



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall 2016

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Making it Wag!

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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
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Bangor, ME 04401
207.942.8902
www.bangorhumane.org

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

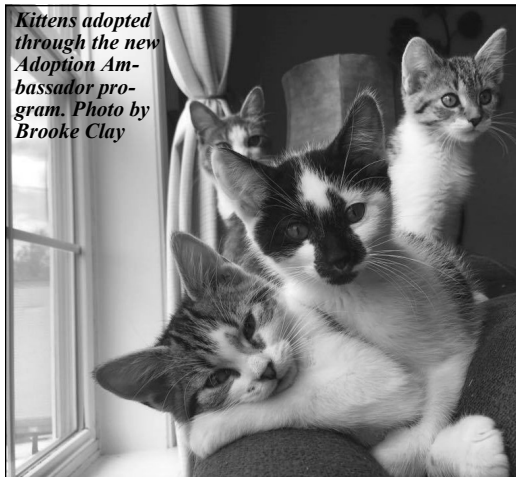


BHS is proud to feed our pets Hill's Science Diet food!

No Place Like Home

BHS Launches ASPCA Adoption Ambassador Program

By: Elizabeth Ahern



Kittens adopted through the new Adoption Ambassador program. Photo by Brooke Clay

A new program is changing the way homeless pets are finding a second chance. Through an innovative program, some shelter guests are now able to be adopted directly from a foster home rather than from a shelter kennel. Many homeless animals that come into a shelter environment, whether they are a stray or surrender, adapt to shelter life in the short-term until they are placed in a new home. But for some others, the stress from shelter life negatively impacts their mental and emotional well-being, creating barriers to their adoption and increasing their length of stay. This is where a new program, Adoption Ambassadors, truly shines.

The Adoption Ambassador program is one that the Bangor Humane Society, among other shelters nationwide, has recently launched through the ASPCA. The Adoption Ambassador program allows for animals waiting to be matched with a new family to reside in a home environment before they are officially adopted.

The Bangor Humane Society began the Adoption Ambassador program in August of 2016 through the generosity of an

ASPCA grant. In less than three months, BHS has adopted out 50 animals and counting, through Adoption Ambassadors. In the program, BHS supplies volunteers with all the supplies needed to care for their fosters. Additionally, BHS provides each Ambassador with training to empower them to make matches and complete adoptions right out of their own homes.

As an employee of the Bangor Humane Society and one of its foster parents, I was one of the first Adoption Ambassadors to participate in this new innovative program. My first foster to successfully get adopted through this program illustrates how this program is changing our shelter guests' experience for the better, while helping us save even more lives.

Dot came into the Bangor Humane Society as a stray so we had no history about her past, personality or preferred

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Dot settles into her foster home.

From the Director



As we approach yet another holiday season we are reminded just how much we have to be grateful for.

This year's Paws on Parade raised nearly \$75,000 and drew almost 900 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. Additionally, we hosted our first fall Howl-o-ween education and adoption event that not only placed over 40 animals into new homes in just one week, but also featured a dozen of our local partners who donated their time to educate our adopters on-site about a variety of

pet-related topics.

Most recently, we launched a new adoption program for veterans, Pets to Farmer Vets, through a partnership with the United Farmer Veterans of Maine where canine matches and training are sponsored through the generosity of the John Wikalis Trust.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce that, once again, the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, a steadfast member of our donor family, awarded us another \$50,000 challenge grant opportunity. For every new or increased donor dollar we raise during our 2016 fundraising campaign, they will, once again, match it 100%. Last year *you* helped us meet this challenge, raising the \$50,000 in just three months!

Just as before, 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 invest in each life by offering compassionate care, medical and therapeutic, before placing them into new homes. Direct care expenses related to meeting the medical and behavioral needs of nearly 3,000 shelter pets each year is the largest annual expense, second to salaries, for BHS.

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 as well by inviting your friends, family, and colleagues to also make a gift.

This season we ask you to make a *local* gift that will have a huge impact on the homeless and abandoned animals living right here in our own backyard. Together we can continue to save lives, create new families for years to come, and reach beyond our shelter walls to offer our resources, education and services to support the community that gives so much to us all year round.

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 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
Earl Black
David Cloutier, DVM
John Kenney
Deb Neuman
Matt Nye
Susan Reisman
Jeff Russell
Bob Williams

Our Staff

Executive Director

Suzan Prendergast-Bell

Shelter Operations Manager

Chris Young

Director of Development & Public Relations

Stacey R. Coventry

Office Manager

Deborah Hawkins

Customer Service Manager

Kristin Harmon

Adoption Counselors

Abby, Alicia, Bethany, Biz, Julia, Mariah, Sam

Animal Technicians

Alex, Alicia, Gabby, Krysta, Roxanne, Sam, Stacey

Veterinary Technician

Allen Batchelder, LVT

Foster Care & Volunteer Coordinator

Katelyn Murphy

Featured Spotlight

Meet Our Match...Again!!

By: Stacey R. Coventry

Photo credit: Karen Littlefield



Rocky, a pitbull mix was able to receive a mass removal surgery because of donors' generosity.

Last October, the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation awarded us with a special challenge grant opportunity where they matched every new or increased dollar 100% up to \$50,000. In just three months, we were able to leverage our enthusiasm for the Foundation's challenge to build strong momentum through direct marketing initiatives, social media, news outlets and our holiday appeal to successfully meet the challenge. Because of *you*, our generous supporters, we expanded our donor family to include new friends, renewed the support old friends, and increased the generous support of our current donor family.

The folks at the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation were so impressed and enthusiastically pleased with our efforts that they decided to challenge us once again during our 2016 Fundraising campaign. For a second year, they will match every new or increased dollar 100% up to \$50,000.

Our friends at the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation understand that in order for us to meet every need of every animal that finds refuge at our door, whether treating a medical condition, rehabilitating challenging behaviors, or nurturing hearts and spirits, we need the resources available to do so.

Animals like Trixie, who needed surgery and rehabilitation to repair a torn cruciate on top of her Lyme treatment an expense totaling over \$2,000.

And Dave, a young orange tiger cat and Sanford a yorkie mix, who both needed special urinary tract surgeries costing over \$4,000 combined.

These are just some of the animals that your support directly impacts. Not only does every donation help one of our animals receive the care they deserve right now, but opportunities like this where those dollars can be matched 100%, help ensure that the resources will be there to help the *next* animal that comes through our doors. Direct care expenses related to meeting the medical and behavioral needs of the nearly 3,000 shelter pets each year is one of our largest expenses, totaling \$200,000 annually.

"We continue to be humbled by the ongoing support of the Elmina B. Sewall foundation that continues to support our life-saving work through their charitable giving," says Suzan Prendergast-Bell, Executive Director. "We hope their generosity to help us generate more resources through expanding our donor family will inspire our community to give a new or increased gift this season so it can be matched 100% by the Sewall Foundation, allowing their gift to save even more lives."

Each animal who received second chances this past year did so because of our donor family. Thank you for 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 Trixie, Dave and Sanford, but to also simultaneously generate a 100% match from the Sewall foundation to help the many more that will need our help this upcoming year. ■

Photo credit: Karen Littlefield



When donations can be matched 100% through the generosity of Foundation's like Elmina B. Sewall, it doubles the impact of every gift so we can save even more lives.

Ask the Vet

Q: How can I keep my pets happy and healthy during the holidays?

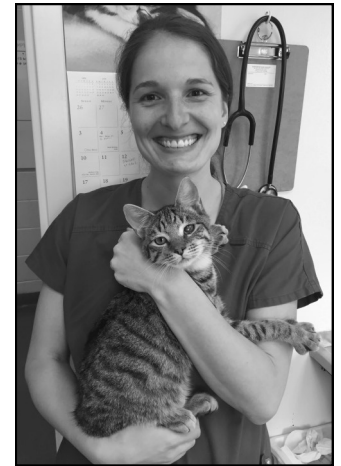
A: The holiday season is upon us and that means a time for family get-togethers and parties. While most of us find this time very exciting and enjoyable, it can be very stressful for our furry companions. Here are a few things to consider to keep our pets happy and healthy:

- For most pets, being in a safe, quiet and secure area of the house is going to be best. For example, think about putting your pets in a bedroom so you don't have to worry about them escaping or getting into something they shouldn't. This doesn't have to be a punishment for them. It is okay to provide a toy or food distraction.
- There are many household items that can be dangerous for pets, especially during this festive season. Make sure that any holiday displays are not accessible to pets (consider securing the Christmas tree to the wall if you have a curious cat). Also, dogs have such great noses that they can sniff out food (and chocolate) through wrapped packages almost anywhere, so it is very important to pet-proof the house. Some cats enjoy playing with decorations, but tinsel can be especially dangerous for cats if swallowed. Also, watch the electrical cords for holiday lighting because, if chewed, they can be very dangerous.
- Lastly, with the frosty cold weather here,

make sure to not leave any pet outside for an extended period of time. They are prone to frost bite and other cold-related issues just like us. We also need to be conscious about ice melt and road salt because that can be irritating to their paw pads. Anti-freeze is also extremely toxic to pets, so you have any in your garage, use extreme caution.

Q: What should I consider if I am thinking of giving a pet as a gift this holiday?

A: Dog and cats (puppies and kittens) make wonderful additions to our families and can bring us much joy. While giving someone an animal as a holiday gift has a good intention, it is important to make sure it is the right decision for the person receiving the gift. Animals deserve a commitment for their entire life; they are a large financial responsibility and a big time commitment. We owe them the absolute best care, respect and attention we can give. Every family has different lifestyles, family dynamics and living situations that need consideration to ensure a good match. A lot of research and planning has to go into the decision to bring a pet into a home. If you are looking to personally bring a new pet into your home this holiday season, please check out your local animal shelter and rescue one of the many loving animals that deserve a second chance.



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Paws for Thought

In three years, our ongoing spay/neuter efforts have reduced our homeless feline intake by 1,000 cats per year!

Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events



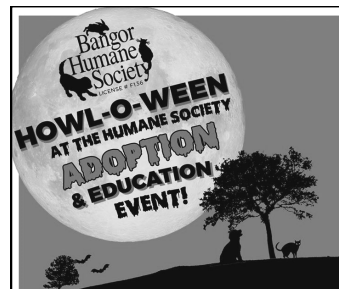
Through the generosity of the Belvedere Fund, we were awarded a \$17,000 grant to continue our spay/neuter efforts for low-income families in Penobscot, Hancock and Washington Counties.



In September, through a national Adoption Event with Petsmart, 20 animals found new, loving homes in just two days!



In August, Dysart's Restaurant hosted a charity motorcycle ride and BBQ with 40 riders, which raised over \$500! Thank you Dysart's!



We hosted our first Howl-o-ween education and adoption event that featured a dozen community partners and placed over 40 pets into new homes in just one week!



On November 10th, we made our first match in our *Pets to Farmer Vets* program through partnerships with the United Farmer Veterans of Maine and the John Wikalis Trust. Thank you!

Continued from page 1

lifestyle. Not only was she a stray, but she was pregnant. At the time, it was peak kitten season so most of our foster homes were already full. Additionally, having such little knowledge about her made it difficult to place her in the right foster home. Soon after her arrival, Dot birthed four kittens in the shelter and showed excellent maternal instincts with them. However, trying to nurse newborn kittens in a shelter environment is stressful for both the mother and her babies, which is why placing them in a foster home is always ideal. Although my home was already full with six cats, two dogs, and a snake, I decided to take a chance on Dot and her babies and volunteered to become their Adoption Ambassador.

I kept Dot in separate room for a while to allow her to acclimate to her new environment. Over time I slowly began to introduce her to the other animals in my household. Initially, Dot was independent and standoffish towards my pets as she focused intently on raising her kittens. Eventually, Dot's kittens were old enough to be placed up for adoption. Kittens, whether in a shelter or foster home, are scooped up rapidly; Dot's kittens were no exception. But there remained Dot, a four year old cat who still remained a mystery to me even after a couple of months together. Once Dot's kittens were all adopted, I started to notice some changes in her. Rather than avoiding my two dogs she would search them out and rub up against them. Instead of being independent and standoffish, she began waiting on my pillow at night so we could cuddle. I started to watch Dot blossom into a confident, social and affectionate cat once she had settled into a home and her maternal job was done.

Typically, after her kittens are adopted, a mother cat re-



Photo credit: Karen Littlefield

turns from foster care to be adopted from our shelter's adoption floor. However, I knew that in a shelter environment, Dot would withdraw back into her introverted and aloof self, so I decided to keep Dot and adopt her from my home. Through the new Adoption Ambassador program, Dot was recently adopted from the comforts of my home where she could show her new family just how loving and social she truly was.

"The goals behind the Adoption Ambassador program are to adopt our shelter guests from home to home, rather than shelter to home," says Kristin Harmon, Customer Service Manager. "This is particularly beneficial for those shelter guests that we lack a detailed history on or do not present well in a shelter environment. It gives us the ability to make stronger matches and reduce re-

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From Purrs to Tail Wags

Thanksgiving weekend we will put up our 9 foot Christmas tree from in our front lobby and decorate it with ornaments that feature "shelter wishes"; items we are in need of around the shelter or in our foster homes. While we always request items such as blankets, dog or cat toys and treats, office and cleaning supplies, our staff and four-legged guests "*paws*" this time of year to ask for some extra special wishes. This year those include:

- Oster cordless clippers
- Vitamin A&D ointment
- MyWarmPet hot water discs from Picopet
- Swiffer wet jet mopping pads and solution refills
- Shark hand vacuum
- Electric hand drill
- Kuranda Dog beds or large plush dog beds
- Metal pet bowls
- Cat trees, hideaways, scratching posts, and litterboxes
- Colorful bandanas
- Portable dog water dishes and water bottles
- Frisbees, tennis balls and Kongs
- Weiss leashes
- Pet grooming brushes, flea combs and Lindt rollers
- Spray bottles for cleaning

We are so grateful for each donation that helps make our jobs or the stay a little easier for our shelter guests during the holiday season. No gift is too small. Every single donation—monetary and in-kind—makes a difference. We hope this holiday season, you will 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.

And, remember, we have holiday cards available to acknowledge each monetary gift made in memory or in honor of a loved one (two-legged or four) this season.

Thank you for your continued support, not only during the holiday season, but all year long.



Your Donor Dollars Matter...

Make it Wag!

23rd Annual Paws on Parade

By: Stacey R. Coventry

Our 23rd Annual Paws on Parade hosted nearly 900 two and four-legged walkers who gathered on the Bangor Waterfront on September 24th to “Make it Wag” for shelter pets. And, *make it wag* they did! Together through thirty corporate sponsorships and walker fundraising efforts, nearly \$75,000 was raised to support our life saving work!

This year’s event was the largest to date in participants, on-site vendors and gross dollars raised. A big thank you to Cross Insurance for being this year’s Canine Champion event sponsor, and to Louise Cross for her continued commitment as our Paws on Parade Chairperson.

This year, Russ Maynard from Blackstream Custom Cycles joined Paws on Parade as committee co-chair to help drive team involvement and fundraising.

“My involvement with BHS started small raising about \$1,200 through a charity motorcycle ride and has grown to raising over fifteen times that with my incredible team through Paws on Parade,” says Russ Maynard. “At BHS, they not only walk the walk in granting second chances to as many homeless animals as they can, but they also talk the talk; they give a voice to all the animals who cannot speak for themselves. They pray that the decisions they make for every animal are kind ones. My time with the BHS team has taught me that they are making the right decisions. If all I need to do is raise money so they have the wherewithal to make those decisions, and even have a little fun with family and friends while doing it, then it’s the very least I can do.”

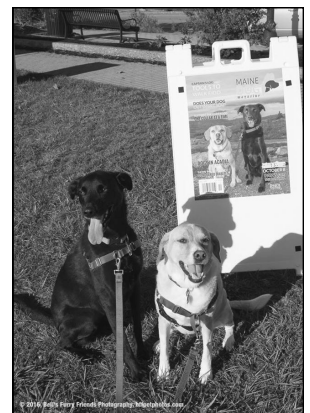
As captain for his very own Blackstream Cycle Misfits, Maynard led his team to a \$16,000 total– the largest in history-to not only win Top Fundraising Team, but earn the trophy and bragging rights for the next year as well. Event team dollars were raised through creative avenues such as craft fairs, flea markets, paint and sip nights, give back nights at local restaurants, a comedy improv night, and auction/ raffle of Patriots autographed memorabilia.

Mike Dow gave the event a festive atmosphere by donating his services to emcee and DJ while dozens of local businesses and vendors lined the waterfront, including Veazie Veterinary Clinic, BarkDannas, Green Acres Kennel Shop, Maine Pitbull Advocates, Beal College, and many others. Maine Dog Magazine, an onsite vendor, revealed their cover of the Fall issue at Paws on Parade, which featured BHS alum, Koda, a black lab/collie mix, registered therapy dog, and BHS adoption ambassador. The event also showcased an Adoption Runway Show that showcased some of the adoptable dogs available at BHS. Attendees will be happy to know that all the featured dogs were adopted the following week, most by individuals who saw them on the runway.

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 ever of walkers and their four-legged friends to promote pet adoption, as cast members from the upcoming Penobscot Theater holiday production of *Oliver* led the parade in costume. For the fifth year, the theater and BHS will be partnering to feature adoptable dogs before each performance this season.

Other event highlights include contest winners: a Great Dane dressed as a dinosaur- for largest dog; a pocket-sized Golden Retriever puppy for smallest dog; a trio of dogs disguised as a “flying monkeys” for Best Costume; Mike Dow’s black Labrador, Gordon, won “Alum with Oldest Adoption Date” dating back to 2008; a perky Springer Spaniel won “Most Memorable Wag”; and Team Blackstream Cycle Misfits won Best Team Spirit. BHS would like to thank all of the sponsors, teams, walkers, adopters, volunteers and donors whose efforts surely *made it wag* for homeless pets on the beautiful warm and sunny autumn day. ■





Continued from page 5

turns because it allows us the time to learn more about our guests in a natural home environment. At the same time, it creates more space in the shelter so we can help even more animals in need.”

Dot and the other shelter guests that have been adopted through the new Adoption Ambassador program could have been adopted out of the shelter. But the Adoption Ambassador program helps us find better matches for those animals more sensitive to kennel stress.

Seeing Dot’s ability to both tolerate and adapt to a busy household like mine that includes two dogs, six cats, one snake, and three college-aged students with erratic schedules helped me place her in a family that had three little girls. When I first met Dot, I never would have recommended her living in a home with small children, but after seeing her true self emerge in my home, I confidently introduced her to a family with young girls. When I saw her curl up in the arms of one of those little girls and purr instantly, I knew that she had found a home that was right for her.

The Adoption Ambassador program is also helping us expand our reach to connect more people to pets through adoption; those that may not otherwise enter a shelter to adopt a pet. It removes barriers, helps us dispel shelter stereotypes, and helps animals shine as their truest, best selves; proving, just like Dorothy’s infamous line, that truly “there’s no place like home.”

To learn more about becoming an Adoption Ambassador visit our website or contact our Volunteer and Foster Care Coordinator, Katelyn Murphy, at 942-8902 ext 102 or email katelyn@bangorhumane.org. ■

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!