



Facts About Us & the Work We've Done:

* During the nearly six years that Sammie's Friends has managed the Animal Shelter, 10,000+ animals have been placed.

* Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter has a euthanasia rate of under one percent.

* In the 15 years since Cheryl Wicks went to the Shelter, over 16,000 animals have received veterinary care from Sammie's Friends.

* In 2015 Sammie's Friends spayed/neutered over 2000 dogs and cats in the community.

In This Issue

Sammie's Friends - The Next Chapter	Pg 1
The Fabulous Taz!	Pg 2
Jewel and Daisy	Pg 2
E-Script	Pg 3
AmeriCorp Volunteers	Pg 3
Stephanie Geckler	Pg 3
Volunteer Spotlight: Janis Linfield & Phil Yonge	Pg 4
Spring is in the AIR! - Susan Grimes, Veterinarian	Pg 5
Spay and Neuter!	Pg 6
Our new PLAY YARD!	Pg 7
The Back Page	Pg 8

The Poop Scoop

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

Volume XII, Issue 1

Spring 2016

Sammie's Friends ~ The Next Chapter

Since 2001 Curt and Cheryl and the hundreds of people who have joined them as volunteers, donors, event planners, supply donators and just plain old pats-on-the-back givers have made a huge difference for the animals of Nevada County.

We can all be proud of what we have accomplished. In these 15 intervening years, since Cheryl first stepped foot in the shelter on March 23, 2001, at least 25,000 animal lives have been saved. Things are running well, giving Cheryl and Curt the time to turn their attention to making plans for the sustainability of this way of life for the animals. Our desire is to put together an endowment fund which will last into perpetuity, long after we and others are gone.

An endowment fund is an investment fund, set up by an organization in which regular withdrawals from the invested capital are used for ongoing operations or other specified purposes. In Sammie's Friends' case it would be for ongoing operations.

An endowment fund is funded by donations, which are tax-deductible for the donors. There are three main components to an endowment fund:

1. What types of investments will be made
2. What types of withdrawals will be made from the fund and
3. A fund usage policy to ensure that the money from the fund is being properly used for the purposes set out by the fund.

At the moment all funds raised for Sammie's Friends come from Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store, donations, grants, and events. We are so grateful and hope that these funds will continue. An endowment fund would be a more secure and enduring source of income. It would also require a substantial amount of capital to generate the kind of income we need to maintain what we have started.

In total, between the current sources of income and an endowment fund, we would hope to generate \$500,000 per year. Over the next 5 years our goal is to raise \$5,000,000 to ensure that the interest from the invested capital would play a major role in sustaining Sammie's Friends and the good life for the animals of Nevada County. Participation in this exciting program can be done through trusts, and donations of stocks, bonds and cash.

We have been talking with an investment manager and are in the early stages of making our sustainability plans. If anyone reading this would like to help us with information on how to best acquire substantial donations for the fund or would like their own money to be put to work for the animals on into the future we would love to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl Wicks at 530-272-8833 or cheryl.wicks@sammiesfriends.org.

Many times we have asked for help from the animal loving community and people have come forward to help because they love animals and because they believe in what Sammie's Friends is doing. Thank you for having a big heart for the animals.



The inspiration for all that Sammie's Friends has become was a Shar-pei named Sammie. The anniversary of his birth will be March 31. The year he was born, March 31 was Easter Sunday. Easter symbolizes new beginnings and the new life and freshness of spring is always right around the corner from Easter. Sammie changed the focus of Cheryl and Curt's lives and they in turn started a movement which has brought together many followers to better the lives of animals in Nevada County.

Now it is time to write another chapter (the sustainability plan) in Sammie's Friends book.

THE MEMORABLE, INDOMITABLE, FABULOUS TAZ

Taz is one of the stand out dogs, from the shelter, of all time. He has quite a fan club and following. Taz first came to the shelter as an 8 week old puppy in 2006. He was a large puppy and took a leadership role with the smaller, not necessarily younger, puppies. At 3 months old he was adopted by a young man. At 8 months old, Taz ingested part of a hose and the nylon spiral reinforcement got twisted up in his intestines. The wonderful Dr. Avery at For The Love of Pets performed the surgery and resected some of Taz' intestines. Sammie's Friends helped out by paying for half the surgery. For The Love of Pets remembers Taz as the best patient ever.

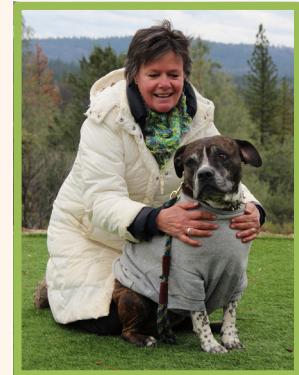
In 2009 the young fellow could not keep Taz and turned him into the shelter. By now Taz had been bounced around a bit and may not have been treated the best. In spite of everything Taz was still a fun loving dog. Tazzie stayed at the shelter for 6 months and along came Beverley, our doggie behaviorist, who didn't know she was a doggie behaviorist yet, who adopted Taz, with encouragement from Tazzie's Auntie Cheryl.

As Beverley became the doggie behaviorist extraordinaire, Taz became a member extraordinaire of her doggie pack that she brings to the shelter to teach the shelter dogs how

to be dogs and have fun and become better socialized. Taz did a great job for five years. However, the last year he decided he'd done enough for those unruly shelter dogs and decided to retire. He wants to lie in front of the fireplace on these cold days and take it easy. He deserves that after all he has given to the shelter dogs.

Thank you Taz.

In 2011, Taz swallowed a piece of charcoal and had to have another surgery on his intestines. He made it through and returned to being the great dog he'd always been. Of course his intestines are a bit short after two major surgeries. Take care of those intestines Taz. Taz is nearly 10 years old now and is one of the few dogs that we have been in touch with from puppyhood to old age. He is still the spectacular dog that we always knew he would be. All the signs were there as a young puppy.



We love you Taz.

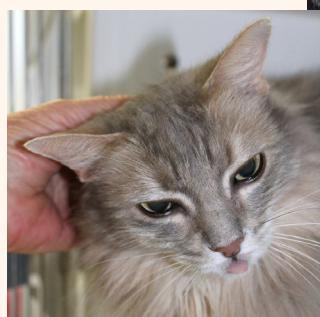
Citrine after the yellow gemstone her eyes resemble. Rona says the two settled instantly into their new home.



Every morning Citrine and Jewel play with a laser pointer in the kitchen, and they sleep together in sunbeams all day. Jewel is more energetic and likes to play and explore, but Citrine is definitely in charge, says Rona. Whenever Jewel can't find Citrine, she cries until her big sister comes to rescue her.

Jewel

Rona says she's learned that both cats respond to sign language and understand a handful of commands. The two are always together, and Citrine is doing much better now that she has a loving home where she can feel secure. She came to us quite thin and we were unable to put any weight on her. In spite of the best care possible, Citrine found shelter life stressful. When Rona took her home, she weighed only 7 lbs. Now, after just 5 weeks, she's weighing in at 9 lbs. These two girls couldn't have a better forever home.



Daisy (Citrine)

On January ninth, Rona walked into Sammie's and finally gave these lovely girls their forever home. Rona had visited a few times before and was shocked no one else had snatched up these two, so she decided to take them home herself. Daisy was renamed

All of us at Sammie's Friends are, of course, elated over their good fortune.

Three EASY ways you can help Sammie's Friends that COSTS you NOTHING

SPD eScrip – We receive over \$1,600/month with fewer than 30% of those of you who signed up actually participating. Imagine what we would make if everyone used it! So - each time you shop at SPD, get 3% of your purchase made as a contribution to Sammie's Friends:

1. If you have signed up and still have your SPD Community Card ask the checker to scan it at check-out;
2. If you have signed up but no longer have your SPD Community Card, ask the checker to enter the telephone number you registered with;
3. If you have not signed up or don't recall the right telephone number, ask the checker to enter 530-273-0603 (Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop's Telephone Number);
4. Ask family and friends to enter your registered number or the thrift store's number at check-out when they shop at SPD.

Save Mart – Save-Mart will soon be participating in the eScrip program and contributing 3% of all purchases made at their store to Sammie's Friends.

We can begin sign-ups immediately and contributions will begin with purchases starting April 1.

Sammie's Friends congratulates Animal Control Officer **Stefanie Geckler** who was honored by the Sheriff's Department as **Officer of the Year** for 2014.

It is the first time that an Animal Control Officer has won the award. We're grateful that she has been recognized for her outstanding work!



- There will be no card linked with their eScrip program. It will all be done using your phone number. When you are registered, entering your phone number at check-out will give you all store discounts and sale prices, along with a 3% contribution to Sammie's Friends in your name!
- If you are a Save-Mart shopper and would like to sign up to support Sammie's Friends, please email me (jcastles@sbcglobal.net) your:
Name
Phone Number you want to use for discounts, etc.
Email address (this will not be sold or re-distributed)

Benefit-Mobile.com – This is a new mobile app that has HUGE potential. It is an app that is used on mobile devices like smart phones and iPods.

Hundreds of retailers participate at various levels from 1% to 7%; these include Petco, Staples, Starbucks, CVS, I-Hop, K-Mart, Target, Groupon, Overstock, JC Penney, Home Depot, and Lowes. Safeway will soon be participating, too, and this will be huge for us! If you are a Safeway shopper and you use the Just For U app for your grocery shopping, you can make a HUGE difference.

If you are a smart phone user, I would love to sit down with you and explain how this works. It is absolutely SAFE – safer than carrying a credit card! Please email me at jcastles@sbcglobal.net if you are interested!



A team of AmeriCorps workers came and worked (hard!) on our dog-walking trails. Thank you so much (from L to R) Amanda, Molly, Morgan, Melissa, Emily, Anthony, Joe, Aisyah, and Savannah. You did a great job!

Volunteer Spotlight

Janis Linfield

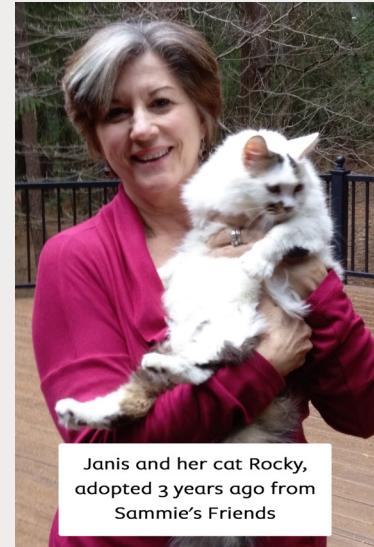
We could devote a whole issue of the Poop Scoop writing about Janis Linfield and all of the ways that she has participated in Sammie's Friends. She first came out to the shelter in October 2005 in response to an item in Dixie Redfern's column in The Union newspaper. She intended to become a Dog Walker but was told that there was a big need for Cat Care volunteers. She likes cats, too, so she signed up for one weekly shift in the Cat Room and also made herself available to be a Substitute Dog Walker. In 2008, when the Walker Training Program was initiated, Janis became a Trainer and trained walkers until early 2015.

Also in her early years at the shelter, Janis was on the Adoptathon committee. Sammie's Friends staged a yearly Adoptathon to show off the shelter animals and to raise funds for veterinary expenses. Adoptathons entailed several months of preparation and Janis hung in there for at least three of them.

In 2009 Janis joined the Sammie's Friends Board of Directors. This was at a time when Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander, co-founders of Sammie's Friends, were negotiating with the County to take over management of the shelter. Janis wanted to help at this critical juncture in Sammie's Friends' history. She just recently resigned her Board membership after 6 years of service.

In the Fall of 2014, Sammie's Friends negotiated with the County to use the empty modular building on the property to house Sammie's cats. The building had been offices for the Animal Control Officers. Extensive changes needed to be made to re-purpose the interior. Sammie's Friends secured a grant and a large individual donation to fund this project. Janis, her husband Mike, Joanne Castle, Phyllis Murdock, and Ruth Rasmussen formed the planning committee and then put plan to action. They took down walls, laid linoleum, re-worked the plumbing and electrical systems, built a kitchen and replaced interior windows. They had Dr. Susan Smith, DVM, come evaluate the overall plan and added exhaust fans to their to-do list. The finishing touch was a deck at the back door where there had been a six-foot drop. The cats were moved up to their new, highly improved quarters on Memorial Day weekend. It was an ambitious and worthwhile project of which Janis is rightfully proud.

And Janis is now volunteering at Sammie's Nifty Thrift Store. (Note that she and hubby Mike helped put together the store's interior.) She enjoys interacting with the public and working with the store's Staff and Volunteers. Janis enjoys working the cash register. Say hi when you see her! Sammie's Friends thanks Janis for her many years of service. We couldn't have done it without her!



Janis and her cat Rocky,
adopted 3 years ago from
Sammie's Friends

Phil Yonge

Phil Yonge first came to the shelter as a potential adopter. He had always had dogs but had been without one for five years and the time had come. While at the shelter he heard about the Volunteer Program and, in September 2015, Phil joined the ranks of the Volunteers. When he did, he jumped in with both feet and leashes in both hands.

Phil's primary interest has been in the Training Program, headed up by Behaviorist/Trainer Beverley Mercier Ward. He was/is so impressed that a shelter our (small) size would have such an extensive program when shelters much larger and better funded have nothing remotely comparable. He is grateful for the opportunity to learn from someone who has worked with so many dogs for so many years. For the last five months, Phil has worked four mornings and one afternoon every week with Beverley. He helps in almost every aspect of the Training Program: he helps socialize dogs with other dogs, conducts basic training (sit, down, etc) and kennel training, and does both leash and long-line work. When he has time he takes an active dog out for a nice long run.

Because Phil wanted to focus on the Training Program but still wanted to help the Dog Walking program, he initially signed up to be a Substitute Walker, filling in as needed. The Walker ranks have been somewhat thin during this time period so Phil began walking as many as ten or eleven shifts a week! He now has "regular" shifts but continues to fill in as a Sub. He (bravely!) took on sharing the role of Scheduler for the Dog Walkers with Karol Valdez and he makes himself available when shifts are short-handed. I just know the dogs look at Phil as their Great Friend, a guy who cares deeply for them and keeps their interests in the forefront.

Originally from the Bay Area, Phil moved to Grass Valley in (about) 1997. He lived briefly in Las Vegas and Oregon (twice) before returning to Nevada County. His career had been as a Restaurant Owner but he has retired from that field with the hope of spending his time working with dogs. Ultimately he would like to do his own Training Program, focusing primarily on Basic Training and Behavior Training.

Oh, and Phil did find his new dog! He rescued Ashes, a 5 year old Australian Shepherd mix with incredible tri-color eyes and a sweet personality. Ashes is now one of the pack that helps socialize our shelter dogs.



Phil and his rescue dog Ashes

Spring is in the Air!

By: Susan Grimes, DVM, Lake of the Pines

Spring is in the air and so are bugs! Insects are bothersome, but they can cause serious problems for our pets. The three most common bug-related problems are attributed to fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. (For those purists, ticks are actually arachnids, not insects!)

F-L-E-A! The four letter word of pet owners during the spring and summer. Fleas cause itchy patches of hair loss on our pets, ranging from small "hot spots" to cases where the entire pet's skin looks raw and irritated. Secondary bacterial skin infections are common. Flea allergy dermatitis is a condition where every bite of the flea causes an allergic reaction. These pets may only have 1-2 fleas but will be very uncomfortable with red, itchy skin. Fleas are a common cause of tapeworms, an intestinal parasite in dogs and cats. Fleas can also transmit medical problems such as Hemobartonellosis and Bartonellosis in cats. (more commonly recognized as Cat Scratch Fever).

Ticks are another prevalent parasite that cause diseases. They can make dogs and cats ill, but the most common tick-related illnesses are seen in dogs. In our area, the most common tick-related diseases are Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis. Occasionally we may diagnosis Babesiosis. These illnesses can cause a variety of symptoms including fever, joint pain, and decreased red blood cells (anemia), or decreased white blood cells.

I believe the best plan is prevention. There are a number of very effective and safe veterinary products that kill fleas and ticks. I also believe that involving your veterinarian in the conversation of choosing the best product for your pet is important. Most of the current products have a very good safety history, but together you and your veterinarian can discuss your pet's medical history and make a good choice. There are now products that are oral, or given by mouth that control fleas and ticks such as Nexgard. There are also topical products such as Frontline Plus and Frontline Tritak that are applied as a small amount of liquid on the skin in the pet's upper neck and shoulder area. Be very careful when purchasing products, especially if you choose to purchase products in a pet store or big box store setting. Purchase the product for the correct species- dog or cat and the correct weight. Never apply the incorrect dose or the wrong species product to your pet, there can be serious complications. Some ingredients in dog insecticides, especially some store brands, when applied to cats can cause seizures.

The last insect to talk about is the **mosquito**. The most important disease they transmit in our area is Heartworm. Heartworm is transmitted when a mosquito bites an infected dog (or coyote), takes a blood meal then flies to the next dog and bites it spreading the disease. The preferred "host" is the dog, but cats can also become infected. The heartworm then goes through a maturation process eventually becoming a worm which lives in the heart and large vessels of the lungs.

Left untreated, it will cause heart disease and failure. In cats, the disease can cause sudden death. The good news is that it is very preventable with monthly products such as Heartgard, an oral chew tablet for dogs and cats or with topical products such as Revolution (which also control fleas). All heartworm prevention products are by prescription only and most veterinarians recommend an annual heartworm test.

In closing, don't let these bugs get the best of your pets! Use preventative products, include your veterinarian in the product selection and have a healthy and happy Spring!



Dr Susan Grimes with her staff

Why Spay/Neuter Your Pet?

Who's Leg Do I Have To
Hump To Get You To
Read This?



- ★ Cats and dogs can get pregnant earlier than most people think. Cats can get pregnant by four months and dogs by five months!
- ★ 50% of litters are not planned. Many litters end up in animal shelters or on Craigslist looking for a home.
- ★ **6-8 MILLION HOMELESS ANIMALS ENTER SHELTERS EVERY YEAR!**
- ★ Spaying/neutering early helps eliminate annoying behaviors like spraying, roaming, yowling and fighting. Not to mention stopping heat cycles.

Did you know?

A female dog, her mate and their puppies, if left unsterilized, could produce over 66,000 dogs in 6 years.



Keyashia Davis, Dayton Public Schools

Did you know?

A cat can be in heat every other week unless mated.



Submitted by Tamir Rastetter, Medlar View Elementary

Vouchers and FREE Spay/Neuter for your pet!



If you need help with a **Chihuahua, Pitbull, Husky or Malamute**
Please contact **Pound Puppy Rescue** to receive a **FREE spay/neuter**.
530-272-1716



If you are low income and need help with a spay/neuter for **all other breeds of dogs AND cats**, please stop by **Sammie's Friends @Nevada County Animal Shelter** and pick up a **discount voucher** to use at participating Veterinarians.

14647 McCourtney Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 471-5041

THE NEW PLAY YARD

The side yard at Sammie's Friends sees a lot of use. It's where Beverley the dog behaviorist does much of her training, it's where families meet their new dogs, it's where dogs that are stuck in kennels almost all day get to run around and stretch their legs. It was not easy to use the side yard all the time.

When it rained, the yard turned into a small lake, and years of excited dogs had taken a toll on the fences. There was not much shade on summer days and the puppy yard near the shelter entrance couldn't contain older puppies. Everyone who spent time at the shelter couldn't help seeing these problems, but no one was sure how to go about fixing them, so Dina Jacopi took matters into her own hands.

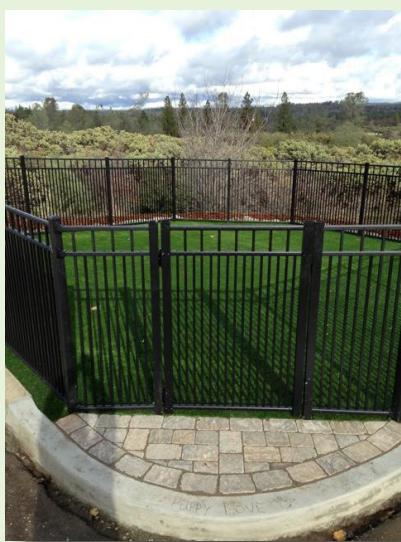
In addition to all the great work she does running Sammie's website



and everything else, Dina and her wife, Vicki Lake, spent a year doing research to find out how to make the best possible dog yard for Sammie's. In late September of 2014, Dina started talking to Cheryl Wicks about her ideas, and Cheryl encouraged her to run with the project. Dina researched the best building materials to use and talked to countless contractors to get estimates. Cheryl was able to secure a grant through PPASTS Foundation (the same foundation that generously funded much of Sammie's Friends Kitty Kove) to fund the project..

The PPASTS board came out to the shelter to see the current yard, and listened to Dina about her vision. After a couple months of discussions, the board unanimously decided to fund the project in October 2015.

The total estimate Dina had gotten from all the most competitive contractors had been about \$52 thousand. She talked to a friend who worked for Weiss Brothers, and the company decided they wanted to take on the whole project, under Sammie's Friends' budget. Weiss Bros started work in mid November last year, and after 5 weeks of hard work, the yard looked better than ever. Sammie's Friends spent additional money to buy shade sales for the yard, as well as a new umbrella for the table outside, a new dog-proof toy box, and new poop scoops and cans to make both the yards look great.



Now Sammie's Friends' has a play yard that can be enjoyed no matter the weather, and a puppy yard that can contain even the most rambunctious babies. Soon, Dina hopes to construct posts to mount the shade sales to, so they can be put up in time for the hot weather.

None of this could have happened without the generous support of Weiss Brothers, PPASTS, Dina's tireless dedication, and all the love and help we receive from this wonderful community every day. Thank you all!



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, 14647 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95949.*

THANK YOU!

Did You Know...

Lack of funds is not a reason to leave your cat or dog unspayed/unneutered.

There are two low cost clinics you can use:

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

*AnimalSave:
530-477-1706*

For additional financial support you can call:

- For pitbulls, huskys, chihuahuas, and malamutes:

*Melise at Pound Puppy Rescue
530-272-1716*

- For cats and other breeds of dogs

*pick up a voucher at
Sammie's Friends*

**For questions call
530-471-5041**



Please Support Our Local Businesses

COUNTRY CATTERY "BOARDING RESORT FOR CATS!"

Carol Hyndman, owner
(530) 477-PURR **(530) 477-1003**

- Individual Accommodations
- Indoor/Outdoor Lodgings
- Owners Live on Site

Mary's Business Cents

Bookkeeping and Tax Prep

Mary Hewitt
Owner

14131 Auburn Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95949

Phone: 530-205-5654
mariesbusinesscents@gmail.com

Play Hard! Bark Loud! Eat Scrape!

scraps
Dog & Cat Nutrition

530.274.4493

Billie Alvarez-Declusin
Owner- Groomer
River Dogs:
Dog and Cat grooming
526 Mill st Grass valley CA 95945
530-272-1645
530-277-2809

Arnette McClure
Janice Hundemer
Audrey Moore

2034 Nevada City Hwy
Grass Valley, CA 95945
www.ScrapsDogBakery.net

Yoga

..... because life can be a **stretch!**

release live feel
tone breathe restore
balance relax
stretch Healthy Body, Happy You!

fulllifeyogastudio.com • 530.277.3783
204 Providence Mine Road, Ste 112, Nevada City, CA 95959



SikesREALTY
#01235343

530.263.1178
Office ~ 530.432.9805
Fax ~ 866.899.1270
www.PamelaSikes.com
PamelaSikes@yahoo.com

11456 Pleasant Valley Road ~ Penn Valley, CA 95946

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

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.