

Bitter Root Humane Association

# PAW PRINTS

## Frosty Paws & Pet Fair



**November 12 • 10-4**  
**November 13 • 12-4**

**Bedford Building (City Hall), 223 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, MT**

Gather around the Hitchin' Post to shop for Art, Jewelry, Holiday Bake Sale, Pottery, Soaps & Dog Cookies, Photo Memory Books, Handsewn Quilts, Bags & Table Runners, & more!

Bring pet food donations to Frosty Paws to help fill the "Empty Pet Pantry" Food Bank at Bitter Root Humane Assoc.

Distributing FREE Pet food to those in need in the Bitter Root Valley, so pets don't go hungry or become abandoned.

**Bucket Raffle  
Great Prizes!**

**"Frosty Paws"**

**Pet & Family Photos with Cowboy Santa  
\$19 - Two 5x7 Prints**

+ optional \$3 for CD with ALL Photographer's shots



262 Fairgrounds Rd.  
P.O. Box 57  
Hamilton, MT 59840

406.363.5311

meow@brvmontana.com  
www.bitterroothumane.org

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Good, President

Sue McCormack,  
Vice President

Susan Behrman, Secretary  
Wendy Trelut, Treasurer

Diane Myers  
Kate Shandra  
Cathee Watson-Smith  
Jenny Laing

contact the Board directly at  
brha@bitterroothumane.org

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Vicki Dawson,  
Development Director

Teresa Loya,  
Operations Director

Char, Team Leader  
Charlotte, Training Coord.  
Mariane, Adoption Counselor  
Erin, Kenny & Brycon

Newsletter Editors:  
Sue McCormack & Vicki Dawson  
& many contributors of stories

# BRHA is more than an animal shelter

**W**e have had a pet food bank for several years now but we can't keep up with the demand. BRHA realized there were people in our community who were struggling to feed their pets with sudden job losses, foreclosures and an economy in flux. Almost immediately, we had more demand for the extra pet food than we had supplies in our storage. With a grant from the Rapp Foundation, we were able to purchase a varmint-proof storage container and safely stock our supplies of Canidae/Felidae food for the shelter animals and retail supply. The extra efforts of Sapphire Veterinary Hospital, Burnt Fork Veterinary Clinic brought us supplies of food during the holiday seasons, and our food bank got a big boost. Retailers like Walmart used to donate their broken bags, but requirements from dog and cat food manufacturers changed and many retailers' donations dropped off.

Our pet food bank has been reborn as the "Empty Pet Pantry." The Pet Pantry will help us feed the shelter animals as well as animals in the community. We will be receiving and distributing pet food to community members who need help feeding their animals. We hope to build relationships with distributors of pet food, donations from community members, and retailers. Cash contributions will help offset the costs of feeding the shelter animals.

**The Empty Pet Pantry will serve Ravalli County and keep these treasured donations local.** The shelter feeds 1,200+ animals a year. Our wholesale dealership has helped but not enough; the donated Empty Pet Pantry dollars will help us feed shelter animals while they await their 'forever home.'

As an Empty Pet Pantry partner, you can fill a bowl by sponsoring one bag of dog food (44#) for \$38; fill a cat bowl with a bag of Chicken & Rice for \$23 (15#). Become a year's Empty Pet Partner with a bag a month. All donations are tax deductible.

Think about it! Fill a bowl for many. What a great holiday gift or birthday present for a friend!

## "Empty Pet Pantry" at BRHA

Distributing pet food to animals in need in the community and at the shelter so pets don't go hungry or become abandoned.

### Donate bags of Dog & Cat food to the pet pantry.

This food will be distributed to pet families from Bitter Root Humane Association as supplies are available.

### Fill a bowl at the animal shelter with a cash donation.

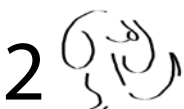
Help offset the costs of feeding 1,200+ animals per year with your cash donation thru  
Paypal ID  
sheltering@brvmontana.com

### Become an Empty Pet Pantry Partner

Fill a bowl at the animal shelter with one bag or more.

Fund a bag of Canidae or Felidae food for a shelter animal.

Partner with a bag a month for a year!



# Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On September 10, 2011 the BRHA Board of Directors hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner at the home of board member Diane Myers for our wonderful volunteers, their family members and friends. All of the board members pitched in to provide a scrumptious dinner of pulled pork sandwiches, bbq chicken, Cole slaw, baked beans, an array of different salads and a variety of beverages. Board president Kathy Good treated everyone to her home made vanilla ice cream to go with the brownies brought by Cathee Watson-Smith. Many of the volunteers do not get a chance to meet each other due to their volunteer schedules so they enjoyed mingling, sharing shelter stories and getting to know each other.

The volunteers at BRHA provide so many essential services for us and truly make a difference in the quality of life of our animals. We were happy to be able to do something for them and to honor them for their time and effort. Thank you volunteers!

Diane Myers, Volunteer Coordinator



Super delicious barbecue from chef Kent Myers.

## Corvallis 2nd Graders host shelter volunteers

During the week of October 10th through the 14th, the Corvallis Second Grade classes held a donation drive for the BRHA. This is the third year that the teachers have asked their students to bring in much needed supplies for the shelter. At the end of the week two volunteers from the shelter visited the students to talk about the shelter, its mission and the animals that live there. This year Diane Myers and Roberta Fite brought shelter dog "Shoshone" to meet the students. Diane and Roberta talked to the students at length about the work that takes place every day at the shelter that provides all of the basic needs for each and every shelter resident. Staff and volunteers work together to provide the best care possible for them.

At the end of the presentation Roberta took Shoshone around the room to meet the students. While Shoshone basked in the warmth of their attention and affection, the students shared stories about their animals and Diane answered more questions about the animal shelter. The students and teachers had amassed a large supply of cleaning supplies and food for the shelter. It is very much appreciated and we thank them for helping us to do our work in caring for homeless pets in our community.



Diane & Roberta introduce Shoshone to Corvallis 2nd Graders

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# Gabby, the profane bird

Yes, we have had many requests for a follow-up story on Gabby the profane Cockatoo. Gabby is less profane in her vocabulary these days. With a good teacher and perhaps some love and gentleness in her life, she is blossoming. She is missing a foot due to the stress and abusive treatment in her former home, but gets around very well with her lopsided pirate's gait. Her feathers are growing back in (it can take up to a year to regain her full plumage) She doesn't panic and hyperventilate like she did when she first went to her new home. Gabby gets along very well with the menagerie that make up her family. The cats and the chihuahua and her three-legged dog friend all love her. She has a great game with the chihuahua; they race and chase each other. However, if you are a chihuahua you have to be very careful, because if you forget and turn your back, you get your tail bit. It's all part of the game.

Gabby really doesn't trust that ferret though. Early on, the ferret was stalking Gabby; Gabby loudly yelled for help "Help a Gabby Girl, Help a Gabby Girl!" Needless to say, mom came running and the ferret and Gabby now never share mutual time out of their cages.

Gabby discovered her reflection in the window of the TV stand. She poofed up her feather crest, and wings and ran at THAT bird until mom put her back in her cage for a time out. Gabby bit the TV stand and now has THAT bird under control, whew!

Gabby is still somewhat of a brat, which is a characteristic that endears her to her new mom. The leather recliner has suffered and while mom took a shower, she ate a big hole in the middle of the linoleum. So part of Gabby's new vocabulary is the phrase, "What have YOU done?" Gabby loves to target her neighbor and friend Roberta; "you can see her calculating her attack on poor Roberta." When the canary cage was knocked over and a canary suffered a fatality, Gabby happily ratted out the cats.

When Gabby hears Mom's car coming home from work, she can be heard four houses away screaming "Hi i i i i i!" Gabby is loved and happy.

More to come from Gabby!



# Proud 2 Adopt Shop

Proud to Adopt Shop continues to be your source for Canidae and Felidae food; every 13th bag is FREE! Your purchase of this great food supports feeding the dogs and cats in the shelter.

Watchout for the Dragons & the Dinos! These new brightly colored, tough, cute toys have been Macee & Jackson tested and are holding up well! :)

Collars and Leashes??? Faded, worn out, sick of that pattern? Try a new collar and/or leash from Proud 2 Adopt Shop. A great selection of sizes and colors with quick-snap collars from Premier and Ruffwear.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."  
Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

# Sponsor a Space

The Bitter Root Humane Association Animal Space Sponsorship Program enables us to provide the best care and housing for nearly 1500 animals our shelter receives each year. You can help by sponsoring an animal space for One Year for a \$150 donation. The sponsorship can be from your business or a gift or a memorial for a person or pet! What a wonderful way to advertise your business, give a gift or remember a friend while at the same time support the animals that are waiting for a "forever home" of their own.

ALL SPONSORSHIPS ARE \$150 FOR ONE YEAR AND WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY A POSTING ON THE SUPPORTED ANIMAL SPACE.

Please Print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

If gift or memorial, please complete information below and an acknowledgement card will be sent.

Gift for \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial for \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: BRHA Sponsorship Program,  
P.O. Box 57, Hamilton, MT 59840

On behalf of all the animals at the  
Bitter Root Humane Association,  
Thank You!!

**MONTANA**  
  
**COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK**

**MT CAN SAVE LIVES!**  
 Check Our Web Site [www.mtcan.org](http://www.mtcan.org)  
 for  
**FREE**  
 Lost - Found - Rehome Postings  
 Animals for Adoption  
 Companion Animal Information  
 Pet Care & Pet Events

458 Warp Drive, Corvallis, MT 59828

# Winter is upon us

As we write, it feels like colder temperatures have already arrived, and in reality winter is sneaking up on us. Weather here is notorious for changing quickly, so we are likely to have more unsettled weather ahead of us. Caring for animals is paramount in our minds; following are suggestions for providing that care in cold weather.

Many dogs love to be outside in the cold, scooping and rolling in snow. The ASPCA recommends that those dogs be given increased protein to keep their coats healthy. Any animals getting less exercise should probably have a little less caloric intake to stay in good shape. If your pet's coat is matted, it cannot provide the protection necessary in cold weather, so grooming during cold weather is very important.

The HSUS recommends that outdoor dogs have houses that are dry and draft free. They should be big enough for the dog to sit and lay down, but small enough to retain the dog's body heat; preferably, the house should have a small space between its floor and the ground which is filled with straw, shavings or other materials that will provide insulation. Provide warm bedding and check it regularly to make sure it remains dry. It should go without saying that the opening to the house be pointed away from typical wind direction.

Gail Golab, DVM, warns that "snow and salt should be removed from your pet's paws immediately.

Frostbitten skin is red or gray and may slough. Apply warm, moist towels to thaw out frostbitten areas slowly until skin appears flushed." Be sure to check ears as they are especially susceptible to frost bite.

The ASPCA recommend tips for caring for pets during winter months:

- Keep cats inside to protect them from freezing.
- Outdoor cats seek out warmth under cars, so bang on the car hood before starting the engine.
- Don't let dogs off leash in snow and ice. They can lose their scent and become lost.
- After walking the dog on snow or ice, wipe legs and stomach to get rid of salt, or other snow removal chemicals. The dog could ingest these dangerous substances while licking his paws.
- Allow the dog's coat to grow longer in winter to provide warmth. If the dog has short hair, get a coat or sweater for him to wear on walks.
- Don't leave dogs or cats alone for extended time in a car during cold weather.
- Don't forget that antifreeze is poison for dogs and cats. Clean up any spills from vehicles.
- Provide a warm bed even for indoor dogs and cats, away from cool drafts.

## Adoption Tails

Hi Folks,

I felt like letting you know that after 17-1/2 happy years Lana has passed on.

I adopted her from your shelter in July of 1996. She'd lived there off and on for a year and I so appreciate the wonderful care she received from you and the opportunity you gave her and me for our long time together.

Every person who knew her agreed that she was a unique soul - gentle and intelligent. I'm so grateful for the efforts you go to to ensure that your animals are taken care of, both body and mind.

I will always think of Hamilton with Great fondness.

Yours truly,  
Virginia



Louie got a home!!! After nearly a year at the BRHA Adoption & Care Center, Louie got his forever home!

Staff and volunteers know what a "pill" Louie could be; his energetic spirit kept prospective adopters from picking him. He was one of those nondescript black dogs that are overlooked all too often in shelters. He was too smart for his own good and thought up ways of challenging everyone. The staff and volunteers persevered with Louie, trained him, loved him, made sure his mental well-being was cared for and that he stayed his fresh, mischievous self.

And one day his person came along and the magic happened. They picked Louie! Louie got a home!



# President's Corner

Kathy Good, BRHA President

As we go to print, it seems as if summer didn't last long enough and winter is fast approaching. It is nineteen degrees at my house at 6 AM. So please take a look at the enclosed article about taking care of your pets during cold weather. Also as we go to print, I know you will rejoice with me in the number of adoptions into new forever homes that have happened recently. If you haven't seen it already, check us out on Facebook to see all these postings. While summer didn't last long, we were very busy and accomplished much. Quite some time ago the BRHA Board recognized that we had a critical need for an upgrade in managing of our shelter. We knew that effectively managing the shelter and adoption center was a big job—too big, in fact for one person. We took a long look at all the tasks involved and decided to split the job into two positions. The Development Director position is devoted exclusively to fundraising and community outreach. We identified Vicki Dawson as being the best person to assume this position; she was already performing many of the Development Director functions, while also performing the duties of Shelter Manager. Watch to see Vicki's involvement in community activities and social media as she spreads the word about our mission and needs. She will be establishing more personal contacts with our supporters and funding sources, including grant sources as well as stakeholders.

In August, we began a search for a Shelter Operations Director. We are pleased to have found Teresa Loya to fill this position. As Operations Director, Teresa will devote her time exclusively to managing staff, animal care and the operations of the Shelter. Teresa is charged with multi-tasking in a fast-paced environment, and employing excellent organizational skills in presenting good customer service and care for all who walk through the door, both four legged as well as two legged. She will direct and assist the staff in providing assistance and advice to all you potential adopters, helping you to find your best match in providing a forever home for your new furry family member.

We know that you will join the Board in lending support to both Vicki and Teresa in their collaborative effort to accomplish our mission and keep us abreast of the needs of caring for our community's animals.

Watch for upcoming information regarding the audit undertaken over the summer. We dug deep into archives, old papers and records to provide the information required by the accountancy firm to accomplish this audit. We look forward to their affirmation of our record keeping, both historical and current, and to any suggestions the auditors may have in helping us streamline that record keeping.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to you all for your continuing kindness and generous support of our needs. The current state of the economy looms large in all our lives, and the BRHA, as most non profit organizations, is trying to be very creative in making every donation stretch and count as far as possible. Thank you. Kathy

# Charitable IRA Rollover

Included in the Tax Relief Act of December 17, 2010, was an extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision through the end of 2011. This gives you the chance to help BRHA help all the dogs and cats and other animals that come through our open doors. Between now and the end of the year, you may make a gift to BRHA from your IRA without increasing your taxable income or withholding. Following are several points to be aware of.

- Individuals age 70 ½ and older may request direct transfers of funds from IRAs to qualified public charities without income tax on gifted funds.
- The funds must be directly transferred from IRA accounts to the charities. (Ask your IRA custodian for the special forms to make these requests.)
- Each individual is entitled to make a total of \$100,000 in gifts to charities each year under this provision.
- These contributions do not qualify donors for an additional charitable income tax deduction as not being taxed on the withdrawal is worth even more than a standard charitable deduction.
- Only standard IRAs and Roth IRA accounts qualify under this law.
- Donors of IRA rollover gifts must receive no personal benefits from this gift nor are they available for planned gifts such as charitable remainder trusts or gift annuities.
- This opportunity is significant to you if:
  - You hold assets in your IRA that you do not currently need;
  - You would like to make a large one-time gift;
  - You are subject to the 2% rule that reduces itemized deductions;
  - You do not itemize, or
  - You plan to leave part or all of your IRA to BRHA upon your death.

We always appreciate any help you may give us through your donations and we are able to take care of so many animals because of that help. This is a wonderful opportunity which provides a method of giving that is also advantageous to you.

# New Board Member

Wendy's little Bitter Root farm is like many others including kids, dogs, cats, horses (and a few uninvited packrats). As 4-H Horse Resource Leader in another county, she supervised all horse project leaders with around 170 kids involved; education, events. Wendy's career as a school librarian (in another state) expanded into developing and running the computer lab in the middle school. She began bookkeeping for student councils and as her volunteer career evolved, she has focused on animal organizations, and shelters (both animal & human).

Wendy is interested in everything! So her hobbies are many. She ride her horses quite a bit, hike when she has time, and just ordered a new pair of snowshoes. She reads, sews, and crafts. Her large, extended family lives in a big gigantic farmhouse so grandsons are keeping her busy. "We ride horses and play with dogs together and we fish... a lot! It is a big, noisy, crazy household most of the time and I love it."

Wendy is BRHA's treasurer and she brings to us her years of organizational and bookkeeping experience. We are so grateful to have her join our team. Her goals? To work on fundraising. "We do so much with the funds we have but we have such minimal funds."



# 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: Lou  
From: Peter Rosten & Susan Latimer  
To: Precious Kitty Lucie  
From: Jenny Laing  
From: Diane & Kent Myers  
To: Lakota  
From: Shirley Wheat

## In Loving Memory of People ...

To: Susan Smaus  
From: Phyllis Busenbark  
To: Alice Rose  
From: Mark Annin  
To: Sue Jameson  
From: Donna Dyr Dahl  
To: Pat Lynch  
From: Ben & Marie Schultes  
From: Alice Seese  
From: Staff at Ravalli Co. OPA  
To: Larry Higginbotham  
From: Powell Surveying  
To: Gene Wetzsteon  
From: Betty Smith  
From: Michael & Shelly Peretti  
From: Bitterroot Drug  
From: Todd & Carol Van Bramer  
From: Valerie Collar  
To: Frances Maclsaac  
From: Diane & Kent Myers  
To: Jack Dyer  
From: Alice Foster  
To: Dee Shook  
From: Noreen Johnson  
To: Norman & Cora Sorenson  
From: Kathy Robinson  
To: Dolores Lopez  
From: Ronald & Sheri Moraca  
To: Pam Michael  
From: The Shupps  
To: Suzanne Echante  
From: The Hinshaws  
To: Elaine Strawser  
From: Beth Robbins  
To: Myrna & Maureen  
From: Beth Robbins

## In Honor of ...

To: Sue & Dave McCormack  
Birthdays & Anniversary  
From: Charlotte & Charlie Oliver  
To: My Dog, Mandy's Birthday  
From: Valerie Collar



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## Haiku for our animal friends

Is today the day  
my new forever person  
will come and get me?  
-JL-

In too big a rush  
to turn around and give your  
dog or cat a pet?  
-JL-

Dogs sleep with one eye  
open, in case you decide  
to take one more walk.  
-JL-

Cool air, rainy days  
never stop a dog who wants  
a brisk walk outside.  
-JL-

Cats curl into balls,  
anticipating autumn,  
hoping to come in.  
-JL-

## Time to Renew BRHA Memberships

Take a look at the date located at the upper left of your address label on this newsletter. If it indicates an expiration date of 12/2011 it's time to renew. We appreciate your membership support and continuing financial assistance. Thanks from all our furry guests.

## The Wish List

Veterinary quality stethoscopes (2) - \$75 ea.  
Gas cards for the van (mostly used for spay/neuter & vet trips)  
Veterinary quality thermometers (2) - 15 ea.  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
Bleach  
New battery for the van - \$60  
Replace heated air pressure tank (our hot water) - \$900  
New washing machine (our's died) - \$450



*Leslie Drake-Robinson*  
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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.



*"A Forever Home"*



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 (406) 363-3655  
 210 No. 2nd., Hamilton, Montana 59840

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

2010 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