



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Fall 2019

Features

Serving a Need through a Time of Change

A Gift that Keeps Giving

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Our 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.

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[Facebook.com/BangorHumane](https://www.facebook.com/BangorHumane)



License # F136



BHS is proud to feed our pets Hill's Science Diet food!

Serving a Need through a Time of Change

By: Stacey R. Coventry

If you would like to be a hero to homeless pets and give them a second chance at a happy and healthy life, then we have a way you can make a difference this holiday season.

Every day, stray pets are brought to the safe haven of the Bangor Humane Society. Sadly, many are never reclaimed by their owners. And unfortunately, every day area residents relinquish their pets for a variety of personal hardship reasons.

As the area's only open-admission animal shelter which serves over 200 communities, it is impossible for us to close our doors during our current building renovation project. And, BHS won't turn away any animal that walks through its doors. It

welcomes all animals in need. But our shelter has limited space and is often at full capacity – particularly now during this time of transition. It's an ongoing challenge to rehome homeless pets to make room for others arriving daily.

But, you can make a direct impact on the lives of shelter pets.

Your gift is needed today. Your donation to our annual fund goes straight to work to save the lives of dogs, rabbits, cats, guinea pigs, birds, hamsters, and other domesticated animals.

The shelter is partially supported through adoption fees and municipality contracts, but that is not nearly enough to care for the 3,000 pets that are left at the shelter each year.

The shelter animals rely on charitable donations from community members like you.

How does your gift help homeless pets at BHS? Your donation funds:

- Temporary refuge (with good food and plenty of love and attention) for thousands of homeless pets every single year.
- Reunions of hundreds of lost pets with their owners annually.
- The spay or neuter of adopted pets before they go home and sustains spay/neuter assistance to low-income individuals to help control pet overpopulation and significantly decrease our shelter intake.
- Compassionate, high-quality veterinary care to each ill and injured animal that comes to us.

Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto



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From the Director



During this time of change and transition, I want to take a moment to pause and reflect on how far the Bangor Humane Society has come in the last 150 years in advancing animal welfare in our community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, volunteers, donors, businesses, and community partners who have helped us get where we are today—operating at a 97% life release and on the brink of a major transformation—a renovated facility that will save even more lives and better serve our community.

We are almost at our \$1.75 million goal. It has been a long journey that started a decade ago with a vision designed by our Board of Directors, our leadership staff and by each and everyone of *you*, our supporters, who dreamed of a better future for our shelter guests. And now, *because of you*, that vision is almost a reality.

Thank you to each one of you who has made a gift to support our campaign. Thank you to **MSA Architects, Inc.** and **WBRC Architects & Engineers** who have designed our vision and now **Bowman Constructors** who are helping make our decade-long vision a physical reality. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, adopters and partners who are rising to the challenge of operating under construction by adapting to change and remaining steadfast to the mission.

In order for us to continue saving lives and serving the over 200 communities that rely on our help, we need *you*.

This holiday season please put helping homeless pets on the top of your list of giving. Please make a donation to support our annual fund. Every dollar matters. *They* need you. *We* need you. Help us give our shelter guests the second chance they deserve this holiday season while we build a brighter tomorrow for those who not only need us today, but will need us in the future.

With Gratitude,

Suzan Prendergast

Please Give!



**This holiday,
please support
our Annual Fund**

Mail a check
Donate online
Sponsor a kennel
Host a fundraiser on
our behalf

*On average, it costs
\$450 to rehome one
shelter guest*





Hours of Operation

Monday — Friday: 12:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Buddy Angst, President
Susan Reisman, Vice-President
Bob Williams, Treasurer
Katherine Simoncic, Secretary
Past-President, Lani Naihe
Chris Barry, DVM
Patricia Bixel
Earl Black
John Bunker
Meaghan Duffey
Kim Jenkins
John Kenney
Russ Maynard
Justin Payson
Jeff Russell

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Prendergast

Shelter Operations Manager
Chris Young

Director of Development & Public Relations
Stacey R. Coventry

Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Sheila Knapp

Volunteer and Outreach Director
Katelyn Stoddard

Animal Care Coordinator
Sam Carruth

Adoption Counselors
Alicia R., Bethany, Alissa, Chelsea, Hannah B., Shyanne

Animal Care Technicians
Stacey, Caitlyn, Ashley, Aryn, Hannah D., Mikala, Tala, Alicia H.

Veterinary Technician
Allen Batchelder, LVT



A Gift That Keeps Giving

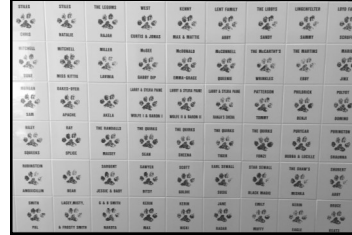


This holiday season, give a special gift to your loved one and help give a second chance to homeless pets in our community for future years to come.

For **\$250**, you can purchase a customized ceramic paw print tile and create a legacy for a special pet in your loved one's life!

Our pets leave lasting paw prints on our hearts and in our lives. And now, they can also pave the way to second chances for homeless pets in our community with our *Tiles for Tomorrow* project!

These uniquely customized paw print tiles will raise funds to support our *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* campaign that will renovate our facility to help us save more lives and better serve our community.



These tiles will be permanently mounted along our new interior lobby walls and hallways, joining the 200 custom tiles from the original building campaign in 1996 that will be preserved during the renovations.

These special tiles will be designed in the reverse colors of the 1996 tiles and are available for **\$250** in a limited supply of only 400 tiles.

Give a gift this holiday season that will keep giving for years to come!

To order one of these special tiles please email Executive Director, Suzan Prendergast, at suzan@bangorhumane.org.

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation grants large award to Bangor Humane

By: Stacey R. Coventry

Our life-saving work hinges on the support we get from our community. Every year it takes our entire community of staff, volunteers, foster parents, offsite partners, veterinary partners, donors, foundations, and adopters to help us reach a 97% live release. That is why we are thrilled to announce that the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation awarded BHS with a \$230,000 grant to support both our capital campaign and our 2019-2020 annual fund.

The grant awards \$50,000 towards our annual budget, \$80,000 in direct support to the capital campaign and another \$100,000 in a matching challenge opportunity.

Not only will this three part grant award help transform our facility to better serve our community now and in the future, but it will also help us continue operations during the renovations. Moreover, our hope is to leverage \$100,000 of the grant as a match to drive public giving to meet our capital campaign goal.

Meeting both our capital campaign and annual campaign budget goals will help us be a stronger community partner and will allow us to continue strengthening and expanding these relationships today and in the future giving more animals in need- both inside and outside of Maine- the second chance they deserve.

The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation makes grants in Maine

in the following three areas of interest: Animal Welfare, Healthy People Healthy Places, and Legacy to continue the legacy of Elmina B. Sewall.

The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation's support for animal welfare is rooted in the interests of its founder. Mrs. Sewall was a long-time and passionate supporter of animal welfare organizations in Maine and elsewhere throughout her life. In addition to financial support, she contributed her time as a volunteer and served as a trusted advisor and friend to many.

Today, the Foundation supports animal welfare organizations working in the State of Maine to build the sector's capacity and to address the common issue of unwanted cats facing communities and animal shelters around the state.

We are humbled and grateful by the Foundation's continued support in our work. In the last decade, they have invested over half a million dollars in our life-saving work. **Thank you Elmina B. Sewall Foundation!**

Note: Currently, we have raised \$1.65 million of our \$1.75 million capital campaign goal. From now until May 1, every capital campaign donation made will be matched at 100% by the Foundation up to \$100,000 in an effort to help us reach our campaign goal. ■

Celebrating our Community...

Paws on Parade 2019: *Bark to the Future*

By: Stacey R. Coventry

On September 28th, our 26th Paws on Parade, themed, *Bark to the Future*, took place on the Bangor Waterfront during a warm fall day. Over 400 people and 200 dogs participated in the event sponsored by **Cross Insurance** and **Darling's Volkswagen**. Over 50 local businesses supported the event through sponsorship, donating in-kind services or tabling as a vendor.

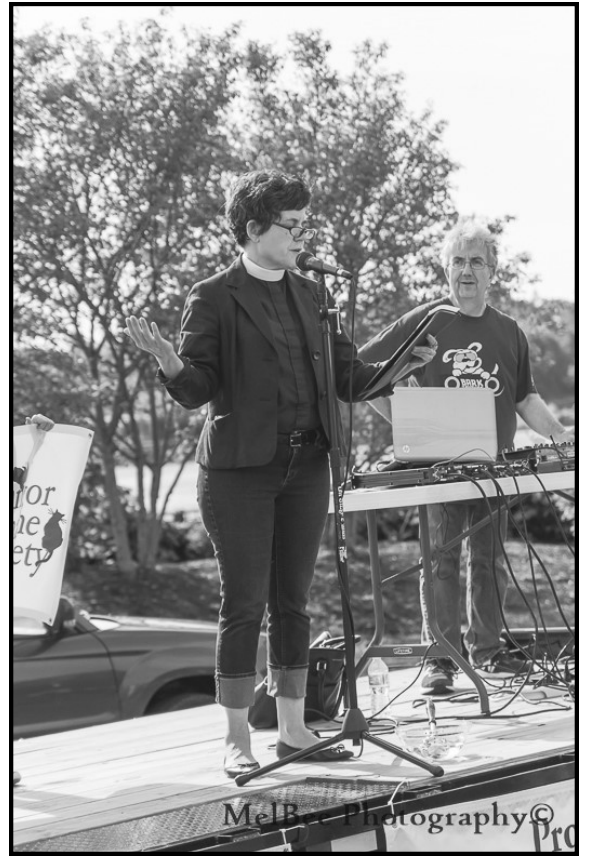
Reverend Marguerite Steadman from St. John's Episcopal Church delivered a beautiful pet blessing to initiate the parade led by the cast of Penobscot Theater's *Matilda*, which will feature some of our adoptable pets before each show during the holiday season. Mike Dow gave our event its lively personality as our emcee and also helped us spotlight some of our guests during the shelter dog runway show. Kara Swartz and her German Shepherd duo won the trophy for top Fundraising Team with nearly \$6,300 raised for our cause! Our costume and pet contests highlighted attendees unique and spirited relationship with their pets.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 26th Annual Event !





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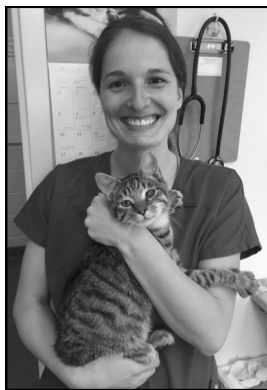


MelBee Photography©



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Ask the Vet



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Q: What should I and what shouldn't I be feeding my pet?

A: What to feed our pets is a question I get asked nearly everyday as a veterinarian. While ultimately your pet's diet is a personal choice, I would like to dispel some common myths about pet food.

First of all, for cats, canned food is not bad for your cats teeth. All cats can develop tartar on their teeth and dental disease, regardless of the type of food they eat. Canned food has much more mois-

ture than dry food, therefore is better at maintaining cats hydration level and helping to keep their urinary system happy.

Dogs do not benefit from a grain free diet. This was/is a market trend that mimicked trends in the human food industry. In order to balance a grain free diet for dogs, exotic ingredients are used. It appears that some nutrients in those ingredients are not bioavailable (used by the body) and dogs are becoming deficient in some essential nutrients. This is creating a group of dogs that have cardiomyopathy (heart disease) secondary to their diets. The particular type of heart disease, called dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a very serious and potentially life threatening, so understandably something we are taking very serious.

Food allergies are also a common concern for pet owners. The most common ingredient for animals to be allergic to in their diets is protein, such as beef, chicken, etc. True food allergies are fairly uncommon in animals, but there are definitively food sensitivities and some diets that some animals just do better on. The most common signs of a

food allergy are recurrent skin problems, such as infections and/or itching, also ear infections and often times animals with a food allergy will have stomach and/or intestinal problems as well, such as vomiting or diarrhea.

Those companies making the dog food has your pets health and wellbeing as their top priority, so they would not be putting unhealthy or unsafe ingredients in the food. Meat by-product is made of edible and nutritious parts of an animal, besides the meat itself, such as liver, heart, etc. Chicken, or other meat, meal is simply a dehydrated form of the meat and not something that needs to be avoided.

Continue checking with your veterinarian to make the best diet choices for your pets.

Q: What should I consider if I am thinking of giving a pet as a gift this holiday?

A: Dog and cats (puppies and kittens) make wonderful additions to our families and can bring us much joy. While giving someone an animal as a holiday gift has a good intention, it is important to make sure it is the right decision for the person receiving the gift. Animals deserve a commitment for their entire life; they are a large financial responsibility and a big time commitment. We owe them the absolute best care, respect and attention we can give. Every family has different lifestyles, family dynamics and living situations that need consideration to ensure a good match. A lot of research and planning has to go into the decision to bring a pet into a home. If you are looking to personally bring a new pet into your home this holiday season, please check out your local animal shelter and rescue one of the many loving animals that deserve a second chance.



Shelter Events & Highlights:

Subaru Shares the Love!



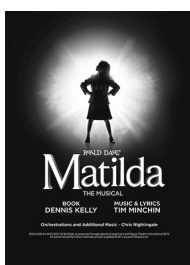
We have been selected by **Quirk Subaru** as their 2019 *Share the Love* campaign partner!

That means that every new vehicle Quirk Subaru sells **now** through January 2nd, Quirk Subaru and Subaru of America will donate \$300 to the Bangor Humane Society!

If you're looking for your next vehicle and interested in helping homeless pets, then find your Subaru deal at Quirk Subaru today!

Shelter Pets on Stage

For the 8th season, *Penobscot Theater* will welcome our shelter guests center stage before each performance of *Matilda* this holiday season. Get your tickets today! Thank you Penobscot Theater for helping our homeless pets find homes for the holidays!



Adopt our Shelter Wish Tree

Is your business looking to give back this holiday season?

Since we are under construction, we won't be able to put up our annual Shelter Wish Tree in our lobby. Consider adopting our shelter's wish tree this season and collect much needed items for our guests. If interested, email stacey@bangorhumane.org

Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto



Your Impact...

Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life

Campaign Update By: Stacey R. Coventry



Almost a decade ago, our Board of Directors and leadership staff began discussions of a capital renovation project to redesign our facility to better serve our community and its animals in order to adapt to a quickly evolving animal welfare environment.

About six years ago, Michael Steitzer and his team from **MSA Architects, Inc.** used their expertise in designing shelters and veterinary clinics to help us materialize our vision into architectural plans. Committed to working with a local firm, three years later, MSA Architects partnered with **WBRC Architects & Engineers** to take our vision to the next stage of design and execution, while our Capital Campaign committee began fundraising in the quiet phase to fund the project.

In March, we announced our campaign publicly and demolished the old shelter building to make room for the redesign and expansion of our facility. In September, our project went out to bid locally and we welcomed **Bowman Constructors** to our team, who has quickly begun to turn our vision into a physical reality.

During this construction phase, we remain open for business in order to continue serving the over 200 communities that rely year round on our services. We are cognizant of the overall well-being of the animals in our care and the safety of the humans working, volunteering and visiting our shelter, so we will continue to adapt and accommodate the way we do business during this time of transformation! ■

Project Update:

- Raised \$1.65 million of \$1.75 million goal
- Removed incinerator and refurbished the room to become a temporary cat intake area during construction phase
- Invited Reverend Marguerite Steadman from St. John's Episcopal church to cleanse and bless the building
- Moved cat adoptions to cat observations
- Completed demolition on front of building for facility redesign
- Created a new reception/lobby area and relocated the entrance to the back of the building
- Phase I expected to be done by March 15th.



Unused for over 3 years, our incinerator was removed.



New, temporary customer service area



Moving cat adoptions to begin redesign

How you can help:

- ◆ Be patient with our staff and pardon our appearance
- ◆ Use caution when visiting the shelter
- ◆ Respect the construction zone and follow signs
- ◆ Call ahead or check out our Facebook page before visiting to stay updated on adjustments to shelter hours and special announcements
- ◆ Become a foster volunteer for emergency placement or respite for animals from stress
- ◆ Make a gift to support our annual fund so we can continue to save lives
- ◆ Adopt our Shelter Wish Tree

Continued from page 1

- Our foster care program to give our most vulnerable animals the best chance to thrive.
- Adoption programs that create thousands of new families every year through pet adoption to achieve a live release rate of 97%!

Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto



When you make a gift, you help us deliver miracles not only during the holiday season, but all year long. You are a hero to homeless pets every single day.

Over the decades, your support has not only helped us envision an innovative, compassionate, and generous community that helps our shelter thrive, you have helped us create it. One that has progressive adoption and rescue programs

to help all animals, regardless of breed, age, or health, find new homes. It has funded urgent care, medical equipment, animal enrichment, training, outreach and education programs – everything needed to save as many as we can.

Right now, you are helping us building a better humane society for our community for futures to come, and for that we are humbly grateful. But, the animals residing with us *today* need you *now*. ■

Please give today!

Our 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 and 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.

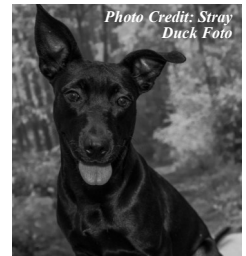


Photo Credit: Stray Duck Foto

Thank you for your support!