



The Poop Scoop

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

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Summer 2019

Rehoming Your Pet Takes Time

We get it, life happens. For example, a medical situation can put someone in a place where they are unable to take care of their pet (have a plan for your animals in the case of those emergencies). There are many other reasons why people need to rehome their pet, some due to changes in life, moving or other reasons that are undisclosed.

Regardless of the reason, rehoming your pet takes time. Expecting the Shelter to take your pet on the day that you need to relinquish them is unrealistic. We house a great number of animals that changes daily and sometimes even hourly!

If you or someone you know needs to rehome a pet, plan at least a month; give yourself and your pet time to find the best alternative solution, which may require more time.

If your pet is not fixed, this should be the first step! Make sure your pet is spayed or neutered as this will take the burden off the person who adopts them or the shelter who receives them. Sammie's Friends can provide resources or help provide direction on where to go. For example, Pound Puppy Rescue will spay/neuter Pitbulls, Huskies, Malamutes and Chihuahuas for free.

Sammie's Friends has a discount spay/neuter voucher program for all other breeds of dogs and cats, available to low income families.

The next step in rehoming your pet is to share it far and wide. Write a detailed description of your pet. Describe their great qualities but also anything else that might be helpful (i.e. NO CATS!). Also, don't forget photos! Sammie's Friends will share your spay/neutered pet



Chance, a nice and very cute dog, was left by his owner, tied at the fairgrounds with a note on him.

Who knows why the owner felt this was her/his only recourse. Chance is a dog that has needed to be rehomed for going on six months. He has been advertised on social media, attended Adopt-A-Thons, and is available for showing at the shelter.

We offer this as an example of why you need to plan ahead when rehoming your pet.

with our vast audience but do your part and post on other community sites like radio stations, newspapers or placing flyers around town. Additionally, you can share with breed specific rescues, other local rescue groups or even on Craigslist or Petfinder. Your pet should be posted for at least two weeks but build in time so that you reach as many people as possible. Placing your pet into a home immediately is far less stressful than bringing them to the shelter.

It is best to charge an adoption fee. People tend to value more what they pay for. Please ask questions of potential adopters so your pet lands in a good home. If the potential adopter has other pets find out who their vet is. Ask them the circumstances of where the pet will be living. It is your obligation to your pet to ensure that his/her next home is a home where the animal will not be neglected or abused.

If you're unable to rehome your pet after these steps and ultimately need the shelter's support, a behavioral assessment is required so that we may understand more about your pet. Be transparent and clear about your pet's behavior. Once you complete all the steps, the shelter will

place you on a list pending space and availability. As you can see, this may take time and the shelter may not have space immediately.

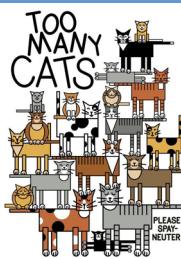
We always hope that animals will stay with their owners until they pass over the rainbow bridge. That is the intent of Sammie's Friends at the time of adoption. However, in those circumstances where that just isn't possible, do your part to ensure the best possible outcome -- your pet deserves it!

Sammies' Friends Accomplishments:

* Reduced euthanasia rate from 68% to less than 1%

* In 2018 we spayed/neutered 2,022 community animals and 1,524 shelter animals.

* More than 28,000 animals saved since 2001.



Cat Crisis – All we can do is try!

We just ended our second Cat Crisis program. These programs offered the spaying and neutering of any cat(s) in Nevada County for free! By calling any of our local veterinarians (almost all participated) you could schedule your spay(s) or neuter(s) and have the Cat Crisis pay.

The first Cat Crisis was started in September 2017 and ended in March of 2018. Over 800 cats were altered (this number does not include all the spays and neuters that are automatically done on all cats that enter the shelter). It also does not include the 750 that were spayed/neutered through Sammie's Friends voucher program. That's a lot of cats and we hoped we could start to get a handle on the serious problem of the over-population of cats in Nevada County.

We hoped that the number of kittens coming into the shelter during the 2018 "kitten season" would be greatly reduced.

The number of kittens did go down over 11% but not what we had hoped for. So we launched the 2019 Cat Crisis Program.

The 2019 Cat Crisis Program launched in February 2019 and ended July 15, 2019. Over 300 cats were altered during this period (once again, not including the number of shelter cats altered and those using our voucher program). There have been 224 kittens enter the shelter through July 2019 which is only 4% fewer than the number of kittens that came into the shelter in 2018 through July! We had certainly hoped for bigger numbers, but hey better down than up!

In conclusion, it has reduced the number of unwanted kittens/cats in our community. Maybe without the programs the numbers would have increased significantly each year. All we can do is try, and try we have!

Nifty's



Nifty's is busy, busy, busy and looking for volunteers! We'd love for you to come join us in the fun we have working at the thrift store to raise money to care for our shelter and community animals!

There are a lot of areas where you can volunteer and we're sure there's one that will be the perfect fit for you. Here are a few for you to choose from:

- Cashier
- Sorting/pricing stocking clothing
- General cleaning and tidying up the store
- Receiving donations

Volunteer slots are available in the mornings and afternoons. Morning slots are from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and afternoon slots are from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Come by the store and ask for a Volunteer Application. We'd love to have you!

eScrip – The easiest/No-Cost Fundraiser there is!

I want to thank everyone participating in the eScrip program. Both SPD and Mar Val (in Colfax) continue to offer this easy fundraising program where we are now bringing in close to \$1,500/month! (Unfortunately, Save Mart pulled out a couple months ago.)

We appreciate these two stores so much for continuing to offer this program to us. Most grocery stores offer a scrip program, but only allow schools to participate. SPD and Mar Val continue to let "other" non-profits such as Sammie's Friends enroll!

This program is easy and requires NO money or time on your part! If you're not sure whether or not you have enrolled to support Sammie's Friends when shopping at SPD, ask the cashier to enter your phone number. When they do your account will come up if you're enrolled. If no account comes up, you are not registered so email me (joannecastles@gmail.com) and I'll set you up. Once enrolled, a 3% contribution in your name will be made to Sammie's Friends on all groceries you purchase (AT NO COST TO YOU!). Once enrolled, all you have to do is have your number entered at checkout or ask the cashier to scan the Community Card that was given to you when you enrolled.

Here are monthly contributions earned through the eScrip program.

March 2019	\$1,348.41
April 2019	\$1,267.61
May 2019	\$1,381.77
June 2019	\$1,431.40

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Don Casavant proclaims himself a free spirit of Nevada County; here at Sammie's Friends, we describe him as a loyal and passionate behavioral assistant, dedicated to working with Sammie's Friends dogs.

As a 35-year Nevada County resident, Don has done it all! He went to law school, worked with Affirmative Action, was a painter, general contractor and bouncer. All paths lead to new adventures, which ultimately, led him to be a teacher at a Continuation High School. Don quickly established a path for his students, starting with RESPECT. The word, so impressed upon, was placed above the door so that his students were reminded

every day of his expectations of respect toward one another and for themselves. His work carried on with his students far after their high school career and into their adulthood, often hearing that his teaching of respect helped them along their path.



Don has transferred his principles of respect to his work as a behavioral assistant. He not only works to gain the respect of the dog but also for the dog to respect him – building a mutual trust. “My favorite part is consoling frustrated and frightened dogs. Animals come from different backgrounds and stories and so it’s our job to find where they are coming from to lead them to better outcomes.”

Don started volunteering with Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter around 2005. At first, he declined the invitation to come walk dogs. “I can’t go to shelters; they make me cry.” Then an encounter to save a black husky from being euthanized changed it all. “I knew then I had to help.”

Don describes Sammie's Friends as being all about heart. Well, Don, we think you have a big heart too!

The “Linen Lady” and the “Tinkerer” Dale and Sherri

I sat down with Dale and Sherri Hansen at a dinette set for sale, near the many books and videos being sold at Sammie's Nifty Thrift. It only seemed appropriate, since they are regular faces at the store. Volunteering their time on Wednesday and Sherri, also on Friday, it was a comfortable place to chat about their long-time support of Sammie's Friends.



Sherri is known as the “linen lady”, respectfully. She sorts, inspects, cleans and sometimes mends clothing donations that come through so that they are in tip top shape to sell. Dale, maybe not called the “tinkerer”, but maybe he should be, comes in to inspect, clean and repair all donated electronics. It’s no wonder the store does so well, with passion like theirs. They’ve been volunteering at the Nifty Thrift since it opened in 2013.

It all started with an ad in the paper which motivated them to begin their long volunteer career, way before the Sammie's Nifty Thrift opened. Sherri answered an ad for help at the local shelter. She started as a dog walker but quickly realized they took her for a walk mostly, so she turned her attention to the cats. Dale followed two years later volunteering at the shelter and the rest is history. In addition to their volunteering at both facilities, they also volunteer for offsite adoption events, as well as fostering.

Dale and Sherri agree that their favorite part of volunteering is the camaraderie with the people they work with and working with the customers. Overall, they love being able to share with others what each animal brings to the people who adopt them. Sherri and Dale have one dog -- Louis and two cats – Son (aka Rhett Butler) and their most recent addition, Roma. “I went into the Kitty Kove to say hi one day and I walked out with our cat, Roma” said Sherri. That’s how it works sometimes, right? Thank you, Dale and Sherri, for all that you do in support of all animals.

“Why Do Pitbulls Fill Our Shelters?”

This is obviously a big question, and one with a lot of components, but the #1 reason Pitbulls fill our shelters is quite simply, overpopulation. There is still way too much breeding going on and it doesn't help that Pitbulls tend to have larger litters. Each year, 1.2 million dogs are euthanized in the U.S., approximately 40% of whom are Pitbulls.

Here at Sammie's Friends: Volunteer programs, spay/neuter campaigns (Sammie's Voucher Program and Pound Puppy Rescue), becoming a registered 501(c)(3), and providing medical care for our shelter animals and the community have all helped lower our own euthanasia rate from 68% to less than 1%. Prior to that if an animal was sick or injured they were promptly euthanized. Today, Sammie's Friends is proudly a no-kill shelter!

However, this means that we often care for our animals for weeks, if not months, while we try to find forever homes. We rely on readers like you, volunteers, and social media to raise funds and raise awareness about our shelter and our animals. We can't do what we do without you! October is National Pitbull Awareness month and we hope to share some insights and facts about this often misunderstood dog. Visit our website for more information.

Check out these interesting stats about Sammie's Friends shelter Pitbulls:

- 1,510 Pitbulls have come through our shelter doors since 2010
- 659 were picked up as strays and returned to their families
- 761 were adopted to new families
- 37 went to other rescues
- 25 died (due to severe injuries/illness)
- 6 were euthanized (due to severe injuries/illness)
- 20 are still in our care or in foster homes
- 1 was stolen from our shelter



Home 2 Home - Adoption Assistance Program

Deciding to re-home a beloved pet is a difficult decision for most people. A divorce, home loss, domestic violence, illness or death in a family are just a few reasons why we see people make that decision. Most of them have no idea how to find a new home for their pet, so they surrender them to a shelter, or even abandon them to the streets out of desperation. This causes a great deal of stress and danger for the pet. A stressed or depressed animal does not "show well" at a shelter, which then prolongs their stay, causing more stress and depression.

Denise Cain and Carol Loy are offering another option for people that have the time to work with their pet through an "adoption assistance program" called Home2Home-NC. Both women have spent the last decade working with Sammie's Friends, Grass Valley Shelter, Scooters Pals and Rescue for Pet Sake helping coordinate adoptions, fostering and rehabbing distressed dogs, transporting dogs and counseling doggie adopters. Those organizations work with dogs that have already lost their family. Denise and Carol wanted to take an approach that keeps the dog safely with the people that love them until a new family is found. This saves both the family and the pet from the stress and uncertainty of abandonment.

They have developed a program where the dog stays with their current family while they network the pet and screen perspective new families. They make sure the dog is spayed, current on shots, and any health or behavior problems are addressed or noted. They ask the current family to pay for those needs, but can help find low cost assistance. They come to the home to meet everyone, get photos, observe the dog's habits and take notes on lifestyle and needs. They then use social media and adoption sites to get the word out. Applications are gathered, and they work closely with the current family to match the dog to a new family. A home check, transport and follow up complete the process. They do not provide foster homes or funding.

Home 2 Home



Since Denise and Carol began Home2Home-NC in January 2018 they have successfully re-homed 60 dogs. The time invested and effort are so rewarding when you know that a dog went from one loving family to the next with no stop in between. We get lots of great feedback from both ends. A happy relaxed dog settles in quickly! You can message them on their Home2Home-NC Facebook page or call 530-955-5111.

The Case For Gold

As the old children's song goes make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other is gold. The golden years for older dogs are not so golden when they end up in the shelter. A variety of reasons bring them to the shelter; sometimes they lose their humans to death, or their people have become homeless so they can no longer keep their dogs; sometimes they are abandoned. Whatever the reason they deserve the same opportunity to be adopted as younger dogs do.

There are many good reasons to adopt an older dog; older dogs make wonderful companions and tend to be very stable in their behaviors. What you see is what you get. They are generally house trained and often have been behavioral trained as well. They are usually pretty calm and are happy to just hang out with you. Older dogs are usually past their chewing phase you can safely leave your slippers out and come home at the end of the day and still find them there in one piece. They generally require less exercise and will tolerate being in a smaller home or condo better than a puppy.

My experience with older pups has all been positive. They arrive at my home and incredibly merge into their new family pretty seamlessly. It is a credit to their adaptability to become part of a new family almost without skipping a beat. Most of the older dogs we take are over 10 years old, that is 70 years in human years. I can't imagine losing my family at 70 and then try to start over. The joy we receive having them in our family outweighs the sadness we feel when there time here is done. It fills my heart knowing that they left the planet surrounded by a family and love, not alone on the street or in the shelter.

Love is ageless: consider giving a golden oldie a forever home for whatever time they have left on the planet. They deserve that from us as humans that have put them in this situation in the first place.



Limited Time But no Limit on Love

Shannon Gassaway and her fiancé Dustin Gerbracht are two very special people. They provide a home for Sammie's Friends kidney failure kitties. Why do they do it? They lost their own beloved kitty to kidney failure and were heartbroken. They saw a need and they felt "comfortable" working with this special group of cats.



It all started in 2009 when they went to the shelter to donate food. They met "Chica Bonita" she had been at the shelter for several months, she was suffering from kidney failure. They desperately wanted to take her home, someone at the shelter overheard them talking and discussed fostering with them.



Away they went and have been doing it ever since, 42 kitties later they have no plans of stopping. They provide "Fospice" care for these kitties, Foster/Hospice. These cats live out their lives with Shannon and Dustin. For some of these cats they only have a few days or weeks others can live for a couple of years. No matter the length of time Shannon and Dustin invest their heart and soul into each cat. They work as a team supporting one another, making sure they can take on another kitty after a loss.

Shannon emphasizes that it is a team effort including their vet as well as the understanding and compassion she receives from her boss that allows her flexibility if she really has a sick cat at home or if she has just "lost" a kitty. The care for kidney cats ranges from a special diet to oral medications to administering sub q fluids on a daily basis as well as kitty husbandry. They will try all kinds of tricks and different brands of kidney diets to get them to eat. Kidney cats who are generally older cats, frequently don't make it to the litter box, so a lot of cleanup is on the daily agenda for them. Shannon and Dustin have had up to 7 cats in their home at a time.



Shannon wants everyone to know that they absolutely don't allow the cats to suffer. They work very closely with their vet and when it is time to say good-bye they let them go. It's about providing as good a quality of life as possible up until the end as well as having them in a home rather than at the shelter. Shannon and Dustin step in when no one else will or can. Sammie's Friends is very grateful for their compassion and their expertise.

Steve Diumenti

Steve Diumenti is one of Sammie's real friends. He has been supporting Sammie's Friends @ Nevada County Animal Shelter since 2016 with significant financial donations each year. How he came to support our organization is one of those interesting "rest of the story" stories. In the years before Sammie's Friends began operating the shelter, Cheryl Wicks would often be out and about spreading Sammie's word. One day, in the parking lot of a local thrift store, she ran into a lady who was interested in our mission and programs. In her usual enthusiastic style, Cheryl explained what we do. Apparently, she was very impressed with Cheryl and what we do.



Years later, in 2016, Cheryl was approached by Steve Diumenti who said his wife, Debbie, the lady in the parking lot, who had since passed away, wanted to do something for Sammie's Friends. Well, Steve wanted to help and he made a commitment to donate to us on a regular basis in memory of Debbie and their dog Duke. Consequently, with permission of the County, Steve had two plaques made, one attached to the wall at the entrance to the dog facility and one mounted inside the Kitty Kove.

Cheryl and Curt have met regularly with Steve here in Grass Valley when he comes up to stay at his place off of Lime Kiln Rd. He also spends a lot of time at his other home in Tustin, CA where he lives with his new buddy, Charlie, whom he adopted from us in May. Charlie is a lucky dog to have such a wonderful guardian in Steve.

Steve is a real adventurous man, taking many fishing trips all over this country and has travelled to Europe to take in International soccer games. We look forward to meeting with him whenever he gets up here.

"Where Good Friends Meet"

Sammie's Friends is grateful for the many local businesses that have assisted us over the years in so many ways. One of these businesses is Gary's Place in downtown Grass Valley. Gary's Place is owned by Kim Spinella and Monty Mantovan. The slogan for Gary's Place is "Where Good Friends Meet". The clientele is a mixture of locals and tourists. It is the local watering hole and almost always is filled with folks having a drink (sometimes it's just coffee) chatting with friends, playing pool and having a good time in general. It's a fun place for folks to bring there dog for a visit.

Gary's Place has raised well over \$8,000 for Sammie's Friends. When we have events, Kim is always there to offer wine and beer for the event. Sometimes on special days they will make tacos ("Cinco De Mayo") or whatever is appropriate for the festive day and donate the proceeds to Sammie's Friends. Many thanks to Kim and Monty and the clientele who love animals for helping the Sammie's Friend's animals.



Tanner, a shelter dog adopted by Lisa, one of the great Gary's Place employees

LENS Neurofeedback

I have had the opportunity to bring a new treatment method into the Veterinary field. It's called LENS (low energy neurofeedback system) neurofeedback, or neurotherapy. It was pioneered by Len Ochs in the 1990s and has been used to treat people with physical or emotional trauma for over 20 years. I am the first Veterinarian in the world to have access to this treatment modality.

I approached Sammies Friends to see if I could treat some of the dogs at the shelter that had behavioral problems. I have been working with Beverly Ward, the animal behaviorist at Sammie's, since the end of May. To date I have treated 9 dogs with different issues, mostly excessive reactivity to other dogs, and have noticed a positive change in all dogs treated. Dogs have differed in the number of treatments required to induce significant change and also have differed in the extent of resolution of their problems. I am encouraged that this treatment modality can be used more broadly to treat a variety of behavior problems in our domestic animals.

LENS neurofeedback is a simple process. It is what is called EEG based neurofeedback, whereas sensors are placed on the animals head and connected to an EEG box that reads the brain waves and sends that data to a laptop with a computer program that formulates the feedback that is then sent through the same sensors. The feedback interrupts the pattern in the brain, allowing the brain to effectively "reset" to a more natural pattern for that particular animal. While some kinds of neurofeedback are designed to kind of program the brain to get a specific response (called entrainment), LENS neurofeedback is called a dis-entrainment neurofeedback, where it simply allows the brain to do what it would naturally do, and helps eliminate pathological brain patterns caused by physical or emotional trauma.

I will continue to treat dogs at Sammie's Friends, as well as treating client owned animals at my office in Penn Valley. See my website or contact me for more information.

Linda Montgomery DVM
 DrLindaMontgomery.com
 (530) 863-3632
 DrLindaVet@protonmail.com



From NEIGH To YAY!

When you think of Sammie's Friends @ the Nevada County Animal Shelter, you might think of just dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. Well, as the county shelter, we take more than that - including, peacocks, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, turtles, tortoises, iguanas, emus, ostriches, pet rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, horses, mules, donkeys, exotic birds, parakeets, and even a snake (which was before my time, thankfully).



At the end of 2018 we received 21 horses. A big adoption event took place and the majority of the horses were adopted immediately but for those remaining, horse fosters stepped up to help, and thank goodness! The shelter is not able to house horses for long periods of times, so horse fosters are so incredibly important, as we look for forever homes. Of the 21 horses that were received, all but six have been adopted, so we are still looking for forever homes, sanctuaries and even fosters to continue to help. It costs the shelter approximately \$1300 per month to care for these remaining six horses. We are so grateful for the fosters who help to keep them safe, happy and ready for their next home.

You can view all the horses on our website at www.sammiesfriends.org. Please spread the word and share with your equine friends and have them share with their friends! If you are part of an equine group and would like someone to come and speak about the horses in our care, adoptions and fostering, please let us know. We would love the opportunity to speak with your group.

We never know when the next horse will arrive in our care, and we won't say **neigh** but rather **yay**, with your help! **Please contact the shelter at (530) 471-5041 if you are interested in helping, adopting or fostering!**

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



Sammie's Friends

**14647 McCourtney Road
Grass Valley, CA. 95949**

DOGS: 530-471-5041

CATS: 530-274-1955

EMAIL:

info@sammiesFriends.org

Join Our Emergency Evacuation Team!

Join Sammie's Friends

Emergency Evacuation Team

Text

EVACUATE to 41444



We Need Cat Care Volunteers and Foster Homes



Cat Care Volunteers: This job is all about figuring out what makes a cat happy. And face it, cats are not as demonstrative as dogs. But there are times when a cat lays its head softly against your cheek, closes its eyes and begins to purr in your ear - that is all the reward you need! Join our Cat Care Team! We always have volunteer opportunities available. Handling the cats helps to socialize them. It keeps them calmer in a stressful shelter environment, which makes them more adoptable. Volunteers show potential adopters how each cat likes to be cuddled. They also help with disease control (a very important role) by keeping the kennels and cat facility clean and reporting any issues to the shelter staff. Sammie's Friends offers morning and afternoon shifts for Cat Care Volunteers. Stop by or visit our website for more information and to fill out a Volunteer Application.

Foster Homes: Fostering a dog or a cat is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting, of course). By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you are:

- Freeing up a spot so the shelter can take in another animal that needs our care.
- Giving your foster animal the time it needs to be ready for adoption.
- Helping the shelter learn more about the animal so we can find the best possible home.
- Socializing the animal in a home environment and possibly getting them used to being around other pets and different types of people.

Stop by or visit our website to learn more about fostering and to fill out a Pre-Foster Questionnaire.

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.