



The Poop Scoop

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

Facts About Us & the Work We've Done:

- * During the more than 5 years that Sammie's Friends has managed the Animal Shelter, 8000+ animals have been placed.
- * Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter has a euthanasia rate of just under one percent.
- * In the 14 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 14,500 animals have received veterinary care from Sammie's Friends.
- * In 2014 Sammie's Friends spayed/neutered over 2000 dogs and cats in the community.

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WHATSA' HAPPENIN' AT SAMMIE'S FRIENDS ~

Many of you have heard that there are changes at Sammie's Friends @ Nevada County Animal Shelter. As of July 1, 2015, Leslie Bussinger is the new shelter director, managing the day to day activities of the shelter. Leslie has a strong administrative background, a love for the animals and great communication and public relations skills. Leslie is having a good time in the crazy world of animal rescue. There is never an uneventful or quiet moment. Please give Leslie your full support as she winds along this interesting journey called Sammie's Friends.



Co-founders, Cheryl and Curt and their sidekick Tony, turning over the keys to the shelter to the new Shelter Director, Leslie Bussinger.

A private bookkeeping firm has been retained to do payroll, the bookkeeping, banking, report writing and so much more that Curt has worked so hard on for so many years. As of yet, we have not quite figured out who will do the IT and maintenance work that Curt does. Curt gives new meaning to the term "jack of all trades". There is absolutely nothing he can't do. An amazing person!

Curt and I are not retiring, but we are changing our focus as well as offloading just a bit. We will not be at the shelter on a regular basis, but we will be around. There are three parts to Sammie's Friends 1.) Sammie's Friends @ Nevada County Animal Shelter 2.) Sammie's Friends Community program, which is nearly as big as the shelter program, includes helping 800 animals a year with veterinary care, when their owners need financial help, giving out 2,000 spay/neuter vouchers a year to reduce the number of animals coming to the shelter, and a food distribution program in N. San Juan and Washington. 3.) Fund raising and financial planning for the future of the animals in this county (A Sustainability Plan).

With a new shelter director to focus on the shelter, we can focus on Sammie's Friends sustainability and continue to manage the Community program as we always have.

Sammie's Friends receives about half enough money from the county to provide for the shelter. The rest is raised through solicitation campaigns, writing grants and the thrift store. Our community, through all its wonderful people, has been so generous. This is the reason we are able to do all that we do at the shelter and in the community. All of our sources of income are dependent on continuing good will and good economics.

Curt and I are going to spend our time creating an endowment fund and other income stream sources which will go on after Curt and myself are gone. At the moment the continuation of Sammie's Friends is too heavily dependent on the two of us. With the help of so many we have been able to create a community for the animals that no other community can match. We want this to continue on into infinity, long after all of us are gone. We owe it to the animals; that we never let things return to how they were when I arrived on March 23, 2001.

Thank you all for the time, love, money and energy you put into the animals. We all love them so and want to know that all good things come their way now and forever. We hope and pray that you continue to help us help the animals. Sammie's Friends needs you now more than ever.

Blessings and Love,

Cheryl

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SPIKE?

Spike arrived at the shelter in July of 2014 with his sister Karma. The two dogs came to the shelter when their family, with a heavy heart, became homeless and had no other choice. His sister Karma was adopted rather quickly when a man came to the shelter one day who said he had had a dream that he was going to adopt a black and white pitbull and name her Karma. The man with the dream arrives at the shelter and there's a black and white pitbull who is already named Karma and away they went. Poor Spikey did not have the same good fortune. Everyone fell in love with Spikey but it took a long time for the right person to show up for him. Spike was a little shy at first, but once he warmed up he was a big love. He gave kisses, loved his squeaky toys, belly rubs and his blanket.

One of the kennel attendants along with the doggie behaviorist and shelter director particularly liked Spikey (as we called him) and continued to give him lots of love at the shelter, but still he needed a place to call home. Then one day in April of 2015, ten months after Spikey had arrived, a gentleman named John arrived at the shelter looking for a new companion. His pitbull of 14 years had passed away and he was interested in adopting another one. He had his eyes on a pittie other than Spikey, but thank goodness Elaine, one of the kennel attendants, was there, because she persuaded John to meet Spike. There was an immediate connection for both of them. John adopted Spike! Or did Spike adopt John?



John says that Spikey has fit right into his family as if it was meant to be. He goes everywhere with John. He loves car rides, to run, play ball and just hanging out with his new family. John says he is a very well behaved dog with excellent manners. John describes him as "the best". That fateful day in April when John came to Sammie's searching for a new friend changed both their lives for the better. John will always be grateful to Elaine for introducing him to Spikey. He has filled his house with love and fun. All of us at Sammie's Friends remember Spikey fondly and are elated knowing he has a forever home.

MONKEY

Monkey "The Indomitable"- once you know him you never forget him. He has the "It" factor, as Simon Cowell would say on American Idol. Monkey belonged to an elderly person who died. As the house was being cleaned out, Monkey was found lying in the yard. He couldn't walk and had no help. He most likely would have died. Fortunately two kind ladies spotted him and brought him to Sammie's Friends, where the healing began.



Immediately he went to Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital. He had untreated diabetes for such a long time that he had neuropathy in his feet which is why he could not walk. Monkey was initially put on 8 units of insulin twice a day. His insulin needs were difficult to stabilize. Each time he went for a curve (blood sugar level is measured six times at two hour intervals throughout the day) the amount of insulin would need to be changed. Several months ago Monkey was in the hospital and nearly died he

was so sick. As only Monkey could do, he rallied. The veterinary staff said they had never had an animal who had so many visitors. All that good energy, along with the skilled veterinary staff, made him better again.

It was unlikely that Monkey would ever walk. Monkey had other plans. First he had ataxic (staggering like a drunk) walking, on his hocks. Many of the volunteers would help him walk and keep him moving, trying to strengthen the muscles in his legs and hips which had atrophied from lack of use.

We were happy he was at least walking on his hocks and accepted that he would never walk on his feet like a normal cat. Once again our Monkey had his own plans. Today he walks like a normal cat on his feet. The body that Monkey lives in his kind of old and skinny and scruffy, but his spirit and personality are indomitable and when you meet Monkey you love him. He has a compelling personality that is not to be denied. Some critters are just that way. We love you Monkey.

GOOD NEWS: Today Monkey is on one unit of insulin twice a day.

The New Cat Facility is Open For Business!

Through two generous donations, one from PPASTS and one from Toni Stevens (in memory of her sister, Hildegard Langille), we were able to convert the building where Animal Control used to work out of into a new cat facility. The major renovations were finished last month and all the shelter cats were moved into their new home!



compromised immune system creating more illness. Veterinary costs for this were significant (\$80,000+/year) and we are confident this will be reduced significantly with the new facility.

Another great benefit, other than the comfort and wellbeing of the cats during their stay at the shelter, is

potential adopters now can see the cats in a more home like environment and witness their true personality. This will increase and make adoptions much easier.

On Saturday August 22nd, we held an Open House for the public to visit the facility and see how comfortable our shelter cats are now. Prizes were given out, lots of tours were given and hot dogs were barbequed to make for a special occasion. The turnout was great and everyone seemed to love the setup.

With the cats able to roam freely, play on various cat structures during the day (and night), go outside for fresh air and hear the birds sing, or opt to take a nap in an open cage, they are HAPPY! Come in and check it out; we think you'll love it too!

Janis Linfield, Phyllis Murdock, Joanne Castles and Ruth Rasmussen were the committee members to get the job done. There were countless others that also stepped up and volunteered time and money including Mike Fondiller, Reed's Locksmith, Nor Souza, Jim Gold with Carpet One, Tom and Bobbi Tomasello, Valerie Good, Dan Castles, Matt Klagenberg, Mike Senger, Chris Casey and Rotary Club of Nevada City just to name a few!

The building layout lent well for the conversion and we were able to accommodate space for all the necessary needs of the cats. There are two rooms where cats roam freely with access to outdoor enclosures so they can bask in the sun and enjoy fresh air. Another room is designated solely for kittens (which was fully utilized this kitten season!). We have a separate veterinary office for Dr. Denny when he does his weekly rounds to check on the health of the cats. There's also an isolation room for any cat that is having health issues so it won't spread to the others. There are also separate rooms for intake, feral cats, laundry, storage, and even a break room.

With the cats housed separate from the dogs they no longer hear the constant barking and commotion that goes on in the shelter. This noise was very stressful for the cats which led to a



Ruth holding Priscella

Some Nifty People

A handful of dedicated and passionate employees have made

Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop a huge success!

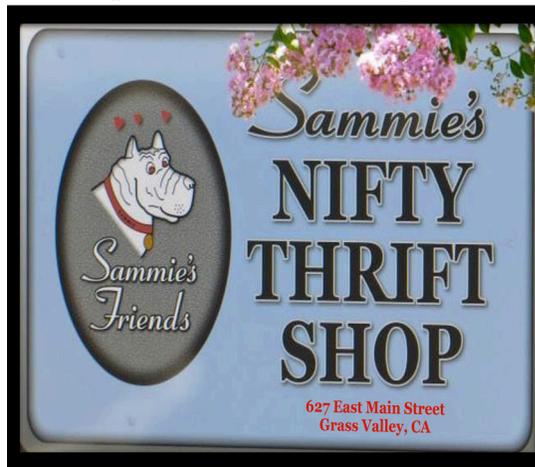
Joanne Castles

Joanne is the reason that Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop exists! She attended a "No More Homeless Pets" convention in October 2012 and took part in a fundraising seminar on thrift stores. She found our current location in December 2012, signed a lease in January 2013 and opened the doors March 2013! She managed the shop in the beginning and now just fills in when needed. Besides loving how the store is helping the shelter animals, she loves working with all the volunteers and employees. The store atmosphere is fun and relaxed and everyone is there working hard with the same purpose in mind. In her spare time, Joanne serves on Sammie's Friends Board of Directors. She is married to Dan and they have 2 grown daughters. The whole family helps out at the thrift shop whenever they can. Their home is filled with 3 dogs (Mable, Otis and Skiddy) and 3 cats (Tommy, Cupcake and Pepe).



Stacie Hart

Stacie started volunteering at the thrift shop about 2 months before the doors opened and became an employee in July 2013. She is now a co-manager and loves every aspect of her job. Her favorite part of Sammie's Nifty Thrift is working with a really fun and dedicated group of volunteers and employees. Stacie was born and raised in the Northwest, but has been living in this area for over 30 years. She owned a travel agency in Grass Valley for about 20 years until she retired in 2010. Retirement wasn't her cup of tea so she came to Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop. Best decision ever!



Brian McMillen

Brian began working at the thrift shop in July 2015. He has been a fantastic addition to the staff. He works in the shipping and receiving area and loves helping people move stuff. Brian is a dog lover

and has a beautiful 4 year old Queensland Heeler named Molly. He moved up here to Nevada County because he wanted out of the big city life and he really enjoys working here with all the friendly people.

Pam Foster

Pam started working here back in May 2014 and a short two months later, she was hired on as staff. She works mostly in clothing and can also be seen behind the counter as a cashier. She currently does not have any pets because of where she lives, but she hopes to someday. She moved to Nevada County with her boyfriend who grew up here.



Mitzy Klagenberg

Mitzy has been working at the thrift store since day #1! She is a manager of the shop and is responsible for many different aspects of the business. She loves her job and loves all the staff

and volunteers who dedicate their time to raising funds for our shelter animals. She is a proud mama of 2 Dachsund's, 2 Chihuahuas, 1 Aussie, 1 Anatolian Shepherd and 2 cats! She has been married to her sweet husband Matthew for 28 years and in her down time she loves to read and to knit.

Volunteer Spotlight

David Rice is one of the volunteers who helps with the behavioral training of the dogs at Sammie's Friends Nevada County Animal Shelter. He can be found there on Monday mornings where he assists Beverley Ward in making initial assessments of newly-arrived guests: David seems to have a real knack for reading a dog's personality. He also works with her to improve the dogs' socialization, mixing individual shelter dogs with Beverley's training pack.

When David isn't in the play yard, he's working on leash behavior and actually enjoys the challenge of the big, strong, rambunctious dogs. One such very memorable dog was Sundance. Sundance was a very large (90 pounds) Bulldog/Pitbull mix, a happy sort of guy who knew absolutely nothing about manners, despite being about 4 years old. A leash was a tug-of-war toy to him. David spent hours and hours with Sundance, walking him on leash and working on basic commands. For David, the most rewarding aspect of his work at the Shelter is when a dog like Sundance gets his Forever Home.



David Rice and Captain Howdy
(available for adoption)

David has been interested in Doggie Behavior "forever". After he retired from 22 years of service in the Coast Guard, he decided to pursue his interest in canine behavior. He is a Certified Dog Trainer, having graduated from the Animal Behavior College, a comprehensive correspondence training program that includes an intensive hands-on externship. (Animal Behavior College also offers programs to become certified as a Veterinary Assistant and as a Dog Groomer.) We were fortunate that David chose to complete his Externship at our Shelter!

He also works with Sutter County Animal Services. And he has started a private program of his own, K9 Language Dog Training in Yuba City, in order to help private animal owners with their dogs' issues. You can see what he does at his website, K9Language101.com

Thank you, David, for bringing your talents and dedication to our Shelter!

Animal Control Spotlight

After 8 years of service to Nevada County Animal Control **Lois McClaughry** retired on August 14, 2015. Lois was the friendly face that greeted you as you entered Animal Control, whether it was at the shelter, next door to the shelter or the new home of animal control at The Rood Center. Lois worked as the Senior office Assistant renewing or issuing new dog licenses, providing general information to the public regarding laws and regulations with regard to companion animals and so many other duties that she called her own.

What she enjoyed most about her job was meeting all the new families that adopted dogs from Sammie's Friends she would have an opportunity to meet many when they would seek out a new license for their dog. That is what she will miss most. In retirement she is looking forward to being able to spend lots of time with her family; especially her granddaughter. She says she really appreciates her time being her own now. Lois will be missed.

Congratulations on your well-deserved award **Stefanie!**

All of us at Sammie's Friends love working with Stefanie. She has a big heart for the animals. She is wise and knowledgeable about animals, the law and people.

Stefanie has a tough job rounding up animals that are unknown to her and can be unpredictable. Sometimes the animals are injured and she has to decide quickly what to do.

Stefanie is adept at conducting investigations and providing proper information for the D.A.'s office so that animal abuse cases can be prosecuted. Stefanie has a knack for dealing with difficult people in a respectful way. She remains calm even when there is chaos all around.

When we see Stefanie at the shelter it is always a pleasure. She brings a good spirit and it's great to see her. We wish every Animal Control Department was filled with Stefanie's.

Stefanie Geckler

with Sergeant Sam Brown and Sheriff Keith Royal
receiving the **Animal Control Officer of the Year** award



Pitfalls and Perils of the Coming Fall and Winter Season for Pets

By: Erick Muehlenbein DVM, Animal Clinics of Rough & Ready and Penn Valley

The days are getting shorter and the smell of fall is in the air. Before we know it the family will all be crowded around the table for Thanksgiving dinner, but even scarier is the fact that Christmas is going to be here in what seems like the blink of an eye. While these holidays are joyous (or dreaded depending on your family), there are many hidden dangers lurking that can affect our pets.

Cold and damp weather can bring out aches and pains in both us and our pets. If you have been thinking that the dog has been slower getting up or just can't "go like he used to", now might be the time to talk to your vet about appropriate pain medications or joint supplements. Also, just because it is colder outside doesn't mean that we can stop treating for fleas.

Those fleas generally lay their eggs in a well-traveled place like dog beds or dog houses, just waiting for the right circumstances to hatch and infest our pets. With winter weather many times providing adequate shelter to our outdoor animals will go a long way toward keeping them comfy and healthier through the season.

With the impending holidays there are plenty of indoor problems that can afflict our pets. Aunt Mitty thinking that the family pet needs Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner as well can result in vomiting and diarrhea (aka pancreatitis) and a trip to the emergency vet. Onions and garlic can lead to diarrhea and vomiting, but can also result in severe anemias which can lead to shortness of breath and/or collapse. Chocolate is commonly given as gifts or left out as a snack. A good rule of thumb with chocolate is that the darker chocolate has more

potential to cause illness whereas white chocolate has the least. Chocolate can also cause vomiting and diarrhea, but also can potentially lead to irregular heartbeats, muscle tremors or even seizures. Many of us enjoy an alcoholic beverage to help celebrate (or forget) the holidays. Alcohol can also lead to severe intoxication in our pets and while some of us may find

it humorous to watch our pets staggering around, it can lead to an extended stay at the vet.

Christmas decorations can be hazardous as well. Chewing on electrical cords can result in burns to the mouth or electrocution. Garlands and tinsels may be your cats favorite play thing, but can create what veterinarians refer to as a linear foreign body requiring surgery to correct the bunched up intestines. Poinsettia plants contain a toxin

in their sap which can lead to excessive salivation and vomiting, while [live] mistletoe can result in shock and sudden death if eaten in enough quantity.

The stress of family and the holidays can take a toll on us, but just don't forget that our pets are used to seeing the immediate family on a regular basis. Allowing a place for your cats to go and hide and the dog to get away from your nephew who is trying ride him like a horse, will go a long way in reducing their stress in what should be a happy time.

For those of you going away to a warm place during the winter, remember to make your boarding reservations early because the boarding facilities generally book up early, especially around the holidays. Who knows, maybe jetting off to a warmer climate is the answer to dealing with the holidays and family. Maybe I'll find out one of these days.



Erick Muehleneein, DVM and Laura Booth, DVM and their dog Marley
New owners of the Animal Clinic of Rough & Ready
and the Animal Clinic of Penn Valley

Update on eSCRIP --> Lots of \$



| | | |
|-----------|----|------------|
| May 2015 | -> | \$1,632.90 |
| June 2015 | -> | \$1,571.51 |
| July 2015 | -> | \$1,717.57 |

Although the figures above are nothing to shake a stick at (it really is an incredible amount of money we bring in monthly from SPD), only 30% of Sammie's Friends' supporters are using their card! Imagine what we would make if everyone remembered to use it! It would be nothing less than incredible. Thank you to those of you that use your card; and to those of you that aren't please remember it! It's free money to Sammie's since it costs you nothing and you do nothing to earn it other than give the SPD checker your phone number or Community Card at checkout! If you aren't signed up but do shop at SPD, or if you have any questions, please email me: jcastles@sbcglobal.net (Joanne Castles).

A WONDERFUL GIFT

This is **Scout Klein**, who is 6 years old, handing over her birthday money to Cheryl, the Co-Founder of Sammie's Friends. She is such a generous young girl. She asked her friends to give her money for her birthday so that she could donate it to Sammie's Friends. What a sweetheart! She donated \$195 and a gift card to Petco and many many goodies for the animals.



We are grateful for her generosity and for being a good role model. Thank you Scout. We spent Scout's money on Sweet Charity to help her recover from her demodex. It made her beautiful and she was adopted, **thanks to Scout**.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The evolution of Sammie's Friends goes like this. In March of 2001, Cheryl Wicks became a volunteer at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. There were no other volunteers. In August of 2001, Cheryl started the volunteer program and her husband Curt joined her. Rather quickly there were many volunteers and the euthanasia rate began to go down from 68%, as volunteers told their friends to come and adopt animals.

Next in 2004 Curt and Cheryl started Sammie's Friends to pay for the medical care of the shelter animals. This even further reduced the euthanasia rate. In 2005, Sammie's Friends expanded and started a program to help community animals stay out of the shelter by helping low-income owners pay for medical care for their animals.

Then in 2010 Sammie's Friends contracted with the county to run the shelter. In 2013 Sammie's Nifty Thrift was started to sustain the many programs that Sammie's Friends has at the shelter and in the community. Thank you, Joanne Castles and crew.

On Page 1 you can read about the latest development: a new Director at the Shelter!

First Pooper Scooper Returns to Scoop More Poop

Suesan Larsen has returned to assist Cheryl Wicks and Judy Barlow with the publishing of "The Poop Scoop".



Suesan is the original creator of the newsletter, which began in 2003 as a newsletter for volunteers at the shelter when it was operated by animal control. It has blossomed into a beautiful publication providing everyone with information about Sammie's Friends and its happenings. It's an honor to have the original name still in use. It has evolved into something really amazing and I am happy to be part of it again. Here's to scooping more Poop!

Sammie's Friends @ Nevada County Animal Shelter



Cheryl & Curt

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 and other disadvantaged animals in the community. 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 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit, all donations made to Sammie's Friends are fully tax-deductible and can be mailed to **Sammie's Friends, 14647 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95949.**

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

You can get vouchers from Sammie's Friends.

Or for additional financial support you can call:

- For pitbulls, chihuahuas, huskys and malamutes:

Kathleen at Pound Puppy Rescue
530-274-8079

- For cats and other breeds of dogs

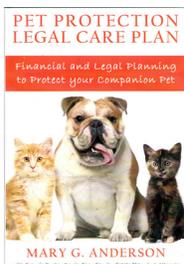
Cheryl at Sammie's Friends 530-471-5041



Sammie's Friends © 2009

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Introduction and Overview of the Process of Pet Estate Planning by Mary G. Anderson, Author



Pets have always been a precious and important part of my life. We all know that accidents happen and we can't always be sure that we will return home to our furry "children" as planned. My new book entitled, "Pet Protection Legal Care Plan: Financial and Legal Planning to Protect Your Companion Pet" provides a step-by-step plan to create a pet estate plan to protect your pet in your absence. **Over 70% of Americans do not have a will and/or living trust; a very small percentage of pet owners plan for their pets' care.** Pets provide us with their devotion and unconditional love and we need to protect these innocent creatures.

By completing the template provided in the book and/or online, you can easily set up a Pet Protection Legal Care Plan today and then be assured that your companion pet is safe!

Each pet estate plan includes two parts, 1) the "Pet Customized Daily Care Plan" (to provide physical care) and 2) the "Pet Protection Trust" (to provide legal protection). Our goal is to offer each pet owner a simple roadmap to starting and finishing your pet's unique pet estate plan in one afternoon. Additional chapters on how to choose a "Family Estate Planning Attorney", the "Pet Caregiver/Guardian" and the "Pet Financial Caregiver/Trustee" are also included in the book.

When completed, the "Pet Customized Daily Care Plan" captures and describes your pet's daily activities and medical history. I have worked closely with Frank Doyle, an experienced Family Estate Planning Attorney, to draft the "Pet Protection Trust" template to provide the necessary legal protection your pet needs. There are additional pet protection resources to help you finish this important project including downloadable templates, educational materials, videos and articles on our website, www.PetProtectionLegalCarePlan.com. We are here to help!



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

Veterinary Care for Disadvantaged Nevada County Animals

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 other disadvantaged animals in the community, and works closely with the NCAS Volunteers who help to socialize and find forever homes for the unwanted dogs and cats of Nevada County.