



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume I, Issue I

Spring 2007

Fact's About Us and the Work We've

Done:

- The NCAS Volunteer Program currently has over 100 volunteers helping to socialize dogs and cats.
- In 2007, the NCAS had a euthanasia rate of 2% due to our activities.
- In the 5 years since the creation of Sammie's Friends, over \$131,000 has been spent on animal care.

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2007: A Year of Changes

It's been a year of change for Sammie's Friends and the NCAS Volunteers. From the death of Sammie, the inspiration for our wonderful work (see memorial below), to changes in our leadership structure, this year has proven a challenge!

Thankfully, we are blessed with so many talented and giving volunteers and we've risen to the occasion. Our new "look" is actually a three pronged organizational concept that allows us to provide all the same services to the animals by distributing the related responsibilities to a larger group of volunteers. The first group, or "prong" is devoted to coordinating the volunteers who work daily at the shelter. The second prong is dedicated to Animal Placement-- from fostering,

to finding homes for the more challenging animals. The final group, "Sammie's Friends", raises and manages funds to pay for veterinary care for the animals at the county shelter. The three groups provide all the same services we extended to the animals under the old umbrella title of "Sammie's Friends", but avoids placing on just one or two volunteers the backbreaking level of responsibilities that Cheryl and Curt maintained for so long. Speaking of Cheryl and Curt, they continue playing an active part in our new look by leading the Sammie's Friends arm of the organization. This allows them to continue in the mission that means so much to us all; helping the animals in the community.

Another change related to our new look; what to call ourselves? In the old world, saying "I'm a Sammie's Friends volunteer" covered the gamut. Now, with the organization separated into three groups with clearly defined roles, it's no longer accurate. A volunteer who works to raise funds may not volunteer at the shelter or vice versa. Sammie's Friends is now a branch of a greater whole that includes animal placement and shelter volunteers. To avoid confusion, from this point onward **ALL** volunteers will be collectively known as "**Team Sammie**".

The final change to mention is this quarterly newsletter. Long time volunteers may remember that the Poop Scoop existed before as *(Continued on page 3)*

In Memory: Sammie, 1991-2007

Sammie, the cherished companion of Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander, and the inspirational leader and spiritual CEO of Sammie's Friends, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on February 23, 2007. He provided a life times worth of love and joy to Cheryl and Curt, as well as hope to countless animals in

Nevada County who, without the organization that Sammie inspired, would certainly have perished.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Cheryl and Curt in this time of sadness, but we will all carry the memory of Sammie, and what he symbolized, in our hearts forever. Proudly

we will continue the work that he helped to inspire.





Tater today. Still rather odd looking, but certainly unique and we think very endearing

**"Animals
have always
had to die
and that's
just the way
it is"...**

My Nevada County Shelter Adoption: Tater

Each issue we'll profile a successful Sammie's Friends/NCAS adoption. Please send your stories to me at: pseditor@msn.com This is my adoption story...

Tater was part of a litter we fostered from the NCAS in the fall of 2006. He was the runt of the litter and appeared to have been born with some sort of birth defect, perhaps even the kitty version of Downs Syndrome. His head was HUGE in com-

parison to his tiny body and his forehead was quite prominent and sloping. His eyes were very large, round and flat and he had a serious oozing eye infection. He was so odd looking, even his littermates ignored him!

As a foster parent to a shelter animal, Sammie's Friends automatically picked up the tab for Tater's vet visits. We were able to clear up his eyes and perform some tests that concluded that while

Tater will never be brilliant, he's clever enough to figure out the basics. Today, he's grown bigger than his sister (who we also kept) and though still large, his head is more in proportion. He'll always have a perpetually startled look, but everyone loves and remembers Tater!

We're so grateful he came into our lives, and are thankful that Sammie's Friends exists to provide similar opportunities to others!

My Words by Cheryl Wicks

My vision of "No more homeless animals in Nevada County." is a big step up from my humble beginnings in March 2001.

I began with a modest goal - "to give the animals some affection before the inevitable euthanasia date for many of them".

There were no volunteers then, no New Dawn website and no Sammie's Friends. I was told "animals have always had to die and that's just the way it is". With each little success my confidence grew that more could be accomplished and it was.

The euthanasia rate is now 2%. What good news! We did that by all pulling together and giving our love and talent wherever we could. I am so proud of all that has been accomplished by all of us.

The population at the shelter continues to go down. Many of us work with people every day educating them and coaching them on how to keep their animals in their homes. Sammie's Friends often makes the difference between someone being able to keep their animal or not.

I thank all of the volunteers a million times for all the many things you do to socialize and work for the animals. Your lights shine bright.

This community rocks and we love our animals. They are God's precious creatures just like we are and we must care for them.

May many blessings come your way for your kindness.

Love,
Cheryl

Late Breaking News: Start Saving Your Stuff !!!

On Saturday, June 16, 2007 from 8 AM to 3 PM at 12109 Rough and Ready Highway, there will be a yard sale to benefit Sammie's Friends. Donations of good, used saleable items are needed. As

clothing does not sell well- and takes up considerable space- please limit any clothing donations. Volunteers are needed to help with the sale setup on Friday the 15th and for the actual sale on Saturday. Donations will

be accepted during the week of June 10th. Please contact Claudia Sanford at 477-5048 or cls@theunion.net for more information and we hope to see you on June 16th!

It's a Dog's Life (and a Cat's Too!) by Dr. Rob Avery



A dog's heart infected with heartworm.

"One reason heartworms are so common in our area is the very high incidence of infection in our resident coyote population"

Dr Rob Avery of "For the Love of Pets" has graciously consented to contribute a recurring column to our newsletter. For the Love of Pets is a veterinary office in Grass Valley that performs many of the exams and procedures on Sammie's Friends animals.

Heartworm infection is common in Nevada County and is a real danger for dogs in this area. Infection occurs following a mosquito bite. The bite transfers the larval heartworm which then migrates through the dog's body, eventually ending in the heart after about 6 months. Once in the heart the larva finishes its growth and develops into a mature worm that then begins to reproduce. The microfilaria offspring of the worms are then transferred to feeding mosquitoes continuing the lifecycle. One reason heartworms are so common in our area is the very high incidence of infection in our resident coyote population.

Prevention of this disease is

easy and should be year round. Many prescriptions are effective, including Heartgard, Interceptor, Iverheart and Revolution, and are available from your veterinarian. These medications are given once monthly and are very safe. They only prevent the developing worms however, and are not effective in killing the adult worms once infection has taken hold. These drugs can safely be given to heartworm positive dogs, contrary to previously available preventions.

Your veterinarian will perform regular screening for heartworms with a simple blood test. If a dog becomes positive, treatment is possible but can be expensive and is sometimes dangerous. Signs of heartworm infection include tiredness, cough, vomiting and loss of appetite. Severe cases can result in abdominal bloating, hemorrhage in the lungs and death. Early treatment is always best and provides the best prognosis. Veterinarians can offer you a vari-

ety of tests to confirm the infection and provide the safest treatment. These include chest X-Rays and blood and urine testing.

It is not uncommon for an owner to forget to give their pet its heartworm prevention for a period of time. If for two months or less, simply start your pet back on prevention and then let your veterinarian know at your next visit. If the gap has been for a longer period, call your veterinarian for advice- most times you can restart the medication immediately, but may need additional heartworm testing.

Cats can get heartworms too. Infection is less common than with dogs but diagnosis and treatment can be trickier. Signs include cough and vomiting. Blood testing is available to help with a diagnosis. Treatment varies but usually consists of management of symptoms instead of cure. Prevention is available similar to that for dogs.

A Year of Change (continued from page 1)

"ALL volunteers will now be known as "Team Sammie".

a newsletter for the NCAS volunteers. As before, our aim will be to communicate the good works and goings-on of our organization.

Regular features will include success stories, profiles of our amazing volunteers, and keeping everyone up to date on Team Sammie's current affairs. Local veterinarian, Dr. Rob Avery, from *For the*

Love of Pets will contribute a column, we'll discuss things relating to Nevada County animals, and "special interest" stories will document exactly that. I encourage readers to submit any stories or suggestions to: pseditor@msn.com

There's an old saying that the more things change,

the more they remain the same. It's my hope that this saying holds true, and that the new incarnations of both Team Sammie and The Poop Scoop will do the older versions proud. Working together, we can continue to provide high quality care and second chances to the unwanted animals of Nevada County!!

Adoptathon 2007

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the fourth annual Adoptathon was held at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. Timed to coincide with the National Adopt a Pet Week, numerous Team Sammie volunteers were on hand to help needy animals find new homes, and to raise money for Sammie's Friends.

This year's Adoptathon was again organized by Team Sammie volunteers Barbara Graves, Mary Kranz, Veronica Furman and Marge Parkin. Also present were representatives (and their four legged pals), from Animal Save, Chow-Chow Rescue, and Wee Wonders. Pam Gorman and a camera crew from NCTV11 filmed portions of the event for an episode of "For Pet's Sake". A brisk and blustery wind somewhat hampered set up early on, but calmed as the day progressed, allowing all to enjoy a sunny spring day.

The event proved a rousing success this year. Raffle ticket sales totaled

\$1931.00, bake sale goods, and the sale of hot dogs brought in \$265.00, and donations received both in advance of and on the day of the Adoptathon were \$747.50, making a total for Sammie's Friends of \$2943.50!! This is almost



Working with Nevada County Animal Shelter Kennel Attendant, Ruth Rasmussen, Robby shows all in attendance what a gentleman he is.

\$600 more than last year and a great achievement!

Providing equal excitement is the number of animals that found new homes on the day of the Adoptathon.

Thirteen dogs and two cats from the NCAS, two pups from Animal Save, two chows from Chow Chow Rescue and three dogs from Wee Wonders all found new loving homes. Twenty-two animals matched with new families on a sunny Saturday is certainly a good day's work!

With all members of the organizing committee suffering from some sort of infirmity on this day, and labeling themselves "The Walking Wounded", Barbara, Mary, Marge and Veronica were ecstatic with the day's results. It's a huge amount of work to coordinate an event like this, but with results like those achieved on Saturday it is well worth the effort. A huge thanks to the organizing committee, the local business sponsors who donated raffle prizes, to the Team Sammie volunteers who participated, and to all the attendees for making Adoptathon 2007 the most successful yet!



Volunteers, attendees, and canine companions mingle at the Adoptathon.



A Labrador pup who had been residing at the NCAS. This little gal, as well as her sister, found new forever homes at the Adoptathon.

YES, I want to help make a difference in the lives of the unwanted animals of Nevada County! Sammie's Friends is a volunteer organization created to raise veterinary funds for the animals at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. Our work with the animals is made possible by the donations of generous individuals in our community. All donations are greatly appreciated, and all monies raised are for the benefit of the animals. Checks may be submitted to the address below, or visit our website at www.sammiesfriends.org and click on the Paypal link for credit or debit cards donations.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Donation Amount: _____

*As a 501c Non-Profit, all donations made to Sammie's Friends are fully tax-deductible and should be mailed to **Sammie's Friends, 128 High Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.***

THANK YOU!

Spring 2007 Success Story: Meet Bella!!!

The picture on top is Bella upon her arrival at the shelter in October 2006. She was in terrible shape with a serious case of demodetic mange, was severely undernourished and totally neglected. Sammie's Friends stepped in to give this girl some help. Look how forlorn and depressed she appears!

The lower picture is how Bella looks today!! WOW,

what a difference some love and care will make!! It's hard to tell that she is the same girl. After Bella was treated by Sammie's Friends, she recovered nicely and was adopted by a great person who has taken excellent care of her. Now, she is simply beautiful!! Look at her eyes and ears and compare them to the "before" picture. See how alert and interested in her surroundings she is!!

It's cases like this that make it so worthwhile to be doing what Sammie's Friends does. Thank you to all who have contributed and made Bella's second chance possible. This success story belongs to YOU!!!



Meet Mary Kranz: Dog Walker Extraordinaire!

Name: Mary Kranz

How long a NCAS Volunteer: Four years. Prior to that Mary rescued animals independently and also with the Pet Adoption League.

Duties as a NCAS volunteer: Mary has been on the planning committee for the annual Adoptathon for the past three years. Frequently referred to as the "Mad Flyer Maker" she's made LOTS of posters over the years to aid the animal adoption cause. She fosters kittens during kitten season, takes in dogs that need extra medical attention, and occasionally helps with transporting animals. She's also been known to do extra dog walking and even to cross over to the "other side" and clean cat cages when needed. She's a multi-dimensional volunteer and likes to call herself "bi-lingual".

Animals: Mary has two dogs, Sammy, a four year old Lab/Retriever Mix and Jack a three year old Lab. She also has two cats; Sophie, a 12 year old calico and Jeep (always in 4 wheel drive) who's a two year old calico tabby. All are shelter rescues. They get along very well with each other, and with the parade of foster animals that have come through the Kranz household over the years.



Mary Kranz and Ash volunteering at "Saddle Pals".

Hobbies/Interests: In addition to her shelter work, Mary is involved with two other great organizations; Saddle Pals, a therapeutic horseback riding program for disabled children and the CVMA Animal Emergency Evacuation Response Team.

Future Plans: Sadly for Nevada County, Mary, her husband and all their furry friends are moving to Carson City, NV in June 2007. While Mary says she's going to miss Nevada County and its people very much, she's anticipating a lot to be involved in "over the hill" and wouldn't be surprised to see herself saving wild horses.

All who have had the privilege working with Mary in some or all of her volunteer efforts thank her for all her hard work over the years. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors and we'll miss her!

She's a multi-dimensional volunteer and likes to call herself "bi-lingual".



Sammie's Friends
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Visit us at:
www.sammiesfriends.org

Sammie's Friends is a 501c 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 works closely with the NCAS Volunteers who help to socialize and find forever homes for the unwanted dogs and cats of Nevada County.

**Sammie's Friends
128 High Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945**

Nevada County Sheriff's Department Honors Cheryl Wicks

On Monday, April 23, 2007, the Nevada County Sheriff's Department presented Sammie's Friends Co-Founder, Cheryl Wicks, with a Citizens Appreciation Award for all her hard work in aiding the animals of Nevada County. The ceremony, held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Eric Rood Center had a large audience filled with many of Ms Wicks fellow volunteers. In presenting the award, Sheriff Keith Royal praised Ms Wicks efforts and the incredibly low euthanasia rates at the Nevada County Animal Shelter that were a direct result of those efforts.

In her comments, Ms Wicks confirmed that the euthanasia rate at the shelter had

been as high as 68% in the late 1990's and that through the work of the volunteer program, it was now 2%. This translates to approximately 6000 animals that have been placed since the inception of the volunteer



Cheryl wicks receiving her Citizens Appreciation Award from Sheriff Keith Royal.

program at the Nevada County Animal Shelter.

Telling Sheriff Royal she couldn't accept the award strictly on her own as she had simply provided "organization and focus" Ms Wicks accepted the award on her own behalf, as well for as for the hundreds of volunteers who had helped make this possible. She also offered sincere thanks to her partner and Sammie's Friends co-founder, Curt Romander, and also heartfelt gratitude to the inspiration behind it all, Sammie, Cheryl and Curt's shar-pei.

The Poop Scoop speaks for all the volunteers and donors in congratulating Cheryl on this well deserved award!