



# 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 7 1/2 years that Sammie's Friends has managed the Animal Shelter, 12,000+ animals have been placed.
- \* Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter has a euthanasia rate of under one percent.
- \* In the 16 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 17,000 animals have received veterinary care from Sammie's Friends.
- \* In 2016 Sammie's Friends s/n over 2000 dogs and cats in the community.

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## THE PET OVERPOPULATION CRISIS IN NEVADA COUNTY

Pet overpopulation is a critical issue in our community, perhaps invisible to the community but to the rescue world it is all too apparent.

Sammie's Friends currently has **210 cats** (we should have no more than 60) 100 of these are kittens and the rest are adult cats ranging in age from 1 to 16. Where do we get all these cats and what do we do with them? With a Herculean effort we do get them all adopted. Most of them are stray cats that someone has abandoned.

Some are turned in by members of the family when the owner is too old to care for the cat and has moved to a care facility. Some are feral cats that have been trapped. At times unbelievable things happen, like back in December, an 18 foot trailer showed up with 108 cats and 1 dog and turned them all in. Each kitten season we receive **400 kittens**.

These numbers seem to remain constant in spite of our best efforts to reduce the population through s/n (s/n) vouchers available to the community for their animals. In addition 1550 shelter animals get s/n annually (about 15% have already been s/n) .

Since 2011 Sammie's Friends has raised \$230,000 for s/n animals in our community. A total of **6,766 community animals have been s/n** through our voucher program in the past 6 1/2 years. Sammie's Friends has

had close to **11,000 shelter animals s/n since 2010**. In addition, since AnimalSave opened its mobile clinic 10 years ago they have s/n 16,000 animals. Pound Puppy Rescue pays for 360 pitbulls, chihuahuas, huskies and malamutes to be s/n yearly. **This accounts for 2,500 s/n** in the past six years. The Grass Valley Animal Shelter spays/neuters close to 380 animals yearly.

**Over 5,000 animals are s/n by the local animal organizations annually and yet more needs to be done.** Hopefully

these statistics will give you an understanding of the pet overpopulation problem.



A giant thank you to the many organizations and individuals who care so deeply for the animals and the many ways that you all have and continue to help make life better for our four legged friends here in Nevada County.

Sammie's Friends is in the early stages of launching a major campaign to get as many cats

as possible s/n and try to reduce the number coming to the shelters. Trying to deal with all of these abandoned animals is wearing everyone out and the immense suffering for the animals is inhumane. Joanne Castles, Sammie's Friends Board Member and founder of Sammie's Nifty Thrift, will be heading up this s/n initiative. The goal of this initiative will be to clean up the cat overpopulation and reduce the suffering for the animals. You will be hearing more about this initiative and ways that you can help, on our facebook page and our web page and any other way we can get the word out.

**Stay tuned.**

# Sammie's Friends Walk-a-Thon

Sammie's Friends is always trying to raise money for the animals of Nevada County-- but where does all that money go? One example is Blu, a cat a member of the public brought to the vet with a broken leg. They couldn't afford to fix it, so surrendered the cat to Sammie's Friends. Our group paid \$226 to fix Blu's broken leg, neuter, and vaccinate him. We never even saw him at the shelter-- he was adopted by a staff member at the vet and got to go to a loving home!

Another example is Nero, a dog who was surrendered to Sammie's Friends last summer. When he came in, he had entropion eyelids (which means the insides of his eyelids were turned out and popping out of his eyes), which had blocked his tear ducts and led to severe dry eye. While at Sammie's Friends, Nero had 3 different surgeries at 2 different vets. Our group spent over \$2,600 on Nero's eyes! Sammie's doesn't spend money on cosmetic surgeries; all these medical procedures were necessary to improve Nero's quality of life, his eyesight and to relieve him of the endless pain this condition causes.

These are just a couple examples of what we've done with your help and support; we take on challenging medical problems for animals that have been turned over to the Nevada County Animal Shelter, and help provide funds to local vets to treat animals in need in our community. We greatly appreciate when our community supports fundraising efforts like our Wag-N-Walk-A-Thon, and all the money stays right here, where it makes a huge difference!

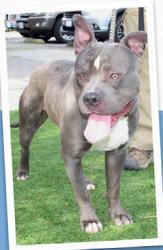
**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**  
**Bring your dog, your kids and your friends.**  
 Live music, food trucks, vendors, water misting tunnel, smiles and MORE!



**September 9, 2017**

Western Gateway Park  
 Penn Valley, CA

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
 (Registration begins at 8:00 am)



**Register today at**  
**SammiesFriends.org,**  
**and we'll see you**  
**there!**

Participants can run or walk laps around Western Gateway.

To get updates on the Wag-N-Walk-A-Thon, check our Facebook page and website, **SammiesFriends.org.**

**REGISTER TODAY at**  
**www.SammiesFriends.org**  
 All proceeds will help pay for the medical expenses of our shelter animals.

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Kim Hart

Kim Hart started out as a volunteer dog walker here at Sammie's Friends in 2013. She'd known Cheryl long before that, though, as she'd worked in local veterinary offices including Motherlode and Brunswick Vet Clinics.

A knee injury in 2014 kept her from walking, but didn't slow her down for long. In 2015, she was back at Sammie's again, this time as a foster parent for dogs in need of a little extra TLC (tender love and care). She's provided hospice care for an elderly dog and fosters two different sets of puppies.

Last year, she began coming in Sunday mornings to help out kennel staff by washing dishes. She also distributes and fills up water dishes, keeps the laundry going, and helps clean little dog kennels if it's really crazy. Kim says she enjoyed walking dogs, but she likes washing dishes too. "It puts me at the center of everything," she says. Working in the kitchen also allows her to interact more with staff and other volunteers. Kim has been taking on more and more days as a dishwasher-- she comes in most Thursday mornings when the shelter is short-staffed to help out more!

"I respect [the Sammie's Friends mission] so much," Kim said when asked about what she likes best about our organization. She says that her work in vet clinic offices has given her a good frame of reference of local shelter environments, so she can see very clearly just how far Sammie's Friends has brought the Nevada County Animal Shelter.

We love having Kim here at Sammie's-- she brings so much fun to Sunday mornings (and having help with the dishes is great too)!



## Seph Schwinn

If you've been around the cat building in the past few years, you've probably run into volunteer Seph Schwinn. Seph is an afternoon volunteer who comes in twice a week to help take care of the cats and close up shop; he's been coming in since 2013.

Seph says that, when he's volunteering, he prefers to spend time with the older cats, since they tend to get less attention from the public, especially during kitten season. Seph helps out by socializing the cats, cleaning, and helping with the closing chores like making sure everyone has food and water and taking the trash out.



He's also a real handyman-- he recently got a donated cat trap in working order so Sammie's can use it to help members of the public catch feral cats to get them spayed and neutered. When asked how he felt about the cats' new building, Seph said, "This is heaven!" He says it's amazing to see how much a little peace and quiet reduces the cats' stress.

Since he started volunteering in 2013, Seph has only adopted one cat from Sammie's Friends-- a bengal cat named Jake, who he took home about 2 years ago. He said that when he saw Jake interact with cats at Sammie's, he knew the one-year-old boy would be a perfect fit for his home.

Seph says his favorite part about volunteering at Sammie's Friends is watching cats and people meet their perfect match. "Seeing the right adoption happen is heartwarming," he said.

## Whatever Happened To?

### Taz's Tale as told to his Daddy, Mitch Ward

My name is Taz. I am a very handsome and charismatic guy, some would describe as a pit bull. I'm older now, ( I heard my peeps say I that I am eleven the other day), so now days, I move a bit slower and I have a bit of gray on my face.

These days, I spend a fair amount of time lying on the grass in the sun or out by the pool, or on the couch if it's rainy outside. I used to work at Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter. Thankfully, my Union Representative (Mamma Cheryl) negotiated what I call the platinum all access retirement package for me. That makes me the only dog allowed on the couch.



My life hasn't always been this cushy though. When I was just a pup, I had it a bit rough. There was even a human or two who were just plain mean. I got real sick one time and I thought that might be it for me since I needed an operation and my adopter couldn't afford it. Sammie's Friends stepped in and paid for the operation and the good Dr. Avery at For The Love of Pets fixed me right up. I learned a valuable lesson from that experience, it turns out garden hose is fun and satisfying to chew on but it does not digest well.

Ultimately, my people at the time brought me to Sammie's Friends and left me for adoption. I spent the next six months of my life at the Shelter. Then one day, a nice lady decided to take me home. I knew she was looking at me since I had seen her several times at the Shelter. When she took me to her home I liked it right away. Both she and her husband were very nice. The place that would become my forever home had plenty of yard outside and there was another dog that was pretty cool, a big black Lab named Jack. We hit it off right away, and to top it off, the chow was great and twice a day. The icing on the cake? The neighbors had chickens. We'll talk more about that next time. The sun is just right for a nap. Bye for now. *Taz*.

**P.S.** Taz first came to the Nevada County Animal Shelter when he was about 2 months old in 2006. He was such a great puppy and kind of a big puppy. Cheryl adored him from the first moment she laid eyes on him. Taz had it all - cute as could be and a great temperament. The other puppies always seemed comforted by being with Big Boy, Taz. Taz is one of the few puppies that we have kept in touch with through the entire 11 years of his life.

### Murphy as told by his Mama, Estella Brown



It was love at first sight, the first time I met Murphy. I started as a Cat Volunteer in 2011. At that time Murphy shared the front office with another cat, Taffy. He was the favorite feline of many of the staff. Clumsy and awkward because of a birth defect, he really had no idea he was handicapped. There were no limits for this little guy. He reminded me of a little marionette with his long deliberate careful gait. His back end did not always move in the same direction as his front end. In watching him, you were either worried or amused by his "get along". He could easily lose his balance and end up falling over, and at times do a complete somersault. Still he managed to get around and cause his share of mischief.

As I made my way around cleaning and feeding the front lobby area, Murphy's home turf, I'd catch him reaching into the cat cages trying to pull over the bowls of food so he could steal, no, not steal, relocate the food to his little tummy. He was rather on the lean side in those days. I was told he was not available for adoption, as he and Taffy were the official office cats and permanently lived there. That made me sad because I really liked this kitty, so I went no further with the possibility. Then one dreadful day, the worst happened to Murphy. He was attacked by a dog in the office. The staff thought they were going to lose Murphy but he survived this tragic ordeal. Murphy needed extra care to recover from this unfortunate situation. Murphy went to a foster home to recover and upon his return he wasn't the same. He had been traumatized. Murphy retreated to the director's office upon his return to the shelter. The office staff worried about him. The staff, concerned for his wellbeing, started looking for a forever home for him. The office sent out a notice to all the volunteers that might be interested in adopting him.

I responded, and as fate would have it I became the proud mom of Murphy. I've had Murphy now for almost 5 years. This is his forever ever home. He gets plenty of food and lots of love from me and his two feline brother's, Zippy and Chopin. He has plenty of sand boxes with regular maid service, an outdoor screened cat patio to enjoy fresh air and a little sunshine. He even has his very own "Murphy Kitty Cave", which he loves. He gets the famous "Lion cut" 2 times a year. What a pampered life indeed. Thanks Sammie's Friends for my little blessing, Murphy.

## “eScrip”

**What is the easiest and most lucrative way to raise money?** That question is simple to answer – it’s eScrip! Why? Because it costs you absolutely **nothing** and requires none of your time!

Where does eScrip participate and how can contributions be made in your name supporting Sammie’s Friends and ultimately our furry animals? eScrip runs the scrip programs for SPD and Save Mart, and has partnered with Benefit-Mobile.com

How does each program work?

**SPD and Save Mart:** If you shop at either of these stores all that has to be done is to let me register you as a supporter. Once you are registered with SPD all you do is ask the cashier to scan the Community Card you will receive (or ask the cashier to enter your telephone number). At Save Mart just enter your telephone number on their key pad when checking out!

Once you are registered, SPD and Save Mart will send a contribution to Sammie’s Friends equal to 3% of the groceries you buy. This contribution will be made in your name!

**Benefit Mobile, Inc.** This is a mobile app you download on your smart phone. It costs you NOTHING and can raise thousands of dollars for Sammie’s Friends. PLEASE check out this app (benefit-mobile.com) on your smart phone (iphone or android). You will be amazed at the stores that participate and more come on line every month. Locally there is CVS, Starbucks, Staples, K-Mart, Petco, Panda Express, Burger King, JC Penney, IHop, and others. Participating stores down the hill and on line include Walmart, Target, Nordstrom, Lowes, Home Depot, Amazon, Nike, Old Navy, REI, Best Buy, Land’s End, L.L. Bean, Bass Pro Shop, Stub Hub, Airbnb, Southwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, American Airlines, lots of chain restaurants and hundreds of other merchants.

How much are we earning through eScrip? Here’s a chart showing what we are making per month through the eScrip program.

Monthly eScrip Earnings				
Month	SPD	Save Mart	Benefit	Total
April 2017	\$1,500	\$ 840	\$190	\$2,350
May 2017	1,630	980	155	2,765
June 2017	1,600	1,025	140	2,765

If you have already been signed up as an eScrip supporter with SPD or Save Mart, please remember to use your Community Card at SPD (or ask the cashier to enter your telephone number); and enter your telephone number on the key pad when shopping at Save Mart. It really is that simple! **If you haven’t signed up, let me do that for you. Call or email me (Joanne Castles 530-701-7098 / jcastles@sbcglobal.net).** I can also answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the benefit-mobile.com app.

### Sammie’s Nifty Thrift Shop continues to THRIVE!

Nifty’s just celebrated their 4 Year Anniversary (last April) and what a success this thrift store has been!

Google “thrift stores in Grass Valley, Ca” and you’ll find a list of 20 different stores located throughout our area. That is a whole lot of competition and we are proud to say we have held our own and have done very well.

Clothing is our biggest selling item and averages around 29% of our gross sales. Our next largest selling category is Household (dishes, kitchen appliances, glassware, etc.) coming in at around 15-16%. Furniture is our third highest selling category and accounts for 10% of our sales. Linens and Books are the next two highest categories at around 5%; and then Jewelry, Toys/Games, Shoes, Electronics and Bric-a-Brac all come in between 3-4% of our sales. We also have a category called “Holiday” and during November and December we sell a lot of Thanksgiving and Christmas items. Last year Holiday sales in November and December were 17% and 19% of gross sales, respectively.

We’re open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and accept donations every day until 4:00 pm. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please come in and fill out an application; we’d love to have you!

***We thank you for your support by volunteering, donating and shopping at Sammie’s Nifty Thrift Shop!***

## Nevada County Parasitology 101

*Tom Strolle, DVM  
Best Friends Animal Clinic*

Most veterinarians can eat lunch while talking about parasites and poop. We're just weird like that but if you are not, perhaps finish eating before reading on.

Nevada County is a beautiful rural area in which to live, and we share it with a number of parasites, but let's not get too worked up about it. With a little caution, some prevention and proper medical care, the real risk is pretty low. Here's a brief description of the most common parasites in the county, and from the outside in, we will start with insects.

Mosquitos are a problem because they transmit heartworm from animal to animal (dogs and cats!). Your pets do not need contact with any other animal to get heartworm. Luckily, this one is the easiest to prevent with a monthly treatment. Ticks carry many different bacteria such as Lyme and Anaplasma. If the tick stays attached long enough, it can transmit these to your pets. Now, whether or not your pet gets sick from them depends on their immune system.

Avoiding tick-infested areas is not always possible and even with the best tick preventatives, you may still see a few ticks on your pet. At least the diseases they transmit are treatable with antibiotics. Fleas are nasty, dirty, itchy AND carry tapeworms and some bacteria that can make your pets sick. The best tick preventatives also prevent fleas. Ear mites and skin mites that cause mange are too small to see without a microscope. We can see the hair loss and/or severe itching they cause, and these days they are easy to eliminate with medical treatment.

The last one is mostly just really gross. Flies can lay their eggs on our pets which then hatch into larvae (maggots!). We mostly see this happen in dogs that have open wounds or sores on their body. Treating the wounds properly in the first place is the take home message here.

On the inside, we deal mainly with roundworms, tapeworms and giardia which is a one celled organism. We already learned that tapeworms come from fleas. Roundworms and giardia are contracted by what we call fecal-oral transmission. Folks, this means eating poop or drinking poop contaminated water. Let's face it, dogs eat and drink gross things (cats usually don't: score one for cats). These gross things can also contain bacteria like leptospira, salmonella, clostridia and others that can cause varying degrees of illness from colitis (most common) to kidney failure (least common). Proper medical care is the key here.

We will end with a rare oddball. If the gross thing your dog eats is raw fish guts from a salmon or a trout, the dog could get a parasite worm called a fluke. This fluke isn't really a problem except that it can carry a bacteria that can then make your dog so sick, that without prompt treatment, some dogs die from it. Fisher people beware and dispose of your fish guts properly!



## What To Do When There is a Dog Fight

The single biggest problem dog owner's have with their dogs is aggression. Dog aggression and people aggression are not always the same thing. This article will only cover dog on dog aggression.

As a dog owner you may be faced with a dog fight in your home or at the dog park or even in the street. These things happen when you are least prepared for it. First word of advice is know your dog(s). But sometimes even in the best of situations a dog fight ensues over a play toy or your attention or food, etc.

Some dogs (not many) truly do need to be only pets. Most with proper guidance from puppyhood will not be in dog fights. As a person who works at a shelter I have been in a few dog fights. They are memorable and something not to be repeated. I have broken up a couple of dog fights at the dog park (they weren't even my own dogs, but the owners did not know what to do).

There are preventative measures that you can take long before the thought of a dog fight has even entered your mind. After all, no one gets a dog thinking they are going to have dog fights. Sometimes dogs who have lived together for years suddenly have an unexpected fight.

A well trained dog is a well behaved dog (so train your dog) which will minimize the likelihood of a fight. Dogs are like children in some ways, what starts out as play gets a little too rough and in the turn of a second it's "game on." If your dog is well trained it will be easier to call it off if does get into a scrap.

The best time to stop a dog fight is before it gets started. Body language will indicate that things are tensing up. That is the time to show leadership and grab your dog(s) and redirect them to something else. Some signs that you might notice are a stiff flagging tail (different from a happy wagging loose tail) growling, licking lips, eyes targeting or averting, hackles (hair on nape of neck standing up). If on a leash your dog might lunge.

If you miss those signs and a full fledged fight breaks out then you must figure out some way to break it up without getting in the middle of it and getting yourself hurt. Sometimes dogs will redirect on to you if they can't get to the other dog. The most likely thing to occur is getting your hand bitten as you try to grab the collar. Methods that can work are grabbing a hind leg, if you can, (sometimes hard to do while the dog is jumping and hopping and wiggling) and pull the dog away from the other dog. If you can, grab the leg of the aggressor as the other dog may back off. If you grab the non-aggressor the aggressor will just keep coming. You are now dealing with animals who are stimulated and worked up and want to finish and win the battle.



If a fight breaks out at home, like in the back yard, you can always use the garden hose to spray them with water. The closer you get and the stronger the stream hitting them right in the face the better your chances of breaking it up. Sometimes your own voice can be a weapon. A brave leadership kind of "stop it right now" can work. An "I'm scared to death" stop it won't help. Your own focused energy can be a big help, scattered weak energy won't help. You can use chairs to forge your way in between and still have protection. Whistles, "Pet Corrector", clatter sticks and other noise making things can be effective.

If you walk on trails where others have their not well behaved dogs off leash come charging at your dog and ready for the attack it is good to be prepared. A little stun gun (not a taser) or some pepper spray can be helpful. I have these items and have never used them. Just having them allows me to project powerful, focused take charge energy telling the dog "You are not going to get by with this."

Be prepared, stay centered and project good strong energy and that's your best shot at breaking things up before anyone gets hurt.

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](http://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**



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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](mailto: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.