

# PAW PRINTS

## The Corvallis Kindergarten Class of 2012 loves pets!



The Kindergartners of Corvallis and their team of teachers and supporters decided to sponsor a kennel at Bitter Root Humane Association. The project was spearheaded by Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Dona Hinshaw. There is a display in the school hallway just for this project and it was a great success. We are excited to let you know that all kindergartners at Corvallis Primary School teamed together for a community service project! This provided a great opportunity for students to learn how being part of the "Blue Pride" expands beyond our school.

They worked to sponsor a space at the Bitter Root Humane Assoc. The goal was to raise \$150 between the five kindergarten classes to sponsor one space, but in the end, raised over \$300, so two spaces were sponsored with some money to spare to "give some dogs some bones!"

To add to the excitement, one of BRHA's previously adopted dogs visited the classrooms. To help the students relate further to the project, many brought in pictures or drawings of their

pets to add to the hallway doghouse and display.

In return for donations each child/contributor got their name placed on a bone and hung on "Give a Dog a Bone" display.

Since the goal was reached, two signs saying "Corvallis Primary School Kindergarten Class of 2012" are hanging at BRHA in recognition of our project!

The resulting donation will sponsor a dog kennel for one year and a cat room for year! Thank you kids! Please help us thank all the kids, teachers, Corvallis School staff, and parents for supporting their fundraising idea and their love of animals.

If you wish to receive the new e-newsletter, please send your email address to me at [woof@brvmontana.com](mailto:woof@brvmontana.com).

We hope to have an issue once a month with fun stories from the shelter and adopters and community pet families.

Submit pics of your BRHA family pet adoptees! "Like" us on Facebook to follow the ongoing stories of adoptions, staff and volunteers and we hope to find a wise, new advice columnist.

-vicki



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# Ernst & Casey?

I think Ernst Peterson would have loved meeting Casey Shiflett. Casey and her mother came to BRHA several years ago, eager to volunteer together. We learned that Casey had an interest in photography so she jumped into the “fun” task of taking pics of the cats available for adoption. Now cats and kittens are interesting and challenging photography subjects. They often portray their utter disdain for the entire process and thus not giving us their “story” through the image. Some kitties have to “help” so the collection of photographs come out as a streak of blur. At that point, the cat photographer is giving thanks for the invention of digital photography. Casey’s mom helped stage photographs for those cats who could be persuaded that chasing a string or a feather might be fun.

Casey’s interest in photography might not have been born at BRHA but we certainly provided some challenges and some irresistible faces to capture. We are proud to share that one of Casey’s photographs recently won 2nd Place in the Ernst Peterson Photography Contest at the Ravalli County Museum. The museum’s website notes “Renowned photographer and Montana native son Ernst Peterson was born in 1912 at a time when the shadows of the old West still lingered on the horizon. Peterson’s avocation and career as a photographer with National Geographic and publications began as a hobby when he received a Best pocket camera at the age of 14. The Ravalli County Museum is the repository for Ernst Peterson’s photographs and archives. We honor this privilege each year with the Ernst Peterson “Photograph Montana” Contest. Funding from the contest is used to further protect and preserve the Peterson Photo Collection.

I can tell you from personal experience that winning a ribbon at the Ernst Peterson Contest is a huge accomplishment. Many entries make up the successful show and it grows every year. A winning entry is a treasure and a true compliment to the photographer’s skill.

Congratulations Casey and thanks for sharing the photo with us.



Super I Foods, Hamilton & Stevensville and Purina recently partnered with Bitter Root Humane Association to hold an event at each store. On April 12, we took dogs and volunteers, raffle prizes donated by Purina and Super I Foods and lots of giveaways to both stores for a fun day. Partnering with other businesses in town is important for all of us. It gives the business a chance to participate in our mission of finding homes for animals as well as helping us spread the word about our enrichment programs, fostering, volunteers and raising a little money too. Three dogs were adopted! We would like to thank Super I Foods in Hamilton and Stevensville for their invitation, their enthusiastic support and for treating us so well. Thank you to all of their staff; we very much look forward to doing this again as well as partnering with other Ravalli County businesses.

Now, I don’t skateboard, but I sure did appreciate hearing from the Hendrick Board Company in LA, and that was a surprise. It turns out they have a program with their active young company that encourages volunteerism and donations from a younger crowd by sponsoring animal shelters. They ask their customers to nominate worthy animal shelter nonprofits. Darren told me he usually gets one nomination, but he got “three” on our shelter and they were “lengthy emails telling about our shelter” so he was eager to talk with me. We had a nice chat and shared stories about our programs and our shelter; he told me he especially loved our ‘Senior for a Senior’ program and the story of Lady. BRHA will now be receiving regular donations based on customer designations and sales in our area. It seems we already have a fan club so check out [www.hendrickboards.com](http://www.hendrickboards.com). They also have T-Shirts and casual jewelry. We will give more info later on our facebook page.

Vicki Dawson



# New Board Members

*Welcome to the team!*

**Christie Anderson** I have loved animals for as long as I can remember. I think my first "official" rescue took place when I was about five and brought home a stray cat from Sunday school. Fast forward to residing in the beautiful but poor Chama Valley in northern New Mexico, I just could not take another day of driving by dead and abandoned dogs on the highways. So in 1998, with the help of volunteers, I founded the Chama Valley Humane Society, Inc. and served as founding President for 2 years, returned in 2008 when the organization was about to go under, reorganized, created a new board, set up a written income and expense budget w/ activities to meet goals for 2009/2010. Rescuing and rehoming unwanted puppies, dogs, cats and kittens it very emotionally satisfying, but I truly believe that prevention of unnecessary litters and education is needed. Spay & Neuter and adoptions are my primary interests.

*Personal Attributes:*

Organization, follow through and accountability  
Business Planning, public outreach, marketing, event planning

Dog and horse training. I train horses using "Natural" Vaquero methods (horse whisperer).

**Kathie Butts** I am a cat person. We currently share our home with 3 of them; Fu Man Chou, Dora the Explorer and Helga. We brought home a German shepherd puppy, named Kee in October. He has blossomed into an eighty pound 9 month old. Last but not least - there is a very special place in our lives for my all time favorite animal friend, a five year old Schipperke named Sailor. He is one of the happiest, smartest, funniest, most entertaining creatures I have ever had the pleasure of spending time with. When Kathy asked me to consider becoming a part of the board, I initially struggled with the time commitment, even though I very much enjoyed being on a BRHA committee recently and am always impressed with the careful thought and planning that seems to be a part of all BRHA functions. Eventually however, I determined that I may be qualified to help the Board, particularly if the Board continues to evolve in the directions that were shared with me by Kathy and Vicki. I see an inventive and changing model in the future. My husband and I share an ownership position in our construction corporation, I am a sole proprietor of my real estate business and I am the operations manager of the Hamilton office of Prudential Montana Real Estate. I am not afraid of technology, not afraid to learn something new and not afraid to think outside any box.

*continued on page 6*

## Oh rats .....

*A LOVE STORY by Atoni Thunder*

*Once upon a time... in a dark, cold and snowy burrow in Alaska, lived Molly and Melvin Rat. They loved each other very much. One day Mr. and Mrs. Smith came by. They were very lonely and began to talk to Molly and Melvin. They liked each other very much! Melvin and Molly decided to adopt their human counterparts and since the Smith's home was much larger they moved in. Not long after, there were baby rats and more baby rats. It was turning into one BIG happy family. There were days spent running, nuzzling, sunning and getting belly tickles (the rat family's favorite.)*

*And, although you may think this was a happy ending, one day an Animal Control Officer showed up at their home. He had shocking and frightening news for the family...Molly and Melvin were not WHITE and only WHITE rats (according to law) were allowed to live! The officer said Molly, Melvin and their kids were to be euthanized. Once the officer left, the family cried and nuzzled and thought... "what could they do to save the family?" Then the Smiths' had a wonderful, but also a sad idea. They would buy the Rat family a plane ticket to Missoula Montana. From there they would drive them to a wonderful shelter, The Bitter Root Humane Association in Hamilton, where they knew they would be safe, well cared for and loved. The big day came and finally the entire family arrived at the shelter, they were safe at last. There were two hours of farewells; nuzzles, kisses and tears. Lives were saved but at what a terrible cost for a loving family.*

*This story is very loosely based on an actual event at the shelter. In Alaska, Canada and I'm sure in many other areas, only white rats can be pets, the rest are euthanized. To date (out of 22) we have 13 rats available for adoption. They are free to loving homes. They love humans, are playful and have health certificates. Please help make this a storybook ending.*

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# President's Corner

Kathy Good, BRHA President

Greetings to all our members and supporters. During our winter appeal we found that, not only did we receive much appreciated monetary support, but adoptions seemed to increase during that period as well. Happily, that hasn't stopped. Atoni offered a special for cat adoptions during the month of February, when 25 cats got brand new homes. During the months of January, February and March, 166 of our residents got their greatly hoped for Forever Homes. Mariane in our office posts each and every one of these happy occasions on Facebook and so many of you have posted your congratulations to our furry friends and their new persons. To all who have come in and found your perfect four legged friend, all of us and all of our animals thank you very much.

I am happy to inform you that, in February, the accountancy firm, Galusha, Higgins, Galusha, presented us with the results of their audit. They were tasked with auditing the financial position of BRHA as of December 31, 2010. "The audit included examining evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in our financial statements. It also included assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation." When I presented the audit to the county treasurer, she told me she was happy to see that it was a totally unqualified audit, which means there were no areas of concern and no outstanding questions. None of this was of any surprise to us, but we are of course happy to have it completed and happy knowing that it is a reassurance to all of our supporters.

Our annual meeting in March saw the retirement from the board of our longstanding friend and board member, Sue McCormack. Sue served three terms, nine years, on the board. Sue has been a great asset to the BRHA and during her tenure she was involved in every activity the association had, including everything from washing dishes and laundry to asking for monetary help. Sue has promised that she is not going anywhere, that she will continue with her weekly kitchen duties and help in so many of the other ways she always has. Sue will also continue to co-edit this quarterly newsletter. Thank you Sue. See you in the kitchen!

Kathy

Four paws touch new grass,  
remembering the wonder  
of a loving home.

-jtl



# The Volunteer Corner

## Volunteer of the Year 2011

by Diane Myers, Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteer of the year for 2011, Roberta Fite, has an interesting history with our organization. She has been volunteering at the shelter for at least 12 years. She was helping out before the volunteer program had a volunteer coordinator or any formal organized volunteer program. Roberta started coming in to help whenever the staff was in a bind such as being short handed and she learned to do everything there was to do. That included cleaning, laundry, dog walking, animal care, and office work among other things.

When I became volunteer coordinator four years ago she slipped below my radar as well and it wasn't until last year that we connected and I got her officially onto the books, and that was only because she contacted me. Since then I have come to know her and now understand how she could just quietly go about her business undetected. She doesn't draw attention to herself and just does her jobs quietly and efficiently. I have had the pleasure of working with her in community outreach events taking dogs into the schools. She is always easy to work with and willing to do whatever you ask her to do. Our unsung hero is now finally getting the recognition she deserves for the many years of service she has given to BRHA. We thank her on behalf of all of the animals that have benefitted from her loyal service and dedication.

Congratulations Roberta!



Find your new best friend  
waiting dogs, cats, big or small  
Bitter Root Humane.

-jtl

# From BRHA's Facebook page....



"Be My Valentine," she said!

Valentine gets her "forever home!" Her first posting to Facebook came from Mandy....  
"I actually (we) are having such a great nite :) "Hatchet" is behind me, "Heidi" is on my feet, and "Valentine" is snuggled up next to me... mostly because Anna is sitting here too. lol Val is definitely loving being able to hop on the bed to sleep...just snoring away lol this is so wonderful :)

Thank you for letting me bring this wonderful girl into our family

XOXOXO

Mandy, Valentine & family

## Adoption Tails

### That's my dog, her name is Brownie!

Brownie was running amok all over Hamilton. She and her other partner in crime were picked up on several different occasions by animal control. Finally, the owner gave up the two dogs to us because she couldn't control these vicious dogs! Now, this is funny because once they were here and separated, they were both sweet as could be.

Brownie came to us in October and stayed a long while. The family that adopted her fell in love right away.

The boy in the family was looking for a pet on the internet and saw Brownie's face. He said to his sister, "that's my dog and she'll be waiting for me when I get there."

The family walked in and yup sure enough there was Brownie standing in the lobby. The boy said "see I told you she'd be waiting." I took them to the Meet & Greet yard with Brownie, but Brownie hid behind me most the time. They fell in love with her shyness and how much she was attached to me. They knew that she would attach to them once she had been at home with them for a while.

Brownie was very unsure of all this but in the parking lot I handed the leash over to the boy and then she realized what was happening and she immediately attached herself to the boy. "I'm going with him," she seemed to say.

The boy called me when they got home. He said, "we made it home safe and Brownie seems to be liking her new home." I thought it was very sweet of him to call and let us know they were home safely.

That is the Brownie story. The picture is of Brownie and the boy that fell in love with her on the internet. What a great match.com story...lol.

- Mariane



Brownie and her new boy

### Maya the Lab ...

"i adopted mya the lab cross from u and wanted to let u know she is doing great..she is still afraid of alot of things but is getting better..she has put on weight and is very healthy..my son and her r best buddies just like i thought they would b..she knows when he is coming home from school and will wait for him by the door.. that is her boy for sure..thank u so much for mya she is a wonderful dog..ps she loves to play fetch with her pink tennis ball lol..i will try to send u some pics of her and my son son. thanks again.."



# Memorials

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 ...

To: Scooter From: Kari & James Halstead  
To: Buck, Odie, & Mattie From: Dave & Sue McCormack  
To: Luke & Curtis From: Phil & Danielle Dupuy  
To: Pere From: Patricia & Samuel Smith  
To: Grant, Tulip & Tripoli From: Mario & Scottie  
To: Toby; From: Barbara Werner  
To: Kip From: Ted & Marti Odmark  
Valentine & Buckshot  
To: Mattie Hayne From: Wendy Peterson  
From: Deb Dawson/Bob Tabke  
To: Tinker Myers From: Jenny Laing  
To: Beau, Wally & Henry From: Allison Murray  
To: Pepper From: Barbara Bayer  
From: Jean Steele  
To: Brandy From: Barbara Bayer  
To: Dux From: Sue & Dave McCormack  
From: Charlotte & Charlie Oliver  
To: Molly From: Dick & Judy Estler  
To: Buddy From: Diane & Kent Myers

To: Katherine M. Curtis

From: Madelyn Klose

## In Honor of ...

Mable McKillop's 100th Birthday

From: Ronelle Lying  
From: Barbara Brown  
From: LuAnn & Alan Burgmuller  
From: Coleen Morris  
From: Shirley & Gerald Yanakeff  
From: George & Karen Melnikoff  
From: Elizabeth Watkins  
From: Bette Bedey  
From: Carol Meves & Richard Henry  
From: Huck & Dorie Duus  
From: David & Lynette Donkile  
From: Leonard & Cherry Skokski  
From: Helen Buker  
From: Wallace Reid Family  
From: Michael Cowan & Pam Wood  
From: Pam Wood

Debbie Reid's Birthday

Judy Estler's Birthday

## In Loving Memory of People ...

To: Rochelle Harkins From: Nancy Bennett  
To: Robert Gerloff From: Donald & Kris Peterson  
From: Dorothy Huhtanen  
From: Bob & Jane Popham  
From: Lina Gyles  
To: Terri Chisholm From: Jim Chisholm  
From: Jeff & Lisbeth Lubbers  
From: Stevensville Elementary Staff  
To: Dee Leroux From: George Solander  
& Mary Jane Scott  
To: Dan Cainan From: Bob & Jane Popham  
To: Dorothy Taylor From: Anna Robbins  
To: John Snyder From: Debbie Miller  
To: Don Winters From: Frank & Bobbi McCauley  
From: John & Jan Jost  
From: Marilyn Warren  
To: Royal Printz From: Alice Foster  
From: Mildred Taylor-Williams  
From: 192nd Assault Helicopter Co.  
From: Connie Harwood  
From: Steve Polk & Pat Wise  
From: The old 4B's crew  
To: Shirley Abel From: Mrs. H. Horn  
From: Vicki Dawson  
To: Don McKay From: Mrs. H. Horn  
To: Connie Grenfell Martin From: Stevensville Class of 1961  
To: Barbara Wiley From: Chickie Lietzow  
To: Chris Holman From: Vivian Jeffries

Sleep, yawn, eat, play, eat.

Tumble over onto Mom.

Life of a puppy.

-jl-

*Cat prints on clean car,  
up the windshield, over roof,  
and down back window.  
-jl-*

## New Board Members, continued from page 3

\_\_\_\_Mary Fox I am pleased to continue my support of the BRHA by serving on the board of directors. I have been a resident of the Bitterroot for over three decades. Prior to my retirement, I was part of several entities that were major employers in the valley. I am a charter member of the BRHA Auxiliary. A few years ago, my home was the host site for the annual Spring Tea. Presently, I am the proud mother of two former BRHA residents that I adopted as pups. I am also an emeritus member of the Daly Mansion Board of Trustees. I served as board treasurer during the restoration of the Mansion. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this "family." I totally agree with the message presented recently that the BRHA has a positive ripple affect in our community. The BRHA is an employer providing pet placement, animal population control, pet care education and volunteer opportunities.



# Merle's Door

## Lessons from a Free Thinking Dog

By Ted Kerasote

Published by Harcourt, Inc., 2007

Merle, the stray yellow lab from Utah, found the best of both worlds when he ran into the author of this engaging true story. They met while Ted was rafting the San Juan River and moved to Ted's home at the base of Wyoming's Teton Mountains. It was there Merle had the great fortune to experience life as a domestic companion, complete with indoor accommodations, regular meals, and the love of a good human. A pup from the Navajo Nation who'd learned to hunt down his own food wasn't usually so lucky.

Domesticity for dogs generally involves restraint and confinement which, in turn, can breed protective aggression. Thankfully, that was not Merle's fate. The fondness he and Ted shared for wild places provided multiple opportunities for backcountry ski trips, summer hiking adventures, and fall hunting trips for elk, with never a collar or leash to stifle Merle's natural curiosity. Under Ted's guidance, Merle learned who was safe to pursue (e.g., rabbits) and who was not (e.g., bison and bears). In return, this free-thinking animal who had his own rituals and pleasures taught Ted the true nature of a dog. Who among us would have guessed that a dog might enjoy sliding down snow banks or listening to his own echo?

After installing a pet door to more easily accommodate Merle's toilet-related needs, the author had this to say: "I had reached a point in my relationship with my dog from which there was no going back. I had come to admit that he had a life of his own. At least I couldn't go back easily, and, if I tried, I'd have to resort to the <just> phrase, the phrase every privileged class has used when trying to protect its interest while disregarding those of whom it considers its inferiors: He's just a slave; she's just a woman; he's just a dog. But after witnessing firsthand the breadth of Merle's personality, I'd then have to deal with what the psychologists call <cognitive dissonance>. More bluntly, I'd have a hard time looking at myself in the mirror."

This type of passage combining story with science is accomplished masterfully throughout this book. With over 300 references to published studies on the development, behavior, and psychology of canids, Merle's Door not only entertains but also educates. The two are interwoven so skillfully that the reader hardly notes an interruption to the story line. Finally, there are photos. Photos that bring life to the mental images the reader has formed, and that hold the reader's heart when Ted and Merle's journey together comes to its natural end. I really loved this book. Chances are, you will too.

Reviewed by Linda Perry Turner, Ph.D., D.V.M.

# Dates to Remember

BRHA has a busy and fun summer planned.

May 4	11-3 Adoption Day @ 1st Security Bank, Hamilton
May 28	10 a.m. Memorial Day Parade
May 4	6 p.m. Mutt Strut & 1st Friday, Stevensville
June 23	10 a.m. Western Heritage Days Parade, Stevensville
July 4	10 a.m. July 4th Parade, Hamilton
July 21	10 a.m. Darby Logger Days Parade, Darby
August 4	9:30 a.m. Creamery Picnic Parade, Stevensville
August 29	10 am Fair Parade, Hamilton
October 27	10 am Pet-a-Ween, Murdochs
November 10 & 11	Frosty Paws Photos & Pet Bazaar 10-4 on 11/10 & 12-4 on 11/11

We need more volunteers to help with these events!

Have organizational skills to lend? Wanna help?

Can you walk a dog in a parade?

### **Shoshone - Walked Into Our Lives May 18th, 2011 & Died March 15th, 2012**

Shoshone was an amazing dog with a kind heart, an old spirit, and a happiness we all adored. When we needed a dog for an example at schools to show the kids how well behaved and amazing a dog could be Diane Myers always took Shony along as the demonstrator of love. He lived a great life at the shelter and found lots of love here. He also gave amazing advice on Facebook to our adopters on how to help their animals. Our hearts broke when he passed due to cancer. Thank you Uncle Joe from Valley Pet Clinic and Dr. Boer, Natasha, Deanna at Companion Pet Clinic for taking care of him on multiple occasions. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and board members who loved him unconditionally.



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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.

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## New Membership & Renewal Application

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

Please check your address label for date your membership expires. 2011 dues due soon. Thank You!

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

**2012 Memberships due Now ... Thank You!**

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