



ANIMAL TALES

A Newsletter from the Stafford Animal Shelter | Fall 2006



Become a Licensed Animal Supporter!

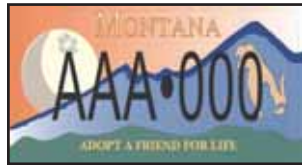
We all long to belong; especially to a like-minded tribe. One effective way to recognize others who belong to the same group is to sport a Stafford Animal Shelter license plate on your vehicle. Once you have our distinctive plate, you will suddenly notice others with the same license plate and can't help but feel a sense of camaraderie when you spot them.



People all over the state purchase Stafford Animal Shelter's license plate, some simply because the plates are visually appealing, but most because they support animals. Surprisingly, of the 190 Stafford Animal Shelter plates purchased in the past year, only 44 are local. "I hope that people will see it, like it, and get one for themselves," says recent plate purchaser and Livingston resident, John Hammerel, "I like supporting the Shelter. Plus, it's a neat looking plate."

While the plates are attractive and enhance the way your vehicle looks, they also show that you are helping care for animals in need. "I got it to support the Shelter and make a statement that I believe in what they are doing," says Roxanne Haidle of her Stafford Animal Shelter license plate, "I see other people with them as kindred spirits; we have a commonality." The plate may identify you as part of a pet-positive tribe, but more significantly, your purchase and annual renewal of the plate is an important financial contribution. This year we've raised nearly \$4,000 directly from the sale of Stafford Animal Shelter license plates.

If you don't have a Stafford Animal Shelter plate yet, you can become a licensed animal supporter today! Specialty plates can be purchased year round regardless of your license plate renewal date for a mere \$35 the first year and \$20 in ensuing years. Thanks to everyone who has already purchased a plate and we hope you will give a hearty wave when you see a fellow supporter with a Stafford Animal Shelter plate!



Give a Gift that Makes a Difference

Ever-increasing numbers of homeless, hungry, abused, and abandoned pets arrive at the Stafford Animal Shelter every day, and they need your help. Your donation will go directly to providing these vulnerable animals with clean, warm kennels, healthy food, individualized socialization and cutting-edge medical care. It costs hundreds of dollars to care for each animal, with adoption or reclamation fees covering a small percentage. We receive no funding from national animal welfare organizations or federal/state government and rely on the generosity of the individuals and businesses in the communities we serve.

While donating because you care about animals may be reward enough, there are additional benefits. Studies prove that it feels good to give, and people feel empowered when they help make a difference. You may choose to give an unusually meaningful holiday, wedding, or memorial gift and we will notify the recipient of your generous gift. This could be an easy solution for your entire shopping list this year! It is also time to think of making your year-end, tax-deductible donation. You can put your donation on your credit card as late as December 31st and take your 2006 tax deduction without having to make the payment until later. Finally, you improve our community by supporting Shelter services. Without the Stafford Animal Shelter and your support, our community would be inundated with lost, stray, and nuisance animals whose populations would exponentially increase due to lack of spaying and neutering.

Your gift is crucial and deeply appreciated. Please take a moment to write a check to: Stafford Animal Shelter and mail it in the enclosed envelope, call us at 406/222-2111 with your credit card donation during our business hours of Tuesday - Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm, or visit www.staffordanimalshelter.org to learn more. Be sure to let us know if you are making a donation as a gift so we can acknowledge the recipient. Thank you for caring enough to help the animals of our community greatest in need.



Read Puff's Happy Adoption Story on page 7

Top Cat Supporters:



Shelter Info

The Stafford Animal Shelter
3 Boulder Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406)222-2111
Fax: (406)222-8752



New website: www.staffordanimalshelter.org
Email: staffordshelter@imt.net

The shelter is located east of Livingston on Old Hwy. 10. Exit 337 from I-90.

Shelter Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 11-5
Closed Sundays and Mondays

STAFF

Executive Director

Vicki Blakeman

Animal Behavior Counselor

Tiffani Zimmerman

Lead Veterinary Technician

Linda Wright-Taillie

Veterinary Technician

Animal Caregiver Supervisor

Gail D. Karnatz

Customer Service Representatives

Elaine Divens
Laura White

Development Coordinator

Kris King

Pet Portrait Photographer

Yvonne Venturino

Animal Caregiver Assistant Supervisor

John Hammerel

Animal Caregivers

Yvonne Venturino
Melissa King
Dennis Mitchell
Leslie Seaton
Krystle Aquino

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A Letter From the Executive Director



I would like to introduce myself to all the friends of the Stafford Animal Shelter that I have not yet met. My name is Vicki Blakeman and I began as the Executive Director this May. I am so excited to be a part of the busy life at the Shelter. I had no idea when I started how important the Shelter is to so many people. In addition to everyone who comes out to adopt, surrender, or find lost pets at the Shelter, volunteers and supporters of every age visit regularly. This community deeply cares for and extends itself to help the many animals in need.

I have had time to work with and get to know our excellent, committed staff members. These dedicated people have the animals' needs foremost in their minds with every action they take. I'm proud of our Shelter's excellent regional reputation for compassionate animal care and a helpful staff.

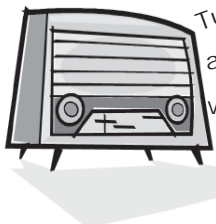
The Shelter has had a productive year. The Board finished and has implemented strategic and fund raising plans for the Shelter. These plans outline specific and measurable financial goals that will carry our organization to financial self sustainability over the next five years.

I am excited about three innovative programs we have planned for the coming year. First, we are developing a program to sell dog houses and cat condos through the Shelter. They will be built with donated materials and labor to provide us with another income source. We will work with local architects, contractors and high school students to further involve the community with the Shelter. Secondly, the Stafford Animal Shelter will be working with local agencies to increase public awareness of the documented link between animal abuse and domestic violence as well as other types of criminal behavior. We want to increase interagency cooperation and provide practical public education through schools and local media. Finally, the shelter would like to capitalize on the renewed state-wide interest in alternative energy, especially wind energy. Through grants and in-kind funding we believe we can install and operate wind and solar energy generation at the Shelter, which will greatly reduce our operating expenses.

As always, we rely on your generosity to care for the displaced, abandoned and abused animals in Livingston and Park and Sweetgrass Counties who have no one else. At the moment, we have 90 cats and 25 dogs who will wait from three to nine months to be adopted. It costs us an average of \$350 to house, feed, spay/neuter, and care for each pet. We desperately need your financial help. Please remember us with your holiday gifts and in your year end giving plans.

Sincerely,

Vicki Blakeman



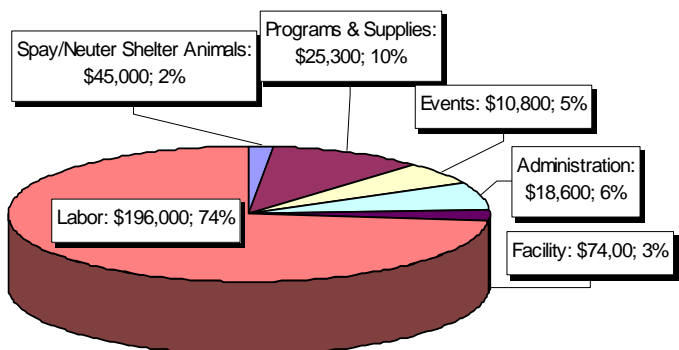
Tune into 1340 AM on KPRK Wed.
at 7:50 a.m. to get the Shelter's
weekly scoop with staff members
Tiffani and Kris!

Annual Report

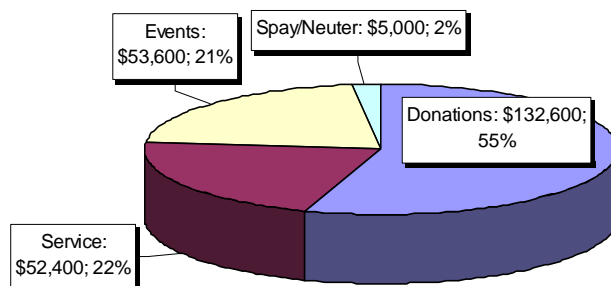
Stafford Animal Shelter had strong community support this year. In addition to an increase in donations, we received a generous bequest in September and several grants. Our income from January to November was \$238,900; up nearly \$50,000 from last year. We were very careful with expenses this year and came in well under budget. However, our expenses still exceed our income and the number of animals we serve continues to rise. Meeting the needs of the animals in our care is labor intensive and are we are lucky to have caring, dedicated individuals willing to do this difficult job.

We are working hard to create more income avenues in the coming year with new income-generating programs and by strengthening our Business Partnerships. However, your generous year-end giving in 2006 could make all the difference in balancing our budget. Stafford Animal Shelter is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. If you have any questions about our budget please call Vicki at 406/222-1311.

Shelter Expenses 2006



Shelter Income 2006



BIG THANKS

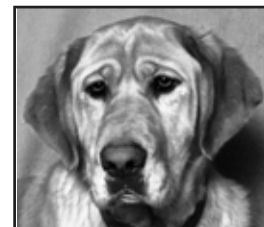
Is one hungry dog abandoned along a country road or litter of orphaned kittens found in a field worth saving? The following major donors not only made sure these and hundreds of similarly needy animals were saved, but thrived with warm shelter, healthy food, top medical care, and socialization to find forever homes. Thank you for caring.

Apisdorf, Jeffrey and Cheryl
 Art, Eve and Mike
 Barnett, Bill and Celeste
 Barry, Patricia
 Basini, Buzz and Dawn
 Baxter, Norman
 Call, Tamra
 Campbell, Philip T.
 Chase, Diana and Alston
 Colemore, Eunice
 Colmey, Duane
 Den Boer, Jacqueline
 Drisdane, Dan
 Duffy, Dr. William and
 Erickson, Lill and Tyler, Dude
 Fargo, Cindy and Maestas, Ben
 Field, Andrew and Victoria
 Fisher, Tuli
 Fitzpatrick, Joanne
 Frisk, LoAnne
 Furtak, Chris and Paul
 Garre, Karen and John



Haefs, Brad
 Hedrick, George and Joan
 Hjortsberg, Gatz and Camp, Janie
 Hoefler, Suzanne
 Holbein, Chad and Lori
 Holden, Beau
 Jarrett, Jane
 Jones, Grace
 Kane, Courtney
 Lambert, Jann and Craig
 Latvala, Warren and Jamie
 Lee, Sabrina and Christopher
 Lertz, Julie and Kirk
 Lennon, Mary E.
 Lipe, Bill and Barrerra, Laura
 Madill, Betty
 McAdam, Toby
 McCutcheon, Pam
 Miller, Martha
 Milligan, Nancy R.
 Murphy Paula and Gary
 Nave, Brett

Owens, Chris and James
 Phillips, Claire (DeeDee)
 Richardson, Larry and Margaret
 Rinnert, Bruce
 Ryan, Mike
 Saaral, Douglas and Susann
 Shellenberg, Tom
 Stanley, David
 Steveson, Beverly
 Strelnik, Daryl
 Strom, Willa H.
 Tonn, Linda
 Van Gytenbeek, R.P. and Elizabeth
 Viers, Dave
 Vincent, Tom and Toni
 Walker, Kim
 Ward, Margaret
 West, Mike and Kay
 Yardley, Jack



Abby says thanks for helping her find a home

We apologize to anyone inadvertently left out of this incomplete major donor list; without opposable thumbs, Shelter pets are mediocre transcribers. Stafford Animal Shelter appreciates memorial donations and will acknowledge them in an upcoming newsletter. For information about our memorial program, call Vicki at 406/222-1311 or email sased@imt.net.



The Doctor Is In - Veterinarian Mitch Childs

Dear Dr. Childs, I've heard that pet vaccines are changing. What's new?

Today, one of the hot topics among practicing veterinarians is the new vaccination protocol. Recently, representatives of veterinary general practice, academicians, attorneys and industry representatives from the U.S. and Europe met to revise and update vaccination protocols for both dogs and cats. A new "Guidelines for Dog and Cat Vaccinations" has been published and is causing much discussion and controversy in the field.

One of the main issues revolves around "core" and "noncore" vaccines. Core vaccines are recommended for every dog and cat. Non-core vaccines are recommended only when a known or likely risk of exposure is anticipated, or the pet's lifestyle represents a risk of infection. Duration of immunity is another issue. Until recently, most vaccinations were recommended annually, but some evidence indicates that every three years is sufficient. One of the reasons a number of veterinarians do not subscribe to this doctrine is that there are not established measures for pets' enduring antibody levels for any disease except rabies. Vaccine safety and selection are also important issues. In the U.S. there are about 26 types of vaccines approved for dogs and 17 for cats. There are three kinds of vaccines: killed vaccines, which are mixed with various substances called adjuvants; modified live vaccines, which are the most common; and the newest, recombinant vaccine, which is molecularly engineered.

Vaccine production varies in the industry, so the selection must be made with the latest reliable information. Adverse reactions do occur, but they are rare. While in the past, certain cat tumors were associated with vaccines, those incidents are decreasing. The theory is that a lineage of cats in certain locals in the U.S. was genetically predisposed to the tumors; which may also explain why the same vaccine did not cause tumors in cats in Australia.

In summary, the pet owner and veterinarian have more issues to consider and discuss at the wellness exam than the "simple earlier days" when the pet just got annual vaccinations. Based on the veterinarian's latest knowledge of the vaccine industry and the lifestyle of the pet and risk of exposure, the vaccine protocol for that particular individual is likely to vary from one pet to the next. All pets should have a wellness exam at least yearly. The owner must have a good dialogue with their veterinarian to understand the issues in order to make an intelligent decision as to what protection level will be best for our little friends that cannot talk for themselves. They must rely on their owner's good judgment to minimize their risk of preventable diseases through vaccinations.



Do Fence Me In!

A long-desired privacy fence is near completion thanks to generous donations from Community Closet and Chris and Paul Furtok of Aspen Art Yoga and the hard work of Executive Director Vicki Blakeman, Board Members Ashley Sullivan and Brant Robey, and Volunteers Patch Devlin and the Youth Conservation Corps. The fence will preserve the privacy and safety of stray and lost animals not yet up for adoption while giving them room to roam and play. Thanks everyone!



Thanks to the Livingston Weekly for running free weekly pet ads for us.



New outreach program! Stafford Animal Shelter pets will be at Petsmart and available for adoption in Bozeman every first and third Saturday from 11 am - 2 pm

Big Dog Supporters:



Behavior Beat with Tiffani Zimmerman



Renting to people with pets is a great idea for many reasons. It provides homes for pets as well as people, and is a major factor in stable, longer-term tenancy. The number one reason people surrender pets to Shelters is that they are unable to find a place that allows pets when they move. A landlord not allowing pets is also the primary reason we deny pet adoptions at Stafford Animal Shelter; even though the renter is eager to give a good home to one of our waiting pets.

Landlords, however, are increasingly finding that renting to people with pets has more benefits than costs. Statistics show that tenants in animal-friendly properties stay an average of two years longer. Also, vacancy rates are lower as is the amount of time and money it takes to market animal-friendly properties. Another benefit is that people are usually willing to pay higher rent to live with their beloved pets.

Landlords often assume animals will cause property damage, make noise, or lead to complaints from neighbors. While some pet-related damage may occur; the average repair cost is less than the pet deposit. Pet deposits can be anywhere from \$50 per pet up to one month's rent. Local landlords report that pet-related damage in rentals is consistently less than that of non-pet owning, irresponsible renters. For noise concerns, include a "no nuisance barking" clause in rental agreements based on the City or County nuisance barking laws of your region, and evict the tenant if they do not comply. Alert neighbors that a pet owner is moving in and encourage them to talk about any problems and tell you if problems persist.

Here are some suggestions to screen for responsible pet owners; require pet deposits, take photos of the rental unit before and after vacancy, schedule initial monthly home checks, write up a pet-specific lease agreement including number of pets, require all animals to be spayed or neutered, and ask for previous landlord and veterinarian references for the pet. It's not a good idea to require that a renter declaw their cat because often declawed cats have behavior problems once their natural defenses have been altered. If you are worried about destructive clawing; don't rent furnished units to cat owners. Requiring pets in rentals to be spayed or neutered does have many preventive benefits. It will minimize: odors and stains from marking and animals in heat; the attraction of other animals (and loud, yowling mating) to the property by an animal in heat; escaping and disruptive behaviors; and will prevent the birth of more animals on your property.

Following these suggestions will likely lead to long-term, responsible, happy renters who enjoy their new home with their pet. For that, we applaud you!

Call me at 222-1312 or email behavioradvice@imt.net for free behavior advice. Also, don't miss me on KPRK 1340 AM Wednesdays at 7:50 am or my monthly column in the Montana Pioneer.



Volunteers of the Month

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.

But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. - Mother Theresa



Volunteer of the Year, Vinita Volk, our "Laundry Queen"

The Shelter relies on our invaluable volunteers. While we appreciate each and every volunteer, the following volunteers have been acknowledged for going above and beyond! To become a volunteer, call Kris at 222-1313.

March: Nicole Rosenleaf Ritter

April: Emily Rahn

May: Elaine Divens

June: Jordan Coleman

July: LEMONAIDE BRIGADE; Olivia and Jake Hintz, Cole and Maggie Burkhardt, Ryan, Siobhan and Colin Marks

August: Debbie Perryman

September: Hannah Sealy

October: Our Board of Directors

November: Gwen Koch





Special Events

A big thanks to all our generous sponsors, tireless volunteers and many donors who make our fundraisers both fun and funded! We couldn't do it without you. We especially appreciate the talented Sloane McCue for her design work and Sharon Walker of Montana Edge for generous printing.



Fur Ball

Save the date for Fur Ball 2007; May 18. This year's auction includes an exciting new element: unique dog houses and cat condos specially designed for the event by local architects. We so appreciate Chico Hot Springs, the Art family and



Ren McShea with her adopted cat, Freddy, and Genevieve Schmitt

Colin Davis for their many years of generosity in hosting and supporting the Fur Ball. Special thanks to Jann Lambert and Garth Isbell for making the live auction lively!



2nd Place for Best Dressed, Chikita, with Shaun and Mia

Bark in the Park

Thanks to everyone who made this summer's event a considerable success. Congratulations to Samantha Williams for raising the most walkathon money and winning best costume. Thanks to Emcees Victoria Bell and Margot Coffer, contest participants and judges, vendors, volunteers, and musical performers; The Blokes and The Fossils. Join us August 12th for Bark in the Park 2007. Start working now on your pet's best trick, costume, loudest bark or ball craziness in preparation! To learn more, call Kris at 222-1313



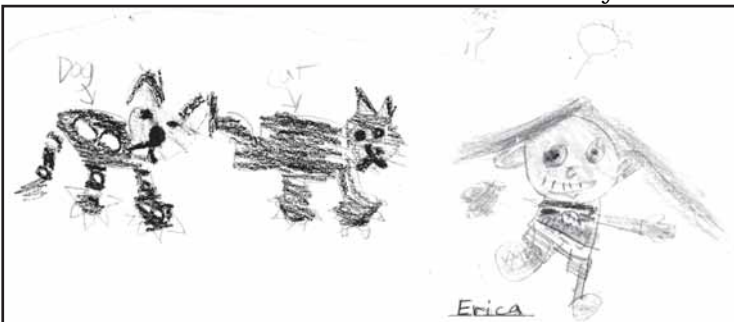
Samantha Williams & Dinosaur Maddie

Our first Cat Got Your Tongue

Our first Cat Got Your Tongue Fundraiser on September 29, 2006 was great fun. Chrysti The Wordsmith led a group of local celebrities in a rousing game of animal catch phrase

charades while guests enjoyed the abundance of food, cocktails, and entertainment. We appreciate everyone who bought tickets and made donations. Special thanks to: Chrysti the Wordsmith, Rainer Krapf, Gatz Hjortsberg, Margie Kidder, Scott McMillion, Ned Shapiro, Bob Spannring, Lynn Weaver, the the Elks Lodge and everyone else who made it a fun event. Join us Ground Hog Day, February 2nd, 2007 for more Cat Got Your Tongue fun!

East Side School Kindergarten students in Mrs. Boyd's class dictated thoughts about how to take care of a pet to their third grade buddy from Mrs. Heckles' class. We choose Erica and Micaesha's work to share with you.



I used to have a dog. You have to feed the dog healthy dog food. You have to take the dog to the vet for shots if the dog is sick. I also used to have a cat. My cat was black and white. To take care of a cat you have to clean the litter box. If your cat is a girl you spay her. If your cat is a boy you neuter him. I loved my cat and dog.

Visit our great new website: www.staffordanimalshelter.org by Lynn Weaver of Sparkling Dawg.

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Realty World, Pam McCutcheon

Caring Canines

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Big Dogs

Doggon' Wheels
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& Chop House
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Tech Electric

Pet of the Week

Sponsors
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Farrier Service
Suzanne Hoefler Studio

Take advantage of our great partnership opportunities; contact Kris at 222-1313 or shelterbark@imt.net



Book List for Pet Lovers

For Kids: *Dog Sense* by Sneed B. Collard III, about a boy who, with the help of his dog, takes on the challenges of moving to a new town, making friends, and facing difficult people and life events.

Humor: *Walking in Circles Before Lying Down: A Novel* by Merrill Markoe

Humane Animal Treatment: *Lost and Found: Dogs, Cats, and Everyday Heroes at a Country Animal Shelter* by Elizabeth Hess, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* by Matthew Scully

Understanding your dog: *Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson, *The Other End of the Leash* by Dr. Patricia McConnell, *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals* by Turid Rugaas, *How to Teach a New Dog Old Tricks* by Dr. Ian Dunbar, *You are a Dog: Life Through the Eyes of Man's Best Friend* by Terry Bain

Cat Tales: *James Herriot's Cat Stories* by James Herriot and Lesley Holmes, *Why Cats Paint: A Theory of Feline Aesthetics* by Burton Silver and Heather Busch, *I Am the Cat, Don't Forget That: Feline Expressions* by Valerie Shaff and Roy Blount Jr.



From, *I Am the Cat*:

When I purr
Don't infer
It's because you pat.

No, you pat
Because I purr.

I am the cat,
Don't forget that.



If you would like to recommend a book for our next list please contact Kris at 222-1313.




Puff, Pee Wee, and Pumpkin

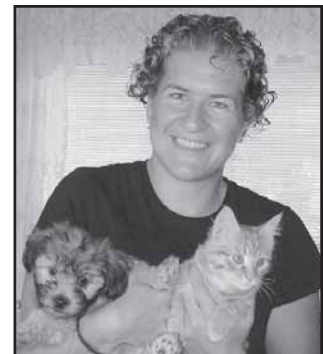
From Orphaned to Adored

Puff, Pee Wee, and Pumpkin were only a day old when their mother was killed by a Mountain Lion on their own Sweetgrass County porch. The next day the tiny kittens were brought to the Stafford Animal Shelter, two of them were injured during their mother cat's last act of moving them to safety.

After medical care, the trio was taken home by a foster parent who awoke every two hours to bottle-feed them. "It is such a rewarding process to be able to see babies this small and injured thrive," says volunteer foster parent and staff Veterinary Technician Linda Wright-Taillie, "You don't always know if they will survive and when they do, it's a wonderful feeling. I may lose sleep, but I get to save those little lives." Our tiny survivors were bottle-fed and coddled first by Wright-Taillie, and then by veteran foster parents, Yvonne and Duke Venturino, until they were old enough to be immunized and adopted from the Shelter.

These exceptionally well socialized and personable kittens were irresistible to adopters and each soon found a special home. Puff, for instance, is adored and indulged alike by his human parents and a little sister about his size; a Shih Tzu/Poodle named Honey. Also known as Mr. Puff and Cream Puff, "He has everything he could possibly want. He's a wonderful addition and very easy to get along with. He lets the dog chew on his tail and they chase each other around the house. He likes his toy mice, loves to watch birds, and likes to bat at us with his paws through the chair railings when we pass," says adopter Susan Gough, "He's brought so much joy to our life."

We live on happy adoption stories here at the Shelter, so don't hesitate to tell us yours, or come on in to make a happily-ever-after story come true today. Every cat and dog is an orphan at the Shelter and they all deserve homes where they will be adored. 



Honey, Susan and Puff

The Stafford Animal Shelter
3 Boulder Business Park Road
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406)222-2111
Fax: (406)222-8752
www.staffordanimalshelter.org



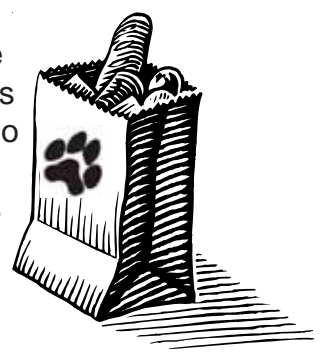
Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #7
Livingston, MT



At the Stafford Animal Shelter, we house the homeless, feed the hungry, and on the side we run a matchmaking service.

Support the Shelter at No Cost to You!

You can support the Shelter while you shop at no cost to you! Please call us at 406/222-1311 with your Albertson's card number, regardless of where you live, and a portion of every dollar you spend there will go to animals in need at the Shelter. If you no longer have your Albertson's card, your number is on your receipt; it's not the same as your phone number. Thanks for thinking of the animals!



Big Dog Supporters:

