



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Summer 2016

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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

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



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

A Bridge Between Homeless and Home

By: Stacey R. Coventry

Delilah, a three-year-old Labrador/Husky, arrived at the Bangor Humane Society at the end of January because her owners had a lifestyle change and could no longer take care of her. Under-socialized and stressed from the sounds and smells of an unfamiliar place, Delilah would growl in her kennel, afraid to let staff get too close to her. Staff thought she just needed some time to settle into her new surroundings, but after a couple of weeks with little progress or change in her behavior, they were unsure about their ability to safely adopt her into a new home. So, they reached out to the BHS foster care network made up of thirty families and individuals willing to open their homes and their hearts to our most vulnerable shelter guests.

Our foster volunteers serve as a lifeline for our shelter guests who are sick, orphaned, injured or stressed. They always answer our call and rise to the occasion to provide respite, rehabilitation, and recovery for those most in need.

They are caregivers. They are nurses. They are physical therapists. They are family.

They are a bridge— between what was and what could be for the hundreds of shelter guests that cannot thrive within the limitations imposed by a shelter environment.

They are life savers.

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A BHS kitten plays hide and seek in a foster home.

From the Director



The face of animal welfare is changing rapidly. More people than ever before are looking towards adoption when considering a new pet for their home. Community spay/neuter efforts are helping to reduce the number of homeless pets that arrive at our doors. And more organizations and businesses are coming together to help provide the necessary care to homeless pets and to help promote pet adoption. Animal welfare is no longer just about sheltering and re-homing homeless pets.

As the world of animal welfare continues to evolve, we are committed to adapting and changing with it so we can maintain strong and relevant ties to our community. Ideology is shifting towards efforts to help keep more pets in homes, to facilitate and increase the bonds between humans and animals, and to bring pet companionship to those who cannot care for a pet themselves. The hope is that such efforts will lead to the overall better treatment of animals in our community.

We have begun to join this movement within our own local community as we devote some of our staff and volunteer time to humane education and outreach by offering programs like: Kids Give Back; Cats for Laps where shelter pets visit the residents at a local nursing home; creating an onsite youth reading program where school-age kids read to BHS residents to strengthen literacy while reducing stress in our shelter pets; partnering with Spruce Run to help domestic violence victims board their pets; hosting community rabies and vaccination clinics; and regularly visiting schools and organizations to promote our mission through education.

A young BHS volunteer reads to her foster kitten.



All these programs start with *your* donation. As you read this quarter's newsletter, you will see the power and impact that your dollar or in-kind gift has on our mission.

We hope you will enjoy seeing your dollars at work through the dozens of photos captured from community events, outreach efforts, adopter updates, and foster homes.

As we enter our busiest season of the year, thank you in advance for all you do to support our important work. Whether

you adopt, foster, volunteer, sponsor, donate or partner with us during an event or through outreach, you help us save lives, create families, and strengthen our community through the animal-human bond every single day. Thank you!

Please Donate Today!

Include your gift in the enclosed envelope

Stop in the shelter– we accept cash, check, Mastercard and 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
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, Bethany, Biz, Abby, Mariah, and Chelsea

Animal Technicians
Krysta, Cody, Sam, Nicole, and , Stacey

Veterinary Technician
Allen Batchelder, LVT

Volunteer and Foster Care Coordinator
Katelyn Murphy

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Pregnant dogs and cats, underage bottle baby kittens, dogs recovering from hip or ligament surgery, undersocialized shelter guests, and residents suffering from treatable illness all receive a second chance through foster care.

Foster care candidates can receive care in a home environment for two weeks to several months depending on the extent of the special care they require. The Bangor Humane Society provides all the supplies (litter, food, toys, etc.), the medical care, and specialized training to set every foster home up for success. Foster volunteers provide the time, the space, and the heart to help every animal reach their fullest potential. Not every foster makes it, but most do. And the ones that do surely wouldn't have without our dedicated foster care network. For that we are beyond grateful.

Recently, our foster care program merged with our general volunteer program under the leadership of BHS staff person, Katelyn Murphy, who is working diligently to reach the agency's goals for the program. These include: expanding our foster care network, increasing the number of canine specific foster volunteers, creating a hospice home option for those residents with a terminal diagnosis, and utilizing more foster homes to provide respite for long-term residents and refuge for emergency response (i.e. owners leaving domestic abuse environments, short-term hospital stays, etc) in order to help keep more pets with their owners.

"Our foster care program is vital to our success," says Katelyn. "For those who are sick, stressed and simply struggling to survive within the constraints of our shelter walls, our fosters provide a lifeline."

Our current foster caregivers range from families who have been fostering regularly for decades to individuals currently



Delilah sees the ocean for the first time!

fostering their first litter of kittens. It includes those who work full-time, empty-nest-retirees, and stay-at-home moms. Our network incorporates those with several pets of their own, those grieving the recent loss of a pet and not yet ready to adopt again, and those who are unable to commit long-term to a pet of their own.



A kitten receives snuggles in foster care.

And, the needs of our foster recipients range just as diversely from needing to be bottle fed every few hours to requiring daily physical therapy exercises to benefitting from a week-end away from the shelter. No experience is required. Fostering offers something different for everyone, but it also offers the same thing for every one of our residents who enter a foster home—a second chance.

For Delilah, that Labrador husky, it was a one month temporary residence with a staff person where she was able to blossom, build confidence, and show her true colors. Her time in foster care became the bridge between her old life to her new forever home where she now lives with a young woman from Bar Harbor who showed Delilah the ocean for the very first time.

If you are interested in learning more about our foster care program, contact our volunteer coordinator at katelyn@bangorhumane.org to sign up for an upcoming informational meeting and to complete an application. ■

What You Should Know about Fostering

- 1) Foster care parents are often the lifeline between the shelter and a new home.
- 2) ANYone can foster. All you need is love!
- 3) BHS covers 100% of the cost: supplies, medical care, etc. All you need to give is time.
- 4) Every case is different. No two fosters are alike.
- 5) They won't all be "wins" but the wins will outweigh the losses.

Ask the Vet

Q: What are the top summer tips recommended by the vet community for our pets?

A: The summer brings lots of beautiful weather and chances to be outside and enjoy the sun, water and other various activities with our pets. Here are some things to be cautious of during the hot summer months:

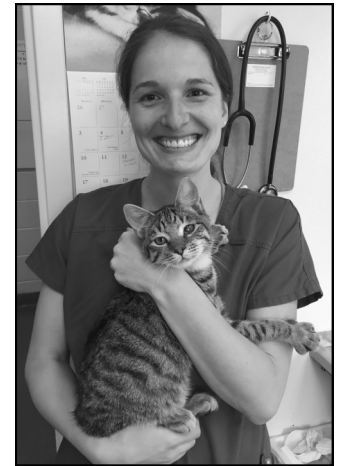
Heat: Always make sure to walk with caution, especially during the afternoon when the sun is going to be the hottest. The asphalt is very hot on their paw pads. Some breeds, such as bulldogs and other short-snouted dogs, have a hard time breathing and can overheat easily. Take breaks in the shade and offer water frequently during those really hot days. Also, remember not to leave your dog in the car for any length of time on summer days. The inside of the car heats up quickly and is very dangerous for dogs and cats.

Water safety: Make sure that young puppies and dogs that are unfamiliar with the water are supervised at all times and are wearing a life jacket. If on a boat, be sure that someone is watching the dog so no accidents happen. If your dog is constantly swimming during the summer, as so many of them are, it is always a good idea to thoroughly dry off

their coat so it doesn't remain damp, which can lead to skin infections. Additionally, clean their ears after swimming to reduce the chance of an ear infection developing.

Food: During the many cookouts and barbeques of the summer it is a good idea to not share any human food with your pets. Some common foods at cookouts can be really dangerous for dogs, like corn cobs and peach pits which can cause intestinal obstructions. Other foods can also give them upset stomachs, which can lead to vomiting and diarrhea. Since people are usually out in their gardens more often during the summer months as well, we want to make sure that we aren't planting anything that would be harmful to our pets if digested, especially lilies and other types of plants like azaleas. The noises of summer, the storms and fireworks, can be very stressful to some animals also. Talk with your veterinarian if your animal has noise phobias to make the best plan to help keep them safe and calm.

Lastly, talk to your veterinarian about which products your pet needs to protect them from parasites, heartworm, fleas and ticks. There are a wide variety of preventative products, such as topicals, orals, col-



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

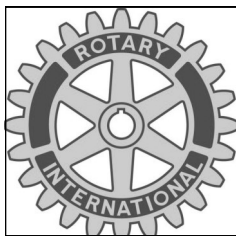
Paws for Thought

Cats can have up to 3 litters a year with an average of 4 kittens.

Did you know that a new mom can become pregnant again while still nursing a litter?!

Please spay and neuter!

Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events



The Bangor Rotary awarded BHS with a \$1,000 grant to help us expand youth outreach and educational programs. Thank you!



In March we launched our "Cats for Laps" outreach program where volunteers take shelter pets to visit the residents at Ross Manor!



Electronics End hosted an e-waste collection and raised nearly \$1,000 to help our shelter pets. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE!

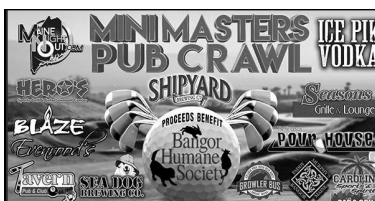
2016 Paws on Parade

Make It Wag!

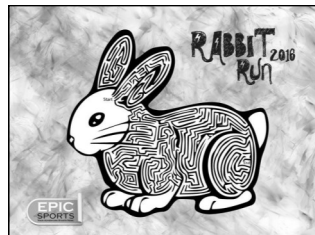
September 24th, 2016
Bangor Waterfront

To register:

www.pawsonparade.kintera.org



Shipyards Brewery Company partnered with local restaurants and bars to host the first Mini Masters Pub Crawl, raising over \$2,500 for us! Thank you!



Epic Sports hosted their Second Annual Rabbit Run on May 7th at Bangor City Forest to raise money for their furry friends. Thank you!

Featured Spotlight

You've Got a Friend

By: Stacey R. Coventry



In October 2015, Fawkes, a nine year old male Siamese, was surrendered to the Bangor Humane Society for behavior issues because he was not using the litterbox. During his stay at the shelter, Fawkes appeared to be using

his litterbox in his kennel just fine, so staff presumed that his litterbox issues were linked to an environmental factor in his previous home. But, when he was adopted and returned after a few months for the same reason, they decided to investigate a little further to see if there was a medical reason behind Fawkes' litterbox problems. The initial test results showed that Fawkes had a urinary tract infection, which made it very painful for him to go to the bathroom, which he associated with the litterbox. So, he was treated for the infection and adopted into yet another home.

This time, after less than two weeks Fawkes was returned a second time, again for not using the litterbox. Staff were stumped. They couldn't understand why this otherwise sweet and loving cat would consistently stop using the litterbox.

Grasping for any potential reason that could explain Fawkes' behavior, staff decided to explore a long shot. Fawkes' first owners had declawed him. So, staff ordered some radiographs and additional tests from a local veterinarian to see if any side effects from the declaw surgery could explain why Fawkes would not use his litterbox. The results illustrated exactly that. Some scarring and nerve damage had resulted from his declaw surgery causing inflammation in his paws, which made it very painful for him to use his litterbox. Staff began Fawkes on some anti-inflammatory medication and recommended that his litterbox be changed daily so he wouldn't try to scratch and bury his litter. After weeks of observing his behavior and adjusting his medication, Fawkes was up for adoption for a third time.

At the same time, the Jakubowski family, who volunteer at BHS, were looking for a resident in need of extra snuggles and love. Their family dog had just passed away a few weeks prior, and they were in need of some furry companionship themselves. They had been following Fawkes' journey at BHS and spent time with him during his long stay at the shelter. They wanted to come see him one last time and to say goodbye before he was adopted. But, to their surprise— they had fallen in love and couldn't say goodbye after all! Instead, they adopt-

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From Purrs to Tail Wags

2016 KITTEN SHOWER SATURDAY JUNE 25TH 10 AM TO 4 PM ****Please Note Date Change****

The following items are on our "registry" this year for our newest additions:

- Canned kitten food – any brand or flavor
- Canned cat food – pate style
- KMR (kitten milk replacement) – Pet Ag brand, powder formula
- Kitten nursing bottles
- Fleece/flannel blankets
- Machine washable cat beds
- Cat toys of all kinds
- Johnson's Baby Shampoo – Classic formula
- Unscented/hypoallergenic baby wipes
- Hill's Science Diet Kitten Healthy Development dry food
- Scoopable cat litter



We will be collecting donations at the time of the event and in a Drop Box in the BHS lobby from June 1st to June 25th. You can purchase items online through our Amazon Wish List or at certain locations.

Items from our wishlist can be found at the following locations:

Petco 777 Stillwater Ave, Bangor
PetSmart 482 Stillwater Ave, Bangor
Tractor Supply 1161 Broadway, Bangor
Walmart Stillwater Ave., Bangor
Target Longview Dr., Bangor

Your donation will go directly to the ~2,000+ cats and kittens that are cared for by the Bangor Humane Society staff and volunteers every year.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

Faces of Foster Care

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Nugget

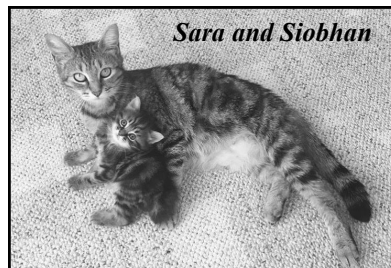
Our dedicated and compassionate foster parents are the lifeline for our most vulnerable shelter pets, nurturing them back to emotional and physical health and helping them heal, grow, and thrive.

Not only do they work in the trenches alongside our staff, they help our shelter pets beat the odds. They give of their homes and their hearts to one animal in need after another. They are some of the strongest human beings in our community— loving our animals like their own and then letting them go as they say goodbye and send them into new forever homes.

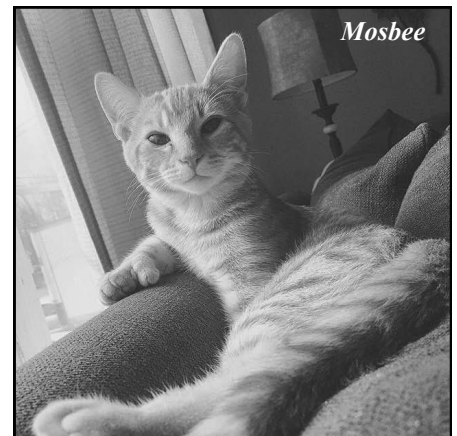
Below are some of the faces of this year's shelter guests that received a second chance through our foster program, along with the faces of some of the foster volunteers who soldiered on by their side every step of the way to give them the fighting second chance they deserve.



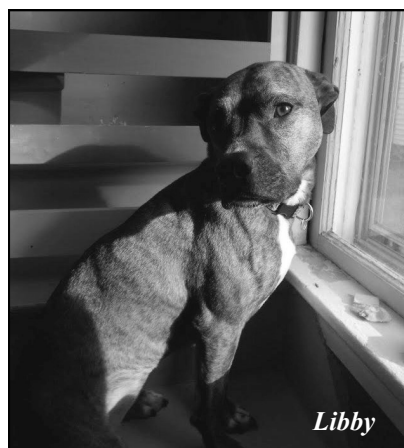
Max



Sara and Siobhan



Mosbee



Libby



Hunt



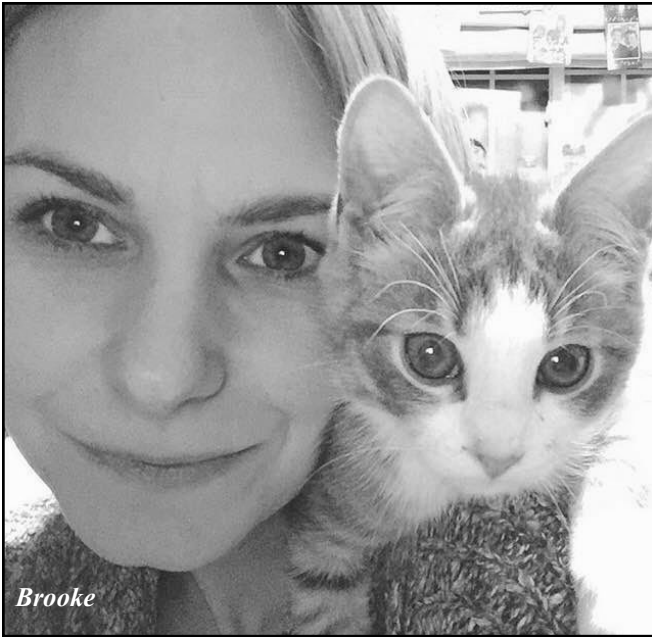
Coco



Superman



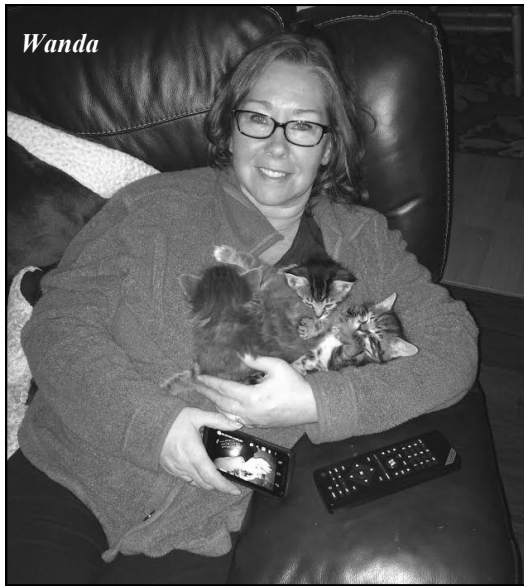
Penelope



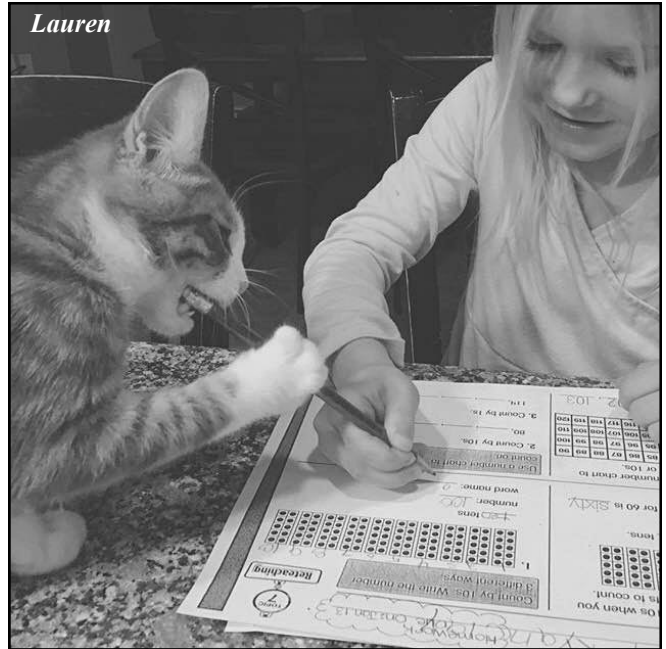
Brooke



Harper



Wanda



Lauren



Biz



Kathy

Continued from page 5

ed him and brought him home.

Within one week, we received this update:

“Fawkes has started exploring the whole house now and is getting more comfortable with his surroundings every day. He is eating and drinking well and continues to use his litter box without incident,” says Kathryn Jakubowski. “Fawkes loves to play



with his toys and he also loves to listen to music (so far we know he is a fan of The Eagles and James Taylor)! He has fit right into our family like he has always been here. We love him.”

Not only has Fawkes been using his litterbox, but he has been off all medication for one month and counting. Staff are convinced that the reduced stress from his new, relaxing home environment has helped diminish the pain from inflammation around the scarred nerves in his paws. Now, he only has to rely on medication in the

case of flare ups.

Fawkes story is a beautiful testament that “*when you’ve got a friend,*” love can heal all wounds— from physical scars to grieving hearts. ■

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.



Thank you for your support!