

Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Summer 2021 Newsletter

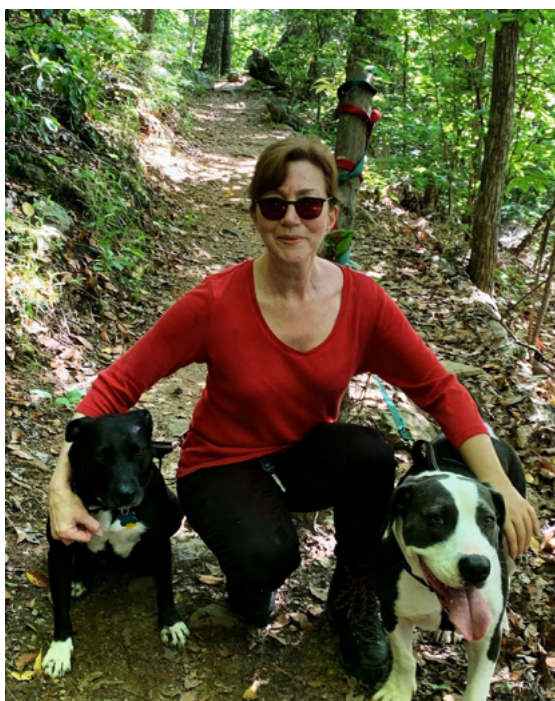
Kittens. Wide-eyed, little curtain-climbing lovebugs. We adore their mischievous ways and can be entertained for hours by their shenanigans. People literally line up to adopt them, which is wonderful! But what do hundreds of kittens mean for shelters like ours?

Find out more about Unpacking Kitten Season on page 4



Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Please join us in welcoming our new Board President, Susan Reisman, pictured here with her dogs, Etta and Bazooka

A decade ago, we adopted a beautiful cat named Tilly. Found in a rural area and clearly a mama cat, though her kittens were nowhere in sight, it was winter and she was brought to the shelter for her own safety. Hearing her story, I often worried about her kittens and began thinking a lot about other animals needing homes. This began my support for the work of BHS.

In 2016, I joined the Board of Directors, a group of volunteers who give generously of their time to advance the BHS mission. This year I have

taken on the role of Board President, with Russ Maynard at my side as VP. Filling the shoes of Buddy Angst will not be easy given his exemplary leadership during a major facility renovation that took place during a pandemic no less!

So, what next? Strategic planning in 2018 resulted in the development of a Capital Campaign that yielded fantastic upgrades to our facility. This fall, the Board and management team will embark on its next strategic planning cycle. As the world changes, so must we. But rest assured, improving upon the way the Board operates so we may continue to serve BHS animals, adopters, and staff remains our priority.

And of course nothing, not even a pandemic, can stop Paws on Parade, which will re-emerge this October in a new location and with new features. Stay tuned.

As for Tilly, she has welcomed adopted dogs and a cat to the family and kept her humans warm by insisting on lap time. Tilly's happy story is just one of many made possible by BHS. Tilly sends a special shout out to the staff who work diligently every day to give the pets the care and homes they deserve.

Susan Reisman
Board President



Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 12pm-6pm
Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: Closed

Board of Directors 2019-2020

Susan Reisman, President
Russ Maynard, Vice-President
Buddy Angst, Treasurer
John Bunker, Secretary
Jennifer Arey
Christopher Barry, DVM
Earl Black
Taylor Black
Meaghan Duffey
Kim Jenkins
Justin Payson
Katherine Simoncic
Anne-Marie Storey

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Prendergast
Director of Development
Kathryn Ravenscraft
Director of Medical Services
Allen Batchelder, LVT
Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator
Chelsea Brown
Director of Animal Care
Sam Carruth
Bookkeeper
Erika Baker
Adoption Counselors
Alicia, Jessica, Paige, Mikala, Lily, Kolby, Brooke
Animal Care Technicians
Tala, Lexi, Olivia, Alex, Jordyn, Stacey

28th Annual Paws on Parade

WOOFSTOCK

PEACE * LOVE * RESCUE

Saturday, October 2, 2021

9am - 12pm

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

Husson University, 1 College Circle, Bangor, Maine

Thank you to our sponsors!

Changing Seasons FCU, Blueberry Broadcasting, Maine Masonic Lodge 83-St. Andrew's, Lodge, Eaton Peabody, Bowman Constructors, Katahdin Trust, Green Acres Kennel Shop/Force Free Pets, Wallace Tents, Bell's Furry Friends Photography, Brookings Smith, Leighton & Longtin LLP CPAs, Loyal Biscuit, Skowhegan Savings, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Bangor Savings Bank, First National Bank, University Credit Union, Seadog, Versant, Roof Systems of Maine, Whitten's 2-Way, BerryDunn, TMATT Tax & Financial, Melissa Bee Photography, Brandywine Graphics

Hosted by
HUSSON
UNIVERSITY



UNPACKING KITTEN SEASON

Animal welfare organizations all over the country are in the thick of “Kitten Season”. Most kittens are born between April and October, making this a very busy time, or “season”, each year. Litters of kittens and pregnant mama cats find their way to shelters and rescues in droves, stretching capacity limits and sometimes demanding very specialized care.

Kittens must be cared for around the clock, and unweaned kittens are at particular risk for dehydration or starvation. Depending on their age, they may need to be hand fed every 2-3 hours or need special medications. They must be separated from other animals to minimize risk of disease exposure. Therefore, the best placement for kittens, weaned or unweaned, is in foster care where they can find a quieter environment and the constant care they require.

Kittens are the most vulnerable of domestic animals because their developing immune systems make them highly susceptible to pneumonia and upper respiratory infections (URI). URIs are highly contagious and can be transmitted to an entire litter. When caught too late, there can be profound health consequences and an untreated URI can literally be deadly. Kittens born in outdoor settings are particularly vulnerable since colder weather can contribute to disease.

Because kittens are often born outdoors, mama cats must leave for short stretches to go find food. Sometimes the mother doesn't return leaving a litter orphaned, but many times the mama cat is on her way back to her babies. If you come across a litter of kittens that appears to be abandoned it may be tempting to bring them to a local shelter, but before moving them, please contact your local Animal Control Officer.

The best remedy for reducing the risks to both mama cats and kittens is to have them spayed or neutered, especially if they go outside even part of the time. Take a look at page 5 to see all the ways your donations and volunteer hours support our cat population.

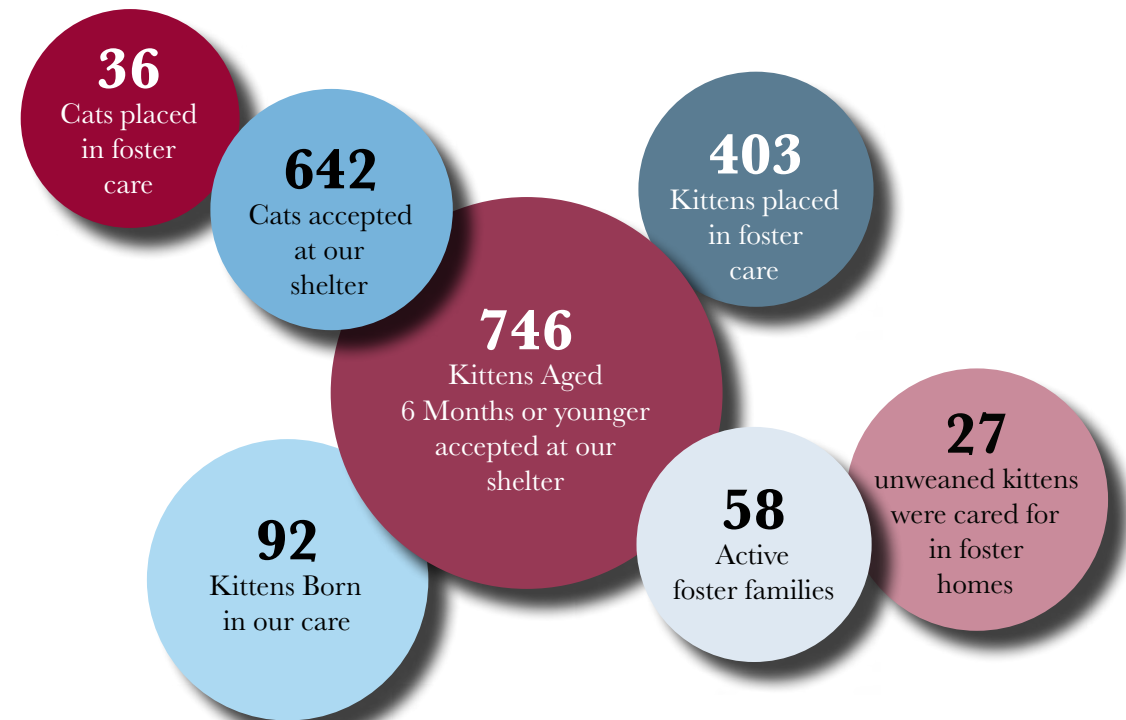
How can you help? We're so glad you asked! If you are interested in fostering animals, please email ChelseaB@Bangorhumane.org and our Director of Volunteer and Foster Care Coordination will be in touch with you soon! Naturally, in addition to your generous financial support, we are also grateful for donations of kitten milk replacement, pet nursing bottles, canned meat-based baby food, baby blankets, and hot water bottles.



Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto

FY2021 BHS CAT AND KITTEN STATISTICS

DID YOU KNOW?
In FY2021, 70% of our pet population was feline!



BHS is honored to be a trusted resource for our community, providing critical programs that help pets stay with their owners.

Low-Income Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

This program partners with area vets to provide low-cost spay/neuter services to low-income individuals and families. In FY21 we gave out over \$44,000 in vouchers, helping to secure spay or neuter procedures for 565 cats and 95 dogs in our community. This program has helped to decrease the population of homeless or unwanted pets by more than 50% in the last decade.

We are grateful for support from Maine Community Foundation, The Simmons Foundation, and the Walmart Foundation, all of whom provided generous funding for this program in FY21.

Spay Your Mama Program

For only \$50, pregnant or nursing mother cats* and their kittens can be temporarily surrendered to the Bangor Humane Society until the kittens are ready to be adopted. Each kitten is fully vaccinated, microchipped, and spayed or neutered before being placed in new homes by BHS. The mama cat is also spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and returned to her rightful owner.

**Owners may keep mama cat and kittens until weaning is complete, but kittens must accompany Mama to the shelter for surrender to be eligible for this program.*

ASK THE TRAINER

Puppy Essentials 101- Body Language & Socialization

By Don Hanson, ACCBC, BFRAP, CDBC, CPDT-KA



Don with his dog, Muppy

Every puppy has a critical socialization period that starts when we bring them home and ends between 12 and 16 weeks of age. After this period ends, a puppy will likely view anything new as a threat. Therefore, we must socialize our puppies by exposing them to new things in a planned and controlled manner while creating a positive association.

Before beginning socialization, you must first understand canine body language, so you recognize when your puppy is uncomfortable. Incidentally, we see the same signals in adult dogs. Signs of anxiety can be as subtle as; avoiding eye contact, licking their lips, a tightly closed mouth, yawning, and scratching. If these signals do not cause the scary thing to go away, the puppy may give more emphatic signs such as looking away, panting, and trying to hide. When a puppy is terrified, it may growl, bark, lunge, or freeze in terror. Unfortunately, many people misunderstand the “freeze.” Since the puppy is not reacting, they believe the puppy is “fine” when in reality, they are terrified. NEVER force a puppy to interact with a living thing or object if they show any hesitation or signs of fear.

Body language indicating your puppy is comfortable includes; a loose wiggly body, an open mouth with their tongue hanging out, and a desire to investigate and move towards a person or

object. We encourage you to teach family, friends, and all other people who will interact with your puppy how dogs communicate so your furry family member is comfortable.

The best way to greet a puppy is to squat sidewise at a distance from the puppy and allow the puppy and person to approach you at their own pace. Alternatively, you can slowly move towards the puppy, avoiding direct eye contact and keeping your arms still. At the same time, the person with the puppy will feed them tiny, high-value treats. If the puppy shows any hesitation, stop and try another day. The puppy ALWAYS gets to make a choice.

Between 8 and 12 weeks of age, gently expose your puppy to everything you anticipate they will encounter during their lifetime in a planned and controlled manner. That includes people of all ages, sizes, races, smells, and wearing a wide variety of clothing. Socialization also includes exposing a puppy to other animals and non-living things such as; cars, lawnmowers, boats, snowmobiles, brooms, snow shovels, and more, all in a planned and controlled manner.

You can find additional resources on this topic at – <https://bit.ly/BHS-SocBdyLang>

Don Hanson owns the Green Acres Kennel Shop (greenacreskennel.com) and ForceFreePets.com and is the producer and host of The Woof Meow Show, a radio show/podcast about people and their pets.

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interact with
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A LITTLE DOG FROM GEORGIA CAME THEIR WAY

In June 2020, Leo and Verna lost their dog, Trixie, but in February 2021, finally ready for another dog, they drove to BHS and met with Spritzki, a small, 2-year old terrier mix transported from Georgia. It was love at first sight and they took her home.

Spritzki and Leo formed an instant bond, often hiding out in the TV room and watching NASCAR together, Leo sneaking the little dog bites of popcorn and Spritzki barking along with Leo's cheers for his favorite drivers. Verna says she loved watching the two of them bond and was just glad she didn't have to watch NASCAR.

But in April, Leo suffered a debilitating stroke and after being told there was nothing more the doctors could do, Verna took him home and they set up his hospital bed so he could look out over their beloved lake. And Spritzki began her vigil. He was often unresponsive, until the sound of his loyal dog entering the room would inspire Leo to lift his hand and pet her head.

“All dogs loved Leo,” Verna says. And Spritzki was no different, leaving Leo only to go outside or get a drink of water. Even eating took too long, so when she was hungry she'd go collect a mouthful of food and bring it back to the bed where she'd spit it out and eat it while keeping a watchful eye on Leo. “Sometimes she would lay on his pillow with her chin on his shoulder,” Verna says. Leo passed away in early June with Spritzki by his side.

Who saved who? It's a popular saying in animal welfare, but never more beautifully illustrated than in this love story. Wanting to share the impact of Spritzki on their lives, Verna wrote to us after Leo passed. “After [only] three months, 2 weeks. Such love and loyalty! Pound pups have so much love to share!” With Leo gone, Verna is glad to have a special connection with Leo through Spritzki.

Verna shared that upon returning home recently, she discovered that Spritzki had made her way into Leo's room and was curled up with his slippers. She said, “I'm surprised she still remembers him. They didn't know each other that long.” But we're not surprised. A dog will never forget their best friend.

We are honored Verna allowed us to share this beautiful story with you. More than anything, we are privileged to have kept Spritzki safe and sound until she could find the people she was meant to be with...so they could help each other.



IN FY21 TOGETHER WE:

SAVED

1330
Cats

425
Dogs

66
Small Animals

GAVE

\$237,855 Worth of surgery and care
4,611 Vaccines

HELPED

Spay/Neuter **1,831** Animals
496 Animals from southern, high-kill
shelter find homes in our community

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

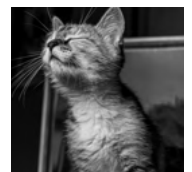
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www.bangorhumane.org

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



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