



# ANIMAL TALES

A Newsletter from the Stafford Animal Shelter

Summer 2007



## Homeward Bound



*Debbie Perryman walks Rowdy, who is ready for a home!*

Stafford Animal Shelter's Homeward Bound program pairs trained volunteers with untrained dogs. Volunteers learn Positive Reinforcement training and then work with unsocialized, undisciplined dogs to help them become more adoptable.

The benefits are great to both the dogs and the volunteers, who get to see dramatic improvements in the dogs. "How they respond to it is unbelievable, they just want to please you. It's just a great program," says Homeward Bound

Volunteer Debbie Perryman. She adds, "You are benefiting yourself, but even more you are benefiting the animal. They are such good animals and they need homes – with Homeward Bound you are helping them get there." Volunteer Linda Heisler-Clancy says, "Homeward Bound is a mutual enrichment program for both the dog and future owner. It uses a gentle and positive approach for socializing dogs. It teaches them how to remain calm and attentive to their owners. It gives them an opportunity to have a good life."

The dogs not only make great strides in behavior modification, but the learning experience provides them with mental stimulation and physical exercise – both which minimize their kennel stress and enables them to be calmer and friendlier in their kennels, making them more appealing to potential adopters.

Call Tiffani at 406/222-1312 to join the fall Homeward Bound training or learn more.

## Happy Reunion

The Bergdoll family's cat, Red, had been missing for four days. "We didn't think right away to check at the shelter, but when we went in, I knew it was him," Tina Bergdoll recalls. "We were really happy to get him back." Stafford Animal Shelter encourages people to call in a lost pet report at 406/222-2111 as soon as your pet is missing, but also come in see the lost pets in person; your description of your pet does not always match ours. We are always glad to facilitate a happy reunion!



*JoJo and Maya Bergdoll are reunited with their cat Red*

## Bark in the Park

Don't miss Stafford Animal Shelter's Bark in the Park on **Sunday, August 19th 2007 from noon to 7 p.m.** at Miles Park in Livingston. Admission

is free and all are welcome. Funds are raised for our homeless pets through the 'Dollars for Collars' walk-a-thon.

**First prize for raising the most walk-a-thon money is an iPod shuffle and \$25 iTunes gift card** and second prize is a cell phone.

Walk-a-thon registration begins at 11:30 at Miles Park and kicks off at noon, culminating at the City Pool with a dogs-only swim. Following the best swimsuit, fastest swim and long jump dog contests at



*Wrenn Meuwissen's dog won best trick*

the pool, there will be open swimming for dogs all afternoon. Bark in the Park festivities include: live music by The Blokes, Bridger Creek Boys, The Hooligans and The Fossils, our hilarious dog contests such as best owner/dog look-a-like, best trick, and best dressed,

fun kids' activities, a cooling water tent, adoptable shelter dogs, a beer garden

and local food vendors. Don't miss this fun filled day celebrating people and their pets. Call 406/222-1313 to learn more.



*Most Vocal winner Bob with his person, Sue*

*Read about the planned shelter expansion in the Executive Director's letter on the inside cover*

## Big Dog Supporters:



LIVINGSTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

## Letter from the Executive Director

### Shelter Info

#### The Stafford Animal Shelter

3 Business Park Road  
Livingston, MT 59047  
Phone: (406) 222-2111  
Fax: (406) 222-8752

Website: [www.staffordanimalshelter.org](http://www.staffordanimalshelter.org)  
Email: [staffordshelter@imt.net](mailto: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

#### Facilities Manager

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

Samantha Carroll  
Leslie Seaton  
Angela Thomas  
Yvonne Venturino

### BOARD

#### President

Ashley Sullivan

#### Vice President

Andy Art

#### Secretary

#### Treasurer

Brant Robey

#### Directors

Juliann Jones  
Lee Gwin  
JonEllen Snyder



**Big  
News!**

*Blakeman Referees an event*

Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us and with it comes increased activity at the Stafford Animal Shelter. It's kitten and puppy season and we have anywhere from 20 to 30 kittens and half a dozen pups in the shelter or in foster care at any given time. Please come out and meet these babies and either take one home, or help us socialize these little orphans.

The abundance of orphaned litters at the shelter emphasizes our need to expand. Stafford Animal Shelter was built in 1999 and since then there has been a great deal of growth in our community and demand for our services. Several areas of the shelter desperately need enlargement or retrofitting. Expansion and upgrades are vital to the health and wellbeing of the animals we serve.

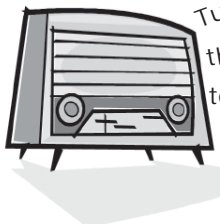
As you may have heard, we received a very generous grant from the Francis Stafford Foundation that will help us meet the growing needs of the displaced and abandoned animals in our community. We are very grateful to the Stafford Foundation for their dedication to the vision of Mrs. Stafford and her efforts to help the animals of Park County.

Many of you are aware that our main cat room is too small for the number of cats we receive. There are more cats than was anticipated when the building was built and they are adopted less frequently than dogs. We need to enlarge our main cat area and give them an outside play area. Kitten's immune systems are not as developed as adult cats and they require a separate space to protect their health.

We have no central cooling system for the main dog room. It gets brutally hot during the summer and is very costly and difficult to give the poor dogs some relief from the heat. The air circulation system in the whole building is inadequate and leaves the entire shelter population susceptible to painful, and expensive to treat, airborne infections. Also, we need to install covered exterior dog runs so they are protected from the elements while outdoors. Another crucial issue is the main dog room floor, which does not drain properly and requires costly labor to eliminate dirty standing water, which breeds disease.

We are finalizing the costs of these upgrades now. We plan to start building in April 2008 and prices have increased dramatically since we began planning this project. We find we will need to raise more money to complete our upgrades to care adequately for the animals during their stay at the shelter. On behalf of the animals who depend on your generosity, we trust that you will make a financial contribution for these crucial improvements.

Thank you,  
*Vicki Blakeman*  
Executive Director



Tune into KPRK 1340 AM  
the 3rd Wed. each month at 7:50 a.m.  
to learn about current animal issues  
with staff members Tiffani and Kris!

## Local Dog Park is a Great Place to Play

Livingston has a wonderful asset you may not have discovered. The Moja Campbell Dog Park is located at the end of View Vista Drive just beyond Mayor's Landing in Livingston. The dog park is one of the few places dogs can legally romp off leash in the city of Livingston. The area began life as a landfill and was capped and planted in 1999, with the "Fleshman Creek" trail being developed in 2002. These improvements have resulted in a large open field of wild grasses and a series of interconnecting trails through the trees and along the creek. The result is a joyous place for dogs and their people to socialize, exercise, play fetch, and explore the trails for hours on end.

In 2006, the park was dedicated to the memory of Moja Campbell, one of the dogs who had so enjoyed



Shelter alumni enjoy Moja Park

the park. While use of the park is free, funds are raised each year to cover the costs of the bags to pick up dog waste. Cleaning up after one's pet is a value held by many of the park's users. Stafford Animal Shelter helps collect donations to the dog park bag fund, and is happy to hold any check with "Moja Park" or "Dog Bag" written on it for the fund.

Moja Park's benefits to the community are many. Numerous dog behavior problems can be eliminated or prevented by regular exercise and socialization at the park, which is easily accessible by walking or driving. Our former shelter dogs love visiting old friends and making new ones at the dog park. Check it out with your canine companion today!



Welcome to Moja Campbell Park

## In Loving Memory

Stafford Animal Shelter offers the opportunity to give meaningful memorial gifts in honor of a beloved person or pet. We honor them on our memorial boards and are grateful to use these gifts to care for our homeless pets. Here are 2006-2007 memorial gifts thus far. We apologize for anyone inadvertently left off this list.

### People

Alberta Francis  
 Allyn O'Hair  
 Alma Madary  
 Alton Kulp  
 Antoine Bouse  
 Audrey O'Haire  
 Betty Buckner  
 Betty Buehner  
 Betty Jane Dietz  
 Bob Burns  
 Bob Poeschl  
 Brownie Gwaltney  
 Cleo Nack  
 CR Jacobs.  
 Drue Versland  
 Earl Johnson  
 Elta Moreland  
 Hap and Min Werle  
 Hazel Eggar  
 Irene White  
 Jack F.W. Davis  
 Jeff Harber  
 Jerrie Lynn Caywood  
 Jim Ames  
 Kathleen Harris Leathers  
 Kay Brockman  
 Ken Olson  
 Larry Taylor  
 Margie Trowbridge

Mayme Overly  
 Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Uhl  
 Pansy Graham  
 Peggy Rigler  
 Rod Siring  
 Ruth French  
 Ruth Schroeder  
 Sadako Jarrett  
 Sheila Fallang Jordon  
 Stella Fakler  
 Ted Persons  
 Ted Moos  
 Todd Zimmerman  
 Vicki Libbey  
 Viola Pollard  
 Walter J. Gwaltney

### Pets

Andy Art's Ghostie  
 Barbara and Harry Carlson's Benson  
 Bonnie and Parke Goodman's Bernie  
 Brad Haef's Duchess and Duke  
 Chinook and Shadow  
 Cindy and Jerry Good's Ted  
 Clarence and Barbara Jean  
 Fenton's Snowball  
 Dan Drislan's Moby

Dana Whinihan's Chinook  
 Elise Donahue's Sasha  
 Hannah Sealey's Riley  
 Jackson's Edison  
 Jean Sandberg's Beaux  
 Jo Syke's Toni  
 Jo Tecca's Gus and Albie  
 John and Judy Layne's Maggie  
 John and Maureen Ruggles' Daizy  
 Kiara  
 Malpeli's Bon Bon  
 Margie Kidder's Zelda  
 Margo Coffey's Smokey Grand Poobah of the Dog Park  
 Maryanne Vollers and Bill Campell's dog Moja  
 Michelle Speckler's Neela  
 Mike and Crystal Leach's Teton  
 Mikelann Baerg's Jake  
 Rainer Krapf and Juliann Jones' Teddy  
 Ron Shorter and Cassie Burn's Booker  
 Rusty and Bev Quinton's Sam  
 Saarel's Marbles  
 Scotty and George  
 Sellegren's Ruby  
 Shane and Tawnya Hawkins' Libby  
 Suzie  
 Mrs. Robert Wilson's Stella and Spooky  
 Walker's General



Sateva sends her sympathies



## The Doctor Is In - Veterinarian Mitch Childs

### Thyroid Disease in Dogs and Cats

The most common endocrine disease that dogs and cats experience involves the thyroid gland. In dogs, a diseased gland is less productive, which is called hypothyroidism. In a cat, the gland generally becomes hyperactive and the condition results in hyperthyroidism. The thyroid gland consists of two lobes located along each side of the trachea in the neck. They are part of a very complicated network of endocrine hormone producing glands, including the pituitary, adrenal, ovary and testis.

With cats, hyperthyroidism afflicts middle-aged and older cats. A usually non-cancerous tumor called adenoma causes the gland to enlarge. This results in an increased production of thyroid hormone. A high hormone level affects nearly all body organs. The signs are subtle at first, but become more severe as the disease progresses. The heart rate increases, and over time will cause the heart to enlarge, lose normal function and can result in heart failure. Hypertension (high blood pressure) often accompanies hyperthyroidism. This can lead to premature kidney failure and detached retina with blindness. Other signs may include weight loss despite increased appetite. Vomiting, diarrhea and poor hair coat may be noted. Diagnosis is accomplished through a physical examination for enlarged glands in the neck, and collecting a blood sample to check the levels of thyroid hormone. Once the diagnosis has been confirmed, a treatment protocol can be planned. The options include daily oral medication, surgery, or radioactive-iodine therapy.

Dogs usually have hypothyroidism, or a lower production of thyroid hormones. This is a result of progressive destruction and replacement of cells (called Hashimoto thyroiditis in people.) As with all species, the thyroid hormone controls cellular metabolism. While many organs can be involved, skin diseases and poor hair coat are most frequently noted. Obesity can be seen despite a normal appetite and calorie intake. Less common signs involve problems with the heart, immune system, digestion, and reproduction and behavior changes. Physical exam findings and history may suggest the hyperthyroidism diagnosis, but the common signs mimic several other diseases in the dog that need to be ruled out. Blood testing will support the diagnosis, but various concurrent diseases can affect the accuracy of the results. Treatment consists of an oral daily supplement of a synthetic thyroid hormone the rest of the dog's life.

After the disease appears to be controlled in cats and dogs, the thyroid hormone may level out and need to be re-measured periodically. As the body ages, therapy may need to be adjusted accordingly and will help your pet maintain a long and normal healthy life.



## We Appreciate our 2007 Business Partners

### Big Dog Supporters

Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa  
First Interstate Bank  
Livingston Veterinary Hospital  
Realty World, Pam McCutcheon  
Yellowstone Country Motors

### Top Cat Supporters

At Home on the Range      Printing For Less  
Bridger Feeds              Rib & Chop House  
Dave Viers & Associates    The Owl Lounge



### Caring Canine Supporters

Aspen Realty  
Precision Invisible Fence  
Native Landscapes & Reclamation

### Pet of the Week Supporters

Alice Costa  
Suzanne Hoefler



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

Shop online and support the shelter. Start at: [www.krymus.com/3475](http://www.krymus.com/3475) and when you shop at any of the hundreds of online stores there, a percentage of everything you spend will go to us!

### Top Cat Supporters:





## Behavior Beat with Tiffani Zimmerman



I have witnessed the results of a wide range of pet training techniques and prefer the 'positive reinforcement' method.

Positive reinforcement is rewarding a pet immediately following a desired behavior. This makes that behavior more likely to occur in the future and is a very powerful tool in shaping or changing a pet's manners. Correct timing is essential; the reward must occur immediately, or your pet may not associate it with the desired behavior.

For example, if you have your dog "sit," but reward him after he's already stood up again, he'll think he's being rewarded for standing up. Pets live in the present and are

not able to use logic to determine why you are pleased or displeased by a past action. Consistency is also essential. Everyone in the family should use the same commands and reward similarly. As many have witnessed, when trying to train your dog to not beg, it takes only one person feeding a dog at the table – positive reinforcement for begging – to teach that dog to beg at the table from everyone.

Positive reinforcement training for a pet may include food treats, praise, petting, or a favorite toy or game. As you come to understand and utilize positive reinforcement, you will learn that you're not forever bound to carry a pocketful of goodies. Your pet will also work for verbal praise, because he really does want to please you. The occasional treat will maintain the positive behavior, but eventually will not be needed each time.

Punishment, including verbal, postural and physical punishment, is the presentation of something unpleasant following an unwanted behavior. To be effective, punishment must be delivered while your pet is engaged in the undesirable behavior; "caught in the act." Rubbing a dog's nose afterwards in a mess they've made never helps. When the punishment is delivered after the fact, your pet will feel "ambushed." From his 'living in the moment' point of view, the punishment is random and can lead to distrusting, aggressive or fearful behavior. For instance, what we humans interpret as "guilty" looks are actually submissive postures by our pets.

Animals don't have a moral sense of right and wrong, but they are adept at associating your presence with punishment. Further, punishment may be associated with other elements, such as people or conditions present at the time of the punishment. For example, a pet that's punished for getting too close to a small child may become fearful of, or aggressive to children. Or, admonishing a pet for fear of thunder will make them doubly fearful the next time they hear thunder. While you certainly want to stop a pet during an unwanted behavior, punishment is not an effective way to keep them from repeating that behavior.

Long-term positive behavior arises from consistent and timely positive reinforcement. It's easy to get angry and punish a pet when you are displeased with their behavior, but it rarely ends the behavior and often expands it. Positive reinforcement is an effective discipline we can learn to utilize with our pets with wonderful and lasting results.

*For animal behavior advice, call Tiffani at 408/222-1312 or email [behavioradvice@imt.net](mailto:behavioradvice@imt.net). Read the monthly advice column in the Montana Pioneer and read archived articles at [www.staffordanimalshelter.org/behavioradvice.html](http://www.staffordanimalshelter.org/behavioradvice.html)*

## Volunteers of the Month

*"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in service to others." - Ghandi*

- December: Dale Trapp
- January: Sarah Keller's 3rd Grade Class
- February: Danny Smith
- March: Sloane McCue
- April: Victoria Bell and Larisa Baerg
- May: Fur Ball 2007 Committee
- June: Tom Lemke



*Volunteer of the Year, Hannah Sealy brings adoptable pets to PetsMart*



*Victoria Bell and Larisa Baerg take shelter dogs to elder care facilities*





## Fun Fundraisers

*Our events would be neither fun nor funded without the support of our generous sponsors, participants donors, and volunteers. Thanks all!*



### Fur Ball

The eighth annual Fur Ball May 18th at Chico Hot Springs and Day Spa was a rousing success thanks to Emcee Chrysti the Wordsmith, Auctioneer Garth Isbell, Victoria Bell, Hosts Mike and Eve Art, Signature Artist Mike Peters, our featured 'Happy Adopters', the Fur Ball Committee and volunteers,



*Shelter alumni Zack shows his agility skills at Fur Ball 2007*

all our auction donors, generous sponsors, and guests. The evening began with an agility demonstration by shelter alumni Zack and culminated with the live auction of a Caribbean yacht trip!



*Nancy Curtis show her acting chops*

### Cat Got Your Tongue

Our second annual Cat Got Your Tongue event February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 was great fun. Animal phrase charades were acted out by local celebrities with audience participants

guessing and betting on which charader was guessed most quickly. Chrysti the Wordsmith shared the etymology

of the animal phrases. Art by emerging artists was auctioned off and guests enjoyed a generous buffet donated by local food purveyors. Don't miss the next Cat Got Your Tongue on February 1, 2008!



*Margie Kidder performs charades at Cat Got Your Tongue*



## Media Shout Out

We couldn't get the word out about the shelter without the generosity of the local media. Special thanks to: KPRK for our informational show the third Wednesday of every month from 7:50 a.m. to 8 a.m.; *Livingston Weekly* for the Weekly Pet ad and informational tidbits in their Classifieds; *Montana Pioneer* for the monthly pet advice column and free ads; Lea Carroll of the *Mini Nickel* for sponsoring weekly pet ads; KGLT, KBOZ and KBZM who run free event and public service announcements for us; the *Senior Center Newsletter* for a regular feature; the *Livingston Enterprise*

for free briefs and for covering pertinent shelter issues; and the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* for donating ads. Thank you all for your support and help in get educational pet information out into the community and helping homeless pets find homes.

### Happy Adoption

Bob Anderson was having a difficult time finding the right dog after decades without one.

"Then came a call from the very caring personnel at Stafford," he recalls. "One look and I knew I'd found the companion I'd been looking for." Carley had been surrendered to the shelter because she wandered from home so often looking for companionship, but she's now content to be always at Bob's side. Carley and Bob take roadtrips and fishing trips together and he says, "I couldn't ask for a better dog; we go sit on the backporch swing together evenings." She loves the neighborhood kids, her dog friends, and her morning cookies. "She won't do anything in the morning until she gets her cookies," says Anderson. "She's been a perfect little lady and puts on show after show with her stuffed toys."

He says since adopting Carley, "I'm more active, she gives me a reason to get up and do more. I'll be 78 this week and can't imagine why I went 20 years between dogs." His advice about adopting is, "Folks; these dogs and cats at the shelter just want to be loved and to make you happy. Take one home and remember both of you can learn from each other. And you'll have a new brighter reason to get up in the morning. Thanks Stafford Animal Shelter for this beautiful new companion named Carley. I'll be forever grateful." Carley seconds that emotion!



*Carley siting pretty with Bob*

*Stafford Animal Shelter welcomes gifts of any size. We have an endowment and offer planned and estate giving. For more information, call Vicki at 406/222-1311 or email sased@imt.net.*

## Book List for Pet Lovers

### Dog Behavior

- *Bones Would Rain from the Sky; Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs* by Suzanne Clothier
- *The Loved Dog; The Playful, Nonaggressive Way to Teach Your Dog Good Behavior* by Tamar Geller



### Cat Humor

- *Everything I Know About The Rat Race, I Learned From My Cat* by Allia Zobel with cartoons by syndicated *Sylvia* cartoonist, Nicole Hollander
- *The Book of Jones: A Tribute to a Mercurial, Manic, and Utterly Seductive Cat* by Ralph Steadman

### For Kids

- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- Newbury Award winner *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Recommended by nine year old Stafford Animal Shelter Volunteer, Ren McShea:

- *Cats to the Rescue; True Tales of Heroic Felines* by Marilyn Singer
- *Barry the Bravest St. Bernard* by Lynn Hall



### Inspirational Stories



- *From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava* by Jay Kopelman and Melinda Roth
- *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home: And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals* by Rupert Sheldrake

If you would like to recommend a book for our next list please contact Kris at 406/ 222-1313.

## Local Businesses Get Creative with Philanthropic Support

Stafford Animal Shelter is fortunate to have the generous support of local businesses who initiate a wide range of creative fundraising strategies. One such Business is Printing for Less (PFL) and the Specialty Roast Coffee program. PFL Employees choose appreciation gifts for customers and can send Specialty Roast Coffee with a label stating that \$2 per pound is donated to the Stafford Animal Shelter, and for each local referral staff makes, \$25 is



Melissa cuts Dr. Basket's Hair with support from Lola

donated to us. Another business that donates regularly is Albertson's; who give us a percentage of purchases made by those who designate us as the charity of their choice. Yellowstone Country Motors will donate \$15 per car they sell in Park County for a year. Michelle Becker of Maverick Realty will donate \$25 for each property she sells in 2007 also.

Other businesses have initiated creative fundraisers for our homeless pets. The Owl's Drag-n-Hoot 3 was both entertaining and raised considerable funds. Community Closet hosted a garage sale with all proceeds going to the shelter. Ron's Barber Shop held a haircutting benefit for the shelter. PetSmart hosts adoptable shelter pets twice a month and donates \$5 for each pet that is adopted there, plus proceeds from special fundraisers. Last holiday season, Moosehorn Gallery and Ace Hardware each had giving trees with pictures to raise funds. The Obsidian held an early bird sale that benefited our pets. First Interstate and American Bank each hold Blue Jean Fridays and donate proceeds to us. GMC hosted a car wash and free lunch to raise money for our pets.



Many local businesses house our donation boxes which raise hundreds of dollars each month. Pet of the Week sponsors utilize our pet ads in the *Livingston Enterprise* to advertise their business, acknowledge pets that have passed on, or a beloved person's birthday or holiday.

Our Business Partners, who sponsor events and this newsletter, provide crucial support. Local businesses also donate items and services to our fundraising events. We so appreciate the generosity and creativity of our wonderfully supportive business community – they raise both a great deal of money and community awareness about our pets.

Take their challenge and come up with a creative way to support Stafford Animal Shelter through your business today!

Great news! State employees can now donate to us at work with a payroll deduction, cash, check or credit card at work and win fun prizes!

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, and a portion of every dollar you spend there will go to animals in need at the Shelter. Thanks for thinking of the animals!



### Listen Up!

Join the Club! Sport a Stafford Animal Shelter license plate. They can be purchased year round, regardless of your license plate renewal date. A portion of every plate purchased goes directly to caring for our homeless pets.



### Big Dog Supporters:

