



# Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Summer 2019

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## Our Mission

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.

Bangor Humane Society  
693 Mt. Hope Ave.  
Bangor, ME 04401  
207.942.8902  
[www.bangorhumane.org](http://www.bangorhumane.org)

 [Facebook.com/BangorHumane](https://www.facebook.com/BangorHumane)

License # F136



BHS is proud to feed our pets Hill's Science Diet food!

## The Truth about Transport

*A deeper look into saving lives through animal transport*

By: Stacey R. Coventry



According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), in some regions of the country, unplanned litters of puppies have nearly been eliminated, due to aggressive spay/neuter campaigns. These shelters are now filled with dogs with varying health and behavioral issues who take longer to adopt and require more shelter resources. Shelters in other regions—most notably the South, Southwest and rural areas throughout the country—still receive more puppies and dogs than they can place locally. Shelters where there are now shortages of puppies, small- to medium-sized dogs, healthy and void of behavioral issues are turning to animal transport to rescue healthy dogs from euthanasia and to bring diversity to their adoption kennels.

Seeing this trend unfold firsthand right here in Maine, BHS leadership decided to expand our out-of-state transport program as one of our strategic priorities.

Over the last couple of years, BHS has collaborated with shelters, rescue groups and the ASPCA to save healthy, adoptable canines through transport. Since May 2017, we have transported over 300 dogs to our shelter; over 150 in our most recent

fiscal year. We also continue to collaborate regularly to transfer animals from our rural Maine shelter partners to our facility for adoption when they reach capacity or to increase the adoptions of long-term residents by offering visibility in another geographic area. This also includes cats and kittens of all ages as space allows.

“Transports provide an additional revenue source, allowing us to keep helping the animals most in need from our local community,” states Sam Carruth, BHS Animal Care Coordinator.

According to BHS leadership, simply put, the puppies transported in help pay for the medical treatments needed for the seniors, injured, or neglected animals that currently make up the majority of BHS’ intake, which has been an ever growing number over the last decade.

Taking in animals from transports does not take away the care from our local animals. Animal Welfare in New England has evolved so significantly that the majority of the animals now residing in shelters have behavioral or medical needs requiring longer lengths of stay and additional resources that usually greatly outweigh their adoption fees.

“We are helping lift the burden of highly adoptable animals from our southern partners, where these puppies are



Continued on page 7

## From the Director



We are so excited to embark on a year filled with celebration and transformation!

In March we announced our Capital Campaign, *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life*, sharing that we have raised \$1.2 of our \$1.75 million renovation plan that will help us save more lives and better serve our community.

Earlier this month we saw the completion of the first step of our capital project with the demolition of the old Bangor Humane Society building to extend the parking lot and to prepare moving the front entrance for better customer access. The removal of the old building marks a significant shift in our agency's history; therefore, on behalf of myself and all BHS leadership, we want to acknowledge all the important work that was accomplished in the original facility and honor all of the lives that passed through its doors for nearly 30 years.

As we begin our facility transformation that will unfold over the next year, we are also celebrating our 150th anniversary of serving our community through pet adoption.

Our celebrations and agency milestones are only possible because of *you. You*—our adopters, our donors, our volunteers, our staff, our partners—are the reason we are celebrating an incredible agency milestone this year, while transforming our building to put us on the forefront of animal welfare for our next century of saving lives.

### Thank you!

This next year your support is more critical than ever before. We not only need your continued annual support through adoption, charitable giving, volunteerism and partnership to keep us operating, but we also need your financial support to reach our \$1.75 capital campaign goal.

**Please give today.** With your help, we can make this the biggest year in our agency's history; saving more pets, changing more lives, and leaving a lasting legacy for our community's future.

With Gratitude,

## How you can help:



photo by Stray Duck Foto

- Mail a gift or donate at [bangorhumane.org](http://bangorhumane.org)
- Pledge at [BHSBuilding4Tomorrow.org](http://BHSBuilding4Tomorrow.org)
- Purchase a commemorative tile in our *Tiles for Tomorrow* project (see page 3)
- Email [Suzan@bangorhumane.org](mailto:Suzan@bangorhumane.org) for a fundraising toolkit for more ways to support the *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* campaign.



## 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 2018-2019

Lani Naihe, President  
Buddy Angst, Vice-President  
Bob Williams, Treasurer  
Susan Reisman, Secretary  
Chris Barry, DVM  
Patricia Bixel  
Earl Black  
John Bunker  
Meaghan Duffey  
John Kenney  
Russ Maynard  
Justin Payson  
Jeff Russell  
Katherine Simoncic

## Our Staff

*Executive Director*  
Suzan Prendergast

*Shelter Operations Manager*  
Chris Young

*Director of Development & Public Relations*  
Stacey R. Coventry

*Bookkeeper/Office Manager*  
Sheila Knapp

*Volunteer and Outreach Director*  
Katelyn Stoddard

*Animal Care Coordinator*  
Sam Carruth

*Adoption Counselors*  
Alicia, Bethany, Julia, Alissa, Chelsea, Ashley, Hannah

*Animal Care Technicians*  
Stacey, Katrina, Caitlyn,

*Veterinary Technician*  
Allen Batchelder, LVT

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

## Tiles for Tomorrow

Our pets leave lasting paw prints on our hearts and in our lives. And now, they can also pave the way to second chances for homeless pets in our community with our *Tiles for Tomorrow* project!



These uniquely customized paw print tiles will raise funds to support our *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* campaign that will renovate our facility to help us save more lives and better serve our community.

These tiles will be permanently mounted along our new interior lobby walls and hallways, joining the 200 custom tiles from the original building campaign in 1996 that will be preserved during the renovations.

These special tiles will be designed in the reverse colors (*maroon and white on gray*) of the 1996 tiles and are available for **\$250 each** in a limited supply of only 400 tiles.

Create a special legacy for your pet and help give a second chance to homeless pets in our community for future years to come by purchasing a customized ceramic paw print tile today! ■



The tiles from the 1996 Capital Campaign (maroon and gray on white) will be preserved and integrated with the new campaign tiles.

**To order one of these special tiles please email Executive Director, Suzan Prendergast, at [suzan@bangorhumane.org](mailto:suzan@bangorhumane.org).**

## A Rescue Battle

By: Stacey R. Coventry

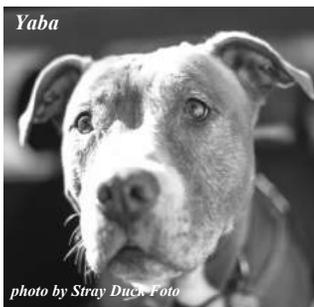


photo by Stray Duck Foto

In November, a sweet, seven-year-old female pitbull mix was found abandoned in Bangor. She was brought to BHS and quickly became a staff favorite, who named this golden girl, Yaba.

During a routine medical exam, staff discovered a mass on her left rear thigh. A local veterinarian surgically removed the mass and determined through lab testing that the mass was malignant.

After recovering from the procedure, Yaba was placed up for adoption as a hospice adoption because there was no guarantee the tumor would not grow back.

Requiring a veterinary relationship for ongoing check ups and a preference to be the only animal in the home, Yaba eventually became a long-term resident at BHS, waiting over 5 months to find a new family.

During her stay, she enjoyed dozens of Dog's Day Out adventures with staff and volunteers to give her extra enrichment and respite from shelter life. As a social butterfly, Yaba was also designated as the perfect ambassador to represent BHS at community events and on social media.

She also got her turn in the spotlight during several Pet of the Week segments on local TV and radio stations, all who helped search for an adopter.

Then, early in April, a veteran named Michael visited BHS in search of a canine companion. As a dual citizen of both Canada and the U.S., Michael regularly passed through Maine to receive treatment that was allowing him to fight his very own battle with cancer.

Staff introduced Michael to Yaba and their connection was immediate. Through our life-saving work, human and canine were matched in adoption to fight cancer together and receive the unconditional love and companionship only two kindred spirits could provide each other.

Since their adoption, Michael has been in touch to tell us how wonderfully Yaba is settling in and how their special bond continues to grow. He has also visited the shelter to drop off a donation to help some of our current residents and to say thank you for his very special new battle buddy. ■



Making an Impact...

# An Essential Piece

*By Katelyn Stoddard*

Volunteers are invaluable. We say it time and time again, but we truly could not do all that we do without their help. They never shy away from any task thrown their way and treat each and every animal that comes through our doors with the same love that they treat their own. They come to BHS eager to help, with a smile on their face and no motive other than that service makes their hearts feel full.

**With nearly 120 volunteers with service in the last 6 months**, we are so fortunate to have each and every one of *you*. Whether you've walked dogs, cleaned cat kennels, washed dishes, fostered animals in need, organized our donation closet and everything in between, ***thank you!*** Thank you for going to events. Thank you for helping us fundraise. Thank you for advocating and helping us find perfect adopters. Thank you for snuggling the shy and exercising the excited. Thank you for loving our animals, supporting our mission, and for being by our side while we move to a better tomorrow where we can help more animals that need us. ***You each are an essential piece to our puzzle.***



*Volunteers Giovanna and Sarah help at our annual dog wash.*



*James Pettigrow snuggles a kitten during Cats on Laps.*



*Braden Maquillan helps clean cat kennels.*



*Stevie V. and Kathy Black help at Paws on Parade.*



*Former Board President Amy Faircloth and current Board Member Patti Bixel greet Paws on Parade walkers.*



*Kathryn Jakubowski and a friend spend time with a shelter dog.*



*Brewer JROTC volunteering as BHS shelter helpers for a day.*



*Deb Aucoin and Karen Littlefield greet and photograph alumni at Paws on Parade.*



*The UMaine Women's Rugby team wash dogs at our annual fundraising event.*



*Kara Swartz and her dogs Harper Grace and Tennyson volunteer as crossing guards at Paws on Parade.*

## Ask the Vet



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM  
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

**Q: What are some tips to keep my dog safe while swimming?**

**A:** As many of us Mainers enjoy our summer on or around the water, it's important to consider some swimming safety tips for our canine companions. Many dogs are naturally gifted swimmers, but as puppies and new dogs around the water it is important to teach them how to swim, how to be calm around the water and, as owners, to not just throw them in, as that can be traumatic. Some breeds, like bulldogs for example, are not natural swimmers and should always wear a life jacket near the water.

You do have to be mindful of the water temperature, as dogs are susceptible to hypothermia just like humans. If the water is too cold for you to tolerate, than you can assume it is also uncomfortable for your dog.

Some dogs will swim, chase a ball, and play in the water for hours and hours. Therefore, it is important to make sure they take breaks and rest. If they start panting a lot, or swallowing water while they swim, it is time for a swim break. If a lot of water goes in to their ears while swimming, it is important to clean them out and dry out the ear canals (with an ear cleaner formulated for dogs preferably with a drying agent) in order to reduce the risk of developing an ear infection. Also of importance is to dry their fur the best you can when they are done swimming for the day so that their skin doesn't stay damp, and therefore will be less likely to develop a skin infection (or a hot spot).

**Q: What other tips for summer that can help me keep my pets healthy and safe?**

**A:** It is flea and tick season! Pet owners have already begun

reporting finding ticks on their pets. Prevention is essential to protect all pets and humans in your household from tick bites. Talk with your veterinarian about the best prevention for your pet, whether oral or topical.

Vectra, a topical flea/tick preventative is available for purchase at BHS at a discount cost and all proceeds help shelter pets!

Additionally, if you live in a heavily wooded area frequented by pests like fleas, ticks and mosquitoes, consider reaching out to lawn care services in your area with pet-friendly/organic options to spray your yard and rid your residence of pests to start.

### Remember:

**ASPCA**  
**It's Hot Out!**  
*Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!*

**120°**  
Within 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 80° to 120°.

**102°**  
On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

**90°**  
Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

Pets most at risk for overheating are young, elderly or overweight animals, those with short muzzles and those with thick or dark-colored coats.

A car may overheat even when the windows have been left open an inch or two.

Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

If you see an animal in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner, or call 911! Stay by the car until help arrives.

## Shelter Events & Highlights:

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Paws on Parade**  
Bangor Humane Society

**Bark to the Future**  
**Saturday, September 28th**

26th Annual Paws on Parade on the Bangor Waterfront  
Register or Donate at:  
[support.bangorhumane.org](http://support.bangorhumane.org)



Cliff Watson presented us with over \$1,000 in honor of his rescue dog, Sandy, who is 11 and surviving cancer. He ran 150 miles throughout 2018 for his *Running for Rescues* fundraiser to support our work and celebrate his beloved dog companion.



In April we celebrated our volunteers during *Volunteer Appreciation Week* with shout outs through the shelter and our annual recognition dinner.



Levi, the *John Bapst Memorial* therapy dog, and staff member Shannon Whiting celebrated his 14th birthday by raising over \$500 to help our homeless pets.



*Ocean State Job Lot* in Bangor presented us in April with nearly \$700 that they raised from two weeks of collecting customer donations at their cash registers!

Continued from page 1

euthanized for lack of space,” says Carruth. “Instead of turning our back on local animals in need, we are funding the measures that can save their lives by bringing in easy to place, healthy adoptable animals – saving lives from all over the country all at once.”

To date, the BHS transport program has been a huge success. But, according to Operations Manager Chris Young, who has been employed at BHS since 1989, the transport program is about more than a long-term fiscal strategy.

“Half of the year we have empty kennels,” says Young. “Beyond finances, it is the right thing to do. Our transport partners are so grateful and pleased to have us there to help ease their burden.”

Young says he can relate to the shelter workers on the other side of the transports. Three decades ago, BHS had an intake of over 10,000 animals annually and a euthanasia rate of nearly 50%, according to agency historical sources.

“Thirty years ago, I can’t even imagine what it would’ve been like to have a group like us drive to our shelter and load their van with dogs from our overcrowded facility to be quickly adopted from their shelter. And then, come back regularly to do it again and again. There is such joy on their end and it feels good to help. To be on this end today is a dream I never thought I’d see become a reality.”



Recently through a grant from the ASPCA, BHS has purchased a new vehicle that will allow us to expand our transport program.

“Road trips are not always easy, but having the right tools for the job makes all the difference. I am very thankful for our new transport van where the animals are safe, secure and comfortable during the ride,” Carruth says. “Traveling to pick up the animals has been an enlightening, exhausting and sometimes smelly - but completely fulfilling— experience. On both ends you have extremely dedicated teams of people moving mountains to save lives and it’s a wonderful thing when we can come together to do so.”

BHS now has a dependable transport vehicle, but in order to grow and sustain the program we need *your* help. We need transport drivers who can work with stressed animals, puppy fosters to open their homes for quarantine upon arrival, and continued community support —ongoing donations and adoptions for both transport arrivals and residing shelter guests.

Bangor Animal Control Officer, Trisha Bruen, encourages anyone interested in adopting an out-of-state animal through transport to visit a reputable shelter who is licensed to import animals. (*See all rules for Maine animal imports on page 8*).

“When you adopt through transport from a shelter like BHS, you know the animal has been completely vetted beforehand, not only ensuring a good match for your lifestyle, but a healthy and safe addition to your family and the community at large.”

We are committed to transporting animals from overcrowded shelters to ours when available space allows as long as state laws and best practices are followed. If you are connected to a rescue group or shelter that would be interested in becoming a BHS transport partner, please encourage them reach out to Sam at [sam@bangorhumane.org](mailto:sam@bangorhumane.org). ■

## The Steps to Saving Lives through Transport

- **Set a time frame** that works for both partners and consider the following factors: driver availability, holiday/traffic travel interference, animal supply from source shelter, and kennel space for destination.
- **Choosing the animals.** The source shelter or rescue group will send a list of available animals that meet the requirements to be part of transport. Our Animal Care Coordinator selects the animals that meet BHS adoption standards and balances the selection against our current shelter population (medical treatment/ behavior issues/ space) and cost of each transport (gas, overnight stays, and transport fees that range from \$75-\$150 per dog). Once BHS has selected our group the source shelter will start their vaccination and quarantine process on selected animals.
- **Continued processing of current animals in the shelter** for adoption to make sure we have enough room for the incoming group. Transport animals will have to be held in their own separate rooms for proper quarantine at BHS.
- **Reach out to volunteer foster parents** for priceless puppy fosters and is imperative to a successful transport program!
- **Travel!** Depending on the partner we are working with we may travel all the way to the source or we meet at prearrange destination.
- **Quarantine** back in the state of Maine. Dogs are held for five days if *under* six months old when they arrive; two days for *over* six months to ensure healthy animals are being brought into the state.
- **Animals are then processed as normal at BHS.** Completion of any spays / neuters needed, vaccinations, microchips etc., just as we would any animal arriving at our doors.
- **Up for adoption and then home!**

## Rules & Best Practices for Maine Animal Transport

- Shelter/rescue is licensed with State Department of Animal Welfare.
- Shelter/rescue has an importation license that is current and in good standing with State Department of Animal Welfare.
- Animal health records and behavior assessments must be presented before transport and then subsequently transported with the animals. Proof of these records are reported to the state quarterly.
- All dogs/puppies must be healthy up to date on required vaccines: **Rabies** (at 12 weeks and older), **Distemper**, **hepatitis**, **leptospirosis**, and **Bordetella** to prevent onset of upper respiratory infections, parvo virus and other contagious diseases.
- All dogs must test **negative** on 4DX test – most notably heartworm.
- Dogs must be quarantined for 14 days out of shelter prior to transport.
- Arrival quarantine 48 hours for dogs six months and older and five days for puppies up to six months old, ideally out of shelter and kept out of public places.

## 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 all animals.
- **Use euthanasia** only as a last humane option when in the best interest of an animal.



Thank you for  
your support!