



# Humanely Speaking

## Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2014

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### 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)



Visit us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/BangorHumane](http://www.facebook.com/BangorHumane)



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

# The Spirit of Saving Lives

By: Renee Ordway



Michael and "Spirit," now Ayla.

**A**t the Bangor Humane Society we pride ourselves on making the perfect match. When creating the right match, our trained staff consider all factors including lifestyle, environment, personality, family make-up (including children and other pets), and previous knowledge and experience.

As we enter the season of giving thanks, we want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helps us create new families and save lives every day—our donors, our volunteers, our staff, our foster parents, our veterinarians, our adopters, our community partners, and more. We make great matches all year long, so it is extremely difficult to choose just one to highlight that demonstrates the great work, *you*, our supporters, help us accomplish every single day.

This season, however, this adoption success story is the one we'd like to share with you.

Meet Spirit.

Spirit is a German Shepherd who came to us in such dismal shape that even months after she arrived we wondered whether she would survive. Despite our willingness and all of the resources that your generosity affords us, we questioned whether Spirit could be saved, and if she could, what her quality of life would be.

The staff got to know her, they witnessed and believed in her personality and resolve, and they dug in.

Kristin Harmon, lead adoption counselor, recalls the day she first saw Spirit.

"When the animal control officer brought her through our back lounge door as an aban-

doned stray, I couldn't believe her condition. She had the most fur loss I've ever seen on a dog while working at BHS. I knew that we would do whatever it took to help her as long as she could be comfortable during treatment and have a good quality of life afterwards. I really hoped there would be something we could do to help her. It was obvious it would be a long road to recovery, but we named her Spirit because she was definitely a fighter."

Spirit was diagnosed with advanced sarcoptic mange, along with other complicated secondary skin infections that developed from her going so long untreated. Her condition was severely contagious and the staff sadly had to quarantine her to avoid infecting other animals. They couldn't get on the floor and hug her like they wanted to, but they found their own strength and they pushed through - day after day.

"Quarantine sounds like something scary to the outside ear, and granted being in a kennel environment for an extended period of time is never something we want, but it's not as intense as it sounds either," said Kristin.

"Spirit was in a room by herself with a radio to soothe her. She had blankets and toys and treats just like all of the critters you see on the adoption floor. The hardest part for me was that I couldn't cuddle her like I wanted or give her the physical affection we try to do with other dogs. Cuddles and kisses and sitting on laps just aren't something that we can do when a dog or cat has anything contagious. But she still got to go outside and enjoy the fresh air twice every day, and we still got to baby talk her, tell her we love her, and give her plenty of tasty treats," she said.

And our generous veterinarians and our committed staff, kept at it.

Enter Michael Griffin.

Michael started to lose his eyesight when he was 30 years old. Today, at 70, he is completely blind. He has had two seeing eye guide dogs - both German Shepherds.

*Continued on page 5*



## From the Director

As we enter halfway into the current fiscal year, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for each of you who have supported our mission this year with a donation— whether monetary, in-kind, or invaluable service — your donation directly helps us save lives. We could not do it without you.

Earlier this year, we were fortunate enough to receive a bequest from the late Shann Gillespie. I know our constituents were excited for us to receive such a generous donation and are anxious to see how we plan to transform the monetary gift into more lives saved. Every fiscal year we start over with a new budget and with the commitment to live within our means sustainably through our ongoing revenue streams like contracts, grants, donations, fundraising efforts and adoption fees. When we receive unexpected gifts, like Ms. Gillespie's, we are strongly dedicated to utilizing those dollars in the most thoughtful way possible while maximizing the impact on our mission. Therefore, we have placed the funds into our investment account so it can grow as we prepare to use the funds to support future plans. As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building, we realize that we will soon need to invest in capital improvements so we can keep saving lives and continue our mission in the community for years to come. Ms. Gillespie's bequest is the start of our securing the funds to do so; and therefore, none of it has been used to support our annual budget.

Furthermore, we are an independent, local nonprofit that runs solely on local dollars which we use to directly serve local pets. We do not receive any funding from any national or federal source. We are not affiliated with the national Humane Society of the United States or American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). They do not monetarily support any local humane societies. We stand on our own. That is why we need *you*.

More than ever, it is evident that we live in a community that supports and loves pets. Because of *your* commitment to homeless and abandoned pets in your community and because of *your* monetary support, we can save more lives while operating within our annual budget.

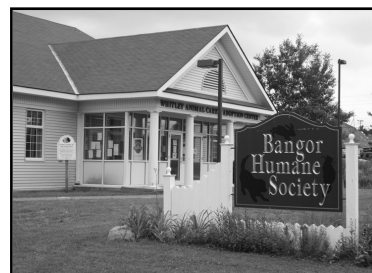
Your dollars stay right here to help us provide second chances to every pet that comes through our doors. We are happy to report that the ongoing spay/neuter programs and services that we began implementing several years ago are both sustainable and effective. Our annual intake of animals is decreasing, which proves that our spay/neuter outreach efforts are working. However, although we are taking in fewer animals, the medical and critical care needs of the animals that are coming in are steadily increasing. We are having to perform more specialized surgeries like cruciate and broken leg repairs and tumor removals, along with diagnosing difficult ailments like severe skin allergies with unknown origins.

Our goal now is to maintain momentum around our sustainable approach to the community programs and services that we offer while diligently operating within our financial budget. We strive to balance providing the best quality and most compassionate care to as many animals as we can, while stewarding our resources in the most transparent, efficient way to help drive our mission forward.

As we approach this holiday season we have so much to be grateful for, including our growing BHS family of volunteers, adopters, donors and community partners. This season we ask you to make a local gift that will have a huge local impact on the homeless and abandoned animals in our community. We are all they have. But, we cannot do it alone. We need *your* help.

Please help us give them the second chance they deserve by making a charitable gift this holiday season. Together we can continue to save lives and create new families for years to come.

Sincerely,



## 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  
David Cloutier, DVM  
Shirar Patterson  
Bob Williams  
Renee Ordway  
John Kenney  
Matt Nye  
Jeff Russell  
Buddy Angst  
Laurie Qualey

## Our Staff

*Executive Director*  
Suzan Bell

*Shelter Operations Manager*  
Chris Young

*Director of Development & Public Relations*  
Stacey R. Coventry

*Office Manager & Bookkeeper*  
Deborah Hawkins

*Adoption Counselors*  
Kristin, Sarah, Alicia, Katelyn, Bethany,  
Keren, Krysta, and Elizabeth

*Animal Technicians*  
Mariah, Brittney, Cody, Aron, Briana, Holly,  
Maddie, Sam, and Nikki

*Veterinary Technician*  
Allen Batchelder, LVT

*Foster Care Coordinators*  
Mariah Cassidy & Brittney Littlefield

*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Brittney Littlefield



Your Donor Dollars Matter...

## Making Families and Creating Community

*Highlights from the Third ASPCA Mega Match-a-Thon Event*

*By: Stacey R. Coventry*

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, three Maine shelters came together at the Bangor Humane Society to participate in the third annual ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon presented by Subaru and helped place 104 local animals into new homes.

This year the event became a true statewide adoption event as the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society and several southern Maine shelters partnered together to host the event in southern Maine, re-homing hundreds of pets across the state.

The ASPCA awarded the Bangor Humane Society a \$5,000 grant to support the event. The funding allowed us to market the event extensively and provided every adoptable pet with a microchip, collar and ID tag, a medical exam, spay/neuter surgery, and vaccinations. While maintaining all adoption poli-



*Jewel finds her new family after residing at the SPCA of Hancock County for nearly a year.*

cies, the event featured lower adoption fees and provided an opportunity for some smaller local shelters to participate in order to leverage the adoption event as an opportunity to place many of their homeless pets.

One of those was Jewel, a three-year-old American Foxhound who was waiting for almost a year at the SPCA of Hancock County in Trenton to be adopted. The shelter joined us Saturday and Sunday, placing 28 of

their animals in homes—their largest number of adoptions completed in two days—including the majority of their dogs.

The Animal Orphanage from Old Town also joined us and was able to place nearly all of the animals they brought.

BHS' goals for the event were to empty the shelter once again of all adoptable pets (which was achieved during the first Mega Match-a-thon event in 2012) and to build a community event in which other local shelters would come together in the spirit of re-homing as many of their homeless pets with new families as possible.

By the end of the three day event, all but four BHS pets were adopted. The enthusiasm surrounding the collaboration with the SPCA of Hancock County and the Old Town Orphanage in successfully placing over 100 animals into new homes was the most noteworthy outcome. The collaborative success generated such a positive buzz with the local community that it was acknowledged by the ASPCA publicly on their social media site.

We are so appreciative of the outpouring of community support for this and are so pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with the SPCA of Hancock County and the Animal



*Diane, director of the SPCA of Hancock County, and her staff placed 28 pets during the event.*

Orphanage. We are also grateful to all the local media outlets that helped us promote the event extensively, which generated dozens of adopters waiting at the front door on the first day in hopes of finding a new furry family member.

Additionally, we

want to thank Qualey Granite and Quartz who helped sponsor the event locally and Quirk Subaru, who showed their support of BHS and the adoption event by helping to spread the word on their social media site and setting up a vehicle display on our front lawn for adoption photo opportunities.

Adopters began sending in their "happy tail" updates immediately, sharing photos of their adopted pets in their new homes. The adoption updates continue to flow in and we are happy to report that so many of them are doing well. ■



*Bobbi and one of her staff from the Animal Orphanage joined BHS during the Match-a-thon.*



*The BHS ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon team!*

## Ask the Vet

**Q: What are some tips to help me protect my pet this cold weather season?**

**A:** When the weather outside turns frigid, here's how you can protect your feline and canine friends from winter's bite.



**Tip # 1: Beware of cats sheltering under cars.** If your car is parked outside or even in a garage where a cat has access to it, always bang on the hood or toot the horn before starting the engine.

**Tip # 2: Antifreeze is deadly.** Antifreeze is thick, very sweet, and can be irresistible to some pets. Pets can be poisoned by very small amounts. If you suspect your cat or dog has been exposed to antifreeze, don't wait to see if it acts sick, take it to a veterinarian immediately.

**Tip # 3: Walking pets in winter? Get reflective.** During winter's darker days and longer nights, pets can be hard to see. Consider reflective collars or collars, tags, and leashes embedded with LED lights and blinkers.

**Q: What are some physical signs that my pet has been out in the cold too long?**

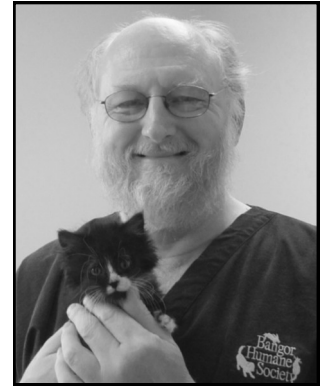
**A:** Your pets need protection from the elements and extreme temperatures. If it is too cold for you then it is probably too cold for your pets to be outdoors for more than a few minutes, especially if it's below freezing.

### *Hypothermia Symptoms in Dogs and Cats*

- violent shivering, followed by listlessness
- weak pulse
- lethargy
- muscle stiffness
- problems breathing
- lack of appetite
- rectal temperature below 98°F
- coma
- cardiac arrest

### *Hypothermia Treatment*

Wrap your pet in a warm blanket and bring your pet into a warm room. Place a warm, towel-wrapped water bottle against your pet's abdomen or at her armpits and chest. Then, call your veterinarian immediately.



**Dr. Benson, Broadway Veterinary Clinic**

## Paws for Thought

**For every human born in the U.S., 15 puppies and 45 kittens are born.**

**Please spay or neuter your pets!**

## Holiday Safety Tips from the ASPCA

*Cut this out and put it on your fridge to keep your pets safe during the holiday season!*

- Certain foods can be fatal to your pet. Alcoholic beverages, chocolate and coffee are exceptionally dangerous. Keep your trashcan out of reach as spoiled and moldy foods can cause digestive problems.
- Keep poisonous plants away from where pets are free to wander. These include lilies, which can cause kidney failure in cats; poinsettias and holly, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea; and mistletoe, which can cause cardiovascular problems and gastrointestinal upset.
- Christmas tree water is often infested with fertilizer, bacteria, and other harmful elements so, keep it covered to protect your pets.
- Anchor your Christmas tree and monitor your pets around them— kittens can become entangled in tinsel and ribbon, and broken ornaments can be hazardous if swallowed.
- Keep electrical cords--a chewing temptation--away from your pets.
- Make sure candles and other unprotected flames are not within your pets' reach to prevent them from being sniffed, pawed at and knocked over.
- Fumes from wrapping paper burned in the fireplace can be toxic to pets, especially domestic birds.
- Provide a quiet, separate space for your pets to help them de-stress during the hustle and bustle of the season.

## PET EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POISON CONTROL HOTLINE 1-888-426-4435

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

VETERINARIAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PET INSURANCE PLAN \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Need a new form? <http://petsadviser.com/emergency/>

## Shelter Highlights

Check out our new website launched in July. Thank you Sutherland Weston!



On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 4Points BBQ and Blues House and Blackstream Custom Cycles hosted the 2nd Annual Charity Ride for Furry Friends to raise \$1,200 for shelter pets. Special thanks to John Ramirez and Russ Maynard for organizing such a great benefit ride!



On August 20<sup>th</sup> Matthew Gross celebrated his 12th birthday by riding 25 miles in his "Ride for the Wet Nose" fundraiser to raise \$2,000 for BHS pets. This was Matthew's 3<sup>rd</sup> year riding to support BHS pets. To date, he has raised over \$4,300. Thank you Matt!



On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Markel's Bakehouse hosted a "Cats on Tour" event at their restaurant in Castine to showcase some BHS adoptable pets. The event raised nearly \$600 in donations. Thank you Markel's!

# Concentra<sup>+</sup>

treated right

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, Concentra in Bangor revealed renovations to their Urgent Care center by hosting an Open House. They chose BHS as a local charity to donate a \$1,000 to during the event. Thank you! We were honored to be selected as their charity of choice!



In October, Sprague's Nursery donated over \$300 to BHS from proceeds raised during their Fall Festival. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Penobscot Theater is partnering with BHS for the third consecutive year to help place homeless pets in homes for the holidays. At the beginning of each of their "Wizard of Oz" performances this season, they will feature an adoptable BHS dog. To date, the partnership has helped place over 40 dogs in new homes for the holidays. To learn more about performance dates and times visit [www.penobscottheatre.org](http://www.penobscottheatre.org).

Continued from page 1

When his last one passed away, he wasn't sure he wanted another. Soon after, his wife's beloved Corgi also passed away, and the Sullivan couple found their home just too empty.

"I called BHS looking for a Corgi, but they didn't have one. As sort of an aside, I asked about German Shepherds. I talked with [a staff person] and when I asked about a shepherd, she hesitated and said, 'Well, we might have one for you to consider.'"

At the time of that conversation the staff was still not sure whether Spirit would survive or whether she would make a good companion for Michael.

They set up a meeting...and then another...and another. In the meantime, Spirit's strength continued to improve.

When Spirit was cleared to go into foster care, Michael and his wife agreed to take her on a "foster-to-adopt" basis, meaning they would take her into their home and care for her while BHS paid her costly veterinary bills until it was determined that she was healthy and the match was appropriate.

That was in May.

Today, Spirit, now named Ayla by Michael and his wife, has all of her fur back. She is most happy curled into the lap of her new mom and dad. She is the most affectionate dog the couple has ever had. She hangs out in the their yard as Michael, despite his blindness, builds decks, replaces

windows and putters around the yard.

The couple officially adopted Ayla in October. Michael could talk for hours about what she's brought into their lives.

"Clearly, someone knew what they were doing. This match was meant to be. She is the best dog we could ever ask for. We simply couldn't be happier and there is no way I could ever, ever, ever, express my gratitude," he said. "Ayla completes our lives in ways I cannot explain."

Michael and his wife renamed Spirit "Ayla" in memory of the little girl who has been missing from Waterville.

"Unfortunately I don't think that little girl is going to get a second chance, but this dog got one and she deserves it. I am so thankful that the staff at the Bangor Humane Society saw that and dedicated themselves to making sure she got one. We'll be forever grateful that we got to be a part of it."

"I'm not sure who needed who more," he said, "but there is no doubt in my mind that we needed one another. And with the help, patience and generosity of the Bangor Humane Society, we are more complete and certainly happier because we are together."



"Spirit" before treatment.



# The Heart of Paws on Parade

## Celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Paws on Parade

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Louise Cross (middle), Paws on Parade Chair, poses with Stacey Coventry, director of development and PR, and Suzan Bell, executive director.

**P**aws on Parade has been the largest annual agency-driven fundraising event for the Bangor Humane Society for twenty-one years now. When current Executive Director, Suzan Bell, stepped into the leadership role for the organization six years ago, she saw the potential to generate larger revenue. Growing the event would require an entire fundraising committee to help take it to a whole new level. Conversations with the board of directors led to the nomination of Louise Cross as a new board member and then naming her as chairperson to a special Paws on Parade committee. She had a love for animals and network of contacts that could potentially grow into long-term supporters of Paws on Parade.

“I didn’t know what I could offer,” says Cross. “But, I wanted to make a difference for the animals who don’t have a voice. I thought if what little I had to offer would even make just a little bit of a difference, then I was going to do it. I told my husband I just didn’t want to ask people for money.” Six years later she laughs at the irony.

For the next four years, Louise steered the Paws on Parade fundraising team, working closely with the BHS event manager. Although she had no direct fundraising experience, Louise’s natural ability to understand and build relationships has helped her build a loyal sponsor base of local and statewide businesses that support the event generously year after year. She has also shared her knowledge with other board members to help integrate relationship-building into our core fundraising philosophy.

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the event currently grosses \$71,000 each year with over 800 two-legged and four-legged participants gathering on the waterfront to support homeless pets and celebrate pet companionship. It features a variety of local vendors, contests, and a shelter dog runway show.

This year’s event welcomed Reverend Marguerite Steadman who delivered a beautiful, heartfelt pet blessing to kick off the 1.5 mile walk through downtown and along the water-

front.

Over fifty businesses now support Paws through sponsorships, in-kind donations, vendor participation, or team fundraising. Mike Dow donated his services as the event MC; WABI provided weekly air time to feature BHS pets and to promote the event; Maine Magazine joined the event as the exclusive magazine sponsor to capture photos to publish statewide; and The Maine Edge published an in-depth cover story to promote the event. Additionally, Mike Fern, editor of the Maine Edge donated proceeds from a concert event at Tantrum to Paws. And, staff members of the Maine Edge, affiliated with a local improv comedy group, called “The Focus Group” hosted a pet-themed show to kick off Paws on Parade on the eve of the event raising \$1,000, in addition to collecting shelter donations and walking in the Parade with their pets. Because of the Focus Group’s dedicated month-long efforts to promote the event, they won this year’s “Best Team Spirit” award. Dr. Mark Hanks and Kindred Spirits Veterinary Clinic won top team fundraiser, raising over \$7,000 in donations; Laurie Qualey was awarded Top Individual Fundraiser, raising \$4,000; and Emera Maine was this year’s Top Underdog Team, raising \$1,500. Prizes were also given to a beagle dressed as Miss Piggy for best costume; a bi-eyed Great Dane as largest dog, and a Chihuahua named Honey as the smallest dog. The event concluded with a shelter-dog runway show showcasing shelter dogs available for adoption.

“I love the festival-type atmosphere that Paws on Parade has grown into,” says Cross. “It has become a true community event that people look forward to every year. My dream is for it to eventually gross \$100,000. I believe we can do it, and each year we get closer to achieving that goal. I am truly grateful to all of my sponsors that have loyally supported this event year after year.”

The BHS staff want to thank this year’s major sponsors: Top Dog Sponsor Qualey Quartz and Granite, and Canine Champion Sponsors Quirk Subaru and Cross Insurance. Staff also appreciate all of this year’s event sponsors, volunteers, media and community partners, vendors, individuals, teams, and donors who supported Paws.

Over the last six years, Louise Cross has been the driving force behind an 80% increase in event revenue along with the growth in community involvement and participation. Anyone who meets Louise and attends Paws on Parade, even once, can’t help but see and feel the spirit of all of the love and hard work that has gone into making Paws on Parade the huge success it has become.

“Louise is the heart of Paws on Parade,” says Suzan Bell, executive director. We are so grateful to have her as part of the BHS family. The legacy that our annual Paws on Parade has become in the community is because of her.” ■



### Event Sponsored By:



- Brandywine Graphics
- ABM Mechanical
- Eaton Peabody
- Bangor Federal Credit Union
- Emera Maine
- Kathadin Trust
- Keith Trembley Home Solutions
- Machias Savings Bank
- Ervin Architecture
- Leighton & Longtin, PA
- Rudman Winchell
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

- MMG Insurance
- Patrons Insurance
- Pelletier & Faircloth
- People's United Bank
- Rose Bicycle
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Maine Distributors
- Bell's Furry Friends Photography
- Varney Buick, GMC and Mazda
- Brookings Smith
- TMATT Financial





## From Purrs to Tail Wags

'Tis the season to express our gratitude to everyone in the community who has supported BHS and our pets this year with donations. To each group who has hosted a fundraiser to raise money on our behalf, each child who collected money from a summer lemonade stand or shelter items for their birthday, the retired ladies who knitted blankets for cat kennels, and to every person who made a monetary gift or responded to one of our Facebook requests for pet supplies— thank you! You are our lifeline in our efforts to save all these precious lives that come to us in need of our compassion and care each year.



'Tis also the season where we ask you to consider us when making your charitable donations this holiday. Whether you make a monetary gift in memory of or in honor of a friend, family member, or fur-baby or you donate from our wish list, we need you more than ever. We depend on the donations we receive during

the holiday season to carry us through the rest of our fiscal year.

Once again we have adorned our agency Christmas tree that lights our lobby with ornaments featuring items from our wish list. From blankets, dog and cat toys, wet cat and dog food, cat litter, KMR, cat beds, and treats, every item is needed and no gift is too small. Every donation helps us nurture and care for these precious fur-babies while they wait for their new homes. We rely on your generosity to help give each life that comes through our door a second chance. And for that, we thank you.

## 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.



Josh thanks you for your support!