



# Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall 2015

Features

Meet Our Match

Two Lead Shelters. Three Days. 305 Matches Made

Anything is Pawsible

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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!



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

## Meet Our Match

*BHS receives grant that will double donor impact*

*By: Stacey R. Coventry*

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Bangor Humane Society was awarded a \$50,000 unrestricted challenge grant from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation in support of our mission and to help us achieve our goal of expanding our fiscal capacity in order to provide more quality care for more homeless animals.

The award is a 1:1 matching grant in which the Foundation will award the funds once we demonstrate success in raising the \$50,000 during our 2015 annual appeal from new or lapsed donors or existing donors who have increased their giving to help double the impact of their gift. Our goal is to raise the funds by the end of the year.

Direct care expenses related to meeting the medical and behavioral needs of over 3,000 shelter pets each year is one of our largest annual expenses. While we are unable to predict what rehabilitative care will be necessary when an animal comes through the doors, having the resources available allows the staff to have the confidence to compassionately and urgently treat every animal in need without worrying about whether or not BHS can afford it.

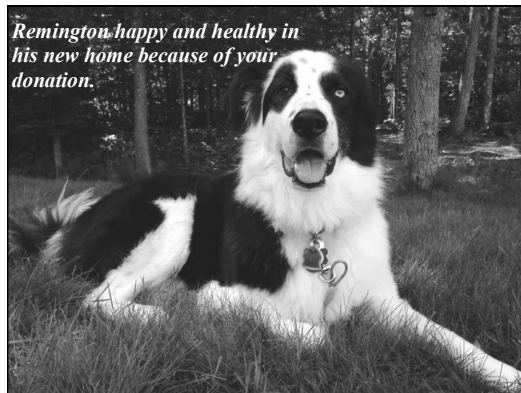
Surrender of animals whose owners do not have the resources to provide the medical or other rehabilitative care needed has been

steadily increasing over the last several years. We project that our veterinary expenses alone, including but not limited to emergency care, specialized surgeries, and treatment of temporary ailments, may exceed \$200,000 this year. This grant will provide vital support to help restore physical, mental, and emotional health of the animals in our care so they can be placed into loving homes—animals like three-year-old Remington, a Border Collie/Great Pyrenees adopted back in March.

“We never knew a piece of our life was missing until we welcomed Remington into our home,” says Taylor Black. “He suffers from a condition called Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency. When surrendered to BHS, Remington weighed only 38 pounds and required immediate medical attention. With the generous support of donors and the unfailing love of Remington’s foster mom and vet, Dr. Laura Tardiff, Remington was able to receive immediate care and bounced back to full health. Had donors not stepped forward to provide for the extensive care he required, Remington would not be here. Today, he is happy, healthy and has doubled his weight. My husband and I cannot imagine our life without Remington. Your gift is the reason our family is complete and we cannot thank you enough!”

This is what you do when you make a gift to Bangor Humane. You help us provide refuge for the abused and a safe haven for the lost and abandoned. You are why we can repair the injured. You are why we can treat the sick. You rehabilitate broken bones and spirits. You grant second chances. “We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the Elmina B. Sewall foundation and are honored that they continue to trust

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## From the Director



The fall, October in particular, is one of the busiest times of the year for us at the Bangor Humane Society as we host our two largest annual events—Paws on Parade and the ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon.

Once again we are grateful for the enormous outpouring of community support that made both events a huge success once again this year. Paws on Parade raised nearly \$70,000 and drew over 800 two and four-legged participants to the Bangor Waterfront in support of our mission and in celebration of the relationships we have with our pets. For this year's Mega Match-a-thon we partnered with the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society to lead a statewide collaborative adoption effort that resulted in the placement of 305 homeless pets into new homes over just three days.

In addition to coordinating our two largest annual events, we were also excited to announce that the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, a wonderful, long-time supporter of our work and steadfast member of our donor family, awarded us a \$50,000 challenge grant opportunity. For every new or increased donor dollar we raise during our 2015 fundraising campaign, they will match it 100%.

The 1:1 matching challenge will help us achieve our goal of increasing our donor base so we can continue to help as many homeless and abandoned animals as humanely possible. We are dedicated to giving a second chance to every animal in our care. We invest in each life by offering compassionate care, medical and therapeutic, and allowing their bodies and spirits to heal before placing them into new homes. Direct care expenses related to meeting the medical and behavioral needs of over 3,000 shelter pets each year is one of the largest annual expenses for BHS.

We are honored and grateful for the ongoing support of the Sewall Foundation and we hope that their support and generosity will inspire our community to give a new or increased gift this season so it can be matched 100%, doubling the impact of each gift.

So, as we enter the largest giving season of the year we urge you to make your life-saving gift now. Whether it is your first gift, a renewed gift after lapsed giving, or you increase the amount of your last donation, right now it has the power to save twice as many lives. We also ask you to help us grow our donor base to support our mission not only today, but in the future, by inviting your friends, family, and colleagues to make a gift as well. Every dollar matters at BHS and each one has always made a difference. But, right now every new and increased dollar can help us save even more lives. We cannot provide the quality care, offer the second chances, and create the new families we do without your financial support. We cannot reach beyond our shelter walls to help our fellow shelter partners in rescuing and adopting out the many homeless animals in the community at large who need us without your charitable gift.

So many precious lives need us right now. And, right now, your gift makes double the impact. Please donate today.

With sincere gratitude,

### HOW TO DONATE:

Include your gift in the enclosed envelope

Stop in at the shelter— we accept cash, check or Mastercard/Visa

Go online at [www.bangorhumane.org](http://www.bangorhumane.org) and click donate



### 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

Amy Faircloth, President  
Lani Naihe., Vice-President  
Buddy Angst, Treasurer  
Laurie Qualey, Secretary  
Emily McIntosh, Past President  
Earl Black  
David Cloutier, DVM  
John Kenney  
Deb Neuman  
Matt Nye  
Renee Ordway  
Jeff Russell  
Greg Sirois  
Bob Williams

### 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,  
Krysta, Biz, Abby

*Animal Technicians*  
Mariah, Brittney, Cody, Sam, Damien, Cas-  
sandra, Anneliese, Nicole,

*Veterinary Technician*  
Allen Batchelder, LVT

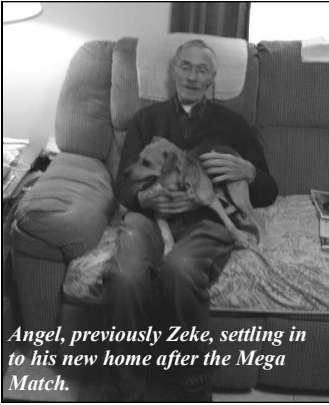
*Foster Care Coordinator*  
Mariah Cassidy

*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Katelyn Murphy

## Featured Spotlight

# Two Lead Shelters. Three Days. 305 Matches Made

*Fourth Annual Mega Match-a-thon* By: Stacey R. Coventry



*Angel, previously Zeke, settling in to his new home after the Mega Match.*

This year BHS and Greater Androscoggin Humane Society (GAHS) in Lewiston were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the ASPCA to lead a statewide adoption event on October 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. The two shelters combined their efforts as two of the sixteen shelters nationwide that participated in the ASPCA's fourth annual Mega Match-a-thon presented by Subaru.

The funding support helped market the event across the state, and provided every animal with a collar and ID tag, a medical exam, spay/neuter surgery, and vaccinations. While all adoption and screening guidelines were upheld, adoption fees were lowered in an effort to place every adoptable animal into a loving new home.

Five more shelters joined the statewide adoption event in hopes of leveraging the momentum generated around pet adoption through the event. The Animal Welfare Society and Franklin County Humane Society collaborated with GAHS; and The Waterville Humane Society, Animal Orphanage, and SPCA of Hancock County partnered with BHS. In total, 305 animals were placed into new homes over the three day event.

One of the first adoptions made at BHS was between a sweet couple and young dog named Zeke who was transferred from a shelter out of state. It was a match made at first sight. The next day BHS staff received the most beautiful update from the man's daughter, who wrote: "This little dog (Zeke) renamed Angel was adopted by my parents on Friday. My par-



ents have been long mourning the death of their previous dog, Bella. I had been pestering them to get a new dog since my brother died unexpectedly last November. After visiting his grave on Thursday, they went straight to BHS; Angel came home Friday. I have not seen my dad so happy and peaceful in a long time. Angel acts like her job is to heal my dad's heart. I know who rescued who! Thank you BHS!"

Dozens of updates from other families who found their newest match during this year's event have poured in across all the participating shelters.

We are grateful and delighted that we were able to collaborate with GAHS to lead a statewide effort that helped over three-hundred animals from seven different shelters find new homes. We continue to be humbled and inspired

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*Waterville Humane Society, the SPCA of Hancock County and the Animal Orphanage joined BHS for this year's Mega Match.*

## Ask the Vet

**Q:** As the weather begins to get colder, what are some ways I can keep my pet(s) safe?

**A:** As the colder weather sets in this time of year mice and other small rodents might be trying to find a way into your warm and cozy home for the winter. It is very important to remember not to put down any chemicals/substances that kill the mice, such as rat poison or rodenticide. Any chemical that is made to kill mice can also kill your pets. If you think your pet has had any potential exposure to rodenticide please contact your veterinarian immediately.

Know that road salt can be very hard on dogs' feet. Try to walk in areas that aren't heavily salted. Rinse their feet when they come indoors. Find a pair of well-fitting booties. They *will* learn how to walk normally in them! With young or old pets, any pet with an illness, or really short hair coat, consider putting a sweater or jacket on them while outside.

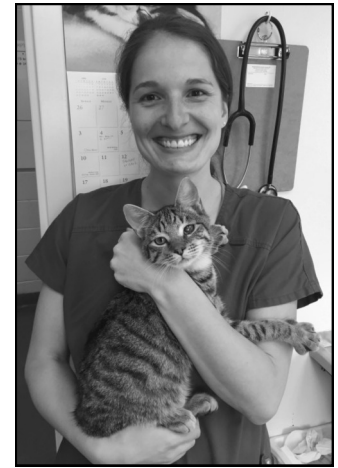
Additionally, Maine's many lakes provide a fun outlet for many winter activities. Make sure that the ice is thick enough and safe before you and your pet head out.

And remember, the winter months can be harsh, bring your pets indoors!

**Q:** What factors should I consider as I enter the holiday season with my furry companion?

**A:** The holiday season is a great time for parties and wonderful food. We need to be careful not to give our pets any food that could be potentially harmful to them. Dogs and cats shouldn't have onions, garlic, chocolate, raisins/grapes, nuts, avocado, xylitol (contained in many sugar free products) or any food that is different from their regular diet. Dogs and cats are susceptible to developing pancreatitis (painful abdomen, vomiting and diarrhea). Large bones from a Thanksgiving turkey, for example, could also cause an intestinal obstruction, which would be a surgical emergency. So bottom line, please be careful about what you feed your pet during the holidays and during the rest of the year.

Also, during the holiday season a lot of families consider bringing home a new pet. There are a lot of things to consider before making a new dog or cat a permanent member of the family. Before welcoming a new furry addition to your family, make sure you consider things like time, cost, housing, lifestyle and long-term commitment before bringing your new family member home.



**Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM**  
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

## Paws for Thought

Only 10% of dogs and cats that enter shelters are spayed or neutered.

Yet, the cost of having an animal spayed or neutered is less than the cost of raising one puppy or kitten in a single year.

## Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events

Thank you to the Maine Community Foundation for awarding us a \$14,000 grant from the Belvedere Fund to help us continue our public low-income spay/neuter efforts!



During the month of December, we will be partnering with Penobscot Theater for their holiday production of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Before each of their twenty shows, they will highlight one of our shelter dogs on stage to help them find a new home. We are excited and grateful to collaborate with them for the fourth season. Check our Facebook or visit [www.penobscottheatre.org](http://www.penobscottheatre.org) for show times and ticket information.



We hosted our sixth Kids Give Back event in October. Kids came dressed in their favorite costume and made Halloween-themed adoption signs for kennels, toys and treats for our shelter pets. Thank you to Laurie Qualey and all the families who participated! Watch Facebook for upcoming event details!

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*Kirby Before*



and believe in our work by granting us this opportunity to earn such a generous charitable gift,” says Suzan Bell, executive director. “We hope their support and generosity will inspire our community to give a new or increased gift this season so it can be matched by the Sewall Foundation, helping their gift to save even more lives.”

Lives like Kirby. Kirby, a three year old Beagle/Daschund mix is alive because of your monetary donation. Last year he was found abandoned, emaciated and dying on the side of the road. After 48 hours of emergency veterinary care and months in foster care, he is healthy,

strong and living a happy life in his new home.

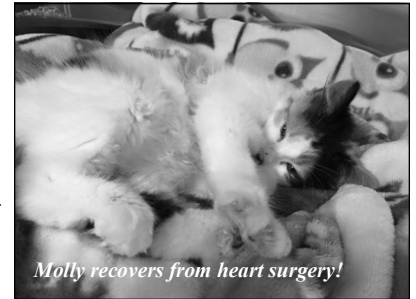
“Kirby’s eyes tell it all. He takes everything in and enjoys life so much now,” says Kathy Black, foster mom and adopter. “He is full of joy and thankfulness. His love is a gift to Bruce and I. We will be forever grateful to BHS staff, the veterinarians, and for the generosity of donors who saved his life.”

At BHS, we wholeheartedly believe that every match made is a life saved. We cannot save lives, grant second chances, and create new families without the ongoing sustainable support from our donor family— whether a foundation partner like Se-

wall, one of our Golden Paw Society Members, an individual who sends us a check for whatever financial gift he/she can afford to give, or the ten year old young person who donates money from her lemonade stand— every dollar makes an impact. Every dollar helps us care for and send more animals home.

Right now, Molly, who was adopted with a heart defect, is recovering in foster care after having heart surgery because of your generosity.

Each of the nearly 3,000 animals who received second chances this past year did so because of our donor family. Thank you supporting our important work. We hope you will make a charitable gift today so we can not only immediately put it into action to help more animals like Remington, Kirby and Molly, but also to simultaneously generate a 100% match from the Sewall foundation to help the many more that will need our help in the future. ■



*Molly recovers from heart surgery!*

## From Purrs to Tail Wags

Each year right after Thanksgiving, staff dust off our nine foot Christmas tree from the attic and set it up in our front lobby. The tree is then decorated with ornaments that highlight a much needed donation request, transforming the tree into something more than simple holiday décor. From requests for blankets, dog toys or cat treats, to office and cleaning supplies, our staff and four-legged guests are grateful for each donation that helps make their job or stay a little easier during the holiday season. We are so appreciative of every single donor who helps fill our every need. No gift is too small. Every single donation— monetary and in-kind— makes a difference. So this holiday season, please stop by and take an ornament from our wish tree and then purchase the item for our pets.



We also have gift cards for purchase that are an excellent gift idea for family or friends who are thinking about adopting a new four-legged friend. Thank you for your continued support, not only during the holiday season, but all year long.



**Give the gift of love this holiday season!**

**Make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one (two-legged or four) and help give a second chance to a shelter pet!**



Your Donor Dollars Matter...

# Anything is Pawsible!

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paws on Parade

By: Stacey R. Coventry

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paws on Parade proved that when a community comes together in a shared effort to save more lives of homeless and abandoned animals, “Anything is Pawsible.” This year’s event brought over 800 two and four-legged participants to the Bangor Waterfront on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in support of our mission and to celebrate pet companionship. This year’s event grossed over \$67,000 from over 350 individuals and nearly 50 local businesses to help give more homeless animals a second chance and help create new families. A big thank you to Cross Insurance for being this year’s \$5,000 Canine Champion event sponsor, and to Louise Cross for her continued commitment as our Paws on Parade Chairperson.

For the first year in the history of the event, more money was raised by individual and team donations than ever before, a total of over \$37,000, which also surpassed for the first time, the dollars raised through business sponsorships. New teams found creative ways to raise funds during the months prior through events like a concert benefit, multiple paint and sip nights, give back nights at local restaurants, selling BHS-themed jewelry, raffles, a clothing swap and a comedy improv night.

Team the Little L’s stole the top fundraising team trophy from three-year reigning champ Dr. Mark Hanks and Team Kindred Spirits by raising over \$7,000, then presented Team BHS with the trophy for our lobby to spotlight the staff and volunteers’ daily efforts to care for and find homes for the 3,000 animals that come through the shelter every year. Lani Naihe, from Team Little L’s won the Top Individual fundraiser award by raising over \$4,000.

Dozens of local businesses and vendors lined the waterfront, including Veazie Veterinary Clinic, BarkDannas, Bark for Life, The Stray Dog, Maine Pitbull Advocates,

Northeast Animal Massage, and many others. The event also featured an Adoption Runway Show that showcased some of the adoptable dogs available at BHS. Attendees will be happy to know that all six dogs featured on the Runway were adopted the following Monday by families who saw them at the parade.

Reverend Marguerite Steadman from St. John’s Episcopal Church initiated the 1.5 mile walk with a pet blessing. Participants crowded the sidewalks and filled the streets of downtown Bangor generating the largest turnout of walkers and their four-legged friends ever to promote pet adoption, as cast members from the upcoming Penobscot Theater holiday production of *It’s a Wonderful Life* led the parade in costume. For the fourth year, the theater and BHS will be partnering to feature adoptable dogs before each performance this upcoming holiday season.

Other event highlights include contest winners: a Great Dane- for largest dog; a pocket-sized yorkie mix for smallest dog; a Bassett Hound for biggest ears; a Corgi disguised as a “watch dog” for Best Costume; a young girl and her Chihuahua dressed as Elsa and Olaf from “Frozen” as Best Look-Alikes; and Team Blackstream Cycle Misfits won Best Team Spirit for raising over \$5,000. This was the first year the team participated in Paws on Parade and because the team made their \$5,000 team goal, Team Captain Russ Maynard paraded through downtown with his Chihuahua-pitbull, Lyla and fellow team members in pink tutus to celebrate their efforts.

BHS would like to thank all of the sponsors, teams, walkers, adopters, volunteers and donors whose efforts proved at this year’s event that “Anything is Pawsible”! ■





Continued from "Mega Match" on page 3

by our community, both local and throughout that state, that shows us everyday what is possible when we join together to help more homeless pets in need.

We extend our gratitude to our entire community of donors, shelter partners, media outlets, wonderful staff and adopters! We look forward to the next opportunity to come together to continue saving even more lives. ■



## 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.

*Double the impact of your gift today!*



Thank you for your support!