



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume IV, Issue I

Spring 2010

Facts About Us and the Work We've Done:

- Sammie's Friends has signed a contract to manage the Animal Shelter.
- As of January 2010, the NCAS had a euthanasia rate of just under 3% thanks in large part to the work of the volunteers.
- In the 9 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 2500 animals have received care from Sammie's Friends.

Barney Inspires Sammie's Friends



the dogs twice a day and clean cat kennels and cuddle cats. The animals got happier and more adoptable and of course the volunteers helped to find them homes.

Ruth joined the staff at the shelter as Kennel Attendant in January of 2002 and Dawn Allmandinger started a website for the shelter animals in February of 2002. In April of 2004, Sammie's Friends was founded to pay for the medical care of the shelter animals ensuring that no animal would ever need to die because of injuries or illnesses.

help the animals. This is a good county for the animals. Literally 100's of people have come together to help the animals.

Now Sammie's Friends is in the final stages of contracting with the county to operate the Animal Shelter (**see story on Page 2**). How things have changed. The plight of Barney and his litter mates were a pivotal moment for the start of this change way back nearly a decade ago. We thought it was a good time to go get reacquainted with our old friend and feature him in the "Poop Scoop". He's no longer

Barney is this guy's name. He came to the Nevada County Animal Shelter in December of 2001 with his eight nine-month-old litter mates. The dogs were not socialized and were scared to death. They were driven to the shelter in an old pickup in the rain in December, just before Christmas. Cheryl was told "Don't even bother with them, they will just be put down." That was all the motivation needed for Cheryl to crank it up to find these dogs a home. Within two weeks they had all been spayed/neutered (in those days nothing got spayed/neutered) and found homes. This significant event was the catalyst to change everything for the animals at the Shelter.

In March of 2001 Cheryl went to the shelter to walk the dogs for two hours per week. Oh my goodness how things have changed. At that time there were no volunteers. By August of 2001 Cheryl had started a volunteer program leading to having 100 volunteers to walk



Barney Loves His Life in the Country

Prior to 2004 Cheryl and Curt and four other volunteers paid for the medical needs of the animals.

The whole community has become more involved; many people foster animals and donate time and money and supplies to

a puppy; he's a nine-year-old dog. He was adopted by Bill and has lived with him his entire life. These are the kinds of adoptions that we like. Thanks Barney for the inspiration. We hope to share more stories like this as we begin management of the Shelter.

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Sammie's Friends to Operate Animal Shelter

This effort culminates three years of discussions, research, planning, writing and negotiating.

At long last, Sammie's Friends is finalizing a contract to operate the Nevada County Animal Shelter as a private non-profit organization. The proposal to manage the shelter was submitted in July, 2009 and, after being accepted in September, we have been in negotiations to finalize a contract since the County Board of Supervisors gave the go-ahead on January 26, 2010.

This effort culminates three years of discussions, research, planning and writing and negotiating. We began the effort by discussing with Rick Haffey, County Executive Officer, the possibility of managing the Shelter in April 2007. We were encouraged that the idea was well received. Apparently, the idea had come



Cheryl signs the contract

up a few years earlier but was dropped.

Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander then began to research other shelters that had been managed by non-profits and found a wide range of experience. In some instances, out-sourcing led to much more efficient operations.

We visited the Nevada Humane

Society in Reno to get first hand information about their management of their County Animal Shelter and were given much good advice and encouragement. We investigated the Ani-



Nevada County Animal Shelter

mal Shelter operation in Santa Barbara County and found that they operate as collaborators with the County, using a strong volunteer program to cover the care and adoption program for the animals in their shelter.

Cheryl and Curt then met individually with each of the Nevada County Supervisors to get their opinions and concerns about operating the Animal Shelter. They offered some encouragement and some advice about what a successful program would look like. We gained a lot from this experience.

Sammie's Friends then set up a committee to discuss how we could privatize the Shelter and what pros and cons such an effort might entail. This committee of 5 to 7 members provided valuable insight on specific issues ranging from medical care, staffing, working hours, expanded programs and other shelter related issues.

In March, 2008, Curt submitted a white paper that lay out the benefits to the County of out-sourcing management of the shelter. In October, 2008, af-

ter several discussions with the Undersheriff, the Sheriff said he would entertain the idea of a non-profit managing the Shelter

In January 2009 Curt and Cheryl presented a Business Plan that spelled out in detail, including a detailed budget, how Sammie's Friends would operate the Shelter.

The County then prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) that was finally issued in early June leading to Sammie's Friends' proposal in July.

Included in the proposal were over 45 letters of support from members of the community. It was very gratifying to have this much support and made the final proposal very impressive.

Now, after three years, we signed a three-year contract on April 2nd to manage the shelter beginning on July 1, 2010.

The shelter will be staffed much like it is right now, with Cheryl acting as Director, Curt as office manager, Ruth as kennel attendant and two part-time office workers.

Procedures and fees to adopt animals will not change for the foreseeable future. However, over time, Sammie's Friends will make changes to improve the services and accessibility at the shelter. Among these will be expanded hours for public interaction and programs to rehabilitate and socialize the animals.

We look forward to increased support from the community. Our vision is one where the animals and the public receive superior attention.



Beautiful Horses and Horsemanship



Nevada County
REINSTORM
2010
A Community Equine Event

**Sunday, May 23, 2010
Nevada County
Horseman's Grounds**

REINSTORM is a volunteer-organized event bringing together local community equine partners with equine-related businesses and organizations to exchange information. REINSTORM was created in 2009 to promote the equine industry in Nevada County, and assist horse enthusiasts find equine products and services in our area. The goal was, and is, to promote Nevada County horse power, fostering a sustainable network of local users.

Net proceeds from this annual event go to a local non-profit organization dedicated to working with local horses and horse owners; this year's recipient is

Sammie's Friends Horse Fund. Sammie's Friends Horse Fund was formed in 2007 in response to the increased need for care of our equine partners. Funds are used to provide veterinarian care and assistance to horses and other equines in Nevada County, some of whom are neglected or abused.

REINSTORM will continue to identify additional equine-related resources, building a broad network of equine enthusiasts in Nevada County, and surrounding communities.

Join us for this one-day event at the Nevada County Horsemen's, 10600 Brunswick Road,

Grass Valley on Sunday, May 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Local providers will be offering information on their services and products, while equine events and demonstrations will occur throughout the day in the arena. This event is FREE to the public, though donations at the main gate are welcomed.

Help us help the community know about your products or services. If you are an equine professional and would like to showcase your product, please view our website at www.nvadacountyreinstorm.com for further information, sponsorship and vendor forms.

Seventh Annual Adopt-a-thon to be held May 1 at the County Animal Shelter



Furry Friends and Fun



The Seventh Annual Adopt-a-thon will be held at the Nevada County Animal Shelter on Saturday, May 1 from noon to 4 pm at the facility located at 14647 McCourtney Road near the transfer station in Grass Valley.

The Adopt-a-thon coincides with international events around the world held every year on the first Saturday in May. The movement was started in 1995 by the North Shore Animal League in New York, which is the world's largest no-kill shelter. Since then the annual Pet Adopt-a-thon has become an international event, and over one-quarter of a million animals have been adopted.

In addition to the shelter

animals, dogs from rescue groups including Pound Pup-



py Rescue, Animal Save, and Scooter's Pals will be present and available for adoption.

The Adopt-a-thon will include hot dogs, chips, baked goods and Lazy Dog Ice Cream for sale, free refreshments, and a raffle with items donated by local businesses. Volunteers will

be available to interact with the public and animals, and assist with the adoption process.

The shelter normally has a variety of dogs at any time, including Labradors, Lab/Pitbull mixes, Pitbulls, Hounds, Rottweilers, Aussie Sheperds, Border Collies and Queensland Heelers. Shelter cats vary from 8 week old kittens to 18 year old seniors. Both house cats and barn cats are available for adoption.

All proceeds from the Adopt-a-thon will be donated to Sammie's Friends. It is anticipated that Sammie's Friends will assume contractual management of the shelter as of July 1, 2010, the beginning of Nevada County's fiscal year.

Sammie's Friends Helps Spring Bo



Spring Bo on March 28th.



Empty bags of feed that Bo has consumed since March 12th.

Sammie cares about the horses too. Ole' Bo needed some help and so Sammie was there to help the old guy.

Bo has been with his owner, Jim Martin, since the day he was born. He was out in the pasture with the other horses and, over the winter, the owner hadn't noticed how skinny he had become. Animal Control was notified about Bo's condition and they had Dr. Sara Mc Carthy go out to see Bo and she found that all of his organs were functioning well and that most likely he just needed more food.

Sammie's Friends helped by purchasing senior food for him and soon, because Bo's

situation became known to the public, the whole community



Bo has gained about 30 lbs since March 12th.

got involved and Bo now has more to eat than he would ever need and is rapidly putting on weight.

Sammie's Friends also paid for Bo to go to Loomis as he had kind of a breathing problem. It seems that he has an allergy and is going to be just fine. Bo's family had been having medical problems of their own and it all got to be too much. Everyone, human and equine, is doing better and the family and the horse are happy that Sammie's Friends could help.

We're happy too.

Rescue Packs Donated by Sammie's Friends



Cpt. Gross, Cheryl Wicks and Teddy with donated rescue packs

In February, Sammie's Friends donated three small-animal rescue O2 Fur Life™ packs to the Nevada County Fire Departments. These packs provide means of resuscitating dogs or

cats that have been overcome from smoke inhalation. A single reusable pack containing three sizes of resuscitation masks is carried by a first responder to an emergency. The packs enable firefighters to attempt rescue of pets that would otherwise be overlooked. Sammie's Friends joins other rescue groups in the County who have

also contributed these packs to area fire stations. All together over 15 packs have been made available to several fire stations. Additional packs will be made available until all stations in the County have at least one pack on a first responder. The packs are manufactured by Wag'N Enterprises, LLC.

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

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, 128 High Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.**

THANK YOU!

Toni Stevens: Sammie's Friends Creative Volunteer

Often, we don't get to meet the folks behind the scenes but today we wanted to introduce you to Toni Stevens, one of the many hardworking volunteers who raises funds for the work we do.

Toni retired and moved to Nevada County about eight years ago. She had a challenging and very satisfying career in the Silicon-Valley high-tech industry working in product design and development. She has one adopted daughter and has had many animal friends over the years.

Life for Toni now is much quieter. She has a little rescue dog, Annie, who is her joy and constant companion. She said

she has always enjoyed doing volunteer work but came to Sammies Friends quite by accident. About four years ago at Christmas she concluded that friends and family had all the "stuff" they needed...and that year she would give presents only to the pets. She found special gifts for the horses, dogs, chickens, etc. but for the cats she decided to sew special catnip toys. These kitty toys were such a hit that Toni got an idea. Why not make and sell catnip toys to raise money for animals.

Well, the following Christmas Toni with the help of a few friends made and sold over

200 catnip toys and raised over \$1200 for Sammies Friends.

But now she wanted to do even more...so she called Cheryl Wicks and asked if she could send out a "Spring Appeal" fundraising letter. Each year since, Toni has sent out over 1000 letters bringing in well over \$10,000 each time. And so the work goes on.

I am reminded someone once said "It takes a village..." I guess, together, we are that village.



Toni Stevens and her companion Annie

Tom Hall: Long-time Dog Walker at the Shelter

I have been a Lake Wildwood resident for eighteen of the last twenty one years. My wife, Darlene, and our ex shelter dog, Cosmo live here. We have three sons and one grandson living in Utah, Colorado, and California.

In my past life I grew up and had most of my schooling in the San Diego area, graduating with a civil engineering degree. I spent three + years as an engineering officer in the USAF, mostly in Arizona. We then moved to the Sacramento area where I worked for the State Dept of Water Resources for three years. I then joined a construction firm in San Diego building heavy civil engineering projects such as bridges, tunnels, walls, dams, and culverts. I ended that stage as VP of engineering and estimating, and part owner. We next moved to this area with an established

firm that had built the Bullard's Bar Dam. They closed the office after a couple of years, and my last employed years were spent commuting from Wildwood to the Bay area, LA, and San Diego. Not much fun.

Upon retirement, we came back to our home that we had kept in Lake Wildwood. That Christmas our oldest son came to pick up his dog that we had been sitting for three months. He said I needed to get a dog and become a volunteer. I had never owned a dog for various family health, location, and other reasons. We did raise our boys with cats. As my son was leaving we went up to the NCAS to look for a dog. I didn't pick one that day, but I asked about the volunteer program that our son had mentioned. That was 7 + years ago. I started walking dogs in Feb 2003. Cosmo, a

tan shepherd, lab, collie mix was turned in to the shelter in March.

I came in to walk dogs on that or the next day, took him home, and we have been together almost 24/7 since. I've walked dogs on a weekly basis when in town and have had a lot of partners over that period. It's a great program for both the dogs and the walkers. The cat caretakers also do a wonderful service.

I also spend time as a volunteer for Music in the Mountains, am a docent at Bridgeport State Park, a 20 gallon blood donor, serve as seven year + chairman of the LWW public works committee, and I am an avid bridge player.



Tom Hall and his companion Cosmo

Volunteers Needed

When Sammies Friends begins management of the Shelter in July, there will be expanded opportunities to volunteer.

We will need more dog walkers, cat cuddlers, office workers, gardeners and other volunteers to

fill a variety of job descriptions. If you would like to volunteer, contact Sammie's Friends by email at info@sammiesfriends.org or call us at 530 272 8236. The best time to contact us would be starting in May as we begin

to arrange the staffing positions.

Managing the shelter is going to be a big job and we are going to need a lot of community support.

We look forward to your help.

Spring Has Sprung - Health Tips for your Pet

by Dr. Mees Dekker, DVM



Dr. Dekker



With the blossoming of the pear and cherry trees, and the opportunity to get outside without a sweater we also see the emergence of potential dangers for our pets' health as we move into the summer. All animals are more around and about in the warmer months - both our pets and the wildlife - which leads to more interactions between animals and more trauma that we end up seeing as a result.

The beautiful weather allows for our renewed energy into our gardens - but it also sets up our pets for the various poisons out there that can cause them serious harm. To list them:

- Snail bait. Even the 'pet-safe' snail baits can cause life-threatening diseases for our pets (particularly dogs) if they eat enough of it.

- Pesticides. Just like with kids, pets will get into the darndest things, and can become very sick from eating/drinking pesticides or herbicides.

- Fertilizers. You may not realize it, but ingestion of large amounts of fertilizers can cause harm, and what's more - some fertilizers are laced with

chemicals which can be severely toxic.

- Plants. Some bulbs and plants can be very toxic to our pets, and they are not always smart about discriminating between a yummy chew toy and a toxic bulb, so keep them out of their reach.



Another issue we see developing when summer rolls around is our pets getting left in the car. Have you ever gotten into a car that had been standing in the sun for a couple of hours? The temperature outside may be a pleasant 70 degrees, but inside the car it can be 140 degrees or more. The limited air circulation (even with the windows cracked) and the limited

capacity our pets have for losing heat can easily lead to heat stroke and death: as short time as 10 minutes in a hot car can be fatal.

A third issue we see LOTS of, beginning a short while after the last rains, is foxtails. These pesky weeds are what keeps us veterinarians very busy in the summer - and it's amazing where we pull them out of. They can migrate superficially and cause an abscess - or in some cases they can migrate deep into the body, leading to much more serious diseases. A little prevention goes a long way - clip the fur from between the toes and under the ears in long-haired breeds, and check their feet and body over after a long romp outside.

The warmer weather also brings out the insect population - and if your animals are not on tick/ flea/ heartworm preventatives, now would be a very good time to start on that.

Spring and summer are a wonderful time to get out and about again - but be aware that our pets may be more at risk than you might initially think, and let's limit the vets' visits to healthy pet visits!

Here are some additional tips for keeping your pets safe in the Spring.

- Make sure they have identification.
- Don't let them drink from standing water.

- Be alert for allergy symptoms. Our pets can be sensitive too.
- Keep your pet groomed to prevent skin irritations.
- Be cautious when taking your pet for a ride. Make sure they are properly restrained.

- Don't leave your pet unattended around a swimming pool.
- Last, but not least, make sure your pet is spayed or neutered! Spring is Mating season and we don't want to add to the overpopulation problem.

Some additional sources of information about Spring care for your pets can be found at these web sites: www.puplife.com/pages/keep-your-dog-healthy-this-spring-summer

www.dogsonlinemagazine.com/top-10-spring-tips-for-pet-owners

or Google "Spring Health Tips for your Pet". - editor

Dillon Finds a New Home

Hi - My name's Dillon. I have a story. First I was taken to a home and tied in the back yard for the first 1 1/2 years of my life. Then I was taken to the animal shelter and they decided I was out of control and put me on the euthanasia board. My good friend Cheryl went to bat for me and got me out of there before they did me in. Who wouldn't be out of control if they'd been tied up for a year and half and then put in a little cage for six weeks. Cheryl let

me go stay at place where they board dogs. I was there for 2 1/2 months. During that time I played with 50 different dogs and had the time of my life. Cheryl could see that I was having such a good time that she just let me stay there and allowed me to have the puppyhood I never had. My "inner puppy" had a blast. Wow! Finally a nice couple from Pacifica adopted me. I hope to stay here and be their everlovin' faithful dog forever.



Dillon at his going-away party

"My good friend Cheryl got me out of there"

-Dillon

Chopper Needs a New Home

Once upon a time there was a very good dog named Chopper who lived with a nice family including two children and other dogs. But the family fell on hard times and had to move to a place where Chopper wasn't allowed, so they had to leave him at the shelter.

It wasn't all bad at the shelter. Chopper got neutered and vaccinated, and made lots of new friends, both human and canine. Sometimes he even got tummy rubs! But day after day, Chopper watched his doggy

buddies get adopted while he waited and waited for that special person to come and give him a home, too, but no one took him home. Why? Because Chopper was deaf.

Finally, a woman adopted Chopper. But Chopper's happy ending was not yet to be. One day Chopper got into the refrigerator and ate a pound of bacon and a dozen eggs and a box of chocolates for dessert. Back to the shelter he went.

Poor Chopper. Then Cheryl

from Sammie's Friends offered to send Chopper to doggy training camp to improve his manners. Chopper already did pretty well with hand signals, but a little extra training would really do the trick!

Problem was, Chopper still needed to line up a new foster or permanent home to go to when he graduated from training school. Without someone to reinforce his training, all that money and effort would be wasted. So poor Chopper has to keep waiting. And waiting.



Are you that special someone who can give this lovable, down-on-his-luck pooch a home? Chopper is a 2-year-old pit bull who is housebroken, neutered, and up-to-date on his shots. He plays well with adults, children, and other dogs. You can learn more about Chopper at Petfinder.com, or call Chopper's friend Cheryl at 530-272-8833.

Kids That Care Support Rescue Groups

If you've had a chance to shop at SPD Market in Nevada City on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 during the month of March, you probably noticed the table of baked goods being offered by a group of young boys. This is a group called "Kids that Care", a group of 4 third-grade boys and a high-school student supervisor who decided to bake and sell cookies, bread, brownies and other baked goods with the proceeds going to Sammie's Friends and AnimalSave. Each Tuesday afternoon in March, the boys got together and baked their wares for sale the next afternoon. Then they set

up shop just outside the main entrance to SPD and respect-

fully asked patrons if they would donate to support these animal



The Group (from left) Carolyn Niehaus Galen El-Askari Cheryl Wicks Jai Williams, Parler Rice, Aaron El-Askari and supevisor Kali Hardwick (right rear) Adam Chaffee is absent

rescue groups and pick up some baked goodies to take home. The event was incredibly successful. The boys got some valuable lessons in marketing experience, baking skills, and community support. On Friday, April 2, 2010, they all got together with parents and representatives from Sammie's Friends and AnimalSave to enjoy a pizza dinner and present checks from their bake sale. Both Sammie's Friends and AnimalSave received donations of over \$370. We congratulate these resourceful young fellows and their high-school supervisor.



Baked Goods!



The boys' Tee Shirt

Special Volunteer Support

Sometimes it amazes us to know what individuals will do to help animals in need. Here's an example of what we mean.

Willow and her friend stood in the rain in January and sold organic dog cookies to raise

money to pay for the care of Razz, a lab puppy from the shelter that had parvo. We believe that their efforts went far beyond the financial support they were able to give Razz. Their hearts were in the right place. Sammie's

Friends thanks both of them for working so hard for the animals. They were able to raise \$30 in one rainy afternoon.

Razz has recovered nicely and is doing well. - Editor



Razz at the Shelter



Willow and her friend at their "bake" sale

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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.