



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume II, Issue I

Summer 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 1000 animals have received care from Sammie's Friends.

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Sammie's Friends Success Stories

Sammie's Friends has had a busy Spring! Through the efforts of Team Sammie volunteers and contributions from members of the community, we have been able to treat over 160 animals from January through May. Here are three of the more memorable cases.

Misty

First there is Misty. Misty was brought to the shelter after being humanely trapped on a property near Grass Valley. She had been observed by the land owners for some time. They noticed that there was something wrong with Misty



Misty - at the vets

Misty has made a wonderful recovery from her injuries

and asked that Animal Control investigate and capture this wonderful dog.

After being confined, she was immediately taken to the vets to have her wounds treated. She had a collar imbedded in her skin. After treatment, she was fostered by a wonderful couple and is now in recovery (See story on Page 3).

Tripod Kitties

Our second story involves kitties. This spring the Shelter and Sammie's Friends had a run on cats with mangled legs that had to be amputated. One kitty named Mid-



Midnight

night had been caught in a fan belt and another had been shot in the leg and the third had a huge cancerous growth on the leg. Once the legs were amputated and healed the three kitties were back on their feet and raring to go. In fact Midnight unexpectedly gave birth to a kitten. Who knew she was pregnant. That's probably the reason she was hiding in the engine of a car to avoid some tomcat. Poor kitty. She's fine now. All were successfully adopted.

Kramer

Kramer is a beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog who was a show dog. He was one of the highest ranked in the nation. Kramer got himself in a little trouble. He very seri-

ously bit his owner when she got between him and an in-heat female.

Kramer was scheduled for euthanasia but due to some fast dancing on the part of Sammie's Friends he was allowed to go to the Smiling Dog Farms in Wharton, Texas. The only requirement to go there is that the dog has no other option than eutha-



Kramer

nasia. Kramer will live his life out there. We miss him and we're grateful he gets to have a life.

Our very own kennel attendant, Ruth, drove him all the way there. Nice going Ruthie. Kramer has made quite a hit on the sanctuary. The owners have been smitten and Kramer is living in the house with several other dogs. He's been a cream puff. Even though he weighs 130 pounds he was cornered one night by a 13-year-old sheltie, with "a lot of miles on her odometer" and the guys at the sanctuary had to get out of bed and call her off of Kramer.

Thanks to all those involved who helped to make these miracles happen.

Petie and Pippin — Bosom Buddies

By Michelle McKenzie



Pippin chases Petie

"I can't remember why I was ever afraid of pits."

Michelle McKenzie

I used to think Pit Bulls were scary. Now I am in love with one. My husband Jim and I found the fat puppy on the side of the road, and scooped him up. He was about six weeks old, and Dog Bar is far too busy a road for a baby to wander along. We did find the owners that same day, and knew he would be right back on the road, so we offered to buy him. They were willing, and we took our new puppy home to meet the rest of the

pack. Petie is now three years old, silly, smart, and better than to rough-house with his dog. The other day I watched as Petie shook a stick in Pippin's face. "This is a pretty darn good stick," he said, but Pippin was more interested in nipping Petie on the butt. I supervise their play—I'm worried that Pippin plays too rough with Petie. Pippin is now 12 months old, and soon will join the other horses in our pasture. But for now, he lives in the round pen with two donkeys, and plays with his dog, Petie.

happy, and I can't remember why I was ever afraid of pits. Our new mini colt, Pippin, is certainly not afraid of this one. He loves nothing



Petie and Pippin at play in Pippin's round pen..

Adoptathon Held May 3rd

The Nevada County Shelter Volunteers and the Shelter Staff hosted the fourth annual Adoptathon on May 3rd. This event is held each year on the first Saturday of May in conjunction with the world-wide Adoptathon sponsored by the North Shore Animal League in New York. On this weekend, animal shelters in the United States and around the world are encouraged to hold events designed to adopt as many animals as possible in one weekend. Here in Nevada County, the volunteers have made special efforts to groom the cats and dogs, decorate their cages and encourage members of the community to

find a place for them in their homes. This year, 6 dogs, 3 puppies and 5 cats were adopted, according to Barbara Graves, one of the lead volunteers at the Shelter.

video taped by Pam Gorman for airing on her "For Pets Sake" television show on the local community television network. The event was a great success with many visitors coming to the shelter to see what was happening.

The volunteers organized a lunchtime barbecue and offered free drinks. There was a bake sale with many delicious cookies, cupcakes and other treats. As well, there was a donation drawing for

many wonderful gifts donated to the cause by individuals and businesses in the community. Proceeds were donated to Sammie's Friends. All together, over \$1,200 was raised.



Debbie Freele conducts an interview with a volunteer and two doggie friends at the Adoptathon.



Adoptathon attendees enjoy a lunchtime barbecue.

Other local animal rescues participated in the adoptathon as well. These included AnimalSave, Chows Plus and Chow Chow Rescue of the Sierra Foothills. Interviews were conducted and

There's a "Wolf" in my Garden— by Susie Mautz



She puts her back to the honeysuckle and chews on the lilac when she's bored. Right now, she is resting where the tomatoes and peppers will soon be planted.

To be clear, Misty didn't just hunker down in our garden

because she likes it . . . we invited her. She's our foster dog.

And, to be honest, she isn't a wolf at all. Misty is a Malamute mix who resembles a wolf.

We have nine dogs, all rescues, mostly Border Collies. The idea of fostering a dog never comes up. When dogs present themselves, they become part of the family; they stay, blending into our pack. They get collars and chips, hand painted Christmas ornaments and stockings embroidered with their names. They sleep inside, often sharing our bed, making my husband and me like parentheses around a jumbled dog sentence.

It's much different with Misty. She doesn't even have a collar.

She had a collar once. Someone placed a small collar on her when she was three or four months old. It was pink with hearts and flowers. We know this because we saw it after it'd been surgically removed from her neck and chest.

Misty's history isn't known, so here is what we speculate: after her puppy collar was placed, Misty found herself living on her own. Did someone intentionally dump her? Did she get loose and escape her home, unable to find her

way back?

Somehow, in her freedom, Misty's collar went from encircling her neck to ringing under her right foreleg. Maybe she tried pushing the collar off (again, speculation) and managed only to get her right front leg stuck through it, so the collar went around her left neck and under her right leg.

Then she grew up.

Misty lingered at the edges of property owned by kind and concerned people who could see (and smell) that something was wrong. Misty was feral and scared--they watched her condition worsen over four months, unable to help.

By the time Misty was humanely trapped, the collar had imbedded itself into the muscles under her leg and the flesh of her neck. It encroached on her airway and she made clicking noises when she swallowed. Her wounds were infected, bloody, and smelled like death.

How did she survive living on her own for so long? What did she eat? Why didn't coyotes kill her? She wouldn't have been able to escape them--she could hardly bear weight on that front leg.

We met Misty after her surgeries, so scared, shy, and feral. She has never growled, snapped, or shown any aggression. Human proximity causes her to go some place deep inside and hold very still. When really frightened, she is incontinent. Her physical wounds would have healed if she had stayed in the local ani-

mal shelter--it was her spirit that would die if she didn't reconnect with nature.

That is why we invited Misty to live in our garden. Misty has been our foster dog for two months now. The frantic pacing of the first two days has slowed some. We can't touch her unless we corner her, and then it is clear that only we enjoy such contact, she tolerates it by holding silently still. Our goal: Misty finds humans--or maybe just a human--tolerable, interesting, safe.

The journey will take months, possibly years, always a work in progress, fingers crossed that a forever home will be her reward. Misty has quite a support network in our little community. People who know of her story come sit with her to work on socialization. So many people, in fact, that we have to schedule their arrivals to avoid household chaos. Behaviorists, trainers, and representatives of Malamute rescues have traveled to meet Misty and answer our endless questions. A local woman blends a special flower essence that we put in Misty's water. Prayer groups in Utah and Washington offer up hopes for healing. Everyday we spend time with Misty--we talk softly to her and to each other, tell her our thoughts.

I've read to her, sung to her, and just sat in silence, beaming her calming thoughts. Everyday we look for signs of progress and

See Misty on page 6

"How did she survive living on her own so long? What did she eat?"

Our Community "Rocks" - When it comes to the Animals by Cheryl Wicks



Kali Freele and Peterson

"We have had everyone from 5 years old to 92 years old help Sammie's Friends."

Hi to the many wonderful Sammie's Friends supporters . Yippee! Things are rockin' and rollin' at Sammie's Friends. As many of you know things were rough for Sammie's Friends early in the year. We turned over every stone and asked the community to help and the community helped. We are now going stronger than ever and able to help many precious pets at the shelter and in the community.

We have six grant writers now. Many thanks to Suesan, Barbara, Claudia, Michelle, Peg and Carol. Even Curt and I join in occasionally and write a grant. We have a garage sale coming up on June 21, the 3rd annual Motorcycle Rally on August 16 and a Golf Tournament on September 27. Lori Perry will head up the garage sale this year and of course Claudia Sanford will be heading up the Motorcycle Rally and Krista Putnam the Golf Tournament. Toni Stevens recently headed up a letter writing campaign to solicit funds for Sammie's Friends. Muttley's Pet Emporium has

been nice enough to display the dog house for the dog house contest. Kris and Janis are selling sponsorships to businesses for the dog kennels which raises funds for the animals.

I watch "American Idol" religiously and recently the guest mentor was Neil Diamond. This excerpt from his wonderful song says it bestpack up the babies and grab the old ladies and

too young or too old.

This edition I want to focus on some cool kids. Kali Freele went to her brother Jakob's baseball game and while she was there rounded up \$16.86. Kali is 7 years old. You go girl. A big thank you to Kali. By the way, this is not the first time that Kali has generously donated to Sammie's Friends. Kali also makes posters of the shelter animals and puts them up on the baseball field so people are motivated to go adopt them.

Christie Wurster and Ashley Myer, two sixth grade students at Pleasant Valley School, made a project out of raising money for Sammie's Friends to benefit the animals. Wilma (my cat) and I went to the school to receive the money and left with a jar full of \$104.67. The jar weighed so much Wilma and I could hardly carry it.



Cheryl and Wilma meet with Christie Wurster and Ashley Myer at Pleasant Valley School.

everyone goes cuz everyone knows that brother love shows. Hallelujah! We have had everyone from 5 years old to 92 years old help Sammie's Friends. No one is

See Community Help on Page 8

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 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.***

In Memory of Marge Parkin: Volunteer Extraordinaire

Marge Parkin passed away on April 11. She will be missed very much by the other volunteers and the kitties at the shelter. Marge was a kitty cuddler for several years. She was also one of the organizers for the annual May Adoptathon. Whenever a kitty would come to the shelter all matted Marge often saw to it

that the kitty went out for a clean up. Those kitties felt much better afterwards. Thank you for your good heart Marge.

Marge leaves behind her husband, Norm, of 20 years and her beloved kitties, Lily, NuNu and Iris and her doggie, Missy. They all loved her and miss her very much.

Marge was a Skip Tracer once upon a time. Sounds adventurous and interesting. She was also in the roofing business with her father for many years.

We will hold you in our hearts for a very long time. Bless you Marge.



Marge Parkin

In Memory of Margaret Stewart: Team Sammie Volunteer

Our beloved cat cuddler, Margaret Stewart passed away on February 22 at 92 years old. Margaret had the distinction of being the oldest shelter volunteer ever. For four years Margaret came to the shelter every Saturday afternoon to cuddle the cats with her daughter, Carolyn Roth. No one would have ever imagined she was 92 years old.

Margaret has always had a kind heart for the animals. Over the years Margaret has had many cats and dogs. All of Margaret's cats have shown up at her doorstep and stayed for 20+ years. Her latest, Coco, appeared just in time to replace a previous loss. Margaret was a faithful contributor to Sammie's Friends and helped

many animals through her contributions. We thank her for that.

Margaret was the much-loved mother of three children and two grandchildren.

We will all miss you and will hold you close to our hearts for a very long time, Margaret. You were a great lady and a good role model for all of us.



Margaret Stewart

Buddy Finds a New Home

Last Fall, Sammie's Friends rescued two little red-nosed pit bulls in Georgia named Buddy and Rosy. Buddy came to live with us and Rosy was immediately adopted by Susan Wallace. We grew to love Buddy dearly. Unfortunately, our Teddy did not get along with him so we actively sought a home for Buddy. At long last, our special little love pup, Buddy, has been adopted. Yeah! Buddy now lives in Washoe Valley, Nevada with his new mommy and poppy, Susan and Mike, and his new doggie friend, Tsunami.

We loved Buddy aka Larry so

very much and miss him a lot. Buddy is having a wonderful time in his new home with Tsunami. We took him to his



Buddy (aka Larry) and Curt

new home at 11 am on Friday, May 23rd, and he and Tsunami finally stopped playing at 9 pm that night. How much fun could a dog have?

We send blessings to everyone who helped Buddy along the way and we are grateful that we had this wonderful little boy with us for eight months. We are so happy he has a great new home where he will live until he is an old doggie.

We love you Buddy and we'll never forget you.

MoMo and Curly (otherwise known as Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander)



Buddy follows Tsunami

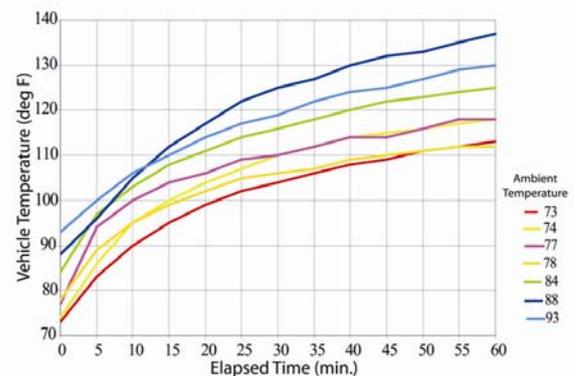
Keep Your Pet Cool in the Summer



Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time. On a warm day, the temperature in a car can reach 120° F in a matter of minutes-even with the windows partially open. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation when trapped in high temperatures. This is what you should do if your pet is exposed to high temperatures:

"Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time"

- Be alert to signs of heat stress-heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.
- If your pet has become overheated, you must lower his body temperature immediately.
- Move your pet into the



Interior temperature in a car after leaving it in the sun.

McLaren, C. et al. Pediatrics 2005;116:e109-e112

shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over her body to gradually lower her body temperature.

- Apply ice packs or cold towels to your pet's head, neck, and chest only.
- Let your pet drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes.

- Take your pet to a veterinarian right away-it could save your pet's life.

If you see an animal in a car exhibiting any signs of heat stress, call your local animal control agency or police department immediately!

Reprinted courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States

Misty -continued from page 3



Misty in her garden.

almost daily find something that fits that bill of hope.

Two weeks passed before we heard Misty make a sound. It was the wee hours of the morning when the long, low howl went out into the night air, a lonely sound. "I'm here, where are you?" was all I could think of.

Misty has become curious and watchful of our dogs and us. She loves to watch the Border Collies playing, often running the fence as they streak by for the ball or Frisbee, banging her paws on the fence and ground, her wagging tail held high.

Misty has a special interest in my husband. She watches coyly for him from behind the honeysuckle and tracks his voice as he moves around outdoors. He can touch her, brush her, and, once cornered, put a loose lead around her neck. When he leaves her enclosure, Misty looks for him to return. She is smitten with him (it appears to be mutual).

A few adopters have shown interest in Misty. They are touched by her story and wonder if, with them, she'll find peace. I worry: they see her through such a sad lens. Yet Misty doesn't dwell

in her past, she shows no regret for the months of fending for herself, holds no ill will for her scars and wounds. She lives in this moment, though timidly, and deserves a companion who will respect her for who she is now . . . someone with time, patience, humor, love, and kindness.

How will we part with her? Who will come for a creature so alien, so damaged? Will her forever home have a garden and some honeysuckle for her to sleep near? Maybe they could plant a lilac for her to chew on.

Pet Ownership takes Time and Commitment

Training is an essential part of being a good owner for your dog. We seem to know that our children will not have a successful life if they do not receive a proper education. Yet we often assume that our dogs need to be taught nothing and should know what we expect of them. Your dog will not be a successful member of the family and the community if it is not properly socialized and trained. There is a puppy development cycle just like there is a human development cycle.

At a very early age puppies should be socialized with people, dogs and cats. They need to be gently taught what is proper conduct. Your dog needs 50% exercise, 25% discipline and 25% affection. The most poorly behaved

dogs are those that have only affection and no exercise and no discipline. Discipline does not mean abuse. It means hav-



Certified Dog Trainer, Mark Lenci of K-9 One/One and his dogs, Maggie and certified bomb finding dog Aiglo. Lenci responds to behavior problems as well as dog training. Lenci can be reached at 432-6803

ing good manners and understanding rules and boundaries.

There are many good trainers in Nevada County that you can call to help you. There are also good websites and books on dog

training if you do not have the money for a trainer. Caesar Milan "The Dog Whisperer" is on the National Geographic channel and has much wisdom to impart.

Please take owning a dog as a serious commitment that requires your time and involvement. If you have neither please do not adopt a pet. Sammie's Friends has produced a booklet

"Your New Dog" with lots of good information that can be purchased for \$2.00 at the Nevada County Animal Shelter. You may also call Cheryl Wicks at Sammie's Friends 530-272-8833 for help on finding a dog trainer or behaviorist.



CAWS (Coalition for Animal Welfare and Support) Discusses Animal Issues

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

At its meeting in March, the group invited Nevada County

District Attorney Cliff Newell to discuss guidelines for prosecution of animal abuse and cruelty issues.

In April, John Taylor of the Nevada County Land Trust discussed guidelines and grants made by the Salter Trust dedicated to providing funds for local animal welfare issues. As well, Jeff Russell of "Dogs Run Free" announced the formation of a group to develop an off-leash dog park in Grass Val-

ley. Mark Lenci and Carolyn Niehaus discussed dog training techniques.

In May, representatives of the Grass Valley Police and Animal Shelter discussed the performance and guidelines for the Grass Valley Animal Control.

Meetings are held at 6:30 pm the first Monday of the month at the Houser Conference Room, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City.





The GATE class learns about Sammie's Friends.

"Brother love does indeed show and it indeed helps the animals."

Visit us at:
www.sammiesfriends.org



128 High Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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

Community Help for Sammie's Friends continued from page 4

Thank you Christie and Ashley. Wilma and I also spent a little time discussing pet care with the stu-

students at Chicago Park School are making greeting cards for Sammie's Friends to sell and make some

Curt and I had a good time and Buddy had a Bonanza with all those kids makin' over him. Another pit bull making a good impression. Buddy rocks!

I could go on and on but there is only so much room in the "Poop Scoop". Brother love does indeed show and it indeed helps the animals. A GIANT thank you to everyone who helps the animals.

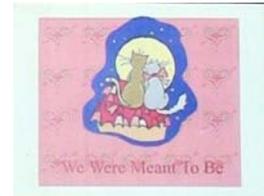
Love,
Cheryl



Cheryl and Buddy meet with the GATE class at Chicago Park School

dents. Overall, Sammie's Friends loved receiving the donation and had a good time while we were there. Sue Muir's GATE (Gifted And Talented Education)

money for the animals. Curt and I and our little cutie pie foster dog, Buddy aka Larry, went for a visit to pick up the cards and talk a little about pet care.



GATE Class Valentine's Card

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.