



# Humanely Speaking

## Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2020

**Features:**

Superheroes Emerge  
From the Director  
Tails of Triumph  
Toby, Serenity, and  
Caribou  
A Letter from the Vet  
New Director of  
Development  
Paws on Parade!

**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



## DURING COVID-19, SUPERHEROS EMERGE

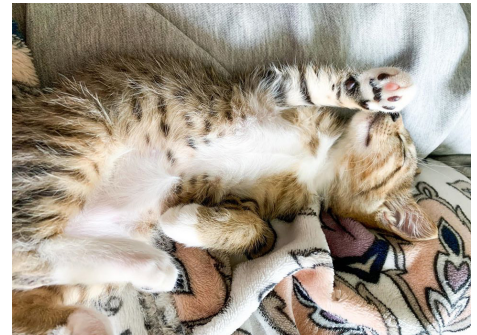
Our animals have undeniably saved the day during a very challenging time in our collective history. Known as the pet effect, the constant companionship and affection from animals has helped in myriad ways as we adjust and readjust to a constantly shifting topography.

### Reducing Stress

### Alleviating Isolation



Angus, adopted by Nicole,  
August 2020



Franklin, adopted by Clarissa,  
June 2020

### Providing Entertainment

### Improving Bonds



Ada, adopted by Andrea and Jason,  
March 2020

### Offering Companionship

### Reducing Loneliness

At Bangor Humane Society, we're so happy to help make the matches that have made life a little more tolerable over the last few months. So here's a special thanks to all the animals who have helped us feel better by providing tail wags, snoot boops, purrs, head bonks, binkies, and snuggles.

If you have any treats, now would be a good time to give one to your pet. Just sayin'. ♥

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Suzan Prendergast  
Executive Director

You may recall that our last newsletter teased a GRAND RE-OPENING COMING SOON! As the construction phase of our Capital Campaign finally came to a close, we were all anticipating this momentous event. After months of adapting to an ever-changing environment for both our staff and our pets, the end of dust and strange noises was finally within sight. We were looking forward to welcoming all of you to celebrate with us the successful culmination of years of hard work, thanks fully to your generosity.

And then Covid-19 happened.

Though we formally re-opened to the public on July 6, it wasn't exactly what we imagined when we planned revealing all we had worked so hard for--but there have been silver linings. The outpouring of support we've received has reminded us how critical the work of Bangor Humane Society remains for our community. From donations of blankets, towels, toys, and pet food, to cards, phone calls, and social media interactions from happy adopters and supporters alike, we have managed to stay positive and move forward with our mission to save animal lives.

As our thank you for that valuable support, we are excited to announce we will be hosting an Open House on September 27<sup>th</sup>! This is our official Grand Re-opening and the finale for our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Paws on Parade (see more on page 7)! We hope you can make time to join us for tours of this state-of-the-art facility.

Thank you, and we hope to see you soon!

Please join us for an

### Open House

To celebrate the close of Paws on Parade  
and  
The Grand Re-opening of the Bangor Humane Society

Sunday, September 27, 2020

1pm-4pm

693 Mt. Hope Avenue

Bangor, ME 04401

Tours all afternoon!

\*We will not be processing adoptions during the Open House



#### 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

Shelter Operations Manager

Chris Young

Volunteer and Community

Outreach Coordinator

Chelsea Brown

Animal Care Coordinator

Sam Carruth

Bookkeeper

Erika Baker

Adoption Counselors

Alicia R., Shyanne, Emily

Kelsey, Paige

Animal Care Technicians

Stacey, Aryn, Hannah, Tala,

Alicia H., Olivia, Jade

Veterinary Technician

Allen Batchelder, LVT



## TAILS OF TRIUMPH: CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETE!



View of cat condos upon entering BHS

One of the biggest changes in our facility has been our cattery! Not only did we add 20 kennels behind the scenes for cat care and surgical recovery, but we made major upgrades to the shelters for cats who are officially ready for adoption! They now have more room to move around and climb, along with a private cubby for their litterboxes. Our ventilation and filtration systems were improved so that our cats are breathing cleaner air, reducing the transmission rate for upper respiratory infections by over 90% from last year! Added bonus: potential adopters aren't met with the scent of kitty litter.

Our old configuration did not accommodate the care and keeping of small animals such as rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs. As the popularity of these critters has risen, we've needed more space to house our littlest furry friends. The new Animal Care Nook addresses this necessity in a wonderful way. With plenty of natural light, the "Nook" is located much farther away from the public entrance and from all the noises that can make our critters very nervous! We now have room for 4-5 small habitats and floor space for a standing habitat.



Small animal nook for rabbits and other critters



Insider view of our puppy transport room

Here's a peek into our new puppy transport receiving room! The Plexiglass doors keep vulnerable puppies safe from communicable diseases and go a long way in making our pups more comfortable. Our animal care coordinator can easily observe our new visitors. Of special note, at one time, this room housed an incinerator that had not been used for many years and is certainly no longer necessary at BHS. This space is now filled with hope and the prospect of wonderful new memories.

## TOBY NEEDED A HOME

Toby, an enormous, lovable coonhound, visited the Bangor Humane Society for the first time in the spring of 2017. Eighteen-month old Toby wasn't a good fit for his owners' lifestyle and they thought surrendering him would provide the best chance for a happy life. Toby was adopted after a short, two-week stay at the shelter.

Unfortunately, Toby returned to us in March 2020. Despite best attempts to help Toby adapt to his surroundings, he just wasn't built for city living, and he wasn't a huge fan of children, cats, or small critters Toby needed a huge yard to roam and bay to his heart's content, and he needed to be the only "child" in the home.

Toby was almost immediately a staff favorite. You could often find one of our animal care techs lounging with him in his kennel or taking him on rides at lunchtime. We all waited patiently for someone to discover what we already knew about Toby: he wasn't perfect, but he was someone's perfect match.

In July 2020, Dane walked into BHS. An Army Veteran discharged only two weeks earlier, Dane was back home with his family and building a cabin in the Maine woods, the perfect setting for a dog like Toby. The two met and Dane promptly scheduled a Dog's Day Out for the following day so they could get to know each other better before he decided whether or not to adopt Toby.

The Dog's Day Out never happened. Instead, Dane walked in and said, "Do we have to do a dog's day out, or can I just adopt him? I've been thinking about it all night and I just know he's the one." And that, as they say, was that. Toby has found his fur-ever home.

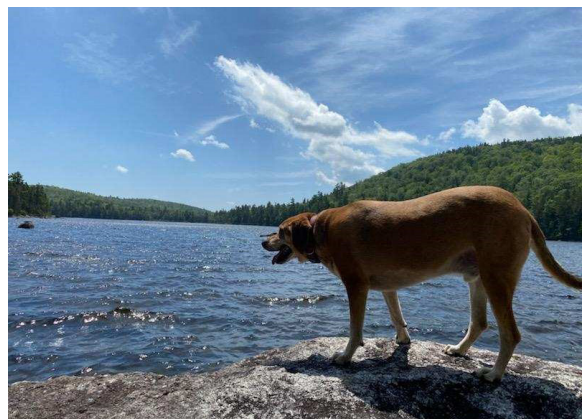
*Bangor Humane Society remains committed to keeping an animal for as long as it takes. Thank you for making a donation that will ensure we have the resources to care for all the Toby's who may still be waiting.*



Toby in the Spring of 2020



The day Dane adopted Toby  
Goodbyes like this are bittersweet



Dane captured this photo of  
Toby living his best life



## WE SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SERENITY

Serenity, a beautiful female tortoiseshell, or “tortie,” was surrendered to us in May 2020. Although she got along well with other cats, Serenity was less than serene when her personal space was invaded by her family’s very small and curious children.

The shelter environment can be stressful for all cats and particularly those that don’t appreciate a lot of handling. Being removed from her kennel frequently to meet with prospective adopters proved too much for Serenity, and she developed an Upper Respiratory Infection (URI),\* a highly contagious and common ailment among shelter cats, especially when they are stressed.

By early July, the ferocious conjunctivitis she’d developed as a result of the URI had done too much damage and her left eye needed to be removed. This is called an ocular enucleation.

Serenity is now healed from her medical adventures and adjusting to the demands of one-eyed balancing and activity as only a cat can.

*\*Please see our feature on page 3 about how construction has helped us to address prevention of Upper Respiratory Infections in cats.*



Serenity post-surgery

## CARIBOU CAN MOVE FREELY



Caribou



A close-up of Caribou’s scar

Caribou joined Bangor Humane Society as a stray in April of this year. Despite his very serious appearance, we soon learned that Caribou was a smart, gregarious boy that easily charmed anyone who met him.

As part of our intake protocol, we vaccinated Caribou and evaluated him for extraordinary medical needs, discovering that he was suffering from decreased mobility and probable pain in his left hip, likely the result of an injury. Further examination determined that he needed a Femoral Head Osteotomy, a procedure that would restore mobility and reduce any pain.

Caribou then went on a waiting list for surgery at a local veterinary hospital and in August received the surgery he needed to be more comfortable. He will stay here at the shelter for four to five weeks of kennel rest before finally finding his way to our adoption floor.

*Caribou and Serenity are only two of the many animals who benefit from our Second Chance Fund--a fund set up to support animals requiring specialized medical care. Thanks to our dedication to serving these animals, and your generosity, our live release rate is currently at 98%. We believe that EVERY animal is worth saving.*

## A LETTER FROM THE VET



Dr. Tardiff

Our community, country and world are experiencing something new and uncharted. There is still much unknown about Covid-19 which can be stressful. One good thing is that many of us, especially the ones reading this article, have our pets at home to help keep us relaxed and comforted. Here are some things to think about with regard to COVID-19 and our furry friends.

Thankfully, pets such as dogs and cats seem to not be easily infected with the virus. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), as of August 17, 2020 there have been 31 cases of pets testing positive for the virus, despite over 25 million people affected globally and 6 million people affected in the United States. All of those domestic animals had mild symptoms and were expected to make a full recovery. If you or someone in your family does have COVID-19, it is recommended to practice social distancing from your pets as well as your human family members.

Some other things to keep in mind during the pandemic:

1. Veterinary clinics and hospitals are considered essential and have been open and working hard during this time. A lot of protocols have changed, so call your local veterinary clinic to see their process for keeping you and your pets safe.
2. Remember to order your pet's food and medicine prior to running out--many companies have slower shipping times during the pandemic.
3. Exercise your dog and get them (and yourself) outside, especially during nicer weather. Remember that not all dogs are friendly with other dogs, and if your dog is off-leash then it should be under voice control in order to avoid conflicts. Also remember that not all people are dog-friendly either. Make sure you don't add to someone's stress by not controlling your dog.
4. During quarantine provide exercise and mental stimulation for your pets (i.e. continue training, play games, make them work for their food) and maintain structure during the day. Right now they love having us home, but as things get back to normal and people return to work, we don't want our pets to experience too much anxiety with that transition.

Remember to practice social distancing, wear masks in public (animals do not have to wear masks), wash your hands, and find time to do what brings you and your beloved pets joy.

## NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Please join us in welcoming [Kathryn Ravenscraft](#) to our staff.

With more than a decade of event coordination and professional experience in the nonprofit sector, Kathryn brings a wealth of talent and expertise to our fundraising and communication efforts. Her new position lets her put her lifelong affinity for animals to work advocating for the needs of homeless and unwanted pets. As Director of Development, Kathryn is looking forward to working closely with our dedicated team and community to strengthen the bonds of animal companionship in the Bangor Region.

“Animals have always been a big part of my life. They look at us with so much trust and innocence. It's our responsibility to protect and love them. My personal and professional motto has always been ‘How can I help?’ I'm honored to raise my hand and do what I can to support BHS's mission of championing the humane treatment and adoption of animals.”

She is the proud mom of two teenage human girls and the pet mom of three cats, Bella, George, and Axl; two rabbits, William and Audrey; and a dog named Hattie that she and her family recently rescued from, you guessed it, Bangor Humane Society.



Kathryn Ravenscraft  
Director of Development



**When:** September 17<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Where:** Wherever you are, whenever it's convenient for you!

**Who:** You, your friends, your dogs, your friend's dogs, your dog's friends.

**What:** A fundraiser to help homeless and unwanted pets.

**How:** Visit us at [bangorhumane.org](http://bangorhumane.org) and click the link for Paws on Parade!

Or call 942-8902 for more info!

**Why:** For the animals! (But theres also a cool free t-shirt)

This year, our goal is to raise \$100,000!!!  
Can you help us reach our goal and save more lives?

**#stillwalking**

**#findMEahome**

**Thank you to our generous sponsors:**



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## BECAUSE OF YOU

In 2019-2020 WE WERE ABLE TO



Save **1,259** Cats



Save **458** Dogs



Save **58** Small Animals



Give **\$252,374** worth of surgery and care



Give **4,250** Vaccines



Spay/Neuter **1,958** Animals



Save **316** Animals from Southern High-Kill Shelters

## 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!