



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2013

Features

We Give Thanks

Another Mega Success

Raising the Woof!

Unexpected Gratitude

In Every Issue

From the Staff

Ask the Vet

Paws for Thought

Shelter Highlights/Events

From Purrs to Tail Wags


Our Guiding Principles

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

 Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/BangorHumane

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

We Give Thanks By: Renee Ordway

Like so many of you, the Bangor Humane Society uses this time of year to count our blessings and give thanks to the countless people, agencies and organizations that help ensure that thousands of homeless and needy animals from our area find new paths and new homes every year.

These lives would not be saved if not for the commitment from our adopters, our donors, our volunteers, and our cheerleaders.

While saying thank you can't begin to express the level of our gratitude, it is what we want to do in this newsletter.

So far this Fiscal Year, over 1,600 of you have chosen adoption and have become part of the BHS family through adoption. You have adopted abandoned puppies and kittens, healthy dogs and cats, and our treasured senior pets. **Thank you!**

One hundred of you have volunteered over 2,500 hours of your time. You have emptied litter boxes, walked dogs on the coldest of mornings, fed, watered, cuddled, and cared for the animals residing at BHS. **Thank you!**

There are 50 foster families that have nurtured over 250 of our most vulnerable animals to provide them with safe and comfortable places to rehabilitate, nurse their young, and learn good manners so they too could get their second chance. **Thank you!**

We have several off-site partners that allow us to bring some of our adoptable pets into their stores and businesses so we can increase our adoption opportunities. **Thank you!**

So many of you have generously chosen to give to us through kennel or annual event sponsorships. Without your ongoing support, the BHS could not continue to provide the level of service it does to the pets that come through our doors every day. **Thank you!**

Our very, very busy veterinarians who, despite their many obligations, continue to give us their time and expertise to keep our pets healthy and to provide spay and neuter services so that we can do our part to decrease

the unwanted pet population. **Thank you!**

Several businesses in outlying areas welcome our Cats On Tour van on a regular basis providing us with an opportunity to reach out to the people in those communities who may otherwise not be able to make a trip to our Bangor shelter. Many cats get their second chance because of your generosity.

Thank you!

To the thirty-eight towns that work with us to reunite pets with their owners or bring us the lost and abandoned pets from those towns. Our partnership with each is critical to our mission. **Thank you!**

It is impossible to overstate the importance of our donors - big and small. The level of your commitment to this organization is truly priceless. It takes a lot of money to save as many lives as we do and to make sure that these animals get the care they deserve while they are with us. Whether you are donating blankets, food, toys or money, your donations make it all happen. **Thank you!**

Seven hundred of you gathered together with us on the Bangor Waterfront in October to joyfully celebrate our mission and our animals through Paws on Parade. It is our largest fundraiser of the year and your participation not only helps reach our goals financially but it bolsters our spirits. **Thank you!**

The media organizations that help us tell

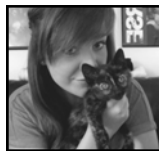
Continued to "Thanks" on page 5



From the Staff

Working at BHS, I am thankful for:

"...my co-workers. We're like a family. Some days are hard and we even fight like family, but we're always there for each other, pushing one another to do our very best and save more lives."
~Kristin



"... being able to do important daily hands on care with animals." ~Cody

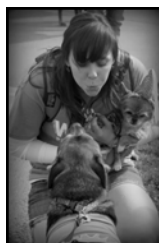
"...getting hands on learning in animal care and for experiencing the reward of changing one animal's life at a time. Every match made is a life saved." ~Mariah

"... being a part of each animal's life while they await their new family." ~Paulie

"...being able to help find wonderful homes for so many animals, including the two amazing pets I've adopted from BHS myself." ~Alicia

"... the cute, fuzzy animals I get to work with every day." ~Aron

"... our foster care program that helps save so many kittens and alleviate a huge burden on staff; for afternoon dog walk, -it's my favorite time of day-; and for having a job that isn't about me. It makes me happy and keeps me going." ~Kimberly



"...working with such compassionate staff and volunteers that are so dedicated to saving so many lives every day." ~Brittney

"...the slow season! And, for getting to work with such dedicated local veterinarians who choose to give back to the community through their relationship with BHS, helping us save so many lives." ~Alayne

"... all the awesome staff I get to work with and who made me feel so welcome when I started." ~Moriah

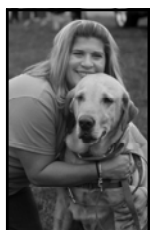
"...being able to experience an 80% adoption rate this past year (the highest in our agency's history) all because of the extraordinary support from the community around pet adoption." ~Chris

"...dedicated Sunday volunteers who are an integral part of our family." ~Sarah S.

"...being able to work with fabulous people so dedicated to getting animals into loving forever homes." ~Deborah

"...a dedicated group of staff & volunteers...and the end of kitten season!" ~Suzan

"...special donors who fill our immediate needs and truly make a difference. Like the woman who asked how she could help and then generously donated much needed kitten supplies within hours." ~Keren



"...every donor, community partner, volunteer, staff, adopter, and Paws participant who join us in helping make matches and save lives every single day!" ~Stacey

"... being able to start each work day with happy, wagging tails!"
~Sarah R.

"...snuggling kittens on a bad day." ~Jill



Hours of Operation

Monday — Friday: 12:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Emily McIntosh, President
Amy Faircloth, Vice-President
Steve Thomas, Treasurer/Past President
Lani Naihe, Secretary
Anne Marie Storey, Past President
David Cloutier, DVM
Shirar Patterson
Bob Williams
Renee Ordway
John Kenney
Lanni Moffatt
Matt Nye
Jeff Russell
Buddy Angst

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Bell

Shelter Operations Manager
Chris Young

Office Manager & Bookkeeper
Deborah Hawkins

Director of Development & Public Relations
Stacey R. Coventry

Adoption Counselors
Brittney, Kristin, Keren, Moriah, Sarah R.,
Paulie, Alicia

Animal Technicians
Sarah S., Aron, Cody, Mariah,
Kimberly, Jill

Veterinary Technician
Alayne Newton

Foster Care Coordinator
Kimberly Patterson

Volunteer Coordinator
Brittney Littlefield

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

Another Mega Success!

Highlights from the Second ASPCA Mega Match-a-Thon Event

By: Kristin Harmon



A lucky adopter finds her purrrfect match!

We celebrated our Second Annual ASPCA Mega Match-A-Thon on October 18th, 19th, and 20th. We are so thankful for the outpouring of support, the number of adoptions reached, the wonderful long-term residents that found equally wonderful owners, and being able to team up with other shelters and media outlets to help save more lives.

This year, the ASPCA generously gave us a \$7,500 grant to help us with our expenses during the Match-A-Thon.

The funding support allowed us not only market the event to the masses, but also helped us provide every animal with a collar and ID tag, a microchip, a medical exam, spay/neuter surgery, and vaccinations! We were also able to lower our adoption fees, while keeping all of our adoption policies and screening in tact to adopt each animal out into a loving new home.

A whopping total of 125 animals found homes during the three day event! One of the first matches made was with a staff favorite and long-term resident canine named Chico. Chico is a 7 year old male Shepherd mix who had been with us for several months. He is an extremely affectionate boy who has the ability to steal the heart of every person who crosses his path. He was adopted by a gentleman who recently sent us a Facebook update that said, "he is doing wonderful,"

and "it's a perfect match."

Making matches like Chico's would not be possible without the support of our amazing community. We are thankful to have wonderful media outlets (WABI, WFVX, and WKIT) that help promote our mission by not only talking about our Match-A-Thon, but who also partner with us to highlight a weekly Pet of the Week. It all makes a difference. Mike Dow from Kiss 94.5 was onsite for the event to host a live remote. He did a wonderful job in helping create an exciting atmosphere and inviting the public to the event.

Additionally, we were happy to team up with the Old Town Animal Orphanage who brought 19 cats with them for adoption at the event. All 19 cats were adopted in less than eight hours!

The ASPCA Match-A-Thon was a statewide event as the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society participated simultaneously, inviting local southern and central shelters to their site location for the event. It is evident that partnering and working together inductively helps save more lives. We are grateful and delighted that we were able to help each other achieve the same common goal of saving more lives!

The success of the Second Annual statewide ASPCA Match-A-Thon wouldn't have been possible without the support of the community, shelter partners, media outlets, and wonderful staff and adopters! We look forward to next year's event, as the opportunity to come together to save more lives is something we are truly thankful for. ■

Raising the Woof! *By: Stacey R. Coventry*

The Bangor Humane Society Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Paws on Parade

On Saturday, October 5th, the Bangor Humane Society celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its Paws on Parade event on the Bangor Waterfront with over 700 four-legged and two-legged participants walking in support of homeless pets and celebrating pet companionship. Warm, sunny, autumn skies unfolded over the event that raised \$71,000 for homeless pets. Over \$40,000 was raised through sponsorship dollars, including this year's Top Dog Sponsor, Qualey Granite & Quartz, and Canine Champion sponsors, Quirk Subaru and Cross Insurance. Another \$31,000 was raised through donations and pledges from walkers.

Over 30 local businesses and vendors showcasing their products and services lined the waterfront, including, Green Acres Kennel, BarkDannas, Bangor Dog Park, Bark for Life, Mutt Nose Best, and many others. The event also featured an Adoption Runway Show that showcased some of the adoptable dogs available at BHS. Dr. Benson and his dog, Joe, strutted through the event distributing raffle tickets to guess Joe's canine DNA profile. The raffle was a fun way to raise additional donations at the event, while hoping

to debunk breed myths and stereotypes. Additionally, Logan Nelson from Carden Kennels provided a canine agility demonstration, which featured a BHS alum.

Reverend Rita Steadman from St. John's Episcopal Church initiated the 1.5 mile walk with a blessing of all the pets, their humans, and all the shelter animals that were still awaiting a new family. Participants crowded the sidewalks and filled the streets of downtown Bangor with laughter and enthusiasm for pet adoption. Dogs donned orange bandanas donated by Quirk Subaru, while teams showcased their names on colorful custom-designed



Paws on Parade heads through downtown Bangor.

Continued on pg. 8

Ask the Vet

Q: What are some pet safety tips I should keep in mind this holiday season?

A: First, be sure to securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling.

- * Avoid decorating with tinsel, holly and mistletoe. While pets love these fun holiday garnishes as “toys,” swallowing this holiday garnish can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery and other serious health consequences.
- * Stuff pet stockings with safe, indestructible toys like Kongs and hard chews for dogs and stuffed catnip toys and jingly balls for cats.
- * Chocolate, fatty, spicy and other rich holiday foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

- * Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach to avoid potential lethal electrical shock burns or cuts to the mouth and esophagus.
- * Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to during busy holiday mayhem—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the chaos.
- * And, when you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can cause intestinal blockages and perhaps requiring surgery. Noisy poppers can also terrify pets and damage sensitive ears.

For more holiday pet tips, visit <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/holiday-safety-tips>



Dr. Benson, Broadway Veterinary Clinic

Paws for Thought

The cost of spaying and neutering a pet is less than the cost of raising puppies or kittens for one year.

Shelter Highlights



Thank you to WLBZ2 for choosing BHS as the recipient of their “Make a Difference Day” event that took place this past Saturday, October 26th. Their donation of \$2,500 helped us provide comfortable shelter beds to every dog residing in a BHS kennel,

cat towers for our cat community room to give our cats a more natural experience, and over 200 reusable cat/dog toys to keep our pets mentally stimulated and to help them de-stress while they wait for their new family to adopt them. During the event, they visited us to build our new beds and cat towers, tidy up our outdoor trails so our shelter dogs have more room to walk and play, and for giving each shelter pet a new toy to play with. Your support has made a whole lot of tails wag around here!



Thank you to Matthew Gross who presented us with \$1,310 from *his Ride for the Wet Noses* Fundraiser on Aug 15th! Lots of wet licks, tail wags, and happy purrs for your support. We think you are paw-esome!!!



Thank you to John Ramirez of 4Points BBQ and Blues House and Russ Maynard of Blackstream Custom Cycles who presented us with \$1,200, raised from their motorcycle charity ride on Aug. 10th! Thank you guys for your rockin' support!



A BIG thank you to the amazing Zumba ladies, Kristy Albee and Tracy Hoover-Crawford who organized a Zumba party on October 18th where over 50 people danced their hearts out for the Bangor Humane Society!!! Lots of blankets, toys, and treats were collected for our shelter pets, in addition to \$238!



Give the gift of love.

Make a donation for a loved one or pet this holiday season!

Unexpected Gratitude

By: Stacey R. Coventry

When Kari Starbird and her son, Kamren became BHS foster parents over 5 years ago, they joined the program to fulfill Kamren's strong affinity for animals and Kari's intrinsic desire to volunteer alongside her son.

Over the years, Kamren, 15, has grown confidently into his role as a foster parent. He is compassionate, dedicated, and takes his job to nurture his fosters very seriously.

"The joy I see in Kamren's face when he returns our fosters to BHS and receives enthusiastic praise and recognition from staff has been a very special added bonus of our fostering experience," says Kari.

According to Kari, one of the most difficult parts of having a child with special needs that has both verbal and medical challenges is not being able to offer him all the same opportunities across all aspects of his life as other kids his age, like building his self esteem.

"When Kamren walks through the doors at BHS, I immediately see him stand a little taller and display such a sense of pride, which is a benefit to fostering that is irreplaceable," says Kari.

Kari says her son has a special bond with Kimberly Patterson, the foster care coordinator because of her enthusiastic displays for a job well-done each time Kamren returns.

"I love Kamren's enthusiasm each time he gets a new group of fosters to care for," says Kimberly Patterson. "I also appreciate the unique nursing skills Kari brings to the program, which helps us provide special care to some of our most vulnerable pets. They're very loyal fosters."



Kamren and a recent foster puppy.

"Each new foster we take, we explain to Kamren what the animal needs and what his special role is" says Kari. "He definitely understands and just wants to help and do the best job he can."

Besides a strong sense of accomplishment, fostering at BHS has brought other unexpected benefits for Kamren. It has helped him develop his fine and gross motor skills-learning how to stroke an animal versus petting one, for example. It has also helped him recuperate through some physical ailments of his own, like a broken hip and pneumonia.

"It's been a lucky coincidence that whenever Kamren has needed to recover from his own physical injuries, we get a call that another animal needs us" says Kari. "I always say yes because the companionship brightens his day and helps distract Kamren away from his own pain and, I believe, helps him to heal faster."

While Kamren loves to play with the very small kittens, he makes a special connection to each mom cat that he fosters, making sure each mom feels just as special and loved.

"It's actually pretty special to watch him care for the moms and the way each mom responds to him," says Kari. "It's almost like they show him extra affection out of gratitude that he hasn't forgotten them after they have their babies." ■

From Purrs to Tail Wags

This time of year staff start thinking about making the trek up into the attic to bring down something that becomes quite talked about around the humane society during the holiday season—our nine foot tall wishing tree that we display in the lobby and is hard to miss when you walk through our front doors. Covered in ornaments that feature a much needed donation request, it serves a much more important purpose than simple holiday décor. From requests for blankets, dog toys or cat treats, our fur babies appreciate anything that helps make them comfortable and keeps them occupied while they look for their perfect match. And, we are lucky enough to have donors that help fill those needs. No gift is too small. Everything helps us help the animals. So this holiday season, please stop by and take an ornament from our wish tree and then purchase the item for our pets. For monetary donations, consider making one in honor or in memory of a loved one. We also have gift cards available that are an excellent gift



idea for family or friends who are thinking about adopting a new forever friend. Thank you so much for your continued support, not only during the holiday season, but year round. We couldn't do it without you. ■

Continued from Page 1

our story, spread our message, and feature our pets each week. **Thank you!**

The community organizers who graciously host fundraisers and donor drives that not only provide us with financial resources but encourage support for our cause and educate those who may be unfamiliar with our agency. **Thank you!**

The generous grants and foundations that provide the true solid financial base from which we operate are key to our success. We at the Bangor Humane Society truly understand that there are many deserving non-profit organizations that you could choose to support. We rely heavily on those grants, bequests, and foundational support to provide sustainable spay/neuter services to low-income families. That's the path to ultimately decrease the unwanted pet population.

Thank you!

You all have made us a true part of your community. We get to see the results of your generosity each time a surrendered or abandoned pet walks out our doors with a new and loving family.

We can only hope that you can begin to understand the level of our gratitude. You bless us each day beyond measure.

THANK YOU! ■



@Photography by Karen Littlefield



@Photography by Karen Littlefield



Rev. Rita Steadman

@Photography by Karen Littlefield



@Photography by Karen Littlefield



Photo by Cathy Coughlin



Photo by Karen Littlefield



Photo by Karen Littlefield



@Photography by Karen Littlefield



BHS Alumni Photo

Photo by Karen Littlefield

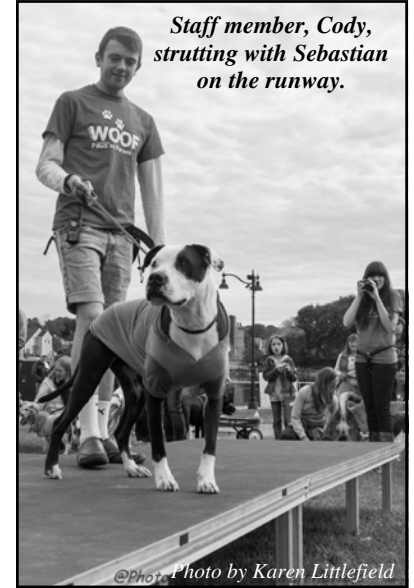


Dr. Benson and Joe

Photo by Karen Littlefield



Photo by Cathy Coughlin



Staff member, Cody, strutting with Sebastian on the runway.

Photo by Karen Littlefield



Photo by Debra Bell



Photo by Cathy Coughlin



Photo by Cathy Coughlin



Photo by Karen Littlefield

Event Sponsored By:



- ABM Mechanical
- Katahdin Trust
- Means Investments
- MMG Insurance
- People's United Bank
- Patrons Insurance
- Hollywood Slots
- Keith Trembley Builder, Inc
- Eaton Peabody
- Bangor Hydro
- Leighton & Longtin CPA
- Pelletier & Faircloth
- WBRC
- TMATT Financial
- Rose Bicycle
- Whittens 2-way service
- Maine Distributors



Team Kindred Spirits

Photo by Karen Littlefield



Photo by Debra Bell

Joy Hollowell and Willow.

t-shirts.

Joy Hollowell from WABI and her adopted dog, Willow (BHS alum), served as guest emcees.

The event concluded with announcements of raffle and prize winners. Team Kindred Spirits, led by Dr. Mark Hanks, won the Top Fundraising Team Award with over \$6,500 raised; Lani Naihe, Secretary for the BHS Board, won the Top Individual Fundraiser award with over \$3,500 raised; and Kamryn Commeau, a 9-year-old who regularly donates blankets

and money from selling homemade bracelets, won this year's Top Underdog award, raising over \$500 as the youngest fundraiser. Other contest winners were a Great Dane for largest dog; a teacup Chihuahua for smallest dog; a Bassett Hound for biggest ears; a Great Dane for longest tail; a Goldendoodle and toddler pair disguised as Cowgirl and Bull for Best Costume; and a St. Bernard and his human trio all dressed in matching ballerina tutus won Best Look-Alike and Best Team Spirit. The event concluded with a photo capture of the many BHS alumni that were in attendance.

After the event, BHS opened its doors for adoptions, which resulted in a dozen BHS pets being placed into new homes in just four hours, including some runway stars.

BHS would like to thank all of the sponsors, walkers, and volunteers who made this year's event the most successful to date. ■

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.



Miles thanks you for your support!