



**Bitter Root  
Humane Association  
2023 Annual Report**

# From the Shelter Director

Tucker Chase



Looking back on 2023, I can safely say that the Bitter Root Humane Association can be proud of our growth and the impact we had in the Bitterroot community and beyond. With the help of generous donors and the support of many local businesses, we helped 978 animals that came through our doors – by finding them loving new homes or reuniting them with their families.

Through community donations and corporate partnerships, we gave local pet families more than 40,000 pounds of food and hundreds of other goods in the form of blankets, pet beds, kennels, and miscellaneous supplies. As Ravalli County's only animal shelter, the Bitter Root Humane Association is proud to be a facility welcome to all domestic animals – great and small – and still be recognized nationally as a no-kill shelter. We never euthanize an animal due to lack of space or length of stay and go beyond the call to offer life-saving services to help our valley's animals in need.

Our staff and volunteers gave up countless weekends, evenings and holidays to get our animals into loving, forever homes. For the first time, our shelter participated in multiple adoption events in the region, taking our animals outside shelter walls to find loving homes all over Montana, Idaho, Washington and as far away as New York state.

Through community donations and the generosity of local veterinarians, we saved the life of Buster – a dog who limped through our front doors with a gunshot wound to his chest. And Thane, who needed a \$5,000 knee replacement to live his life without pain. Donations from all over the country enabled him to get his much-needed surgery and be adopted by one of our dedicated volunteers.

With growth, however, always comes growing pains. It takes a lot of money – about \$1,882 a day – to keep the lights on, heat going, animals fed and medically treated and staff paid a living wage. This coming year will bring challenges the shelter has seen before. With the rising cost of utilities, food, vaccines, veterinary care and an increasing number of families unable to keep their pets for various reasons, it is only through generous donations from the community that we will be able to keep up the life-saving goals we accomplish year after year.

Our role in the community will continue to expand in 2024. I am confident that our dedicated team of volunteers and staff will continue to make a difference in the lives of pets and families near and far. As the Shelter Director, I am proud of what we have accomplished and couldn't be more excited to see what positive impacts we can make next.

# Key Numbers

**978 animals taken in**

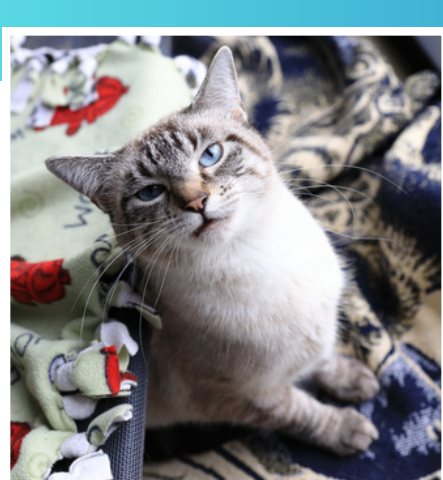
- 430 cats
- 473 dogs
- 75 miscellaneous creatures



**199 lost animals  
returned home**



**730 animals adopted**



# Wet noses, beating hearts!



**BRHA continues to be a no-kill shelter.**

**96 percent of the animals entrusted to our care were saved.**

**While euthanasia remains low, it is an unfortunate reality. We never place a time limit on any animals, but there are circumstances such as severe human aggression or those that are seriously ill with diminished quality of life that we assist in passing peacefully.**

# We are a part of the Bitterroot Community

- 134 community pets received microchips and 75 identification tags during our community clinics this past year
- 75 spays and neuters were performed for privately owned animals and community cats with the shelter's assistance
- 40,000 pounds of food was given out at our Pet Food Pantry in 2023, helping to keep people and their pets together



# Volunteers





# Our team

## Board of Directors

Lisa Allison – President  
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[bitterroothumane.org](http://bitterroothumane.org)

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