

Volume 12,  
Issue 1 Winter 2012

Bitter Root Humane Association

# PAW PRINTS

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**"Oh Shoney, can you tell me ...  
The Shoney Advice Column on Facebook**



**Shoshoni**

*When Shoney came to Bitter Root Humane Association, he didn't know he would gain such fame. The staff and volunteers soon learned of Shoshoni's wisdom, his old soul and his fine gems of advice. So the Shoney Advice Column was born. Shoney's helpful suggestions can be found on Facebook if you "like" Bitter Root Humane Association's page. His following is growing every day!*

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& many contributors of stories

# BRHA is more than an animal shelter

**T**hat has been my message this past month as I visited service organizations in the Bitter Root Valley. The Lions Club and Kiwanis gave me a great welcome as I talked about the partnership we, the BRHA, has with other businesses and service organizations in the valley. With a budget of \$270,000 per year and eight full time staff member, we circulate important funds back into our local economy.

The Bitter Root Humane Association plays an important role helping our community be a better, perhaps kinder place to live. According to the American Humane Association, 98% of Americans consider pets to be companions or members of the family. But direct correlations between domestic abuse and animal abuse says 72% of pet-owning women entering womens' shelters reported reported violence towards their animals. Animal cruelty problems are people problems. When animals are abused, people are at risk. We believe BRHA plays an important part in educating children and adults about the importance of being kind to the animals in our lives as well as the lifesaving act of spaying and neutering.

It is hard to think of the BRHA, with its limited resources, playing such an important role in our community but it is a role that we treasure and have practiced for 35+ years. In my position as Development Director, I talk to many people. People with stories about their pets, stories about pets living in tough situations, pets lost, and a seemingly endless number of animals being born every year without a secure home in their future. The best part is to know how many people care about our work.

This week the Corvallis Primary Kindergarten Class of 2012 stepped up to help animals. These 100 children have committed the month of February to raise funds to sponsor a kennel at the BRHA animal shelter. This kennel will see many dogs come and go in a year, as they move on to their forever home. Any additional funds raised in their quest will be allotted to feeding the animals in the shelter.

We are also having so much fun with our Facebook page. We now have 458 fans with 6 in Canada, 2 in United Kingdom, 2 in Germany, 1 in Turkey, Singapore, Yemen, Romania, Vietnam, India, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Sign on to follow us on Facebook, I promise it will be fun.

Watch for the monthly e-newsletter. If you wish to, send me your email address and I will include you in the mailing (kept confidential of course).

Vicki Dawson

Atoni Dancing Thunder  
Operations Manager

I am excited and privileged to be a member of the BRHA's management team. The first thing most people want to know about me is where did my name came from? I am part Native American and I go by Toni as well as Atoni (the path the sun takes across the sky.)

I am originally from southeastern Pennsylvania and have twenty five years of retail and wholesale management experience, nationwide. I have worked for major corporations as well as sole-proprietorships. I have always enjoyed working with the public and training staff members to take pride in their work, themselves and their community.

For over a decade I have wanted to find a career caring for animals. Managing the super team we have at BRHA, is the perfect opportunity for me to make a difference in animal care and quality of life for our loving guests, here in the shelter.

Feel free to email me at atoni@brvmontana.com  
I'm looking forward to meeting you soon!



# Pets and their personalities

by Kathy Good

I have been thinking a lot lately about the things that my four legged family members do that enchant and entertain me --the things they do which are unique to each of their own personalities—the things that make them fun and loving and which endear them to me. I think about how these little idiosyncrasies are especially important in a couple other situations. I think about what will happen to my special ones if something happens to me. And then I think about those in the care of the shelter, waiting for their true forever home.

My Abbey loves to play with a big ball which she both retrieves and bats around with her front paws like a soccer ball. She loves to retrieve any ball. What if there was no one who would play with her? Mandy Pandly likes to sneak up in the night and poke his head near my face so that I will lift the covers and welcome him in. Lover Boy likes to lay a particular way on my lap while I work on the computer; he likes to reach up and climb onto my shoulder to be carried. Sammie knows when the dogs go outside so that he can come out from under the bed and talk to me and rub against my leg; he also fakes being mad when I remove matted hair, pretending to bite me, purring all the while. How would these three precious kitties impart their favorite things to do if I weren't there? Toy has lived with me for five years and I only recently discovered she can do high five. Fanci had the habit of bumping my hand or forehead when asking for a treat; after I had long arisen from bed, Sadie would tell me she was awake by barking, knowing that I would come lift her off the bed and take her out to potty.

I know that my babies would attempt to communicate with someone else after they became comfortable with a new home, but the fear, loss and loneliness they might feel in the interim gives me great concern. I guess the point in sharing this is just to urge everyone to think about it and to plan if you can, for how your pets will be cared for if you are not there.

At the shelter, I try to imagine those little messages each animal is trying to impart to us. Is that sideways glance from a dog telling us that it is fearful, or is he hearing a long ago voice saying "READY, SET, GO!,"engaging him in play. One cat loved to be held by visitors so that she could lick that person's hair; she obviously brought that habit with her but will need a new owner who will allow her to do that. Retrievers are supposed to love being in the water, but what if the one you are considering adopting is afraid of the water, like my Abbey. Should that make a difference? Cats are often fearful around strangers (like my Sammie hiding under the bed). Can we understand that and allow them the space and time to adjust when we adopt them. When you come in to the shelter to adopt your next family member, watch him (her), listen, hear what they are trying to tell you. You will both benefit from it.

## Hello from Pepper.....

*Hello friends,*

*This is Pepper again; you might remember me as the handsome tabby cat who last wrote to you in the BRHA year-end letter. Guess what?!? I no longer live at the BRHA! I was there for a very long time, but I now have a new home, the best home ever!*

*My people are Bill and Joan, and they are the very best people ever! I love Joan, but Bill is my special favorite. Every morning we get up together at 4 am, it's the best time of the day! I lie on the kitchen table while Bill eats his breakfast, and I chew on the newspaper while he reads. Then we have to do our exercises (Bill and Joan say I need to be on a 'restricted' diet). Bill gets down on the floor on his back and I sit on his chest. After that kind of a workout, I just have to nap in Bill's chair or in his lap, or anywhere I want. There are so many comfortable warm places to nap in my new home!*

*There are also two dogs that live with us, Murphy and Mattie, they are both 'Giant Schnauzers'. They're giant alright, and kind of scary, but I love it so much here, I'm going to let them stay, too.*

*Well, gotta go and greet our company that just arrived. I love to be petted and I love it when Bill and Joan tell their friends I'm such a 'Sweetie'. I do miss my friends at the BRHA, and I wonder every day how many of them have found new forever homes.*

*Oh, and meow very much for the money you generously send us, and for all the animals you save.*

*Your friend,  
Pepper*

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# President's Corner

Kathy Good, BRHA President

As I began my last president's corner I was talking about below freezing weather. So too is that the case as I write today. I still have a lot of the snow (and ice) left from the mid-January storms as I am sure do many of you. We all are particularly attuned to cold weather because of our concern for our animals and I know you join me and taking care to keep them safe.

First let me take the opportunity to thank you all for your response to the fundraising letter we sent out the first part of December. Your generous support is a lifeline for us and we greatly appreciate it and you. Not only did we receive much needed monetary support, but it seems that many supporters took that opportunity to adopt new family members from among our shelter residents. Forty-eight animals found new homes in just the month of December! So, once again, thank you for being there for the animals.

On January 4, Atoni Dancing Thunder, new Operations Manager came to work at the shelter. She will devote her time exclusively to managing staff, animal care and the operations of the Shelter. At this writing, Atoni is doing an excellent job and is apparently just as in love with animals as we all are. Please check her bio here in this newsletter. Come in and meet Atoni. We are excited to have her join our staff and look forward to a great relationship.

We are now preparing for our annual meeting, so I will take this opportunity to notify you of the time. BRHA Annual Meeting will be held March 29, 2012, at the First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 1220 W. Main Street, Hamilton, at 6:30 PM. According to our bylaws, Article III, section 2, "To be eligible to vote at the annual membership meeting, dues must have been paid by 5PM the day prior to the meeting date." Article IV, section 2 states, "Voting by proxy shall not be permitted; however an absentee ballot will be made available to any member requesting one from the Association Secretary. In order to be counted, an absentee ballot must be received by 5PM the day prior to the set election date." If you would like to have an absentee ballot, please let me know by leaving a message for me at the shelter, 363-5311, including your address and/or phone number.

Happy New Year, Happy Valentine's Day and just generally best wishes to you all!  
Kathy

## Proud 2 Adopt Shop

Lions and tigers and bears, oh no ....Dinosaurs and dragons and chickens, oh yes.

A new line of toys have moved into the Proud 2 Adopt Shop at Bitter Root Humane. Come and see these really fun toys! And no-pull leashes and lots of good food!



# The Volunteer Corner

by Diane Myers, Volunteer Coordinator

The largest part of BRHA's mission is to find homes for homeless animals. A great deal of effort is given to this goal by both staff members and volunteers. The volunteers who help in the endeavor perform a variety of jobs that feature the animals in our care.

When an animal becomes an adoptable resident of the shelter its picture is taken. Casey Shifflett and her mother Jill Warren take the photos of the cats and Lori Hutchinson is our dog photographer. Staff member Mariane fills in when they need help. These photos are then entered into a file, reformatted and sent to a website called Montana Pets on the Net (www.montanapets.org). Meanwhile, volunteer Roberta Fite writes a description of the animals with help and input from the staff. These are also sent to the website where the information is posted. If someone is interested in adopting an animal they can view and learn about our current residents before they come in to see them. It saves everyone time and helps the public to identify potential new family members.

Another volunteer, Lisa Emory, compiles and sends a list of the adoptable animals to all of the newspapers in the valley. This information is placed in the classified ads section of the papers. Included in this listing are the animals' identification numbers and a brief description. With the help of local businesses, including stores and veterinarian offices, the photographs and descriptions on Montana Pets on the Net are placed on photo boards all over the valley. Volunteer Chris Schultz makes paper copies of all of the animals listed, and prepares them for delivery. Another volunteer, Sherry Bogdon, drives from one end of Hamilton to the other updating the photo boards. Two more volunteers, Sue McCormack and Vara Mcgarrell take care of the boards in Stevensville and Darby. Yet another volunteer, Marianne Hammerschmidt, puts the current animals on a DVD which is played at the courthouse in Hamilton as people wait in line at the DMV.

The many hours of work and effort these volunteers put in assures that our furry residents receive valuable exposure to the public in many formats. Along with the hard work of our staff members it means loving forever homes for the homeless ones. We extend our thanks to these volunteers who selflessly give of their time and effort.



# From BRHA's Facebook page....



Dear Whom Ever It May Concern:

My name is Valentine and I am a pure breed Pit Bull. I am caring. I am lovable. I deserve a good home. I deserve someone to treat me with kindness. I deserve not to be treated poorly because of my appearance. I adore kids. I adore other animals. I adore all of life's beauties. I am a pure breed American pit bull and I want people to see me for who I am... a wonderful soul with a good heart. Stop judging me because of my breed. Love me for who I am, not what I represent.

Photo & text by Mariane Maynard

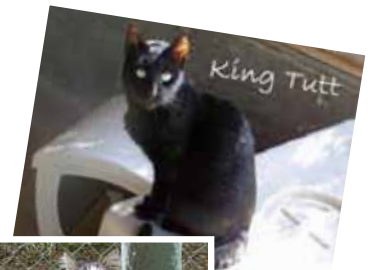
## Adoption Tails

When Romeo lost his mom to cancer earlier this year, he came to the shelter to be with us and look for a new forever home. It wasn't sure for awhile how this was going to turn out; his world was undergoing quite a few changes.

But that perfect home came along, they picked Romeo out special...to be part of their family. Romeo showed up at Frosty Paws in his new western duds and showed off his new family to Santa!



adopted



adopted



Spaz

Oh Emma, Emma, Emma. We loved you so much. We understood you would need a home where you would be understood. We hoped you would truly speak to someone about what you needed.

And someone came! Congratulations Emma, you did it! A forever home.



When Sally was returned from adoption, she was hoping there would be yet another home for her.

She found Pat who loves BIG dogs.

Sally is one of a kind and we think Pat may be also.

Sally has her forever home.



....and staff member Erin took home the bunny!



...and "Squish" still needs a home





# 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: Cisco, a BRHA adoptee	From: Judith Fraser
To: Raven	From: Diane & Kent Myers
To: Pere Smith	From: Diane & Kent Myers
To: Ayla	From: Dave & Genny Deck
To: Barklee James	From: Bill & Judith Rummell
To: Murphy	From: Coinnie Johnson
To: Cleo & Java	From: Joseph & Kea Yanzick
To: Buster	From: Barbara Laverly
To: Eliza	From: Pamela Grant
To: Lucy & Gracia	From: Lois Burgdorfer
To: Bart & Beau	From: Patti & Howard Eldredge
To: Briar	From: Steve & Sue McGrath
To: Panda & Skipper	From: Carol Cash
To: Kido, the World's Best Dog	From: Dan & Nancy Schneider
To: Braxy	From: Diane & Tom Sanders
To: Isaac, Grey, Shadow & Tasha, truly missed loved ones	From: Rob & Joyce Anne Jodsaas
To: Max & Fuzzie	From: Joyce & Dave Fernie
To: Spilea	From: Kathryn Tilly
To: Cutter, Dutch & Tara	From: Sharron Smedley
To: Belle	From: Bill & Mary Lyon
To: Cutter, Sadie & Belle	From: Jeff & Sallie Heintz
To: Boojum	From: Janet Lee & Ted Libbey
To: Chester	From: A.C. Ellison
To: Toby, Teddy & Missy	From: Arlo & Greta Campbell & The Yarn Center
To: Bob Kitty	From: Dorothy Kinsley
To: Chip	From: Northwest Naturals
To: Penny	From: Diane & Kent Myers
To: Chipper Jones	From: Barbara Engler
To: Mister Hercules	From: Deloris Jewitt
To: Cissy, soul mate	From: Nonda Beardsley
To: Blue & Rusty	From: Cathy Greathouse
To: Willie Cat	From: Mike Anderson
To: Huey & Rosie	From: Joyce & Ron Garlick
To: Jasmine & Hildy	From: Samantha Goddess
To: Max	From: Joyce & James Moerkerke
To: Grizzie	From: Jean & Allen Steele

To: Mandy	From: Marianne Nims
To: Angel Babie	From: Carol & David Mackie
To: Pepe Ducato	From: Candice Swiger
To: Socks	From: Steve & Phyllis Kenley
To: Judy	From: Penny Ritchie
To: Darkman, Maggie, Millie, Sabine	From: Penny Ritchie
To: Heidi	From: Donna Grinde
To: Grizzie	From: Charlotte & Charlie Oliver
To: Buddy	From: Barbara McLaughlin
To: Bear	From: Janet Dunham
To: Chloe	From: Lois & Gret Micheletti
To: Zorro	From: Gabby, Ashley & Trapper Grant


## In Loving Memory of People ...

To: PJ Glory	From: Richard & Sandra Strong
To: Ann Daniel	From: Carol Shepherd
To: Nealann Sullivan	From: Beth Robbins
To: Barbara Hayes	From: Beth Robbins
To: Mark Annin	From: Anonymous
To: Ann Daffin	From: Alice Foster
To: Zelma Hartley	From: Joseph & Kea Yanzick
To: Ed London	From: Joseph & Kea Yanzick
To: Ed Leach	From: Joseph & Kea Yanzick
To: Helen Sgorbati	From: Peter Samulevich
To: Tania Ruzaeff	From: Donna Dyrdaahl
To: Jay Greene	From: Donna Dyrdaahl
To: Robert Dyrdaahl	From: Donna Dyrdaahl & family
To: June Payne	From: Bud Payne
To: Curtis Cook	From: Employees of RML
To: Bob	From: Patricia & Chris Fleischer
To: Willa Sargisson	From: Janet Sigmond
To: Shirley Larkin	From: Northwest Naturals
To: Shirley & Chip	From: Peter Rosten & Susan Latimer
To: Joe Kochis	From: Shelley & Greg Krebs
To: Lillian Weir	From: Brian & Margaret Krebs
To: Fern Robinson	From: Fryer-Knowles, Inc.
To: David McGrady, a man who loved cats	From: Alice Foster
To: Slim Warren	From: Othniel & Kathryn Seaver
To: John Cantrell	From: Deanna Raisl
To: Brandon Neese	From: Dick & Sharon Renfro
To: Bev Steiner	From: Marilyn Warren
To: Scott Sellman	From: Whitney Curtis
To: Dorothy Holland	From: Trena Neese
To: Ray & Millie Self	From: Judy Paul
To: Terrie Chisholm	From: Nan Jorgensen
	From: Anne & Victor Frugoli
	From: Donna & Shelly Kellogg
	From: Robert & Barbara Connors
	From: Jeff Hill
	From: Dorothy Chisholm
	From: The Wulff Family
	From: Margaret Reardon

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# Memorials

To: Jan McKinney  
 To: Pauline Stewart  
 To: John Cantrell  
 To: Rosemary Holbeck  
 To: Susan Smaus  
 To: Kelly Jo Nelson  
 To: Edrie Verne Bowers

To: Rosalie Reinbold

To: Yvonne Garvin  
 To: Beverly Steiner Kinsler  
 To: Donna Franco  
 To: Daniel "Bud" Murphy

To: Alex Kubacky

From: Ben & Marie Schultes  
 From: Scott & Pat Stewart  
 From: Bob & Jane Popham  
 From: Patti Rosa  
 From: Patti Rosa  
 From: Kim & William Malensek  
 From: Christine Marinoni  
 & Cynthia Nixon  
 From: Kathy Good  
 From: Beth Robbins  
 From: Bobbie McCauley  
 From: Anna Robbins  
 From: Beth Robbins  
 From: Betty Cook  
 From: Michele Stravens  
 From: Carl & Susan Erickson  
 From: Lu Hogh & Terri Bressette  
 From: Sheila Dingmann  
 & Vicki Dawson

## In Honor of ...

To: Pat & Paul Shirley  
 To: Dale Knollenberg  
 To: Bob & Cheryl DeHoll  
 To: Isis & Charlie, both great shelter animals  
 To: Jarrett Heintz  
 To: Paul & Denise Benson  
 To: Dr. & Mrs. Kent Myers  
 To: Ruth McCormack  
 To: Mary Rodriguez  
 To: "Huey" & "Rosie"  
 To: "Chloe"  
 To: "Trigger," an adoptee  
 To: "Jake" & "Bernard," rescues  
 To: Xaxan Coffee Roasters  
 To: Kate & Craig Moran

To: Gina Opitz  
 To: Ann Hardenberg's Birthday  
 To: Mable McKillop's 100th Birthday !!!

From: Dorothy Gist  
 From: Jon & Kelly Callen  
 From: Paul & Denise Benson  
 From: Kay Downey  
 From: Jeff & Sallie Heintz  
 From: Bob & Cheryl Deholl  
 From: Susan & Bruce Bissell  
 From: Dave & Sue McCormack  
 From: Mary & Al Perichele  
 From: Joyce & Ron Garlick  
 From: Ruth & Richard Skultin  
 From: Sara Agostinelli  
 From: Cathy Greathouse  
 From: Anne Susen  
 From: Roberta & Thomas  
 Opdenweyer  
 From: Nikkii Graybeal  
 From: Alice & John Sutherland  
 From: Mildred Taylor-Williams  
 From: Meredith Applebury  
 From: Marilyn Warren  
 From: DeWayne & Betty Smith

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 there is always the "Shoney Advice Column."  
 -vicki

## IWT

### Incumbent Worker Training

When the State of Montana initiated its Incumbent Worker Training, they opened the doors for additional education for employed workers. BRHA interviewed and became part of the program this past year to enable educational scholarships for its employees.

Training is available through a variety of venues from the university system to the adult education program. The training has to directly benefit BRHA and the employee. BRHA employees have taken advantage of additional educational opportunities in shelter maintenance, animal health, marketing, website construction, photography processing, design of marketing materials, animal training with more to come.

Each employee (after completing their probationary period) is entitled to a value of \$2,000 per fiscal year in scholarship dollars. They have to complete the class.

A Happy Birthday Wish  
 to one of our longtime supporters

**Mable McKillop**  
 Happy 100th Birthday Mable!!!  
 from the Bitter Root Humane  
 Association  
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 & Staff

Bitter Root Humane Association  
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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