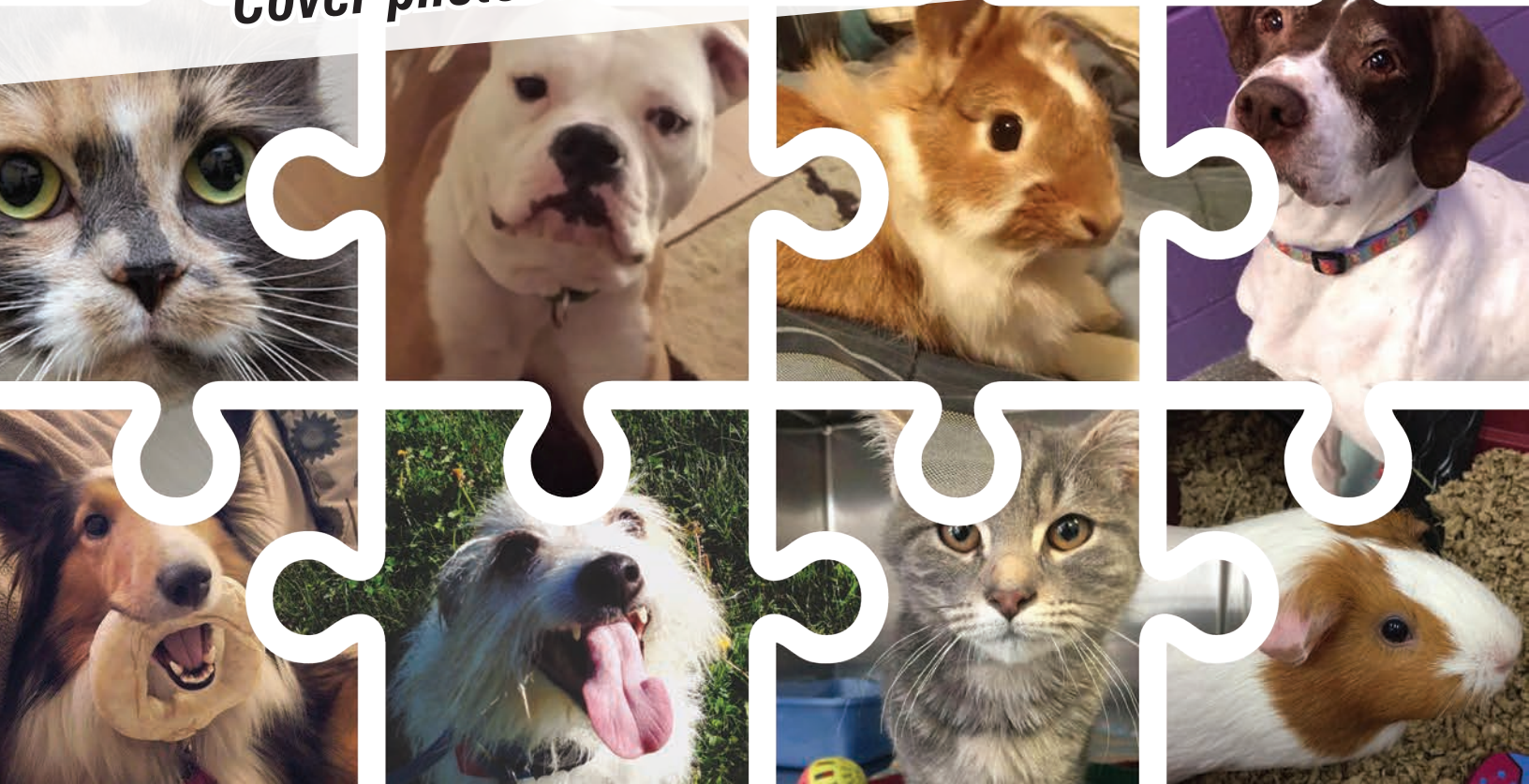




Bangor Humane Society

Annual Report 2015

Cover photos feature last year's alumni class!





Building a Community that Saves Lives

I want to take this opportunity to thank every single one of our supporters who has become an integral part of our BHS family and life-saving work. Whether a long-time donor who has supported us through a legacy of giving or a new adoption partner helping us place more pets into loving homes, we would not be able to reach the successes we do every single day without each and every one of you.

Over the last few years, we have not only reached our highest adoption rate in agency history but also a decreased annual intake as a result of our diligent spay/neuter efforts. While we continue to strive for excellence in fulfilling our mission, we have shifted some of our outreach efforts to grow our network of resources and partners to help as many pets in need as we can.

We have seen what we can do together, when our community supports our goals and helps drive our mission. Therefore, as we continue to achieve agency milestones we have made the commitment to extend our efforts beyond our own community to help those shelters in smaller, rural areas of the state, particularly in central, eastern and northern Maine.

We are helping place more homeless pets statewide through these relationships. We also continue to strengthen and build our resources to help us care, treat, rehabilitate and re-home the most vulnerable pets in our community that arrive at our door with a variety of behavioral and medical needs.



We are so grateful for all of the compassionate and generous supporters in our village- people



like you, all of whom help us rise to meet every need of every shelter guest in our care. For all the lives you have helped us save so far, and on behalf of all those you will help us save this year, thank you!

*Sincerely,
Suzan Bell
Executive Director*

Reflections and Transitions



As I look back on my time as President of the Bangor Humane Society Board, I feel strongly that it has been both an education and a gift. This is a very special place filled with dedicated, compassionate people and some of the most unique and loving pets you will ever meet. I have been so pleased to see BHS continue to evolve from simply a shelter to a true adoption center.

The special needs of the animals reaching our doors are greater than ever, and the ability of BHS staff and volunteers to invest in rehabilitating these pets and place them into forever homes is at its highest as well. It fills me with pride to have been part

of this transition and while my time as President of the Board is over, I will continue to serve and be a lifelong supporter of this worthy organization.

I hope that I can count on all of you reading this report to continue on with your support and usher BHS into its next phase of growth. Paws, claws, tongues, fur and feathers of all kinds will thank you!

All the best.

Emily McIntosh, Board President 2013-2015

Having completed my sixth year on the BHS board, I am so pleased to be the newly elected president. I am proud of our work and excited about the future of BHS. We will continue to focus on reducing the number of animals coming into our shelter and increasing the number of animals placed in new homes throughout the community.

At BHS, we are committed to running an adoption facility dedicated to finding a loving home for each pet we serve. We are committed to relying on spay and neuter as a means of population control, and to promoting a society where companion animals are valued.

Our Mission Statement directs us to champion, provide and promote.

1. How do we “Champion” the humane treatment and adoption of companion

Looking Ahead

animals? Members of our staff are available to inform the public about issues of responsible pet care. We encourage adoptions by setting reasonable costs and reasonable expectations of adopters. We provide socialization for shelter pets knowing that pets adopted from us are our ambassadors in the community.

2. How do we “Provide” quality care for homeless pets? We improve our physical facilities to provide a better environment for our animals and staff. We attract and maintain the best-qualified, effective and respectful staff and volunteers.

3. How do we “Promote” animal welfare through education and advocacy? We provide public education about responsible pet ownership. We advocate, encourage and educate on spay and neuter programs.

We are grateful for you – BHS adopters, supporters and volunteers – and your commitment to our shared vision as we work together to create a more humane world for animals.



Thank you.

Amy Faircloth, Board President
June 2015

BHS Board of Directors

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

Renee Ordway
Jeff Russell
Greg J. Sirois
Bob Williams

Special thanks to Louise Cross, Paws on Parade Chair





Bangor Humane Society was founded in 1869, making us the oldest Humane Society in the State of Maine. We are a donor-supported, private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported almost entirely by donations from compassionate and concerned citizens in our community. We operate one of Maine's largest animal care and adoption facility. The Bangor Humane Society cares for over 3,000 owner-released and stray animals each year. We serve over 200 communities in Maine, including eastern, coastal, Downeast and parts of northern Maine. After a major capital campaign that raised more than \$2.5 million, we moved into our present facility in 1997.

305 days open • **2,212** hours open
184 volunteers • **2,675** volunteer hours logged
8 Cats on tour adoption partners • **800** Paws on Parade participants

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.

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.



Swap to Save Lives



By: Kristin Harmon

Growing our village of life-saving partners has become an integral part of our BHS mission, especially this past year. From “shelter swapping” between shelters allowing long-term residents to be seen in new communities to teaming up for big events, we’ve achieved great successes when working closely with other organizations to place more pets into loving homes.

During last year’s ASPCA Mega Match-A-Thon, we invited the Old Town Animal Orphanage and the SPCA of Hancock County to be a part of our three-day event. Although we invite other shelters every year, 2014 was special. The SPCA of Hancock County brought one dog in particular named Jewel, a beautiful tri-colored American Foxhound mix who had been at their shelter for nearly a year. Giving her a fresh set of potential adopters in a new community, Jewel was adopted in just a matter of hours. Her new owners have since stopped by the Bangor Humane Society with her to let us know how she’s doing.

Nearly 40 animals from the SPCA of Hancock County and the Old Town

Orphanage, along with almost all of the animals that were available for adoption during the event, were adopted, placing over 100 pets into new homes in just three days.

Following the huge success of the ASPCA Mega Match-A-Thon, we have made transferring animals from other area shelters a regular occurrence at BHS. Most recently, we worked with the Waterville Humane Society and The Ark Animal Shelter in Cherryfield to transfer in some of their long-term residents. Nearly 40 cats during the first quarter of 2015 have found their purr-fect matches because they were exposed to different families in new communities.

The Ark in Cherryfield has been a joy to work with. Their staff has entrusted us with some of their longest-term residents, which, as a humane society, is something we know to be bittersweet. Some of the cats, like Scotta, had been at The Ark for several years. You can’t help but become attached in that time. Working with a smaller, rural shelter like Cherryfield and moving the highly adoptable cats to a larger city like Bangor has proven that working together can save more lives. Close to 20 of their cats like Hazel and Scotta, pictured here, have found loving homes.

Our most recent transfer was with the Humane Society of Waterville, which has recently seen an increase in its feline intake. We have been able to partner with them to transfer in five cats from their facility that were scooped up by adopters in just a few days after their arrival at BHS – happy, healthy, smiling faces who found their forever homes just an hour away.

Shelter swapping has been a successful two-way street for some of our BHS guests as well. Working with shelters in Southern Maine, like the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, has helped some of our long-

term residents find their perfect matches.

As we continue to grow our partnerships across the state and help successfully match more pets with new families, we hope to extend our services and partnerships beyond state lines to help transfer dogs from high-kill shelters in southern states to BHS to save as many lives as we can.

The successes from our partnerships over the last few years have taught us that when all the pieces of a puzzle come together, the outcome is a beautiful one – one full of love, happiness, and lots of tails wagging on their way home. We are excited to continue working with these shelters, and others like them, on our common goal: to help homeless animals and save more lives.





Taking the Lo

By: Stacey R. Coventry

It truly takes a village to save the lives of all the precious animals in our care at the Bangor Humane Society.

There are so many unsung heroes who help us change the world for animals in need each and every single day.

Some animals in our care are simply lost and are quickly reunited with their owners. Some are surrendered by their families for various reasons and are quickly placed into new loving homes. But others, with various special needs, endure incredible journeys to reach their happy endings.

Panda, a 6 year old pitbull is one of those special residents.



Panda came to the Bangor Humane Society in September 2014 because her owners were not allowed to take her with them to their new residence. She was an affectionate, outgoing girl, but we learned quickly that she had a strong prey drive and was protective of her humans and her space. Panda also became easily stressed in her kennel, which unfortunately didn't let her friendly, affectionate nature shine through. That, combined with the very specific home she needed without other animals or small children, put her on a journey of long-term residency at BHS.

During the time she was here, her behavior deteriorated; Panda was becoming reactive and intolerant, and she started to have bowel and digestive issues. We reached out to the Animal Refuge League in Southern Maine to see if a change of scenery would help turn her behaviors around and lead to an adoption in a different part of the state.

The staff at ARL spent lots of time with Panda as they tried to help her find a new home. But as her behaviors persisted, they feared something more was going on. After consulting with their veterinary partners, Panda was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and food sensitivity at ARL. It seemed her medical and behavior issues were all stemming from these two larger issues, which once under control, could disappear entirely.



After several months at ARL, Panda was brought back to BHS where we reached out to behavioral experts. Jason Howe, a behavioral expert, treated Panda one-on-one and her behavioral issues were a side effect of the stress she sustained her medication and the best, all while giving her the best care possible. Staff and volunteers took Panda on regular Dog's Day Out adventures to help keep her happy and de-stressed. She went for long car rides

Shelter Statistics

Spay/Neuter Vouchers distributed: **643**
Spay/Neuter Vouchers to low income families in dollars: **\$36,271**

370 dogs surrendered and **269** stray dogs found refuge at BHS

1497 cats surrendered and **886** stray cats found refuge at BHS

76 Small animals found refuge at BHS

413 dogs adopted and **173** dogs reunited with their lost owners

2030 cats adopted and **51** cats reunited with their lost owners

57 small animals adopted

2724 LIVES SAVED

Outreach Stats

- **184** volunteers
- **50** foster families
- Over **250** animals fostered.
- **2675** volunteer hours logged
- **8** offsite adoption partners
- Over **150** cats adopted from offsite adoption partners
- Over **800** two legged and four Paws on Parade participants
- Over **200** Communities served
- **305** days open **2212** hours open



ong Way Home



ocean swims, trail hikes and slumber parties with volunteers.

We saw improvement in about a month and began to see the old Panda emerge. Her happy, tennis-ball-loving, cuddly self was consistently coming back.

While we had been working diligently to diagnose and treat Panda, John, a retired veteran, was mourning the loss of his chocolate lab that he adopted from BHS 14 years ago. When he was finally ready to find a new friend, Panda was ready to be placed for adoption again.

On May 13, John returned to BHS after over a decade to meet Panda, who he saw featured on our website. He lived alone on a lake and had no other pets or small kids. He felt confident he could manage her thyroid condition, quirky behaviors and her special dietary needs for the rest of her life.

All of our shelter residents are in need of a second chance. Yet saving the thousands of animals that come to our door each year – many of them with special behavioral or medical attention – requires a large network

of compassionate partners committed to helping animals in need. This network includes our staff, veterinarians, volunteers, foster parents, adopters, shelter partners, local businesses and every adoption ambassador who supports us in some way.

Panda is currently settling happily into her new home on the lake, After eight months. We are so grateful for all of the compassionate and generous supporters in our village that helped us send Panda home.



ARL, Panda was transferred
hed out to one of our behav-
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special diet and hoped for
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A Special Match

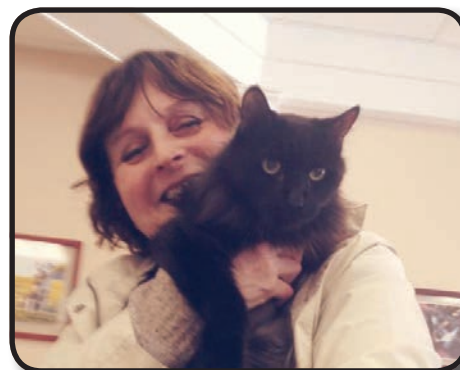
By: Renee Ordway

Cory's second chance started the day he showed up at the Bangor Humane Society. At 10 years old, Cory was diagnosed with diabetes during his time at BHS, and getting his blood sugar levels under control proved to be a challenge at first. Though he became a long-term resident, perfect matches often defy simple explanation and the staff at BHS knew that Cory's match was out there somewhere.

While BHS was helping Cory, Shirley St. Peter was discovering that coming home to a house without a cat was proving to be lonely. It had been a while since her family had lost their cat, and she finally decided it was time to fill the void. Then she

read Cory's story online.

Cory's diagnosis didn't bother Shirley; in fact she was familiar with caring for a diabetic cat, as she had a diabetic cat in her



family before. She decided to meet him in person. When Shirley met Cory it was love at first sight. It quickly became apparent that

Cory had plenty of time left; he is healthy and happy and an unashamed bed hog.

He earns his keep by brightening Shirley's day every time she walks in the door. She gives him two insulin shots a day and he purrs his way through each one. "Special needs kitties deserve a good home too," she says, "And I swear to you, they are so appreciative. He is such a loving boy. He filled a need for me and I filled a need for him and that is something special."

Since his adoption, Shirley has welcomed another cat into the home and Cory is adapting well to his new companion. "He's a sweet boy - I guess some think he's lucky to have gotten a second chance, but we're the lucky one, I can assure you of that."



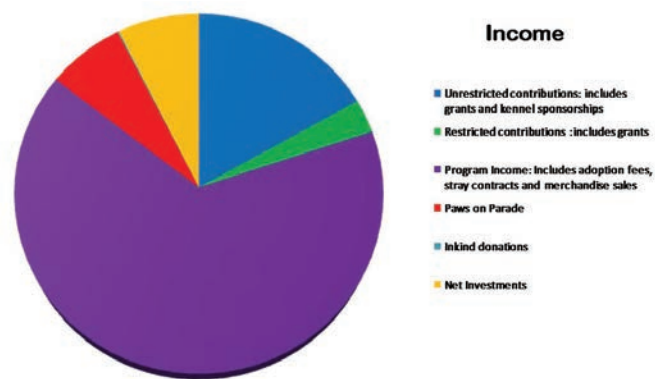
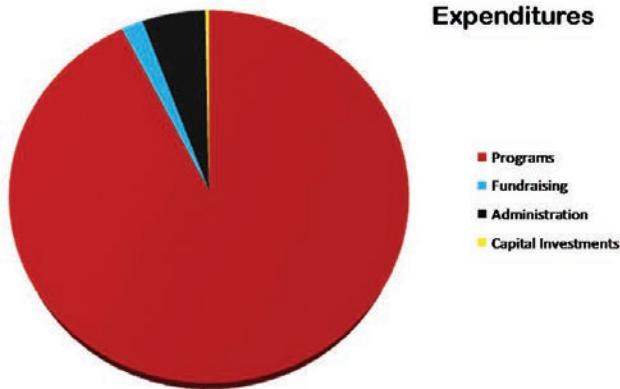


Income

Unrestricted contributions: includes grants and kennel sponsorships	\$168,394
Restricted contributions: includes grants	\$30,375
Program Income: Includes adoption fees, stray contracts & merchandise sales	\$654,125
Paws on Parade	\$70,187
In-kind donations	\$1,169
Net Investments	\$73,560
Total Income	\$997,810

Expenditures

Programs	\$999,736
Fundraising	\$19,694
Administration	\$57,131
Capital Investments	\$3,200
Total	\$1,079,761



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.

Paw it Forward: Sponsor the adoption of a BHS pet up for adoption by paying their adoption fee. We surprise the adopter with the waived adoption fee and ask them to “paw it forward” and pay for another shelter pet’s adoption fee that is awaiting a new home.

Online: Click “donate” at www.bangorhumane.org.

Honor/Memorial: Make a donation as a gift in honor of a pet or special person or as a memorial gift for a deceased loved one or pet.

Kennel Sponsorship: Sponsor a cat or dog kennel annually to help provide for the care and resources for the many pets that reside in that kennel throughout the year. Receive recognition on the kennel sign and quarterly updates on the pets you have helped.

Event Sponsorships: Donate to underwrite a shelter event like our annual Paws on Parade or

Match-A-Thon events.

The Whitley Society: Forever Friends: Plan your future giving now. Leave a gift through bequest to help the shelter pets and create a family legacy.

The Golden Paw Society: We are proud to announce the establishment of The Golden Paw Society, a leadership group of individuals, families, and businesses who are an invaluable part of the Bangor Humane Society’s life-saving work with homeless pets. Golden Paw Society members

are among the most devoted and loyal supporters of the Bangor Humane Society and our mission. Through annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, Golden Paw Society members provide the critical resources necessary for the BHS to save furry lives.

Golden Paw Society members create a legacy of love and help us save more lives and grant more second chances.

In-kind/general donations: Drop off a monetary donation or needed shelter items from our agency wish list at the shelter six days a week.



A Special Job for Harper



"She's always a bit sad when she comes to realize they are gone,"

Kara explains. She races down each morning and tries to find them. It takes a few days for her to realize they are gone." But it's never too long before another litter is in need of some of Harper's special attention.

Mariah Cassidy, the foster care coordinator at the Bangor Humane Society, couldn't be happier with what Kara and Harper and all of the BHS foster families can do for the pets here.

"Our foster parents provide underage kittens with extra love and attention we just aren't able to in a shelter environment," says Cassidy. "Harper just proves that anyone can be a foster parent. It's all about heart."

The Bangor Humane Society created its foster program nearly 20 years ago. Today there are 50 families involved and they have helped the shelter save hundreds of kittens each season.

Kara doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. Not only does her generosity save the lives of many kittens, it also provides Harper with a big job and that's important for a German Shepherd.

Kara has created a special Facebook page dedicated to Harper and her big, welcoming heart. You can find it by searching for Harper and Shakespeare on Facebook.

By: Renee Ordway

Most of us know that German Shepherds are great working dogs. They are loyal, obedient, strong and intelligent and it is for those reasons they are often trained for search and rescue, bomb detection and guide dogs. They like to have a job to do.

Two-and-a-half-year-old Harper may not be a search and rescue dog - she likes hanging out with her owner Kara Swartz in their Hampden home, fetching balls and running on the beach.

But she too has a keen sense of responsibility and has taken it upon herself to ensure that foster kittens from the Bangor Humane Society are well cared for.

Kara is one of BHS's foster moms. She takes in new moms and their litters and cares for them in her home until they are ready to go up for adoption.

Kara fell in love with the first litter of kittens she brought home and it wasn't long before she realized that Harper was smitten as well.

"I put them in a separate room and kept the door closed when I first brought them home. I wanted mom to feel safe and secure," recalled Kara. "Harper just sat outside that door and whined."

Eventually Kara carefully introduced Harper to the new little family and it quickly became clear that Harper had found herself a job.

"She went in there and I mean she just

started licking them and obsessing over them and it became this routine every morning. When she got up she would go straight to the door and just sat there and whine until I'd let her in," explains Swartz.

It hasn't taken long for the mother cats to realize that Harper poses no threat to their little ones, and once the kittens are up and running around, Harper's big warm body proves to be a favorite napping spot.

"Her whole demeanor changes when she's with the kittens. She's calm, she just loves on them. It's amazing," says Swartz.

Foster families can keep kittens for up to eight weeks before they are ready to be returned to BHS for adoption.





When All of the Pieces Come Together

By: Renee Ordway & Kristin Harmon

At BHS it's no secret that we care for thousands of animals each year. Whether they come through our doors perfectly healthy, or in need of emergency veterinary care, each and every animal is seen by one of the many licensed veterinarians whom we are so proud to call our partners. From spay and neuter efforts to complex skin conditions, the animals in our care would not be able to find forever homes without the help of Dr. Benson, Dr. Albert, and Dr. Elms of Broadway Vet, Dr. Tardiff of Veazie Vet, and Dr. Hanks of Kindred Spirits.

many questions mid-surgery that he must think BHS is playing an ongoing game of 20 Questions with him; he is so thorough in his answers and all the while provides excellent care to the animals in front of him. We simply could not do this without our wonderful friends at Broadway Veterinary Clinic. As Dr. Benson said himself, "It is important for shelters and local veterinarians to have a good relationship," we couldn't be happier that we have such a good relationship with this hardworking team.

Of course we can't forget about Dr. Hanks and Kindred Spirits. When we are stumped and just simply do not know what to do, we call Dr. Hanks. He and his team at Kindred Spirits have done wonders for animals that we otherwise would not know how to help. Let's just say that if an animal with an eye or skin issue walks through our doors, we know who to call. Aside from taking our most difficult cases, Kindred Spirits spays/neuters almost all of our bunnies. "Bunny anesthesia is tricky and many vets won't do it," says Dr. Hanks. We would have lots of babies on our hands if it weren't for this staff of committed veterinarians.

And of course, we can't forget to express our gratitude to the wonderful team of vet-



Another champion of spay/neuter in a shelter environment is Dr. Tardiff of Veazie Veterinary Clinic. A fresh face at BHS, she is a great partner to have on our team. Dr. Tardiff and her wonderful co-workers at Veazie Vet are always reliable and there when we need them. When asked about what Veazie Vet's niche role is at BHS, Dr. Tardiff said, "We support the efforts of BHS by contributing resources, providing spay and neuter clinics, participating in fund raising efforts and assisting in emergency situations when needed." We couldn't agree more; whether it be an emergency caesarian section or many visits for physical therapy to help an animal get back on his/her feet, we couldn't imagine life without them right down the road.

erinarrians at the Brewer Emergency Veterinary Clinic, who are always on call to provide critical care to one of our shelter guests in need on weekends or after hours.

The variety of vets we have in our community, their incredible niche roles, and the great relationships we have with them is one of the huge driving forces behind our organization. We save lives because of them. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a diverse group of veterinary clinics working side-by-side with us every day. We couldn't do this without them, and are so proud to call them shelter partners.



2014 Highlights



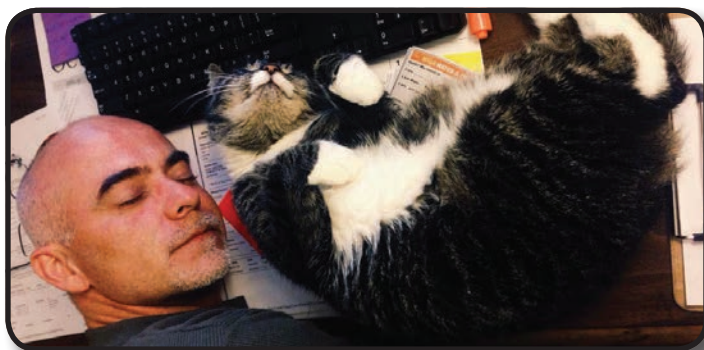
The Focus Group, a local improv comedy group, won the “Best Team Spirit” award at Paws on Parade for their diligent and creative efforts to raise funds for and publicize the event on behalf of BHS.

In 2015 we created an adoption program for cats that are diagnosed with Feline Leukemia (FeLV); pictured here is Flowers, the first FeLV+ cat we adopted out, playing in her new home.



Long-term resident Lacey was finally adopted into her forever home after residing at BHS for five months!

This photo of BHS Operations Manager Chris Young and BHS shelter guest River taking a cat nap received national recognition on the ASPCA’s Facebook page.



We hosted our 22nd Paws on Parade on the Bangor Waterfront in October. It raised over \$70,000 and was attended by nearly 800 two and four-legged participants - the most ever!

Matthew Gross raised nearly \$1,400 through his third annual “Ride for the Wet Nose” bike fundraiser in August for BHS.



Adoptions Offsite are Purrrfectly Alright!

By: Laurie Qualey

While most people enjoy visiting the Bangor Humane Society regularly to see the many animals onsite available for adoption, others find stepping into a shelter emotional and difficult. Professionals in the animal welfare field have discovered that partnering with businesses, especially those who sell non-animal-specific merchandise, to showcase adoptable animals offsite at their store locations helps promote and increase adoptions for local animal shelters.

The Bangor Humane Society is lucky to have partnered with three businesses to offer offsite adoptions in the local area. Petco and PetSmart in Bangor and Aubuchon Hardware in Brewer feature BHS cats looking for new homes on a regular basis. Through our offsite adoption partners, over 150 cats have found their forever families in the last year alone!

Last year, the manager at Aubuchon Hardware in Brewer reached out to the BHS about becoming an adoption partner. Cats placed at Aubuchon Hardware often get adopted quickly, helping BHS engage a community of adopters that may not otherwise be reached. Additionally, working with local pet supply stores like Petco and PetSmart helps BHS connect with current pet parents who may be interested in adding another furry member to their family. In addition to

a full selection of hardware, Aubuchon also carries pet products and regularly donates hundreds of pounds of food to the Bangor Humane Society as well.

Manager Vickie Holt has been at PetSmart since it opened its Bangor location three years ago. With thousands of people coming through its doors, Holt says the cat adoption center, which can house up to four BHS cats at one time, gets plenty of attention! The store's goal is to adopt out at least two cats per week. In addition to featuring cats for adoption, PetSmart regularly holds special adoption events and donates offseason supplies and overstock food.

Down the road at PetCo, Assistant Manager Adam Paquin states that his store's philosophy of "animals first" makes his company a perfect fit to partner with BHS for offsite cat adoptions. PetCo typically features two cats at a time and also helps BHS with adoption drives, fundraisers, and food and pet supply donations.

Offsite adoption partners help adoptable animals find new homes while associating their brand with a well-respected organization like BHS. For BHS, it means greater exposure for our individual adoptable animals as well as spreading the word about the lifesaving work we do. Also, some cats do not enjoy the sometimes noisy and busy cat adoption area at our shelter.



For these felines, fewer cats and more room allow their true personalities to shine through and aid in finding their forever families.

Recently, Blue Seal in Bangor joined the BHS team as the agency's fourth offsite adoption partner and celebrated their first adoption for the shelter in July.

For those businesses that don't have the space to permanently house adoptable cats, BHS has created a program called "Cats on Tour," where local organizations can partner to promote pet adoption during a one-time event. Created in 2012, "Cats on Tour" has traveled all over the state, adopting spayed/neutered and vaccinated cats right out of our custom van to new families throughout northern and eastern Maine. Participating companies are featured on our Facebook page and website.

To learn more about how your business can be an offsite adoption partner or for information about hosting a "Cats on Tour" event, contact BHS at 942-8902

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