



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2018

Features

Funding Second Chances

Creating Happy Tails

Paws-ing to Say, "Thank you"

Celebrate 25 Years of Paws on Parade

Changing the Conversation

In Every Issue

From the Director

Ask the Vet

Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events

Our Guiding Principles

Our Mission

The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal welfare through education and advocacy.

Bangor Humane Society
693 Mt. Hope Ave.
Bangor, ME 04401
207.942.8902
www.bangorhumane.org
License # F136

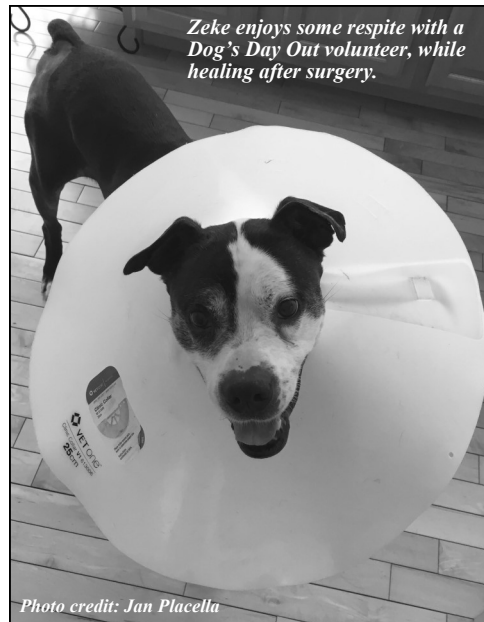
 Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/BangorHumane



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

Funding Second Chances

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Zeke enjoys some respite with a Dog's Day Out volunteer, while healing after surgery.

Photo credit: Jan Placella

Zeke, a bubbly 6 year old canine, was abandoned as a stray and has been one of our BHS guests since early February. As a result of ongoing neglect, Zeke came to us suffering from several severe medical issues. He needed an intensive heartworm treatment, extensive dental and an invasive surgical procedure to remove a large hernia; expenses that amounted to over \$3,500.

Because of a generous gift from the Mickey Duffy Rehab Fund, Zeke is getting the second chance he deserves.

In 2011, the State of Maine Animal Welfare Department seized a Border Collie that suffered a hemorrhage in his spinal cord and became partially paralyzed after his owner threw him against the floor in an act of rage.

Tom Duffy, an employee of Penobscot County Courthouse, was awarded custody

of the dog and the opportunity to give him a second chance at a life free of abuse. He renamed the dog Mickey and invested thousands of dollars in veterinary care and rehabilitation until Mickey could walk again.

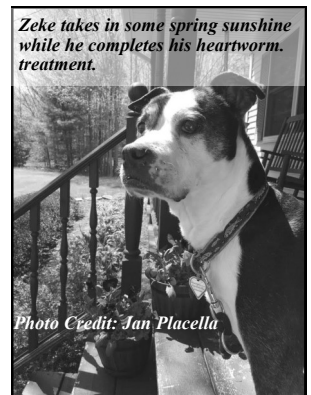
Recently, both Tom and Mickey passed away. Tom left a portion of his final estate to start the Mickey Duffy Rehab Fund for neglected and abused animals.

To carry on Mickey's legacy and in a commitment to end animal abuse and neglect, the custodians of the Mickey Fund have made a generous gift to the Bangor Humane Society to begin a Second Chance Fund.

The charitable support from the Mickey Fund will help BHS provide life-changing veterinary and rehabilitative care to so many animals in need; an expense that impacts BHS' budget over \$250,000 annually.

Zeke will be the first BHS resident to receive care granted from the new Second Chance Fund. He has already successfully recovered from his dental and hernia removal. Currently, Zeke is waiting to undergo his second round of heartworm treatment before being placed for adoption.

BHS hopes to grow the new Second Chance Fund and target



Zeke takes in some spring sunshine while he completes his heartworm treatment.

Photo Credit: Jan Placella

Continued on page 8

From the Director



Each animal that arrives at our door comes with a story. Often we don't know much about how their story began, but we play a vital role in writing their next chapter. Time and time again, through adopter updates, we get to read thousands of happy endings for the animals that have passed through our shelter over the years.

Each of you—our volunteers, staff, adopters, donors and partners—help us create those happy endings. Your support, your time, your generosity, and your partnership helps us re-write stories of neglect, abuse and abandonment and turn them into ones of healing, love, second chances, and

where new families are made.

These new beginnings are only possible because of *you*. You are helping us change lives and change the stories of thousands of homeless pets and the human lives they touch every single day.

As we look towards the future, we hope that removing breed labels and changing the conversation around canine adoption will move our community to look past the *cover* to each individual *story* of the incredible animals in our shelter that are awaiting new homes.

We hope our new Second Chance Fund, made possible through the generosity of the Mickey Duffy Rehab Fund, shows you the impact your gift has on the animals who arrive at our door most in need. I hope it inspires you to make your gift *right now* so that together, we can save as many lives and write as many happy endings as humanely possible.

And, we hope you will join us in celebrating each of those stories on the Bangor Waterfront in September for Paws on Parade at our special 25th Anniversary Event.

Your support matters. You help us give homeless animals in our community a voice. Your gift has impact. Your generosity has the power to change each animal's individual story for the better and helps write happy endings for thousands of precious lives every single year.

Thank you,

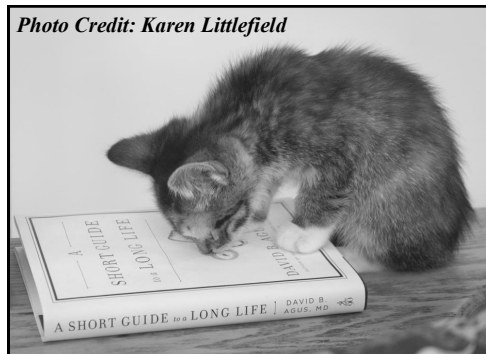
Help us Grow our Second Chance Fund

Make a gift today to our new **Second Chance Fund** and help change the stories for some of our most in need.

Visit our website:
www.bangorhumane.org/donate
 and *designate* it for the **Second Chance Fund**.

Mail your gift or make your gift in person and designate it for the **Second Chance Fund**.

Photo Credit: Karen Littlefield



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 2017-2018

Lani Naihe, President
 Buddy Angst, Vice-President
 Bob Williams, Treasurer
 Susan Reisman, Secretary
 Amy Faircloth, Past President
 Patricia Bixel
 Earl Black
 David Cloutier, DVM
 Meaghan Duffey
 John Kenney
 Russ Maynard
 Jeff Russell

Our Staff

Executive Director
 Suzan Prendergast

Shelter Operations Manager
 Chris Young

Director of Development & Public Relations
 Stacey R. Coventry

Bookkeeper/Office Manager
 Sheila Knapp

Adoption Counselors
 Alicia, Bethany, Julia, Alissa, Chelsea,
 Ashley

Animal Technicians
 Alicia, Roxanne, Stacey, Sarah, Katrina
 and Cameron

Veterinary Technician
 Allen Batchelder, LVT

Foster Care & Volunteer Coordinator
 Katelyn Murphy

Animal Care Coordinator
 Sam Carruth

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

Creating Happy Tails

By: Bethany Ward, Adoption Counselor

Sent from Above



Loofah in her new home.

◀ Meet Loofah! This shy sweetie was at BHS for several weeks and was even showcased on *Pet of the Week* with local media. Her forever home was found with the help of one of our adoption partners,

Blue Seal of Bangor. Being featured offsite in a more quiet environment allowed Loofah, now known as Calixta, to cross paths with her new mom! Her adopter had recently lost a beloved kitty, and was finally feeling ready to find a new addition to the family. Calixta's new home is a relaxed space where she has completely blossomed. Says her adopter, Catherine: "She is my friend. She rescued me. Nothing will ever replace the space in my heart that my previous cat left behind, but I like to think that she helped facilitate this match from the great cat beyond."

From Shelter Dog to Service Dog



Rex sports his official service dog vest with his new dad.

◀ This handsome dude is Rex, a strong willed boy with lots of energy. Rex found his perfect match in a veteran looking to train a service dog. This turned out to be a great pairing; Rex's energy and willingness to work was the perfect outlet for him. Because of his owner's tenacity in getting Rex trained, they achieved service dog certification for Rex within a few short months of his adoption! We have received several updates about Rex during and after his training course. Some staff have even

run into him out in the community actively serving in his new job! His new owner shares with us, "The bond that Rex and I have developed over the past couple months is incredible. I am so beyond happy to have him as a member of the family." We are thrilled to hear that Rex and his adoptive family have developed an amazing relationship that "works" for both!



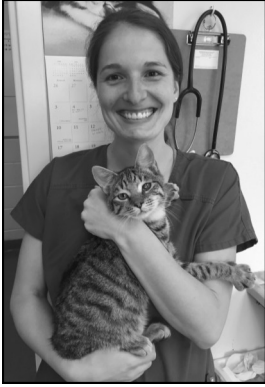
Photo: Pepper (now Delilah) on adoption day.

Take Me Home, Country Roads

◀ On a sunny October day at BHS, several hundred people gathered at our doors for our *Subaru Loves Pets* event. One of the very first adopters to enter the building was a man fighting a serious illness. Meanwhile, Pepper, age 3, a spunky girl brought to BHS due to landlord issues, was waiting for her forever home. Pepper had quite a voice and she sure did know how to use it. Unfortunately, her singing skills were not a good fit for apartment-style living. She was super playful and was seeking a home that could cater to her energy level and sassy personality.

In a truly magical case of "who rescued who," Scott adopted Pepper, with whom he instantly fell in love. The entire family was in tears during their meet and greet as they knew they had found the perfect match. Scott needed a friend to keep him company and support him during treatment, and Pepper needed a home in the country where her true self could shine. Their bond has been life-saving to Scott, and at the same time, has been a great opportunity for Pepper (now Delilah)! Ready to take on life's challenges together, they are the perfect pair. ■

Ask the Vet



*Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic*

Q: My indoor cat likes to explore the outdoors as soon as the temperature warms. How can I keep my cat safe when he adventures outside?

A: Make sure you talk with your veterinarian before you allow your cat to explore the great outdoors. There are lots of potential dangers for your cat and it is best to talk through all the ways you can protect your cat from harm. Your vet may also be able to help you find creative ways to keep your cat happy and stimulated inside. If and when you do decide to let your cat explore out-

side, consider these tips:

Go for a walk. Try taking your cat for a walk to see if that satisfies his/her urge to explore outdoors. Cat harnesses are available to help you bond with your cat outside while also keeping him/her safe. Be sure to try it on indoors first to give your cat a safe space to experiment with his new attire.

Build a catio. Before giving your cat complete freedom outside, consider installing a cat door and building an outdoor enclosure off your house or porch. There are lots of creative and affordable designs that can give your cat access outside while keeping him/her safe.

Provide identification. Be sure to microchip or put a collar and ID tag on your cat should he/she roam too far from home.

Get vaccines. Let your vet know if your cat goes outdoors so you can make sure your furry feline has the proper shots.

Spay or neuter your pet. Cats who aren't fixed are more likely to roam away from home, raising the chances they'll get hit by a car or get into a catfight. It also helps prevent over-population.

Always keep food and water nearby. Besides making sure your cat always has access to water during warm days, putting food out will help your cat stay nearby.

Watch out for toxins. Scraps from trash cans, pesticides, and other poisons are a danger to your cat.

Q: What should I do if my dog gets quilled by a porcupine this summer?

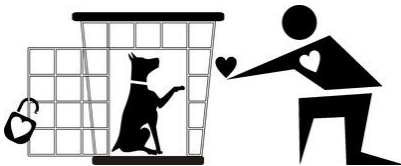
A: This time of year we see an increase in the number of dog-porcupine encounters. Porcupines are large rodents with up to 30,000 quills each. They are nocturnal (awake at night) and typically eat forest plants. Porcupines use their quills for protection, but do not shoot their quills. Dogs are naturally curious and the quills become stuck in the skin of the dog if they ultimately make contact with the porcupine attempting to investigate or play with the porcupine.

I do not recommend trying to remove the quills from your dog yourself. The quills have barbs on the end and are painful for the dog when removed. The quills need to be removed in a timely manner. Do not cut the quills, it will make them harder to remove. As a veterinarian, we like to use sedation to help us remove the quills so we know that we are not breaking the quills and so we can really check over the animal thoroughly to make sure we are not missing any. If the quills are not removed then they can migrate further into the tissue and make the animal sick.

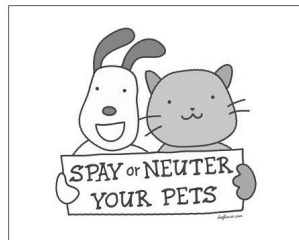
Please call your veterinarian if your dog has been quilled. We know that it can be stressful and traumatic, but we are there to help. ■



Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events



Thank you to the **Laura J. Niles Foundation** for their \$2,500 grant award to provide behavioral training and veterinary care to our canines.



Thank you to the **Doree Taylor Charitable Trust Foundation** for their \$15,000 grant award to our low-income spay/neuter program.



Thank you to **Shipyards Brewing Co., Ice Pik Vodka and all participating event locations** for raising \$1,345 at the 3rd Annual Mini Masters event.

Microchipping Clinic

Saturday, June 30 🐾 10:00am - 1:00pm

Brewer Loyal Biscuit Co.
421 Wilson Street (Brewer Shopping Center)
207-907-2323

Dogs on leash and cats in carriers are welcome. Cost is \$25 per pet and all proceeds benefit Bangor Humane Society!



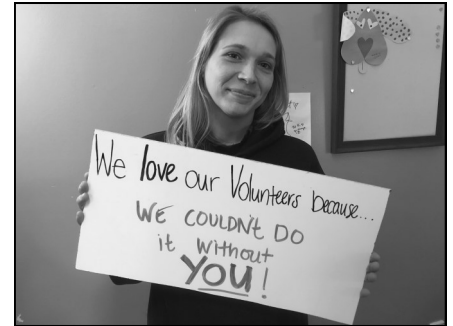
Paws-ing to Say, "Thank You!"

By: Katelyn Murphy, Volunteer & Foster Care Coordinator



Let's face it - animal welfare is hard work. Each and every day, there are so many animals that need our support: dogs that need walking, cats that need socialization, kennels that need cleaning, and so on. In addition to the physical demands of our work, the emotional investment is even greater. To love the animals that find their way into our care as our own is something that we pride ourselves in; to have an endless supply of compassion for each one is no easy job. Watching our residents make miraculous turn arounds and find homes never gets old. It is easily the shining ray of hope in what we do and serves as the inspiration to keep working harder for each homeless pet that we care for. But there is something else that inspires me and all those here at BHS - seeing the devotion and heart of our volunteers.

Every day, no matter the weather outside or if it is a holiday, you will find volunteers roaming the halls of BHS helping in any way they can. While they come to do the physical work, they also take on so much of the emotional work as well - they truly make the stay in our shelter more enjoyable for each life they touch. They are there when a dog needs extra walks to help him stay calm in the shelter or when every kennel has been filled and we need extra hands for cleaning. No matter the task, they are always ready to help. While we try to always tell our volunteers just how much they mean to us, this year we had the honor of hosting a dinner in appreciation of all they do. With the help of Jeff's Catering, we had a pizza buffet as well as a candy bar organized by our office manager, Sheila Knapp. Our first event was successful with nearly 40 volunteers, staff members, and board members in attendance. It provided an opportunity not only to express our thanks to them, but also a chance to make a human connections through the love of animals we all share. We already can't wait for next year! ■



Current Impact

182 Active Volunteers

4171 recorded service hours

Average 400 volunteer hours per month

Service valued at \$100,687.94

Celebrate 25 Years of Paws on Parade

Every year, hundreds of walkers gathered in celebration of their own pets to help raise instrumental funds to support the homeless pets who find refuge at the Bangor Humane Society.

In celebration of our 25th event anniversary and in the spirit of friendly competition, we are "unleashing" last year's top fundraising team captains into the community to help us reach the biggest event goal in our history- \$100,000 to save more lives!

This year when you start a team or register the event as an individual you will be asked to select a Pack to join- **The Match-Made Pack** or **The Second Chance Pack**. Our packs are competing on both dollars raised and number of teams and individuals who join their Pack. This year, not only do you have a chance to help your Pack win, but you also have a chance to de-throne last year's top fundraising captains and secure a spot as next year's Pack leaders.

We are excited to have you celebrate our 25th Paws on Parade, an event that has become an annual tradition of saving lives. To learn more about this year's event, read our 2018 Pack Leaders' appeals and to register for our 25th Paws on Parade visit our event page at www.support.bangorhumane.org/pawsonparade.

Thank you in advance for joining us to help homeless pets in our community. We look forward to seeing you on the Bangor Waterfront. ■



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 29TH
on the Bangor Waterfront

Changing the Conversation

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Spencer and Skyline on adoption day!

When Spencer Brassard visited us in search of a four-legged companion, a specific breed type was the furthest thing from his mind. He just wanted to find a furry friend that could fit well into his lifestyle and who could thrive in the type of home he could provide.

“I took my time to choose,” says Brassard. “Actually, I asked a staff member to point me in the right direction and help me choose the right dog for me. With her help, I now have the best dog that fits my personality.”

According to the Animal Farm Foundation’s *Removing Breed Labels*, in 2008 Dr. Amy Marder, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, proposed an idea that breed labels on kennel cards were negatively impacting the length of stay and outcomes for dogs in shelters. She warned against the dangers of making guesses based on often inaccurate physical appearances to identify breeds. Instead, she introduced the idea of using “American Shelter Dog” in place of a specific breed label.

“The problem is breed identity elicits behavioral expectations on the part of the new owner, even though researchers have found enormous behavioral variability within all breeds,” stated Dr. Marder.

The reality is that most of the dogs in shelters are mixed breeds with a unique make-up of two or more breeds. According to research shared by the Animal Farm Foundation a study by Victoria Vouth Phd., DVM found that the breed labels shelter staff assigned to dogs based on physical appearance alone were wrong at least 75% of the time.

“While genetics can certainly influence behavior, dogs today are primarily bred for appearance, not temperament and for the working roles of the breed may have occupied in the past,” says Janis Bradley, researcher with the National Canine Research Council in *No More Guessing Games* from Animal Sheltering Magazine’s 2017 edition. “As a result, dogs within a breed will exhibit about as much variability in their personalities as dogs across all breeds demonstrate. So there will be labs who are afraid of water, greyhounds who aren’t motivated to chase a lure and golden retrievers who are nervous around kids.”

Ultimately, breed identification that accurately reflects a dog’s true genetic makeup doesn’t really matter when it comes to matching them with potential adopters. It is irrelevant to creating successful matches and dishonest to guess a dog’s breed and present it as fact when we simply do not know for certain. Dogs are complex and their behavior is determined by many factors, which is why BHS is joining the movement to view each dog as an individual and to let them shine on their own merits.

Take one year old Remy, for example. His outward appearance suggests he is a handsome chocolate lab and would dub his personality based on typical breed characteristics as the perfect fun-loving, social, friendly family dog great with kids, people, other animals, and often a perfect match for first time dog owners. And once he was placed on the adoption floor he attracted exactly those types of adopters. Unfortunately, Remy’s history from three previous homes told us he needed a home with an experienced owner without kids or other animals in the home, at least at first, who could work with his behavioral quirks around toys and food.

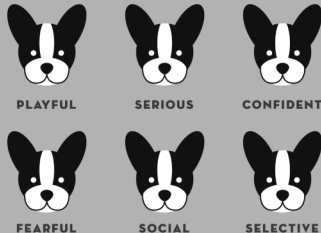
“I’m excited to see this ‘No Label Movement’ take place here at BHS, not only for better matched adoptions but also as an educational tool for us to use with the public,” says Sam Carruth, BHS Animal Care Coordinator. “More often than not dogs seem to be judged for their breed not their history or individual personalities. ‘Don’t judge a book by its cover’ may sound cliché but stands so true, especially in the shelter environment. Our goal is to get the public to look for the perfect fit for their life, no matter what the breed may be. Hopefully by labeling kennels with information such as activity levels/ personality/ preferences, etc. we can get our community to look past the *cover* to each individual *story*.”



Remy

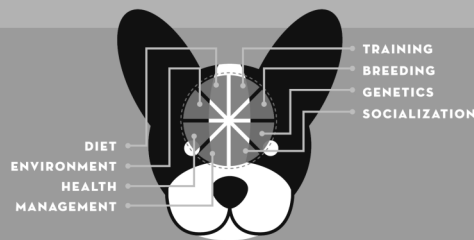
PURE BREED DOGS ARE NOT CLONES

Unlike human identical twins, pure breed dogs have different DNA



Dogs may look alike, but only **0.25%** of their genome determines their breed defining physical traits.
The rest can vary.

The behavior of ALL dogs is influenced by many factors. That is why breed traits are **POSSIBLE** but **NOT GUARANTEED**.



Infographics created and provided by the Animal Farm Foundation. Visit them online to see their full infographics on removing breed labels.

How we are changing...

No more guessing. Now when a dog is admitted to our shelter, unless it comes with specific paperwork designating breed lineage, we will be identifying the dog as a “mixed breed” on all shelter paperwork.

New kennel cards. When you walk through our dog adoption rooms, you will see new kennel cards that identify some of the dog’s unique personality traits in place of a specific breed identifier.

A shift towards creative and original marketing. When we market our dogs on our website, Facebook page and during local *Pet of the Week* segments with the local news, we will no longer use “breed” as an identifier. Instead, we will let each dog’s unique personality shine through descriptive profiles bring their individual characteristics and stories to the forefront.

More educational resources. We will be distributing educational materials, hanging informative signage and sharing relevant research on Facebook, our website and outreach publications to help increase knowledge and awareness around the inaccuracies of breed stereotyping and moving towards celebrating dogs as individuals.

Training and a different conversation with our staff. Our staff and volunteers will be provided with training and education that will help us shift the breed culture within the shelter. Therefore, as you visit our shelter and discuss the potential adoption of dogs in our shelter, the conversation will focus on each dog’s unique characteristics rather than their breed. ■

ALL DOGS ARE INDIVIDUALS

why looks don't equal behavior



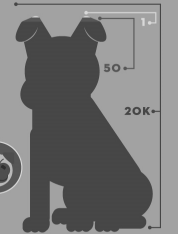
MEET THE CANINE GENOME

The dog genome consists of approximately **20,000** genes

Variation across **50** genes determines breed defining physical traits

Variation in very few genes determines a dog's head shape. In **BRACHYCEPHALIC** dogs, it's just **1** gene

This means that **LESS THAN 1%** of a dog's genes determine **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**



When we look at a dog and see breed, we are seeing **ONLY ROUGHLY 50** of their nearly **20,000** GENES **0.25%**

That is **0.25%** of a dog's **ENTIRE GENOME**.

The set of **50** genes associated with physical appearance is **DIFFERENT** from the set of thousands of genes responsible for brain development and function.

LOOKS DON'T EQUAL BEHAVIOR

Join the Movement

To learn more about the research behind breed labeling:

Visit www.animalfarmfoundation.org

Read the full “No more guessing” feature in *Animal Shelter Magazine* at <https://www.animalsheltering.org/magazine/2017/spring>



Photo Credit: Barkley & Co.

Continued from page 1

resources for all medical-related expenses of shelter pets that have experienced various forms of abuse and neglect. These expenses include vaccinations, physical and ongoing wellness exams, diagnostic testing, specialized surgeries, emergency care, rehabilitation, life-long disease care and management, and spay/neuter to ready them for adoption.

“We are dedicated to giving a second chance to every animal in our care,” says Suzan Prendergast, Executive Director. “We invest in each life by offering compassionate care, medical and therapeutic, and allow their bodies and spirits to heal before placing them into new homes. We are so grateful for the generosity of the Mickey Fund in granting us such a generous charitable gift that allows us to start the Second Chance Fund so we can help more animals like Zeke who arrive at our door in need.” ■



Tom Duffy and Mickey

Photo Credit: Bangor Daily News

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.



Photo Credit: Karen Littlefield

Thank you for
your support!