



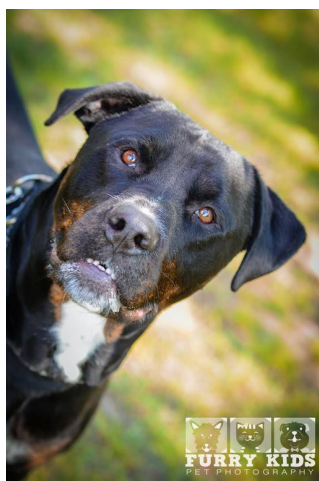
Shelter News

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter 1389 Bridgton Road, Fryeburg, ME 04037 • 207-935-4358 www.harvesthills.org

Easing the Stress of Shelter Life

While HHAS could never take the place of a loving home, the reality is that it is often the only place for homeless animals to go. We know that one of our most important jobs is to ease the stress and suffering of all the dogs and cats who sadly find their way to us. It is because of this that we are always trying to think outside the box to come up with ideas to reduce the level of stress and suffering our animals endure while waiting for their forever homes.

Most recently, the Living Room has become the favorite spot of a lot of our dogs and cats to go with staff and dedicated volunteers. It's a quiet, comfortable home-like room in the basement of the shelter where the animals experience a little bit of normalcy...away from the often noisy, chaotic and stressful life upstairs. It is also a space that potential adopters can learn more about a dog or cat's personality, simply because there are fewer distractions to interfere with the most important part of the adoption process, the meet and greet, which inevitably helps to ensure successful adoptions...our ultimate goal.



Spotlight on Duke!

Duke is a gorgeous 2.5 y/o Rotti X who originally came in April of 2014, adopted, then returned Jan 2016. He would give anything to be the only pet in a mature household (no children under 13) where he could show you what a fun dog he is. Especially since he has two new knees! Yup, Dukey, the bionic dog, feels great after having double ACL surgery, which means he can do the thing he loves best... play fetch... all day long (if you'll let him). Duke also loves car rides and swimming. Part of the reason Duke has been with us for so long is that he doesn't show well in his kennel, as he is a bit uneasy with new people approaching him. The best way to get to know Duke is to ask to meet him out in one of the yards...with a couple tennis balls (you get the

picture). Also, visiting Duke a couple times before adopting would surely put you on his list of favorite people, where you'd join all the HHAS staff and many volunteers.

Helen

Helen is our longest resident here at the shelter, and is probably around 7 years old now, but since she came in as a stray we don't know an exact age. Helen spends most of her days as our office cat, mostly sleeping. She tolerates other cats, but doesn't like when they get too close. She will also smack a dog if they get into her face. While she would LOVE a home as the only pet, she would do fine with another quiet cat and a cat savvy dog. Once in a while Helen shows off her kitten side and finds a toy to play with- usually a zip tie. She is a very sweet girl, but will let you know when she's had enough. This girl has been waiting too long for her home! Come in and meet her!



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Lights of Our Lives In Honor/Memory of



Lena

Lena came to us after being hit by a car. She had separation anxiety and battled cancer, yet still remained the epitome of sweetness. Because of her anxieties, Lena was our office dog, where if she wasn't happily greeting visitors, she was taking a relaxing nap under the desk. RIP sweet Lena.

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.



Harvest Hills Animal Shelter

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Fryeburg, Maine 04037
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info@harvesthill.org
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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News

It's Cool to Donate

Last year, your generosity during the Christmas Eve Shelter Sleepover single-handedly made the living room a reality! It's because of this that we have decided to designate all future Christmas Eve Shelter Sleepovers to fund projects and programs specifically designed to ease the stress on our animals. So with that in mind, after the extremely long, hot and humid summer we just had, our goal with this year's sleepover is to install an efficient air conditioning system in our kennel rooms so that our dogs do not have to suffer in yet another way... through miserable and unforgiving heat and humidity.

Who's sleeping with the Dogs This Year?

Who's sleeping with the dogs this year? This Christmas Eve, Deb Cloutier is thrilled to hand over the reins to her friends, Game Warden, Kris MacCabe (of North Woods Law fame) and his lovely wife, Emily. We hope you will show your appreciation to Kris and Emily, who will be giving up time with their family and own dogs, to spend the holiday with HHAS dogs. Donations to the sleepover can be made online by going to www.gofundme.com/HHAS2016 or by mailing a check made out to HHAS (please write "sleepover" in the memo so a total fundraising amount can be determined). As always, we thank you for your donations...of any amount!

Grain Free is Great, but it Ain't Free ...

We are so thankful for everyone who donate food and supplies throughout the year. Those donations make it possible for us to use grant and fundraiser money and individual monetary donations to pay to light and heat the shelter; to spay, neuter and vaccinate over 1000 animals a year; to pay for expensive surgeries versus having to choose the least expensive (and less desirable) option (like repairing the shattered femur of a very young dog hit by a car versus opting to have her leg amputated); and to pay a small staff to see to it that the mission of HHAS is always carried out, 365 days a year.

Lately, we have had a lot of dogs come to us who could benefit from grain free dog food. And while we get a lot of food donated throughout the year, very little of it is grain free, so we have to purchase it outright. Grain free tends to be a little more expensive, but when our vet thinks a dog would look and feel better on grain free, we don't want to deny them. Could you help us in this area? Would you consider making a donation of grain free dog food from time to time? It doesn't even have to be the big bags...lots of generous people donating small or medium bags of grain free could ensure our special diet dogs don't go without the food that makes them look and feel their best. Most pet stores, like Four Your Paws Only in North Conway or Paris Farmer's Union (several locations) carry grain free foods in various size bags. This type of donation does double duty by providing the best for our dogs while saving the shelter money that is needed in other areas. Your grain free dog food donations will always be appreciated!

FREEZING FOR A REASON

Save the Date: Saturday February 18th, 2017

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.

Go to our website to view available animals
www.harvesthills.org

Alumni News

This Ain't No Episode of Rocky and Bullwinkle

by Victoria Conner

I'm a single woman and now proud dog mama of Boris and Natasha, a.k.a., "B&N", a.k.a., "The Bonded Russians", a.k.a., "The Kids." Due to their given monikers, I presume their previous owners must have loved "Rocky and Bullwinkle." It makes for fun conversation when introducing this pair to their many admirers on our walks about Bar Harbor. Our daily life is certainly not a scripted cartoon series, but each day has been an episode of love, learning, exploration, trust and genuine respect. Oh and lots of smiles and belly rubs too.

B&N came to me by chance. I had started a conversation with Mandy, one of the founders of a new rescue, Old Dogs New Digs, regarding seniors in need of foster homes, thinking I'd dip my toe into the pool of dog ownership by fostering first. It turned out those first dogs weren't a great fit for my situation, but the idea of adopting a senior dog had been born. Shortly thereafter, the sweetest photos of B&N appeared in my in-box. There they were, a bonded pair left at the shelter 6 months prior. Mother Natasha, a 13-year old husky mix, and her son, Boris, a 9-year old charming blockhead. No history other than that...what to do? After some email vetting and trial sleepovers with a HHAS volunteer to see if they would be a good fit for me (in my apartment over a business living situation), I took the plunge and drove four hours to meet B&N at the shelter. I must admit, it wasn't the "love at first sight, I must have these dogs!" scenario like you'd see in a made-for-TV drama. Don't get me wrong. They were adorable, well-behaved and all-in-all really nice dogs in relatively good health. But there were two of them – one hundred fifty pounds of dog to be exact! I had been thinking about adopting for the past year, so this was as good a time as any, so I asked myself "why not?" and completed the paperwork that day, followed by the dynamic duo arriving one week later.



It's been four months since the formation of our pack and I can confidently say that despite some challenges, B&N were meant to be mine. They are secure in their new home and definitely know who "mama" is as we've strengthened our connection, working through ups, downs and lots of round and rounds (that's Boris chasing his tail). They are adored by all who meet them and have some new besties in town, from the staff at Ollie's Trolley, to hotel staff, to tour operators and bus drivers escorting cruise ship passengers, to the cooks at Jeannie's Great Maine Breakfast who spoil them at their back door... FYI, now they anticipate this treat and Natasha will sit by the door anxiously waiting for Hazel to come out with two pieces of greasy, mouth-watering bacon, while her son, who is taller than she, drools all over her....he also pees on his mom occasionally, but I have to believe it is purely unintentional (wink).

As for challenges, there have been a few, but nothing more than could be expected from any dog or person, as no one is perfect. We've worked around being reactive to other dogs in a very busy community, practicing vigilance at every blind corner. We've escaped a dog jumping out of a moving truck to come at us...thankfully, this incident only resulted in some serious growling. We've tackled tummy troubles and triggers that startle both dogs in different ways. We've accomplished proper introductions to strangers entering the apartment, walking calmly as a trio and safe interactions with children when appropriate. We've explored all the beauty around Bar Harbor together and through positive rewards training, I can even drop their leashes in safe locations and let them roam and play freely as both respond very even to "come" when asked. We're handling medical issues that have presented with Natasha's age and have had successful vet visits for both where I continue to be amazed by their gentle souls. This is just a short list of our experiences, but I look forward to that list growing and our bond growing even stronger. Boris and Natasha not only have rewarded me with affection, pride and a responsibility I take very seriously, they have propelled me into a community full of kindness, support and encouragement from new friends who offer me amazing tips and tricks for being a successful dog owner. So, that "why not" question I asked myself when considering these two pups...well, I thank my lucky stars for not passing judgement and giving "us" a chance. They have saved me as much as I saved them. I look forward to each new episode of our lives together, completely unscripted, as it should be.



Fundraising Ideas Wanted

Have you got a great fundraising idea that hasn't been done before in our area? We'd love to hear from you. We're looking for both large and small fundraisers that you think could be easily executed.

Send your ideas to **Deb Cloutier** at wmepetproject@roadrunner.com.



Thought You'd Like to Know:



This year we've had a slew of out of the ordinary medical expenses.

Dixie- Dixie is an 8-month-old mix that came to the shelter with a shattered femur. She was another one that because of her age and disposition, we decided to do surgery to fix the leg rather than amputate. Dixie never knew she was broken and she affectionately got the name 'wiggle dog' from the staff because of how happy she was to see people. After a month of rehab at the shelter, she went back to get her pin removed, was spayed and adopted out to a wonderful family.

Gertrude- Gertie originally was a stray and wasn't claimed. She is probably a mastiff mix that is around 5 years old. Her breed is prone to excess skin around the face and because of this, her eyelids were rolling inward, scratching her cornea and causing ulcers. The surgery is called entropion, and it takes off the excessive skin around the eyelids. She had to have 2 surgeries because they did not take enough skin the first time, and

because the ulcers in her eyes were bothering her, she was protecting them by rolling them inward, becoming her own worst enemy! Months of eye meds and 'cone of shame' were needed and even another surgery which scrapes the eye to bring blood flow back so it can heal. Gertie is finally cone and eye drop free, waiting for her forever home.


Pip- Pip came to us as an orphaned kitten with his brother and sister, and needed to be bottle fed. They went straight into foster care and grew up well. However, Pip had some urinary issues where he had difficulty urinating, not due to a bladder or urinary tract infection, but due to his 'hole' closing over. He had a few minor procedures to hopefully open things up, but ultimately needed a larger surgery that would create a more permanent opening, with a specialist. Pip is currently adopted, and living in a great home.

Duke- Duke originally came to us at 10 months old back in 2014, but was returned in 2016. Upon further reading through his medical history, we discovered that he may have Degenerative joint disease but no x-rays were done by previous owners. We had him X-rayed and discovered he had a torn anterior cruciate ligament in both knees and a torn meniscus in his right knee. While we have done some ACL surgeries before, Duke was different in that he needed both legs done. Because of his age, athleticism and desire to play, we opted to do the more expensive and invasive surgery that would make him 100% again. Duke is currently available for adoption.


Snuffy- Snuffy came to us with his 'sister' emaciated and sick with an upper respiratory infection. His sister unfortunately didn't make it, but not before they had spent a few days in kitty ICU. From the get go Snuffy was a love with an amazing personality, despite looking like a train wreck. He had constant nasal discharge, sneezing and his ears were infected. He was on every antibiotic we could think of, and while they did help, he needed to be on them longer than usual. We decided to have him checked for a nasal polyp-which was negative- but the vets flushed out lots of gunk. About 2 weeks later we noticed a strange growth in his ear, had him examined, and lo and behold, he had polyp in his ear as well as in the back of his throat. While there is the possibility that these will come back, we had them removed. Snuffy has since been adopted and is living the life of luxury.

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.




HEART
Lg. (Red)
Sm. (Red/Purple/Pink)




CIRCLE
Lg. (Black)
Sm. (Black/Red)


PET TAG ORDER FORM



BONE
Lg. (Black, Blue/Red)



ROSSETTE
(Blue)



OVAL
Lg. (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.