

# Paw Prints

Bitter Root Humane Association



**Here Yesterday,  
Today and Tomorrow!**

*Shelter Hours: Mon CLOSED; Tues - Fri 1 pm-6 pm; Sat & Sun - noon to 5 pm*

**Serving Our Community Since 1972**



262 Fairgrounds Road

P.O. Box 57

Hamilton, MT 59840

406.363.5311

opmanager@bitterroothumane.org

www.bitterroothumane.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathie Butts, President

Mary Gehl, Vice President/Secretary

Linda Williams, Treasurer

Barbara Garten

Sue McCormack

Robin Dewey

Jen Chase

Michele Craig

Lisa Allison

Chad Hillman

Kathy Good, President Emeritus

BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com

### STAFF:

Operations Manager - Vacant

Trudy Johnson-Volunteer Coord

Peggie Noffsinger, Bookkeeper

Kianna, Front Desk

Char, Medical Specialist

Amber, Lead Animal Care Attendant

### Animal Care Attendants/ Adoption Counselors

Gage, Meriah & Nathan

## Notice of Bitter Root Humane Association

### Annual Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.**

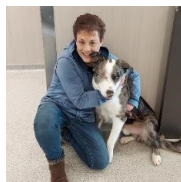
*BRHA Community Room*

262 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, Montana

### AGENDA

- ◆ Welcome and Introductions of Board Members - President Kathie Butts
- ◆ Reading & Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes - Mary Gehl
- ◆ Board and Committee Reports
  - President's Report - Kathie Butts
  - Operations Manager Introduction
  - Treasurer's Report - Linda Williams
  - Capital Campaign Update - Michele Craig & Sue McCormack
  - Fund Raising Committee Report - Mary Gehl
  - Marketing Committee Report - Jen Chase
  - Volunteer Coordinator's Report - Trudy Johnson
  - Volunteer of the Year Presentation
- ◆ Election of Board of Directors
- ◆ Meeting Adjournment

*\*Please note that in order to be eligible to vote at the meeting, members 2022 dues must be paid to BRHA and received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022. Absentee ballots must be requested from the BRHA Secretary @ BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com or PO Box 57, Hamilton, MT 59840. In order to be counted, an absentee ballot must be received at BRHA by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022.*



Don't miss out on a single issue of the  
BRHA Paw Prints Newsletter...

annual memberships run January through December.  
Check your label for your membership expiration date  
And please renew if your membership has expired!

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone that supported  
BRHA by purchasing or renewing your  
BRHA specialty plate in 2021!**



**Sales of our plate bring in approximately \$7,000 annually...funds we cannot afford to lose and we must maintain a minimum of 400 plates each year. We hope you will help us continue this important fundraiser in 2022. To purchase or renew just visit your local Motor Vehicle Dept. and ask for the Bitter Root Humane Association plate...the critters will be glad you did!**

BRHA is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization able  
to receive charitable donations and gifts.

Tax ID# 81-0351709



# PREZ CORNER.....by Kathie Butts

How does this



Become this???



## This is the story of Scratch.....

Scratch came to the BRHA a little before Halloween, he was found on I-90 outside of Billings and was a sad little emaciated mange covered puppy. You could see his soul right through his eyes which spoke of experiences that were beyond what most people think of when they think about puppies. He was covered with demodectic mange, a rarer type of mange requiring special baths and medications. His case was a generalized one and the mange covered most of his skin surface. He scratched non-stop when he was admitted to our shelter, that's how he got his name.

He was so hungry, everyone that worked at the shelter kept a treat or two in their pocket – Scratch couldn't be in the general population because of the mange, which put him in the back hall and conveniently he was in the main flow of our staff as they went about their work. Those pocket treats all became his.

It was evident that he recognized he was in a secure and safe place where he could have all the time he needed to heal both his body and his spirit. The animals who come to our shelter are never put down for time or space. We treat them individually for everything we can change for the betterment of the animals. Our staff is made up of individuals who truly care about our animals. They are the second ingredient in how that mangy puppy became the magnificent dog, the first reason was the folks who stopped and picked him up. Thankfully they saw that he was homeless and in need of help.

Our Animal Care Attendants are special people, they work hard at giving every animal a chance to shine their brightest so they can find the family or the person to become their people. Our staff healed the mange, they healed the hunger, they taught him to sit and they taught him to play. He would look embarrassed whenever he pooped inside his crate, I heard one of our senior animal care people tell him "It's not your fault, don't be embarrassed, when you get to a bigger space it will be just fine." And it was.

Then came the last ingredient and the most important one. Scratch got a family and a new name! He got all that right around Christmas. It turns out he loves the snow, he loves long walks, he loves pinecones and grassy weeds. He got a family with kids, and a family with plenty of room for a dog in their house and in their hearts. He is about to go on his first road trip..... It is obvious from his after photo, he got a great future.

If you ever doubt the good that the Bitter Root Humane Association does in our community stop and think about this puppy. He touched the hearts of the people who picked him up, the people who work at the shelter, the veterinarian who helped heal his mange, the huge number of people who inquired about him and the four people who took him home. He is not a dog running in a pack trying to kill your chickens, he is not the terrified dog that will bite you if you try to help him. He does not know the sheriff deputies who see him running in the night.

I am so proud to be a small part of the BRHA in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of helping the Bitterroot Valley's animals and by helping the animals, also helping our neighbors.

*Kathie*





# HUMANE EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY!

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS HELP BRHA



What does a fourth-grade class do when they want to make a donation to the local animal shelter? Well, Ms. Healy's talented class at Corvallis Primary School designed and created 3-D printed key chains and sold them as a fundraiser!

The project started before Thanksgiving as the students took orders from customers for the custom keychains, designed them on a program called 'Tinker Cad', ran them through another program, then printed them on the classroom 3-D printer. Each key chain took 40 minutes to make and a total of 80 were completed and delivered, raising \$415.

BRHA was proud to host the class for a tour of the facility and show them exactly what their donation will be used for.....saving the animals. The students were excited to snuggle, pet and play with kitties and see some of the dogs...all promised to bring their parents back to visit and hopefully adopt!

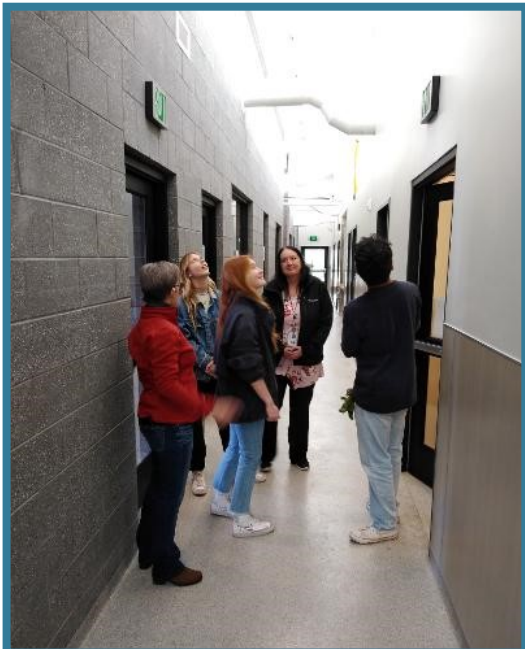
Huge THANK YOU to Ms. Healy's class....the youth of our community are our future and our future is bright with these caring & generous kids looking out for us!

Photos  
courtesy of  
Michelle  
McConnaha  
Ravalli  
Republic

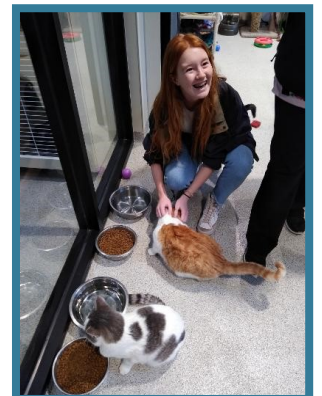


## A DANCE FOR CHARITY

We were so excited to host members of the Stevensville Key Club along with their club Advisor for a tour of our new facility. The Key Club's twenty-four members hosted the school's Winter Formal and raised \$3,000 for charity....they chose to support BRHA and the Watson Children's Shelter. We have no doubt that with these students in our future our world is going to be a much better place and we deeply appreciate their caring for our community, Thank You!



BRHA President, Kathie Butts, explaining the complex mechanical systems of the shelter.





# Your legacy will save lives for years to come by supporting the **Bitter Root Humane Association.....and**



## **Planned Giving Ensures Your Legacy!**

There are many ways to “give”, checking with your financial advisor will help you determine which is best for you.

*With your planned giving support, BRHA will be able to continue to serve our community and all the animals in need for years to come!*

### **How Can I Help?**

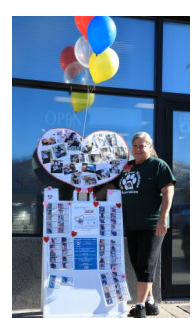
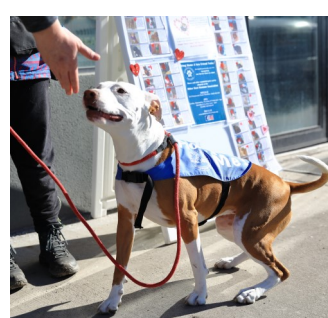
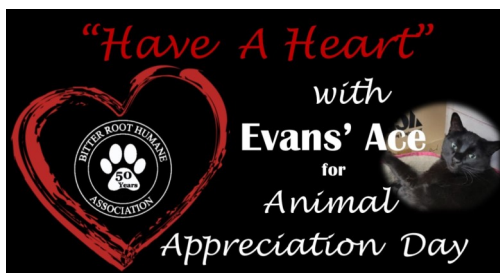
Cash Donation/Monthly Giving  
Personal Property  
Gift by Will or Living Trust  
Charitable IRA Rollover  
Life Insurance Policy  
Bank or Brokerage Accounts

Real Estate  
Immediate Charitable Gift Annuity  
Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity  
Flexible Deferred Gift Annuity  
Employer Matching Gifts  
Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

### **How Your Gift Is Used Is Up To You!**

You can trust that your donation to the BRHA will be used solely to provide care to the animals that come through our doors needing safety, shelter, food, medical care and love. You can direct your gift specifically to general operations, a specific service or program, mortgage debt or our endowment fund.

*For more detailed information , please contact your financial advisor, attorney or email us at [BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com](mailto:BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com) for our “Planned Giving” Brochure.*



EVANS' ACE Hardware "Animal Appreciation Day" was a huge success! A wonderful day filled with spreading the word about BRHA, showing off our awesome pets along with seeing old friends and meeting new ones...and let's not forget the tasty Mineshaft cookies & coffee. Our THANKS to EVANS' ACE Hardware , their staff and all their customers for showing BRHA the love!

*If you, your group or business would like to host an event in support of the shelter, please contact us to share your ideas!*

*Call or text Michele at 406.210.1375 or email: [BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com](mailto:BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com)*





# Remembrances

....October 16, 2021 through January 31, 2022

BRHA is so grateful for the support and generosity of so many who choose to honor, memorialize or pay tribute to the special people and pets in their lives. Your remembrances will assist BRHA in caring for all the homeless pets while they wait for their forever homes.

## *In Loving Memory of Pets*

FOR	FROM
Bandit	Claudia & Carl Hrebicek
Blue & Blanch	Vara McGarrell
Cooper & Cricket	Vara McGarrell
"Dozer" Mohoff	Carol & Andrew Carciere
"Jake" Maskimins	Carol & Andrew Carciere
Betty	Tish Caton
Our Brave Bear	Joseph & Kea Yanzick
Dottie	Carolyn & George Deaderick
Our Dogs, no longer by our sides, Forever in our hearts	Don & Linda Williams
Bandit	Kathryn Anderson
Gordy	Bernard Seward
Dooner	Howard & Karen Williams
Kooper	Helen Volden
Lightning	Amanda Jessop
Chester	Linda O'Leary
"Tom-my"	Alberta Snyder
Diesel DeHart	Kate Shandra
Frazer Lench	Kate Shandra
Sonja	Mary Gehl
Echo	Janna Lukomski
Onyx & Ranger	Barbara Bayer

FOR	FROM
Molly	Karen Graham
Shadow & Tasha	Eickert Realty
Echo	Janna Lukomski
Grady	Peggy Delaney
Bindi	Judith Bangert



## The Pet Crematorium

Losing your pet can be a difficult experience for you and your family. To many, the loss is not only of a pet, but of a very close friend and member of the family.

The Pet Crematorium at Bitter Root Humane Association will treat your pet with dignity, honor and the respect that a faithful companion deserves.

For information, please call us at (406) 363-5311 or visit our website at [www.bitterroothumane.org](http://www.bitterroothumane.org) and click on services.

FOR	FROM
Ruggles	Beth Robbins
Sweet Sasha Sue	Mary DuBoi
Ruthie	Stan Mast
Cissy & Savvy, beloved pit bulls	Nonda Beardsley
"Gus" Burgmueller	Chickie & Dennis Lietzow
Rocky	Helen Buker
Louie	Kat Jacques
Sara	Craig & Joan Kuchel
Rascal	Helen Buker
Elke Benson	Bonnie Roundtree

## *In Loving Memory of People*

FOR	FROM
Judy Kilpatrick	Claudia &* Carl Hrebicek
Susan Wilkins	James & Jean Swanz
Kathleen Gookin Ford	Helen Gookin
Lillian Wesinstock	Tom & Cynthia Stewart
Anna Lloyd	Donna Jakobson
Ashley Mothorn	JCCS
Linda Pierce	JCCS
Patty Burton	Janet Ross
Verna Molenda	Joseph & Kea Yanzick
Linda Irwin	Joseph & Kea Yanzick



# Remembrances

October 16, 2021 through January 31, 2022

## *In Loving Memory of People*

FOR	FROM
Lenny Hinman	Joseph & Kea Yanzick
Chad Lindquist	Joseph & Kea Yanzick
David Lindquist	Joseph & Kea Yanzick
Andrew Lanman	Keith Walton
Norman Sauke	Ralph & Marilyn Keppel
Jean Sawyer	Ralph & Marilyn Keppel
Sam Warren	Dixie Dies
Jesse Sims	Barbara Pepprock
Verna Gill	Carol Meyes
May Lee Hom	Arlen & Shirley Seman; Alice Foster; Jane Staton; Leonard Sokoloski; Marilyn Warren; Laurie Randall; William & Kathryn Lee; John Hom; Kathleen Dowling; John Dowling; Chuck & Niki Shonkwiler
Zach Cheetham	Don & Linda Williams
Kaylie Ueland	Ben & Marie Shultes; Katherine Messer; Shannon Moodry; Rebecca Homan
Skip Fresn	James Deen
Barbara Wiler	Chickie & Dennis Lietzow
Greg Russ	Nels & Leona Anderson; Jane Mason; Ronald & Nancy Osborn; Ronald & Jean Collett

FOR	FROM
Mable McKillop	Carol Meves
Jeanne Baumann	Jeanette VanLuchene
Barbara Matye Maaier	Patty Clawson
Allison Leathley	Brad Leathley
Mary Ellen Schmidt	Pam Melton
Eileen Johnson	Lenny & Carol Hinman
Fern Robinson	Deanna Raisl
Margie Ahern, beloved mother	Chickie & Dennis Lietzow
Judy Paul & my Sweet Carly	Susan Friesen
Agnes Gothrup	Judy Langston
Elke Benson	Bonnie Roundtree
Dorian Samus Long	Alice Foster
Art Dullinger	Yvonee Lyon
Jerry Parker	Carol Parker

## *In Honor Of*

FOR	FROM
Jay & Chath's Wedding	Katheryn Carrol @ BEAR
Barbara Nelson & her beloved "Strudel"	Francis & Nina Eadie
Diana Wood	Mary Jane McAllister

## *In Honor Of*

FOR	FROM
Shelly Evans	Catherine Lindbeck
Paul & Denise Benson	Bob & Cheryl Deholl
Beau & Emilie Wells, Merry Christmas	Lois Vallance
Erma & Henry Badt	Kathryn Christiansen
Barb & Chardonay	Erma Badt

## Two Great Adoption Programs



### "Senior to Senior" Program

Folks 55+ adopting a pet age 7+ the adoption fee is waived!



### "Cat Buddy" Program

Adopt one adult cat at regular price and get the second one adoption fee free.

Adopt one kitten at regular price and get second at 50% off adoption fee.



## BRHA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buy-A-Tomorrow Tree Project...by Michele Craig

The next time you visit the shelter, come take a look at our hand painted mural in the community room. You might even see our three amazing Hamilton High School seniors Kaylee Pearson, Madi Ward and Kiera Walker painting our "Buy-A-Tomorrow Tree". These students who are doing their senior project, are working with volunteer artist Judy Allison to create a work of art! This large tree mural with leaves represent and recognize donors who gave \$1,000 or more to the "Buy-A-Tomorrow" building fund campaign. This mural is a testament to the community that has supported the BRHA for 50 years and to the individuals who helped build the new shelter. Please consider being part of history by buying a leaf for \$1,000 to help the shelter continue to be here for the community. Be a part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and buy your personalized leaf today to show your support and partnership with our shelter! Your leaf purchase helps us to "Save-A-Tomorrow" for animals in need. You can complete the form below or you can call board member Michele Craig at 406.210.1375 with any questions about donating.



### "BUY-A-TOMORROW" LEAF - SAVE OUR TOMORROW!

Yes, I want to Buy-A-Tomorrow! One Leaf \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1,000.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on leaf (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: BRHA Buy-A-Tomorrow, PO BOX 57, Hamilton, MT 59840

*For questions or information on setting up a payment plan to buy a leaf or other naming opportunities please contact:  
Linda Williams, Treasurer (406) 239-3169*



# Meet the Staff.....



**Gage**



**Meriah**



**Nathan**



**Kianna**

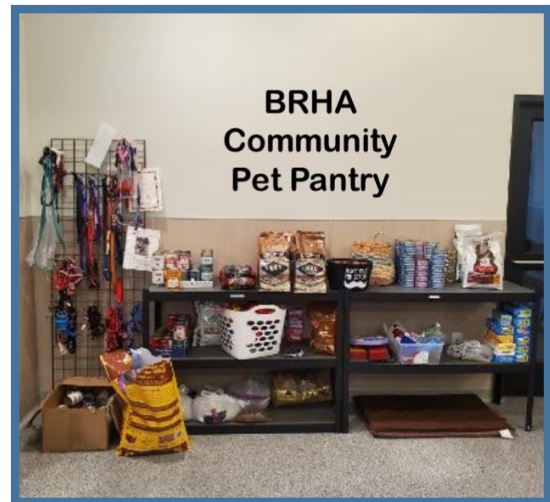
At BRHA caring for our “guests” is a 365 days a year job, and not a easy job. We are so fortunate to have such a committed staff as our Animal Caretaker/Adoption Councilors Gage, Meriah and Nathan along with Kianna who keeps the office running smoothly. We hope you’ll stop by soon and see for yourself what an awesome job they do!



Hi all!

My name is Trudy Johnson, and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator at the Bitter Root Humane Association! I am so excited to be here doing what I love to do: working with animals and people. I graduated Hamilton High School and traveled the world and now I am back home in the Bitterroot Valley. I live with three dogs and one cat that I adopted from BRHA. I have a background in community and business relations, with a focus on human resources. I am passionate about volunteering and animal rescue – I volunteer at The Wings Programs Inc., a local horse rescue. I am looking forward to meeting current and potential volunteers. Please consider volunteering at the Bitter Root Humane Association, we have something for everyone! From dog walking, to playing with cats, and special events to laundry, your time and effort helps us succeed!

Everyone needs a little help now and then, and the BRHA Community Pet Pantry, located in our lobby, is here to help our community members that need a bit of assistance in order to keep their pets and keep them healthy. Here you will find pet food, and from time to time, pet supplies are also available. We sincerely thank all our community members & businesses for their continuing donations that make this service possible.



**GOT JEWELS?** BRHA would love them for our “2nd Time Around Jewelry Sale” coming up this summer! Now’s a great time to sort through all your jewelry boxes and drawers and donate items that you just don’t love, wear or appreciate like you use to. We’re seeking all things jewelry, precious or costume...rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins, broaches, buckles and yes, even jewelry boxes! Items can be dropped off at the shelter located at 262 Fairgrounds Road in Hamilton during business hours, or mailed to: BRHA, PO Box 57, Hamilton, MT 59840 or call/text Michele at 406.210.1375.



## What is a Kangal.....by Linda Williams

A Kangal is a shepherd, a dog which is a breed of large, livestock-guardian dogs that originated in Turkey. The males can weigh up to 138 pounds when full grown. They are also called Anatolian Shepherds in the United States.

We got our first Kangal – Ahou – in July 2021. A Female, 5 years old, not spayed and a dog used for breeding. Ahou was a sweet lady, but she didn't like other dogs, even her own pups. However, she loved her people, and she became a favorite of our staff.

In October seven of Ahou's puppies were surrendered to us. They were six months old – Xena, Golden Boy, Bruiser, Athena, Amos, Bowser, and Artemis. Six months old weighing already 70 plus pounds, untrained, never on a leash, unsocialized, not neutered or spayed, etc. Our staff worked with these dogs every day to get them trained to leash, and some commands. Keep in mind these dogs have a mind of their own – they know what they need to do to, they need to guard the flock, but probably not sit, stay, etc.

So, what do we do with these magnificent dogs, to make sure they find the right forever home? Our employee, Charlotte Springer, did a little research and found a rescue called The Kangal Rescue Project working with 4 Paws Rescue – in Michigan – run by a wonderful woman, Caryn Robinson.

Caryn worked her magic. Keep in mind Caryn thoroughly screens possible adoptors to make certain they know how to raise and train these special dogs, and keep them safe with 6-foot fences, and a job to do. She found homes for all 7 puppies and for Ahou, the mother. The Kangal's are now residing - two California, two to Oklahoma, two to Washington and one to Columbia Falls.

The people who adopted these the pups already had experience with the Kangal dog, knowing they needed 'a job to do – a flock to guard' – to be their friend to teach them the ropes. That's what happened. We are so fortunate, so lucky to have people all over the country who respect these special animals, want them in their lives, know what they need, and are ready give it to them.

By the time our 7 pups and Mom left us, they were all spayed and neutered, had all their shots, and microchipped. They went to their forever homes with people who know how to handle them – who gave them their job – guarding their animals/flocks. Some guard the potbellied pigs, some guard the chickens and sheep, etc.

We know how happy these beautiful animals are, doing what they were meant to do in the first place...."Happy Tails" - Kangals!



## Where are they now....Duke aka "Kangal #7" Golden Boy

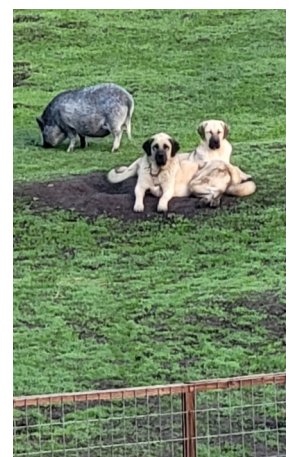
*Hi Bitter Root Humane Association Team,*

Remember us?!?! The Lyons family who flew from CA to pick up Golden Boy who we now call Duke. We wanted to send an update on how Duke is doing now that it has been about a month since he has been home.

Well, Duke and his big sister Layla are inseparable, unless they are eating -- they both REALLY love their food and Duke eats so much faster than Layla that he will eat his food and hers and still want more.

Duke is ~100 lbs. and as sweet as can be. He is learning his place on the farm, and learned really quickly that chasing goats will get you head butted and chasing pigs will get you bit (#lifelessons). Layla does a great job of correcting Duke when he chases the animals by grabbing his back leg and forcing him to fall down.

Duke is a super star on his leash and goes on hikes with me every day, which makes Layla super sad so now I have to bring 2 - 100+ dogs with me on my hike and I basically go nowhere because they each have a mind of their own. So my husband Michael has been coming with and taking 1 of the dogs. Duke also has to go on trails when the horses are taken out because they are his favorite!



Hope you enjoy some of the photos....All our love from CA · Diana, Michael, Mia and Mikey Lyons




# PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE THAT SUPPORT US!

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## “Change” for Dani’s Fund



Flower Happy Floral Design, 302 N 1st Street in Hamilton, is a great supporter of BRHA and proudly hosts one of our Dani Fund donation jars!

All the monies collected are used to finance a particular medical issue or procedure, that we would otherwise not be able to afford, thus making an animal's life better and a forever home possible.

If your business would like to host a “Dani Fund” jar to help “change” the life of a homeless pet, please contact Robin @ 406.381.2912 or Carol @ 406.642.3699.

## With your continued support we can continue to make “Happy Tails”!



## Thank You!







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Hamilton, MT 59840

## 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

Your address label indicates the year that your current membership expires. If you have any questions, please call Sue McCormack (406) 370-8071. Your continued support is so important to all the animals. Thank you!

Senior (65+): \$15 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$25 ea \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \$30 ea

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please add me to email newsletter list

Mailing  
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
- ( ) Please contact me about Board of Director positions and responsibilities

Bitter Root Humane Association PO Box 57 Hamilton, MT 59840

