



Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2019

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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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www.bangorhumane.org

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

License # F136



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

Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life

Animal care and welfare has advanced significantly in the past twenty years since the current Bangor Humane Society's shelter was built in 1999. The success of spay/neuter and a simultaneous shift in the animal welfare mindset have changed the environment we operate in. The result is fewer animals passing through our door, and of the ones that do, more lives are saved. A greater number of successful matches are being made than ever before. Our current 95% live release rate is evidence of that.

Twenty years later, better methods for caring for homeless animals, providing quality adoptions between local residents and animals, as well as ensuring better living conditions for the animals in our care are priorities that need structural facility changes in order for BHS staff and volunteers to realistically maintain these priorities long term.

As the world of animal welfare contin-

ues to evolve, at the Bangor Humane Society we are committed to adapting and changing in order to continue to be a vital resource for our community for generations to come. And that commitment has a vision.

Over the last several years, our Board of Directors has been working diligently with architects, animal welfare experts and fundraising professionals on a campaign to make capital improvements to our facility that will allow us to save more lives while also helping us serve the community better.

Our capital campaign, *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life*, is our opportunity to do just that. Renovations to the building will re-configure the current space into a safer, more sanitary facility that combines increased efficiency of animal welfare management with a customer-friendly approach that encourages pet adoption.

"I have witnessed the remarkable transition of the Bangor Humane Society. It is a compassionate place where animals can find refuge, become well and find an adoptive family. The transition was made possible by the vision of our leadership and passion of the animal caretakers. **All that remains is to transform our facility,"** says Dr. David Cloutier, Veterinarian, Former BHS Board Member and Campaign Co-Chair.

To date we have raised nearly \$1.2 million of our \$1.75 million renovation budget in our campaign's quiet phase.

We are now ready to open the campaign publicly to our community, and ask you, our steady supporters and extended family, to join us in raising \$500,000 through our campaign's public phase.



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From the Director



As we embark on our 150th anniversary this year, we feel privileged to be part of such an established organization within a community that has rallied around and supported our life-saving mission for a century and a half.

We wouldn't be here without *you*- our adopters, our donors, our partners and our community of animal-lovers who rise up and help us rescue, rehabilitate and rehome thousands of animals in need every single year. You have opened your hearts, your homes and your wallets to help us achieve incredible results in a rapidly changing environment.

Our intake numbers continue to decline due to successful and diligent local and statewide spay/neuter efforts, while our adoption numbers continue to increase all because of *you*.

Your support and your generosity give our work relevance and move our vision forward. Every single one of your dollars impacts a life in need. Every one of our pets that you adopt validates our purpose.

As the world of animal welfare continues to evolve, we are committed to adapting and changing with it so we can continue to be a vital and trusted resource in your community.

That is what makes this year so important and so special in our agency's history. In addition to celebrating 150 years in operation, we are also launching the public phase of our *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* campaign to renovate our facility so we can continue to save more lives and better serve our community.

This year I ask you to join us in celebrating our 150th anniversary by making a gift to our *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* campaign as well as continuing to give to our annual fund. In order to transform this facility, we need *your* support. And, in order for us to stay open for business while we renovate and continue the important work that we do—and have done for 150 years—we need *your* support.

Please make your transformative and life-saving gifts today. And, whether you are an adopter, volunteer, foster parent, community partner, or donor, thank you for being a part of our BHS family!

Sincerely,



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

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

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, Bethany, Julia, Alissa, Chelsea,
Ashley, Hannah, Rikki

Animal Care Technicians
Stacey, Katrina, Cam, Caitlyn, Brandon

Veterinary Technician
Allen Batchelder, LVT



Your Donor Dollars Matter...

A New Ride for Rescue



BHS is excited to announce that through the generosity of a grant sponsored by the ASPCA, we have purchased a 2018 Mercedes van customized specifically for animal transport and relocation.

Last year, BHS leadership decided that expanding our out-of-state transport program was a strategic priority; not only as our

moral obligation to save as many lives as we humanely can within the animal welfare sector, but to also ensure the sustainability of our agency's mission for the long term.

To date, we have collaborated successfully with several transport partners: Road Trip Home Rescue out of Georgia, Greater Androscoggin Humane Society (GAHS), and the ASPCA, to save as many healthy, adoptable dogs and puppies at risk for euthanasia from overcrowded shelters in Southern states as possible. Last year alone, BHS transported and adopted 170 dogs and

puppies from Southern Pines Animal Shelter, Road Trip Home Rescue, New York City, and from Texas shelters during disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey. We also continue to collaborate with our Maine shelter partners regularly to transfer animals from across the state to our facility for adoption whenever possible.

However, in order to expand our transport program and sustain it, we needed a specialized transport vehicle equipped to save lives across borders.

We are proud that our transport program has not only been a success in safely relocating these animals, but *you*, our community, have fully embraced these new transport initiatives. Therefore, we are more energized and dedicated than ever to build our transport program.

Thank you to the ASPCA and to each of you for helping us save more lives through transport! ■



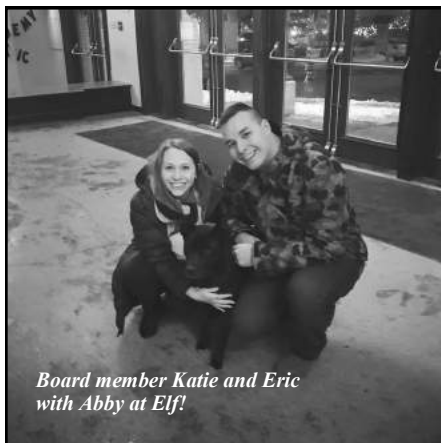
Shelter Dogs Take Center Stage

For the seventh season, Penobscot Theatre Company invited us to partner with them during their holiday show season to feature a selection of our adoptable dogs in hopes of helping them find a home for the holidays.

Nearly 15 dogs were showcased before 22 of their performances during their holiday production of *Elf*. Throughout the last seven seasons, over 100 dogs have been spotlighted on stage, helping bring more people into BHS and more animals find homes each year during the holiday season!

Each performance, a shelter dog is accompanied by a BHS volunteer who struts our mutts across Penobscot Theater's stage. This year more volunteers than any previous season, including several board members, stepped forward to help spotlight our pups and their best qualities in their theatrical close-up.

We are so thankful for each of our volunteers who took the stage with our shelter dogs for the 2018 season, and to Penobscot Theater for their partnership year after year! ■



Board member Katie and Eric with Abby at *Elf*!



Volunteer Caitlin hangs with Kobalt at Penobscot Theater!



Volunteer Leann and Chickpea loving the theater spotlight!

Celebrating 150 Years:

Founded in 1869, this year the Bangor Humane Society celebrates its 150th Anniversary! That’s 150 years of granting second chances to homeless pets and enriching the lives of the people in our community through pet adoption. We celebrate 150 years of **YOU**– our adopters! Without you, our mission would be meaningless and our life-saving goals would be futile. Thank you for 150 years of believing in second chances and opening your hearts and homes to one of our animals in need!



Harry the guinea pig finds his new friend!



Ozzy found his happy ever after ending when the Spaulding family adopted him in November!



A young adopter smitten with her new kitten!



Percy, an under socialized African Parrot, was rescued from a pet hoarding situation and found a second chance with an experienced new owner.

We love our frequent flyers who fall in love with our pets not once, but twice, three times and sometimes more! The Jordan family adopted Lemon, Blue, Joker and Tucker all in 2018!

Some of our Happy Tails from 2018



Mikey, our first dog transported from NYC through the ASPCA is happy in his new home in rural Maine!



Catherine Howe met Chief through our Dog's Day Out program. Struggling with depression and anxiety, she was in search of a dog she could train as her personal service dog. She and Chief bonded instantly. He is already easing her anxiety, helping her complete and pursue her academic goals.



NyNy, formerly Footloose, found an adopter who embraced her physical deformity; she continues to show her gratitude by serving as a service cat, alerting her new person of various medical crises.



One of our bunnies hops happily into the arms of a new adopter!



Tonka, the Neapolitan Mastiff, found his forever home with a family who spoils all 162 pounds of him!



One of our senior pups, Cindy Lou, with her new dog mom!



After Stewie's owner passed away and residing at BHS for months, he found love again with a new family who gave him the time he needed to bond with his new people.

Ask the Vet



Dr. Laura Tardiff, DVM
Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Q: How can I help my pet fight the winter blues?

A: During the winter, a lot of people can feel down because of the dark and cold temperatures and so can our animals. During the rest of the winter try to make your dog's day a little more interesting. Make a resolution to teach them a new trick, even an old dog can learn a new trick! Or sign them up for an obedience class at one of the many, wonderful area training facilities.

At home you can also play hide and seek with your pet. Or make them use their noses to sniff out various treats you have hidden. Use puzzle toys to dispense treats or their meals. This is a form of mental stimulation that is very good for dogs, and can make them very tired (and therefore well behaved) when we aren't able to physically exercise them. If you are feeling ambitious you can make a DIY obstacle course for your pet indoors with all material that you probably all ready have. Using a ladder for them to walk through, couch cushions to jump over, and end tables to crawl under, you can make a very fun and challenging course for your pup. It won't cost anything and it will help to strengthen the bond you have with your pet.

Q: If my pet and I do venture outdoors this time of year, what are some tips to keep them safe?

A: It's that time of year again when we are all feeling some cabin fever. It is cold and dark when we get home from

work and difficult to get out and be active with our pets. We know that our pets, especially our dogs, are happier when they can get out and explore and have some environmental enrichment, so here are some tips to make the most out of this chilly time of year.

First of all, know your dog's limits in the cold. Some breeds are much more accustomed to the colder climates and will tolerate more extreme climates. But if it is too cold for you to spend any amount of time outside, then the same is likely true for your furry friend. Watch for signs from your dog that they are cold. If they are shivering or picking up their feet, then it is time to go indoors for a warm up!

Try to avoid walking in areas where they use a lot of road salt/ice melt because that can be very irritating and abrasive to their paw pads. You can rub petroleum jelly, or a product called Musher's Secret onto their pads to help avoid snow and ice accumulating on their paws. Consider finding a set of booties that fits your dog and that they tolerate wearing to help protect their feet. Most dogs will not like the booties at the beginning and indoors, but will tolerate them while exploring and playing outdoors. Wipe down their feet and under side right when they come in to remove any extra water, salt and debris from your pet so they can warm up quickly.



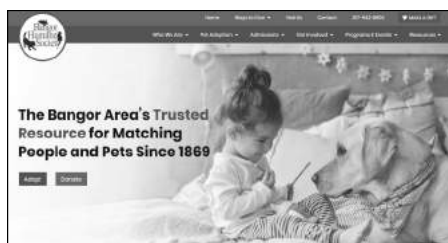
Also, remember that anti-freeze is extremely toxic to animals. Make sure that animals in and around the garage, automobiles, snowmobiles, etc. are being supervised. Even just licking a small amount off the floor or ground can be very dangerous. If you think your animal has consumed any anti-freeze please contact your vet immediately. ■

Shelter Events & Highlights:

Paws on Parade
Bangor Humane Society

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, September 28th

26th Annual Paws on Parade
on the Bangor Waterfront
Register or Donate at:
support.bangorhumane.org



We have a new website! Browse available pets, upcoming events, make a gift and get all your BHS questions answered at www.bangorhumane.org! Thank you to **Links Web Design** for the new look and feel!



Join us on **March 20th** for the 2nd Doggy Drive hosted by Downeast Toyota at their Brewer location. Donate an item from our wishlist to help them fill their sponsored kennel and enjoy a pet-friendly event filled with fun and learning!



Thank you to **Bark Box** who donated 240 super chewer bark boxes to give to our shelter dogs throughout this year!



Students at **Veazie Community School** donated their animal-themed art work to brighten our lobby and hallway and to also encourage pet adoption.



What the Campaign Supports:

We are preserving the spaces that function well. The renovation focuses on the following:

- An improved lobby where the entering public can see pets available for adoption to encourage more immediate connections between pets and humans.
- Pet housing areas to reduce disease transmission.
- Pet care areas to add natural light, ventilation and ergonomic work spaces.
- An admission room that provides privacy for families making the difficult decision to give up a pet.
- Improved Veterinary care area for spay / neuter and treatment of sick surrendered pets.
- Easier access and better flow to the dogs and cats available for adoption
- Dedicated area for animal support throughout the day by staff and volunteers, creating effective separation for pet care.
- Better separation of dogs and cats to encourage adoptions of more relaxed animals.

- An education room will be used as a gathering place for groups to learn more about humane education and responsible pet ownership.

Over the next year, you will begin to see structural changes happening at BHS while we still remain open and continue to operate out of our current facility. For example, by the end of February the original BHS building still on the premises will be demolished in order to open space for additional parking.

We are excited to enter the public phase of the campaign and hope you will join us. To donate, make a campaign pledge, or learn more about our *Building for Tomorrow, Creating Bonds for Life* project, visit our campaign site at www.bhsbuilding4tomorrow.org.

We also invite you to join us for our public campaign kick off celebration :

When: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Snow Date: Saturday, March 9, 2019

Where: The Bangor Humane Society

**Time: 12 pm-2 pm VIP Celebration
(invite only)**

2 pm—4 pm Public Celebration



Architect rendering of the renovated BHS

Your Impact

May 1, 2018—February 1, 2019

Provided refuge and care to **2,051** animals:

742 Cats Surrendered/Transferred in
 665 Stray Cats
 366 Dogs Surrendered/Transferred in
 179 Stray Dogs
 99 Small Animals

1,281 Cats Adopted/Transferred out
 65 Cats Returned to owner
 349 Dogs Adopted/ Transferred out
 157 Dogs Returned to owner
 96 Small Animals Adopted/Transferred out

Total Live Release Rate: 95%

Active Volunteers: **165**

Total Volunteer Hours Logged: **2,523+**

Total Volunteer Value: **\$62,292.87**

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!