



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume XI, Issue 1

Spring 2020

The Village Tackles Pet Overpopulation!

Many of the local animal rescue groups (known as the SPAY/NEUTER COALITION) have decided to put their heads together and see what can be done about all the unwanted litters of kittens and puppies that are born every year. We find them dumped along the roadside, in open fields, in other people's mail boxes and more. Every year Sammie's Friends receives approximately 400 kittens that should not have been born. AnimalSave and the Grass Valley Shelter get their share, too.

While the rescue organizations love these little critters and have a big heart for them, it takes a tremendous amount of time, energy and money to care for these babies. Sometimes they are a day old and need to be bottle fed. One time we had a foster bottle feeding twelve kittens all at the same time. So much love and energy went into that escapade and all because someone else did not spay/neuter their cats. Can you imagine being discarded as a newborn, with complete vulnerability and no way of caring for yourself. It literally makes me ill to think about all the unnecessary suffering that takes place. These newborns cannot even regulate their own temperature and are sure to die if left for very long with no care.

We've had enough. The "we" is Nevada County Pets In Need, Sammie's Friends, AnimalSave, Pound Puppy Rescue, CAPE (Center For Animal Protection and Education), Grass Valley Animal Control and Nevada County Animal Control. AnimalSave has a low cost spay/neuter van and in its 11 years of operation has spayed/neutered nearly 20,000 animals. Wow. Sammie's Friends has provided vouchers

over the last 9 years for about 7,500 animals. Pound Puppy Rescue pays for about 300 Chihuahuas, Pitbulls, Malamutes, and Huskys to be spayed/neutered every year. Nevada County Pets In Need is actively involved with financially supporting any person who needs help getting their pet spayed/neutered and educating our clients on the importance of spaying and neutering. With all of this we still have so many litters every year.

Some of the members of this coalition are preparing materials to take into the grammar schools to educate children about the need to spay/neuter and the consequences when this isn't done. We have high hopes for the upcoming generation of adults. We also believe that the more information people have the more capable they become of doing the right thing.

We have created a hand-out for the Animal Control Officers in the field, of both the city and county, regarding the benefits of spaying/neutering and advising people who are low income of available resources to help pay for spaying/neutering, to pass out in the field. These cards are also available at the Animal Shelters and at the thrift stores operated by the animal organizations.

This is an opportunity for the whole community (the shelter and rescues, Animal Control, veterinarians and pet owners) to work together to get as many animals as possible spayed/neutered. This will prevent overcrowding in the shelters and suffering for the animals. In the shelters we dream of coming to work one day and having the place empty, because there is no over population. Dreams do come true and if we all work together this one will too. (See list of resources on page 8)

Sammies' Friends Accomplishments:

- * Reduced euthanasia rate from 68% to less than 1%
- * In 2019 we spayed/neutered 1,000 community animals and 750 shelter animals.
- * More than 30,000 animals saved since 2001.

The move has proven to be a good one!



Four months ago Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop moved to their new location at 535 E. Main Street, Grass Valley! As we moved we had some skepticism as the rent increased three-fold.

Would we really be able to pull this off? The first month our sales were off the charts and we were flying high. This leveled off after the holidays, now we've hit our stride and we're doing well. We are thankful to our customers, volunteers, and employees. Our space is larger and we can display large carpets, beds, outdoor furniture, tools and gardening items, and, of course, clothing and household goods.

The new one story building is safer, items can be stored inside, and it is more convenient for people who are donating to pull up in the back and unload. There is more easily accessible parking.

With larger space, we need more volunteers for cashiering, pricing, sorting, stocking, and cleaning. If you want to join a worthwhile cause to help Sammie's Friends animals, come on by and fill out an application and let us know what piques your interest.

Big thanks to everyone involved.

Remember to use your eScrip when shopping at SPD

Please remember to have your Community Card scanned, or ask the cashier to enter your telephone number, when shopping at SPD. 1,294 people have signed up with eScrip to support Sammie's Friends when shopping at SPD. SPD will make contributions (in your name) in the amount of 3% of your purchases.

This is SPD's way of supporting our non-profit community and costs you nothing to participate! Only 12% of people signed up are actively participating!

Here are the earnings for October, November and December of last year. Just imagine what these numbers could have been if everyone remembered to participate when shopping at SPD! It is mind-boggling!

	Actual (12% Participation)	If only 50% Participated
10/2019	\$1,107	\$4,200+
11/2019	1,240	5,000+
12/2019	838	3,500+

If you aren't certain whether or not you are signed up with this program, want to sign up, or have any questions on how this works please email [**\(joannecestles@gmail.com\)**](mailto:joannecestles@gmail.com).

Laura is a very special person to Sammie's Friends. She has adopted and fostered many animals from the shelter over the years. Currently, she has two dogs and recently adopted two kittens (Billy and Lilly) from Sammie's Friends. Laura's line of work has become closely aligned with our thrift store. Laura operates Laura Miller Estate Sales. After many of her estate sales, we (Sammie's Nifty Thrift) are given the opportunity to pick up the remaining items.

Our store is only as good as the products we have for sale that in turn attract the customers who enjoy the shopping experience. We have had this close relationship with Laura for several years and it has provided a steady flow of very marketable inventory. We are thankful for Laura's passion to support animal related causes. We so appreciate what Laura does for Sammie's Friends as an animal lover and as a successful business person.



If you need to hire an estate sale company contact Laura at 530-273-8490 or visit her website at [**lauramillerestatesales.com**](http://lauramillerestatesales.com). She'll do a great job for you and at the same time help many of our Nevada County animals. Thank you, Laura!

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'S - That is if you can!

Meet the amazing Jones women, Kristina and her MaMa, Susannah. These two have done it all and been with Sammie's Friends since its inception in 2001. At 16 years old, Kristina was a dog walking volunteer and continued until she finished high school and left for UC Santa Cruz in 2004. She continued her animal work in Santa Cruz by volunteering, interning, working in a vet clinic and starting her own non-profit. These two have animals in their DNA. There is no stopping them. They once found a dog in Texas and sent it all the way to France to give it a home.

By 2010 Kristina had returned to Nevada County. At this time Sammie's Friends began operating the shelter and Kristina was our first hire beginning on July 1, 2010. Kristina was as good an employee as she had been a volunteer.

In 2011, the Jones women rounded up 12 unhandled Arabian horses, many of them fairly old stallions. Rescuing these horses was no small undertaking; but the Jones' women, of course, took it all in stride. With their help Sammie's Friends got them all safely vetted, gelded and placed.

Eventually Kristina went back to school to become a teacher and has proven to have as much adoration from her human students as she did with her four legged students. Kristina and Susannah have fostered 100's of animals for Sammie's Friends going way back to those stallions in 2011. One of Susannah's favorite experiences was transporting a llama to Oregon to give it a home. She says "You really don't know what is going to happen when wrangling a bendy necked llama into a horse trailer."

Recently Susannah fostered Gea, a 27 year old, very thin, Arabian we had acquired because of neglect. Sammie's Friends had a mass on her rear removed, Susannah fattened her up and hopefully someone will adopt Gea. Last year we acquired 21 older thoroughbreds Susannah helped show them at our open house and spent days transporting them to new homes. Most of them weren't that easy to load and transporting to the countryside; not so easy either.

Kristina and Susannah have fostered many puppies and kittens (some so young they had to be bottle fed); always caring for them until they are old enough to be adopted. When Kristina worked at Sammie's Friends I would say "She's the only person I know who can bottle feed a kitten, help someone at the counter, answer the phone and put a picture on facebook all at the same time and do it with a smile on her face." Whew!



Susannah Jones and Diablo Maj

Last year to top this all off Susannah at 65 years old and a 17 year old rescued Arabian named Diablo Maj won the American Endurance Ride Conference National Championship. Maybe some of you saw them on the front page of the Union on November 14, 2019. Both she and the horse had been seriously injured in 2012 and it certainly wasn't clear that either one of them would ever be able to do endurance riding again. These two have the spirit and will that can and will conquer anything. Both Susannah and the horse were beyond the age for this kind of competition, so it has been said. Pshaw!

These two have also adopted a fair number of animals from us (including piggies). We love "The Jones Ladies" and thank them for their unending love for the animals.



Kristina with three puppies found alongside the road



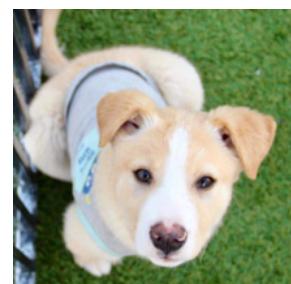
Kristina's son Georgie with a puppy.



Kristina's hubby Joe, Georgie, and a foster pup

JOSS

On January 6, 2020, Joss began his life at Sammie's Friends at 10 weeks of age. He was one of six puppies that were brought in by someone living in their vehicle. They were unable to care for the puppies along with the mama dog. Sammie's Friends directed them to resources to have mama dog spayed and Sammie's took the puppies in. Mama dog remained with their pet parent.



Joss was clearly in distress. Although he was the smallest, his problem was not because he was the runt of the litter. After being evaluated medically, he was diagnosed with a serious medical condition: Mega-esophagus, which literally means large esophagus.

Joss was not able to keep any food or water down, which caused malnutrition. In general, the survival rate for a dog with Mega-esophagus is low. Fortunately, Dr. Cameron Thompson at Mother Lode Veterinary Hospital had had experience with repairing this condition once before. Joss underwent surgery which at the time of writing this article seems to be a success. When a dog has mega-esophagus they must eat and drink in an upright position and once done eating and drinking they must stay in that position for at least 30 minutes. For Joss' recovery he must continue to do that for several days after the surgery and then he can eat and drink like a normal pup. Since the surgery Joss has gained weight and has a spunky attitude. He is in a foster home for the next 2 months until he can be neutered. As long as he stays medically stable he will be available for adoption.

Without the help of Sammie's Friends and expertise of Dr. Thompson, Joss may have not survived his very serious medical condition. He now has an opportunity to live a happy healthy life.

Tending to the Tiniest | Susanne Battenfield

Susanne had no idea the adventure she was about to embark upon when completing her foster paperwork. She only knew that after retiring from her State job that she wanted to help with animals. And boy, oh boy, we are so glad she did!



Susanne had signed up to work with kittens. As many know, Nevada County has an overpopulation of kittens that come through each kitten season. The shelter sees upwards to 400 kittens each season, ranging from mamas and kittens or kittens with no mama. And often, the kittens with no mama, need a surrogate who can fill the role in providing the necessary care to give them a chance at life.

"Not that many people are willing to bottle feed. It requires feeding them every two hours, helping to potty them and just becoming mom," says Susanne. "Honestly, it all just makes my heart sing to help these little babies." Susanne doesn't do it all alone, she has enlisted the help of her husband, Howard, who enthusiastically participates in their kitten rearing. "I take the night shift and Howard takes the morning shift," explains Susanne. "And it's always exciting when we get a full night's rest – just like new parents!" They've even gone as far as redesigning their house to be kitten friendly. "You place several cat boxes all through the house, and you lose the curtains!"



Susanne and her husband are ready for this year's kitten season. "There's more joy in it than you can imagine, but it's hard to let go," shares Susanne. Sammie's Friends could not do this without the help of volunteers, like Susanne and her husband.



If you are interested in fostering kittens, please visit our website or call our Kitty Kove at (530) 274-1955. And remember: help control the kitten population by encouraging the spaying and neutering of all cats.

Koda's Second Act

Kristin Gaboury is a volunteer at Sammie's Friends. On one of her volunteer days she came in to transport a dog to the vet. Koda was in the next kennel, and he immediately caught her eye. Kristin really wanted her husband Mike to meet him as soon as possible.



Koda, a 12 year old lab, had been at the shelter for 2 weeks when Kristin met him. He had come in with 2 other dogs from less than desirable circumstances. His person had passed away and the other individual in the house wanted all of the dogs gone. Koda's life prior to meeting Kristin and Mike was spent almost exclusively outdoors in a kennel.

The Gabourys love labs and have had them since the 90's. Their last lab passed away unexpectedly in June of 2019. They had just started thinking about adopting another lab, preferably older; that's when Koda came into their lives. Kristin brought Mike back to the shelter the day after she first met Koda. Koda immediately



worked his way into their hearts. They decided to foster him with plans to adopt if he was a good match. On February 1, 2020 Koda officially joined the Gaboury Family.

Kristin says that for a pup that has endured such a rough life he is remarkable. He is trusting and very loving. He has adjusted well to using the doggie door where he has access to a large forested backyard. He enjoys 2 walks a day and loves the dog park. Mike and Kristin love this "cutey pie". Koda has also developed an affection for a blanket that he received when he moved in with the Gabourys. He drags it from room to room depending on where Kristin and Mike are hanging out. Thanks to Sammie's Friends and the Gabourys, Koda has a second act. They are committed to giving Koda his best life however long that is.



Beating the Odds, Trashcan Karl



With a name like Trashcan Karl, you know this kitten had humble beginnings. When he arrived at the shelter, he was tiny, dehydrated, and malnourished. Found on the side of the road by a good Samaritan, he was rushed to the Sammie's Friends Kitty Kove to get his second chance at life.

This tiny kitten needed help! He was diagnosed with coccidia, which can be fatal to kittens, as well having digestive and appetite issues, leaving him weak and lifeless. It was touch and go in the beginning, which required syringe feeding to nourish and hydrate sweet little Karl, as well as around the clock care. Taken home by a staff member, it just wasn't certain if poor little Karl, the tiny kitten with a big head, would make it.

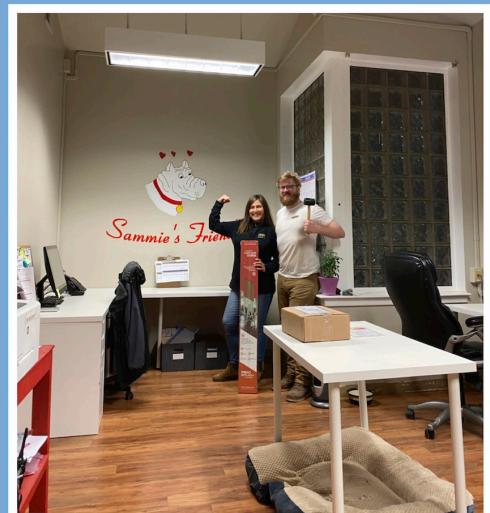
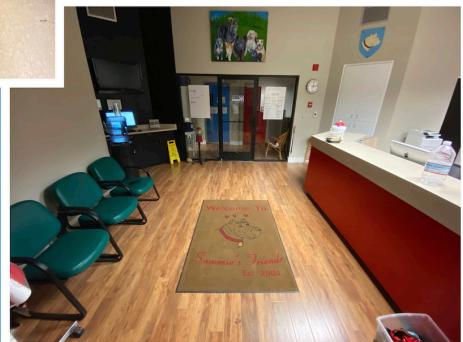
But alas, through the tender care and attention, along with the necessary medical attention he needed, he made a rebound! He started eating, playing, and becoming his spunky self.

Now, with his underbite and tongue that constantly sticks out, Trashcan Karl lives up to his name. He likes to go through the trash, hide in the laundry hamper, and once fell into the toilet (the seat is now always down). He has a huge appetite, loves playing with his toy duck, and loves to cuddle with other cats.

Karl has grown up and although still small, is living his second life to the fullest. Thank you, Rory (Sammie's Friends staff member) for adopting Trashcan Karl and giving him a second lease on life.



Thank you Sammie's Friends awesome Finance Director/Decorator Extraordinaire, Liz Taylor, and to Ryan Heft for our beautiful new shelter lobby and office floors. Ryan's employer, Keen Corporation in Portland, generously paid for his time to help transform our space. We are so grateful for both of their tireless efforts to get it all done after hours and within a weeks time. Thank you!



Thank you Networked Insurance Agents for choosing to support the animals at Sammie's Friends during the holiday season. Yala, who has since found her forever home, loved her visit to meet you and thank you all in person. Your "Giving Tree" donations of toys, beds, treats, and food, helped to lift the spirits of our shelter animals and helped to support our efforts in caring for them. Most of all we are so grateful for your generous donation of a new Tuff Shed that will store our supply of cat litter and make our jobs easier! **THANK YOU!**



Welcome Dr. Tarra Williams

Dr. Tarra Williams sits in her office of the newly re-opened Brunswick Veterinary Clinic as we talk about new beginnings. The Clinic abruptly closed last October with little notice, and as a shock to the many who brought their animals in for care. "I am excited to bring this hospital back to the community," shared Dr. Williams.

Dr. Williams, who spent 13 years at VCA Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic had been looking for a veterinary hospital to buy but just wasn't finding the right one. A friend shared with her about the closing of Brunswick and upon visiting the space, she knew it was exactly the right fit.

Along with original clinic owners Dr.'s Jay Schuff and Rebecca Hahn, as well as partnering with Curo Pet Care to handle the business aspects, Dr. Williams is ready to provide high standards of care to Nevada County pets.



"I'm really looking forward to bringing urgent and emergency care services to the community. This is where I came from and what I enjoy." Right now, the clinic is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

"These are our hours for now, but I hope to move toward extending our services on Saturday and being open on Sunday, as well as to support urgent care needs after-hours," explains Williams.

A graduate from UC Davis, Dr. Williams will focus as a general practitioner with an emphasis on dentistry. "We have new dental equipment arriving that will enhance our dental services, which will improve the overall standard of care for the pets we serve." Well that's something to smile about! We welcome you, Dr. Williams, to the community!

Our Lonely Hearts animals deserve all the love and help they can get!

We care for more than 2,000 shelter animals every year and a high percentage of them will often spend more than two months waiting for their forever family. We call our shelter animals Lonely Hearts when they've been with us for more than 60 days. That's a long time to live in the shelter.

There are many reasons why . . . the kittens and puppies can steal all the attention from prospective adopters... the shelter environment can be very scary for some animals... they may have a history of neglect or abuse and often take time to show their warm and fuzzy side . . . or they just don't "act friendly" from inside a kennel . . . the reasons are many!

The best way we can help these Lonely Hearts is to give them a fair chance to show their true colors. Taking one of these dogs or a cat home to foster is a great way to help staff learn more about the animal so we can find them the best possible home. Socializing the animal to a home environment, and possibly getting them used to being around other pets and different types of people can play a huge role in attracting just the right family.

For more information on how to become a Foster Family, please visit our website.



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 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: _____

THANK YOU!

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



Sammie's Friends

14647 McCourtney Road
Grass Valley, CA. 95949
DOGS: 530-471-5041
CATS: 530-274-1955
EMAIL:
info@sammiesFriends.org

Celebrating the 20th year of service in Nevada County

S A M M I E ' S

Casino Night

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April 25
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**Live Music by "Crossing 49"
Full "No Host" Bar
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\$75 per person

*Includes \$500 in gambling chips!
All winning chips exchanged for
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ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
Sammie's Friends
Nevada County Animal Shelter

More info...
www.SammiesFriends.org

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

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.