



# Shelter News

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter

1389 Bridgton Road, Fryeburg, ME 04037 • 207-935-4358

[www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org)

## Boomer: Adopt a Senior Pet!

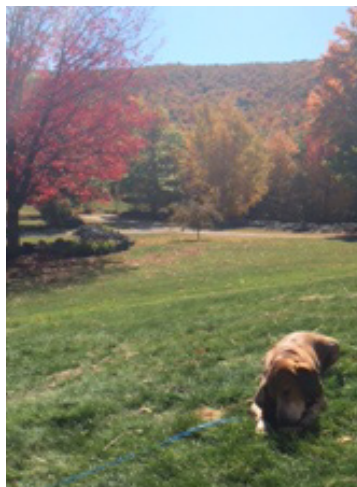
Some of the regulars at Harvest Hills may be wondering where that melodious, baritone bark has been for the past several weeks. And no...I don't mean Barry White. I mean that sweet ole hound dog, Boomer. Well, folks...Boomer is our new foster dog! A foster dog who already has a Christmas gift picked out...and maybe a new bed...ok and maybe next year's birthday gift...ok fine! And maybe we are sewing him a fleece dog coat! Foster...foster failure...adoption... what's the difference?! Let me explain.

You see, for the past year and a half, my daughter and I have volunteered weekly at Harvest Hills as dog walkers. For each of those Sundays (with the exception of a short lived failed adoption), we were greeted by that baritone bark. And as many of you who had the pleasure of meeting him know, that bark was accompanied by lots of nuzzling and cuddling and just plain old sweetness. But, Boomer was one of the regulars. He came in as a stray and spent almost two years at the shelter. Not even his mild mannered temperament could over ride the fact that he is eleven years old. His age was a huge deterrent to many potential adopters. We saw his age a little differently and decided that we could/would/should provide Boomer with a comfortable home environment until his forever home found him. We had the difficult discussions about this being a temporary arrangement and that we might need to say a tearful good bye when this new family finally stumbled onto the greatness that is Boomer. Aaaaand then we bought him a new collar. And a bed. Blankets. Toys. Treats.

I suppose you could say we have a history of this "behavior". Honey Bear was a "Sure! We will take care of her for a few weeks!" That was almost four years ago. Echo was only here for the summer...two summers ago. Then there was Balzac. And Spanky. And Ember. I suppose there are a few more of those scenarios. So, I suppose our track record shows that we have consistently failed at fostering...yet succeeded at adoption. And who doesn't like a good success story?!

So, like I said...we are fostering Boomer. And also planning his birthday party for next year. He might also have a Christmas stocking. And maybe we also filled out his adoption application.

And just a quick FYI: November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month.



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## Lights of Our Lives

### In Honor/Memory of



## Trapper

Trapper came to us as a 6 month old Beagle mix with a broken leg. He needed an orthopedic surgeon to properly pin the leg and was on about 5 months of restricted activity. Trapper has now been adopted and is living happily in his forever home! We are so happy we are able to help animals like Trapper.

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter holds an annual Christmas "Lights of Our Lives" program just after Thanksgiving and through to Christmas. We do this because so many people want their animals to be remembered and celebrated for the holidays, so the shelter honors them with stars and lights. We ask for a donation of \$5.00 for each animal. Their names will be decorating the inside of the shelter with stars and the lights will be lighting up the outside. We are not only happy to celebrate the lives of those beloved animals who have crossed The Rainbow Bridge, but are happy to honor those animals still living and making your lives so fulfilled with their love.



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Fryeburg, Maine 04037  
207-935-4358 • 935-7058 fax  
info@harvesthill.org

[www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org)

**Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Every Day Except Thursday  
Open until 6 p.m. Monday & Friday**

*Contracted to serve the towns of Albany, Baldwin, Bridgton, Brownfield, Cornish, Denmark, Fryeburg, Harrison, Hiram, Lovell, Naples, Newry, Parsonsfield, Porter, Sebago, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden and Waterford and also lending support to other towns in Maine and New Hampshire.*

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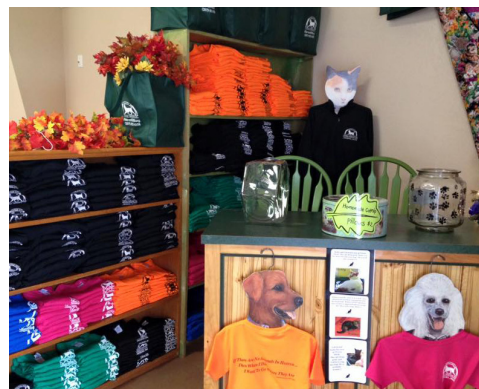
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## News

9 Lives Thrift Shop and Harvest Hills are ALWAYS looking for volunteers! The shelter needs help socializing dogs and cats, dog walkers, morning cleaning, restocking and grounds maintenance. 9 Lives Thrift Shop needs help sorting donations, hanging clothing and general cleaning. Stop by and fill out your volunteer form today. Both buildings are a lot of fun to spend time in!

## Fryeburg Fair 2015

We had a great year at the fair! We do however have lots more t-shirts, activewear and shopping bags for sale. If you're interested please go to our web site [www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org) to see prices and information.



Our Fryeburg Fair Booth 2015 in the Expo Center.

## 2nd Annual Christmas Eve Sleepover

The Christmas Eve Shelter Sleepover Fundraiser '15 is on! If you aren't familiar, last year, Deb Cloutier spent Christmas Eve sleeping at the shelter (even in a kennel..... with Sadie to be exact) to raise money for the shelter, as well as to give the dogs at HHAS some holiday love....a total of \$10,758 was raised! With a goal of \$10,000 this year (that's just a goal...she'd love to raise more), Deb, along with her 13 year old niece, Allie (her idea, not Deb's), wants to make "The Living Room" a reality. To explain, a portion of the funds raised by this year's event will be spent on constructing a room in the basement of the shelter. The Living Room will be used by volunteers to socialize and give peace and comfort to dogs and cats who have been at the shelter a long time, or are having an especially hard time dealing with shelter life. The room will be completely furnished with a leather couch and chairs (easier to keep clean and sanitary) and coffee table; a TV/DVD player (and DVDs), a radio, a card table and chairs, a dorm sized refrigerator, a coffee station, and games such as cards and cribbage. All of these homey comforts are to encourage people to use this space...a lot...while helping the dogs and cats enjoy some peaceful normalcy in their stressed-filled lives. Eventually, a chair lift will be installed, making it easier for seniors (or anyone) with physical challenges, to use the space. All in all, we feel The Living Room will benefit the public, the dogs and cats at HHAS, and the shelter as a whole. We hope you will consider making a donation to this fundraiser and become a part of making The Living Room a reality. Donations can be made online by going to [www.gofundme.com/mg98pa2c](http://www.gofundme.com/mg98pa2c), or by mailing a check made out to HHAS (please include "sleepover" in the memo so a total fundraising amount can be determined) to 1389 Bridgton Road, Fryeburg, Maine 04037.

**PLEASE spay and neuter your animals and always remember to 'Adopt don't shop'.  
There are many wonderful animals at your local shelter that need  
YOU to make a difference.**

# Alumni News

## Sadie Learns to be a Dog Again

Sadie spent two years and two months at HHAS, during her last stay. This was her third time in the shelter through no fault of her own. Life isn't always fair or kind.

We adopted her knowing at 8 years old, she would probably come with some baggage. She needed leash manners, easy to fix. She had a limp and possibly needed surgery, the surgeon would fix that. But she hadn't lived with people in over two years, how would she behave in a home again? We took her home and she was pretty good, no house training issues; just a little possessive of her new people & toys (with Sprockett, our other HHAS dog), again, another easy fix. Her only real vice seemed to be getting on the bed and couch when left at home. She's done this before and hasn't forgotten, despite not having been in a home for 2 years. In our house this isn't allowed, but she'll learn what's acceptable in time.

The most amazing behavior was totally unexpected; she had forgotten how to be a dog. She wouldn't come when called or get out of bed. Calling her, going to her and encouraging her had no response; she just laid where she was with seemingly no comprehension of what we were asking of her. Clip on the leash or use just one finger to lift her collar slightly (then let go) and she would eagerly follow us anywhere. Maybe not so strange considering for over two years she didn't leave her kennel without someone clipping on a leash.

She also wouldn't eat unless we brought it to her. She would watch Sprockett trot into the kitchen and could hear him eating (dog food in a stainless steel bowl makes a lot of noise) but would not follow his lead. Bring her bowl to her and she would gobble it right up. Maybe not so strange considering for over two years her food was brought to her kennel. After 4 weeks of home life these behaviors began to change. She is happily trotting into the kitchen for meals and is doing great at coming when called. Dogs are pack animals so there's no doubt that the amount of time she spent in a kennel was tough on her. It's amazing that she shows no lasting negative effects. Considering her less than ideal past and her extended time in a kennel it's amazing that she's the sweetest dog you'll ever meet.

It is these behaviors and others that really surprised us. We have had dogs in our life for many years so are quite familiar with dog behaviors and training so we went into the adoption with confidence that we could handle whatever Sadie had in store for us but truthfully these odd behaviors puzzled us a bit. Once WE started thinking about the behaviors more on her terms - having lived a very different life for 2 years, it all started to make sense. Adopting any dog will require adjustment and work of both new owners and the dog. But just like adopting a puppy who required special attention, adopting an older dog and/or one that has been at a shelter for an extended stay also requires some attention. The love and enjoyment received in return is worth the effort.

Sadie could have really benefitted from some time in a home environment while at HHAS. There is a great staff and volunteers at HHAS who do everything in their power to try to make all of the animals' stays as comfortable as possible but hanging out in a kennel is not the same as cuddling in a more relaxed environment. We urge everyone to support Deb Cloutier's Christmas Eve Shelter Sleepover '15 fundraiser (<https://www.gofundme.com/mg98pa2c>) to build a living room at HHAS. This is a great way to put some normalcy in the dogs' days and ease some of their stress. The added benefit is with less stress, they will show better and be more adoptable. Way to go Deb!

And as for Sadie – yes – she is learning to be a dog again. Anxiously awaiting her meals and treats while sitting nicely, coming when called, being invited onto the “big bed” – not helping herself and getting along great with her brother Sprockett. Thank you Harvest Hills for seeing the great dog that she is and patiently waiting for her forever family to come along!



## FREEZING FOR A REASON

### Save the Date: Saturday February 20th, 2016

**Left: Genie at Freezing for a Reason.** This year, the shelter lost one of their own. Genie Blodgett was a devoted employee, friend and advocate for the animals. She would do anything for the animals including jump in the freezing lake every year for Freezin for a Reason. This year the staff will be collecting money for Freezing For a Reason in memory of her and her dedication. Fly with Eagles, Friend, until we meet again.

Go to our website to view available animals  
[www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org)



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### FREEZING FOR A REASON

IT'S A BLAST! JOIN US FOR  
2016.... DO YOU DARE?

THIS YEAR'S DATE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2016



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## *Pet ID Tags . . . make great gifts!*

Made right here at the shelter. No more waiting 4-6 weeks. On the tag you can put your pet's name, your address and phone number. Let's not forget your pet should also be wearing a rabies tag and license (for dogs). These tags are a great way to help ensure your pet makes it home safely if it becomes lost. Price per tag - \$8.00.

PET TAG ORDER FORM			
			
<b>HEART</b> Lg. (Red) Sm (Red/Purple/Pink)	<b>CIRCLE</b> Lg. (Black) Sm. (Black/Red)	<b>BONE</b> Lg. (Blue/Red)	<b>ROSSETTE</b> (Blue)
	<b>OVAL</b> (Orange)		
QUANTITY	TYPE OF TAG	PRICE /TAG	
TOTAL			
Name: _____		Phone Number _____	
Address: _____			
Information for tag (We'll put as much info on as possible)			
Side One: _____		Side One: _____	
Side Two: _____		Side Two: _____	
Make checks payable to HHAS, 1389 Bridgton Road, Fryeburg, ME 04037. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your order.			