



# 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 Sammie's Friends' first 3 years of managing the Animal Shelter, 5000 animals have been placed.
- Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter has a euthanasia rate of just under one percent.
- In the 12 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 12,000 animals have received veterinary care from Sammie's Friends.
- In 2012 Sammie's Friends spayed/neutered over 2000 dogs and cats in the community.

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## A Heartfelt Thanks To The Community Which Never Lets Us Down

As we begin our new five year contract with Nevada County it is the perfect time for Sammie's Friends to thank the community for all of their support.

Since 2001, over 500 people have volunteered. Some move on and others fill their shoes.

Our beloved, Fran Cole, has been a volunteer since the beginning and others have volunteered more than 8 years. Volunteers are amazing. They walk dogs, cuddle cats, clean cat cages, work in the office, transport animals, write grants and much more. They bring their good will and enthusiasm every single day.

As of March, 25 volunteers have signed up to work at Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store. This exciting venture was begun by Board Member and volunteer, Joanne Castles. The proceeds from the thrift store support Sammie's Friends activities.

More than 50 people foster our animals. During kitten season we receive 500 kittens. It takes an army to foster all these young kittens. Please spay/neuter folks.

Two volunteers foster our old kitties in renal failure. We say our blessings every day for the gift they are to these old guys. We have fosters for sick or injured animals and our mother dogs and puppies.

Our foster families are gold. During the height of kitten season (summer months) we have nearly as many animals in foster homes as we do in the shelter. We have folks who foster our

horses and even a six foot long boa constrictor (Thank goodness.)

In addition to all the people who generously give of their time; many donate money, food, blankets, scratching posts and much more. We receive half of our funding from the county and depend on the generosity of individuals and private foundations to make up the difference.

Sammie's Friends' community program is nearly as big as the shelter program. Each year 800 animals receive veterinary care, that otherwise would be left to suffer, as their owners are unable to pay for adequate care. This care is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and foundations. The spaying/neutering of 2,000 community animals is made possible by these same generous donations. Every month food, available through a grant, is taken to North San Juan and Washington for the cats and dogs.

A giant thanks to all the help we receive from our talented and generous veterinary community. Without them we would be unable to do what we do. The veterinary community helps us with 1000's of animals every year.

Sammie's Pit Stop/Canine Academy, a doggie training and rehab center, is a joint effort between Sammie's Friends founder, Cheryl Wicks and Beverley Ward, doggie behavior expert extraordinaire. She works with the shelter dogs at the shelter and also at Sammie's Pit Stop and takes in animals from the public to rehab. Beverley's

amazing abilities with dogs contributes greatly to our successful placement rate.

Many businesses have been immensely generous with Sammie's Friends, through monetary donations and goods and services. SPD and their eScrip program creates an amazing amount of support for Sammie's Friends.

Last but not least is the amazing, small in number (3 1/2 people), but mighty, staff at the shelter. They are dedicated to the animals and always there to assist anyone with an animal issue. We work in collaboration with Animal Control and could not do what we do without their dedicated help. Thank you Animal Control for being our partner and doing such a good job.

I bow in gratitude and pray every day for this continued good fortune. It is amazing that so many people come together out of good will and love for the animals to make this happen every single day, rain or snow, and holidays. The animals eat and drink and poop and pee every single day and there is always someone there to provide for them.

**THANK YOU!**

**With love and gratitude,  
Cheryl and Curt**



**Did You Know...**

*Lack of funds is not a reason to leave your cat or dog unspayed/un-neutered.*

*There are two low cost clinics you can use:*

*Animal Spay and Neuter Clinic:  
530-889-8800*

*AnimalSave:  
530-477-1706*

*You can get vouchers from Sammie's Friends.*

*Or for additional financial support you can call:*

- For pitbulls and chihuahuas:  
*Kathleen at Pound Puppy Rescue  
530-274-8079*

- For cats and other breeds of dogs  
*Cheryl at Sammie's Friends 530-471-5041*

**Microchipping and Lucky Excellent Adventures**

**W**ould you ever think of microchipping your dog? You ought to!!!!!!

**One day, in June, a man brought a cute little lab to the shelter** saying that he had found her in his neighborhood and had asked around and no one seemed to claim her. He was sad that he was unable



*My pal's at home in New Mexico, so I'm doing the photo op 'cause we look so much alike!*

to keep her but he couldn't, so he turned her into Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter. Debbie scanned her and sure enough she had a microchip.

Debbie called the microchip company and they said the dog had been reported missing in November (8 months earlier) from New Mexico. We called the people and incredulously they said "How did our dog get to California?" Of course we don't know. We assume that she got out at home and someone picked her up, didn't think to scan her, assumed she was a stray and brought the dog home with them to California. No one in California ever came looking for her. The husband part of the couple that owned the dog was being deployed the next day for Afghanistan and the wife part of the couple was very pregnant and thought a drive to California and back in one weekend would be too much. It turns out they had a friend in Marysville who was

being deployed on a Sunday and so she came and got the dog and put her on a plane to New Mexico on Saturday.

All is well in New Mexico and the family is happily rejoined.

**George's excellent Northern California adventure.**

George, a very cute well behaved pitbull, came to us one day by a person who said he had been wandering around his neighborhood for a week. He said he'd looked around and couldn't find an owner. This later turned out not to be true. We scanned George and sure enough he had a microchip. He had been microchipped at the Los Angeles County Animal Shelter. As a pitbull he's lucky he made it out of there alive. He was rescued by a rescue in Los Angeles. With the help of the shelter we were able to locate the rescue that had had him and figure out how he got all the way to Grass Valley. George had been adopted to someone near Sacramento.

The person from the rescue drove George the 400 miles to get him here. Apparently the person who adopted him shortly thereafter left for the east coast and just left the dog with the son of the people who brought him to the shelter. The son, who is a student at UC Davis, could not keep him, so he gave him to a friend who had a little farm. George killed a chicken, so he couldn't keep him. Then the parents of the student took him and brought him to us. Their story about him being a stray in the neighborhood was not quite accurate.

Next step – how was George going to get back to L. A.? The rescue really wanted him back. However, it takes a little planning to drive 800 miles both ways to pick George up. A volunteer offered to drive him to Placerville where a private pi-

lot flew him to Bakersfield and the rescue picked him up there and drove him to L.A. We have the best volunteers – Jane met George at the shelter at 6:30 A.M. so he could be in Placerville by 8:00 A.M. to catch his plane. The pilot said George was his first pitbull and George made his breed proud by being a perfect gentleman. He sat in a seat belt and traveled well that way.

Upon arrival back in L.A., George had to go to a day care center because his rescue foster home had been given to some other dog in his absence. What a shame! Tsk Tsk! George gets to play with other dogs all day long. I would say George's trip up this way was well worth it.



*I've met some wonderful humans during my excellent adventure! My question now is, "where are MY pajamas"?*

A giant thanks to the many people who helped George on his excellent Northern California adventure. **Once again –thank goodness for the microchip.**

*~ Love, Cheryl*



**Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop – UPDATE!**

No doubt many of you have already been to Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store on East Main Street in Grass Valley. Those of you who haven't are missing out on a great thrift store opportunity!

The Nifty Thrift Shop opened on March 2nd of this year and had quite the Grand Opening, with a Grand Total of over \$7,000 in sales on just that first day!!!! Since that first day the Store has prospered, allowing Sammie's Friends to help a whole lot of animals!!

The store has done so well that two part-time managers were hired in June; Mitzi Klagenberg and Jeanette George. In August two more part-time employees were hired to run the donation area; Julie Sundal and Stacie Hart. Nifty's has about 20 to 25 volunteers contributing approximately 30 volunteers hours per day. The Nifty Thrift Shop is a very busy operation!!



Donations to the store come from individual drop-offs which are accepted Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Big volume donations through estate and moving sales have also contributed to the large inventory that Nifty's carries. Clay Carroll, Dan Castles and Matt Klagenberg, along with Joanne and Mitzy, have been instrumental in picking up these big-volume donations, and it's no easy task!!

You can find a large assortment of thrifty items in the store. Clothing and furniture are the biggest income-generators but they also have books, household items, sporting goods, crafts, jewelry, games, toys, electronics and linens.

You can find Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop at 627 East Main Street, the storefront previously leased by Muttley's Pets. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10AM to 5PM. The phone number is 273-0603. And, if you go into the store, you might say hello to resident kitty Patches or maybe adopt the current foster kitty, Muffin, a female Calico cat.

Thanks again to Joanne Castles and Mitzi Klagenberg, and all of the many volunteers who have been involved in making The Nifty Thrift Shop a reality - and a huge success!!

~ Joanne Castles

**Kudo's to Laura Miller**

Some well-deserved Kudo's for Laura Miller who has helped "Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop" tremendously.

Laura handles "Estate Sales" for a variety of reasons; sometimes due to the passing of a loved one, someone moving into an assisted living facility, or owners relocating and moving out of the area. She handles all aspects

of the estate sale by meeting with the client to establish their needs, setting up and pricing every item, advertising for the sale and then conducting the sale itself.

There are always items that do not sell and most homeowners choose to donate the remaining items to a non-profit. Laura gives the owner a list of local non-profits that will pick up the

items and she always puts in a good word for us! We have had several pick-ups from her estate sales and I believe that is the difference between Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop doing really well to doing EXCELLENT. Thank you Laura!!

For any "estate sale" needs you can contact Laura at 265-4545 or [lauramillerestatesales.com](http://lauramillerestatesales.com).



***Sammie - Forever Our Inspiration!***



*Without Sammie  
there would be no Sammie's Friends.  
Sammie was born on March 31, 1991 –  
"Easter Sunday"  
A time of new beginnings.*

*We Love You Forever,  
Mama and Cwutie*

### Volunteer Spotlight

**Joanne Castles became a Sammie's Friends volunteer in a big way.** Her first position was as a member of the Board of Directors where she helps with the strategic planning for the organization!

Joanne's involvement with the Animal Shelter and with Sammie's Friends started innocently enough (it always does!) when she honored a promise to her two daughters, Mallory and Miranda, then aged 12 and 10 respectively, to allow them to get a dog. In 2003 they fostered a Black Lab named Missy who was pregnant with 8 puppies. Ultimately they adopted one of the male pups that they named Mister.

Since then Joanne and her family have fostered 20 to 30 Shelter dogs, many of whom were pregnant pitbulls. They give the momma dogs a clean, secure place to have their pups, keeping watchful eyes on all of them, and they keep the canine families until the pups are weaned: at that point mom and pups are put up for adoption. This arrangement is so much better for the dogs than having mom and pups living at the Shelter!

Joanne and her family kept a second puppy, born to a Chihuahua momma named Bailey. The pup, whom they named Otis, is now 6 years old. Mister, now 10 years old, is also still with them

Mallory and Miranda both went through the Grass Valley School District and graduated from Nevada Union High School. When the girls were in 2nd and 4th grades, Joanne was President of the School's PTC and started the Grocery eScrip program to raise money for Bell Hill, Scotten, Hennessey, Grass Valley Charter and Lyman Gilmore schools.

Once her girls started high school, Joanne started the eScrip program at Nevada Union High. Then when the girls graduated, she turned her focus from children to animals and started the program for Sammie's Friends. She actively runs the program which brings in between \$1,500 and \$1,600 per month. Joanne believes these amounts will increase significantly because of her

constant recruiting of new members through Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop.

Joanne has also helped with the transporting of dogs and cats to veterinary appointments or to their new homes. There are a lot of animals who need transportation and, with the small number of Staff at the Shelter, it is so helpful to have volunteers help in this area.



*Joanne and Patches-the-Cat (the Thrift Shop Kitty)*

And then there's Sammie's Friends Nifty Thrift Shop at 627 E. Main St in Grass Valley. She and cohort Mitzi

Klagenberg conspired to open a thrift shop to benefit the animals of Nevada County. Within a short couple of months the idea came to fruition with the store opening on March 2nd of this year. Joanne ran financial projections, located an appropriate space, helped determine placement of the merchandise and incorporated the work of a group of men who call themselves "The Monkeys" who did all the construction and heavy work needed to convert the retail space into a thrift shop.

Joanne is quick to give The Monkeys tons of credit for the hours of work they contributed to the cause. Thanks again, Mike, Nor, Norm, Don, Jon, Elliot, Tom and Lance!!!!

Thank you, Joanne, for all that you do for Sammie's Friends. With your drive and your vision, you have made a HUGE difference in the financial health of the organization.

The animals are lucky to have you on their side!

**Darrel Smith first came to the Nevada County Animal Shelter in early 2006** after reading a "puff

piece" in the Union about a very old dog who was in desperate need of a Forever Home. The story tugged at his heartstrings so he went in to adopt the old dear, only to find that someone else had already adopted him. Instead of leaving with the dog, he signed up to join the ranks of the Shelter Dog Walkers.

He has continued to walk dogs on regular shifts and has taken many, many Sub shifts, as well, when someone can't take their shift.

Not too long after that, Darrel adopted a 3 year old Pitt mix (a "Heinz 57" doggie) named Wanda. At the time he had six cats and this was his first attempt at integrating a dog into his feline household. It worked!! And, more importantly, it was the beginning of a long line of foster dogs whom he has brought home and kept until Forever Homes were found. Of course, some of the dogs never left. He called them "failed fosters" but really he became so attached that he just couldn't let them go. Consequently he now has six dogs: Wanda (now about 9 years old), Moe the Troublemaker (a Jack Russell-Doxie), Mango (a deaf CattleDog), Jeti (a fox terrier), Gus (a Chihuahua) and Kira (a Chihuahua mix that he's currently fostering). He still has six cats as well. Quite the household of four-legged family members!

As well as fostering animals, Darrel has done a lot of "transporting" of Shelter animals to and from the vet.

Darrel's work with animals started in 1999 when he worked with Pet Adoption League, feeding a colony of feral cats. He has also worked with Scooter's Pals, fostering animals for them since 2009. He also worked their front desk, retrieved donations, helped with fundraising and transported animals. He has a soft spot for "Hospice Dogs" and in 2008 he took in Buck, a Shepherd mix with a large tumor on his side, and Buster, a very Senior Pitbull.

Darrel's big heart extends beyond a love of animals. He keeps an eye on his elderly parents who live close by. He also worked with the Aids Foundation, acting as President of the Board of Directors for the Sierra Foothills chapter of the Foundation.

Sammie's Friends thanks Darrel for all he does, not only for our animals but for any and all of the animals that he helps in Nevada County. His love for them seems boundless.



*Darrel and his little Shelter friend, Nikki*



## Planing for Emergency Evacuation



We are so fortunate to live in the natural beauty of Nevada County. But there is one element that is a huge problem for us and that is fire. If you face imminent danger from fire, you may have to evacuate. The key to a successful evacuation is planning and it needs to be done well before the smoke starts rising!

This article addresses the issue of what to do for your pets in the case of an evacuation. Obviously you need to have a plan for yourself and your two-legged family members. If you don't have one, the following are good sources for information:

**Fire Safe Council of Nevada County - 265-272-1122 or AreYouFireSafe.com**

**The County's Office of Emergency Services - 265-1515 or MyNevadaCounty.com**

There are several aspects to an Evacuation Plan. You need to know how to get the information, where to take your pets and what to take with you.

### GETTING INFORMATION

Sign up with the County Emergency Notification System which provides automated phone and email contact when there is an emergency.

County Emergency Notification System - If you have an ATT phone, your number is already in the system. For all other phone providers (including your cell phone) you will need to register. You can go to MyNevadaCounty.com but their input template doesn't work well. So email or call Victor Ferrara at Office of Emergency Services: victor.ferrera@co.nevada.ca.us or 265-1515

For information specific to preparing a plan for your pets: CVMA (California Veterinary Medical Association) volunteer Pat Ehlers - 477-6506 or 913-6506. Pat can give you advice about preparations specifically relating to animals

### WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO TAKE TO ARRANGE FOR A SAFE HAVEN

Check with any friends and relatives who live away from your area to see if they could keep your animals in the case of an emergency.

Make a list of boarding facilities and/or veterinarians who could shelter animals - get 24-hour phone numbers if available. Particularly check outside your immediate area - for phone numbers and directions.

Check with motels outside of the area for ones that allow pets. Make a list with their current contact information.

\*\*\*Keep in mind that there may be a lot of people scrambling for a place to land. You may want to

include a list of places farther than you'd like to be but which may be under less demand. And look in all directions: Auburn, Marysville, Colfax, Tahoe.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Note that Red Cross Shelters generally do not allow pets, except official disabled persons assistance animals.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Also note that our local Animal Shelters have limited space and will not be able to accommodate a big influx of animals. For that matter, the Shelters may need to evacuate, too!\*\*\*

### PET IDENTIFICATION

Of course, you always want to have identification on your animals. But, in an emergency, this becomes critically important because they may become separated from you, either because they can freak out and bolt or because you need to leave them at a kennel or Shelter. If your animal doesn't normally wear tags, get some! Make them, if necessary!! Have collars with IDs in your Evacuation Kit and put them on before you leave home. Make sure identification materials are current and include your name and phone number(s).

Photos of your pets, particularly photos of your pets and you together, can be extremely helpful if you are separated from your animal(s).

### YOU SMELL SMOKE!!

Or you have been notified, either by the County or by the media or any other source, that there is a fire.

**DIAL 2-1-1** - They provide non-emergency assistance such as evacuation routes, shelter housing options, places for food & water, social services, traffic and road closures, and animal evacuation information.

### LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATIONS

KVMR - 89.5FM or 105.1FM (in Truckee area only)

KNCO - 830AM

STAR - 94.1FM

KVMR is the Official Emergency Broadcast Station because there is a broadcaster in the studio 24/7. But all stations will be covering an emergency situation.

### ON THE INTERNET

www.YubaNet.com - does a fabulous job of keeping abreast of "breaking" news.

www.KVMR.org - has a link on its Homepage for "Earth, Wind and Fire."

www.TheUnion.com - would also provide information

### OTHER HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

NEVADA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES 265-1515

COUNTY OR CITY PERSONNEL - 911

\*\*\*Keep in mind that these lines will be swamped with calls. Do NOT use them unless you absolutely need to do so.\*\*\*

**Enclose your cats or fearful animals.** Put them in a room (bathroom?) where you will be able to get them quickly and easily in the event of an evacuation.

**Corral your horses in a fenced area or in the barn.** Have them haltered and ready to go.

**Load your evacuation materials into the vehicle that you will take.**

**If you have a Safe Haven Plan for your animals, make contact with them.**

### EVACUATE!!!

There are various levels of evacuation: 1) you may be advised to be ready to go but not to evacuate (unless you so choose); 2) evacuation may be mandatory; 3) the last option is particularly scary: you could be told that it's too late to evacuate and that you should stay in place. You would, however, stay ready to leave in case conditions changed and the evacuation order were to be restored.

You will need to stay informed as to what your situation is.

**RADIO** - be sure to have a battery-powered radio (and back-up batteries). The radio will be your best source of information as you're evacuating.

**EVACUATION ROUTES:** Will be broadcast on the radio stations. There will also be law enforcement personnel out on the streets giving directions.

**CVMA Volunteer Pat Ehlers will be "at the roadblock."** Just get everybody and everything loaded up and take the route prescribed. You will see Pat and she'll tell you your options.

There is little question about whether to take your companion animals - Yes! of course! Horses, because of their size, present a bigger problem. The advice is **Do NOT leave your horses behind!** Put them in trailers and drive them out. If you don't have enough trailer space, you can halter the horses and lead them out with the trailer or on foot. Even if your barn is in a fire-safe location, still do not leave them! The smoke can kill them. Be sure to close the doors to the (empty) barn. Any loose animals are likely to return to the barn.

### EVACUATION KIT FOR DOGS AND CATS

Use a sturdy container that is easily accessed and carried.

Plan for at least three days but pack extra medication.

1 gallon of water per pet per day - refresh every two months

Dry or canned food - refresh every 6 months

Manual can opener - for wet food

Bowls for the water and the food

Medication (in sturdy, waterproof containers)

First aid kit

Leashes, harnesses and/or carriers

Litter box and litter for cats

Blanket (to carry or cover fearful animal)

Garbage bag, dish soap, paper towels

Current photos of animals and owners (together)

Contact numbers for the vet(s)

If one or more of your animals has a current medical condition, include specific records and instructions in case you need to leave your animals somewhere other than where you'll be.

If you need to enclose animals in carriers, make sure they'll all fit in the car!

### EVACUATION KIT FOR HORSES

15 gallons per horse per day

Hay and feed

Medications

Identification information and photos

Halters

Contact numbers for vet(s)

### PET EMERGENCY MEDICAL KIT

Antiseptic cleansing pads

Antibiotic ointment

Hydrogen peroxide

Eye wash

Gauze pads and/or gauze roll bandage

1" first aid tape

scissors

tweezers

vinyl exam gloves

You can buy a "Deluxe" First Aid Kit online from the ASPCA for \$39.99.

See [www.aspcasonlinestore.com](http://www.aspcasonlinestore.com)

## Sammie's Anniversary Celebration Was A Hit!

The weather was just perfect for Sammie's Friends Anniversary Celebration which took place at the Shelter on Saturday, July 20th, from noon to 4PM. It was a success in every way with 13 animals (3 adult dogs, 5 puppies, 2 adult cats and 3 kittens) getting their Forever Homes and \$1923 raised to help Sammie's Friends care for the animals at the Shelter and within our Community.

There was a steady stream of people arriving from the start. They were met first by the music of Albert Martinez who played guitar and sang. (He also did some fine doggie-howling!!) Outside there was food and fundraising activities in the form of silent auction and raffle prizes. There were hot dogs (with the fixings), brownies and drinks.



Lucy the dog and her new mom Alison

Thanks to Dave Flanders for manning the hot dog station. Bob Peterson of Lazy Dog Ice Cream came with his distinctive pink cart full of frozen treats. And Kali Freele had a table displaying hand-made jewelry and key chains for sale. Raffle prizes included artwork



Albert Martinez sings for the animals

(paintings, ceramics, a metal sculpture, glass yard art), gift certificates, animal related accessories and other assorted goodies. Silent auction items included various goods and services with tree-work by Tim the Tree Man bringing in the highest bid.



The raffle table, a chance to win a great donated item!

Inside the Shelter the kennels were decorated and the animals were freshly-bathed and spiffed up to look their best. There were lots of volunteers inside the kennels to help prospective adopters and signs on each kennel with information about the animals. Cheryl, Curt and several volunteers staffed the Front Desk and they were kept plenty busy with people hoping to find their new Best Friends.



Kali at her home-made jewelry stand

A special thanks to Carol Cox for taking the lead in organizing this event!! And, of course, thanks to the many other volunteers who helped before and during the event: it's a big undertaking but so worth all the effort!

## Motorcycle Poker Ride - "Ride for Sammie's Friends IV"

**Saturday, October 12th**, is the date set for "Ride for Sammie's Friends IV". Mark your calendar for this very fun event!

The ride is a Motorcycle Poker ride, although car "riders" are also welcome. Riders will start at the Rough & Ready Fire Department, at 14506 Rough & Ready highway and go through the back roads of the historic Sierra Foothills, finishing at Condon Park in Grass Valley. At each stop along the route the riders will draw a card from the deck.

At the end of the ride each participant will have five cards which constitute his or her hand. There will be a \$600 prize for the high hand and a \$400 prize for the low hand.

Also, at the end of the ride, the Grass Valley Host Lions will provide a barbecue lunch of hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs. There will be beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase. And there will be music for your listening enjoyment and for dancing. There will also be a raffle with lots of

prizes from which to choose. There will also be a 50-50 drawing. People buy tickets specific to this drawing - the winner gets 50% of the take and Sammie's Friends gets the other half.

If you're interested in participating in the ride, you can pre-register on-line at [www.SammiesFriends.org](http://www.SammiesFriends.org) (after August 15th). Also registration will take place the day of the event at the Fire Department between 9 and 10:30 AM. The fee for a single rider is \$30 or \$55 for two riders who share a bike or a car. Each rider gets his or her own hand of cards. Registration includes a t-shirt, ride pin and lunch.

**This will be the fourth Motorcycle Poker Ride that Claudia Ellis has organized for Sammie's Friends.** The first three were in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The 2008 Ride had 120 people

participating. It's a really fun event and a great fundraiser for Sammie's Friends. Claudia's husband, Ralph Ellis, her sister Cheryl Schutt, as well as her children, Chris Carnes, Stephanie Skeen and Sarah Sanford, were totally involved with the preparation and the day's events. It is a huge undertaking!!!! And there were many volunteers there on Ride Day to help as well.



Claudia is still looking for volunteers to help with this year's Ride. She will need help on the day of the event with registration, staffing the poker stops and setting up at Condon Park. She also needs help getting raffle prizes, food for the BBQ and sponsorships. If you can help with any of the above, please **contact Claudia by email at [CLS459@hotmail.com](mailto:CLS459@hotmail.com) or call her at 913-6103**. Did I mention? This is really fun!!!!

So often it seems that animals who have long stays at the Shelter end up getting the most wonderful homes. Such is the case of **Boris, a grayish-brown tabby with pretty green eyes.** Boris was a Shelter resident for



about 10 months before he found his Forever Home last August with Amanda Shufelberger and her husband Chuck Rogers. And the home suits him so perfectly! Boris is a Senior Kitty (now 15yo) with a very big personality who likes a lot of companionship. Amanda says he's "a dog in a cat's body" but, "ssh, don't

### Where Are They Now?



tell him"! He takes walks like a dog (and with the dogs), meowing when he gets too far behind the pack. And he generally interacts more with the dogs than he does the cats. Currently he has three canine friends: Sandi, (a 9yo female Pit-bull/Lab), Jack (a 5yo Border Collie mix) and Josie (a 10yo Queensland mix who is rather curmudgeon-like). Boris likes to be right in the middle of the whole clan. Sandi and Boris get to share the bed at night with Amanda and Chuck.

Boris also has feline friends in his home. He and Charlie, a handsome gray kitty, are like brothers to one another. Until about two months ago he also had a

Maine Coon friend named Yummers who died due to an incurable parasitic disease. After Yummers' passing, Amanda went to the Shelter and adopted Smokey and Furby, both Seniors who had had a long stay at the Shelter. Smokey, a neutered male, is a sweet Siamese mix, about 12yo, and Furby, female, is a pretty, long-haired Maine Coon mix, about 11yo. They are very attached to one another but a little timid (particularly Smokey) and tend to stay out of "Boris' space."

For a sociable fellow like Boris, home with Amanda and Chuck must seem like paradise! He's surrounded by four-legged friends (all of whom came from a Shelter or rescue), cared for by two loving two-legged friends and lavished with love on all sides.

We at Sammie's Friends are so very happy for Boris and grateful to Amanda and Chuck for giving him (and the others) a great home!

**Karma** is the Hindu and Buddhist word for the idea of cause and effect. Our Karma, a medium-sized Pittbull was brought in by a man who found him lying by the roadside with his pads and toenails ripped off. He had apparently been dragged behind the back of a pick up truck and then left to die. We all were heart sick when he came into the shelter and immediately rushed him to Motherlode Veterinary Hospital. We didn't have high hopes for him, but then we didn't know him — his sweet nature, his will to live and to love.

Karma recovered quite well and much more quickly than we imagined. In a few weeks he was ready to find his special home. It would seem that perhaps Karma was not the best name for him, as he did nothing to deserve such cruel treatment, but the story end justifies his name.



Momma Cheryl knew he needed just the perfect family. A family who would love him and recognize just what a special boy he is. Karma's day came when these two loving folks came by Sammies wanting to adopt a dog. They fell in love with Karma right away, and it was a mutual feeling. It seemed like a good fit, and Momma Cheryl felt she had found the perfect home for Karma.

Karma now resides on a peaceful street with lots of trees and beautiful flowers and his own lake just around the corner. His life is filled with love and kisses from Gayle and Wally, many beds and couches, daily walks, and constant words of praise. As if that weren't enough, he has doggie friends, too. There's Indie, Mindy, Sophie, and Sunny.

There are deer and turkey to look at and admire, and of course the best cuisine a dog could hope for.

It seems that Karma's sweet and loving personality in spite of his horrid experience before moving to "paradise" brought him the best possible karma!

*“Gentleness is the antidote for cruelty.”  
~ Phaedrus*

### SPD eScrip Program! OH NO!!!!

**Only 47% of our enrolled members are using their SPD eScrip card!** Please remember to have the cashier scan your SPD Community Card when you shop there; or ask them to

enter your phone number if you don't have your card! It is as easy as that!!!  
With only 47% participating, we are still bringing in LOTS of money!

April	2013	\$1,439.56
May	2013	\$1,663.28
June	2013	\$1,472.41

**Just imaging if EVERYONE remembered to use their card!!!**

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.**

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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.



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