



The Poop Scoop

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

Facts About Us and the Work We've Done:

- The NCAC Volunteer Program currently has over 100 volunteers helping to socialize dogs and cats.
- In 2008, the NCAS had a euthanasia rate of 3.0% thanks in large part to the work of the volunteers.
- In the 8 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter and ultimately created Sammie's Friends, over 2000 animals have received care from Sammie's Friends.

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Volume II, Issue IV

Spring 2009

Sammie's Friends Celebrates Five Years!

This has been a year to write home about. Sammie's Friends is celebrating five years of being an official 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit charitable corporation. Last year Sammie's



Apollo the Doxie and Cisco the Pitbull helped by Sammie's Friends this year

Friends helped restore 444 animals to good health. Many of these were shelter animals that prior to Sammie's Friends would have been euthanized because there were not sufficient funds to make them adoptable. The remainder are community animals that have veterinary problems and no one to pay for their care.

Things have really heated up this year with home foreclosures and loss of jobs. The good news is that this community has once again rallied to help the animals by making generous donations to Sammie's Friends and helping the animals in every imaginable way.

When I walked into the animal

shelter in 2001 I never in my wildest dreams thought all of this would happen for the animals of this county. I went to the shelter to walk the dogs once a week. A lot has changed since then.

In the five years we have been a non-profit we have helped close to 2,000 animals. What's important about this is that hundreds of people, probably thousands have helped to reduce the euthanasia rate from nearly 70% ten years ago to as low as 2%, What a fabulous community to live in if you're four legged. Not so bad for the two legged either.



Cheryl doing cartwheels

With the help of many volunteers and many contributors we'll continue to write grants, take in donations and put on events and find money for the

animals' veterinary care. Sammie's Friends seems to keep expanding from help for shelter animals to help for the community animals to help for horses to paying for spaying/neutering of the shelter feral cats.



Cheryl and Alistair at Pine Creek Veterinary

I wish that every single person that has ever helped an animal in this community could all gather at the same time. I know it would fill up the entire fairgrounds. Awesome!

I send lots of love and blessings to all the animals and animal lovers.

Cheryl Wicks
President,
Sammie's Friends.

Sammie's Friends Rescues Horses

Sammie's Friends has begun to support disadvantaged horses that have been neglected or that have special medical needs that their owners are unable to take care of.



Ariel

Our first such case was to care for Maggie and Hampton, two

horses that were owned by a very nice lady who passed away in 2007. Sammie's Friends has paid for medical care for Maggie who is lame. These two fine horses are being cared for by a volunteer with support from Sammie's Friends and we hope they are adopted soon.

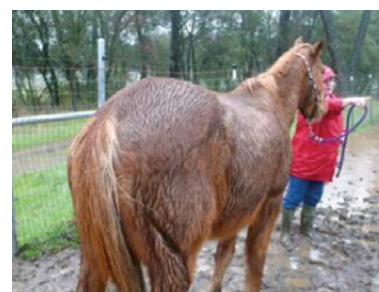
Recently, Sammie's Friends took on the care of three extremely undernourished horses living near North San Juan. Thanks to quick thinking and action by Fran Cole, Queenie, Ariel and Mariah were relocated to Fran's ranch on Mc Courtney Road

where they are being ministered to by a local vet and are being restored to health through proper nourishment. Sammie's Friends is happy to care for them and is glad that they will receive proper care. Soon, they will be able to be adopted and live out their normal lives.

Care of large animals is very expensive. Fortunately, Fran Cole has been very generous in keeping these three at her place. Sammie's Friends would greatly appreciate donations to provide further support for these and other disadvantaged horses in our community.



Queenie



Mariah

Two Events to Support Disadvantaged Horses

The Humane Society of the United States and Host Fran Cole

Invite You To Meet

KEITH DANE, Director, Equine Protection
The Humane Society of the United States

The Tennessee Walking Horse is a calm, dignified equine breed that is eager to please and is known for its smooth gait. Unscrupulous trainers and owners in the pursuit of financial gain, have sentenced thousands of Tennessee Walkers to a lifetime of abuse and misery through a practice called "soring." The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Equine Protection Program needs our support in its efforts to hold the USDA accountable in enforcing the Horse Protection Act. Please come and meet Keith Dane, HSUS Director of Equine Protection, and learn more about soring, why it still exists, and how you can help to put an end to it.

First Nevada County ReinStorm

An exploration and **CELEBRATION** of **ALL** things horse-related and **LOCALLY** available. Mingle and get to know breeders, trainers, health practitioners, farriers, veterinarians, manufacturers, artisans and horse enthusiasts. See what local organizations are promoting horse health, welfare and learning.

- Demonstrations by local equestrians.: 3-DAY Eventing, The gaited horse
- Training problems, Halter breaking your foal, Packing with your horse
- Local Vendors of equine products, organizations and services
- Local EQUINE organizations
- Network Board: Post your ideas/ Find Friends
- Food provided by Penn Valley Rodeo Association

PLEASE JOIN US

Thursday, May 14, 2009
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

16904 McCourtney Rd,
Grass Valley, CA 95949

Please RSVP to:

Fran Cole By May 7th

Phone & Email

530-477-0400

moondancewalk@sbcglobal.net

Sponsored by

Sierra Equine
Sammie's Friends

Help build a sustainable
network of equestrians

ReinStorm

June 20, 2009

10 to 4

Penn Valley Rodeo Grounds

Hope Has No Timeline

by
Suesan Larsen



Deanna enjoys a treat at home

**She was not
a dog that
shouted
"adopt me"
from behind
the kennel
door.**

I first met Deanna in 2002 at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. Although all the dogs that come into the shelter deserve our consideration Deanna grabbed my attention. Not for the obvious reasons. She wasn't a vivacious attention seeking pup, but quite the opposite. As I looked into her eyes all I could see was a sad soul. She was hunkered in the back of kennel 21 trying to look as small and invisible as possible. I sat in the kennel talking to her wondering where we might find a place for this sweet shy girl. Deanna's days were numbered. The shelter was filling up and she had overstayed her welcome. She was not a dog that shouted **"adopt me"** from behind the kennel door.

Cheryl Wicks and I worked tirelessly trying to find a home for this very special dog. This gal would require an exceptional placement. I remember looking through my piles of paper, the endless phone numbers of possible placements. No one could take her. I had one more possible lead written on a scrap of paper. It said "Nancy in the Bay Area willing to take a rescue". It was a lead that Cheryl

had given me sometime prior to Deanna's arrival to the shelter. This was not a dog that would integrate into a family easily. She would require patience, patience and more patience.

Although I knew it was a long shot, I called Nancy. Initially she said she would have to think about it, talk it over with the family. She would call me back. I really did not expect to hear from her, but the next day Nancy did call me back, she would take Deanna. What an enormous relief.

Nancy agreed to meet me in Vacaville. Deanna and I made the drive to meet her new family. I hoped they would show up. Show up they did. They were so excited to meet Deanna, so welcoming. Despite her reserved response they lavished her with love and gave her a comfortable spot in the back seat with a new bed. Off they went with a hope and prayer. I wish I could say they lived happily ever after, but that is not the case.

A couple of days after Deanna arrived at her new home she went after one of Nancy's other dogs. It became apparent that

she could not keep her. What to do, what to do? Cheryl and I offered to meet Nancy again and take Deanna back, but that would surely mean a death sentence for her. Nancy kindly offered to try to re-home her there in a dog free home. Her friend Julia said she would take Deanna temporarily until a permanent placement could be found.

Once at Julia's home, Deanna was too frightened to come into the house. When in the house she spent all of her time trying to get out, including jumping through a window. Once again I received a call. What were we going to do with Deanna. It seemed this gal did not have a chance. She was her own worst enemy. Julia describe Deanna's behavior as feral. She hung out in the back yard away from the house. She looked on longingly at the house. Julia continued to feed her while considering the options. It was looking like Deanna may make her way back to Nevada County. It was such a sad ending to a tragic life.

Fortunately that wasn't the end. Julia called me back one more time. She really wanted to give it another try. That was the last I heard from her. Over the years I often wondered about Deanna. Was she dead, alive, happy, sad? Then one day in September 2008 we heard from Julia. She still had Deanna. They had fallen in love. She had become an important member of the family. Over time, Deanna had adapted to her new home. She now spends most of her day hanging out in the house with Julia, 2 teenagers, a bossy cat and a guinea pig. She is adored by her family and now has had a happy ending or should I say beginning to her life.

Adopt-a-Thon to be Held May 2nd



Adopt-a-thon Activity

Each year on the first Saturday in May, the volunteers at the Nevada County Animal Shelter conduct an adopt-a-thon. This year, the event will be held on May 2nd. The adopt-a-thon is held in conjunction with a world-wide event encouraged by the North Shore Animal League in New York. The objec-

tive of the world-wide event is to have all shelters around the world participate in an adopt-a-thon to see if more than one million animals can be adopted in one weekend.

For the past four years, the Shelter volunteers have participated in this event at the Shelter on Mc Courtney Road. Also participating in the event are local animal rescue organizations like AnimalSave and Scooter's Pals along with Sammie's Friends. The public is encouraged to come to the

Shelter between 12 noon and 3 PM to see all the wonderful animals that are up for adoption.

There is a bake sale and items that are to be raffled off along with a silent auction. Proceeds go to benefit Sammie's Friends. Last year, there was a barbeque with hamburgers and hot dogs served with chips. Sodas and bottled water were provided at no cost.

This year's event promises to be equally entertaining and we hope many dogs and kitties are adopted.

Bark-B-Que is Coming on September 6, 2009

This is a joint wing ding being put on by Side Car Scooter's Angel Paws and Sammie's Friends. All proceeds will go to help with veterinary expenses for animals in Nevada County. We will have good things to eat, pony rides, music raffles and much much more. Look for more details as this event gets closer.



Sammie

Hey Sidecar,
Do ya think we could
do something to help
those critters?

Sure Sammie,
how about we
put on a
Bark-B-Que?



Sidecar Scooter



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

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, 128 High Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

THANK YOU!

Suesan Larsen: Sammie's Friends Board Member

Suesan Larsen has been involved with saving animals at the Nevada County Shelter since 2002. She has been an ardent supporter of animal care and was the original editor of the Poop Scoop when she was a Shelter Volunteer. Since then she has moved on to her new career as a registered Vet Tech. Here she is in her own words.

I have been married to Jeff for 21 years and we have 3 children ages 17, 13, and 10. My family is first and foremost in my life that includes my 3 dogs, 5 cats, 7 fish, and 2 horses! I have a great job as an RVT at

Mother Lode Veterinary Hospital in Grass Valley. I am also an RN and practiced for 18 years before switching to animal medicine.

I have been on the board of Sammie's Friends since it's inception. I am honored to be part of an animal welfare group that does so much for this community. I also do a little freelance assisting with re-homing of animals. I am passionate about animals and although I am a very busy person I can always make time to help an animal in need. My favorite quote is "Be the Person Your Dog Thinks You Are". Words to live by!

Suesan serves on the board of Sammie's Friends as the Secretary and has participated in many of the fundraising events conducted by Sammie's Friends.

She has been one of our active grant writers and has secured several grants to help us carry on our work. We are certainly grateful for all of Suesan's contributions, as are all the animals she has helped along the way.



Suesan Larsen and her three dogs

Carol Cox: Cat Cuddler and Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Cox is the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. She began volunteering at the shelter in October 2006 as a morning cat care person, and took on the assistant coordinator role in March 2007. In this capacity, Carol reviews the volunteer applications previously approved by Sgt. Rich Fevinger to determine if the potential volunteers want to walk dogs or cuddle cats, and coordinates those names and addresses with the dog and cat schedulers. Carol also meets

regularly with Sgt. Fevinger to discuss volunteer concerns.

Carol and her husband moved to Nevada City in late 2004 from Walnut Creek to enjoy their retirement. Carol's last job was working as corporate Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors of Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. Carol also volunteers at the Nevada County library. She relaxes by riding horses and going to horse shows with friends, and also taking yoga and water aerobics classes.

Carol also volunteers at fund raising events for Sammie's Friends, is a grant writer for Sammie's Friends, and is on the shelter's annual Adopt-a-thon committee. The Adopt-a-thon is held each year the first Saturday in May.

See page 3 for more about the upcoming Adopt-a-thon.



Carol Cox with one of the shelter kitties

Girl Scout Troop 1642 Donates Pet Food to Sammie's Friends

On one of their recent outings, Girl Scout Troop 1642 of Nevada City visited several kittens at a local animal rescue organization. They decided that they

wanted to do something nice for the disadvantaged animals in our community. They chose to conduct a pet food donation drive and donate the proceeds to a local animal rescue organization.

What a great idea.

The twelve girls in the troop, who are all students at Deer Creek School, prepared large posters urging fellow students to donate pet food to their program. The posters were placed around their school and fliers

were sent home asking for donations. Over a weeks time, they collected a good quantity of dry dog and cat food and some canned cat food.

The Troop Leader then contacted Sammie's Friends which has a food distribution program to support disadvantaged animals in the County. Cheryl Wicks met the Troop leader and accepted the food on behalf of all the hungry doggies and kitties that have a hard time finding adequate food.



The Pfanenstiel Pfurries

by Karen Pfanenstiel

Mouse and Smokey are two male cats who had always lived together. When their owner decided to relocate and they didn't fit into the moving plans, they were turned in to the shelter. They remained in their shared cage, month after month, both large adults, labeled "indoor-only" and depressed. My husband and I decided to make room with our other three cats in order to give



Dominic relaxing

them a home together.

Dominic, a stray male of about 13 years, entered the shelter starving with severe dental infection. Thanks to Sammie's Friends' funding, Dominic had



*Smoky and Dominic
Yin and Yang?*

most of his teeth removed. He enthusiastically reached through the cage bars to "pat" the volunteers and I took him home to "foster."

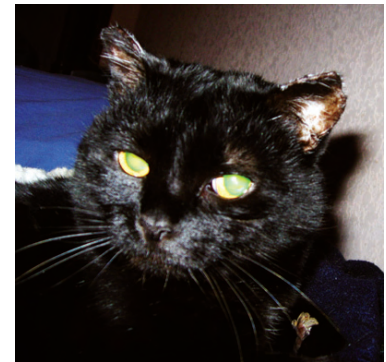
The most recent Pfanenstiel Pfurry is a tiny black female, **Twinkles**, in the shelter because she simply could not perform enough "cat-like" behavior to get adopted. She is beautiful, but has birth defects--slightly crippled front feet and legs, raggedy frost-bitten ears--and therefore is a bit awkward and overly defensive. She did get adopted but was brought back the very next day because she wouldn't interact other than to growl and bite. So we brought her home to live out her life--safe, warm and fed, but unobtrusive due to her dislike of physical contact. Unobtrusive? What a laugh! She now has her own room, complete with fancy bed, litter box, window seat and scratching post. Because she is so defenseless and apprehensive of other cats, her room has a fireplace screen, modified to 5 feet high, blocking the door to discourage un-chaperoned feline visitors, without necessitating a closed door.

What's the payoff?

Witnessing Mouse's expression of pure joy and wonder the first time this "indoor-only" cat felt a breeze blow across his face when he went outside in our fenced back yard;

Smokey, purring so loudly when he snuggles between us at night that he wakes us from a sound sleep and our hands touch when we each reach to quiet him so as not to wake the other;

Dominic, dashing up on the counter and snagging my husband's large steak, trying to carry it off in his gums; then watching husband Bryce, who remembers Dominic's days of starvation, cut the steak into very little pieces for his



Twinkles

nearly toothless old buddy;

Twinkles, "kissing" my nose with her rough little tongue instead of growling.



Mouse finds a stash of catnip

Puzzled guests: "Why is that screen contraption blocking the doorway?"

"Thankfully, we don't have any pets--our cats are our friends. Enough said!"



Jerry Furman

In Memorium to Jerry Furman

Jerry Furman, the husband of Veronica Furman, one of our beloved and long term volunteers, passed away on March 3, 2009. Veronica and Jerry were high school sweethearts and married for 43 years. Jerry was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. As a firefighter Jerry saved lives for 30 years. We thank him for his service to his fellow human beings. In addi-

tion to his family Jerry loved Harleys and horses. He and Veronica have lived in Grass Valley for the past 10 years with their horses, dogs and cats. Our thoughts and prayers are with Veronica and their family at this difficult time. There will be a memorial for Jerry at the Tack Room Restaurant in Penn Valley on March 30 at 6 p. m.

Sammie's Friends placed the following ad in the Union on March 12. We have accomplished quite a lot in the last five years and we are looking to improve our services and need help to do so. This seemed like a good way to get the word out.



Sammie's Friends

Veterinary Care for Nevada County Shelter Animals
and other Disadvantaged Animals in the Community



Sammie's Friends is celebrating its fifth year as a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt non profit charitable corporation. We are enormously grateful for all the support this community has given us. Sammie's Friends was founded by Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander as an all volunteer organization. We provide medical care for the Nevada County Shelter animals and other disadvantaged animals in Nevada County. Without Sammie's Friends, these animals would either be euthanized, crawl off in the weeds to die alone or continue to suffer.

Sammie's Friends also provides truck loads of food to the animals of North San Juan and the town of Washington each month.

Because of the generosity of the animal-loving people in this community and the great work of our local veterinarians, we have been able to help over 2,000 animals and provide many tons of food. Thank you so much for your immense good will and big heart for the animals. We wish we had an even bigger and better way to let you know how much we appreciate all of you who help the animals.

We need your help right now!

What We Do

- Pay for Medical Care of Shelter Animals
- Pay for Medical Care for Disadvantaged Animals in the Community
- Pay for Spay/Neuter Procedures for Feral Cats the county has discontinued this program
- Provide Dog/Cat Food for Disadvantaged Animals in North San Juan and Washington
- Provide Rehabilitation Services for Difficult-to-Place Animals at the Shelter
- Pay for Medical Care for Disadvantaged Horses in the Community
- Conduct Animal Care Educational Programs in Elementary Schools
- Find Homes for Difficult-to-Place Shelter Animals

What We've Done

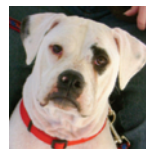
Before



Bella

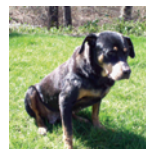
Bella had demodectic mange and was very underweight when she came to the shelter. Sammie's Friends paid for her treatment and now she has a loving home.

After



Java

Java was heartworm positive, had mange and was horribly underweight. Thanks to Sammie's Friends, she was successfully treated and now has a permanent home with doggie friends to play with.



Skinny Kitty

Skinny Kitty was locked in an abandoned house. Near death when she was rescued, a Sammie's Friends volunteer nursed her back to the long-haired beauty you see here.



Cricket

Cricket was savagely attacked with a three-pronged garden hoe. Sammie's Friends paid her medical bills. Cricket had a long slow recovery, but has now fully recovered and lives with her new family and is doing great!



What We Need

- Cash Donations
Large and Small
- 5' by 9' Trailer
to haul dog and cat food to North San Juan and Washington
- Rodent-Proof Storage Room
- Dry and Wet Cat Food
we have a good source for dog food
- Small Office Space
to utilize the skills of more volunteers
- Planners for Fund-Raising Events
- Videographer
- A Computer Guru
to explore fundraising via the internet
- Public Relations Type
- A Classroom Group or Service Group
to do car washes, a book drive, etc.
- Media Connections
T.V., Radio
- Ghost Writer
we have hundreds of great animal recovery stories

Visit our Website:
www.sammiesfriends.org

"It Takes a Village"

Contact: Cheryl Wicks (530) 272 8833
128 High Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945



*Cyrano, the Field Mouse Helps
His Pal Woo Roxanne*



128 High Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: 530 272 8833
Email: info@sammiesfriends.org

Animal Antics

Here are a few cute pictures that were gleaned off of the Internet. Some people have a gift for capturing the

antics of animals. These little critters are guaranteed to make one laugh. The captions are mine.

Have a good laugh.
- Editor



I Knew We Could be Pals



It Was Like This When I Got Here, Honest



Wake Me When It's Time for Breakfast



Check Mate, Mommie

Sammie's Friends
128 High Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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.