



Winter/Spring 2021

Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

GIVING MABLE A SECOND CHANCE



AT 4am on September 29, 2020, our “stray phone” rang. A Bangor police officer had picked up a dog still wearing a collar and rope and they were headed our way. By 4:23 am, our groggy but oh-so-committed staff was starting the intake at BHS. The dog, a big-boned female terrier mix who was clearly emaciated, proved to be a sweet, if slightly skittish, girl we named Mable.

Mable was examined, evaluated, and given all the standard tests and treatments, such as deworming, tick and flea preventatives, and a full battery of vaccinations including rabies. A month into her stay she was also treated for a urinary tract infection. However, our primary focus has been to fatten her up and gain her trust.

continued on page 4

FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Suzan Prendergast
Executive Director*

Dear Friends,

As you peruse the pages of this newsletter you'll notice a theme—Valentine's Day! During the dark days of winter, I look forward to this celebration of soulmates, of finding the yin to your yang, the macaroni to your cheese, the eggs to your bacon. We often think of a soulmate as a person, but for thousands of you, your soulmate revealed themselves during a trip to BHS.

Perfect matches are the happy ending we dream of for every animal here. If you're reading this, you're one of those special people who help us celebrate the true meaning of love each and every day! Staff, volunteers, donors, and adopters work together to BE the difference in someone's life. To all of you who love and help the pets of BHS, whether past, present, or future, we owe you a debt of gratitude.

As a thank you for so generously answering our calls for help, and for believing in true love and new beginnings, we bring you just a few of those perfect matches. The soulmates you see here wouldn't have found each other without YOU.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Suzan Prendergast



Hours of Operation

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

Board of Directors 2019-2020

- Buddy Angst, President
- Susan Reisman, Vice-President
- Bob Williams, Treasurer
- Katherine Simoncic, Secretary
- Chris Barry, DVM
- Earl Black
- John Bunker
- Meaghan Duffey
- Kim Jenkins
- Russ Maynard
- Justin Payson

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
- Animal Care Coordinator**
- Sam Carruth
- Bookkeeper**
- Erika Baker
- Adoption Counselors**
- Alicia, Emily, Paige, Kelsea, Jessica, Mallory, Lily
- Animal Care Technicians**
- Tala, Stacey, Lexi, Olivia, Jade, Katie, Autumn, Logan

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS



*Chelsea Brown
Volunteer and Community
Outreach Coordinator*

We sat down with Chelsea Brown, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, for the skinny on the volunteer program at BHS!

How did Covid and the closures impact BHS's volunteer program?

At the beginning of the quarantine period we obviously saw a big drop in our numbers. We just had to close our doors for a while. Naturally, we're still proactively limiting the number of people in the building, which means we can't have as many volunteers on site as we've always enjoyed. It's been hard! We miss our volunteers!

Has the shelter resumed volunteer activities, and if so, with what restrictions?

I am actually really excited to be welcoming our volunteers back! We are gradually rebuilding our volunteer corps. There is currently about a two month waiting list because we're adding volunteers at a safe rate. We're sticking to capacity limits and training everyone effectively. Our safety precautions include mandatory mask wearing and our scheduling is mindful of both numbers and distancing. We're committed to making sure we keep everyone safe and healthy. All the best things take time, right?

What is the shelter's greatest volunteer need right now?

Our greatest volunteer need right now is for foster care providers, which you can do from your own home! We'll definitely see an increase in this need in the spring, which is what we call Kitten Season!

What should we know about fostering animals?

Well, I think the biggest worry people have is that they won't be able to let an animal go once they've fostered for a while. I have personally fostered animals and I'll always have a connection to many of them, but it's SO rewarding to hear they're thriving in their new homes. I have one family that checks in with me regularly about a cat that I fostered a while back and it just warms my heart. Showing an animal love and teaching them that it's safe to trust is a wonderful gift for both the animal and the foster care provider. Plus, our adoption counselors work really hard to make the right matches! The home with the right fit is out there.

Also, it's not always puppies and kittens--we have lots of older animals that need care, too! Just like adoption, there's a perfect fit for every foster!

Can kids volunteer?

We LOVE our youth volunteers! Kids as young as 10 can volunteer with a parent or guardian, and kids 16 or older can volunteer independently.

How do you volunteer at BHS or become a foster parent?

Please reach out to me at chelsea@bangorhumane.org or call me at (207)942-8902 ext. 108. You can also visit our website for more information: <https://www.bangorhumane.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.



*Donnie fills Kong toys with
peanut butter for the dogs.*

MABLE'S STORY

...continued from cover

By early December, animal care techs noticed that Mable was limping a bit at dog walk and favoring her right rear leg. A visit to Veazie Vet for X-rays revealed that Mable has a ruptured cruciate ligament, which will require a surgical correction with an estimated cost of about \$3,000.

Mable's surgery will be covered in part by our Second Chance Fund, a fund designed to help meet the financial demands of specialized medical treatments for the pets in our care. Medical expenses account for over \$200,000 annually, much of which is for standardized costs of sheltering an animal, but nearly half of that pays for care less routinely seen in shelter settings; oral and dental procedures, orthopedic surgeries, and treatments of complications from common illnesses like upper respiratory infections.

Under the decade-plus leadership of Executive Director Suzan Prendergast, our Bangor-based shelter has prioritized care over cost for thousands of animals like Mable. "It's why we currently enjoy a live release rate of 98%," Prendergast will tell you. "We're talking about a life. We find a way."

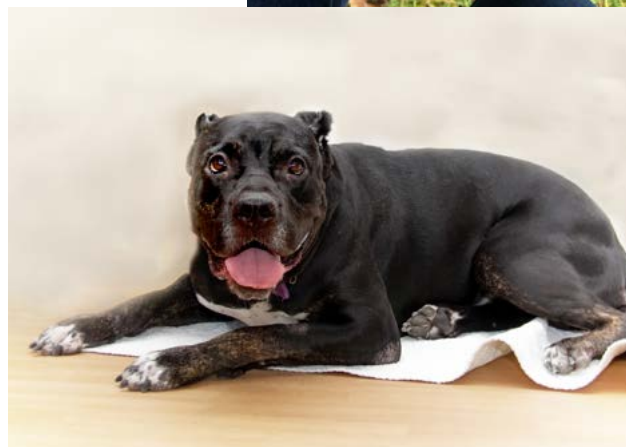
Allen Batchelder, a Veterinary Technician and our Director of Medical Services, has been with BHS for over 8 years. He has been a strong and consistent advocate for planning the best possible outcomes regardless of cost. "We don't want to gamble that the right owner will come along to shoulder the burden of treatment," Allen shared. When asked why it was so important for an animal to receive care before going into a new home, he said, "We don't want animals leaving here with shadows. We want them healthy, whole and complete. A second chance means overcoming what you've gone through so you can really have a fresh start."

Mable's surgery has been scheduled for late winter and until then she will wait patiently here with her shelter family. Mable will get her second chance, and we'll be here for it every step of the way.

You can donate to our Second Chance Fund by visiting us at bangorhumane.org/donate and selecting Second Chance Fund from the drop down menu. Or by selecting Second Chance Fund on our return envelope.



September 29, 2020



January 18, 2021

"A second chance means overcoming what you've gone through so you can really have a fresh start."

**-Allen Batchelder
Director of
Medical Services**



DAISY: LIVING LIFE IN FULL BLOOM!



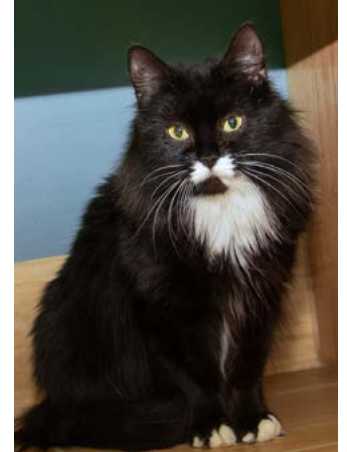
October 22, 2020

Covered in flea and tick bites, this severely underweight 2-year old female cat was discovered foraging for food near a dumpster. Brought to us in late October by Angela, a Good Samaritan who could see the cat was struggling. She recalls, "Temperatures were beginning to drop and she was obviously struggling. She gobbled up the canned cat food I offered her, and despite her rough appearance, she was sweet as a daisy. So that's what I called her. Daisy." The name stuck.

At first, Daisy mostly slept and ate, enjoying the warmth and safety of the shelter, along with some TLC from our staff. But poor Daisy has had a long road, struggling first with a urinary tract infection and then with a persistent upper respiratory infection. Though Daisy has been officially adopted, her release has been delayed several

times as we work diligently to send her home healthy and whole. We have every confidence she will make a full recovery and we look forward to updating you on her progress!

Donations go a long way in offsetting the costs of extended care regimens like Daisy's. Can you help?



January 8, 2021

ASK THE TRAINER

The Foundation of Friendship and Trust

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



Don with his dog, Muppy

A friendship often begins when we discover that we have similar interests and values. We can share those interests because we easily communicate with one another. We speak the same language, but we also take ample time to listen and watch one another. Friends don't always agree, but because we are friends, we have learned how to teach one another to look at a different viewpoint, learn more about one another, and compromise. Eventually, we establish trust and become friends. It is imperative to achieve that level of understanding with our pets.

Cats and dogs are not humans. They have their own specific needs, interests, values, and ways of learning, often very different from those of humans. If we want a friendship with a pet, we need to take the time to learn about them and patiently give them time to learn about us. Only then will we develop the trust that will be the foundation of our friendship.

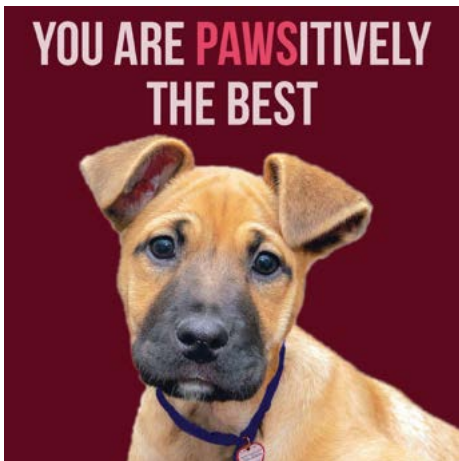
Two of my favorite books about cats and dogs were written by John Bradshaw. I encourage you to read them and use them to guide your relationship with your furry friend.

Cat Sense: How the New Feline Science Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet.

Dog Sense: How the New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You A Better Friend to Your Pet.

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.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM BHS!



A special thank you to Karen Littlefield, the superstar volunteer photographer who captured all of these images of our awesome residents!

SOME BUNNY LOVES YOU

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM BHS**

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
f @BangorHumane



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

Photo credit: Stray Duck Foto



Thank you for
your support!