

Bangor Humane Society

Annual Report
2016



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The Human Lives of Animal Sheltering

Whenever I find myself in discussions about the Bangor Humane Society and our mission, the conversation usually focuses on each of the thousands of furry or feathered animals that are helped by our life saving work. But the reality is, behind every animal there is a story. And each story is made up of dozens, sometimes hundreds, of human faces that are included in every animal's journey. BHS is a bridge that connects a diverse team of volunteers, staff, veterinarians, foster parents, donors and adopters with our four-legged and two-feathered alumni; a bridge that connects their journey of where they came from to where they are going; a journey that brings them home.

It is easy to forget- while we snuggle kittens and puppies, nurture the broken spirits of pets neglected, abused or abandoned arriving at our door, repair and rehabilitate the injured ones in need of care or share the happy tails of the many matches made- that behind it all there is a team of humans making it all happen. It takes humans; their compassion, dedication and generosity, to help save the lives of the thousands that call us "home" at some point along their journey.

Every year we are in awe of the incredible support we receive from the community: our board members who help lead our vision; the volunteers who help us carry out our mission every single day; the veterinarians who help us care medically for each animal, our donors who give generously so we can meet every need; the individuals who donate in-kind so every guest has blankets, toys and food in its kennel; the businesses who sponsor our annual Paws on Parade; the local media that help share our message; the adopters who expand their homes and hearts to give a second chance to one of our residents; the offsite partners who help us find homes for some of our shelter guests; and the various organizations that collaborate with us to expand our educational outreach. You all inspire, humble and motivate our work every single day.



To every human who has supported our mission this past year and to all those who continue to be there with us in the trenches every step of the way, we thank you. Thank you for sharing your compassion, your homes, your hearts, your time, and your resources to help the thousands of homeless animals passing through our doors journey home.

Sincerely,
Suzan Prendergast-Bell
Executive Director



Setting a Vision



As I complete my seventh year on the Board of Directors and begin my second year as president, I wish to share how proud I am of BHS, this Board and all those who have made us what we are today.

Thousands of pets walk, hop, and fly through our shelter doors each year. As a Board, we are committed to their health, their placement into new homes, spay/neuter, and more.

Some might wonder who volunteers to be on the BHS Board of Directors and what happens at those meetings.

Who Are We?

We are community members who commit significant time and attention to BHS. We meet monthly. We love animals and the people who care for them. We are bankers, engineers, stay-at-home moms, lawyers, students, fundraisers, veterinarians, real estate brokers and accountants. Some of us are creative, and others prefer to crunch numbers. We love dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, reptiles, and even rats. We are a passionate group that believes in the

BHS mission, that plans for the future of BHS, and that strives for optimal health and safety for all animals.

What happens at a BHS Board of Directors Meeting?

Along with addressing the business of running a shelter, we discuss how to make a difference for our community. As the face of animal welfare changes we consider ways to meet current and future needs.



As an example of a recent meeting, we discussed the physical facility and our desire to ensure that we provide the best space for animal health and safety and customer service. The humane society space must showcase

the animals. An attractive and functional building equals a calm and enjoyable atmosphere, which lends itself to higher adoption numbers.

As a Board, we understand BHS' mission and take our fiduciary responsibility to the community seriously. We are respectful and appreciative of the monetary donations and the volunteer hours devoted to BHS.

How You Can Help

We always welcome volunteers, whether as Board members, committee members, foster families, adopters, donors, or direct animal care providers.

Please visit the shelter, talk to Board members, join us on at our annual Paws on Parade, and consider donating money or time, acting as a foster parent, or providing a forever home for one of our animals.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,
Amy Faircloth
Board President

BHS Board of Directors FY 2015-2016

President, Amy Faircloth
Vice-President, Lani Naihe
Treasurer, Buddy Angst
Secretary, Laurie Qualey
Past-President, Emily McIntosh

Earl Black
David A. Cloutier, DVM
John Kenney
Deb Neuman

Matt Nye
Jeff Russell
Greg Sirois
Bob Williams

Special thanks to Louise Cross, Paws on Parade Chair





Bangor Humane Society Mission

The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal welfare through education and advocacy.

Shelter Statistics

Administered 1,097 rabies vaccines

Performed 2,004 spay/neuter surgeries

Distributed 396 vouchers totaling \$24,890

Took in 291 stray dogs

Accepted 359 surrendered dogs

Transferred 76 dogs in from other shelters

Took in 779 stray cats

Accepted 1182 surrendered cats

Transferred 101 cats in from other shelters

Took in 13 stray small animals

Accepted 85 surrendered small animals

Transferred 6 small animals in from other shelters

Total intake 2892

213 dogs were returned or

reunited with their owners

52 cats were returned or reunited with their owners

452 dogs adopted into new homes

1724 cats adopted into new homes

94 small animals adopted into new homes

13 animals transferred to other shelters

Total Lives Saved 2548

Guiding Principles

Treat all animals and people with respect, dignity and integrity.

Work diligently to end companion animal overpopulation by increasing awareness of spay and neuter programs.

Promote adoption of physically and mentally healthy companion animals.

Educate and train caretakers to develop fulfilling, lifelong relationships with their companion animals.

Serve as responsible stewards of our resources.

Hold ourselves to the highest standards of safety, care and cleanliness.

Raise public awareness with regard to the humane treatment of all animals.

Use euthanasia only as a last humane option when in the best interest of an animal.



Community Connections



By: Stacey R. Coventry

As Mary* gently strokes a cat on her lap, it begins to purr and rub against her frail hands. Volunteers and staff at Ross Manor, where she is a resident, watch her disposition drastically change. The more she pets Sebastian, the more she relaxes. Her callous demeanor and the tension in her body quickly fade away. She smiles, giggles, and begins to talk about a cat she had a long time ago.



Mary is one of dozens of individuals at Ross Manor who participate in a new partner program with the Bangor Humane Society called Cats on Laps. Twice a month BHS volunteers take friendly cats awaiting adoption for a field trip to Ross Manor to socialize with the long-term care residents who struggle with challenges like dementia, Alzheimer's, etc.

"I have personally witnessed the healing power of the animal-human bond on those suffering from emotional and physical trauma," says Suzan Bell, BHS Executive Director. "Those moments were inspiring and offered an opportunity for BHS to give back on a deeper level to the community, and the families within it, who have always supported our mission."

Not only does the program bring joy to the individuals who interact with some of our cats, but it also offers family members an opportunity to once again see a glimpse of their loved one as they excitedly recount their

visit with a shelter cat, sometimes days after the fact

"BHS coming is such a big hit, I continuously have people from multiple wings of the building asking if the animals can visit them as well. All the residents look forward to it and are always asking if

and when the animals will be back next! It is one thing that many of our memory loss patients remember frequently," says Kathy, director/coordinator of activities for Ross Manor. "It lifts the people's spirits, and so

many of the residents find their moods changing just at the sight of the animal – they can go from being incredibly grumpy all day to overwhelmingly happy in a matter of minutes. Everyone, including employees, stop to meet the animals as they walk down our hallways to visit our residents. We are so thankful for this program

and what it has done for the residents here; it is easily one of our most successful programs to date."

Visiting cats benefit as well. The field trips to Ross Manor give our friendliest, lap-loving cats respite from the shelter. They receive attention and socialization that encourages positive human interactions, reducing their stress and keeping them happy while they wait to be adopted. Cats chosen for Cats on Laps also get a special badge on



their kennels that encourage shelter visitors to learn about the program, while highlighting those cats that are the friendliest lap cats with a propensity to give back.

In addition to Cats on Laps, we offer a variety of on-site and off-site youth outreach and educational opportunities. They provide education about our spay/neuter initiatives, adoption programs, and the humane treatment of companion animals. Those opportunities include: guided shelter tours, animal-focused learning activities, traveling to schools and organizations within the communities we serve, and offering Kids Give Back events. Youth participation in these outreach events encourages and empowers youth to become humane ambassadors in their own community, building leadership skills while simultaneously developing a philanthropic mindset.

Cats on Lap, Kids Give Back, and our other youth outreach programs are just the beginning of our long-term outreach initiatives that allow us to connect with our community and facilitate positive relationships between animals and humans through collaborative partnerships. It is our hope that these efforts will lead to increased awareness and overall better treatment of animals in our community.



*Name has been changed for confidentiality

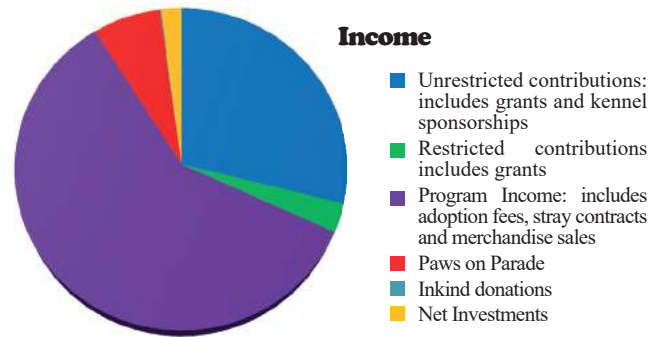
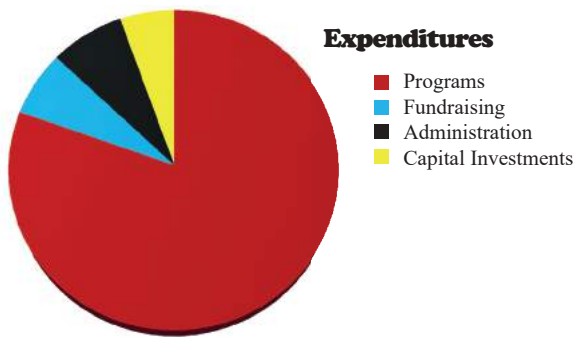


Income

Unrestricted contributions: includes grants and kennel sponsorships	\$287,441
Restricted contributions: includes grants	\$29,000
Program income: includes adoption fees, stray contracts & merchandise sales	\$588,090
Paws on Parade	\$67,625
In-kind donations	\$1,178
Net income from investments	\$17,533
Total income	\$955,801

Expenditures

Programs	\$907,853
Fundraising	\$74,563
Administration	\$84,255
Capital investments	\$61,849
Total	\$1,128,520



Ways of Giving

The programs and services offered by the Bangor Humane Society are funded primarily through private donors and foundations. We depend upon your support and generosity to help us continue saving lives. All contributions, large and small, truly make a difference in the lives of our shelter animals.

Major Donor Society

Individuals/Organizations who gave an annual gift of \$1,000 or more

- Hannah Allen
- Alfred and Esther Bushway
- Bobby and Dianne Capen
- Ordway T. Clifford
- Debbie Dalzell
- Edward David
- Jack and Betty Donovan
- Cheryl and Larry Drake

- Amy Faircloth, in memory of Dean Lewis
- William Focke
- Jane and Scott Folsom
- Forest Ave Congregational Church
- John R. Graham III
- Harold and Joyce Gordon
- Barry and Sandy Serpell
- Jack and Jackie Munroe
- Lani K. Naihe
- Art and Pat Shaw
- David and Mary Warner
- Katherine Whitney
- Roberta E. Winchell, Esq.

Businesses that gave an annual gift of \$1,000 or more through a Paws on Parade and/or Kennel Sponsorship

- Cross Insurance
- Camden National Bank
- Coach House Restaurant

- Dysarts
- Batteries Plus Bulbs
- Berry Dunn, McNeil & Parker
- Broadway Veterinary Clinic
- Green Acres Kennel Shop
- Memic
- Quirk Subaru
- R.F. Jordan & Sons Construction Inc.
- Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Foundations that awarded BHS with a grant of \$1,000 or more

- The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
- The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- The Laura J. Niles Foundation
- The Maine Community Foundation Belevedere Fund
- Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
- The Petco Foundation
- Simmons Foundation



From the Other Side of the Table

A Q&A by Deb Neuman with Dr. Lauren Landry, DVM



When people come to BHS as volunteers or staff they expect to work hard, get dirty, and work directly with some of the thousands of homeless pets we see each year. What they don't necessarily expect is to return here as a professional veterinarian. While a pre-vet student at UMaine, Dr. Landry worked at BHS from 2009-2012. In late 2015 she completed her veterinary training and was hired by Broadway Veterinary Clinic in early 2016. She also spends time each week helping BHS spay, neuter, and vaccinate our pets. She has come full circle.

When and why did you start working for BHS?

I was a student at UMaine, in the pre veterinary program and I received an email from my advisor that BHS was hiring. In 2009 I was hired as an adoption counselor then became an animal care technician. In 2011 I was fortunate enough to be hired as the veterinary technician and worked

with some amazing veterinarians. I currently work with the same doctors I worked with at BHS. Dr. Benson and Dr. Albert have been incredible mentors from day one.

What kinds of jobs did you perform?

Anything from helping someone find their new family member to prepping for surgery.

Did you always want to be a veterinarian?

I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I was born to do this.

How did your experience at BHS prepare you to become a veterinarian?

Teamwork, communication and patience are essential to life.

What are some of your fondest memories of that experience?

I was preparing for a surgery day when I received the call that I had been accepted to veterinary school. There were so many tears, smiles and hugs that day. I was surrounded by such a supportive group; it still gives me chills. The first day I came back to work for BHS I cried in Suzan's office.

In 2012 we had our first ASPCA Mega Match- A- Thon. The last day of the event was also my last day at BHS. It was an amazing way to end such an unforgettable experience. The entire shelter was empty. It was a very emotional day. Walking through the kennels was almost eerie, couldn't

believe that every animal had found their forever home.

Where did you go to school and did you want to come back to Bangor to practice?

I went to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and I've always wanted to come back here. I grew up in NH, graduated UMaine in 2011 and fell in love. I wanted to give back where I started. When I left BHS I knew I was going to come back. I had more to do here, more animals to provide care to. It is very surreal being on the other side of the surgery table at BHS.

Where are you practicing now and what do you enjoy most about it?

I am at Broadway Veterinary Clinic, working with the same doctors I did while at BHS. I thoroughly enjoy seeing patients who I had seen years ago at BHS. It is an amazing feeling to see an animal years later; it's very humbling and I get emotional.

What is the one piece of advice you would like to share with anyone reading this who would like to become a veterinarian someday?

It's not all puppies and kittens; but they sure do make the day brighter.

Do you have any final words you would like to share?

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
– Mahatma Gandhi



By: Kristin Harmon
Customer Service Supervisor

As a Bangor Humane Society employee, we get three regular questions: “do you have any puppies/kittens,” “how do you not adopt them all,” and “how do you work there? I couldn’t do it.” The speculation about what we actually do every day never ceases to entertain us. We don’t just play with puppies and kittens all day (okay sometimes we do, but don’t tell our bosses), we don’t adopt them all because not every animal is a good match for our lifestyles, and most importantly, we work here because it’s our heart and soul – BHS isn’t ‘just another job’ – we’re a family, it’s our passion, and honestly, it’s a lot happier place than one may think. What goes on behind the scenes is sometimes sad, yes. But we aren’t just the sad-dog-commercial people think we are; our jobs can be rewarding, dirty, exciting, chaotic, exhausting, and everything in between. Let me explain...

7am: an Animal Care Tech clocks in



and begins their shift. 365 days a year, we are here, even on holidays. And snow days? Forget about it, even if we are closed for the day there is no such thing as a day off for the hungry pets at BHS. A tech starts their shift by feeding all of the dogs, setting up clean kennels for them, and administering medications.

8am: four more staff members (and usually a handful of amazing volunteers) show up to begin morning dog walk; every dog in the building goes outside for a potty break.

9am: the smell of the “poop trash” sitting in the hot sun signifies that dog walk is winding down. Eight direct care staff and four members of our management team have found their way to the shelter by now. We start to hose out dirty dog kennels, feed and clean the cats, and make the shelter sparkling clean... the shelter’s scent, a perfect balance of bleach and Febreze, is made here. Personally, I think we should patent it, what about you? With 60 cats in our care today, we are beyond thankful to have two extra volunteers here to help with cleaning.

9:30am: today our Operations Manager, Chris, and I head out to assist an Animal Welfare Agent with a large-scale surrender. We will transport over 30 cats back to Bangor, shelters from across the state will meet us, and the cats will be dispersed to 4 different shelters in order to find new forever homes.

10am: cleaning is in full swing when our Licensed Veterinary Technician, Allen, pages two of our Animal Care Techs to his office. He wants to talk about a cat whose medical issues we’ve been working with for a few weeks. Despite finding hospice care with a staff member for him, it is devastating news to learn that his organs are shutting down and he doesn’t have much time left. With heavy hearts, and after a lot of catnip and some tasty wet food, we say goodbye to the goofy big guy we have grown to love like he’s our own over the past few weeks. We contact our friend Gene who owns Ashes to Ashes pet crematory and ask if he can stop by the shelter to help us lay our feline friend to rest.

10:05am: back with Chris and I about an hour away in our Cats On Tour van,



The Scoop: Working at an Animal Shelter



we arrive at our destination. Almost all of the cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and their owners know every cat's name and birthday. They explain they just can't afford to care for this many anymore, and we assure them we will do everything in our power to ensure they find loving forever homes.

10:45am: Animal Control Officer Dan Joy arrives with an adorable chocolate pit bull mix who is all bandaged up with a cone on. We ask what's going on, and he explains this is the dog that was featured on the news that had been dragged by a truck. We snuggle the 6-month-old pit bull and set him up in a staff member's office. He is voluntarily surrendered to BHS and we begin to make a plan for his healing process.

11am: it's lunchtime at BHS, but junior volunteers Caitlin and Emily show up to cuddle with some of the puppies who are too young to go up for adoption. They take them outside in one of our covered pens and end up covered in kisses.

11:30am: Chris and I arrive back at

BHS, meet up with the other shelters, and disperse the cats. Each of us takes several cats, and we thank the other humane societies who met us in Bangor – we are all excited to give these felines a new lease on life. Once back inside, we realize news has spread that we have the dog that was dragged by a truck. I answer what I can only estimate to be 40 phone calls, emails, and Facebook messages about him. We name him Phoenix, and our Foster Care Coordinator Katelyn finds him placement.

12pm: Adoption Counselors open our front doors and Animal Care Techs meet with Chris to plan for the day. Several people fill our lobby asking about the dog that was dragged by the truck, we let them know what our plan is for him and they are gracious and thankful he is being well cared for. Stacey, our Director of Public Relations, is busy doing news interviews about Phoenix and sharing his story. Our Executive Director Suzan is at a press conference with Brewer PD, reassuring the public that Phoenix is receiving top-notch care with help from



the Brewer Emergency Veterinary clinic and Dr. Landry of Broadway Vet Clinic.

12:15pm: one of four Animal Care Techs is scheduled for noon check; their job is to medicate animals, check in with all of them, and ensure any animal-related health issues are handled. The cats we have been treating in Cat Observation are doing well, and a mom who just gave birth to newborn kittens is nursing away in our Maternity Ward, all snuggled into a big warm bed and waiting for her foster mom to pick her up.

12:30pm-3pm: two Animal Care Techs work tirelessly to check in cats in our receiving area. They receive a head to tail exam, vaccinations and treatments, and are tested for Feline Leukemia. They're then put on the next available surgery schedule to be seen by a vet, and receive a rabies vaccination and spay/neuter surgery if necessary.





1pm: an older gentleman sits down at the surrender desk with his senior dog. He cries as he tells us his wife just passed away and he is no longer in good health; he has to surrender the dog to us. Often times people

think that our animals come from bad homes and sympathize with how hard it must be for us to witness that, when sometimes the hardest part of our job is hearing the stories of owners who wish they didn't have to give up their beloved pet. He is one of nine owners who struggle with the decision to surrender their animal to us today.

1:15pm: tomorrow a veterinarian will be at BHS to perform spay/neuter, rabies vaccinations, and wellness exams. We work with different veterinarians from the greater Bangor area. Two Animal Care Techs are buzzing around the building, moving cats to cat recovery next to the operating room, so that the vet can see them tomorrow.

1:30pm: a dog is being adopted! Her name is Stella, and she's a spunky young chocolate lab who needs an active owner. We were worried it might take us some time to find someone who would be a match for her energy, but celebrate in the realization that it only took two days for her perfect match to walk through our doors. Three other dogs and eight cats find their forever homes today, and one stray dog is reclaimed by her owner.

3pm: one of the Techs begins to feed all of the dogs in the building, while two others meet to set up a list of the dogs who need behavior evaluations and check ins tomorrow. The fourth Tech is tending to a litter of underage kittens that just came through the door.

3:15pm: a young man named James enters our lobby with boxes and bags full of much needed supplies for our shelter pets. He tells us that he recently celebrated a birthday, and instead of asking for gifts he asked for supplies to donate to BHS. We thank him so much; our supply closet is almost empty and his donation could not be coming at a better time.

3:30pm: afternoon dog walk is called... "Can I have all dog walkers to the kennels please, all dog walkers to the kennels, starting with Darla up front," plays over the intercom.

3:30-5pm: all dogs are walked around a trail, three Techs, one Adoption Counselor, and one volunteer give our canines some much needed exercise and one-on-one time.

5pm: only one Tech and two Adoption Counselors remain at BHS to close out the day. The Tech checks in on every animal in the building, ensures that they have food and water, administers medications, and goes through a list of closing Tech duties. One Adoption Counselor wraps up a dog visit and completes an adoption while the other returns phone calls.

6pm: Adoption Counselors turn off lights and radios, close windows and lock the front doors. They help the last customers in the lobby, and complete a list of closing Adoption Counselor duties.

6:15pm: two Adoption Counselors and one Tech clock out for the day, breathe a sigh of relief, and walk to their cars while talking about the highs and lows of the day. "Stella got adopted!" "Can you believe the amount of media that was here to talk about Phoenix?" "See you tomorrow."



Often times the public only sees our animals; they don't see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. I tried to keep this article to fewer than 800 words and ended up with over 1,700; the amount of work that goes on at BHS could span an 800-page book if I let it, no wonder it's so hard to compose a proper training manual. And this is on a non-surgery day; imagine if we needed to spay/neuter 5 dogs and 15 cats on top of this? I am so thankful and proud to be part of such a compassionate group of people. To the foster parents, staff, volunteers, offsite partners, donors, adopters, veterinary partners, animal control officers, police officers and everyone else who loves and supports the animals in our community – thank you. Now to go home and get a good night's sleep! Tomorrow is the kitten shower and we are going to have a line to the parking lot.



2015 Highlights



In October 2015, we collaborated with Greater Androscoggin Humane Society during the Annual ASPCA Mega Match-A-Thon.



In September 2015, Kappa Delta Phi adopted BHS as their charity of choice. In addition to volunteering both on-site and at off-site events, they hosted fundraising events that raised over \$1,300 for BHS.



In June 2015, we began a partnership with Road Trip Home Rescue from Georgia.



In October 2015, we held our 22nd Annual Paws on Parade event on the Bangor Waterfront.

Outreach Stats

188 off-site adoptions

9 off-site adoption partners

800 two-legged and four-legged Paws on Parade participants

209 active volunteers

119 new volunteers

30 foster families

220 animals saved through foster care

3,750 total volunteer hours logged



By: Stacey R. Coventry

For those of us who have chosen pet adoption as a path to add a furry member to our family, we are all motivated by different reasons. Some of us want to open our hearts and homes to an animal in need of a second chance; some are looking for a friend to join us on adventures; others are hoping to find a friend who can heal our broken heart, fill an empty nest, or encourage us to get off the couch and go for a walk. Often we realize that our rescued companion has been brought into our lives as a heart healer, fitness buddy, shotgun-riding navigator, or loyal therapist. Whatever role we discover they fill, many of us humans who have adopted a rescue in turn find that we ourselves are the ones that have been rescued.

The Purr Effect

Chappie, a 7 year old Siamese mix was surrendered to BHS because her previous owner was struggling with health issues that prevented him from being able to care for her. In the shel-

ter, at first Chappie was shy, but soon staff discovered just how sweet and loving she could be, especially if you respected her boundaries. In a kennel, Chappie was withdrawn and apathetic to human affection, which made it difficult to encourage anyone to adopt her. Staff and volunteers spent some extra time with her, helping to build her confidence and bring her out of her shell.

Chappie quickly became a staff favorite and was featured on WABI's Pet of the Week. That is where the Umel family first fell in love with her.

Debbie Umel resonated with Chappie's story and personality as it reminded her of her teenage son, Noah, who was diagnosed with Aspergers and Dyspraxia at the age of 9. She wanted to give him a special gift for his fifteenth birthday. Noah was fearful of dogs, but Debbie and her husband have always been allergic to cats, so finding Noah a pet companion to help with his anxiety and social development was a challenge. But there was something about Chappie.

Debbie decided to take a chance, so she visited BHS, asked to meet with Chappie, and decided to adopt her for Noah.

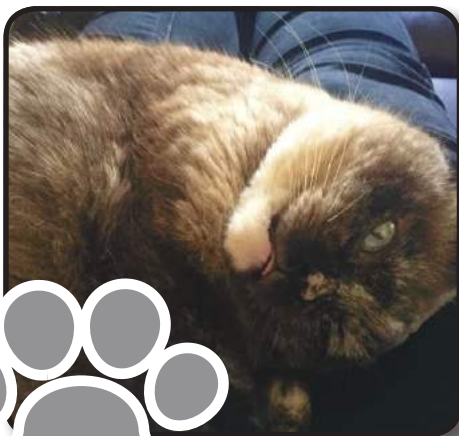
Over three months later and Debbie and her husband have suffered little more than a few sneezes since Chappie, now named Poutine, has entered their lives. And the effect that her companionship has had on Noah is a priceless gift they could never repay.



"She has been the sweetest, funniest, silliest, most entertaining, well-behaved, lovey and purrfect companion for Noah and our entire family," says Debbie. "Just a few tiny sneezes, but nothing like most cats would cause, and she's so worth it!! It's truly amazing the calming effect she has on Noah. Every day we wake up and remark just how much she completes our family. Really, we are totally hers and she knows it!"

A Friend for a Friend

With three kids, a dog and a cat, The Cranes thought their family was complete. But, over time, they were learning that their young, energetic pitbull Leah was a little more active than their current household could keep up with. While they were committed to finding outlets for Leah's energy she was constantly seeking out the playful affections of the kids, adults and even the feline resident in the family. They were concerned that if they didn't find a positive and regular out-



y a Rescue



let for her energy, it would become too intense for the kids and their cat. So, they began the search for a canine companion that could keep up with Leah's energy, while also being a good fit with the rest of the family.

Their search led them to BHS where Roxie, a two year old sweet and active pitbull mix had recently been transferred from another shelter because it was having difficulties matching her with the right family.

The entire Crane family, including Leah, visited onsite a couple of times with Roxie. To staff it seemed like love at first sight with all members of the Crane family, particularly Leah. To the Crane family it seemed like an answer to their prayers.

Roxie settled in immediately with the Crane family. Just days after the adoption, we received an update that Leah and Roxie were the perfect pair. "We are so in love with Roxie," says Brianna Crane. "She is so perfect for

all of us. Leah and Roxie are inseparable! You would think they were raised together from day one. Thank you so much for helping us find our missing family member."

Roxie and Leah spend their days playing and tiring each other out in their backyard, have doubled the sloppy kisses received by everyone, and nurture the youngest humans in the family...together.

The Best Medicine

Mike and his long-time girlfriend, Pam, had been searching for a canine companion for some time, but just hadn't found the right match. They were looking for a smaller dog that they could manage easily in their apartment. While Pam was actively employed, Mike was retired and suffered from periods of depression. He was looking for a dog he could take care of to help distract him from his periodic episodes with depression as well as a friend to keep him company. Mike and Pam's search ended on

January 30, 2016 when they met a one year old Griffon mix, Nantucket at BHS. Mike remembers the moment he met Nantucket and described her as a friendly little ball of fire. They all fell in love immediately.



In a very short time, Mike noticed himself laughing at Nantucket's playful antics that were easing him out of his depressed moods. He would hear himself chuckle, and that began to motivate him to take her out for regular walks. Mike began losing weight and started to feel better overall.

Mike had also been battling high blood pressure for a long time. After a few short months of having Nantucket, he went for a checkup with his doctor, who was shocked at how significantly his health had improved. Mike's blood pressured registered the lowest it had in years. When the doctor inquired what he had been doing differently, Mike responded, "I adopted a dog."

Thrilled with the positive changes in Mike's health, his doctor willingly wrote a formal





letter prescribing Nantucket for his health to ensure the two would be allowed to stay together in all current and future living arrangements.

An Ace in the Hole

When Renee visited the Bangor Humane Society a few years ago, she was searching for a companion dog that could fill the role a very special job. Starting the search was difficult for Renee as she was still healing from the loss of her special friend, Hype, a lab/cattle dog that she had for over 14 years. At the time she visited us, none of the available dogs fit the very specific characteristics she had in mind for her next companion, including his breed. Renee was in search of an Australian Cattle Dog. As conversations with staff began to unfold, one of the adoption counselors thought that she may be the perfect match for a dog named Ace that was not yet placed on the adoption floor. He was terrified in the shelter environment, bared all of his teeth in his kennel and wouldn't let staff evaluate him without trying to bite. Staff tried giving the scared dog time to settle in but after almost two months of residency, had begun looking into transferring options for him. When Renee heard about this scared dog, she immediately asked to see him. She sat in the visitation room and waited. When Ace was brought into the room, while a bit shy, he walked

right up to Renee and placed his head in her lap. The staff person was shocked as he hadn't bonded with anyone in

the shelter so affectionately and comfortably yet, never mind with a stranger he just met.

Renee quickly knew that he could fill the role of her companion quite nicely, but wasn't sure about the other special job she had in mind for him. She decided to follow her instinct and give it a try through our foster-to-adopt program. She took Ace home and started training him for his new special job. Renee was looking to train a dog to become a personal service dog. She had suffered a leg injury that caused her leg to completely give out randomly and



with no warning. As an avid hiker, her ultimate goal was to find a companion that could intuitively detect when her leg was going to give out and then proactively step in without hesitation to serve as a temporary leg brace. She began working with Ace on basic training commands and taking him into different public places to practice various scenarios. Ace met and succeeded at every task and challenge he was given. Renee felt strongly she found her perfect match so she officially completed Ace's adoption and continued his training

to become a licensed service dog.

One day Renee, Ace and a human companion of hers were in the middle of one of their hikes. Everything was going as planned until they began to climb a steep incline on the edge of cliff. Suddenly it happened-- the moment Renee had feared and had been trying to prepare Ace for. Her leg completely gave out. And this time, it was for real. For the first time, Ace was there in the precise moment he was needed. He braced, caught Renee, and saved her from falling and hitting her head against the side of the steep, rocky cliff.

Three years later Ace has passed his required training to be officially licensed as Renee's service dog. She brings him every year to the waterfront for Paws on Parade so they can celebrate how they rescued each other. Ace dons his service vest and exudes a stoic professionalism as he focuses all of his attention on being fully alert should Renee need him to step in and support her physically. But, when she removes the vest, he becomes a happy, tail wagging social butterfly, a part of him that didn't blossom until he had a very special job to fill and a human to rescue.

Our pets make us laugh, reduce the physical effects of stress, can pull us out of our sadness like a game of tug of war with their favorite pull toy, and sometimes they literally save our life. Every single day at the Bangor Humane Society we foster connections between humans and animals. We are matchmakers who create families. And, for a lucky few, we bring animal and human together so they can rescue each other.



2015 Highlights



During the year, we hosted several volunteer appreciation events including a Thanksgiving potluck and Ice Cream Social.



In January 2016, through creative marketing and a partnership with the Maine Edge, Dwayne, a long-term resident Feline Leukemia cat got adopted.



In March 2016, we hosted our first Rabbit 101 public education event.



In April 2016, Coco, a 10-year-old Labrador mix was diagnosed, treated and deemed cancer-free. We successfully adopted her into a new home that could maintain her ongoing care.



In July 2015, we hosted a Rabies and Microchip Clinic with Broadway Veterinary Clinic.



Calling All Humans

The Future of Finding Forever Homes is Here

By: Kristin Harmon

We are more excited than ever to share a sneak peek into our future. In mid-2016, thanks to a generous grant from the ASPCA, we dove in and committed to a new way of making matches between humans and animals. The Adoption Ambassador program was developed by the ASPCA and is being implemented by hundreds of shelters across the United States. The program utilizes members of the public by making them honorary Adoption Counselors, and giving them full access to making matches between pets and potential adopters.

Adoption Ambassadors take our adoptable animals into their homes, and into the community, helping reach new audiences who may have



never considered pet adoption before. It drastically reduces the time an animal has to spend in a kennel before they are adopted, and Ambassadors are able to make solid matches based on their first-hand experience with the pet. This home-to-home match vs. the traditional kennel-to-home match has proven to have lower return rates

due to the bond that Ambassadors are able to make with the pets that they are rehoming. For more information, and to become an Ambassador, go to bangorhumane.org/adoptionambassador. We can't wait to see the lives of community members and shelter pets improve with this innovative program!

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