

PAW PRINTS

Bitter Root Humane Association

Volume 14, Issue 3 Summer 2014

Bark 'n the Park 2014

Bark 'n the Park 2014 promises to be a bigger, better event with more to do, more to see, and more to enjoy at its new location at Hamilton's River Park (Kiwanis River Park) at the corner of Madison St. and S. 9th St.. It starts at 11 am on September 6th with the "Pawrade", a parade of people and pets in costume, on floats, tucked into baby carriages or whatever. Join the Pawrade with your own pet! Maybe you'll win the prize for Best Entry. An agility demonstration and the Doxie Races will follow and then an afternoon of contests. The Tail Wagging Contest is new this year as well as the Peanut Butter Lick and Silly Pet Tricks. You're all invited to attend with your dogs and join in the fun! When you're not too busy, bring your dog to our nail salon, let him or her Bob for Balls or take a crack at our Do-It-Yourself Agility Course. There will be enough hot dogs, soda and beer for everyone and some zydeco music to keep your toes a tappin'. Vendors will be there to entice you with their wares; and face painting available to everyone. Bring your cameras for our "pop your face in" photo boards and your comfy shoes for a relaxing river walk. Admission and all events are free but we hope for donations as always. All proceeds benefit the homeless animals of Ravalli County.



BARK IN THE PARK




Bark in the Park
Sat., Sept. 6 • 11-3pm

Family Fun for Folks and Furry Friends!

MUSIC • BEER • DOXY RACES • CONTESTS • LOCAL VENDORS

Join the "Paw-rade" at 11am with prizes!
Devil dogs hot dogs, 4H ice cream & frozen treats available!

NAIL ART • ZYDECO MUSIC
DIY AGILITY COURSE AND MORE!

FREE TO ALL - DONATIONS WELCOME







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STAR - A MIRACLE WITH FOUR PAWS

Born 2001(?)
To the Rainbow
Bridge June 2014

She came into our lives in December of 2005. She had been severely burned in a meth lab explosion in Wyoming, the fireball rolling over the left side and head of her little curled up sleeping body. Circumstances brought her to Montana and Willow Mountain Vet Clinic where the owners asked that she be euthanized. Dr. Mike sensed something very special in the sweetheart that came to be known as Star, asked that she be surrendered to him and called BRHA.

She was with us for seven months while we searched for the perfect family for her and helped her recover and heal. Buckets of aloe and vitamin E oil were massaged into her little blond pit bull body. We loved her and she loved us right back.

Due to the circumstances of her injuries, she became an anti-meth spokesdog. She and BRHA staff members went to over 20 area schools in the Valley and Missoula to show kids that meth hurts more than just the users. Star really got to the children as an innocent victim of meth. We are convinced that she has probably saved many young innocent lives; it was her purpose and her legacy.

By the time that her "job" was complete, we had found the ideal family. Jim and Dee Dee Glick and their six basset hounds welcomed Star into their home and lives. (It certainly helped that Dee Dee is a burn nurse). Star saw much of the U.S. with Jim, a long haul driver. She came back to BRHA many times



since she was adopted in June of 2006; the last visit was at last September's Bark N The Park. The photo below shows her giving me one of her very special kisses.



Star is gone now; she lived a long, loving and rewarding life. All of us that she touched are deeply saddened by her passing but happy to have known and loved her. Be at Peace, Star Baby.

Sue McCormack



President's Corner

With the advent of summer thunderstorms and lightning, as well as 4th of July fireworks noises, many of us have experienced a show of fear and anxiety in our canine family members. I decided to do some research and found many disparate thoughts and courses of treatment for what is commonly called "Thunderstorm or Storm Phobia." I have included brief mention here of many, but please talk with your veterinarian about your dog's reactions before utilizing any of these suggestions.



reports that one of the most effective treatments for thunderstorm phobia is melatonin, an over-the-counter hormone used by humans to treat insomnia. Some golden owners have alleviated their dog's anxiety by dispensing Calm Pet by NutraBest/Natural Pet Nutrition, which contains valerian, chamomile, kava kava, St. John's wort and melatonin." YGRR also offers some homeopathic remedies and some

flower essences, including an OTC product called "Rescue Remedy". Dr. Patty Khuly suggests, in a special article for USA Today, "Dog Appeasing Pheromone" as another natural therapy. Both Dr. Khuly and YGRR suggest using white noise or soothing dog-calming music such as harp music from professional harpist, Sue Raimond's CD called Noah's Harp, <http://petpause.wordpress.com/about/>.

YGRR mentions "hug therapy or body wrapping". We know that newborn infants are often wrapped snugly in a receiving blanket when admitted to hospital nurseries. Mention of swaddling cloths are found in birthing practices throughout history. The modern equivalent for dogs is called "The Wrap", at www.anxietywrap.com, or "The Thundershirt" from Thundershirt.com.

HSUS suggest what not to do: "Do not attempt to (overly) reassure your dog; this may only reinforce her fearful behavior. Try to behave normally as if you don't notice her fearfulness. Do not lock her in a crate. She may likely injure herself while attempting to get out of the crate. Do not punish your dog for being afraid....it will only make her more fearful. Do not try to force your dog to experience or be close to the sound that frightens her—that may only increase the fear."

HSUS urges, "Your veterinarian is the only person who is qualified and licensed to prescribe medication for your dog. Don't attempt to give your dog any medication without consulting him or her. Animals don't respond to drugs the same way people do, and a medication that may be safe for humans could be fatal to your dog." Although I have quoted some alternative sources above, please talk to your vet first about your canine family member before proceeding with any of them.

- Kathy



WebMD says "there are many triggers for the fear onset, including wind, thunder, lightning, barometric pressure and static electricity....as well as other loud noises such as fireworks or gunshots". The Humane Society of the United States suggests that, "If left untreated, your dog's fearful behavior will probably get worse. The most common behavior problems associated with fear of loud noises are destruction and escaping. When frightened, your dog tries to reduce her fear. She may try to escape to a place where the sounds....are less intense." They suggest things to do. One, "Create a safe place for your dog to go to when she hears the noises that frighten her. You can create a "hidey-hole" that is dark, small, and shielded from the frightening sound. Encourage her to go there when you're home and the thunder occurs. Consider using a radio near the spot to help block out the sound. Feed her in that location and help her associate that spot with "good things". She must be able to come and go freely. Confining her when she doesn't want to be there will only cause more problems. Two, distract your dog. This method works best when your dog is just beginning to get anxious. Get out the tennis ball and play fetch, or practice some commands that she knows. Reward her with praise and treats for paying attention to the game or the commands. If you can't keep her attention, stop the process. Three, Behavior modification techniques are called "counter condition" and "desensitization: are mentioned, http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/fear_thunder_loud_noises.html, but it may be a good idea to seek professional guidance before utilizing these techniques.

Some natural treatments are suggested by Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, <http://ygrr.org/doginfo/behavior-phobia.html>. "An article in The Whole Dog Journal

SMOKEY... A LOVE STORY

In 2000, when the Bitterroot Valley was beset with numerous wildfires, Bernie and Linda Helldorfer spent a day volunteering at BRHA. In their own words that day changed their lives forever.

"We adopted from your shelter a 4-month-old black Labrador mix that we named Smokey because of the fire situation that brought us to him. We live in a borough of New York City, but we have a summer home in Stevensville, MT. For years we would drive to Montana each summer with Smokey. He brought us so much joy that we cannot begin to describe. We never had any children, and Smokey came to be our "little boy". We loved him so very much, and he in turn gave us a great deal of love. There was nothing we would not do for Smokey. So when we returned to New York from Montana this past summer (2013) and Smokey was diagnosed with lymphoma, we were devastated. We were prepared to do whatever we needed to do. His battle, however, was short. After only three chemotherapy treatments, he died in our backyard October 12 (2013) with his eyes open looking up at the sky. We believe he was either looking up to God in heaven or up at the sky as if he was going back home, being he came from "Big Sky" country. We are grateful that he did not suffer long and that God took him naturally without our having to make any decision. Since that horrific day, we have been heartbroken. We would like to turn our grief into something positive and that is the reason for this letter."

Bernie and Linda had organized a benefit fundraiser for BRHA in honor of Smokey's memory. "We would like to help make possible other adoptions so that other dogs can be given the chance Smokey was given and to give other people the joy we had." It was to be held on August 16 but had to be cancelled due to very serious health issues. They hope to reschedule it for next year. BRHA thanks the Helldorfer's and sends wishes for recovered health. Smokey was very lucky to find such a wonderful family.



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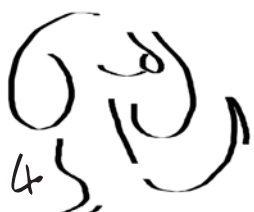
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Memorials

May 16 through August 15, 2014

BRHA gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of so many who wish to honor the memory of loved ones. We are humbled by the dedication and love of animals that those departed loved ones exhibited, and are truly grateful to their families for suggesting that memorials be sent to the BRHA for the benefit of the animals.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PETS

For Boots, Buffalo, Bandit, Buddy, Ace And Rebar	From Carol & Fred Fowler
For Jo Cee Necker	From Diane & Kent Myers
For Sam	From Bonnie Mochan
For Cinch	From Vic & Anne Frugoli
For Wizard. The Rat, adoptee	From Nancy Braun
For Zoe	From Shirley Wheat
For Africa	From Diane Ulrich
For Mya	From Erma Badt
For Bear	From Dan & Kelley Floyd
For Star	From Dee Dee & Jim Glick
For Bobbie	From Anne & Victor Frugoli
For Jackie	From Ann Marie Carbin



BEAR FLOYD

On July 3rd, 2014 Bear departed this world. He left behind his pal Abbie with whom he shared many great experiences, and his loving owners, Kelley and Dan Floyd. Bear held a special place in the lives of everyone he associated with. His size made him look formidable but he was a gentle soul. He brought undying love into the world and he will be greatly missed.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PEOPLE

For Lynn Lovitt	From Dixie Dies Ellen Worth Pauline Lovitt
For Menena Simmons	From Alice Foster
For Chrissy Wallinder	From Alice Foster & "Little Leigh"
For Maybelle Ellsworth Hays	From Donald & Grace Koeppen
For Irene Gifford	From Shirley Wheat
For Lorainne Crotty, Arnie & Louis	From Richard White
For Carter Mason	From Dr. Toni Knott
For Karen Morton	From Jim & Joyce Moerkerke, Cody & Kelly
For Katie Moran	From Charlotte Oien Roberta & Thomas Opdenweyer Christi & Jim Knutson

IN HONOR OF

For Marcia Prather Birthday	From Dede Ferguson Joe & Gloria Strickland
For Kathy Good, thanks for hosting the Family Reunion	From Your Entire Family
For James Cain	From Ted & Ellinor Davidson
For Lloyd Hosman	From Brooke Fremouw & Terri Contapay
For The Deitrich Family	From Julie & Robert Smith



Volunteers

By Michele Craig, Volunteer Coordinator

It all started last summer... the shelter was planning a Rummage Sale and we felt exactly like someone who knows they are going to have houseguests and needed to make sure everything was at its best!

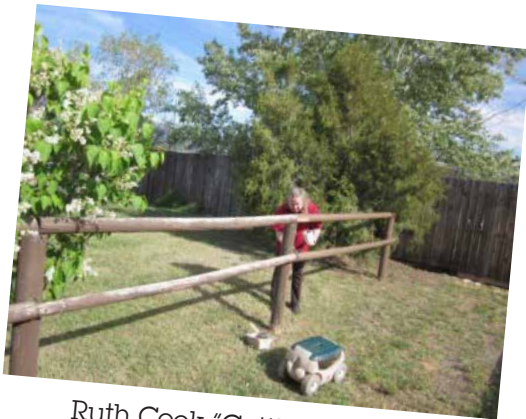
Dr. Linda Perry Turner started a landscaping project with volunteers Dan Turner, Parnelli and Paul Sharp, DeeDee Sanders, Samantha O'Byrne, Carla Weincek and Donna Haglund and the transformation was amazing! We had a great rummage sale, and the benefits of the improvements have spurred us all on to do more. Volunteers at the shelter have been continuing "The Shelter Beautification and Clean Up" (BCU) plan as an ongoing project. Volunteer Becky Lovejoy now leads the BCU and is guided and supported by Shelter Manager Eve Burnsides and Volunteer Coordinator Michele Craig. Projects completed since last summer include:

- Massive Fall and Spring Clean-up days involving several volunteers and staff, and cleaning up the grounds and storage units.
- Ongoing management and clean-up of noxious weeds.
- Removing weeds in the entire back shelter area by "super weed whacker" George Stamoulis and his industrial weed whacker.
- Painting and repair of the Volunteer Trailer fencing, trim and the Officer Intake gate.
- Painting of the shelter main entrance sign and front entry.
- Ongoing pruning and removal of overgrown trees/bushes/invasive weeds.
- Pruning, trimming and weeding of the trailer yard and shelter entrance.
- Sanding, repair and painting of the "Meet and Greet" bench.
- Ongoing repair or replacement of the wood and wire fences for the dog runs.
- Repair of our second "Meet and Greet" pen.
- Painting and spiffing up of dog agility equipment and some new dog "furniture".
- The addition of professional signs designating the Volunteer Office, the Officer Intake gate as well as the second "Meet n Greet" pen.
- Repainting and spiffing up our parking lot including: fire lanes, handicapped spaces and yellow parking spaces.
- Moving pea gravel to level walkways during winter.
- Fixing latches, gates and hinges.

Along with the amazingly organized and dedicated BCU leader, Becky Lovejoy, our Beautification and Clean up Team Includes:



George Stamoulis
"Super Weed Whacker"



Ruth Cook "Getting it done"



Ann and Frank Machek
"Super Volunteers"



Ruth Bizarro-Cook, Amy and Steve Greer, Kathie Hansen, Ann Hardenberg, Doug Lorain, Kevin Lyman, Ann and Frank Macheck, Bobbie Mitch, Diane Myers, Judy Paul, Debbie Reid, Chris Schultz, George Stamoulis, Mary and Ray Williams.

We could not have accomplished all this without the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers! We have many plans for the future...and we would love your help! We can use your skill, talent or hobby to make the shelter a better place for everyone. If you would like to be part of our next project, please call Volunteer Coordinator Michele Craig at 210-1375.



Becky Lovejoy, Mary and Ray Williams, Ann Hardenberg
"Working Hard"



Becky Lovejoy and Ann Hardenberg
"Taking Care of Business"



Ray Williams
"Raking Care of Business"

Allegra proudly supports the Bitter Root Humane Association



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Spin & Win at the Fair

Spin & Win is a fun, new addition to our Fair booth this year. Spin the wheel, use posted clues to answer a question about the BRHA or the animal shelter, and win a prize! Nothing too tough, perhaps nothing you don't already know. It's our way of helping our community understand what we do and why we do it. Many people still don't know that it takes \$300,000 a year to keep the shelter operating. Or that we're an open admission shelter that never refuses care and refuge to companion animals in need. Maybe they don't know we accept rabbits, reptiles, ferrets, and rats as well as dogs and cats. Take a few minutes to stop by the Commercial Building, take a Spin at our booth, and win a prize. It's that easy. And while you're there, check out our adoption board and vote for your favorite pet photo!





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PASS IT ON

to a friend when you are finished reading your newsletter. By increasing readership and awareness you will be performing a valuable service for the animals we're trying to help. You can assist us in cutting costs by advising us of your change of address or duplicate mailings. We would appreciate your help in updating our records.

New Membership & Renewal Application

Every membership helps the animals & gives you a voice in our association!

Please check your address label for the date your membership expires. Thank You!

Seniors: \$7 ea _____, Individuals: \$15ea _____, Business: \$30 _____, Pets: \$2ea _____.

Please Print

Your Name/s _____ Email _____

Pets Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Extra Donation _____

- Please send me information on the Kennel/Cage Sponsorship Program
- Please have the Volunteer Coordinator contact me
- Please contact me with information on the Foster Program

