

ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter

Spring 2024



INSIDE

- The Cheese Pups
- Stafford is 25!
- Fur Ball 2024
- Cats for Kids & more...



Stafford
Animal Shelter
Livingston, Montana

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 Tuesday - Sunday from Noon - 5:00. Visit us!



STAFF

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Canine Specialist
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dogtrainer@staffordanimalshelter.org

Veterinarian
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Animal Care Supervisors
Daisy Castro & Alex Roberts

Animal Care Coordinators
-Amanda Garant
-Analeese Harrison
-Sarah Jane Lamb
-Grace Nutting
-Lucia Nziengui Bousseguie

BOARD

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Facilities Assistant
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Remember Odie from last newsletter? Well, he's still available for adoption. This 2-year-old male has spent half his life in shelters, always overlooked. Crate & potty trained, enjoys car rides & loves to cuddle! Thankfully he is thriving in a foster home for a bit until his perfect family comes to find him!

Letter from the Executive Director 🐾

Stafford Animal Shelter is celebrating 25 years of service! What a monumental time to reflect on all the pets and people we have served over the years. A sincere thank you to Frances Stafford for her passion to help animals and the endowment gift she left to ensure animal welfare services were made available to our community! If interested in leaving a legacy gift to ensure animal welfare and care is available, please contact me.



Stafford strives to sustain our services, expand our capacity for care, and to build opportunities for pets and people to thrive, with support from YOU! 2023 was our third highest year of adoptions, serving over 1,100 people and their pets! Our return rate was low, at only 3%! Our life-saving rate was 98%! Behind every number is the dedication of our staff and volunteers to transform lives and deliver the highest level of care to our community. We are often called upon to help people through the most challenging time in their lives. Therefore, we have enhanced our community resources programs for 2024 to help support need for access to veterinary care, pet food assistance, and support of alternatives to surrender. Stafford is excited to share we will be offering Puppy Training Classes beginning in April, hosted by our Canine Specialist, Nick Radovich, at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts.

Stafford believes no one deserves to go hungry; pet or person; therefore we have secured support to continue our Community Pet Food Pantry with gifts from Greater Good Charities and The Community Closet. Stafford distributes pet food for animals throughout the state of Montana, locally through The Livingston Food Resource Center, and in our own shelter lobby. We have already distributed over 37,000lbs of food just this year! Another Safety Net Program is Friends for Life, which helps keep people and pets together. Many pet owners face immense barriers in accessing veterinary and pet care services. Our Friends for Life program ensures financial support and honors the love of and connection to animals that transcends all hardships. Lend a paw to help pets in need!

We replaced our Cat Quarantine Kennels thanks to The Mildred Manion Foundation. The new enclosures are now up to "The Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Guidelines for Standards of Care" which include portals, open bars for ventilation and interaction, quiet latches and hinges, a separation of the living side from the bathroom side, and appropriate square footage. The enclosures are all stainless steel and can be appropriately disinfected. We hope to replace all cat enclosures in our Main Cat Ward by the end of the year. If you are interested in ensuring our cats have their five freedoms, please contact me.

Our drive to do more is what you have come to expect from us. It is how we put your donor dollars to work! I am excited for the future and our opportunity to serve pets and people in ways we have only imagined.

With gratitude,
Lauren Smith

Animal Achievements 🐾



2023

1,038 intakes this year!

We welcome all homeless pets regardless of age, breed, species or medical condition

886 adopters!

98% lifesaving rate

494 animals spayed & neutered

100+ pet owners served by our assistance programs

102 lost animals returned home

Stafford Animal Shelter
Livingston, Montana

A nonprofit funded by caring donors!



Join us for:

PUPPY

Training Classes

www.staffordanimalshelter.org

Sign up Now!



Training Classes with our Canine Specialist, Nick Radovich

Classes will be held at The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts in downtown Livingston.

Registration is open and space is limited so please email Nick at Dogtrainer@staffordanimalshelter.org to reserve your spot today!

2024 Courses - Once a week for six weeks.
Time: 5:00 - 6:30pm
Cost: \$100 for 6 classes
limited to 6 participants a class

We hope to see you and your puppy there!

Looking to make a difference?
Studies have proven that taking a dog out of the shelter for outings or sleepovers greatly reduces their stress levels and increases their chance at being adopted while they're relaxed & happy!
Enjoy the great outdoors even more by stopping in and having a shelter dog join you on your next run or hike! No appointment necessary, just bring ID and visit us Tuesday - Sunday from noon - 5:00.

Take A Hike (with a shelter dog!)



🐾 The Cheese Pups!

On a busy Sunday, Stafford Animal Shelter received a walk-in surrender of five puppies. The owner was desperate for help and support as her two golden retrievers got together and had an accidental litter. The owner stated she was following her veterinarian's advice to delay spaying the female, until 1 year of age. However, she went into heat prior to her birthday and had seven puppies, two of which she had already rehomed. The puppies were extremely malnourished, one was in critical condition and rushed to Pet Emergency Trauma Services (PETS) in Bozeman immediately upon intake for care. Our medical foster, a registered nurse, stepped up and took the four remaining puppies. However, in the evening one started to actively seize and was also hospitalized at PETS and later transferred to Bridger Veterinary Specialists for continued treatment.



Under the weather

Meet the cheese dogs: Cheddar, Gouda, Brie, Swiss, and Munster. Gouda was and still is the most critical and immunosuppressed of all the puppies. Once he was discharged after two days of hospitalization and intensive care, he was placed with another one of our medical fosters to provide him the one-on-one attention and observation he needed; still, unstable, and unsure if he would thrive. Cheddar (our cover model), once discharged recovered at our foster's home in Yellowstone

National Park. He was readmitted about a week later to PETS for difficult breathing and diagnosed with pneumonia and treated. When we thought things were looking up, foster parents started reporting observed hair loss. After collecting a fungal culture, it returned positive for ringworm. All puppies began treatment and required a second round



Gaining & Growing Stronger!

of treatment. The puppies are considered immunocompromised and will require follow-up care with their veterinarians. The puppies have all been fixed and are up-to-date on vaccines. We share their story to bring awareness to the importance of spaying and neutering animals, to ensure and reduce pet overpopulation. Stafford welcomes surrenders and encourages appointments so our team can ensure all animals are provided the care they need and deserve. We want to thank our medical fosters, our veterinarian partners that provided supportive care to these puppies, PETS and Bridger Veterinary Specialist. We are happy to report all the puppies have found their forever homes!

Stafford understands that every animal we match has specific needs and these puppies are extra-cheesy. We thank and admire those who adopt pets that have special needs into their homes, there is a special place for each animal we rescue. If you are open and available to be a medical foster, please contact us as we need

more support for these intense and critical cases. If you are inspired by this story and want to support and donate toward our mission and their care, please visit our website. www.staffordanimalshelter.org



Upon arrival at SAS



Ringworm spot on nose

Thank you 



🐾 Stafford Celebrates 25 Years of Compassion!

Friends and Supporters, We are thrilled to announce that Stafford is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the shelter this year! For a quarter of a century, our dedicated team has been committed to saving homeless animals and serving the people and pets of Montana with unwavering compassion and dedication. Since our humble beginnings in 1999, Stafford Animal Shelter has grown into a beacon of hope for countless animals in need. Through the tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we have rescued and rehomed thousands of dogs, cats, and other animals, providing them with a second chance at life and love.



Over 25 years we have achieved numerous milestones & accomplishments we are incredibly proud of!

- 1. Rescue and Adoption:** We have facilitated the adoption of almost over 16,000 animals in the last 17* years into loving forever homes, helping to reduce pet overpopulation and euthanasia rates in our community.
- 2. Spay/Neuter Programs:** Through our spay and neuter initiatives, we have played a vital role in controlling the pet population and preventing unwanted litters.
- 3. Community Outreach:** Our educational programs and outreach efforts have raised awareness about responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and the importance of adoption.
- 4. Emergency Response:** During times of crisis, such as natural disasters or economic hardship, we have provided assistance to pet owners in need, ensuring that no animal is left behind.
- 5. Medical Care:** We have invested in state-of-the-art veterinary care and rehabilitation services, ensuring that every animal that comes through our doors receives the medical attention and support they deserve.

*historical data only available for past 17 years

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters, volunteers, donors, and partners who have stood by us over the years. Your generosity and dedication have been instrumental in our success, and we could not have accomplished so much without your unwavering support. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of saving lives, providing compassionate care, and building a more humane world for animals and humans alike. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of animals in need and create a brighter future for our community! Thank you for 25 years of love, support, and partnership. Here's to many more years of making a difference together!



Frances Stafford with Maggie McGuane, Kathleen Kuhn & Walter Kirn at ground



Left: Then & Now! A side by side of the shelter in 1999 and 2024

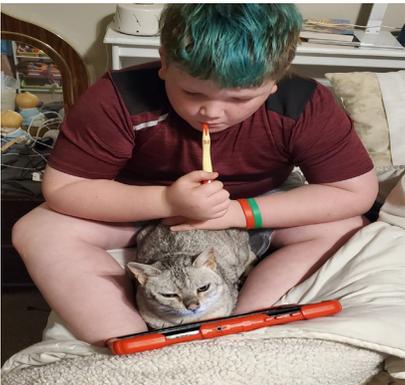
Above: The "Friends For Life" bronze sculpture by Burl Jones 1999 still adorns the entrance to our beautiful play yards!

Cats & Kids



Some of you may recognize this sweet face. Our longest cat stay cat in 2023 was Chessa, a beautiful Bengal mix who was at Stafford Animal Shelter for 204 days, or over six and a half months. A transfer from Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter in Bozeman, Chessa's previous owner had passed away and she was surrendered. Chessa finally found her perfect match, in the New Year!

The team at Stafford acknowledges the hardships faced and provides a safe place for all people and pets. Stafford also provides guidance and support for animals and their human companions. A recent study reveals that children who own animals are more physically active, compared to those that do not. It also helps with their self esteem, combats loneliness and promotes accountability. Stafford Shelter supports children having furry companions which initiate responsibility, and an everlasting bond. The benefits are endless. Our "Kats 4 Kids" program waives the adoption fee for children who commit to the lifetime care of their new shelter pet. Spread the word about our program to responsible children in your life and let Stafford sponsor the adoption fee. We agree all children should be able to experience the love and connection an animal provides!



Spend time with shelter pets in our "Family Room" or gather coworkers, like the Glassybaby team did, and come help us garden, clean and walk dogs!

Thank You, Volunteers!

During Volunteer Appreciation Week, we extend our deepest thanks to our fosters and volunteers at Stafford Animal Shelter. Your commitment, from nurturing bottle babies to providing safe havens for animals to decompress, is truly remarkable. If you're interested in summer volunteer opportunities, please reach out to our Director of Operations, Christa Nelson.

Your support truly exemplifies compassion and dedication. Thank you for providing love, care, and shelter to those who need it most! invaluable, and we appreciate everything you do for our furry friends.

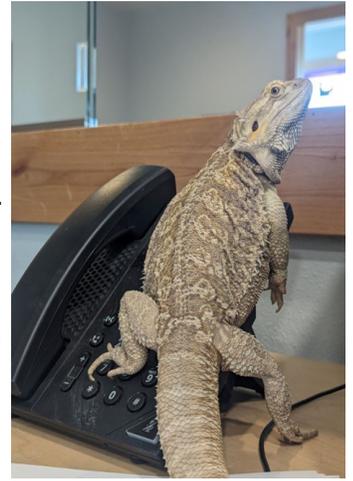


🐾 Ziggy and the Zoo!



Ziggy on the mend and then finds her forever home!

Ziggy and her sibling, a pair of Bearded Dragons, were surrendered and brought to the shelter by the Gallatin County Animal Control. Stafford Animal Shelter is the only local shelter serving pocket pets. Spike was soon adopted. Ziggy's foot was visibly infected, swollen, and red. Ziggy required veterinarian care to address her infected limb.



Ziggy was social, interactive, and loved watching people and TV. Through her rehabilitation, the team at Stafford truly connected with Ziggy and she was fully integrated as part of our crew in no time! Ziggy has been treated with multiple rounds of antibiotic injections, antiseptic soaks on her effected limb, and eventually required her thumb to be amputated. Ziggy was adopted and is now home with her sibling, Spike. She enjoys head rubs, water mists, and being carried around by the staff, to do daily tasks. Thanks to our veterinarian partners at All West for their time, dedication and attention provided to Ziggy!



You never what you'll find in the Zoo! Stop by to adopt a unique pet!



STAFFORD ANIMAL SHELTER ANNUAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP 2024

WE SERVE AND ARE SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNITY THAT CARES!



Benefits	Business name in Quarterly Newsletter & SAS Stickers	Use of SAS "Business Partner" badge for marketing	*Your Business Cross-post on SAS Social Media Accounts*	Logo on exterior newsletter (circulation 3,000) Bark In The Park Sponsor	*1 outreach event with SAS pets & staff with social media tags (8,000 average view per post)*	Fur Ball Sponsor included on publicity & program at event	Fur Ball title sponsor on publicity and 4 Fur Ball Tickets
Cool Cat \$300	🐾						
Pet Patron \$500	🐾	🐾					
Pick of the Litter \$1,500	🐾	🐾	🐾				
Top Dog \$2,500	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾			
Friend for Life \$4,000	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾		
Best in Show \$5,000+	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	
Leader of the Pack - \$10,000+	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾	🐾

*Highly beneficial partnership to the shelter & to your business!

To be included in promotions, please respond via attached reply card by March 25th 2024.

Business Partnerships run annually from April 1st 2024– April 1st 2025. Please contact LSmith@staffordanimalshelter.org with questions.

Become a Business Sponsor

We currently partner with over a hundred socially responsible businesses and veterinary practices who seek to demonstrate their commitment to animal welfare and our lifesaving mission!

Business Partners are essential to our success and we acknowledge and thank them all on our website. Please support those who support us with your patronage.

If you are a business wanting to join our powerful pack, please review our 2024 menu and sign up!



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May 17th, 2024

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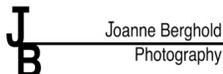


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Leader of the Pack:



Best in Show:



Friend For Life:

