

Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Summer 2023 Newsletter



HARLOW



BOWZER



MAX



BAGHEERA



These
friends need
your help
pg. 4-5



Suzan, Executive Director and Willow

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

15 years ago at BHS, we saw more than 7000 animals annually and our euthanasia rate was nearly 50%. Our team worked tirelessly to change the story, not just for the animals themselves, but also for the community that supported us and believed so strongly in our mission to save animal lives.

Since then, our intake numbers have decreased to around 2000 animals a year and our live-release rate is 97%. We owe this success to a focus on the philosophy of spay neuter and a dedication to the ideal of "Adopt Don't Shop." With your help, we changed the narrative for dogs, cats and small animals, many in desperate need of critical intervention, before they went on to find their new homes. We are proud of what we have accomplished, and we hope you are too.

Unfortunately, we are seeing some disturbing new trends in animal welfare. Staff capacities are taxed, donations are shrinking, costs are rising, intakes are growing. These issues are not unique to BHS, but with your help, we can stem the tide.

During Covid, new challenges began to emerge that deeply impacted both the community and BHS. A shortage of veterinary care and steep increases in the costs of said care have meant that spay or neuter procedures have been harder to acquire. As a result, our intake numbers have climbed significantly, especially in our cat population. As of this printing, we have taken in nearly 150 more cats than this time last year.

Quarantine and isolation made it difficult to socialize young dogs and many went without formal training. The numbers of behavioral issues among dogs are rising and many are being surrendered-not because they are bad dogs, but because their owners believe they are unmanageable. Right now, our kennels are full, we have a waiting list of over 40 dogs whose owners are seeking to surrender, and we have at least 6 dogs that have been here for 6 months or more.

In the following pages, you will see stories of success, but the majority of this issue will focus on how you can help. Have room in your life for a quirky dog that will need some time and training, but will offer more in rewards than you ever imagined? Please adopt. Is there a feral cat colony or lots of stray cats in the area you live? Please contact your Animal Control Officer so we can get them spayed or neutered and find them homes. Don't have any more room for animals in your home, but still want to help? Please give.

Together, we can do the right thing for the animals in our care, and for the ones still waiting for our help. We ask you to join us.

Be well,

Suzan Prendergast

Suzan Prendergast
Executive Director



Hours of Operation

Monday-Saturday: 12pm-6pm
Sunday: Closed

Board of Directors 2023-2024

- Russ Maynard, President
- John D. Bunker, Vice President
- Buddy Angst, Treasurer
- Abbey Ramsay, Secretary
- Christopher Barry, DVM
- Earl Black
- Vicki Blais
- Emily McIntosh
- Chris Morley
- Jennifer L. Morren, CPA
- Jeff Russell

Our Staff

- Executive Director
Suzan Prendergast
- Director of Development and Communications
Kathryn Ravenscraft
- Volunteer and Community Outreach Director
Chelsea Brown
- Bookkeeper
Erika Baker
- Director of Medical Services
Allen Batchelder, LVT
- Licensed Veterinary Technician
Stacey Dunifer
- Director of Animal Care
Sam Carruth
- Adoption Counselors
Alicia, Jess, Paige, Lily, Audrey, Kat
- Animal Care Technicians
Olivia, Alex F., Grace, Mallory, Gabby
- Shelter Helpers
Alex R., Kassity, Gracie, Marin



With special thanks to:



Bangor Humane Society presents



*Games!
Prizes!
Vendors!*



30th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9AM-NOON

HUSSON UNIVERSITY

1 COLLEGE CIRCLE, BANGOR, MAINE

Register now at www.bangorhumane.org or scan the QR code!!

Thank you to our generous sponsors:



LONG TERM STAYS

Long stay dogs are not a new part of shelter life, especially in no-kill shelters like BHS. We are committed to not euthanizing for time or space and believe that adoptable dogs should be cared for until they can find the right family. Here's a few things we know about long-stay dogs.

They have super powers. Think about it! Any creature able to withstand the stress of living in a cement kennel for months on end and still have their wits about them automatically makes them pretty darn cool. Plus, they've been hanging out with our shelter staff long enough to have learned some basic commands like sit or off AND our staff has all sorts of insights about the dog to offer a prospective owner, hopefully making the transition to a new home even easier.

A lot of folks can say they rescued a dog, and while it is true that any dog you get from a shelter has been rescued, people who adopt a long-stay dog are serious heroes. They decide right from the beginning that they are willing to do whatever it takes to make this dog's life better. There are probably quite a few quirks to overcome, but you know what? They make their own lives better in the process. This is a win-win scenario.

So, when you visit a shelter and see a dog barking, or huddled at the back of the kennel, or tearing up toys and blankets, or even showing you their teeth, please consider that they're going through a lot. They're likely a completely different dog once they're on the other side of the kennel door, but long-stay dogs sit there day in and day out while dozens of strangers walk past their kennels. They only get exercised two or three times a day and the rest of the time they're in that kennel with lots of strange noises and smells. They love the shelter staff, but it's not the same as having a person, or a couch, or a bed, or toys all their own. They are not aggressive, they're just stressed, and they're waiting so patiently to be rescued by that special someone. Maybe... it's you?



Bagheera, age 3
At BHS since February 2022



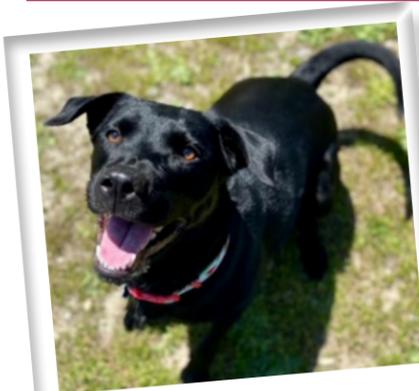
Harlow, age 2
At BHS since November 2022



Max, age 2
At BHS since December 2022

"We cannot stress it enough. Long-stay dogs are wonderful dogs. They are unique. They are beautiful. They are handsome. They are smart. They are goofy. They are athletic. They are awkward. They are adorable. They are loyal. They are running buddies. They are couch potatoes. They have likes and dislikes and opinions and personalities all their own. They are an incredible and diverse group of dogs and one of them is perfect for the role of your new best friend."

-Excerpt from "The Magic of Adopting a Long-Stay Dog" at Dogsoutloud.org.



Mandy, age 3
At BHS since September 2022



Bruno, age 3
At BHS since September 2021



Bowzer, age 5
At BHS since March 2023



Stanley, age 2
At BHS since April 2023



Danny Boy, age 2
At BHS since May 2023

Tips for helping long-stay dogs adjust to their new environment.

Give them time. Fearful or anxious dogs can become even more fearful or anxious during a prolonged kennel stay. There's a rule of 3's that's important to remember when bringing any dog home: it takes 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to learn your routines, and 3 months to feel at home.

Give them space. Don't expect them to want too much attention or that they should give you lots of attention. They may need to just sit in the same room with you at first, maybe listen to you read or talk to them to get used to the sound of your voice. Don't approach too quickly- stay low to the ground, avoiding eye contact, and let them come to you. This reassures them that you are not a threat.

Give them peace. Don't force them into social situations or take them too far from spaces that feel safe to them. Allow them to retreat from meeting new people, and if they appear uncomfortable during walks, don't push them too far. Watch them closely for signs that they may need to return home, such as tucked tail or unwillingness to move.

Give them safety. It is best for you to be present with them as much as possible during the beginning, leaving them alone for no more than 4-5 hours whenever possible. When you can't be there, consider crate training them or confining them to a single room that will help them feel relaxed and avoid property destruction.

Give them calm. Don't make too much of a fuss about coming and going. If you are always celebrating your return, it can give them the idea that they should anxiously await your return.

Give them toys. But not too many. A dog that's lived for a long time in a kennel environment may become very possessive about objects and food. Be careful about offering too many high-value items at one time.

Give them love. This part's easy, right? 'Nuff said. Thank you for taking a chance on a long-stay dog.

**Please donate to help a long-term friend in need
Visit us at donations.bangorhumane.org to make your gift today**



DONUT'S PAWSOME PAGE

- Lives In:** Furever Home
- Hometown:** Bangor Humane Society
- Age:** 2.5 (the half is important!)
- Bio:** The fluffiest boy living his best life in his furever home.



DONUT

Aug. 10, 2023

I'm Donut. I've been at **Bangor Humane Society** since mid-July. I'm a 2½ year old, 111 pound St. Bernard. I used to have a person that loved me a lot, but unfortunately they passed away and I had a few pretty rough months before I ended up here at this awesome shelter with people who take super good care of me. 🥰

My brother **Sheriff** came here with me. He's a 6 year old German Shepherd who was in a lot of pain because of a bad ear infection— there was so much goop coming out of his ears, but he's in the middle of treatments now and I think he's actually starting to feel a little better! He's seen a lot of doctors and vet techs since he got here, but like I said, the people here are pretty great and they're going to help find Sheriff and me homes that are just right for each of us. (Now that I've had some quality alone time, I've realized I'm more of a loner and the shelter staff thinks it's best if we don't stay together.)

Anyway, I got to go for a ride to this cool place called **Critter Clippers** where a very nice lady named Kerrie gave me a bath. Apparently I didn't smell very good? I thought I'd perfumed myself nicely by rolling around in trash and muck before I arrived, but I guess everyone has their own idea of what smells good. Kerrie also trimmed off a bunch of gross hair mats, and they tell me I'm looking very handsome. They must know how much I love compliments. 👑

I'm really lucky to have ended up here at this shelter and I wanted you to know that I'm grateful for all the help you give BHS so they can help dogs like me and Sheriff. I don't know how things would have worked out for us if they hadn't been here. So, thanks for saving us. And in case no one's told you lately, you're a pretty big deal. ❤️



324 Paws Up 40 Barks

BANGOR HUMANE SOCIETY

Aug. 14, 2023

We are so happy we have been able to help our friends **Donut** 🐾 and **Sheriff** 🐾 feel like the best boys they are! Donut's estimated care cost is \$3,000 and Sheriff's estimate is \$4,200. We'd do anything for our friends. Visit donations.bangorhumane.org to help animals like Donut and Sheriff. ❤️

654 Paws Up 98 Barks

SHERIFF

Aug. 16, 2023

CONGRATS ON GETTING ADOPTED TODAY, **DONUT!** 🎉 You look like I want to sniff you!

498 Paws Up 67 Barks



CAT, YOU BETTER COME HOME

“Perhaps one reason we are fascinated by cats is because such a small animal can contain so much independence, dignity, and freedom of spirit.”
-Lloyd Alexander



Anyone who's ever had a cat knows they cannot be controlled. They know their names, but they won't respond to them. They know which doors they can pass through, which surfaces they're permitted to sit on, which dishes they should drink from. But they have absolutely no regard for rules, and no regrets for breaking them. We totally get it. And we love them for all the ways they buck the system.

But here's the thing: they are the single most vulnerable domesticated animals and they need our protection. The numbers of stray cats in our region are rising—so far this year, we've taken in nearly 200 more cats than we did the year before. Many of those cats are pregnant or arrive with kittens, and many of them suffer from Upper Respiratory Infection (URI), which is highly contagious, and when left untreated can cause permanent damage and even death.

Our kennels are bursting at the seams and we could use your help with the following:

Spay/Neuter: We know the wait times are long right now to get a cat spayed or neutered. We're asking that if you plan to allow your cat outdoors that you please keep them inside until that procedure can be completed. BHS offers vouchers that will reduce the cost of the procedure, and we also collaborate with a local mobile vet to provide low-cost spay/neuter clinics right here at the shelter.

Please call 207-942-8902 for more info.

See something, say something: If you see a group of feral cats, please contact your Animal Control Officer before the colony's numbers multiply and become unmanageable.

Don't move kittens: If you come across a litter of kittens without their mama, please don't immediately rescue them. Mama may have gone out looking for food and is likely on her way back. If you live close enough to watch for her return, give her some time. If you are concerned, please contact your Animal Control Officer.

Collar and pet tag: If your cat does go outdoors, please make sure they are outfitted with a breakaway collar and a pet tag that will help them be reunited with you should they wander too far.



*You're invited to our party....
... and YOU get the gift!*



Bangor Humane Society wants you to be our guest at Paws on Parade's 30th Birthday Party on September 30th at Husson University!!!



*** SEND IT SEPTEMBER ***

Win a VIP Lounge at Paws on Parade!

TEAMS of ANY SIZE who host a fundraising party or event in September whose proceeds go towards their team goal get into a drawing to enjoy a VIP Lawn Lounge at the Paws on Parade Event! Party in style with a tent, comfy seating, snacks, beverages, and other perks!

Yard sale. Bake sale. Jeans day at work. Donation based workout. Donation night at a restaurant. Pampered Chef.

Raise \$100 = 1 entry, Raise \$200 = 2 entries,

Raise \$300 = 5 entries!

* Drawing to be held September 25th

* Please contact Kathryn at 207-942-8902 to register your event.

Keep fundraising until the day of Paws on Parade's 30th birthday! Every dollar counts towards the important mission to champion the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals. We provide quality care for homeless pets. We promote animal welfare through education and advocacy. We plan to celebrate BIG with all our friends and furry family!

Plus event day prizes!!

CALL US FOR MORE DETAILS AT 207-942-8902!

Generously sponsored by:



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
FB: @BangorHumane



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