



# The Poop Scoop

Tails and Tidbits for Team Sammie, Volunteers, and the Animal Lovers of Nevada County and Beyond . . .

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Winter 2021-2222

## 2021, what a year it was!

We had many challenges and successes this year, each one keeping us hopping and adapting day by day. We started the year with low occupancy and ended the year at full capacity. Our shelter is bursting at its seams from cows to doves. We are currently housing a little bit of everything. This year we hit an all-time high of kitten intakes, 473, (Yikes) not to mention the doves; that's right doves! In one day we took in 127 doves.

Mind you, all this excitement was coupled with extended power outages, local fires, supply shortages, and a maxed-out under-staffed veterinary community. We adore our veterinarians! Covid has made it difficult to run their practices at full speed. For the grand finale, we ended the year with the final hurrah, the biggest snowstorm in more than 4 decades.

Regardless of these challenges, it never ceases to amaze us the display of energy and go-get-it spirit of the staff, volunteers, and donors that keep the wind in our sails. With every challenge someone stepped up to go above and beyond. This is what makes Sammie's Friends what it is. The endless effort of many people doing what it takes, day in and day out, to keep us going. Of the many animals that have come through our doors this year, we placed 800+ animals into their forever homes, while others were housed and loved until they were returned to their owners. The shelter is always flowing. On top of being comforted and loved, each animal had their medical needs addressed.

Through your support and donations, this year we have provided over \$270,000 in medical care and over \$57,000 for spay/neuter services - just for shelter animals. In addition, medical care isn't just about a dollar amount. Each vet visit represents a transporter, medical personnel for recovery, foster assistance and lots of love. The list goes on and on. Staff and volunteers tirelessly care for these animals throughout their rehabilitation.



But the support didn't end there, Sammie's Friends also responded to the community by providing veterinary care and spay/neuter assistance this year totaling over \$212,000. Sammie's Friends has been providing care for community, non-shelter animals for the past 18 years.

The third arm of Sammie's Friends is Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store. In spite of

Covid, problems with our trucks and the most recent storm knocking everyone out of business for a bit, our thrift store rocks. It is a great source of revenue for our animals and our many veterinary expenditures.

This story hopefully provides a bird's eye-view and a small sampling of what's been happening at Sammie's Friends. We look forward to 2022 and all it may bring. We are stronger than ever with your support and are ready to meet the challenges and ALL the wonderful animals that will cross our paths in the year to come! THANK YOU is never a big enough word to let our community know how much we love you and how important you are to the animals and to all of us at Sammie's Friends.

### Sammies' Friends Accomplishments:

Reduced euthanasia rate from 68% to less than 1%

Each year we spay/neuter approximately 1,000 community animals and 1,000 shelter animals

More than 35,000 animals saved since 2001.

Visit us at [www.SammiesFriends.org](http://www.SammiesFriends.org)

## Trish and Kevin Busby – Newbies but Goodies

In July of 2021, Sammie's Friends was blessed by two new wonderful volunteers, Trish and Kevin Busby. A mother and son team, Trish comes and walks the dogs while Kevin supports her and loves on all of the dogs. Kevin is a compassionate friend of Sammie's who suffers from a high functioning Prader-Willi Syndrome, which is a genetic intellectual disability, as well as Type one diabetes. Trish says that these two issues really clash together, as with the Prader-Willi Syndrome, Kevin feels the need to never stop eating. Trish says that their pantries are under lock and key so as to mitigate this compulsive desire.

They began volunteering at Sammie's Friends during the pandemic, because Kevin's program at PRIDE Industries was closed down. This is a program that provides opportunities for disabled adults to work, as well as socialize with others. During the pandemic, Kevin could not leave his house and it was having a negative effect on his overall health. Trish, being the selfless person she is, transferred her job to be here in Grass Valley so that she could have time to get into volunteer work with Kevin. They Googled "Volunteer opportunities in Nevada County," and Sammie's Friends popped up. They both, without a doubt, knew that was what they both wanted to do, as they both have an undying passion for animals. Trish says this is wonderful for Kevin because he is able to get exercise as well as socialize with others. Two things that are very important to his health.



Trish's favorite part about volunteering at Sammie's is watching Kevin every day and the enthusiasm he has for the happenings at Sammie's, whether he is here or not. When he's at home, he's always looking online to see what new dogs come in, and which dogs got adopted. He has a fiery curiosity to always be in the know of all the happenings here.

Thank you, Trish and Kevin, for choosing to volunteer at Sammie's Friends. Your vibrant energy and passion is felt by each of the staff every day that you come in here to help take care of the dogs.

## LuAnne Meyers - a Heart of Gold

Roughly three years ago, an incredible woman with a heart of gold came and began volunteering for Sammie's Friends. LuAnne Myers is heavily involved in volunteer work for other organizations as well. Sammie's Friends is extremely grateful that she shares her time at the shelter.

She began volunteering because she wanted to be of service, and she's always had a love for animals, so this seemed like the natural direction to go in. LuAnne says, "There is nothing quite like being surrounded by 75 cats!" She is especially drawn to those cats who come in frightened, and to be able to watch them relax and understand they are safe is a powerful experience that LuAnne is grateful to be a part of.



Recently LuAnne did a birthday fundraiser on Facebook in which she was able to raise \$800 for Sammie's Friends! This provided the shelter the opportunity to purchase a portable oxygen machine for cats and small dogs, air purifiers, and wonderfully soft blankets and beds for the animals at the shelter.

Sammie's Friends thanks LuAnne for all her hard work and dedication to the animals. She is a true blessing and Sammie's Friends is very lucky to have her!

## SAMMIE'S FRIENDS' DONORS!

For years we have written about the volunteers that make such a difference at Sammie's Friends. In this Poop Scoop we wanted to highlight some of our wonderful **donors** who make such a difference. Whether you donate your time or your money we love you and need you at Sammie's Friends.

### Gary and Terry-Ann Pesselt



Our logo for Daisy's Place 'Dawg Boarding and Daycare'

Our late Doberman DaisyDawg developed cancer in the wrist joint in 2007. DaisyDawg's leg was amputated by Dr. Tim at Motherlode December 22, 2008. Sammie's Friends paid the majority of the bill. After the amputation, DaisyDawg got his smile back and he did just great on 3 legs. Starting January 9, 2009, we set up an automatic monthly withdrawal to Sammie's Friends to thank them for their generosity in paying most of the amputation bill. Through the years we have been able to increase the amount substantially; we don't see the money going out, so we don't miss it. Sammie's Friends is more than a great charity, it is so much a part of our community. With Sammie's Friends help, we were able to have our boy for six more years.

We at Sammie's Friends are so grateful to Gary and Terry-Ann. They have at least five times over paid for Daisy Dawg's surgery and went on to help many other animals with their generosity.

### Tiffany Glasser

Tiffany volunteered at Sammie's Friends for four years until she moved to Sacramento. Tiffany is a retired teacher who taught for 23 years in junior high and loved every minute of it. She has always been a part of her community, volunteering at food banks, programs for the homeless, tutoring children, etc.

Tiffany loved her time at Sammie's. When she moved away she kept it all going forward by making donations to support the animals. Her donations have helped many animals in need and we are so grateful that she continues to support the animals and Sammie's Friends.

We love Tiffany.



### Peggi Rogers

Peggi has donated to Sammie's Friends for years, even though she lives in Oregon. She says she enjoys our newsletters and likes the work that we do, so she donates to Sammie's Friends to support our work. Peggi lived in Grass Valley for a long time and left here 26 years ago. She has always had cats and dogs and has loved them all.

Thank you Peggi for supporting us from Oregon.

## SHARE THE LOVE

Sammie's Friends loves Subaru in general and Gold Rush Subaru owned by Susan and Scott Taylor, in particular. Each year Subaru has their "SHARE THE LOVE" campaign. Subaru Loves Pets, The Earth, Learning, To Help and Loves to Care. Charities are selected, that fit these categories, to benefit from Subaru car sales between mid November through the end of the year.



In 2018 Sammie's Friends was chosen as one of the charities to be a recipient of donations made as a result of car sales. We received over \$15,000 - that amount helped a lot of animals. In more recent years we have received a donation for each animal adopted during that period of time. Back in October Sammie's Friends was raising money to assist a family with a little dog named Ralphie who had been injured as a result of a fall and needed back surgery. Susan read our facebook page and was touched by the story and Gold Rush Subaru donated \$10,000 to help Ralphie.

Oh my goodness was this family happy to hear this. Ralphie is a service dog to a 5 year old who has diabetes and celiac disease. This requires blood tests and injections and Ralphie is a calming influence on this little person. This child is being raised by her grandmother. Her mother had been murdered two years ago. Such trauma for one little person and the whole family. The grandmother said she could not believe their good fortune after so much awfulness had occurred. Little Ralphie had also been a victim of the Paradise fire; his family lost their home and he and the 3 other Shih-tzus had to be rehomed. Susan and Scott and Gold Rush Subaru were recognized as a dealership to receive the LOVE PROMISE award by

adhering to the Love Promise Principles - **HEART**. . . . (Honesty) (Empathy) (Appreciation) (Respect) & (Trust). Thank you Susan and Scott and Gold Rush Subaru for all you have done to help the animals and Sammie's Friends.

## Max – The Three-Legged Wonder

In October of 2021, Sammie's Friends rescued a dog named Max from Stanislaus Animal Services Agency where he was on the euthanasia list. When he came to us, he clearly had an injured front paw. It was limp and he would not put any weight on it. When taken to the vet, they explained that it was most likely an old injury that was never taken care of, and that his leg would have to be amputated.

Shortly after his surgery in November, a man named Michael Whiteside stopped by the shelter, rather unintentionally, and he met Max who was just learning to walk with only three legs. He instantly fell in love and said that he couldn't resist taking him home.

Max had already healed substantially from his surgery, but Michael is now helping him navigate learning his limitations. Although he has a lot of energy, his body cannot keep up with the energy and desire to endlessly play, and his owner is doing a fantastic job at making sure that he does not overextend his one front leg.

On top of adopting a special needs dog, Michael decided to adopt a young dog named Ruger, and he says they are best friends today. They chase each other around the yard, play tug-of-war, sleep next to each other, and simply adore each other.

Michael says that Max is such a love. All he wants to do is hug you, and he leans right into you. He loves to meet the neighbors, and keep an eye on all the wildlife and farm animals around his property.

Max's life looked short and tragic while he was at Stanislaus, but thankfully he was given a second chance and his entire world has turned around. He's as happy as can be in his new home, and he is going to live a very long and happy life.



Max, Michael, and Ruger

## Leonard



Leonard is a real cool cat. He loves to hang around with his friends, sit, lounge and take an occasional stroll around the "kitty kove". Leonard had been "a neighborhood cat" for awhile, just drifting from porch to porch but never seemed to belong to anyone in particular. He was cared for by many and thus a "tad" overweight.

The big guy was brought into Sammie's Friends by a "Good Samaritan" who had been one of his caregivers after Leonard was found injured. Leonard required medical attention which Sammie's Friends provided. He's all healed up now and done well on his new diet. He's very friendly but not needy and tends to just "hang out" looking cool. It's time he cruises into his new home. **He'd love a family of his own.**

## Microchips and Your Pet

Now is a great time to get your pet micro-chipped, if you haven't already. The last few years there have been numerous fires and chaos often ensues as people and their pets try to leave the blazing infernos as quickly as possible. More recently with high snow levels, power outages and no internet life is chaotic and confusing for people and their pets. If you do get separated from your microchipped pet they can be scanned and returned to you as soon as possible. All veterinary clinics and shelters have scanners.

Senate bill SB 273, which went into effect on January 1, 2022, requires that all animals being adopted or redeemed from shelters be microchipped. Sammie's Friends once took in a dog with a microchip; that dog had been reported missing nine months earlier in New Mexico. Imagine the shock when we called the owners, with no idea how it got to California. Thanks to a microchip that doggie was home in two days. Similar incidents have occurred several times.

Get ahead of the curve and get your pet microchipped now.

## Abbie Barker, DVM

Meet Abbie Barker, DVM, the new owner of For The Love of Pets Veterinary Hospital. Abbie is a great addition to our community. Abbie is of course a licensed veterinarian and performs all the functions that most veterinarians perform, such as vaccines, spays/neuters, various surgeries, treating wounds and providing medications for animals suffering from infections or illnesses.

Abbie has another set of skills to provide care for your pet when more traditional methods don't seem to be working or can be used in tandem with more traditional veterinary medicine. Abbie is an Integrative Veterinarian, including chiropractic, acupuncture, herbal therapy, laser therapy, Tui Na. Tui Na is a powerful ancient Chinese form of body work, used to maintain or restore the harmonious flow of life-promoting energy which helps resist pathogens and support health.

Abbie's vision for For The Love Of Pets is to provide low stress handling and a fear free environment for pets receiving veterinary care. During our conversation Abbie said many times "Do No Harm" is her guiding light when practicing veterinary medicine. She is all about increasing the quality of life and strengthening the body through proper diet and many of these practices that activate the body's own healing energy.



Abbie is certified in all the practices mentioned above. She began her quest of adding these techniques to her veterinary practice about 10 years ago. She has had a varied career giving her lots of experience in many arenas. Abbie was in the military for 10 years providing care for canines used in various military practices. During the time she was in veterinary school at the University of Florida she was a farrier at the vet school. She worked with dolphins who were trained by the Navy for explosive detection. Abbie also has had experience in shelter medicine.

She is a genuinely nice person with a lot of training, experience and love. There are so many great vets in Nevada County that it can be difficult to know where to start. If you're looking for a vet check her out. When Abbie came here 8 months ago to become the new practice owner at For The Love Of Pets she invited her friend, Bev Warner, who is an experienced Dog Behavior Consultant and Trainer, who can help owner's understand their dog's behavior, to join her and become the practice

manager. They make a great team.

*Happy New Year!*

**Yardstick**, a 3 legged cat, belonging to our very excellent Thrift Store employee, Tami, recently had a harrowing adventure. As you might imagine with only 3 legs she is not an excellent climber. One morning she didn't show up for breakfast, Tami called and called her, walked their 1.25 acre property and was getting pretty frantic after many hours. Finally Tami's husband spotted Yardstick about 40 feet up in a pine tree draped over a branch.

She couldn't be reached with a 20' ladder so Tami googled how to get a cat out of a tree. It took some figuring out . . . .Tami got a woven basket and her husband took the blade off the pole saw and zip tied the basket to it. He climbed the ladder as high as he could and the basket just reached under her on the branch. It took about 20 minutes before she trusted the crazy contraption and jumped in! She jumped out of the basket about 10ft above ground and hid under the bed until Tami brought her food and water. She ate and drank and spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning sap off her 3 legs and sleeping. Tami has since changed her thoughts on Yardstick's capabilities...3 feet will get you 40!



## Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop

It feels good to report that our store continues to do great! Daily sales continue to hit new highs. For this, we thank the shoppers, the donors, the employees, and the volunteers.

Nifty's is a hectic and sometimes stressful work environment. You can't imagine all that is entailed in dealing with incoming daily donations (not knowing what or how much there will be); testing all electronics to make sure they are saleable; cleaning items that come in dirty (there are a lot); placing everything we get on the floor ready for sale! All of this is a huge task - our employees and volunteers have always stepped up to the plate. Even with the frenzied pace, the environment is a fun and exciting place to work, volunteer and shop.

We'd like to welcome Austin Witt back who worked for us a few years ago as a donations receiver. Now he is testing, pricing and stocking electronics!

We had our "Christmas Shop" open from November 8th through December 23rd and it was a SUCCESS. We hit a new record high in Holiday sales of \$35,000!! Unfortunately, the snow came and we had to close for three days will hurt our December sales, but that's okay. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the beauty of the snow and had some fun in it. We continue to be at a loss of words in THANKING ALL OF YOU that help make Nifty's the place that it is!



On a sad note, we had to say goodbye to Patches. She was our store kitty since we opened in March of 2013! Everyone loved her and she loved everyone. We always have two cats at the store and she always welcomed the new kitty that came in. She lived a long life (probably close to 20 years) and was so happy to have the affection given her from everyone who came into the store.

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### Do you shop at SPD?

If you ever signed up with the eScrip program please remember to use it. I can guarantee you that many of you signed up in the past and just don't remember. The way to check is to ask the cashier at SPD to enter your telephone number and see if an account comes up. If one does, you are set and 3% of your purchase will be donated to Sammie's Friends at NO cost to you! If an account doesn't come up, email me (joanecastles@gmail.com) and I'll get you set up.

Once you are signed up ask the cashier to either 1) scan the Community Card that was given you, or 2) ask the cashier to enter your telephone number. SPD then makes a 3% contribution in YOUR NAME to Sammie's Friends and it costs you NOTHING! This is SPD's way of supporting our non-profit community and costs you nothing to participate. Thank you SPD!

Here are some monthly totals that SPD has contributed to us:

July	\$1,113	September	\$1,028
August	\$1,318	October	\$1,355

Thank you all for participating and welcome new participants!

## Fire Relief Grant

In October, we were surprised with wonderful news that Sammie's Friends was awarded a \$112,500 grant from the David and Cheryl Duffield Foundation. The purpose of this grant is to help animals affected by the recent River Fire in Nevada County and to provide relief and preparedness for future wild-land fires in our area.

Help means paying for veterinary care of animals injured in the fire, providing funds to pay for damaged fencing and out-buildings caused by the fire and other fire related damages. Since the River Fire was well in the rear-view mirror by the time the grant was awarded, we were advised that we could provide support retroactively. We consulted with Nevada County Animal Control to see what they knew about affected animals. Animal Control gave us an outline of what might be accomplished, going forward. These ideas include providing a stockpile of supplies that would be needed in future fires (feeding pans and water supply containers), animal first aid/trauma kits and oxygen kits and help provide a Command/Control trailer for the Nevada County Volunteer Disaster Recovery Team.

Animal Control also advised us that we could provide food for Shelter-In-Place animals during a fire, food for Animal Evac Teams and veterinary care for evacuated animals. We could also provide support for temporary sheltering of displaced animals. Really, there is a broad spectrum of services that this grant will support in the event of a wild-land fire.

Retroactively, we are working with the Nevada County Relief Fund to identify people who have experienced losses of fences and structures meant to contain animals (livestock, etc). This is an ongoing endeavor and we look forward to providing support for this important aspect of fire preparedness. Sammie's Friends is all about the animals.

DAVE & CHERYL  
**DUFFIELD**  
 FOUNDATION

### *About The Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation:*

*The Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation is a private charitable foundation based in Incline Village, Nevada. The Duffields are the founders of Maddie's Fund, a leading animal welfare foundation dedicated to revolutionizing the status and well-being of companion animals. While the Duffields are long-time benefactors of companion animal causes, the Foundation also allows them to focus their philanthropic efforts in other areas that they are passionate about including supporting military veterans and giving back to their local community.*

## Shelter Improvements

Some great things have happened at the shelter this year. We have been able to make some much-needed shelter improvements. For many years we have struggled to manage the beating sun on our dog yards. Not anymore! This year we installed two large overhangs that provide ample shade and weather protection. These overhangs now allow for us to keep our dog yards usable in any kind of weather.

One of the pavilions also is a great space for volunteers and staff to sit and visit while enjoying our beautiful view. We love having the volunteers sit and stay for a while after their shifts. We also have more improvements to come. Recently we received panels to erect

more shelter for our livestock. This area has always been a challenge and limiting. Weather provided we will see new shelter going up for our large farm animal visitors.

Finally, another major addition is a foster barn we added to one of our veteran foster's property. Tricia and Steve Dowden are always there for Sammie's in a pinch. We have been working on creating a workable shelter specifically for those times. All these items will contribute to the improvement of care we can provide to our animals every day. Come take a look sometime and say hi!



YES, I want to make a difference in the lives of the animals in Nevada County! Sammie's Friends is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization that was created to raise veterinary funds for the animals at the Nevada County Animal Shelter and other disadvantaged animals in our county. Our work is made possible by the generous donations of individuals like you. All donations, big and small, are greatly appreciated. Checks may be submitted to the address below. Please visit our website [www.SammiesFriends.org](http://www.SammiesFriends.org) to donate by credit card or text SAMMIE to 41444 for a link to our donation form. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Did You Know...**

Lack of funds is not a reason to leave your cat or dog unspayed/ unneutered.

There are two low cost clinics you can use:

*Animal Spay and Neuter Clinic:*  
530-889-8800

*AnimalSave:*  
530-477-1706

**For additional financial support you can call:**

- For pitbulls, huskys, chihuahuas, and malamutes:

*Melise at Pound Puppy Rescue*  
530-272-1716

- For cats and other breeds of dogs:

*pick up a voucher at Sammie's Friends*

**NC Pets In Need**  
530-802-3666  
will also provide help



**14647 McCourtney Road**  
**Grass Valley, CA. 95949**  
**DOGS: 530-471-5041**  
**CATS: 530-274-1955**  
**EMAIL:**  
**info@sammiesfriends.org**  
**Community programs**  
**530-913-4810**

There's nothing like the feeling of being of service. It's such a great feeling that some of our volunteers have been at it for years, so many years that when the occasional job opening comes around they jump at the chance to come aboard.

Here's a bit about a few of those hard working, dedicated people.



Debbie is our longest serving member of our staff. She started as a volunteer at the shelter when it was still being operated by Animal Control. She became an employee of Animal Control in 20???. When we assumed management of the shelter in 2010 she was an obvious choice to continue with her valuable skills and enthusiasm.

Phil started as a dog walker and an assistant to Beverly in the training yard in August of 2015. He'd just adopted his dog Ashes and as his bond with her grew so did his desire to be of service. A year later Phil was hired as the front office coordinator and works tirelessly to schedule all the volunteer help. Quite a job!

In 2017 Brigitte met Beverly in the training yard and Cheryl on The Pack Walk where she learned of volunteer openings at the shelter. Years of volunteer work walking dogs, office and kennel work led to a position in October 2018. Brigitte is grateful for her Sammie's family and we are grateful for her.

Cally started as a volunteer dog walker in 2017. She recalls how welcoming the staff at Sammie's was and felt appreciated by every dog she walked. She was offered a position in Kitty Kove. Cally says she has learned so much in the past 6 months and "it's great to be part of Team Sammie"!

Chelsea came to Sammie's Friends to complete her internship with Animal Behavior College by volunteering and working with Bev. She is a Registered Vet. Tech. for 10 years and works at Woodland Vet. Hospital. She's joined Sammie's Friends to help with some of the medical needs of our animals.

Kristin started in the dog socialization yard in 2014(?). She enjoyed many years with Beverly, the training yard crew and all the pups. The "hard to find a home for" critters always had a special place in her heart. The desire to help the unwanted led her to a marketing position.

If you would like us to email you a pdf version of the Poop Scoop in the future, send an email to [info@sammiesfriends.org](mailto:info@sammiesfriends.org)

Sammie's Friends is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization founded in 2004 by Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander to provide veterinary aid to the animals at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. Today, Sammie's Friends provides medical assistance to shelter animals and other disadvantaged animals in the community, and works closely with the Volunteers who help to socialize and find forever homes for the unwanted dogs and cats of Nevada County.

Visit us at [www.SammiesFriends.org](http://www.SammiesFriends.org)