



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Four Paws at a Time

The Heart of a Fighter

You Met our \$50,000 Match!

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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.

Bangor Humane Society
693 Mt. Hope Ave.
Bangor, ME 04401
207.942.8902
www.bangorhumane.org

 Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/BangorHumane



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

Making a Difference

Four Paws at a Time

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Caitlin Ashe has clocked over 100 volunteer hours since joining the BHS team in August.

Caitlin Ashe, 11 years old, was a frequent visitor of the Bangor Humane Society for a long time before deciding to become a volunteer. She used to come in so often that she would remember all of the animals' names and keep track of each one that got adopted, recalls her mother, Jill. Eventually, Caitlin and her mother both decided that they wanted to use their love for animals to help make a difference in the lives of the shelter pets they visited so often. So during the summer of 2015, they officially enrolled as BHS volunteers. To date they have clocked over 100 hours each cleaning kennels, walking dogs, socializing our guests, helping at offsite events and assisting with visits and adoptions.

Jill and Caitlin are two of the nearly 300

current volunteers at the Bangor Humane Society. Volunteers have always been an integral part of fulfilling our mission each day at BHS. Whether they walk dogs, clean kennels, do laundry or dishes, assist at agency events, serve on our board of directors, or foster our most vulnerable residents, their dedication, compassion and commitment is essential to our meeting and exceeding the high standards of quality of care our shelter guests receive.

A strong core group of volunteers who help us meet the basic needs of our pets, maintain a clean shelter environment, and can be strong outreach ambassadors enable our staff to spend more time evaluating and rehabilitating the various medical and behavioral needs of the animals in our care.

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From the Director



There are four essential cornerstones to our success in fulfilling our mission here at the Bangor Humane Society: our staff, our volunteers, our donors and our adopters. We do our best to nurture each of them because we know we could not do the work we do or save the lives we save without them.

As we come out of another holiday season, we hold so much gratitude for our wonderful community that makes up each cornerstone of our work.

Our staff rise to the occasion every single day taking in and caring for the four-legged homeless guests that need us. They nurture broken hearts, treat the sick, repair the injured, and rehabilitate broken spirits. Because of their consistent hard work and dedication to matching more pets with new families, we are able to maintain an adoption rate of 90% or higher.

Our volunteer program is as robust and strong as ever under the direction of new leadership. Our volunteers nurse our most vulnerable, comfort the most frightened, and help promote our mission out in the community. Because of the compassion and selflessness of our steadfast volunteers we are able to help more animals in need and build more connections with more community partners.

Our donors drive our mission forward with their generosity. Every dollar and every shelter item donated makes an impact and helps us care directly for the thousands of animals in our care. Because of their unwavering charitable support and belief in our work, we have met our \$50,000 grant challenge from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation. Reaching this goal together has helped us grow our donor family and double the impact of their gift, making it one of the most vibrant of our cornerstones to date.

And, last but not least, our adopters open their hearts and their homes every single day to give homeless pets that find residence at our shelter a new beginning. Their loyalty and support of pet adoption allows us to continue our life-saving work. Whether they choose to adopt a kitten or a senior dog with ongoing medical needs, they help us provide second chances to so many animals that would otherwise have none.

So, as we begin 2016 we want to say thank you. Thank you for always being there when our shelter guests need you. We know that with your support, each of our cornerstones will continue to grow and thrive, making us stronger than ever and able to meet any challenge that comes our way.

We are excited to embark on another year of happy tails and to pave the way for more second chances and new beginnings. We know you will be there with us every step of the way.

Please Donate Today!

Include your gift in the enclosed envelope

Stop in the shelter— we accept cash, check, Mastercard and Visa

Go online at www.bangorhumane.org and click “donate”



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

Amy Faircloth, President
Lani Naihe., Vice-President
Buddy Angst, Treasurer
Laurie Qualey, Secretary
Emily McIntosh, Past President
Earl Black
David Cloutier, DVM
John Kenney
Deb Neuman
Matt Nye
Renee Ordway
Jeff Russell
Greg Sirois
Bob Williams

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Bell

Shelter Operations Manager
Chris Young

Director of Development & Public Relations
Stacey R. Coventry

Office Manager & Bookkeeper
Deborah Hawkins

Adoption Counselors
Kristin, Sarah, Alicia, Bethany, Biz, Abby,
Mariah, and Chelsea

Animal Technicians
Mariah, Krysta, Cody, Sam, Nicole, and
Jenna, Stacey

Veterinary Technician
Allen Batchelder, LVT

Foster Care Coordinator
Mariah Cassidy

Volunteer Coordinator
Katelyn Murphy

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Katelyn Murphy, the new BHS Volunteer Coordinator socializes shelter dog , Sally.

“Volunteers are the key to the success of BHS,” says Suzan Bell, executive director. “Looking back, every past improvement or period of significant growth can be tied directly to efforts of our diverse volunteer family.”

For that reason, Bell decided in 2015 to create a position dedicated solely to developing the volunteer program. Over the last decade, the management of the volunteer program had always been piggybacked onto another

staff position, which made maintaining it as a priority a real challenge.

In June 2015 Katelyn Murphy was hired as the agency’s Volunteer Coordinator, dedicating a special part-time position solely to managing and growing the volunteer program. Murphy was already a part of the BHS staff team as an adoption counselor and animal care technician. At the time, she was looking for a way to increase her impact on the animal-human relationship in a broader capacity. Therefore, her experience and commitment to the BHS mission and philosophy, combined with her personal career interests, made her the perfect fit as the agency’s new Volunteer Coordinator.

In just seven months, Murphy has expanded the volunteer program by adding over 80 volunteers who, along with the other 150 onsite volunteers, have clocked over 2,500 volunteer hours from June 2015 to date. Those hours already present a

significant increase over the entire previous year (June 2014 to 2015) in which volunteers clocked a total of 2,300 hours.

Some of most noticeable changes that Murphy has implemented to the program are: offering a monthly informational meeting for individuals to get a facility tour and learn about BHS and the volunteer roles available before completing extensive volunteer training; hosting volunteer socials to connect volunteers with their peers; requiring new

volunteers to commit to a minimum of two hours a week onsite for the first six months; and creating a tier system to motivate and reward volunteers who demonstrate a high level of commitment and experience by allowing them to perform tasks such as taking animals offsite, completing personality evaluations, becoming adoption ambassadors, transporting animals across the state, assisting our veterinary technician in surgeries, and so on.

Most recently, Murphy has instituted a volunteer newsletter as a way to keep volunteers connected to each other, share relevant shelter news, and highlight a volunteer with outstanding service to the shelter.

“Our BHS volunteers are the true ambassadors of our mission, often going beyond what our staff can do,” states Murphy. “They play an integral part in helping dogs and cats socialize outside of their kennels, helping match our pets with new families, and spending one-on-one time with our pets to help alleviate stress and help restore their mental, physical and emotional well-being.”

As a result of Murphy’s efforts leading and growing the volunteer program, BHS has seen a significant increase in the number of volunteers that show up regularly onsite to help with day-to-day shelter tasks. In the past, most of the core, regular volunteers helped primarily on weekends or at offsite events. Now, on average, BHS staff are supported by half a dozen volunteers a day whose activities range from assisting with morning cleaning to dog walk to cuddling animals recovering from surgery.

Murphy’s goals for the program are to continue growing and strengthening BHS’ core base of volunteers who not only help us meet our daily shelter needs and assist at major annual agency events like Paws on Parade and the ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon, but who are also great outreach ambassadors to help more animals get adopted through community events with organizations like Petco, PetSmart, Penobscot Theater, etc.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of the BHS volunteer team, visit our website or “like” us on Facebook to sign up for an upcoming Volunteer Informational Meeting.



Sue Baker, a long-time volunteer and foster parent has donated over 1,000 hours of volunteer time to BHS cleaning kennels and socializing with cats.



Jocie Cogen, a BHS volunteer since 2013, is always happy to assist in whatever shelter task is needed.

Ask the Vet

Q: What should I know about Lyme Disease and my pet?

A: Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium which lives inside of ticks. The most common tick to carry this bacteria is called the Deer tick and the common wildlife this tick is found on are rodents and deer.

The easiest way to prevent exposing your dog to Lyme disease is a daily tick check looking for any unusual lumps. Also, a trick I have found very helpful is to use a lint roller on your dog when they come in from exploring outside. There are also topical (liquid and collars) and oral preventatives for ticks. We have a Lyme vaccine as well and will recommend it for some patients based on their lifestyle and geographic distribution.

Clinical symptoms of Lyme disease in dogs include a fever (elevated body temperature), lameness (sometimes shifting leg lameness), swollen and painful joints, enlarged lymph nodes, anorexia (lack of appetite) and general malaise. Sometimes where the tick is or was attached there is a hard, raised sore which should resolve on its own within a few weeks.

Often times as part of a dog's annual exam a small blood sample is run to detect exposure to Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases. If you think your dog has clinical Lyme disease, please call your veterinarian. There are many ways to approach and treat a Lyme positive dog

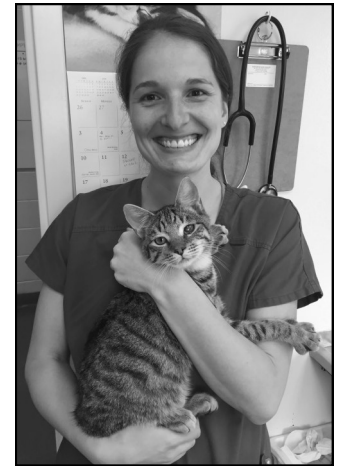
and many veterinarians do it differently. Antibiotics are very effective at treating Lyme disease, but it's best to talk to your veterinarian about the best treatment option for your dog.

Q: What is canine kennel cough?

A: Kennel cough an upper respiratory infection of dogs. This infection is usually viral and bacterial in nature. Kennel cough is highly contagious between dogs and outbreaks are common in areas with high densities of dogs, such as play groups, boarding facilities, shelters and even veterinary hospitals.

Clinical signs include coughing and retching in an otherwise healthy, active dog. The cough is often described as a honking cough and may produce some secretions. Disease usually occurs 3-10 days after exposure and can last for 2-3 weeks. A mild form goes away on its own without treatment, although it is always recommended to contact your veterinarian to prevent complications or onset of more serious illness.

A vaccine to help prevent and/or lessen the severity of Kennel cough is recommended in dogs that have a lifestyle in which they are exposed to a lot of other dogs. Depending on a specific case's severity sometimes antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and/or cough suppressants and other supportive care measures may be used. ■



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Paws for Thought

In just 3 years and as early as 4 months old, one unspayed female and one unneutered male can produce:

512 Dogs
382 Cats

Shelter Highlights & Upcoming Events



Students from Wagner Middle School hosted a Penny Drive and presented BHS with nearly \$1,000 in November.



Volunteer Cheryl Drake hosted a charity dance with the Boogie Buddies in November to raise over \$1,200 for BHS.



Machias Savings Bank hosted a donation drive for the month of December collecting shelter supplies and contributing a monetary donation of \$700.



Sherry from Sherry's Shanty donated over \$400 from sales of her custom made pet signs and holiday ornaments.



Employees from Emera's Hampden center voted BHS as the recipient of a \$2,000 donation from the company's holiday giving campaign.



Penobscot Theater partnered with BHS for the 4th year, to spotlight our adoptable pets during their production of "It's a Wonderful Life," helping us find homes for dozens of pets.



A big thank you to Kara and Jeff O'Sullivan for hosting their annual spaghetti dinner, raising over \$12,000 for BHS.

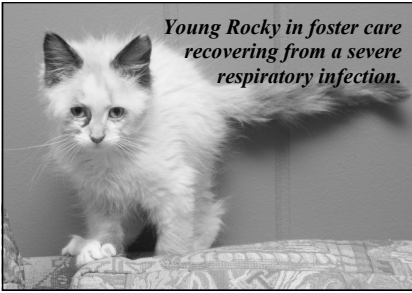
SAVE THE DATE!!



Featured Spotlight

The Heart of a Fighter

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Young Rocky in foster care recovering from a severe respiratory infection.

In May 2015 Nicholas Porto of Portland was visiting his old neighborhood in Bangor when he heard the faint cries of a small white kitten with blue and grey eyes and tiny tufts on black-tipped ears.

The kitten was alone outside what appeared to

be an abandoned home. The little kitten not only allowed Nicholas to approach her, but adamantly followed him, refusing to let him leave the property without her. When he gently scooped her up, he realized she was very young, most likely underage and orphaned, and appeared very sick.

Nicholas brought the stray kitten to BHS in case an owner was looking for her, knowing our staff and volunteers would provide her with the care she needed to restore her health.

After no owner was located, staff placed the six-week old kitten into foster care. She was underweight and suffering from an upper respiratory infection. Shortly after being placed into foster care, she developed an abscess on her neck. She underwent surgery to alleviate the abscess and had a drain tube inserted to ensure a full recovery.

Although the odds seemed to be stacked up against the little

kitten, she had a strong fighting spirit. To honor her determined will to live, staff named her “Rocky,” after the famous small-time boxer turned champion.

As Rocky’s recovery was delayed by one complication after another, Nicholas regularly kept in touch with shelter staff on her progress.

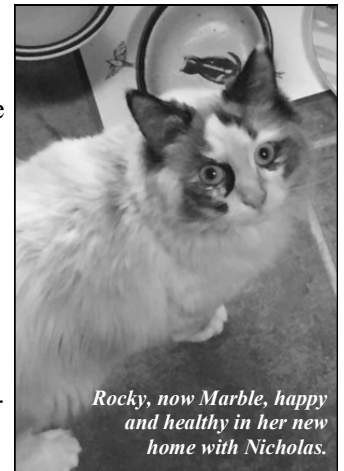
Finally, over two months after being found and brought to BHS, Rocky was fully recovered and ready to be adopted.

The little kitten not only had caught Nicholas’ attention, but also had stolen his heart. When he discovered she was healthy and ready to be adopted, he made a special request of BHS. Would we consider him as Rocky’s adopter?

Nicholas grew up around cats, but had been without a feline companion for 14 years after leaving home and attending college.

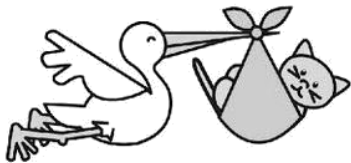
Our staff were so touched

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Rocky, now Marble, happy and healthy in her new home with Nicholas.

From Purrs to Tail Wags



Our busiest time of year will be here before we know it!

While we are in need of shelter items from our wish list all year round, such as

blankets, towels, cat and dog toys and treats, as spring approaches our requests shift to everything and anything feline!

Annually we take in nearly 2,000 homeless cats and kittens, most of which arrive at our doors between June and November. Many are sick, orphaned, underage and in need of lots of love and care before they can be adopted into new loving homes. They receive this extra nurturing in one of our many dedicated foster homes. Supporting fifty foster families and helping shelter staff care for thousands of cats and kittens this upcoming season requires lots of resources.

That is why we host our Annual Kitten shower at the beginning of every spring season– to help us care for all those little lives we are expecting this year!

The items we receive at our annual kitten shower serve as a lifeline for our staff and our foster families caring for pregnant and nursing moms and underage, orphaned kittens.

These items include: canisters of powdered Kitten Milk

Replacement (KMR), pet nursing bottles, baby wipes, raised cat beds, baby blankets, cans of wet kitten food, cat litter (clumping), cat toys, and rolling cat cages for foster families to help separate their fosters from their own pets.

Typically, during our busiest time of year we see our donations, both monetary and in-kind, wane, though it is the time of year where we are in most need of resources. The slowing donations and our increasing need often leave a significant gap. During the summer months, we operate at or over capacity. Having more animals to care for depletes our resources more quickly. Historically, have gone through one ton of cat litter every eight days. Therefore, we hope you will join us for our annual kitten shower this year and help us prepare to welcome another year of shelter guests.

You can follow the event details on our Facebook page.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity! ■

SAVE THE DATE!
Please Join Us For A Kitten Shower!

Saturday, June 18th
10 a.m. to -4 p.m.

Your Donor Dollars Matter...

You Met our \$50,000 Match!

By: Stacey R. Coventry



Dan and his new brother, Tanner

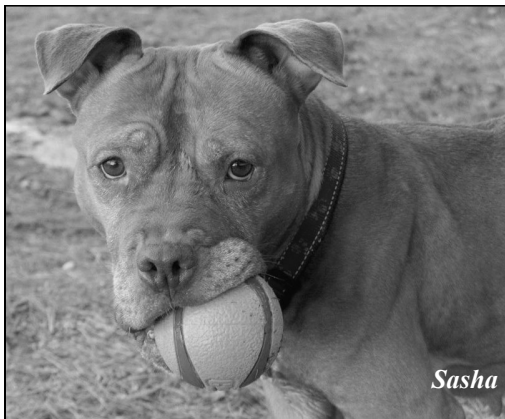
In October we announced that the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation awarded us with a special challenge grant opportunity. Every new or increased dollar raised would be matched 100% by them up to \$50,000. We were able to leverage our enthusiasm for the Foundation’s challenge to build strong momentum through direct marketing initiatives, social media, news outlets and our holiday appeal.

We are excited to announce that we have successfully reached our goal. We have expanded our donor family to include 308 new friends, renewed the support of 72 friends, and 162 of our current friends generously increased their support, helping us raise \$50,883 in just three months.

To everyone who made a generous gift or encouraged your friends to support our important work, **THANK YOU!**

And, for their ongoing generosity and support, a big **THANK YOU** to the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

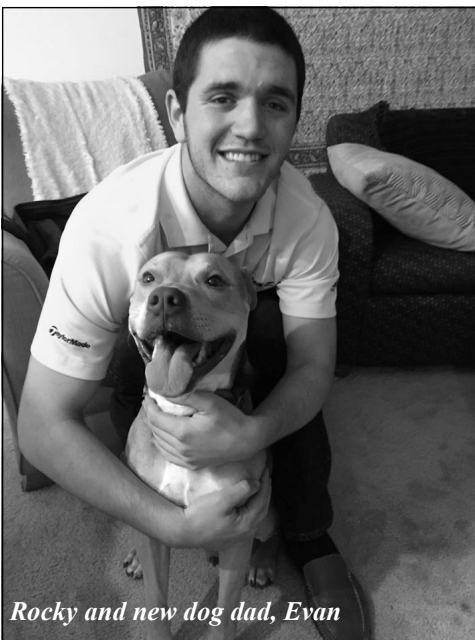
Here are some of the furry lives your dollars have helped! ■



Sasha



Big Daddy Gronk with BHS alum, Deji



Rocky and new dog dad, Evan



Primrose



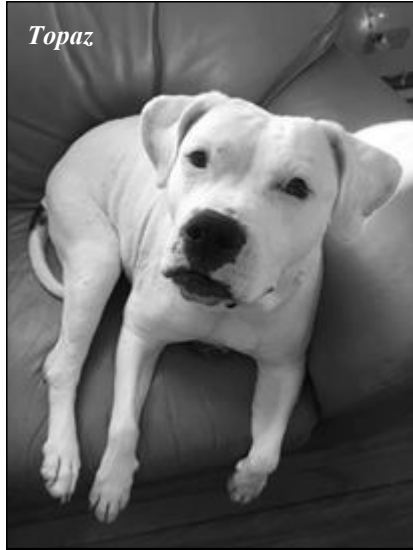
Tara



Marley



Kino



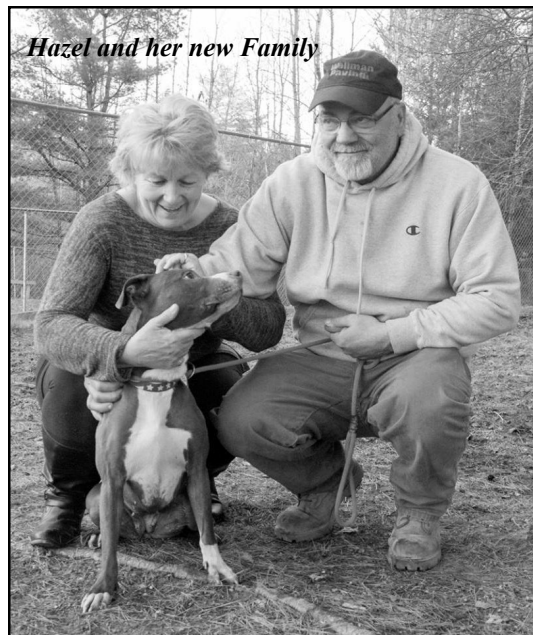
Topaz



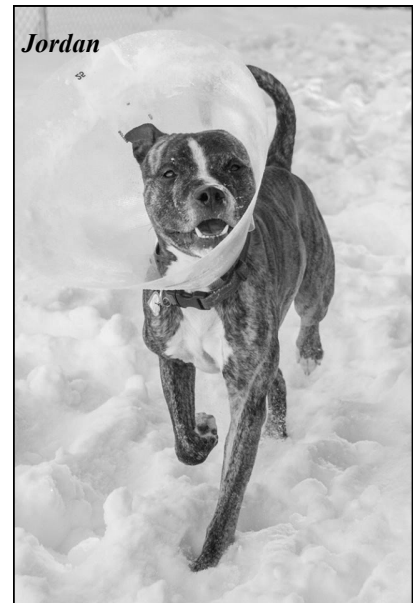
Murdock and his new sister



*Lacey & Jasmine,
alumni and friends*



Hazel and her new Family



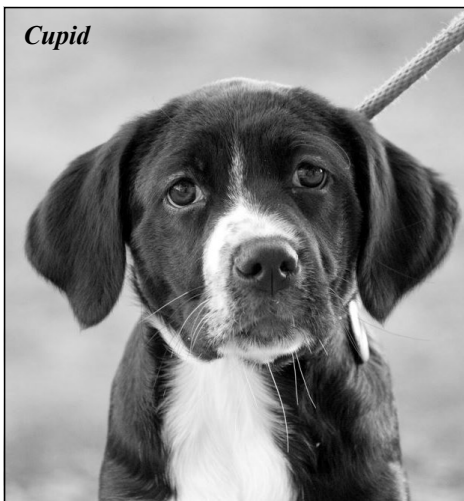
Jordan



Henry and dad Caleb



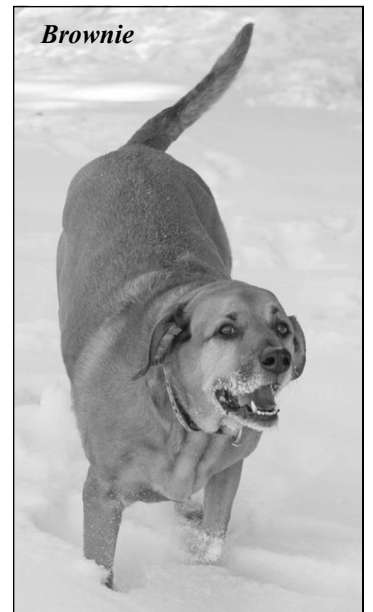
Caesar and Rosie



Cupid



Echo



Brownie

Continued from page 5

by the special bond between Rocky and Nicholas that they were thrilled to facilitate the adoption and make their connection to each other official and permanent. In early August, Nicholas traveled up from Portland to complete Rocky's adoption. He renamed her Marble.

"Marble is just simply a joy. She has such a great personality that everyone who meets her instantly falls in love," Nicholas says. "She's very much a people cat and loves getting shoulder rides and sleeping on my face at night. She's very mischievous and is quick to play with everything that even remotely resembles a toy. But she also has a soft side, and is very much a cuddler who always seems to be purring."

To demonstrate his gratitude for nursing his now forever companion back to full health and helping him adopt her into his heart and home, Nicholas made a generous donation to help BHS cover some of the expenses that were incurred by Marble's medical needs.

"She still has her battle scars from her surgeries; the one on her neck in particular makes her look as if she has mutton chops. But, she truly is adorable, so full of life, and a great companion," Marble's dad Nicholas proudly and affectionately shares. ■



Marble was officially adopted by Nicholas, who helped rescue her in May 2015.

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.



Thank you for your support!