



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume I, Issue IV

Winter/Spring 2008

Facts About Us and the Work We've Done:

- The NCAS Volunteer Program currently has over 100 volunteers helping to socialize dogs and cats.
- In 2007, the NCAS had a euthanasia rate of 3.2% thanks in large part to the work of the volunteers
- In the 7 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter and ultimately created Sammie's Friends, over \$248,000 has been spent on animal care.

2007: A Very Good Year for Sammie's Friends

Now that 2007 is over, we can take a look back at the year and see what all the hard work of Sammie's Friends volunteers has accomplished. It's astonishing!

Of course, the year didn't start too well with the passing of Sammie in February coupled with Cheryl Wick's decision to give up her role as the Volunteer Coordinator at the County Animal Shelter. However, the rest of the year was a real action-packed series of events

that led to a record number of animals being helped along with a record fund-raising effort put in by a team of dedicated volunteers who support Sammie's Friends.

In March, Team Sammie was created by Carol Cox, Mary Kranz and Barbara Graves to organize the volunteers at the Shelter to keep the hard work and success of the volunteer program going. They have continued this effort for the

balance of 2007.

When Cheryl left direct work at the Shelter, she decided to concentrate on helping animals with their medical issues. It became apparent that there were significant

herd mix who was found by a couple in North San Juan. Cruiser had a serious eye infection that, if left untreated, would certainly lead to his death. The vet we took him to said it was the worst infection he had seen. After wonderful financial support from the community through Sammie's Friends, Cruiser was miraculously healed and adopted by his foster family.

All together, Sammie's Friends helped 361 animals in 2007 at a total expenditure of \$104,690, a significant increase from 2006. Through the efforts

of Sammie's Friends volunteers, we were able to raise over \$112,000 which includes \$34,300 in grants (thank you grant writers!). We have expanded our program to include funds to help disadvantaged horses through the work of volunteer Fran Cole who hosted a horse show in July that contributed over \$7,000 to Sammie's Friends.

Yes, it has been a fantastic, action-packed year and one that we can all be proud of.



Cruiser - before

Cruiser - after

Cruiser had a miraculous recovery from his eye infection in July 2007

numbers of animals in the community with medical problems that couldn't be attended to because of the financial hardship this placed on their caretakers. Sammie's Friends decided to help these disadvantaged animals lest they not be cared for and left to suffer or parish or be turned in to the Shelter. A classic example of this was Cruiser, a wonderful Shep-

Sammie Remembered

On February 23 it will be one year since Sammie passed over the Rainbow Bridge. We miss him and we thank him for all the good work that he has inspired.

We know that Sammie is performing his good works and

spreading his good will on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. We feel blessed that we were chosen to have Sammie in our life for 16 years. His dog trainer once told us that of the 7,000 dogs he had trained Sammie was

the most interesting dog he had ever met. We thought so too. We love you Sam! Sammie's Friends keeps on keepin' on in your name, little buddy.

Mama and Cwutie (known to the rest of the world as Cheryl and Curt)

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Champ and Rooster, apparent victims of abandonment by their people who moved away

Champ and Rooster — Two Shelter Successes

By Barbara Graves

Meet Champ and Rooster, two brothers who, individually, are as sweet and nice as they could be and who, together, are absolutely precious. They are looking and feeling pretty good now thanks to the help provided by Sammie's Friends for their medical treatment. Drs. Nolet and Rosner have been their veterinarians.

Champ and Rooster were picked up by Animal Control as strays, apparent victims of abandonment by their people who moved away. When The Boys first came in to the Shelter, they were skin and bones and full of worms. Champ was limping very badly and Rooster was

coughing. Both were diagnosed to have heartworm but were deemed too weak to be treated at that time.



Champ and Rooster on a snowy morning

After being treated for intestinal parasites and a brief stay at the Shelter, they came to my house. They are now at their normal body weight and look just

great! They have already been treated for Lyme Disease and are half-way through their Heartworm treatment. Little Rooster has had a tough time of it because he's allergic to his heartworms but the prognosis is good. Both of them have been real troopers getting through all of this.

Champ and Rooster will be available for adoption at (about) the end of February. They will be looking for a home that will take both of them and will treat them like Favorite Sons - with all the frills! Thank you, Sammie, for saving the lives of these truly precious animals!!

Fundraising Update for Sammie's Friends

The last quarter of 2007 was a very good period for fundraising for Sammie's Friends. There were several opportunities and events that led to some nice donations. First, Claudia Sanford organized a coffee, hot chocolate and goodie table for the huge motorcycle toy run on December 8th. This event that starts in Nevada City and winds up at the Nevada County Fairgrounds was attended by over 1700 very cold motorcyclists and supporters. Their enthusiastic sampling of all that Claudia and her family had organized with the help of many Sammie's Friends volunteers raised over \$400. Thank you Claudia!

Another fundraising event was the creation of Toni Stevens, another Sammie's Friend volunteer. She made small catnip bags with Sammie's Friends brochures included in the gift wrapping and distributed them at Holiday boutiques and veterinarian offices for donations to Sammie's Friends. This very nice activity raised over \$1200. One check we received came from New Zealand from a couple who had received the catnip bag as a gift. The couple read the enclosed brochure and were so enthused that they sent us \$200! Now that is getting the word out.

Finally, in September, Doris Balog and a team of volun-

teers from RSVP assembled, hand-addressed and sent out over 700 letters of solicitation to people who had previously donated to Sammie's Friends. Doris worked very hard to make this solicitation work. We are still getting donations from that effort. To date, over 120 donors have responded with a total donation of over \$10,000!

All of these fundraising efforts take a lot of diligent planning, hard work and dedication. We are so grateful to all who have volunteered their time to help those sick and injured animals in our community.

Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander



Santa and his elves at the 2007 Toy Run

Vaccines for your Pet - by Dr. Rob Avery



"Puppies and kittens should especially be vaccinated as they are very susceptible to infection"

Vaccines are an important component of your pet's health care, along with regular examinations, age appropriate blood testing and diagnostics, heartworm prevention, parasite control, good nutrition and exercise. Many veterinarians are changing recommendations for vaccines creating questions about what vaccines should be used, how often should they be administered and what we are protecting our pets against.

Vaccines are divided into core and non-core types. Core vaccines include Rabies for both dogs and cats, DHPP (Distemper, Parvo, Parainfluenza and Hepatitis) for dogs and RCPC (Rhinotracheitis, Calici, Panleukopenia and Chlamydia) for cats and are recommended for most all pets. Non-core vaccines include Lyme, Leptospirosis, Bordetella and dental Porphyromonas for dogs and Leukemia for cats and are advised for pets only when exposure risks are appropriate. Most core vaccines are given starting at 8 weeks of age, continuing every 3-4 weeks through 16 weeks, repeated at 1 year, and then every 3 years. Note that this is different from most previous recommendations that advised yearly boosters. Recently completed studies have conclusively shown that vaccine protection lasts at least 3 years for adult pets. Exceptions would be for high risk animals that may benefit from a shorter interval. The decision to vaccinate should always be made together with your veterinarian who can discuss these issues and recommend what is best for your individual pet.

Puppies and kittens should

especially be vaccinated as they are very susceptible to infection. For dogs, Parvo is of greatest concern. This virus can cause severe, possibly fatal vomiting and diarrhea. Infection occurs after ingesting the virus from the environment. Particles are very resistant to drying and cold and can live for 1-2 years on surfaces. Distemper is also serious but much less common. Infection causes respiratory problems, progressing to gastrointestinal symptoms and eventual neurologic signs. Both infections are extremely unlikely if recommended vaccines are given. For kittens, Panleukopenia is the most serious infection. This virus is similar to Parvo in the dog, producing a variety of symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and sometimes death. Rhinotracheitis (herpes), Calici and Chlamydia are respiratory infections causing varying degrees of sneezing, runny eyes, conjunctivitis and anorexia. Most often these infections are not fatal and will run their course in several weeks with no treatment required. Vaccination does not always prevent these infections but likely lessens the severity.

Rabies vaccination is also very important, and in dogs is legally required. A puppy's first vaccine is given at 4 months or later, repeated in 1 year and then every three years. Cats should be similarly vaccinated. Even indoor animals should be kept up to date. Rabies is an extremely serious human infection that is nearly always fatal so keeping our pets protected also

keeps us safe. Rabies is an endemic infection in wildlife, including bats, raccoons and skunks. Interestingly, the canine form of rabies (each species has its own type but can be infected with other types) has just been eliminated from the United States due to successful vaccination programs.

Non-core vaccines should be given on a case-by-case basis depending on risks. Feline leukemia should be given to outside animals. Bordetella (kennel cough) is given mostly to boarding and groomed animals. Porphyromonas vaccine is given to dogs at risk for dental disease. Leptospirosis is given to dogs in endemic areas with outdoor exposure.

To most veterinarians, the benefits of appropriate vaccination outweigh any concerns about complications. Complications of vaccine include lethargy and fever most commonly, and very rarely more severe allergic reaction. For this reason, animals should be observed in the day following vaccine administration. Rarely a small lump can form at vaccine sites, usually resolving within several weeks. Feline leukemia vaccine has been associated with fibrosarcoma, a form of cancer. Veterinarians believe that a non-adjuvanted vaccine may be better at avoiding this problem. Associations with other more severe disease are extremely rare and include some forms of autoimmune disease and dermatologic conditions.

Teddy and Wilma by Cheryl Wicks



Teddy and Wilma
"walking buddies"

"Thank you to all the many wonderful volunteers who stepped up to the plate and kept the volunteer program rolling"

Happy New Year to everyone. I giggle inside when people ask me "How is retirement?" I am at least as busy now as I was at the shelter. I must have had a premonition of what was to come with Sammie's Friends when I left the shelter nearly a year ago. Thank you to the many wonderful volunteers who stepped up to the plate and kept the volunteer program rolling along at the shelter - what an absolutely fabulous group of people with so much talent. As well, Team Sammie volunteers have been working hard for the animals this year raising money to help the many sick and injured animals of this county. I am proud to know you all.

I want to devote my column in this edition of the "Poop Scoop" to a couple of friends of mine, Teddy and Wilma who came from the Nevada County Animal Shelter in the fall of 2003 to live with Curt and me and our other critters. Teddy is a 77 pound pitbull mix who was immediately put in quaran-

tine where he stayed for six weeks. He was not given the opportunity to be adopted as he was thought to have killed a cat. It turns out that the cat he supposedly killed is still alive. As doomsday approached for Teddy I just could not let that happen; so I took him in as a temporary foster through AnimalSave. Many things happened along the way but 4 1/2 years later Teddy happily lives with us. He is a wonderful, fun comical dog. We wouldn't have missed being his Mommy and Poppy for the world.

Wilma came to us because she was old and sick and going to be euthanized. Eventually I took Wilma home as a foster kitty. She went to the veterinarian who determined that not that much was wrong with Wilma. She had bad teeth, (five were pulled). She had an Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) and she needed antibiotics. She had been a stray cat

and who knew what she was eating. Wilma eats only the best today. In a couple of months Wilma was a happy lively cat with an enormous personality. She walks on a leash and plays hide-and-seek and loves her TV shows.

I thought you might all enjoy this picture of my kitty killer dog and my old dead cat together. Ha!. We're so glad we have them. They are both really fun friends to have. They have enriched our life tremendously. I hope you like hearing about Teddy and Wilma. We do have other animals, all of whom are rescues, but only Teddy and Wilma came from the Nevada County Animal Shelter, a very good place to get a pet.

Happy adopting, fostering, loving and living with kitties and doggies.

Love, Cheryl

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 county. 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 501c Non-Profit, all donations made to Sammie's Friends are fully tax-deductible and should be mailed to Sammie's Friends, 128 High Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

Meet Dawn Allmandinger: Volunteer Extraordinaire

Meet Dawn Allmandinger, volunteer extraordinaire. Dawn has lived across the street from the animal shelter for 15 years and during that time has rescued close to 700 dogs and 12 cats. She is not really a cat person but a few years ago she could see that the cats weren't going to make it out of the shelter alive so she fixed up a little building for them and they were safe with Dawn and Don until they could be adopted. Although the great majority of the dogs are from the Nevada County Animal Shelter, Dawn has also rescued dogs from other counties when she learns a dog is in danger of being euthanized.

Six years ago Dawn decided to put all of the Nevada

County Animal Shelter animals on the Petfinder website. This expanded enormously the possibilities for the animals to be adopted outside of Nevada County. As a result of this, shelter animals live not only in Nevada County but Virginia, Illinois, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Texas, Arizona, Indiana, Colorado and even British Columbia. In addition 100's of animals have been adopted in the Bay Area and some in the LA Area and all over the state of California. In these six years Dawn has photographed approximately 10,000 animals and written about them and put them on the Internet. In addition more recently she has put them on three other

websites giving the animals even more exposure. Dawn also makes videos and puts them on the website to show the animals in action.

Dawn spends at least 25 hours of her time every week photographing, writing about and placing these animals on the internet.

Dawn has spent thousands of dollars out of her own pocket to help the animals she takes in as they often have medical problems. I remember one little Cocker Spaniel that she spent over \$2,000 on to help it regain its health and adopted it out for \$65.

There are no words big enough to thank Dawn for all she has done as a volunteer for the animals in this county. Thank you, Dawn.



Dawn Allmandinger with her pal Truckee

Meet Dana Haybeck: Team Sammie Volunteer

How long a NCAS Volunteer: Dana has been volunteering at the shelter for almost 3 years. She started out as a cat cuddler/cleaner on Sunday mornings. In her words, "I was really inspired by Veronica Furman and her efforts to facilitate cat adoptions so I started following in her footsteps. Soon I was behind the counter helping with adoptions and answering phones. The first year I fostered a lot of kittens and sick or injured cats. The only thing more rewarding than helping match a person to the right cat is nursing a sick or injured animal back to health. I have a real soft spot for the older cats that end up at the shelter. I day dream of having my own kitty rest home. I have adopted a few older cats and I take comfort in knowing that what time they have left will be in a home where they will

be loved and cherished."

Duties as a NCAS volunteer: Dana has been assisting Dr. Denny Nolet in surgery at the shelter for over a year now. "Having the opportunity to work with Dr. Nolet has been incredible. He's truly a wonderful vet and a great person. In addition to assisting in surgery I've had to learn how to prep for surgery, maintain the equipment and keep the inventory up. Making sure everything run smoothly for Dr. Nolet has taken most of my volunteer time but I still take home the 'spare' cat here and there."

Animals: Dana has a small herd of cats (13), one 'spare' (foster) cat and 3 dogs. Most people only see her driving her van full of dogs and they don't realize she's really a cat person. "Thanks to a few good books and some pretty

smart dogs I'm turning into a good dog mom to Zack, Sadie and Greta. Zack (GSD mix) and Sadie (English Shepherd mix) came from the Yuba County Animal Shelter and Greta (GSD mix) was deemed unadoptable by Humboldt County Animal Control."

"I moved from down town Grass Valley to 5 acres in Rough & Ready so that all my furry children would have room to run."

Hobbies/Interests: According to Dana, her animals and 5 acres keep her very busy.

Future Plans: "To contribute to animal welfare issues as much as I am able."



Team Sammie Volunteer: Dana Haybeck

Shelter Cat Room by Carol Cox

"The remodeled cage serves as a kitten play room as well as an observation room"

Thanks to a long-time dedicated cat volunteer at the shelter, funds were made available late last summer to remodel one of the three large cages in the shelter's



New screened cat room

cat room. A higher screened door and higher screened side wall were added to the front of the cage, and a soaring cat climbing structure and small bench for the public to sit on were placed

inside the cage. The remodeled cage serves as a kitten play room as well as an observation room, and many little ones tumbled over and through the climbing structure during the height of kitten season, while those individuals wanting to adopt



Home sweet "box"

sat on the bench in the cage playing with the kittens before deciding which kitten to take home.

Now that kitten season has peaked, the remodeled cage is currently shared by three lovely grown cats, all of whom have been at the shelter much too long.

In 2007, 506 cats were adopted from the shelter,

and approximately 60-80 kittens, mother cats, or sick cats were fostered. Shelter Attendant Ruth Rasmussen noted that the total number of kittens fostered during



Climbing structure in cat room

2007 appeared less than those fostered in 2006, and hoped that this decreased number reflects a growing effort by the public to spay and neuter their pets.

Ron Earles Retires

After 35 years with Nevada County Ron Earles has retired as of January 25, 2008. He officially retired December 31, 2006 but continued on for the past year as a contract employee.

Ron started his career with the county in Environmental Health. He transferred to Animal Control in 1981. Ron has seen many changes over the years. At one time the euthanasia rate was as high as 80% and in 2006 it was 2%. The volunteers have

played a large part in this enormous change. The euthanasia rate for 2007 was 3%; still a low number. This represents about 7,000 animals alive today that would have been euthanized in the past.

In retirement Ron plans to do some traveling with his wife Terry. Some of these trips he hopes to take on his motorcycle.

We wish Ron well in his retirement.



Ron Earles and an office assistant

AnimalSave's New Spay/Neuter Van to Arrive

AnimalSave has exciting news to report. Their new mobile spay/neuter van is in transit from Ohio and should be in Grass Valley by February 15th. This will be a welcome addition to our community. It is expected that spay/neuter surgeries will begin at the rate of 40 per week and be double that by the end of the year.

With the Krea Estate money of over \$200,000 left to Nevada County Animal Control for spay/neuter certificates for the community and now the AnimalSave mobile unit, an

ever larger dent will continue to be made in the pet overpopulation. Five million cats and dogs are euthanized in the United States



The interior of the AnimalSave spay and neuter van

every year because there are not enough homes for them all.

Many people in this community work hard to place the animals that have already been born and will continue to do so. Every time a litter

is not born the home finders can breathe a little easier.

Sammie's Friends applauds AnimalSave's efforts in reducing pet overpopulation in Nevada County. All of the hard work by many organizations and individuals in

this community furthers the vision of "No more homeless pets in Nevada County."

Prevent a Litter - It's Good for Your Pet

- Spayed and neutered dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying female dogs and cats eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer.
- Neutering male dogs and cats reduces the incidence of prostate cancer.
- Neutered animals are less likely to roam and fight.

CAWS (Coalition for Animal Welfare and Support) Formed

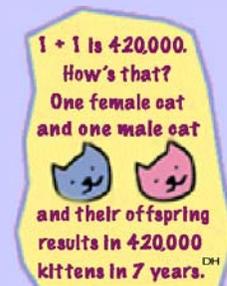
A coalition to help animals in need was recently formed by Pam Gorman. The mission of the Coalition (CAWS) is: "To ensure and promote a collaborative effort amongst the animal welfare, rescue and rehabilitation groups and individuals within Ne-

vada County in order to provide a safe environment and a humane standard of living for animals".

Among the topics discussed at meetings held at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of the month are wildlife rehabilitation, animal ordinances and

laws, pros and cons of Animal Shelter privatization, reduced cost vaccinations, spay and neuter mandates and education.

Meetings are held at the Houser Conference Room, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City.



Newman's Own Awards Sammie's Friends \$10,000

In December, Sammie's Friends received \$10,000 from Newman's Own Foundation. This foundation was set up by Paul Newman and Newman's Own brand to support educational and charitable organizations throughout the United States. This is the second large grant received by Sammie's Friends this year. It came as quite a surprise.

In 2006, one of Sammie's Friends supporters, Kate Frame, had nominated Sammie's Friends for an award of \$2000 from Newman's Own Organics for whom she works. It was certainly a surprise to open a letter from Paul Newman and find such a

nice gift back in 2006.

In September 2007, Sammie's Friends received another letter from Newman's Own saying that they had again been nominated for an award, but this time in the form of a grant.

Curt Romander, a Sammie's Friends co-founder took on the job of completing the grant application and forwarding it to the Chief Financial Officer of Newman's Own Organics who then submitted it to the Foundation in November.

"The response time of Newman's Own Foundation in sending us the grant is unbelievable" said Curt upon receiving the check in

mid December. "Such unexpected good fortune is happening quite often and is gratefully accepted" continued Curt, the Vice President and Treasurer for Sammie's Friends.

The money received from this grant will give Sammie's Friends a jump start for the new year, making it possible to treat even more animals in 2008.

"Such unexpected good fortune is happening quite often and is gratefully accepted"....

Visit us at:
www.sammiesfriends.org



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Sammie's Friends
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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.