



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall 2011

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The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal welfare through education and advocacy.

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www.facebook.com/BangorHumane

The Truth about ^{Shelter} Cats and Dogs

By Renee Ordway

One thing is always certain at the Bangor Humane Society – we never know what will come through our door on any given day. It could be a bird, a mouse, a gorgeous Maine Coon cat, a three-legged terrier mix pup, a goofy pit bull or a six-month-old pure bred Pug.

Whatever the species and whatever the breed, the staff gets busy right away evaluating the health and the behavior of the animal to ensure its well-being and to make sure it's a pet that fits your lifestyle.

By the time a pet is available for adoption, it has been checked out carefully by a veterinarian, received all of its vaccinations, been spayed or neutered, been observed by our trained staff and volunteers and put through a multitude of tests to determine its behavior and characteristic traits.

We do this because our goal is to find good, healthy homes and second chances for our animals. We want to find a home that is not only a good match for the adopter, but meets the needs of each pet as well.

We would love you to bring in your whole family so you can all have some private time with the pet you are considering, and that may include any other pets you have in your home.

Our adoption specialists can tell you whether a particular dog is active and high-energy or docile; whether a cat is a lap lover or an independent sort.

That is why it makes sense to start here or at your local shelter when you and your family are looking for a new companion.

Perhaps the biggest myth about shelter pets is



Tips to help your newly adopted pet adjust to their new home

- * Start with patience and lots of TLC. Many of our animals have been abandoned or lacked a consistent home, so it will take time for them to truly settle in.
- * If you develop concerns or come across challenges, recognize that it is to be expected. Seek support. There are lots of resources out there; from animal trainers and behaviorists, to peer adopters who can share their journey and ideas with you. Talk to your shelter or a local trainer to get advice on which classes, books, or online resources may be able to help you.
- * Engage in regular activities together to help you and your new pet bond- whether you sign up for obedience, agility, or other fun classes with your pet or simply go on daily walks at the city forest. Creating this regular time together will not only help socialize your pet, but will also help them build their trust in you.
- * Remember—time, realistic expectations, and positive reinforcement are the ingredients necessary for your adopted pet's successful transition from shelter life to their new forever home.

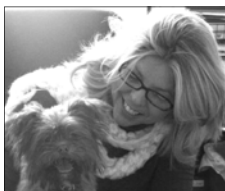
that they may be aggressive or that they are not trainable or that they did something wrong to end up at the shelter. Chris Young, our long-time Shelter Operations Manager knows differently.

“Most of the time pets are surrendered here because of human circumstances,” Young says. “So many times it is because a family is moving and can't take the pet, or a couple is divorcing or there are financial problems. Sometimes it's because the family bought a dog at a pet store or at a breeding facility and didn't do enough research only to find it wasn't a good fit in their home.”

Unfortunately some of the animals we save

Continued on page 2

From the Director



It takes an entire team to fulfill our mission daily at the Humane Society. I am grateful for an outstanding BHS team that is made up of a diverse group of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences. It is a team comprised of dedicated staff, compassionate volunteers, enthusiastic adopters, tireless foster families and an engaged and caring community of donors and supporters. These are the unsung heroes of BHS.

Everyday the BHS team is faced with numerous challenges: lack of empathy, lack of resources, animals with special needs, more animals abandoned and surrendered, while veterinary care costs continue to rise. But it is the good days that keep us going, that drive the team forward. When those days come, we are so thankful. Days like October 21st, when a local radio station, WKIT, hosts an event to collect items from our wish list. An event that results in a van full of donated items, a money bag with \$1,000 in cash donations and 3 dogs adopted from making an appearance with a shelter volunteer. Or, the days when a ten-year-old girl visits the shelter, for the second year in a row, with boxes of donations she collected, in lieu of presents, at her birthday party. Or, the day an open-minded adopter gives our dog, Murdoc, another chance knowing he has been returned several times for “destructive behaviors.” But, she chooses him *because* of his antics, not in spite of them. In doing so, they both find their perfect match.

It is days like these that have the power to restore our faith in our neighbor, our community, and in humanity. That’s why the holiday season is particularly important here at the shelter. We see the generosity and support of the community come alive with increased donations, adoptions, and volunteer service. Hope resonates throughout our shelter walls that each of our pets will be *home* for the holidays.

If you are receiving this newsletter you are a member of the BHS team. It is because of you that we can have the following impact: from May through October, we have spayed/neutered over 1000 cats and have adopted out over 1100 animals (169 dogs, 25 puppies, 338 cats, 425 kittens, and 34 small animals)!

It is because of you that we are able to provide a vital lifeline for homeless, unwanted and lost pets in our community for another year.

I want to personally thank each of you for your support, and for being an important member of the BHS team. Please continue to open your heart this holiday season and adopt or donate. I also invite you to stop by our holiday giving tree in December and make a donation from our wish list. I am sure you will feel the spirit of hope that I am so grateful for. Best Regards,

‘Shelter Pets’ Continued

do have some issues and may need a bit more TLC, but many arrive here all ready to fit right into a forever home.

Those who do need some extra care get it while they are here. If they still need a little help with their manners, we will talk about those issues with you, provide you with tips and be honest with you about whether the pet may or may not be a good fit for you.

“Too many times people are focused on a dog or cat that is a particular color or a certain breed only to find out that they like how it looks, but not how it acts or its personality,” said Young. “Here we work really hard to find out what pet will fit in best with your family’s lifestyle.”

Where else will you get that kind of individual attention?

Our adoption specialists at BHS are pretty good matchmakers. Plus, by choosing adoption you’re not only providing a second chance, but you can be comforted knowing you are not supporting puppy mills or “factory-style” breeders that focus more on profit than the health and well-being of the animal.

A shelter pet will repay you with years of love, limitless appreciation and affection.

The holidays are approaching and if you are thinking about bringing a new furry friend into your home, all we ask is that you give our critters here a chance. Come on over to our shelter on Mt. Hope Avenue or go to our website and take a peek at the wide variety of pets that are desperately hoping to be in a home for the holidays. ■



Hours of Operation

Monday — Friday: 12:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Steve Thomas, President
Emily McIntosh, Vice-President
Robert Shuman, Treasurer
Amy Faircloth, Secretary
Anne Marie Storey, Past President
David Cloutier, DVM
Louise Cross
Lani Naihe
Renee Ordway
John Kenney
Lanni Moffatt
Matt Nye
Jeff Russell

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Bell

Shelter Operations Manager
Chris Young

Office Manager
Amy Gentle

Volunteer & Public Relations Manager
Stacey R. Coventry

Adoption Counselors
Sonia, Laura, Kristian, Jill, Brittany, Lisa, Carol

Animal Technicians
Sadie, Charmaine, Ryan, Jaime, Tasha, Anika, Kimberly, Lauren

Veterinary Technician
Lauren Landry

Foster Care Program
Kimberly Patterson

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

Paws on Parade 2011

By Stacey R. Coventry

It rained like cats and dogs all day for the 18th Annual Paws on Parade fundraising event, but that didn't deter the over 300 participants that still turned out with their dogs donned in raincoats and Halloween costumes to celebrate pets and raise awareness for homeless shelter animals in their community.

Perhaps it was in that prideful spirit of honoring pet companionship that the rained stopped briefly enough for hundreds of four-legged and two-legged walkers to parade through downtown Bangor for the 1.3 mile walk for paws. Or perhaps, it was the special pet blessing given by Reverend Ann Kidder from St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Brewer that allowed for the brief break in wet, soggy weather.

Despite the rain, the event was a huge success- the biggest Paws on Parade to date in both turnout and dollars raised with an amazing \$58,000 collected to benefit the BHS shelter pets. The event was emceed by WABI's Carolyn Callahan who kept the atmosphere of the day upbeat with lively music and helped things run smoothly with regular updates about the day's schedule of events, vendor attendees, and accolades to our sponsors.

In addition to the walk, the day featured a canine agility demonstration led by Rebecca Henderson from Renaissance Dogs in Holden, pet contests and a raffle featuring an array of prizes donated by local businesses. Due to the weather, the scheduled shelter dog runway show featuring dogs available for adoption had to be cancelled. However, the shelter dogs in attendance were happy to mingle with the crowd, hoping to find a forever home with or without the spotlight. A cluster of small dog zombies were presented with the 'Best Costume' Award. Mutts of all sizes dressed in an array of outfits strutted their stuff- from Great Danes disguised as pumpkins to Chihuahua princesses. A three-legged, smiling pit-bull, a floppy-eared basset hound and many playful retrievers were among the BHS alumni that marched with pride.

The event concluded with highlights from the event's success. Dr. Hanks from Kindred Spirits Veterinary Clinic and his team were honored as the top fundraising team, raising over \$6,500 for the cause. Dr. Hanks was also recognized as the top individual fundraiser raising over \$1,300. All of the money raised will go to support the over 5,000 animals that find refuge annually at the shelter, helping with increased veterinary costs that have come with a down economy.

The Bangor Humane Society extends its sincere gratitude to all the event sponsors, vendors, participants, and volunteers who made the day a huge success and helped make a difference in the lives of homeless pets. ■



Photo courtesy of Karen Littlefield



Photo courtesy of Cathy Coughlin



Photo courtesy of Bangor Photo



Photo courtesy of Karen Littlefield



Photo courtesy of Karen Littlefield



Photo courtesy of Terry Farren



Photo courtesy of Karen Littlefield



Photo courtesy of Cathy Coughlin

Thank You Paws on Parade Sponsors!



Photo courtesy of Terry Farren



Photo courtesy of Terry Farren



Photo courtesy of Cathy Coughlin



Photo courtesy of Karen Littlefield



- Keith Trembley Builder, Inc
- Machias Savings Bank
- Katahdin Trust
- Granville Rental and Stone
- TMATT Tax & Financial
- Bangor Hydro Electric Co.
- Lynch Contractors, Inc.
- Patrons Oxford Insurance Co.
- Pottle's Transportation
- MMG Insurance
- People's United Bank
- Leighton & Longtin CPA LLP
- Hollywood Slots
- Means Investment Co., Inc.
- Bangor Motor Sports
- Maine Distributors
- U Wash It
- Brandywine Graphics LLC

Ask the Vet

Q: How can I keep my pet safe, happy and healthy this holiday season?

A: During the holidays, many of us are tempted to spoil our pets with extra treats and to share many of our holiday goodies with them. But, it is important not to overindulge your pet during the holiday season, especially if they tend to have a sensitive stomach or other gastrointestinal issues.

Remember, **never** give your pets chocolate and candy. Similarly, many dogs have a sensitivity to pork products, so steer clear of them. Indulging your dogs and cats with too much table food and excess treats can cause disruptive digestive issues for your pet.

Holiday Pet Tips

- * Vomiting, diarrhea and depression are some of the signs and symptoms that your pet has a gastrointestinal upset or an obstruct. Call your vet immediately to get advice on how to treat the problem.
- * If you notice your pet itching or scratching a lot, it may have food allergies. Discuss any concerns about your pet's diet with your vet.
- * During colder weather, your pet may experience dry skin, just like humans. Consider adding an omega-3 fatty acid supplement to their diet.

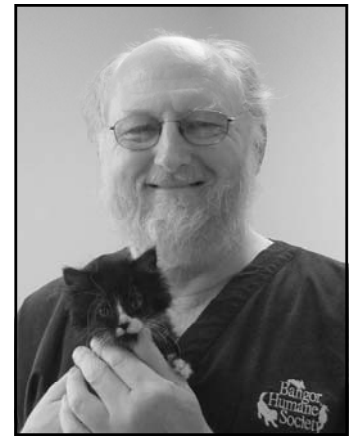
It's also important to keep a close eye on your pets around holiday decorations, especially if it's their first holiday. Keep them away from lights, ribbon, tinsel and ornaments. If you buy additives for the water under the Christmas tree to increase its longevity, make sure they are non-toxic in case your pet sips the water.

Lastly, it is a good idea to keep an eye on your pets' behavior. If they appear to be getting too stressed from the holiday chaos, find them a quiet space away from all the commotion.

Q: If I am thinking of giving a pet as a gift for a friend or relative this holiday, what should I consider?

A: Be careful when gifting animals for the holidays. First, be sure they want and can care for the pet. Second, be sure the type of pet and its personality are a good match for their lifestyle. The hustle and bustle of the holidays can be very stressful for pets. Consider waiting until after the holidays, when things have settled, to give or bring a new pet home.

Gift certificates are a great, alternative way to give the gift of pet companionship, while allowing the receiver to be a part of the adoption process in choosing the right pet after the holidays. They are available for purchase at the Bangor Humane Society and most other pet adoption locations. ■



Dr. Benson, Broadway Vet

Paws for Thought

Animal population has reached a crisis point in the U.S.

At least 50% of the pet over population problem is non-neutered males. Females can't do it alone.

Please Spay/neuter your pet!

Shelter Highlights & Events

We extend a big "thank you" to **Diane Boretos** from Sangerville who organized the Second Annual Henry Memorial Bocce Tournament on July 17th, raising \$2,600 to benefit BHS and WomanCare. Thank you to all the teams, referees, and parking attendants who participated, as well as Garrett Artman who provided entertainment on piano. A big congratulations to the tournament winners, "Team Ringers!"



Bocce winners Team Ringers with Cindy Cyr of WomanCare.



Day's Jewelers in Bangor raised \$1,750 for BHS by selling Pandora bracelet 'Paws' beads during their "Party for a Purpose" Event. Thank you!

Star, the 2011 Bangor Humane Society Pet Portrait Contest winner courtesy of **Jodi Renshaw** at Studio 36. The contest raised nearly \$1,000 through contest entry and voting donations!

Congratulations Star! Thank you to all the contestants, voters, and Jodi for sponsoring the event!



Please visit our Facebook page and website regularly to see all of the Pet Adoption Promotions and Specials we are running!

A Dog's Day Out

By Stacey R. Coventry



Chuck, a Husky-Pit bull and a long-term resident, often participated in the Dog's Day Out!

An important part of the BHS team includes a group of volunteers who participate in a program called, Dog's Day Out.

To help enrich the dog's life during their stay at BHS, no matter how brief or long-term, the BHS team developed the Dog's Day Out program as a part of its core Canine Volunteer Program. Dog's Day Out offers an opportunity for a BHS volunteer and a dog to uncover the dog's true inner self through an off-site adventure.

The Dog's Day Out program allows a seasoned volunteer to take a dog to their home, a park, or just a long car ride away

from the shelter. It gives the dogs a much needed, and much deserved break from shelter life.

Many times, dogs come to us without a profile or a limited perspective of the dog's actual personality. The qualities and traits we observe at the shelter are often the result of a complex and multifaceted reaction to stress – the stress of living in a kennel, having limited access to exercise and the outdoors, being surrounded by loud, sometimes dog-aggressive peers, and the stress of strangers walking throughout the adoption rooms pointing, poking and judging them.

However, Dog's Day Out gives the dog a chance to connect one-on-one with a volunteer in a relaxed, more natural setting

where the dog's true colors can emerge. It can help highlight their strengths, explain their triggers, and educate individuals about breed stereotypes.

Dog's Day Out can give that dog who has lived only as an outdoor dog, a chance to discover the sights and smells at the city forest, or have his first overnight indoors on a warm doggy bed. Or, take Lakota, a 2 year old Shepherd mix that lived as a long-term resident at BHS for over

five months. Dog's Day Out taught us that she loves to swim and was friendly around children. It helped us match her to a home with children and a large stream right behind her new home.

Then there was Chuck, a 1.5 year old Pitbull Husky mix and another long term BHS resident. At the shelter he seemed dog-aggressive and very high energy. During a Dog's Day Out, we learned that with a no-pull harness he becomes a wonderful dog to walk, who no longer jumps or pulls. And, in a natural setting he was playful around other dogs, not aggressive. It taught us that he simply needed to be the only pet in his permanent home, but could interact with other dogs on neutral ground.

Peggy Hall, a Dog's Day Out volunteer, says "It is everything to dog. They act a lot different out of the kennel and it



Lakota, enjoying a long swim in her new backyard.

Continued on pg 6

Austin's Corner



Austin here. Remember me? I'm the beautiful boy who ended up here at the humane society and purred my way right into the hearts of the staff. They decided they simply couldn't part with me and proclaimed me the official house cat of the Bangor Humane Society. I have a pretty interesting life and now they've given me this new job to stroll through the shelter to see what my fellow furry mates might be needing to make their stay here a bit more pleasant.

Let's get to it because I think there is a staff meeting this morning and I like to drape myself across the meeting table in case someone might like to scratch me behind my ears.

I'm a fair and reasonable sort so I will start with the dogs. We've had a lot of them turning up here lately. Our kennels are full and they really need some toys to keep them occupied until their forever family picks them as their new pet.

For whatever reason, they seem to enjoy Nyla bones, pressed rawhide, rope toys, stuff less stuffies and especially those Kong things that the staff likes to fill with peanut butter, cheese and spices. There is no accounting for taste, I guess, but that is their wish list.

In between naps, us cats like to play too. So, if you are so inclined, we would be most grateful for some interesting and entertaining cat toys. As you know us cats can be neat freaks so we could sure use some more cat litter and metal litter boxes. We also would appreciate some canned wet food for cats and dogs. It really helps out the underweight kittens that we have here. The staff tries hard to get them all plump and healthy so they can be adopted to good families. Canned wet food is also necessary for some of our dogs here that are on special diets.

We always need towels, blankets and sheets because they keep our kennels real clean. Plus, we all like to have a clean snuggly blanket or towel to curl up in. It helps us feel safe and warm.

I know I'll have some happy holidays here at the shelter. I hear they are going to put up a holiday giving tree in the lobby starting on December 1st so that our supporters can pick a gift idea off it and help all of our pets here enjoy the season a bit more.

Please stop by to see us and ask for me. I'm always around here somewhere.

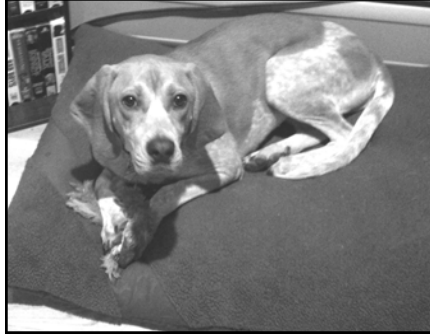
Austin

'Day Out' Continued

absolutely enriches their life.”

As a volunteer, you not only have the opportunity to give our dogs a break from the shelter, but to also expose our dogs to new things- their first car ride, their first walk in the park, their first swim in Kennebec River. The reward is not only helping to reveal their positive character traits, but you also get to see them discover new worlds through their eyes.

In order to participate in Dog's Day Out, you need to complete training through the regular canine program and then log at least 20 hours of volunteer time on-site. Once you become an approved Dog's Day Out volunteer, BHS will provide you with everything from water bowl, treats, and poop bags to a list of possible adventure locations. When you return from your outing, you will be asked to complete a journal entry about your adventure to attach to the dog's profile for potential adopters.



Shania, a BHS stray, enjoying an overnight away from the shelter with a Dog's Day Out.

So if you want to become an ambassador for the dogs residing at BHS, to share in their joy, self-discovery, and tail wags; to educate the public on pet adoption; to give a dog a break; to enjoy a day out in nature; or take momentary pleasure in pet companionship, call BHS about Dog's Day Out today. ■

Check out our volunteer, Karen Littlefield's, blog about her Dog's Day Out adventures at www.dogsdayouthbs.blogspot.com!

Our Guiding Principles

- Treat all animals and people with respect, dignity, and integrity.
- Work diligently to end companion animal overpopulation by increasing awareness of spay and neuter programs.
- Promote adoption of physically and mentally healthy companion animals.
- Educate and train caretakers to develop fulfilling and lifelong relationships with their companion animals.
- Serve as responsible stewards of our resources.
- Hold ourselves to the highest standards of safety, care, and cleanliness.
- Raise public awareness with regard to the humane treatment of animals.
- Use euthanasia only as a last humane option in the best interest of the animal.



Sassy & Lucy thank you for your support!