



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume I, Issue II

Summer 2007

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 2006, the NCAS had a euthanasia rate of 2% due to our activities.
- In the 5 years since the creation of Sammie's Friends, over \$172,000 has been spent on animal care.

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Kitten Season is HERE!!!

After months of lower than average attendance by cats in the Cat Room at the Nevada County Animal Shelter, kitten season is once again upon us!! Those empty cages are now nearing capacity, and the shelter staff and Team Sammie Volunteers are working lots of hours to tend to and find homes for all the new arrivals.

Kitten season typically starts at the end of April and ends in the latter part of October. It's not unheard of for "the season" to last till as late as December. Predictably, lots of unwanted kittens end up at the shelter at this time of year, looking for their "forever" homes.

What many are unaware of is the number of adult cats who are also looking for homes at this time of year. Some were just kittens them-

selves a year or two past, but now have lost that kitten cuteness. They've been abandoned, or surrendered to the shelter by owners looking to replace them with a younger, smaller version. Others just have the bad luck to be adult cats who have lost their homes and are now at the shelter at a time when seemingly everyone is looking for little and cute.

While adult cats (and dogs too) may not be as cute and cuddly appearing as their younger counterparts, in many ways they are much easier to integrate into your home. Personalities in kittens and pups are still developing—you never quite know what you'll get when the animal matures. With an adult animal, their personality is fully formed; what you see is what you get. Also, adult dogs and cats usually have

been successfully potty/box trained, and have basic understandings of good manners. Pups almost always must be trained and then there's that dreaded "chewing" phase!

As a Team Sammie Volunteer I commend and thank everyone who opens their heart and home to a new animal— cat or kitten, dog or pup. Every animal adopted is one less animal the shelter has to maintain, one more open cage, and one less possible euthanasia candidate. If a kitten or puppy is what you have your heart set on, than that is the animal you should bring into your life. If, however, you are undecided please consider an adult cat or dog. You'll have a devoted friend and companion, and you'll know that you truly made a difference in the life of an unwanted animal.

Fund Raiser: Sammie's Friends Garage Sale

On Saturday, June 16, 2007 a garage sale was held to benefit Sammie's Friends. The sale was organized by Team Sammie volunteer—and organizer extraordinaire—Claudia Sanford, and well staffed by Team Sammie volunteers and family members.

The event was well attended and featured saleable items that included appliances, books, clothing, housewares and tools.

A total of \$1128.00 was raised for Sammie's Friends. Thanks to all who helped make this event a resounding success !



Cheryl Wicks assists Garage Sale attendee's with their selections.

Another Success Story: Meet "Cruiser"



Cruiser was a stray dog that wandered on to some people's property. He had been attacked by something, or someone. The people who found Cruiser tried to care for him, but with limited resources, they were unable to keep up. The upper picture shows Cruisers' condition when he arrived at the vet. At first, the vet didn't think there was an eye left in the damaged area. However, with some skillful work and

great care, the vet was able to save the eye.

Cruiser is now in a foster home and is recovering nicely, as the second photo shows. While he was recovering from the eye surgery, it was discovered that Cruiser was also heart worm positive. This medical expense, in addition to that of the eye surgery, is being paid for by Sammie's Friends. As soon as his re-

covery is complete, Cruiser will find a new forever home.

Contributions by generous donors to Sammie's Friends, a talented veterinary team, and eager volunteers made this story a success. It's stories like this that really show what a difference an organization can make. A huge thanks to all for helping giving Cruiser, and those like him—a second chance!

Spotty's New Home

It was a rainy March evening, when volunteer Bob Kaiser spotted a drenched dog running down the middle of McCourtney Road. Bob was on his way to the shelter to keep his scheduled dog walking commitment, but he stopped his truck, talked the dog on board, and they both headed to the shelter.

The dog, now named Spotty, was in pretty bad shape. She was filthy, underweight, and judged to be between 10-12 years of age. She also had three tumors (eventually confirmed to be non-malignant) that were removed at the shelter. Blood panels and treatment for kennel cough were subsequently paid for by Sammie's Friends.

After Spotty waited three weeks at the shelter, Bob took her into his home on a foster basis. Her picture continued to appear on the New Dawn Rescue website, as

well as on a German Short-hair Pointer Rescue site out of Sacramento.



Spotty, during her stay with Bob Kaiser.

Nearly a month later, when Bob had begun thinking he'd acquired a permanent addition, he received a call from a woman named Nancy, who lives in Oregon. Nancy is a woman with a mission. Earlier in her life, she'd allowed 3 litters of pups to be born—24 in total—and now as a self imposed penance for those pups, she's decided to take in an equal number of senior dogs. She'd seen Spotty's picture and wanted to give her a home.

So, on a Sunday in May, Bob personally drove Spotty to her new 165 acre home. Bob and Nancy speak regularly, and Spotty is having the time of her life. She's gained weight, loves her 4 new dog pals, and all the room she has to roam in.



Spotty, in her new home with a new friend.



Thanks to all who helped make this adoption happen, and especially to Bob for his commitment and willingness to go the extra mile!

"Earlier in her life, she'd allowed 3 litters of pups to be born—24 in total..."

It's a Dog's Life (and a Cat's Too!) by Dr. Rob Avery

Dr Rob Avery of "For the Love of Pets" has graciously consented to contribute a recurring column to our newsletter. For the Love of Pets is a veterinary office in Grass Valley that performs many of the exams and procedures on Sammie's Friends animals.



Daily or near daily brushing at home is the most effective, and the least expensive way to avoid dental disease in your pet.

"Signs of dental disease in our pets can be subtle.

Difficulty eating and obvious pain are not often seen. Instead, behavior changes such as lethargy and less interaction with owners are more common. "

Dental disease in our pets is one of the most common problems they will experience as they age and contributes to many other diseases. Even at a young age, pet's teeth begin to accumulate plaque and eventually calculus that in time will result in periodontal problems. This occurs because of normal bacteria that live within the mouth that colonize the surface of the teeth. These bacteria also can enter the bloodstream and move on to other parts of the body, including the kidneys, lungs and heart where they contribute to disease.

Signs of dental disease in our pets can be subtle. Difficulty eating and obvious pain are not often seen. Instead, behavior changes such as lethargy and less interaction with owners are more common. A foul odor from the mouth is sometimes present. Gums can be visibly inflamed or bleeding and teeth may be loose or discolored. Some animals only resist inspection of their mouths. Sometimes pets show no signs at all even though they are likely experiencing discomfort. A large number of dental problems are not visible, and exist under the gums and in

the roots of the teeth. Abscesses can form in the roots producing pain and sometimes swelling of the jaw. Dogs and cats are more accepting of day-to-day difficulties than are humans, especially if slowly progressive as is dental disease.

Most dental disease can be avoided. Home care is very effective, and if done right is not very difficult. Daily or near daily brushing is the most effective, least expensive option. Use a pet toothpaste (edible and attractively flavored!) and some form of brush to work on the outside surfaces of the pet's teeth. Gradually working into it and using treat rewards works best. Focus especially on the rear teeth. Various chew treats can also help. Greenies, soft rawhides (Virbac, CET) all can be part of a home care program. Oral rinses and gels can be applied to the gums to reduce bacteria. Several dental diets exist that mechanically reduce plaque on the teeth. A new dental vaccine was recently introduced for dogs. It targets one of the bacteria of the mouth and should reduce the development of periodontal disease.

Most animals will need periodic professional cleaning by your veterinarian. Anesthesia is required to effectively clean the teeth. This is because the biggest problems exist under the gum line, an area that cannot be reached while awake. Depending on the age and health of your pet, several precautions may

be taken, including preoperative blood testing, intravenous fluids and adjustments in anesthetic medication. The teeth should be carefully examined and a chart of abnormalities should be made. Dental radiographs can be taken with specialized equipment. Up to 80% of tooth lesions are visible only through dental radiographs. If problems are identified in your pet's teeth, several options usually exist for treatment. Sometimes extraction of the tooth might be recommended. Some teeth require surgery for removal. Other times careful cleaning or even restoration with a root canal or other endodontic methods might be offered. Most restorations are only available through a specialist or a veterinarian with a special interest in dentistry. All healthy teeth should be scaled with an ultrasonic device and polished. Fluoride is often applied. Depending on the treatment needed, your pet may be sent home with antibiotics or pain medications.

Keeping your pet's teeth healthy is one of the most rewarding ways to improve their lives. Home care is effective and not difficult to accomplish. Regular veterinary care is still usually needed but is less traumatic and more effective if owners help out at home. If problems are found and promptly solved, your pet will often visibly feel better and live a happier and longer life.

It Takes a Village by Sammie's Best Friend, Cheryl Wicks

Last time I wrote about my vision of "no more homeless animals in Nevada County." I got to thinking about all the people in this community who share in that vision.

We all know about the established organizations like Pet Adoption League, AnimalSave & more recently Sammie's Friends. In the past 6 years PAL has spent \$256,425 to spay/neuter 9,261 animals. They also provide food to feral cat colonies and to owners of animals that need food for their cats and dogs. In the winter time, their "Woof Over Your Head" program provides houses for cats and dogs that must live outside. AnimalSave has paid for spaying/neutering for over 4,000 animals in the last 6 years and in the past fostered many dogs from the animal shelter. More recently they have concentrated on taking in cats and kittens and finding homes for them. They are currently looking into having a mobile spay/neuter clinic for the county.

Many of you know Dawn Allmandinger, but did you know that in addition to doing the website for the shelter animals she also fosters animals and finds them homes? Over the past 15 years she has taken in 400+ dogs and found them homes. One year the shelter was so crowded with cats that she even took home about a dozen cats and found them homes!

Chow Chow Rescue, Wee Wonders and Mystery Mutts are all run by the same group. They have literally taken in 100's of dogs and fostered them and then found them homes.

Of course you all know Sammie's Friends raises money to pay for the medical expenses of the shelter animals. So many people help in so many ways with this fund raising activity. Sammie's Friends also takes dog and cat food to North San Juan once a month and in the past ran a heart worm clinic in North San Juan.

Their are literally hundreds of people in this community who do their part to help the animals. I learn every day of people who take in one or two dogs or cats a year and find them homes. There are so many people who help with all the Mama Cats and babies in the county by fostering them and caring for them until they can be adopted.

There are dozens of people who bring wet food and treats to the shelter for the dogs and cats. Many people volunteer their time helping at the shelter or at AnimalSave's cat room or in transporting animals to the spay/neuter clinic in Auburn. So many people help raise funds for Sammie's Friends in so many ways. Many people don't have the time to volunteer but they make donations to help the animals.

Dixie and others at The Union help by letting people know what's going on and who needs help. KVMR and KNCO are both generous with air time. Both Channel 10 and Channel 6 have done bios on

Sammie's Friends. Pam does the "For Pet's Sake Show' and that's a big help to get the animals seen. The list goes on and on of all of those who help. I wish I knew them all and we could all get together in one big room to celebrate and know each other. Where would we get a place big enough? Indeed, it takes a village.

It may not be obvious but many people use their computer skills to create and upkeep websites, to make posters & to create newsletters. Many people use their interpersonal skills to help everyone work together.

I'm sure I've left some people out. I love it that even though it "takes a village" the village is there. Thank you all for loving and helping the animals.

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. 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.

THANK YOU!

Meet Veronica Furman: Team Sammie Volunteer

How long a NCAS Volunteer: Veronica has been a volunteer at NCAS for about 2 1/2 years.

Duties as a NCAS Volunteer: Her friend, Fran Cole, "invited" Veronica to be her partner cleaning cat cages on Monday mornings. After that, being at the shelter quickly became a part of Veronica's life and has now become a labor of love. She's happy to do whatever helps make life a little better for the animals; whether it be cleaning cat cages, giving medications, Sub-cu fluids, fostering, or transporting animals. She also does the write ups that are posted on the cat cages. She believes if the public knows

something about where the cat came from and something about its personality, the odds are much better for a faster and happier placement—for both the cat and new owner.

Animals: She's "down" to 5 cats, 1 dog, 2 horses & a foster bunny. Two of the cats, a three legged 16 year old gold tabby, & 10 year old Snowshoe Siamese, came with her from San Jose, 8 years ago. She also has a cat that was once feral, that now just looks at the outside world from a window, and 2 that came from the shelter. One was to be placed as a testy barn cat, but he is a love & prefers sleeping on

the couch or bed and has never seen the barn! The baby is a year old Siamese that has Veronica's husband's heart wrapped around her little paw.

Hobbies/Interests: Veronica enjoys horseback riding and she has a 12 year old Morgan mare who is as stubborn as she is. Veronica says they understand each other and get along great.

Future Plans: "I plan on living in Grass Valley for as long as God allows, to continue helping at our shelter doing whatever I can to help the animals, because it's really them who help me."

"Her friend, Fran Cole "invited" Veronica to be her partner cleaning cat cages on Monday Mornings..."



Team Sammie Volunteers, Barbara Graves (left) and Veronica Furman.

Meet Barbara Graves: Team Sammie Volunteer

How long a NCAS Volunteer: Barbara became a shelter volunteer about 2 1/2 years ago after losing her most beloved pet, Mandy the Dog. The shelter declined Barbara's request to "borrow" a dog each morning to take for walk, but assured her she could walk "lots" of dogs if she'd agree to be a volunteer.

Duties as a NCAS volunteer: Barbara maintains a regular dog walking shift, and goes to the shelter on Saturday afternoons to assist potential adopters find the right dog for them. She also tries to arrange extra walks and attention for the long term resident dogs, alerts the Team Sammie trainers of dogs who need their services, and in general tries to make sure all the dogs are

getting the attention (personal and medical) that they need. She writes grants for Sammie's Friends, has been on the Adoptathon Committee for the last 3 years, and assists with fund raising events. Additionally, she sometimes transports animals to vets for treatment, and occasionally fosters sick animals until they are healthy.

Animals: Barbara has three dogs, three cats and one love bird. Mattie, a blond Whippet mix came from the Mammoth Lakes shelter, Parson, a Border Collie/Aussie Shepard came from NCAC, Java the Rottweiler was confiscated by Animal Control from her previous owner and was a Sammie's Friends beneficiary: she was close to death when

she came to the shelter. Barbara fostered her and just couldn't let her go once she'd recovered. George and Gracie, her two gray kitties came from our shelter and Scamper, her 16 year black cat came with her house. Finally, Slim the lovebird, came to live with Barbara instead of being fed to neighborhood hawks.

Hobbies/Interests: She's an active volunteer at KVMR, enjoys softball, swimming, walking, rollerblading (when she goes somewhere flat), fishing, gardening, reading and snowshoeing.

Future Plans: "I intend to keep getting up each and every day and making the most of it."

"The shelter declined Barbara's request to "borrow" a dog each morning to take for walk..."

Sammie's Friends Events Calendar

A focus for many of the Team Sammie volunteers in 2007, has been creating a list of fundraising opportunities to enable us to raise funds to continue to provide medical care for the NCAS animals. What follows is a tentative list of our scheduled events:

September 8, 2007 The 2nd Annual Motorcycle/Poker Run: There will be t-shirts and a lunch included in the ticket price this year. Again, it will be coordinated by Claudia Sanford, and volunteers will be needed to make the event a success. Pre-registration is available this year. Ticket price \$20 for individual, \$35 per

couple. Please contact Claudia if you're interested in volunteering.

October 2007: Calendars will again be available. This year they will feature pictures of cats and dogs in their new homes.

Nov/Dec 2007: The Toy Run. Claudia Sanford again coordinates. We will have a bake sale booth at the Fairgrounds. Volunteers will be asked to contribute baked goods for the event.

Feb/March 2008: A book sale to benefit Sammie's Friend's. Details to follow.

May 2008: The Adop-tathon. An annual event that just gets more suc-

cessful every year!

June 14, 2008: Wine Tasting at Squirrel Creek. Details forthcoming.

July 4, 2008: The 4th of July parade. We're looking to have a presence in the parade that includes volunteers and 4 legged friends!

August 2008: Golf Tournament for Sammie's Friends. More details coming soon!

Then the cycle begins again!! These are the events scheduled as of this publication, and are subject to change. Events may be added or changed, so please keep an eye on the Poop Scoop for future information on all up-coming events.

"Fundraising opportunities allow us to continue to provide medical care for the NCAS animals...."



Sammie's Friends
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Veterinary Care for Nevada County Shelter 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 works closely with the NCAS Volunteers who help to socialize and find forever homes for the unwanted dogs and cats of Nevada County.

Visit us at:
www.sammiesfriends.org