



The Poop Scoop

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

Volume II, Issue II

Fall 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 1300 animals have received care from Sammie's Friends.

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Sammie's Friends Success Stories

Duke aka Doug

If you ever wondered if cats really do have nine lives, the answer is yes. Meet Duke aka Doug. A year ago Duke was run over and his leg was broken in two places. Sammie's Friends helped out and Duke had a plate put in and he came out good as new. This was enough trauma for a couple of lives.

Not quite a year later Duke was run over again. This time a car missed him and got his tail, dislocating his spine and collapsing his rear end. He couldn't walk or pee or poop on his own. Duke became a commu-



Duke aka Doug

nity project. Dr. Smith at Brighton Greens amputated his tail twice and removed two vertebrae and said Duke could be a clinic cat so they could express his urine and his feces for him.

Dr. Dekker from Grass Valley Vet came over to the clinic and provided four acupuncture treatments for Duke. Soon Duke was up and walking good as new again. He can now

poop on his own and is beginning to urinate some on his own. The good staff at Brighton Greens is still helping with that. The hope is that he will regain his full function and Duke will be back on his feet and adoptable into someone's home as an **indoor** kitty only.

No more getting run over by cars. This last incident must have taken at least three of his lives. Duke aka Doug is a great cat and deserves a good life.

Thank you to everyone who rallied on Duke's behalf. It takes a village and the village was there for Duke.

Sparky



Sparky

Sparky is a beautiful 1-to-2-year-old Chow-Shepherd mix. Poor Sparky was found in the creek behind the Swiss House, stranded on an island and unable to get off. He was rescued by Grass Valley Animal Control. Sparky has a nice personality and gets along with people, other dogs, and cats. Poor Sparky had heartworms and a torn

cruciate that was quite painful. Sparky has been treated for the heartworms and has had the torn cruciate repaired. He is recovering and will need a permanent home soon. He is currently in a foster home. If you are interested in adopting him, please call Cheryl at 530-272-8833.

Lulu



Lulu

Lulu is a precious 6-month-old kitten who was attacked by a dog and nearly killed. She apparently was attacked in the evening and then went and hid until morning. She was found and taken to Mother Lode Veterinary Hospital at 8 a.m. She was very close to death. Her lungs were collapsed. She had a complex break in her leg and the leg was shredded. This required a skin graft from another part of her body.

Lulu seems to be healing pretty well. Lulu most likely will pull through, but it is still not clear if the leg will mend or whether it will need to be amputated. We are all keeping our fingers crossed.

Community Food Run to Reno

Once a month, Sammie's Friends takes dog and cat food up to the Community Center in North San Juan to give to disadvantaged families who gather there for the monthly Nevada County Food Bank distribution. At times, the Nevada Humane Society in Reno has extra dog food to distribute to non-profits for their programs.

In late June, Sammie's Friends got a call that there was a significant amount of dry and wet dog food available at their shelter in Reno. Sammie's Friends made a few calls to Scooter's Pals and AnimalSave to see if they wanted to participate in the food available in Reno.

It was agreed that Curt Romander of Sammie's Friends and Karl Cobler of Scooter's Pals would rent a truck and go to Reno to pick up the dog food. Curt and Karl

food and 30 cases of wet dog food were dropped off at Scooter's Pals.

Ten bags were delivered to the Grass Valley Animal Shelter and 5 bags went to the Nevada County Animal Shelter.

Sammie's Friends is using the balance to provide 10-lb bags of dry dog food and several cans of wet dog food for each of 28 recipients in North San Juan each month. Dry and wet cat food is also provided to 28 recipients

at the North San Juan distribution.

This food run to Reno was jointly funded by Sammie's Friends, Scooter's Pals and AnimalSave.



Unloading Truck at AnimalSave.



Cheryl Wicks and Curt Romander of Sammie's Friends take a breather during food run.



Full Truck at Nevada Humane Society Shelter

picked up about 7,300 pounds of food and brought it back to Nevada County.

A stop was made at AnimalSave to drop off 50 bags of dog food (2,000 lb.) while another 30 bags of dry dog

Third Annual Motorcycle Rally Held

Once a year, Sammie's Friends has conducted a motor cycle rally to raise funds to support their program. The third such rally was held on August 16th at 9 AM.

The format of the rally is to make a "Poker Run" where participants get a playing card at each of five stops to make a poker hand. At the end of the rally, the rider or passenger with the highest poker hand wins a prize.

This year's run, organized by super volunteer Claudia Sanford and her family, started in Rough and Ready, went down to Smartsville, up to North San Juan, continued to the Renegade Classics Shop

in Grass Valley and ended up at the Banner Grange Hall on Mc Courtney Road at lunch time. A total of 55 riders and passengers participated

Sammie's Friends volunteers. Live entertainment was provided by Runnin' 4 Cover which played many Oldies but Goodies.

Following lunch, there was a donation drawing for many fine gifts donated by businesses in Nevada County, Placer County and by professional sports organizations in Sacramento and the Bay Area.

Pam Gorman of "For Pet's Sake" was there to record participants comments for her weekly TV program on NCTV.

Sammie's Friends is very grateful to Claudia, her family and to all the volunteers who worked hard to make the event a success. They all make a winning hand for Sammie's Friends.



Cheryl interviews rally organizer Claudia Sanford.



Zeus, one of the participants in this year's motorcycle rally has participated all three years.



Cheryl interviews two participants.

this year. The winning poker hand was a full house.

Participants were greeted at the Grange Hall with a lasagna lunch, soft drinks and dessert donated by Sam-

A Different View of Pitbulls— by Cheryl Wicks



Tiny Tim, Loshi, Holly and Uncle Marshall having a good time playing.

It is at least a 100,000 times more likely that a "Pitbull" will be killed by a HUMAN, than the other way around.

Many of you who volunteer at the shelter have learned what a great dog the Pitbull Terrier can be. It is unfortunate that they have unfairly gotten such a bad reputation. As you can see in this great picture, pitbulls often live and play successfully with other dogs. They are often great friends with cats. The great majority love people. One of our local vets says his favorite patients are Pitbulls and Labrador Retrievers because when he sees one of them he is quite sure he won't get bitten and with any other breed he's never sure.

On the one hand, people believe Pitbulls are bred to be fighting machines, and on the other hand, there are the people who think it is all in the way they are raised. If a Pitbull has been bred to fight it has a propensity in that direction. Like the herding dogs like to herd and hunting dogs like to hunt. Most Pitbulls are not bred to fight and are often mistreated because they won't fight.

In their early history they were called the little nanny because they are so good with kids. As an example, Petey of the "Little Rascals" was a Pitbull. Their raising definitely makes a difference. An analogy would be having a spirited child. If properly nurtured and directed this child may excel at sports. If not, he may be beating up the neighborhood kids. It is a combination of nature/nurture. Being a responsible parent is important. It is also important to be a good guardian for your pets.

It is estimated that close to a million Pitbulls are euthanized every year in shelters. Pitbulls are not at the top of the list for dog bites. Most dog bites of any breed are from unspayed/unneutered animals.

To put the "scary Pitbull" in context consider the following.

1 out of every 37 people in the U. S. is a convicted felon.

There are a half million registered sex offenders, many whose whereabouts are unknown...

50 people every DAY are murdered (humans are certainly a dangerous animal)

25, 000 people die each year because of drunk drivers

Each year, 17,000 people fall to their death

3,000 deaths a year are caused by accidental drowning

3,000 women a year die of spousal abuse

2,000 children are killed every year by their parents, through abuse and neglect (A child is 800 times more likely to be killed by their adult caretaker than by a "Pitbull")

On average there are 32 deaths per year caused by dog attacks.

There are 74.5 million dogs in the United States.

It is at least a hundred thousand times more likely that a "Pitbull" will be killed by a HUMAN, than the other way around.

If you want to know more about pitbulls and their suitability for your family check out the following websites

www.badrap.org <<http://www.badrap.org>> or
www.pbrc.net <<http://www.pbrc.net>>

I am also available for questions:
cheryl.wicks@sammiesfriends.org
530-272-8833

Sammie's Friends attends Cal Pet Expo



Dr. Tom Strolle and Cheryl with Gibson

In September, Sammie's Friends was invited to attend the Cal Pet Expo in San Mateo. This event includes many organizations and retail groups dedicated to pets of all kinds.

The event, which ran from Friday through Sunday included over 100 booths and there were several special appearances by dog trainers, dog agility demonstrations, K9 units from the

San Mateo Sheriff's Depart-



Cheryl at Sammie's Friends Cal Pet Expo Booth

ment and the special appear-

ance of Gibson, the world's tallest dog and his guardian, Sandy Hall of Grass Valley. Also appearing was Dr. Tom Strolle of Best Friends Animal Clinic in Grass Valley, who is Gibson's vet. Dr. Strolle answered questions about Gibson and caring for pets.

Sammie's Friends drew quite a few interested parties who learned about dog rescue and rehabilitation in Nevada County.

Summer Special Events

Over the course of a year, Sammie's Friends conducts many special events designed to raise money to help the disadvantaged animals in Nevada County. These include an Adoptathon (see Volume II, Issue I), a motorcycle rally (see page 2) and other dedicated "sales" events.

This Summer, two such "sales" events were held; a yard sale and a book sale, both held in June. The yard sale was hosted by Lori Perry



Hundreds of items were available at this year's yard sale.

at her home in Grass Valley and the book sale was hosted by Lynn Willingham in Loomis. The book sale was coor-

inated by John and Irene Fletcher of Grass Valley.

Items for the yard sale and book sale were donated by volunteers. Both events were heavily attended and collectively, brought in just under \$3,000 for Sammie's Friends

Such support from the volunteers and the community are immensely appreciated by Sammie's Friends and the hundreds of animals it serves.



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.***

Fran Cole: Volunteer Extraordinaire

Fran has been a constant familiar face at Nevada County Animal Control since the beginning of the volunteer program in 2001. Like many new volunteers Fran was apprehensive about shelter volunteering, fearing that the emotional burden would be too high. She says that during her drives home from town, her car did seem to want to veer inexplicably towards the shelter as she drove by.

Then one day it happened that her car did actually turn

into the shelter, which changed her life.

After her first week volunteering at NCAC, her family shared her apprehension. In three days, Fran had brought home three new pets whose time was running out, one for each day. She later learned moderation and was rewarded with new surges of volunteers and an improved shelter environment.

She has adopted many animals herself and has found homes for numerous others.

Fran has 5 dogs, 4 cats and several horses. She adopted Chip, the stray donkey, and Murphy, the former NCAC nuisance and tormenter cat.

Fran, a retired attorney, is the longest serving volunteer at the shelter and one to look up to and listen to. Quite chatty and a fast talker, Fran refers to herself as a "Doer" and a "Talker." She certainly has "Done" a lot for the animals at the shelter.

We all thank her for her stalwart service and encouragement.



*Fran Cole and Chip
Chip was rescued
from the Shelter*

Marilyn Blom: Cat Cuddler Extraordinaire

Marilyn has been a volunteer at the shelter for 4 years as a morning cat care person and, on occasion, as a sub for other volunteers and also as a foster "parent". She initially responded to the ad for cat cuddlers, which sounded most appealing, but when she got there, the need was for morning cat care volunteers who clean cages and replenish food/water. "The kitties greet you with open paws and lots of meows, as they are hungry

for food and attention after a long, lonely night. Their litter boxes definitely need changing! When all the work is done, there is usually time for some cuddling, and the room is very calm and quiet when we leave."

For anyone who thinks it would be too heartbreaking to work with the animals, it really isn't. Eventually all healthy cats (some with the help of Sammie's Friends)

find homes, and the volunteers definitely make their stay at the shelter much more pleasant.

A longtime resident of Nevada County, Marilyn currently works as a substitute art instructor at the Neighborhood Center of the Arts. She also volunteers at NCTV. She relaxes by playing golf, working in her basement studio on the potter's wheel, or going on hikes with friends.



Marilyn Blom and Angel

Grant Writers Help Sammie's Friends

All of the work that Sammie's Friends does to help sick and injured animals in Nevada County takes a lot of resources. Individual donations make up the majority of resources that Sammie's Friends uses to pay for medical care. However, the contributions from grants to Sammie's Friends has grown substantially in the past two years.

Grants are obtained by writing proposals to foundations that are willing to support animal welfare groups. Sammie's Friends is blessed to have a dedicated group who have volunteered to write for these grants. The six members of

this group include Barbara Graves, who started writing for grants in 2005, Michelle McKenzie, Carol Cox, Suesan Larsen, Claudia Sanford and Peg Flanders.

This group has collectively researched potential funding sources, identified those that most closely support programs such as Sammie's Friends, and written for several grants.

They have been successful. Among those foundations that have made grants to Sammie's Friends so far this year are the Salter Trust, PetCo, the Greenberg Animal Welfare

Foundation and the Handsel Foundation.

Aggregately, they have provided Sammie's Friends with over \$30,000 in financial support. In addition, grants have been received by other foundations in the past two years. These foundations include Newman's Own Foundation, PetSmart and other private family foundations.

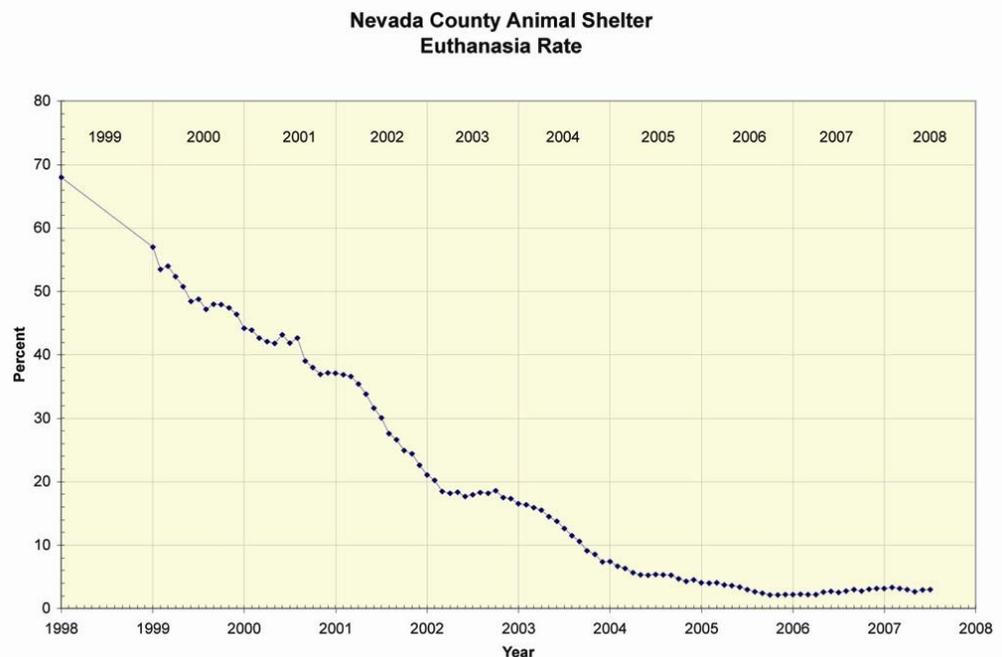
Sammie's Friends is immensely grateful for the support of the grant writers and to the generous Foundations that have supported our work.



Thank You Grant Writers



Incredibly Low Euthanasia Rate



There probably isn't another government-run shelter in the United States with this record.

In municipal and county shelters across America, the sad truth has been that unwanted animals are euthanized by the millions because of lack of space or because of injury or illness. Euthanasia rates are typically in the 70-80% range and can often be as high as 90%. In California and other states, there has begun a concerted effort to reduce this practice. Here in Nevada County, the euthanasia rate has been reduced to unprecedented levels through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and the cooperation of Animal Control.

The move towards lower euthanasia rates began in the late 90s when Theresa Breyerton founded FONCA (Friends of Nevada County Animals). Her program focused on removing cats and kittens from the shelter and seeing to it that they were

spayed/neutered and adopted.

In 2001, Cheryl Wicks came to the Shelter and began a volunteer program to walk dogs and cuddle cats. She noticed that little was being done to proactively seek homes for dogs and cats and that many animals were sick or injured and would be put down because they were deemed unadoptable. She began making flyers of the animals and posted them throughout the County. She also started paying for medical treatment for the sick and injured animals, ultimately founding Sammie's Friends, a non-profit, to pay for the medical expenses of Shelter animals.

At the same time, Dawn Allmandinger started her web site to promote the animals at the shelter by posting pictures and stories of them on PetFinder.

Adoptions saw a dramatic increase because of the publicity, because sick and injured animals were now adoptable, and because the hundreds of volunteers recruited by Cheryl were socializing the animals through their daily interactions with humans, making them more attractive for adoption.

Since 2001, the euthanasia rate has dropped from over 40% to a low of 2% in 2006 and 3% so far in 2008. This is an incredible accomplishment. There probably isn't another government run shelter in the United States with this record. This achievement can be credited to the cooperation of Nevada County Animal Control, Cheryl Wicks and Sammie's Friends, Dawn Almandinger and her Newdawn Dog Rescue and all the volunteers at the Shelter!

Dog House Drawing a Success

In September 2007, Sammie's Friends received a donation of a custom built dog house. This special dog house was built by a student at Bear River High School and was entered in the Nevada County Fair in August, 2007. The dog house featured a rustic design with a front porch, water and food bowls, metal sheathing on the roof, rain gutters and a solar panel to power a fan to cool the interior of the dog house in warm weather. The rear of the dog house had an etched window and the interior of the dog house fea-



Nancy Stanziano, her three dogs and the Dog House

tured a plush pillow for the dog occupants comfort. An anonymous donor bought

the dog house at auction and donated it to Sammie's Friends. Sammie's Friends offered the dog house in a donation drawing. Persons interested in donating to Sammie's Friends were entered into the drawing based on their donations.

The dog house was placed at Muttley's Pet Emporium in March where it was on display and where donors could make donations and have their name entered in the drawing.

The dog house was featured at Muttley's for three months while donations accumulated. In early July, the drawing was held and Nancy Stanziano was the lucky recipient of the dog house. It was delivered to her in mid July and she was thrilled to have it. So were her three doggies. Now it remains to see which one of the lucky pups will actually claim use of the wonderful dog house.



Cheryl Wicks and David Bandy conduct the drawing at Muttley's Pet Emporium.

Sgt. Rich Fevinger appointed to head Animal Control

Welcome to Sargeant Rich Fevinger who was appointed by the Sheriff's Department in June to head up Animal Control and the Animal Shelter. Sgt. Fevinger replaces Lt. Ron Earles who retired in January.

In the first three months of Sgt. Fevinger's tenure, he has made great effort to improve the communication between Animal Control staff and the volunteers which he credits with much of the success of the animal care and socialization at the Shelter.



Sgt. Rich Fevinger

Sgt. Fevinger has a long career in law enforcement

starting in 1983 in Alameda. He has done a tour in Kos-

ovo as a member of the International Police Force and has also served as a School Resource Officer at Bear River High School. He was most recently a Patrol Supervisor in the Sheriff's Department.

Rich's positive attitude and willingness to understand issues will go a long way towards improving the animal welfare and activities at the Shelter.

Rich is married and has two grown children. He enjoys yoga, mountain biking, weight lifting and pets.



Stolen Identity?

In today's world, one cannot be too careful about our identity. Stolen identity can lead to all sorts of

mischief. Have you ever considered what could happen if someone also stole your image?

It can happen in the animal world. Here are some examples of stolen identities that we picked up from the Internet



Can we be buddies?



Whose Identity was stolen in these cute pictures?



Visit us at:
www.sammiesfriends.org



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Sammie's Friends
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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.