



Bitter Root Humane Association

PAW PRINTS

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Summer 2015



Bark 'n the Park 2015

If you attended this event last year, we know you'll be back. And if you didn't, you're in for a real treat! It's fun, it's free, and it's an all-dog day.

Scheduled for September 12th at Kiwanis River Park in Hamilton, it starts with the "Pawrade" at 11 am. \$25 prize for the best costume! After that you'll have to decide what to do first; the Agility Demo and DIY Agility Course, Doggie Nail Art by Salima, Bobbing for Balls or a Paw Reading by Madame Eve. Stay for the Doxie Races and some hot dogs with cold beer or soda.

Buy a new dog bed, some treats or a chew toy.

Relax in the shade while you root for your favorite in the Best Kisser contest. And who's going to win the infamous Peanut Butter Lick this year?

Did we mention that admission is free?

Bring your dog(s), your kids, your aunt and uncle and all of your friends and their dog(s) and enjoy the day with us.

River Park is located at the intersection of South 9th St. and Madison St. - on the river, of course. All dogs must be leashed. All donations and proceeds benefit the Bitter Root Humane Association's animal shelter in Hamilton. See you there!

Shelter hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri - 1-6pm; Wed - CLOSED; Sat - noon-5pm; Sun - 2-5pm



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This year has really flown by!

Eve Burnsidess, Operations Manager

We've seen quite a variety of creatures ...everything from a pot belly pig to cockatiels, lizards, hamsters, goats, and BUNNIES...lots of bunnies! (Come on down and choose yours today...!)

With the extreme heat, we have had pools out for the dogs and have had to replace a couple because the dogs were trying to get the fish (kiddie pool décor) at the bottom of the pool! Oh well, they are happy

and entertained-that's what matters...

So far this year, we have taken in over 300 animals and adopted out or returned to their owners a whopping 96.7%!!! In addition to that, we have taken over 300 calls regarding lost or found pets and reunited a good many of those pets and their owners without the animals ever entering the shelter.

We love happy endings! Thanks for supporting us and making those happy endings possible!

"SPUDS-R-US"

**Mary Gehl,
Spud Master**

One potato, two potato, three potato, four...five potato, six potato, seven potato more! No, it's not the old children's nursery rhyme but the coming of "Spuds-R-Us", the newest non-profit food booth at this year's Ravalli County Fair!

Every non-profit organization is constantly trying to find new fundraising ideas and "Spuds-R-Us" is the brainchild of four organizations: Bitter Root Humane Association, Corvallis Grange, Daly Mansion and St. Mary's Mission, who have come



the booth, and customers will be able to choose their fresh baked russet potato served naked, veggie style with broccoli in cheese sauce, topped with chili & cheese or loaded to the max at family friendly prices! And let's not forget Pepsi product beverages & water will also be available.

BRHA will be manning the booth all day on Saturday, September 5th...

come say hi and make "Spuds-R-Us" your food booth choice!

together to not only raise money for their organizations but to bring a new taste treat to fair food row.

Each day volunteers from one of the organizations will man



Volunteer Outreach at Assisted Senior Living Centers

**Michele Craig,
Volunteer Coordinator**

The Volunteers at the Bitter Root Humane Association do so much more than walk dogs and play with cats! We currently have a team of dedicated volunteers who bring canine companions to Senior Living Centers throughout the Bitterroot Valley!

The BRHA currently partners with Discovery Care, Valley View Estates, The Living Center, Sapphire Lutheran Homes and the Remington to visit at least twice a month and let residents connect with both the volunteer visitors and the dogs. We can't figure out who enjoys these visits the most: the residents, the volunteers, or the dogs! We sincerely thank each of these wonderful places for allowing us to visit with their guests.

Sometimes dogs can provide warmth, affection and attention to residents that may feel uncomfortable reaching out to people. Our volunteer teams consist of Diane Myers and her Jack Russel "Stella", Bob and Jackie Dabney with their rescue dogs "Dixie" and "Lily" (who dress up in costumes for their visits), and Carrie Storrow and her dog "Stetson". Stetson is kind of a super

dog because not only does he help the Bitter Root Humane Association with community outreach, but he is also an "Ambassadog" with Montana Companion Animal Network (MTCAN) where he and Carrie visit schools. If you would like more information about our outreach program please contact Volunteer Coordinator Michele Craig at 210-1375.



President's Corner

Linda Perry Turner, DVM, President

If the success of an organization can be measured by the support it receives from the community, the Bitter Root Humane Association must be a success. This year alone, five local businesses or groups have sponsored fundraisers for the BRHA and donated their proceeds to support the animal shelter on Fairgrounds Road. Sapphire Lutheran Homes held a wonderful dinner under the theme, "Paws for a Cause". The Stevensville Country Store arranged "Pet-a-Palooza" and continues to collect donations on our behalf. Hamilton's Marketplace planned the "Dog Days of Summer" and the Bitterroot Petmobile offered a vaccination clinic. A group of expert gardeners offered a "Secret Garden Tour". All events were designed to help support Ravalli County's finest animal shelter (ok, only animal shelter). Our sincere thanks go out to all of you, but it doesn't stop there.

So many local businesses, large and small, offer us discounted services or products. Local veterinary clinics treat our dog and cat guests at reduced rates. In years past, Sam's Spade and friends landscaped the front of our building. Now it's being maintained by volunteers from the community, including students from the Stevensville High School Key Club. We appreciate the support of the Ravalli Republic and KLYQ, the feed stores, kennels, and graphic designers. We could not operate at the level we do without the financial and physical support you provide. Without donations of cookies from local grocery stores, our events would have no flavor. Without donations of leftover pet food, our community pantry would be bare. We depend upon volunteers to help exercise our dogs, socialize our cats, and participate in our fundraisers. Thanks to you all, but it doesn't stop there.

To the donors of art for our Previously Appreciated Art Sale, thank you. Without your contributions, there would be no art to re-appreciate. To the artists who decorate wreaths for our Festival of Wreaths, thank you. Your talented expressions of Christmas are enjoyed by all in attendance, especially the buyers. To Mary Gehl, hobby caterer extraordinaire, thank you. Your creations are divine. Please continue to use us as your official tasters. And to those of you whom I have not yet thanked, now that your contributions are not taken lightly. They say it takes a village to raise a child. It takes an entire county to maintain an animal shelter. We couldn't do it without you.

When I first visited Hamilton on sabbatical in 1986, I witnessed store keepers loaning money to their customers who were a little short on cash that day. I was trusted to take home a comforter as a potential match for my curtains, on no more than my name and a promise to come back and pay if the match was good. During a dinner with my neighbors, I expressed my love for gray Arabs only to come home the next day with one tied to my fence. "Keep her for a month", said my neighbor. "If you like her, stop by and buy her". Q.T. foaled the following Easter in my pasture. How could anyone fail to be impressed with a community so kind, so generous, and so thoughtful. I am even more impressed with our community today. You have kept the BRHA strong since its beginnings in 1972. I can't wait to see our future.

Haiku

A long walk to the
river, a girl and her dog
breathe cool evening air.
-JL



6 Vets and a Scout

Scout came all the way from Guatemala and was surrendered to us in March by a family divided. Scout is long haired, black and handsome and has all the zest for life a 3½ yr. old Stock Coat German Shepherd could boast. He was admitted to the shelter like all dogs in need of a new home but within the hour was in obvious pain. He was rushed to Dr. Hans Boer at Companion Pet Clinic (veterinarian #1) for an exam and pain meds. Since then, he has been neutered at Fox Hollow by Dr. Alan Applebury (veterinarian #2) and vaccinated. That much we know. The rest of his history and how he came to be so ataxic (uncoordinated) in his hind legs wasn't clear. We were told he had a "compressed disc" at the age of two (from an undisclosed injury) and that a steroid injection gave him some short-lived relief. His gait is still abnormal and he walks very low in the hind end.



Scout was pretty upset at first but never mean. When Dr. Boer tried to X-ray his spine, Scout wouldn't lie still enough for multiple images to be taken. Some abnormalities were noted but their relation to his condition wasn't clear.

Eventually Scout relaxed and came to enjoy time spent in the exercise yard behind the shelter, stealing our hearts when we found he couldn't run like other dogs (not that he doesn't try!). We may be a small shelter in the middle of a small town in rural western Montana but we have a lot of people who love animals. Staff and volunteers alike began to worry about Scout's future. Should he be placed in a cart at such a young age? Was there anything that could be done for him, great guy that he is?

We imposed upon Dr. Boer again, asking him to send Scout's x-ray to a board-certified veterinary radiologist (veterinarian #3) to see if anything could be done. Again, minor changes were noted but none explained Scout's apparent weakness. It became a question of which neurons were affected, those in his spine or in his limbs. Reflex testing by Dr. Linda Perry Turner (veterinarian #4) localized Scout's problem to his spine, but determining the site and cause of his problem

required more extensive testing. A consultation with Dr. Rick Scheer, a board-certified veterinary surgeon (and veterinarian #5) in Great Falls gave us the answer. Bring Scout to Great Falls for a CT scan! Scout couldn't have received better treatment at the Big Sky Clinic with Dr. Scheer. But even a fluoroscope-directed myelogram, multiple digital x-rays, and a CT scan failed to reveal the source of Scout's problem. Disappointment was starting to set in.

It's funny how things happen in a small town. One more avenue toward

healing opened up for Scout when Dr. Turner ran into Dr. Linda Dworak, a specialist in veterinary acupuncture and chiropractic (and, yes, veterinarian #6), at Super 1. Dr. Dworak later spent an hour with Scout trying to unlock his spinal muscles and get his nerves firing again. It may take time but there's hope for improvement. Now it's time for Scout to find his forever home with an individual or family that will work with him, keep him safe, and return the love he's waiting to give – a special home for a very special dog.

P.S. The veterinary services that Scout received were donated or provided at reduced cost by all veterinarians involved. The BRHA would like to express its sincere appreciation for your generosity and kindness. As the kids say, you rock!



Haiku

Why did you leave me
at the shelter when I am
in our family?

-JL



Memorials

Feb. 1, 2015 through May 15, 2015

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 Sally | From Jennifer Laing
Judy Paul
Debbie & Michael Reid
Michele Craig | For Betty D'Almedia | |
| For Jumping Jack | From Barbara Davis | For Patrick Morin | |
| For Dually | From Jeff & Kasey Laursen | For Ellen & Douglas Hoblitt | |
| For Gordo | From Tori Nobles/Don
Stephens
Judy Paul
Debbie & Michael Reid
Jenny Laing | For Alvin Yanzick | |
| For Jackson Estler | From Marie & Dan Myers | For Nancy Roxane Yanzick | From Joseph & Kea Yanzick |
| For Trigger | From Jeff & Kasey Laursen | For Sylvia Stewart | From Donald & Sandra
Lunceford |
| For Donner Turner | From Marie & Dan Myers | For Sharon Davis | From Joan & Don Lodmell |
| For Bailey | From Debbie & Michael Reid | For Jim Inglett | From Joan & Don Lodmell |
| For Ivy | From Jeff & Kasey Laursen | For Judy Larson | From Paul & Lina Gyles
Bob & Jane Popham |
| For Little Mac McCormack | From Mom & Dad
Kate Shandra
Cindi & Dick Hayne
MaryGehl
Mike & Dawn Winn
Kathy Good | For Leta Ott | From Wilma & Bill McCart |
| For Maddy | From Carol & Andy Carciere | For Skip Fresn, BRHA Volunteer | From Rebbeca Lovejoy &
Douglas Lorain
Amy & Steve Greer
Volunteers, Staff & Board
Of BRHA
Jim & Bobbie Mitch
Kasey & Jeff Laursen
Michele & Derrell Craig
Barbara & Dave Garten
Christine Schultz
Paula Peterson |
| For Tessie | From Jeff & Kasey Laursen | For Mitchell Gary Hoodenpyle Fey
"Mitch" | From June, Ken, Tasha &
Jennifer Padill |
| For Tana Johann | From DeeDee & Tom Sanders
Kara & Dennis Stockard | | Linda Penner
Steve Tallent
Mel & Marty Walters
Diana Sanderson
Sue Payne |
| For Diego Cote | From Dick & Cindi Hayne
Melinda & Herb Depp
Ann Bachman | For Joan Contiwal | From Amy & Steve Greer |
| For Molly 1999-2015 | From Diana Brandt | | |

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PEOPLE

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| For Louise Langton | From Judy Paul |
| For Naomi Wardwell | From Beth Robbins |
| For Julie Grauer | From Wally & Julie Grewe |
| For Jean Arvish | From Joseph & Kea Yanzick |

IN HONOR OF

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| For The people and pets in the Hayne Household | From Ann Bachman |
| For Jorja, BRHA adoptee | From Bill & Jane Schilling |
| For lone & Ray Robinson 50th Anniversary | From The Bieri family & Jan Dyer |
| For Lucy, 2005 BRHA Adoptee | From Donna & Roger Olsen |



BARC If You Need Help!

The Bitterroot Animal Rescue Coalition (BARC) consists of Fox Hollow, the Bitter Root Humane Association, the Montana Companion Animal Network, Inc. (MTCAN), Feral Cat Rescue, Montana Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc., Safe Haven Llama and Alpaca Sanctuary, Inc., Run For Adoption, Inc. (greyhound rescue) and Montana's Monkeys. BARC's mission is to prepare pet owners for the emergency evacuation of their animals and to develop a network of rescue sites for those in need. Towards that end, BARC members have prepared a flier detailing the information and supplies necessary to ensure pet safety. These fliers are available now at the animal shelter at 262 Fairgrounds Rd. in Hamilton and will be widely distributed if wildfires threaten our valley as they've done in the past.

If you want to get a jump on your preparations, take a good photo of each

pet. Proper identification is key to tracking his/her whereabouts within our network of kennels, pastures, and foster homes.

Make a copy of your pet's vaccination records and any medical needs along with extra medication.

Have a travel carrier or trailer available in case you're forced to leave on short notice.

BARC members have also compiled a list of pet-friendly hotels and commercial kennels, some of which also accept species other than dogs and cats.

It's all about planning ahead. We may not be able to stop wildfires before they threaten our homes and family, but we can be ready for the worst if it should happen.

BARC is working in conjunction with the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office, Fairgrounds, Office of Emergency Preparedness, and the U.S. Forest Service.

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**Bitterroot Animal
Rescue Coalition
(BARC)**



**Emergency
Preparedness
for Animals**

Organizing your Animal Evacuation Kit
(Pets and Livestock)

Who to Call For Help!

Haiku

Kids play in the yard,
running and jumping while I
am chained up nearby.
-JL





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Hamilton, MT 59840

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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

2016 Membership fees are due anytime after October 1, 2016. Your address label indicates the year that your current membership expires. If you have any questions, please call Sue McCormack 642-9840. Your continued support is so important to all the animals. Thank you!!

Seniors: \$10 ea _____ Individuals: \$20ea _____ Business: \$30 _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Extra Donation: _____

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

Bitter Root Humane Association PO Box 57 Hamilton, MT 59840

