



Spring/Summer 2013

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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.

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

# Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

## Learning to Speak Dog

*Preventing Dog Bites through Education* By: Renee Ordway



**D**on Hanson appreciates a growling dog. “People are quick to punish a growling dog. I love a dog that growls. That dog is letting me know it’s uncomfortable, fearful or angry, and that I should change my behavior. It’s fair warning and far better than a dog that bites unexpectedly,” said Hanson, owner of Green Acres Kennel, Certified Dog Behavioral Specialist and Pet Dog Trainer.

Statistics show that half of all children are bitten by a dog by the age of 12 and most of those bites come from dogs that the child is familiar with (such as a family dog, or a dog belonging to a neighbor or relative).

That is why Green Acres Kennel Shop designated May as Dog Bite Prevention Month, offering free tips and seminars to help educate families and the local community on dog behavior.

“It seems we only hear about Pit Bull bites, but I can tell you firsthand that every dog has the ability to bite. Adults, especially, need to make sure we do all that we can to prevent it from happening,” he said.

The staff at the Bangor Humane Society are trained to work with every dog that comes into the shelter and are certified to evaluate each one with the ASPCA SAFER® (Safety Assessment for Evaluating Rehoming) test. The SAFER program is an aggression assessment designed to assess the probability of future aggression in dogs age six months and older. SAFER uses researched items that elicit responses predictive of future behavior. SAFER is intended to be just one tool used to help identify the risk of future aggression and the individual behavioral support needed before adoption for each dog in a shelter.

Staff at BHS want to make sure that you choose the right dog for your family.

It’s important, however, that proper dog training and dog-bite prevention continue after you take your new pet home with you. Most dog bites are preventable, and the vast majority of the time dogs provide many signals that they are uneasy before actually biting.

It is important that everyone who has a dog, and everyone who has the opportunity to interact with a dog be aware of these signals and respect them.

As Hanson noted, a dog that growls is generally indicating they are angry or afraid and “it is actually a friendly way of telling you, ‘please do something different or I may bite,’” he said.

Uncomfortable dogs may move away from you, turn away, bare their teeth, cower, lick their lips, turn their ears down or yawn repeatedly (*refer to page 7 for handout and other resources*).

If a dog exhibits any of those behaviors a person should refrain from making eye contact or body contact and slowly back away from the dog. *Continued on page 6*



## From the Director

In every newsletter, we try to share stories with you that demonstrate the “Happy Tail” adoption successes we have the privilege of facilitating throughout the year. We also hope to offer you tools, resources and advice from area experts that will help you grow and enrich the human-animal bond between you and your own pet. We strive to educate you about animal welfare initiatives that affect animal sheltering in your community. We also hope to demonstrate that we are good stewards of the generous donations we receive from our constituents, using every dollar and donated item to save more lives. But, there is a segment of the animal sheltering population that is just as relevant to our mission of re-homing that we don’t always share or celebrate publicly. That segment is made up of a variety of animals that don’t fit the traditional adoption model of a cuddly indoor lap cat or loveable canine that wants to play and sleep by your feet for hours a day.

Most people who visit our shelter looking for their new best fur-friend have an image in their minds of what adopting a pet means, and a very specific way that they define their ideal pet. Take a moment and think about what a “pet” means to you. When potential adopters enter our facility, our staff get immediately to work matching the right human with *their* right pet. However, for our staff and for many of our colleagues in animal welfare, there is an entire spectrum of animals that don’t fit into that traditional pet model. Free roaming, outdoor cats who feel trapped by the confines of a home environment and rescued huskies who were bred with an innate desire and purpose to run in a pack and pull sleds are just some that qualify as examples. Each of these feline and canine lives are just as deserving and worthy of re-homing, of a second chance, and of a new life. The life that the traditional animal sheltering model typically offers them is not the ideal match or lifestyle for these special animals. But saving their lives, though usually a path more challenging, more emotionally charged, and one that requires more resources is just as important at the Bangor Humane Society, if not more, because these are the ones that *truly* need our help.

While this segmented population currently makes up less than one percent of our annual intake, they drive the passion and mission of the organization forward to develop new, creative and non-traditional initiatives to re-home and save as many lives as we can. So, we continue to build and grow our network of animal rescue partners, such as Muddy Paw Dog Sled rescue that specializes in re-homing huskies as sled dogs, Friends of Feral Felines, who specializes in placing wild cats, and Doberman Rescue Unlimited that specializes in training, socializing and finding homes for hard-to-place Dobermans. At BHS, we continually strive to find out-of-the-box solutions right in our own community — like our Barn Buddies initiative that places independent, free roaming cats that are spayed/neutered in barns, studios, workshops, etc. to give shelter and care to a cat that prefers an alternative lifestyle.

So the next time you stop by and visit our shelter, browse our pet listings website, or are told we are full and have an intake waiting list, think about all of the animals that reside with us that do not fit into the traditional adoption model — the animals who need us even more, and whose lives are just as worthy of the second chance it deserves as the wiggly two-year-old Labrador or orange kitten in the next kennel over. Open your mind, your hearts, and your networks by donating, volunteering, or spreading the message to help us save each one. See them as we see them — each as the individual and valuable lives that they are. Best Regards,



## 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  
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Lani Naihe, Secretary  
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## Our Staff

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Suzan Bell

*Shelter Operations Manager*  
Chris Young

*Office Manager & Bookkeeper*  
Deborah Hawkins

*Volunteer & Public Relations Manager*  
Stacey R. Coventry

*Adoption Counselors*  
Brittney, Kristin, Keren, Andrew, Paulie

*Animal Technicians*  
Sarah, Nikka, Caroline, Mariah,  
Kimberly, Jill

*Veterinary Technician*  
Alayne Newton

*Foster Care Program*  
Kimberly Patterson

## And the Thunder Rolls...

*Adoption Update* By: Stacey R. Coventry



*Thunder, playing in the BHS play yard while he awaited adoption.*

The 139 days of Thunder started in early November 2012 when a family surrendered their 5 year-old Rottweiler/Labrador because he wasn't a good match in their home with their small children. When Thunder first arrived, he had double cherry eye (a defect in the eye that causes a protrusion of the eyelid in the form of a red, fleshy mass) and he also

suffered from periodic seizures. Staff and veterinarians worked immediately to remedy his medical needs, first by repairing one eyelid at a time while simultaneously adjusting his seizure medication. While up for adoption, his deep raspy bark (coupled by his red fleshy eyes) deterred adopters from giving him a chance.

As the days for Thunder at the shelter increased, both his eyes were repaired for a second time as the cherry eye (most likely due to stress brought on by his seizures). Once his seizures seemed to be under control, staff decided that Thunder could use a Dog's Day Out, so he was sent to a local doggy daycare facility for an afternoon of fun. He loved playing with the other dogs and was an absolute gentleman, but unfortunately one of the other canine participants played a little too rough for Thunder. Thunder's day out was cut short when he had to come back to the shelter early to have a torn ear repaired.

Luckily, Thunder soon started having some potential adopters see past his deep, raspy voice and physical appearance to meet with him in an adoption visit. But Thunder wasn't interested. He didn't want to engage with the adopters and would growl and avoid their contact. Staff didn't know if he was just being picky, was too stressed or grumpy from being in a kennel too long, or had grown too comfortable with BHS as his home. Staff began to wonder if he was the "Murphy's Law" dog, because things just didn't ever seem to go his way.

In early March, staff decided that Thunder needed a long break away from the shelter. So, back to daycare he went for a week of day-long play and overnight slumber parties. During his stay there, staff learned that Thunder's

seizures were becoming more frequent. Because of the constant, individualized care he received at daycare, the facility staff were able to more accurately record and track his seizure patterns. He returned to the vet clinic where once again the veterinarians adjusted his seizure medication and monitored him closely. Shortly after his medication adjustment, Thunder became a happier, more playful pup. He seemed to be feeling like himself once again and staff were excited to see the old Thunder return. He had one last cherry eye removal surgery, proving the third time's the charm — because this one stuck!

Then on March 21<sup>st</sup>, Thunder's luck completely changed. Arthur Peabody and his family travelled all the way from Brookton, Maine to BHS just to see Thunder! They had been following his story online, had called to talk with staff about his needs, and then followed up with their veterinarian to make sure they were equipped to handle his seizures. Now it was all up to Thunder. Staff took the Peabody family into the BHS visitation room and left the rest up to Thunder. Thunder walked up to Arthur, sniffed him, jumped on his lap, placed his front paws on Arthur's shoulders and licked him from forehead to cheek to chin. That was it. Thunder had picked his new family! He was off to live a life of swimming in a nearby pond, four-wheeling rides, chasing tennis balls, and chewing sticks. After 139 days of Thunder, he finally was going home!

Staff celebrated his bittersweet departure, and the Peabody's promised to send an update. They have kept good on their word, and since his adoption we have received several "happy tail" updates. The first was from Thunder himself. He wrote, "I am winning! I have put on some weight, and go for one to four mile walks every day. They have bought me all kinds of fun toys... and I am doing all the guarding of squirrels. I wanted to thank you for all your help when I was a guest there.



*Thunder on his adoption day with his new doggy daddy, Arthur.*

*Continued on page 8*

## Ask the Vet

### Q: How can I help my pets beat the heat this summer?

**A:** As the heat and humidity arrive, be sure to provide your pets with plenty of cold water and cool shade. Limit their time outdoors and shorten the length of your walks, especially during “bad air” alerts. Don’t take your pet for a strenuous hike or jog during severe spikes in temperature and humidity. Avoid walking with your pet on hot tar and pavement, as it’s very painful on their paws.

Remember to **never** leave your pet in a hot car. Your pets do not have sweat glands, so they have no way to cool themselves. If the temperature outside is 70 degrees then the temperature inside your car can soar to over 100 degrees quickly, even with the windows rolled down. Brain damage can occur in just minutes, so please leave your pets at home!

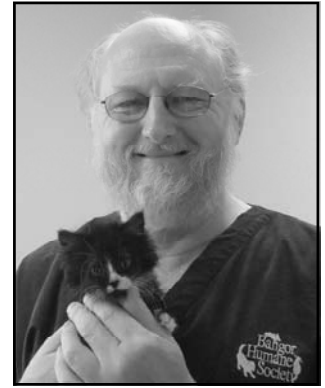
If you think your pet may be suffering from heat stroke or dehydration, call your veterinarian immediately. Here are the signs to look for: excessive panting, blood shot eyes, extremely hot body temperature, and bright red gums inside the mouth (instead of pink).

Also, warmer temperatures mean lots of hungry fleas and ticks, so get your pet on a

monthly flea preventative that you purchase from your veterinarian or local shelter. Don’t be fooled by knock offs in discount stores!

### Q: I am thinking about adopting a new dog into my home. What are some tips to make for a positive transition?

**A:** Be sure to manage your environment regularly while your new dog adjusts and you can learn his/her triggers. Remember, this is a new home for your new dog and he/she needs time to bond and build trust with you and the new environment. This means: do not invite new people or animals (other than those living in the home) into the home for the first several weeks; make slow introductions to other pets in the home; always supervise the dog around any children and other animals, especially during feeding time; always keep the dog on leash in unsecured areas so you remain in control; and avoid high traffic outings like sporting events, concerts, parades, etc. If you notice the dog is stressed or getting over stimulated, separate the dog from the situation. Always reward positive and calm behavior with food or treats. ■



*Dr. Benson, Broadway Veterinary Clinic*

## Paws for Thought

Pets should be spayed or neutered at young ages, before 6 months for a male and before a female’s first heat.

## Shelter Highlights



Thank you to Jack and Lois Reilly for becoming a \$1,000 Silver Corporate Kennel Sponsor on behalf of Batteries Plus!



Thank you to Veazie Veterinary Clinic for their April Facebook campaign that resulted in 26 cat spay/neuters and generated over 1,700 new likes for the clinic!



Thank you to those that donated to our annual kitten shower!



Thank you to Quirk Subaru for their “Fill the Forester” event that helped collect much needed shelter items during the month of April!



*Cats on Tour* is back! Check out our website and Facebook page to follow this year’s tour dates! Coming to a town near you!



### SAVE THE DATE:

Our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Paws on Parade event is Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> on the Bangor Waterfront. Visit our event website at [www.pawsonparade.kintera.org](http://www.pawsonparade.kintera.org) for more information and to register online!

Become a member of the Whitley Society by making the Bangor Humane Society a part of your planned giving arrangements.

Create a family legacy today.



# Diary of a Foster Cat

*A Behind the Scenes Look at the BHS Foster Program* By: Sue Baker and Kathy Black



*A mom and her baby await at BHS for an available foster home.*

Each year, dozens of pregnant or nursing felines arrive at BHS. In order to provide them with the best quality care in a stress-free environment while they care for their young, we reach out to one of our 50 foster families. Whether a nursing mom, a baby that needs to be bottle fed, or a young adult recovering from a knee repair, our foster homes provide much needed respite. BHS provides everything else – food, litter, and veterinary care. Our foster families also help connect us to their network of

friends, relatives and coworkers to place each of their fosters into forever homes. Otherwise, they return to BHS or one of our offsite adoption partners for permanent placement. Here is a behind the scenes look at what exactly these amazing volunteers offer to our shelter pets:

## **Diary of a nursing foster cat:**

*Day One:* Oh my, here we go again. I find myself being put in a carrier, along with my newborn babies. I'm scared. My previous experiences with carriers and car rides didn't usually have a pleasant outcome. I'm trying to be brave, though, because I don't want my babies to worry. After all, they are counting on me to take care of them. I wonder where we're going. This person in the

car keeps saying "It's O.K., I'm going to take really good care of you and your babies." Yeah, right, like anyone cares. The car stops and I wonder what will happen next...Wow, this is a really nice big room.

"Hey babies, look at that nice big soft bed on the floor. Oh, yeah, you might not be able to see yet, trust me, it's awesome. I hope that's for us. Let's try it out. It's purrfect. What a great place for us to snuggle together while I feed you. There's a window and a place for me to sit and look outside. I see toys all around the room and there's a scratching post. I'm feeling less anxious, and very tired. What a busy day this has been. I think it's time for a catnap."

*Day 14:* I don't know how long I've been here now, but my babies sure are getting big. That person that keeps coming in our room is really nice and fun. She plays with us a lot. Some of her friends come in with her and play with us too. I hear them call her "the crazy cat lady." I wonder what that means? I'm not sure. But, I know that this lady was telling the truth that day in the car. We have everything we need



*A kitten, recently returned from foster care, awaiting adoption at BHS.*

*Continued on Page 6*

## Austin's Corner



Summer is here, I can feel it in my whiskers. This is the busiest time of year at BHS, so I'm writing to bring to you an important public service announcement.

It's no secret that kittens tend to come with the warmer weather. We tend to see a major increase in those of the feline variety during the summer months. In order to care for them all, donations from community members like you are much needed. Sought after supplies include: baby wipes, kitten food, soft blankets, toys, and more. For a detailed list check out our website. To those of you who dropped off a donation at our kitten shower last month, we greatly appreciate it!

But, kittens aren't the only thing to come with warmer weather—fur friends and humans alike are spending more time exploring the outdoors. So, this time of year many pets become lost and separated from their owners and end up at the shelter (from those crazy canines who follow their nose and lose track of where they are when they're playing outdoors to the many indoor cats that tend to squeeze through those frequently opened doors and windows - never me of course!). Let me recommend our microchip program. For a small fee of just \$20 per micro-

chip, it can ensure an immediate reunion between pet parent and lost pet. So stop by, no appointment necessary! And, while you're at it, don't forget to ask about our deals on Frontline to protect your pet from those hungry ticks and fleas!

With so much craziness going on here, I think it's time I publicly announce why I haven't been at the front desk for the past few weeks. Sometimes pet parents need to make tough decisions in the best interest of their pet, and I'm fortunate enough to have a full staff of them who have realized that I'm a social butterfly who really needs extra love and attention. It's because of this that we have decided it is time for me to retire from being the official BHS house cat. Over the past few weeks, I have settled in nicely with a BHS staff person, who gives me all the love and attention I crave. And, I may or may not have a mouse-sized crush on the other feline who shares residence with me. I promise to continue my column in the newsletter - I am the infamous Austin after all! Please continue to visit the wonderful staff and pets at BHS. Thanks so much for your support. I'll see you again when my next column hits news stands!

*Austin*

Continued from "Speak Dog" Page 1



*Puddles, a BHS long-term resident, finds her forever home with a big family.*

Children are most at risk of being bitten. They are small, move fast, and are most apt to hug and kiss dogs that may not be agreeable to it. That is why children, more than any other population, are often bit in the face.

It is important that parents teach children to never surprise or bother a sleeping dog or a dog that is eating. Children need to learn to respect the dog, how to properly approach a dog, and that cuteness is not at all an indicator that the dog will not bite.

"You can teach children the warning signs and you need to do this, but it is imperative that children still always be supervised when around any dog," Hanson said.

Hanson also says that it does not have to be the end of the line for a dog that bites. There have been dogs that have bitten and go on to have long and wonderful lives without another incident, but is crucial that there is an intervention for everyone: the dog owner, the person

who has been bit, and the dog to prevent a reoccurrence.

Anyone approached by an aggressive dog should "become like a tree" (stand still and quiet and refrain from eye contact). Running away will only escalate the dog's aggression and excitement.

At the Bangor Humane Society, staff believe training, patience and education are the keys to avoiding the tragedy of a dog bite.

Socializing and training your dog, being aware of the "triggers" that may cause your dog to become fearful or aggressive, and educating yourself and those who come in contact with your dog about how to behave around him or her are vital for a happy human-dog relationship.

The folks at Green Acres Kennel Shop will gladly sit down, for free, with anyone considering bringing a new pet into the family to discuss what kind of pet, breed, and age, would work best with your family. ■



*Shorty, a BHS long-term resident Pitbull, gets adopted by his now best friend—an eight-year-old boy.*

Continued from "Diary" Page 5

here.

*Day 21:* Now that my babies are eating on their own, I have more time to do my own thing. Once in awhile, the door will open and I can leave and roam around the house. It's big. I love the freedom. Those kitties of mine are so wound up that they wear me out. They're up and down and running all around. Oh, to be young again.

*Day 30:* Here we go again, I see the carrier coming. This time I'm not afraid.

I tell my babies, (although they aren't babies anymore), "It's O.K., someone is going to take really good care of you." I know that, because our last trip in a carrier was the best thing that ever happened us.

#### **Diary of a Foster Kitten:**

My mom, Lilla, three brothers (Ted, Fred, & Ed) and I came to our foster home with the Black family when we were only a day old. Mom was so happy because she knew we were all safe. At first, we learned about love and trust. But once our eyes were open...

YAHOO! So much to see and do: running, sleeping, pouncing, eating, side-way stepping, eating and sleeping some more, and wrestling. Yikes! Jade (the Black's one-eyed hound) wants to carry us around. But, Kathy, (Mama Black) tells her, "no," so instead we play with

Jade's tail and toes. Slick, one of the Black's permanent residents, hides in a box or lounges on top while we play with his tail. Then, we slide on the floor and fly through the doors! Some of the other foster mates, Cherub, Topaz, and Bunny, play too.

When we slow down, we all crash into each other and pile on top of one another. We try to climb up onto Bruce's (Daddy Black's) chair for hugs and kisses, but Daddy Bruce doesn't always like to share. So sometimes, Mama Kathy will pick us up and hold us. When she calls, "here piggy's," we all run to mom for milk, a bath or to curl up for a nap. Soon Mama Kathy will help us look for a forever home. But, don't worry, we will be fine because we have been here, playing, learning, growing, and having such a good time!

P.S. Thank you BHS staff for trusting Mama and Daddy Black to love and care for us. I can tell those ol' humans have so much fun with us around! ■



*A litter of foster kittens happily resting in foster care.*

Keep this handout and visit [www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com) for additional educational resources for you and your family.

## Dogs Don't Bite "Out of the Blue."

Many bites can be prevented if people learn to read a dog's body language.



This dog's whole body is wagging calmly and he is panting. He is happy to see you.



He is not yawning because he is tired. He is anxious and he hopes you will leave him alone.



Her tail is high, her body is stiff and her mouth is closed. "I'm warning you. Back off!"



A tail tucked in, even if wagging a bit, means a very worried dog. "Please stay away from me."



The tongue flick and the slow, stiff tail wag tell you this dog is very unsure. "Go away."



This dog is turning her head away in order to avoid conflict. She doesn't want to be bothered.



The half-moon eye and the closed mouth tell you this dog is uncomfortable. "Leave me alone!"



The "freeze and stare" is a very dangerous sign! This dog will bite if you persist.



For more information about dog bite prevention, visit [www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com).

doggone safe

*"Thunder Rolls" continued from page 3*

I've attached a couple of pictures of me and my people."

Then, several weeks ago, one of Thunder's new "people" sent us a wonderful photo update: "Thunder has gained almost 20 pounds and is very happy. He has a huge pool to play in and plenty of sticks...Thunder is loved very much and is quite the conversationalist! He fits in perfectly, and my grandpa is grateful to have him."

Thank you Peabody Family for changing our unlucky shelter boy into one of our luckiest adopted alumni!

And the Thunder rolls... ■



*Thunder enjoys his new life of swimming, sticks, and tail wags!*

## 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 animals.
- Use euthanasia only as a last humane option in the best interest of the animal.



Max thanks you for your support!