

# Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Summer 2022 Newsletter

Dogs are people, too!  
Find out why some  
dogs have longer  
stays on page 4

**Finn and Fiona: Check out their  
Happy Tail on page 5!**



Photo by Stray Duck Fur-tography



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have worked in animal welfare long enough to have seen some very dramatic changes, from intake rates and euthanasia policies, to a shift in community spay/neuter philosophy. Industrywide, shelter conditions and practices are constantly improving. You have watched our euthanasia rate plummet to an unprecedented 1%. We've seen a decrease in intakes of more than 60% compared to a decade ago. The adopt-don't-shop movement has revolutionized the demand for homeless and unwanted pets. Our mission has remained steady—to champion humane treatment and adoption.

But despite our best efforts, we haven't worked ourselves out of business just yet. The demands we face have simply evolved. Seeing less animals means we have an obligation to do more for each one than we might have been able to in the past. Our dedication has never changed, but the way we can direct our resources has, including staff capacity, medical care, behavior modification, and enrichment.

For dogs in particular, not clearing for time or space means longer stays and more challenging placements. Whether the issue is lack of socialization, lack of training and time on the part of the former owner, high anxiety, fear, or a combination of all those things, most dogs are still adoptable. It's just a matter of finding the right owner, often one who has no other animals. It's not easy, but it's worth it.

In these pages, you'll find information about why we've established certain policies, tips on what to expect when you bring a shelter dog home, and some amazing success stories. Successes that wouldn't be possible without you.

Thank you and be well,

Suzan Prendergast  
Executive Director



### Hours of Operation

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

### Board of Directors 2022-2023

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- Buddy Angst, Treasurer
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- Jennifer Arey
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- Jeff Russell
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### Our Staff

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Suzan Prendergast
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Kathryn Ravenscraft
- Director of Animal Care  
Sam Carruth
- Director of Medical Services  
Allen Batchelder, LVT
- Volunteer and Community Outreach Director  
Chelsea Brown
- Adoption Counselors  
Alicia R., Jess, Paige, Lily, Audrey, Gabby
- Animal Care Technicians  
Olivia, Grace, Alex F., Gabby, Lily, Mallory, Jordyn, Lillian



Thank You For Being A Friend

Vendors and prizes!

Costume contest!

BANGOR HUMANE SOCIETY'S 29TH ANNUAL

# Paws on Parade

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

9 AM - NOON

HUSSON UNIVERSITY

1 COLLEGE CIRCLE, BANGOR, MAINE

Register now at [www.bangorhumane.org](http://www.bangorhumane.org) or scan the QR Code!



SCAN ME

Thank you to our sponsors:



## WORKS IN PROGRESS

There is no question that dogs are man’s best friends. For millennia, they have been our loving and faithful companions. Look into the eyes of a dog or puppy and you’ll likely see their desire to please staring back at you. As their loyalty to us has evolved, so has our understanding of them as complicated and somewhat autonomous creatures. The definition of “adoptable” has changed as the no-kill movement has gained steam, a movement we are proudly part of. We do not euthanize for time or space, and we see each and every dog as the individuals they are.

That means a one-size-fits-all approach simply isn’t likely to work, and expecting all dogs to be easily approachable and always well-behaved is setting them up for failure. Especially dogs that may have experienced neglect, abuse, or simply a lack of socialization and consistency. Some dogs may guard their resources and may not be a good fit with children. Some don’t like other dogs or could be a danger to cats. Some may need a specific environment to accommodate for activity needs or noise level. Some dogs haven’t experienced any trauma at all, they are just naturally anxious or fearful! They’re all going to move at their own pace, and they won’t all be right for every living situation.

**“Training is no longer something we do to animals but something we do with animals. It is a conversation. We want participation rather than compliance.  
Let dogs choose the behaviors they are most comfortable with.”  
-Chirag Patel**

This means that some dogs will stay here at our shelter for months, and in some rare cases, even years. We know how taxing that can be for a dog, but we also know how hard it is on a dog to experience kennel life as a revolving door. We must advocate for their needs and wait for the right placement to reveal itself. Just check out the Happy Tails on the next few pages for proof of our methodology.

Our mission at Bangor Humane Society is to champion the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals. That means prioritizing the needs of the pet and doing our due diligence to ensure the best possible match, even if that sometimes means doing the hard work of telling an interested adopter that it’s just not the right fit. Those conversations are never easy, but even harder is watching an animal come back to the shelter because the placement didn’t work out. And there are times when that’s unavoidable, but it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to avoid it. We are listening closely to everything a dog tells us about what he or she needs, and it is our responsibility to be their voice, and we take that very, very seriously.

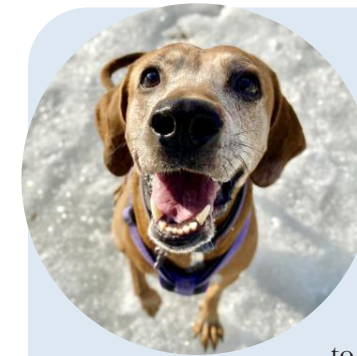


Our Adoption Counselor and Animal Care Tech staff celebrate adoption day for senior dog, Troy. L to R: Chelsea, Gabby, Jess, Lily, Alicia, Paige, Olivia, Grace.

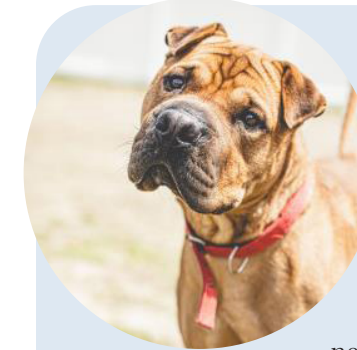
**Please join us in supporting the care of shelter pets. Visit us at [donations.bangorhumane.org](https://donations.bangorhumane.org) to make your gift today!**

## HAPPY TAILS

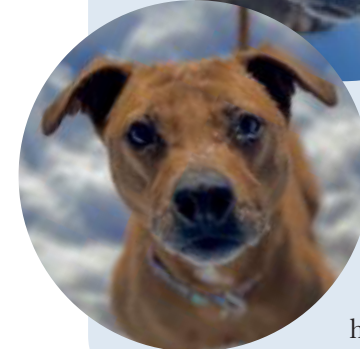
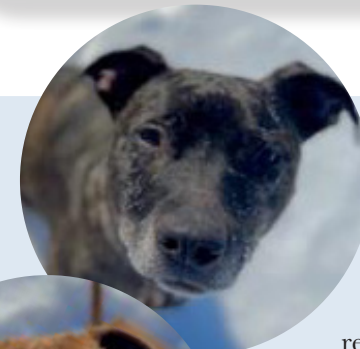
We couldn’t be any happier to report that August has been a month of seriously happy news for some of our long-time residents.



**Bailey**, a 9-year old hound dog, has been featured in our newsletters before. She arrived at BHS for the first time when she was only four years old and was adopted almost immediately. Unfortunately, her owner’s living situation changed and she was surrendered back to us in summer of 2021. She suffered from a little stranger danger and didn’t really “show well” in the kennel. As of August 2022, she’d had no interest, no visits, and our hearts were broken for her. But then Kimberly walked through the door. New to Maine, she and her husband were looking for a dog to make their new house feel like home. Kim said that if Bailey approved of her, she’d love to give her a family. It was love at first sight, and you can see it in Bailey’s smile, although Bailey was almost always smiling. Congratulations, old girl. You deserve it.



**Kane** is a young Sharpei mix who very nearly celebrated a one-year anniversary here in our kennels. He was people selective, and anyone who knows that breed knows they have special needs, from their diet to their need to expend energy and have an owner willing to provide consistency and loving discipline. Enter Ryker, who fell head over heels for Kane. He came several times to visit with his prospective canine companion, diligently researching the needs of the breed in between visits. We had no reservations, and it appears that neither did Ryker. Happy homecoming, Kane. You’ve got a good thing going.



**Finn and Fiona**, a 9-year old bonded pair who’d been with us nearly a year and needed to find a home together. These two are so very dear to our hearts. Despite having a wonderful appearance on WVII’s Good Morning Maine “Pet of the Week” segment months ago, we knew that finding the right fit for a pair of older dogs was going to be a challenge. And Finn showed a bit of kennel reactivity when visitors came through the shelter. We weren’t losing hope-we never do-but we know how stressful kennel life can be and wanted so badly for these wonderful dogs to find their people. And wouldn’t you know it? They did. Their new owner, Tamara, has experience with dogs like Finn and Fi, who need a little training, and she is ready to be the voice they need to ensure a best quality of life. Thank you for rescuing these two beloved hooligans. Or did they rescue you?



## LAVENDER EVER AFTER

Many of you have followed Lavender the Coon Hound's story over the last two years, some of you calling, emailing, or even visiting to find out whether Lavender had been adopted. So many times we heard, "I would take her if I didn't have other dogs... if I lived in the country... if I was home more." Everyone who meets her sees what a charismatic and loving dog she is, and while it was hard to see her in a kennel for so long, we knew it wouldn't be forever. As we reported in our Good Newsletter edition in the spring, Lavender was adopted, and as these photos illustrate, she is living exactly the life we always wanted for her. Dylan says she's settling in really nicely and it's hard to imagine she hasn't always been a part of their family. ♥



## IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES!

For food-motivated creatures like dogs, there's simply no substitute for edible incentives and rewards. Here are a few activities you can do at home with your own dog(s) to stimulate their minds and change up their routine. You can find even more ideas at [aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/canine-diy-enrichment](http://aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/canine-diy-enrichment).

**Hide-and-seek.** Did you know that sniffing is a self-soothing behavior for dogs? It is! It's almost like meditation. It helps a dog learn about their environment and actually relaxes them, making them less anxious. For this exercise, simply hide dog chow or small treats in the wrinkles and folds of their favorite blanket and let them find it. This can help to slow down a fast eater or just keep a dog busy for a little while.

**Muffin Tin Puzzle.** All you need is a muffin tin, some kibble, and tennis balls or other smallish toys. Put a few pieces of kibble in the bottom of each tin, cover with a tennis ball, and serve! That's it! Your dog will love the challenge!

**Find it!** Take a pocket full of high value treats with you on a walk and scatter them intermittently for your dog to find. Start easy by using the sidewalk or cut grass and work your way up over time by "hiding" the treats in taller grass or harder to find places. Don't forget to spend at least some of every walk going at your dog's pace—let them stop and sniff to their heart's content.

## SOMEBUNNY TO LOVE!



So, you've given it a lot of thought and decided that adding a bunny to your family is absolutely the right move. But what do you need to know to get started? It's important to keep in mind that buns are not cheap pets. You'll need to make sure you can establish a vet relationship with a clinic that will treat small animals, and the costs of their upkeep (see shopping list) can be significant. Still ready to take the plunge? Join us in this Bunny 101 tutorial so you'll be ready for bunny success!

**Habitat is key.** You can find a variety of large cages and hutches that will make your cotton-tail feel right at home. Some have ramps and levels to give bun a change of scenery. Make sure they have somewhere cozy to hide out and make their own. They can't live exclusively in a hutch—they'll need space to run around and get their binkies out (a binky is a happy hop or leap), so an exercise pen is a must.

**Buns can be litterbox trained,** and rabbits will decide for themselves where that special spot is. Cover their habitat floor with newspaper or potty pads and watch for a week or so- you'll notice they tend to use the same spot over and over again. Once they've chosen their spot, slide in a small litter box filled with wood pellets. Voila! This won't catch everything all the time, but it sure will cut back on the mess!

**I said, "Hay, bartender."** Buns need hay to stay healthy and should be offered unlimited amounts of timothy and other grass hay. It should make up the majority of their diet, with leafy greens and timothy hay pellets rounding things out. The occasional fruit offering of bananas, raisins, or blueberries will be much appreciated by your flopsy-eared friend.

**Social bunner-flies.** Bunnies are social animals and stay healthy longer if they have a friend. But be careful- rabbits are just as selective about their friends as people are. Not all rabbits will get along, so make sure they each have their own space to retreat to in case one or both become a little overstimulated.

**Nibble, nibble.** Rabbits are wild animals and they will satisfy their urge to run, hop, chew, and dig with no malicious intent. But that can mean wood trim, wires, and furniture can all fall victim to their habits. It's most important to make sure there are no electrical wires at bunny level for obvious reasons, but if you value home decorating aesthetics, either apply chewing guards or restrict access.

**Multiply like rabbits.** There's a reason for this saying, which is why it's crucial to get your bun spayed or neutered. This will lower their risks for certain types of reproductive cancers and can keep male bunnies from marking their territory or displaying other dominant tendencies.

### Supplies list for 1st time bunny owners:

- Hutch or Kennel
- Litterbox
- Wood pellets or litter
- Timothy hay pellets for snacking
- Timothy hay
- Water dish
- Leafy Greens
- Dried or fresh fruit to give in moderation
- Chewing sticks
- Cardboard boxes and paper towel rolls for nibbling



# THE RULE OF THREE

You've adopted a shelter dog! What's next? Here's what you can expect.

## 3 Days:

May be overwhelmed by new surroundings.

May be unsure or scared and hide in their kennel or under furniture.

May refuse to eat.  
Don't be alarmed!  
This is a normal stress response..

May act out and test boundaries.

## 3 Weeks:

Beginning to settle in and get comfortable.

Getting used to a routine.

May be showing their true personality now that their guard is down.

You may start to see behavioral issues.

## 3 Months:

Finally completely settled in and comfortable.

Building a true bond with their people.

They now have a complete sense of security in their new home.

Settled in their routine.

## 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)

 @BangorHumane



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



Remember Sarge? The cat who came in so sick over the winter? His new person, Amber, adopted him back in May and they couldn't be happier! Thank you for all the well wishes for Sarge's recovery—it worked!



Cats Ivan and Penelope are a bonded pair that were lucky enough to find a happy home with the Clark family! We're not sure which pair is more excited (trust us, the cats are smiling)



Saber, a Retriever/Great Dane mix, found a new home with the Shavers. Congratulations Saber!!

Scan me to help us support  
the care of shelter pets.

