

ANIMAL TALES

News from Stafford Animal Shelter

Winter 2024



INSIDE

- Stafford has a new pack leader
- Picture Perfect Partners
- Santa's Wishlist & more...

3 Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-2111



www.staffordanimalshelter.org

Follow us on socials

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. Walk-Ins, Adoptions & Volunteering
Tuesday - Sunday from Noon - 5:00.



STAFF

Carissa Walsh - Executive Director
CWalsh@staffordanimalshelter.org

Alicia Davis - Director of Administration
ADavis@staffordanimalshelter.org

Christa Nelson - Director of Operations
CNelson@staffordanimalshelter.org

Kadie Smith - Veterinary Assistant
vetcare@staffordanimalshelter.org

Nick Radovich - Canine Specialist
dogtrainer@staffordanimalshelter.org

Veterinarians

Dr. Jamie White & Dr. Tarek Isham

Facilities Assistant

Dale Fowler

Animal Care Supervisors

Daisy Castro & Alex Roberts

Animal Care Coordinators

-Monica Diaz

-Amanda Garant

-Grace Nutting

-Faith Peterson



Introducing our new shelter Executive Director Carissa Walsh

Growing up on a hobby farm in Western Wisconsin, Carissa's connection to animals blossomed early. Surrounded by the rhythms of farm life, she developed a deep appreciation for the joy and companionship animals bring to our lives. This lifelong passion for animal

welfare now fuels her excitement to lead the Stafford Animal Shelter, where she looks forward to bringing new energy, compassionate care, and a community-focused vision to her role.

Carissa's approach is rooted in kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to making a meaningful impact. Her career as the director of various assisted living communities has honed her leadership skills, emphasizing team-building, empathy, and creating environments where people and animals can thrive. Carissa is dedicated to fostering a warm and welcoming culture at the shelter, where the animals, staff, volunteers, and donors are united in their shared mission of care and advocacy.

A resident of Livingston for the past 8 years, her life outside of work is vibrant and full. A believer in health and balance, she enjoys CrossFit, hiking through Montana's beauty, and cherishing time with her beloved doodles, Mazi and Ginger, and her 3 legged cat, Highway.

Family and friends are the heart of Carissa's world, and she values the moments spent with loved ones. She is equally eager to build meaningful relationships within the shelter community, working closely with donors, supporters, and local partners to create a brighter future for the animals.

"I'm honored to be part of the Stafford Animal Shelter family," Carissa shares. "Together, we can create a place of hope and healing for every animal that comes through our doors, while strengthening the bond between the shelter and the community we serve."

Please stop in to meet Carissa and give her a heartfelt welcome to our organization. Her warm spirit and innovative leadership are a vital to the success of our mission!

Board of Directors

Gwen Strachan - President
Darcy Cook - Vice President
Chris Raley - Treasurer

Andy Art
Stephanie Cunningham
Hannah Pauli
Vicki Regula

Thank you to our Board for volunteering their time & expertise!

Make a Meaningful Donation in Memory of a Loved Person or Pet



Memorial Star \$1,000 pricing
includes engraved mural star, sympathy
card & donor acknowledgment to family

A gift in memory of a loved one
pays tribute to that lasting bond &
is a tangible way to honor the love
you shared long after they've passed.

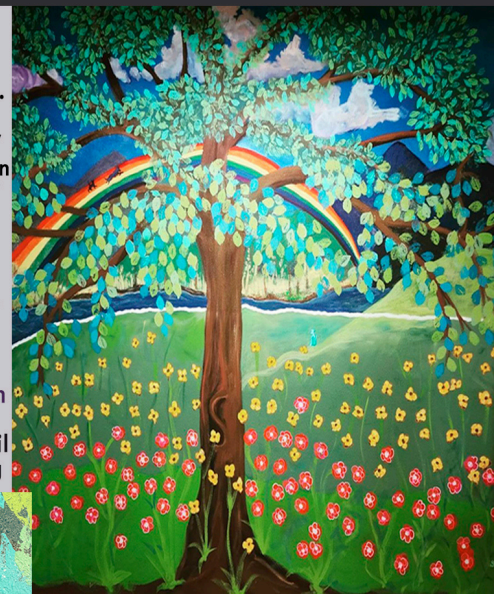
When you make a memorial donation,
not only do you honor a loved one,
but you are also supporting the mission
of Stafford Animal Shelter. Your gift
will provide homeless pets the love &
care they need to thrive while waiting
for their forever families.

We offer two engraved mural options:

-Starry Night by Jenna Patrick
and

-Rainbow Bridge by Gwen Strachan

To make a memorial donation, email
ADavis@staffordanimalshelter.org



Memorial Pet Tag \$100 pricing
includes engraved mural tag, sympathy
card & donor acknowledgment to family

Thank you to our sustainable donors, business partners, grantors & donors
(\$500+). We would not be here without your unwavering support!

- AE Noble & Associates
- All Service Tire & Alignment
- Allied Storage
- Amazing Acres Pet Resort
- American Bank
- Anderson, Carl
- Animal Care Clinic
- Angell, Laurel
- Anonymous
- Arrandale, Molly
- Arrowhead Electric
- Arriola, Ariana
- Art, Andy
- ASPCA
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- Murdoch's Home & Ranch Supply
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- Pay Pal Giving Fund
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- Steele, Sherry
- Stenberg, Suzanna
- Stephens, Luci & Tim
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- Stump, Patrick
- Stump, Ali & Clifton
- Sweet Grass Community Foundation
- Sykes, Julie & Jamie
- The Attic & The Whiskey Creek
- The Club at Crazy Mountain Ranch, LLC
- The Estate of Betty & Kenny Sonnek
- The Fort
- The Main Print Shop
- The Shane Center
- The Spur Line
- The RF Building Company
- Thibeault, Marie & Brete
- Thiel, John
- Tompkins, Carol
- Vincent, Tom and Toni
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- Williams, David & Gina Bradley
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- Winterrowd, Christal
- Woods, Ron
- Wright, Leann & Michael
- Wunsch, Walter & Regina -Spectec
- Yellowstone Appliance
- Yellowstone Harley Davidson
- Yellowstone Park Lodges - Xanterra
- Yost, Emily

THANK
YOU



Bucket of Love



Thankfully, a good Samaritan was in the right place at the right time when he happened upon an emaciated momma and her litter of seven puppies along the river near Big Timber. With no homes or vehicles in sight, he realized their desperate situation, scooped them up, cuddled in a Rubbermaid bucket, and brought them to our animal shelter where our caring staff got to work. Every animal that comes through our door is medically evaluated, vaccinated, checked for a microchip and put on a stray hold to give owners a couple days to claim their lost pets. When no one came forward to claim this group, they were sent to foster homes where our volunteers worked tirelessly to nurse them back to health and socialize them. Once frail and scared, they quickly transformed into strong and playful pups!

Abigail, the mom, was fostered by our Animal Care Supervisor, Daisy. Aside from working at the shelter, Daisy has found great rewards in fostering. She committed to a strict refeeding schedule for Abigail which consisted of small meals throughout the day as not to send her system into shock. With time her meal amounts increased and she started to gain weight. Daisy's TLC and her pack of 3 dogs really helped Abigail acclimate, gain confidence and heal.

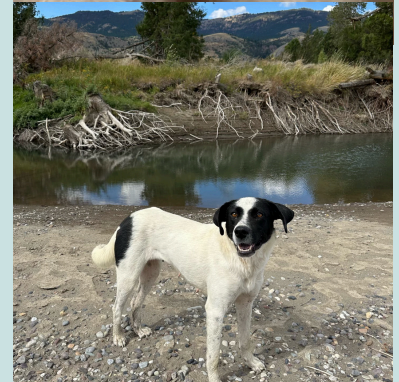
"She fit in perfectly. She longed for love and always looked to be by my side. She was gentle and as she gained her strength she was so playful. Her first few days she slept all day as she was so tired from feeding her babies, she didn't have anything left for herself. The best day was when I took her on a trail walk with all my dogs and could finally not count every rib on her body. Seeing her go home to an amazing couple who saw how beautiful she was, inside and out, is the reason I foster." - Daisy Castro

We are happy to report that Abigail went back to live in Sweet Grass County, but this time with a forever family, The Brays, who promise to love and care for her for the rest of her days! All the puppies have found their families too. After their time in foster care, they were carefully matched with loving families who were committed to providing them with the care and attention they deserved. They are strong, social, playful and healthy - their dismal beginnings a distant memory.

Stafford Animal Shelter prides itself on being a non-judgmental, safe space to bring animals in need of care. We also provide free pet food and supplies for families experiencing hardships. We are available daily to help in urgent situations and we are deeply thankful to the concerned public who plays a crucial role in rescuing and caring for all our critters. Your support is invaluable and integral to our mission.



Above: Puppies on arrival at the shelter. All 7 puppies found perfect families! Right: Abigail's amazing transformation & happy adoption!



Picture Perfect Partners!



It takes a village to run our shelter, and we could not do it without the monetary donations to our 501c3 non-profit. While funds are essential for operating costs and veterinary services, so are in-kind donations of time & skills from businesses in our community. We encourage you to visit our list of sponsors on our website, patronize them, and thank them for helping homeless animals! If you have a special skill that you would like to donate to our shelter, please be in touch.

Today we're highlighting just one of the many generous donors we have, Beargrass Pet Photography. You've heard the saying "one chance to make a first impression," and that could not be more true than with shelter animals. Their profile photos can be the make or break between someone wanting to visit the shelter to meet them. It's a labor of love for Beargrass, photographing our pets in their best light, helping them find their forever families. We are so grateful for their help.

"Hi, my name is Brad Orsted. I'm a wildlife/pet photographer and conservation filmmaker. Along with my partner, Erin O'Connor, we are Beargrass Pet Photography. Dogs have always been a huge part of our lives. We currently have five rescue dogs that form our own pack, including Wyola from Stafford. The reason we love volunteering photography for Stafford Animal Shelter is the pure joy it brings us. We get to spend time playing with and photographing all of the new pups, and are able to then follow their journeys all the way to successful adoptions. We know that providing professional photography, where we can really bring out the individual dog's personality, helps get these amazing animals into their forever homes faster. We have a deep respect for Stafford Animal Shelter, its staff, and its ongoing dedication to placing the right dogs with the right people. It's an honor and privilege to donate our time and photography to support Stafford and all of the animals they rescue."



Before



Wyola



Bridget



After



Rainbow

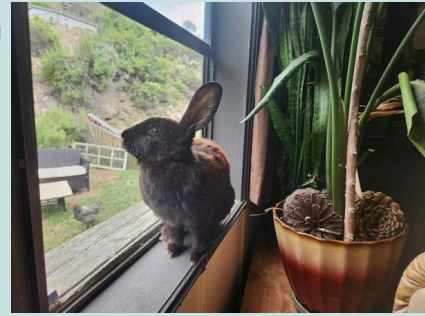


Pebbles

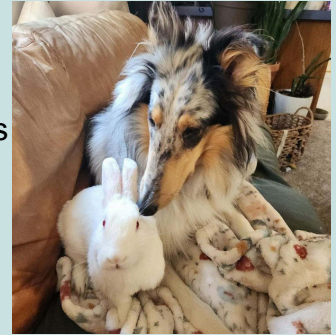
Brad Orsted is an award-winning wildlife filmmaker/photographer and the author of, "Through the Wilderness: My Journey of Redemption and Healing in the American Wild" which is out with St. Martin's Press. <https://www.bradleyorsted.com>
- "Animal Tales" Cover models: Doc & Wyola Orsted. Photo by their Dad.

Some Bunny Loves You

Year to date, Stafford Animal Shelter has cared for 52 rabbits in our “zoo,” a dedicated building for pocket pets, small mammals, reptiles, birds, and more! That’s not including the dozens more who are in the care of our partner organization, Bozeman Rabbit Resource. Corrine and Mindy, who run this all-volunteer organization, help us foster and divert intakes into our facility from Gallatin County. They are an essential part of our lifesaving rabbit program.



House rabbits can make wonderful pets. They are intelligent animals who can be easily litterbox trained, quick to learn basic commands and can live freely in your home. They come in a variety of breeds, sizes & colors. With proper socialization they form close relationships with their human family and can also thrive with other animals such as dogs and cats. In general they are quiet animals who love to be pet and can be a great fit for owners who don't have time for daily walks. When considering a pet rabbit it's important to remember they are very social animals and need plenty of attention and interactions with their family. We love answering questions and could talk about bunnies all day long so please reach out if you are interesting in learning if a rabbit is the right pet for you!



**ADOPT
ME** 

What Kind of Dog is That?

Our answer? We're not sure! Most dogs that turn up at the shelter are of unknown lineage, or what we referred to as “mixed-breed”. A couple years ago, we conformed to the industry-wide standard and stopped using breed labels after studies proved labeling was inaccurate and caused much longer lengths of stay subjecting dogs to physical and mental stress.

The reasons being: 1. People's preconceived notion of a certain breed prevented them from even getting to know a dog 2. People were choosing dogs based on breed expectations alone and not what was a realistic match for their lifestyle 3. Breed entries were incorrect most of the time when compared with DNA results. If you want to know what your “mixed-breed” doggie is, you can now do it while supporting our shelter! For every DNA purchased through our QR code, Embark will donate to Stafford Animal Shelter!

 **embark**

 research partner of
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College of Veterinary Medicine

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As a new adopter, receive a special discount on your Embark DNA Test. Plus, we'll donate a portion of the proceeds back to your shelter.



Scan here to buy now and support your shelter



**Test your skills by
trying to guess the
breeds of these 3
shelter alumni!
(answers on bottom
of next page!)**



Huxley Nelson



Charlie Garant



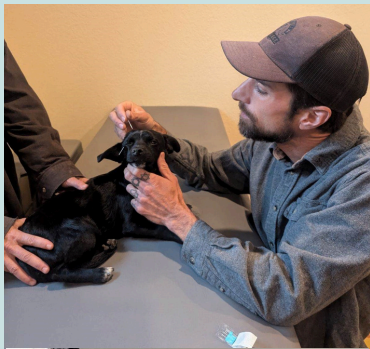
George Jong

Comprehensive Care for Shelter Animals



Dr. Jamie & Dr. T working at a recent Spay & Neuter clinic at Crow Agency.

Below, a shelter dog receiving acupuncture and a shelter cat receiving chiropractic adjustments.



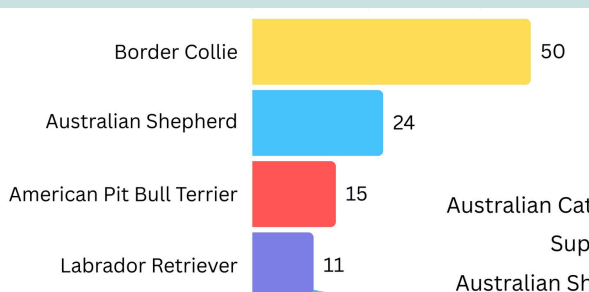
At Stafford Animal Shelter, we are fortunate enough to have two veterinarians who are passionate about our mission. Partners in medicine, and at home, Dr. Jamie White & Dr. Tarek Isham have been working with Stafford for almost two years. In addition to providing excellent care for our animals, they are passionate about providing services to underserved families here in our community and on local reservations by providing low-cost vaccines, preventative care, and spay & neuter surgeries.

We are so proud that Dr. Jamie was accepted into a prestigious shelter medicine fellowship program with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of California-Davis Koret Shelter Medicine School. The fellowship provides unique opportunities for practitioners to learn progressive, lifesaving practices via clinical interaction with shelter medicine leaders and a variety of animal shelters throughout the United States. The knowledge she gains helps us stay abreast of industry best practices, which we utilize to benefit the animals of our community.

In addition to traditional veterinary medicine, Dr. Tarek also brings expertise in integrative veterinary medicine by providing chiropractic and acupuncture services to our shelter animals and to the community through his private practice, Looking Glass Veterinary Solutions. His holistic approach to animal care has helped several shelter residents suffering from degenerative joint diseases, acute pain and autonomic nervous system problems. His non-invasive techniques promote the body's natural healing abilities.

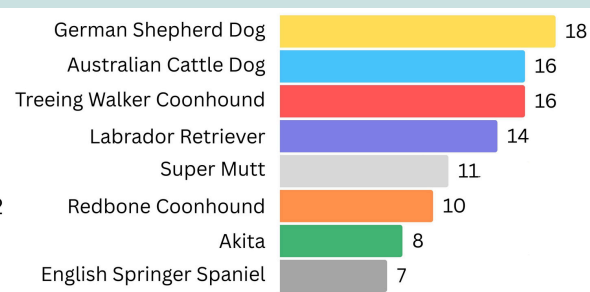
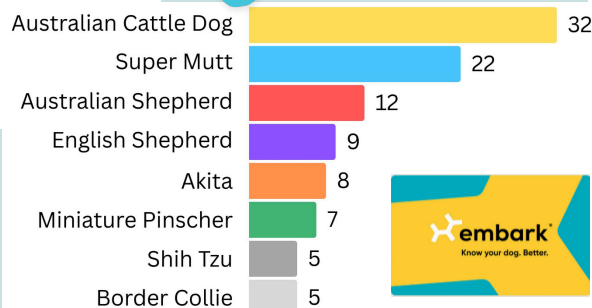


By working together, we are assured our veterinarians consider all diagnoses and treatment plans for the animals in our care. Supporter donations allow us the ability to progressively treat every animal that walks through our doors regardless of the medical condition, age, breed or species - and we have the best medical team to help us accomplish that!



DNA Results!

Charlie



George

Share your shelter dog's DNA with us!
Facebook & Instagram: #sashelteralumni



Stafford Animal Shelter
3 Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-2111
Fax: (406) 222-4938
www.staffordanimalshelter.org



Non-Profit
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FOLLOW US ON:



Supporter (or current resident)



After reading, please pass along to a fellow animal advocate or recycle

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS YEAR

As you snuggle with your pet this holiday season, we invite you to join our sustainable monthly giving program. Your contribution will ensure that animals in need receive veterinary care, shelter, and the love they deserve while waiting for their forever homes.



- Simple online setup
- Convenient monthly withdrawals
- Every size contribution makes a significant impact
- Joy of knowing you make a difference!



Donate Now

staffordanimalshelter.org

DEAR SANTA,

HERE IS A LINK TO OUR WISHLIST.
WE HAVE BEEN VERY (VERY) GOOD
THIS YEAR. WE PROMISE!

WITH LOVE,
THE ANIMALS



HIGHLIGHTS: LARGE KONGS. CAT TOYS. SOUND MACHINES. SCRATCHING POSTS (NEW). ROYAL CANIN BABYCAT FOOD. SNUFFLE MATS FOR DOGS. GAS GIFT CARDS. COPY PAPER. SMALL PET CARRIERS



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



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Joanne Berghold
Photography



EYECARE PROFESSIONALS
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