & specials with
\$1 from each pint donated!*



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 Fax: (406) 222-4938
www.staffordanimalshelter.org

Non-Profit
 Organization
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 Livingston, MT

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



or Current Resident



New Merch!
Check our website or lobby retail store for new Stafford Gear!
All purchases help our homeless pets!

Leader of the Pack:



Best in Show:



Friend For Life:

