



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 8 years that Sammie's Friends has managed the Animal Shelter, 15,000+ animals have been placed.
- * Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter has a euthanasia rate of under one percent.
- * In the 17 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 19,000 animals have received veterinary care from Sammie's Friends.
- * In 2017 Sammie's Friends s/n over 2,500 dogs and cats in the community.

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Fall 2018

Happiness Has Been Restored to Sammie's Friends

After successfully operating the shelter for 8 years and preparing a thorough proposal for a new contract, we received a one sentence e-mail from the county letting us know that our contract would not be renewed. We were baffled and to this day have not been given a reason for that. The county had decided to contract with Placer County to take our animals. We didn't think that would help the animals, and the hard earned money of Nevada County Taxpayers would be spent in Placer County, a wealthier county, our hard earned euthanasia rate of less than 1% would now be going up to at least 10%. Sammie's Friends' hard working and so-dedicated employees would be left jobless. We were stunned and so we asked our community for support and support was granted beyond our wildest possible dreams. We had always believed we had the support of the community, but honestly we had no idea of the extent to which the community loves animals and Sammie's Friends for what it does for the animals. Sammie's Friends has saved the lives of 28,000+ animals and reduced the euthanasia rate from 68% to less than 1%. We learned that this is a big deal to this community and everybody noticed.



turned into a beautiful example of what a community can do when they pull together. Don't ever believe that what you have to say doesn't matter, because it does.

The Board of Supervisors allowed time to hear from the community and learn what the community wanted. The chambers were full and so many people spoke so eloquently and lovingly of the animals and Sammie's Friends. I have never been prouder of this community. Every single person who spoke had taken the time to know what they wanted to say and to say it with the utmost courtesy and respect. This is a testament to the kind of people who love animals and support Sammie's Friends.

Our town hall meeting had approximately 1,000 people in attendance. When I saw that crowd I was nearly speechless. I quickly realized that, as the main speaker and co-founder of Sammie's Friends, I couldn't remain speechless. The Board of Supervisors received over 500 letters, one from as far away as Australia. We had 65,000 visitors to our Facebook page.

Our contract is with the Sheriff's Department and to the Sheriff's credit, upon seeing so much support, immediately contacted us and said they would like to once again contract with Sammie's Friends. We were offered the county's best (Jeff Pettit, Captain in the Sheriff's Department, Jeff Thorsby

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It turns out that through what started out to be a hugely disappointing situation (no contract) we received so much positivity and love and support that ultimately we ended up feeling like a million bucks. We can never thank this community enough for your love and support when we desperately needed you. This has

National Pitbull Awareness Month

National Pitbull Awareness Day is Saturday, October 27th, and Sammie's Friends is throwing a Pittie Party to celebrate. The whole month of October, we'll be selling raffle tickets to win fabulous prizes, including a grand prize basket with 4 tickets to Disneyland Theme Park. We'll also be reducing adoption fees for our adult pitbulls, and working to educate Nevada County residents about this oft-misunderstood group of dogs.

On the 27th, we'll host our **Pittie Party and Carnival**. This family-friendly event will have food and drinks, carnival games, pumpkin carving, a costume contest, and a free bounce house. We'll talk about some of the myths surrounding the pitbull "breed" and have plenty of fun.

Come out to show your support for Sammie's Friends and have a blast!

When: Saturday October 27 10am - 2 pm.

Where: Sammie's Friends @ the Nevada County Animal Shelter

14647 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley 95949

Sammy's Nifty Thrift all started from 'Walking a Dog!'

Back in 2011 Mitzy Klagenberg and I were 'Dog Walkers' at the shelter. We would usually load up a couple pitties in our car and head out to give the dogs some new scenery. On each excursion Mitzy would always throw in her two cents – "you know Joanne, you really should open a thrift store. I volunteer at Hospice and know a lot of money could be made for Sammie's Friends!" I'd always reply "Mitzy I don't think I've ever stepped foot in a thrift store and know absolutely nothing about them!"

She hounded me for about a year on this same subject. Then in October of 2012 she and I headed out to Las Vegas to attend the convention "No More Homeless Pets" where Cheryl Wicks was a guest speaker. We drove this time without dogs!

I attended all the fundraising seminars while Mitzy sunbathed at the pool (jk)! AND wouldn't you know it, one was on thrift stores!!! Long story short – we hopped in our car to head home and I said "Mitzy, we're going to open a thrift store!"

That was October 2012 and on March 3, 2013 we opened Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop. A little over five years later our thrift store has grossed over **\$2,200,000!**

After expenses, over \$740,000, has gone to Sammie's Friends to help support their mission statement. This ratio is exceptionally high when compared to other non-profits. And that is possible only because of our great volunteers which allows us to run the store with only a skeleton crew of seven part time employees!

Thanks Mitzy! Your hounding REALLY made a difference!

-Joanne Castles

Volunteer Spotlight

Jacqui Adams

Twice a week, cats travel down to the Animal Spay and Neuter Clinic in Auburn to be fixed and vaccinated. Many of these are Sammie's Friends cats who are almost ready to be adopted, but many of them are cats that are owned by people in our community who are getting help from Sammie's Friends to get their cats spayed and neutered. This is a big job, and it's currently being done by volunteer Jacqui Adams.

Jacqui started as a volunteer at Sammie's Friends Kitty cove in September of 2016. She discovered Sammie's when she brought in a cat that had been abandoned in her neighborhood, and immediately fell in love with all our cats. She started out cleaning cages, then helped our previous spay/neuter coordinator Lauren Drutz. When Lauren stepped down, Michelle Seary took over. Jacqui continued to help organize and coordinate the spaying and neutering 30 cats every week, until Michelle had to fly back east for a family emergency in June and Jacqui stepped up and took over the scheduling solo.

She says it's a stressful job and she estimates she puts in about 25 hours every week scheduling, calling pet owners, arranging transport, and then scheduling again when things inevitably change. Not to mentioned taking care of all the Sammie's cats that come back after being fixed and have to be settled in for the night. But Jacqui says it's a job that needs to get done, and she's up to the task.



What an amazing woman!

Tricia Dowden



A huge part of running a no-kill shelter is having great fosters who can help you rehabilitate animals or take on long-timers. One of the most prominent fosters at Sammie's Friends is Tricia Dowden. Tricia walked in the front office of the Nevada County Animal Shelter in 2006 looking to lend her services as a foster parent. A few weeks passed and she had her first foster kittens.

12 years later and Trish and her family have seen it all-- macaw birds, pigs, geckos, llamas, goats, sheep, calves, horses, turtles and about 20 LITTERS of puppies! That's not counting all the individual dogs and cats she's taken home to care for. "I love the weird stuff," she says, which is a relief when a disgruntled pig or confused goat shows up at the shelter.

Many of Trish's fosters come to her through her job at Motherlode Vet. An animal will come in with a serious injury and she'll take them home to nurse them back to health. This is very important, since many of these animals need attentive round-the-clock care they wouldn't be able to

receive at the shelter where staff is juggling many other animals.

When asked why she fosters Trish says, "Because I love it!" We at Sammie's have seen her work miracles and appreciate everything she does for us and our animals. "I couldn't do this without my family's help and support," Trish says. Dog bless the Dowden family!

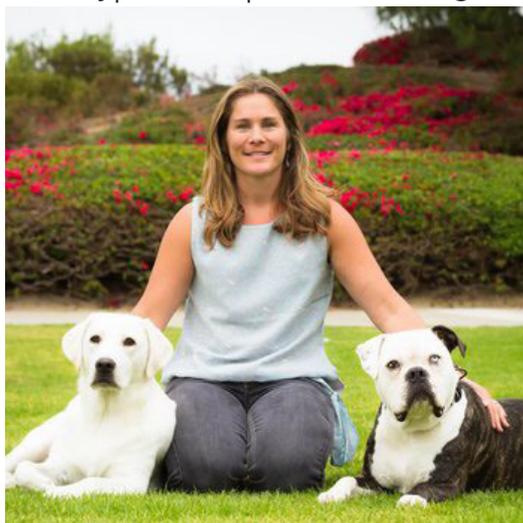
Sammie's Friends Helping Our Community Animals

by Dr Amber Murphy

Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital is privileged to work intimately with such a wonderful animal care organization as Sammie's Friends. Each year, Sammie's Friends graciously allocates a certain amount of money to each local veterinary hospital to care for patients who need special medical attention but their owners cannot financially support them. Sammie's Friends employees and volunteers work tirelessly to raise money, through various grants, fundraising events, and their wonderful Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store to support a large portion of their kennel costs as well as supporting locals with their pets.

Their facility not only cares for unwanted or abandoned pets, but they also care for pets who are loved, but their owner may have fallen on hard times. There are many situations in life that may make an unexpected veterinary bill impossible for some individuals. These times are usually emotional and stressful for the clients because of the strong bond pets have with their humans and vice versa.

As a local veterinarian I feel very lucky to have this wonderful gift available to our community. I have worked closely with other local humane societies that never offer this type of help. The funding allows us to be able to help owners in need afford



Dr Amber Murphy

procedures that can be extensive and possibly lifesaving. Although the funding is limited and cannot be offered to every person in need, it helps us cut down on the number of animals needing to be rehomed or euthanized due to financial reasons.

One of our most recent cases that received Sammie's Funds was a very sweet and happy 11 year old Labrador who ate a delicious peach out of the garbage. Though he thought it was delicious, unbeknownst to him, there was a non-digestible pit in that bite that he took. Five days later, he became ill when the peach pit became stuck in his small intestine and he became obstructed.

Unfortunately, his owner had recently become disabled and could not afford the entire treatment plan. With the help of Sammie's Friend's funding, we were able to give help to the client and work out a reasonable payment plan for the remainder of the costs, giving the owner many more years with his beloved boy.

In my humble opinion everyone who works at Sammie's Friends consistently goes above and beyond the means of a normal shelter. They try their very best to help all animals alike and because of that they have a very large and selfless group of volunteers that strive to work for the greater good and are very successful in doing so. We at Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital feel honored to work with such an amazing and unique organization.

Chunky and Petunia Home Sweet Home

Kristina has been involved in Sammie's Friends since Sammie's took over the contract from the county. Kristina was the first employee at Sammie's Friends and later went on to become a teacher. She continues to foster and rescue animals from the shelter. She is always fostering or rescuing animals from the shelter. This includes 2 piggies: Chunky and Petunia. Chunky (now called Hunky) came to them in the fall of 2016. Kristina suspected that he was not neutered given his escape artist behavior. It made sense to her why he was picked up as a stray. Once he was neutered he became a homebody not always out looking for love. Soon thereafter Petunia (Tuna) arrived and although the plan was to just foster her it became obvious she was there to stay forever along with Hunky. Kristina's experience with pigs extends back to her childhood when her mother rescued a pig that was being abused. His name was Amos and he became an important part of their family. Kristina knew when she had a family of her own she too would want to welcome piggies into her home.

Kristina's favorite thing about the pigs are watching Chunky he loves to run around he likes to play "hard to get" but once he is in arms reach he loves his belly rubs. Petunia loves to follow Kristina around she is her "right hand girl". She also loves to steal her shoes and hide them away in the pig house. She says that pigs also smell so sweet like maple syrup. She loves having these 2 in her family.



Chunky aka Hunky

The pigs are doing very well - they have 5 acres to run around on or bask in the sun or play. They are well loved and are spoiled rotten with treats and lots of love. When they want a treat they announce themselves by sounding off like trumpets.

Chunky and Petunia have found their Home Sweet Home.

Misty - 9 years later

A longtime volunteer of Sammie's Friends adopted Misty almost 10 years ago. This follow up story is written in her own words.



Misty is one of hundreds of feral or reputed to be unfriendly cats who are brought to Sammie's Friends every year. Misty was trapped and relinquished to the shelter almost a decade ago. Having lived outside her entire life as a blue-eyed pure white cat, the outer 1/2 of her ears were rimmed with cancer. The Animal Spay and Neuter Clinic in Auburn was willing to surgically remove the cancerous portions of her ear edges, if someone was willing to provide post op care. I said I would and as with all my so-called fosters, she soon became part of our resident cat family.

Misty's ears healed nicely and the black splotches on her nose disappeared over several months. She relaxed and soon became good buddies with the other feral in our home.

My strategy with ferals is to gain their trust by NOT trying to touch them. Eventually they let me get very close, so close that it is possible to touch them, but I don't. They let me know if they want petting by their body language or by rubbing against my hand or leg. In my experience about 1/2 of the ferals Sammie's receives are simply scared to death and with time eventually become pettable. The other 1/2 are not interested in human contact, but with time, calm down and assimilate to their new living situation. The number one most important thing a feral needs is time.

Notwithstanding her ear surgery, Misty still loves to sit in the sun. In fact spends a lot of time on her back sunning herself. Misty does not like to be touched, however I can get nose to nose with her and look into her beautiful blue eyes. That is enough for me.

We love Misty very much and have enjoyed her company and antics for more than 9 years.



Disaster Relief For Animals . . . Who Do You Call?

With all the fires that are happening in California it is necessary to be prepared to evacuate, but what do you do with your animals especially large animals such as horses and other livestock. The answer is . . .

The Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team (Animal Evac). Pat Ehlers has been coordinating this organization since 1988 when the 49er Fire came thru. She started this organization to help people and their animals if they are evacuated during a disaster. Pat describes this organization like the “Red Cross” for animals. They house, feed and give medical care to our 4 legged family members. They provide a safe haven for the animals and their humans. Pat is a registered Vet Tech and has been since 1987. Her medical background is especially helpful when working with injured animals during a disaster.



This Service is available to anyone that needs it. They always tell the owners to “meet them at the Roadblock” There isn’t any charge for their services other than if they transport large animals home after the disaster, then they do ask for gas money. Last October 2017 during the big fires here in Nevada County they took care of almost 600 animals, including pigs, a turkey, llamas and of course lots of horses as well as other livestock and small animals.

Pat has offered some suggestions on what individuals should do to prepare themselves and their 4 legged family members in case of a mandatory evacuation. Every member of the family should have an evacuation box including your pets. Here is a partial list; a 3 day supply of nonperishable food and water, prescriptions, a change of clothes sturdy shoes, flashlight, first-aid kit. Pat’s group offers talks on how to prepare for an evacuation if there are groups interested.

Once the disaster is over “Animal Evac” will give individuals instructions on how to safely return to their home/property. Such as keeping your dog’s /cats on leashes for at least 2 weeks. Walking your property to see if there are fences down as well as other hazards. Those are just a few potential hazards, depending on the disaster.

“Animal Evac” is always looking for new team members. There is an all-day orientation class on September 15th 2018. For more information on this you can call 530-477-6506. You can also find information on Facebook just search “Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team”.



As far as donations are concerned they always need donations during disasters - check out social media or PSA’s on the radio to help meet their needs. Throughout the year wire cages are always appreciated.

We are very lucky to have such a service in Nevada County. If you need help with your animals during a disaster call 530-557-5474 (this number is only on during a disaster). They will “meet you at the roadblock”. This organization sure helped Sammie’s Friends out in 2017 when we had to evacuate the whole shelter with 150 animals in it.

With the help of the response team, Sammie’s Friends was able to evacuate in 35 minutes, an amazing fete. Thanks, Pat.

Funny Stories from the Shelter

Working at Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter, there's never a dull moment. When staff and volunteers aren't taking care of our cats and dogs, they're helping the public recover their animals or adopt new furry friends. Sometimes, we'll have more dogs come in than we have kennels to put them in, and the work day becomes a classic pebble and shell game. Most days at the Kitty Cove involve playing a round or two of cat-based Tetris, trying to find new and inventive places to put cats once we've run out of cages... and then back-up cages... and then floor space to put all those extra cages!

But every once in awhile, something that goes above and beyond the regular insanity occurs. Those are the stories we tell people you'd have to see to believe.

Recently, Nevada County Animal Control brought in a very cross steer who had wandered onto someone's property. They'd loaded him up into their trailer without much issue, and Sammie's staff had set up a paddock for him out back. He was transferred in and seemed to be settling in when he decided that he wasn't happy with his accommodations, and was ready to leave.

He busted out of the paddock and charged around the back half of the shelter's parking area. Luckily, the gate to the driveway was closed, so he didn't escape into the wild blue yonder, but it still took two Animal Control officers and five Sammie's staff members a couple hours to secure the paddock and corral him back in. Suffice it to say, he was less than happy with us.

Two winters ago, Animal Control showed up and told us, "Do we have a fun surprise for you!" Sure enough, they'd brought us an African Desert Tortoise someone had found

at Lake of the Pines (it took us three days of arguing and a lot of Google searches to figure out just what kind of tortoise she was). When it came time to sex the poor girl, a staff member lifted her up to get a look at her belly - she did not care for this, and demonstrated her displeasure by peeing all over the staff members who were in her kennel at the time. We were all very happy to see her go home with her very relieved owners.

Nevada County Animal Control seem to be responsible for bringing us the most interesting animals, because just last year, they also brought us two 40-year-old parrots named Ajax and Cricket.

Both these birds knew how to talk, and talk they did! Ajax liked to introduce himself to everybody and whistle loudly while he rode around on staff members' shoulders. Cricket spent most of his time grumbling to himself and verbally abusing Animal Control whenever they stopped by to see how the boys were doing. Both of them spent much of their time in the old Cat-o-Rama out in back of the shelter; this was the perfect spot for them to learn new phrases.

One of their favorite things to do was wait until our volunteers came out to walk dogs, and then yell, "Coming out" or "Coming in" randomly to confuse our poor walkers. They also learned to call one of our staff members by name, so poor Evan would wander around the shelter, trying to figure out who was looking for him. We had to move them after a couple weeks because they were just getting into too much trouble out there.

It's rarely "normal" at Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter, but we wouldn't have it any other way!

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*

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

For questions call 530-471-5041



14647 McCourtney Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95949
Phone: 530 471 5041
Email:
info@sammiesfriends.org

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from the Board of Supervisors office and Mali Dyck from the CEO's office) to negotiate with us. Dan Castles, retired CEO of Telestream, was added as the voice of reason, not really representing either side. Together we worked hard and came up with a contract we all could agree to. Sammie's Friends signed the contract with the County Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2018, just in the nick of time, as the old contract expired on June 30, 2018.

We are most grateful to the Board of Supervisors for supporting us. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to Hank Weston, District 4, which includes the location of the shelter, for his never ending support, wisdom and common sense. Many thanks to our retiring CEO, Rick Haffey, who had the confidence in us way back in 2010 when we signed the first contract, and has continued to have confidence in Sammie's Friends through all of the trials and tribulations of contracting with the County.

Sammie's Friends has worked so hard for a very long time to do everything imaginable to help the animals in this community. We truly love animals. As one person said "Placer County has a brand new shelter, but Sammie's Friends has heart." Our physical shelter is pretty old and decrepit but the hearts of the Sammie's Friends team and our ever-loving volunteers are enormous. We were told by one of our adopters "In the process of adopting my dog, I visited 12 other shelters and Sammie's Friends was light years beyond any of them". I am so proud of our team and this whole community.

We send gratitude and our love to this wonderful community.

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 Volunteers who help to socialize and find forever homes for the unwanted dogs and cats of Nevada County.