

Bitter Root Humane Association



BRHA is introducing our new E-Newsletter.

Transition to an online format will allow increased speed of communication and reduce the costs of print material and postage allowing funds to be spent on the animals in the shelter.

Over the years Bitter Root Humane Association and the community have worked together building our original shelter to care for animals with a generous donation from Countess Bessenyey, who

donated the land for the shelter. BRHA led efforts during the Roaring Lion fire housing animals safely and many lives of animals were saved. Day to day functions of the shelter serve the community in many ways including: adoptions, community clinics for vaccines and Microchips, Spay and Neuter vouchers, and many other services. As the valley grew, the dream of a new shelter came to life through community donations. Many who are new to the area do not realize that there is no government funding driving our shelter. Every life saved is a direct result of donations received.

To remain good stewards of the shelter's donations, the BRHA Board is continually evaluating ways of reducing costs. Moving to an online format will also allow for more frequent communications. If we have a particularly difficult veterinary case, or a heartwarming story we wish to share with you, it will be delivered right to your inbox.

Visit our website to request the E-Newsletter by simply providing your email.

If emails don't make your tail wag you can <u>Unsubscribe</u> at any time. Sign up today so you don't miss out on any shelter news. This will be the final paper newsletter moving forward emails will be sent to you!



Shelter Hours: Mon CLOSED; Tues - Fri 1 pm-6 pm; Sat & Sun - noon to 5 pm



262 Fairgrounds Road P.O. Box 57 Hamilton, MT 59840

406.363.5311

opmanager@bitterroothumane.org www.bitterroothumane.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com

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BRHA is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization able to receive charitable donations and gifts.



A PLACE TO REFLECT. BRHA Pet Memorial Park

There's still time to create a customized pet memorial brick with a donation to honor your best friend and to help pets in need. Your personalized memorial brick will be displayed in the BRHA Pet Memorial Park and is a wonderful way to have your friends and family share their memories of your beloved pet.

If you'd like to have a pet honored in the memorial garden, Memorial bricks can be purchased for \$125.00 each. You order your brick(s) through BRHA to be installed on the pathways that have been created.

This is a wonderful way to remember your pets while benefitting the lives of our guests who will soon become members of another loving family.

We hope you'll visit the garden and find blessings, comfort, and healing by being surrounded by memories of pets who were adored by their families.

P.S. If you're not interested in creating a pet memorial brick, you can still help animals in need by making a memorial donation in honor of a beloved pet.

Order forms are available online at bitterroothumane.org, inperson at the shelter or by emailing a request to BRHABoardofDirectors@gmail.com

If you have any questions or need more information contact Sue McCormack at 406.370.8071.





Buster, a delightful, ball loving 2-year-old Labrador, is currently under our care due to a gunshot wound he sustained. He was brought to us by a Ravalli County Deputy. It is unknown who shot him or why, but his unfortunate situation underscores the necessity of Bitter Root Humane Association's (BRHA) presence within our community.

Buster's family was located, but facing various challenges commonly seen in the valley, they are unable to reclaim Buster due to their current living circumstances. Despite these challenges, the owner cares deeply for Buster, whom they've had since he was 7 weeks old. This incident sheds light on the unspoken path that injured, stray, or abused animals often endure in the Bitterroot Valley. The shelter is a private non-profit, it does not receive government funding for the care of sick or injured animals. However, we do strive to help our community, heavily relying on your donations to help dogs just like Buster.

Because Buster's family will not be able to take him home, we are left to handle the veterinary expenses. We firmly believe in reuniting

pets with their families whenever feasible, regardless of financial circumstances. It's crucial to acknowledge that not everyone can afford veterinary care. This prompts questions about whether Buster could have received adequate care at home and survived. The owner did not consent to the treatment, and one might argue that if the owner did not agree to cover the veterinary costs, it becomes the shelter's responsibility. In such cases, the shelter relies on veterinary professionals to guide them. In Buster's case, the medical treatment was necessary as his condition was serious but treatable.

BRHA is committed to supporting our community and its animals, but this mission requires your support. Education initiatives, such as neutering to prevent wandering, and microchipping to facilitate reunification, are some ways we aim to reduce the number of animals coming into the shelter.

On a positive note, Buster is on the road to recovery and will soon be available for adoption. Over the past two years, he has been diligently preparing to become a bird hunting dog. Buster possesses immense potential and will be best suited for a family that appreciates his gentle demeanor, enthusiasm, and motivation. Being an avid ball thrower would be a big plus!





BRHA wishes to continue giving the best animal care, we are accepting dog and cat surrenders *BY APPOINTMENT*.

To make an appointment, please call 406.363.5311

Our visitation, adoption and all other services remain open during business hours.

Tuesday - Friday 1pm to 6pm Saturday & Sunday noon - 5pm Closed Mondays

Holidays are here and the shelter needs you!

Sitterroot Health Foundation



A community celebration benefitting Bitterroot Non-Profits!

NOVEMBER 18th – 20th
RAVALLI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EVENT CENTER

BRHA will be participating in this community event....we will have beautiful everlasting wreaths created and donated by area artists.

For updates on the event check our website and Facebook page often!

"Cookie Walk" and Bake Sale Saturday December 9, 2023 From 10 AM to 2 PM **Hamilton City Hall- Bedford Building** 223 S. 2nd Street, Hamilton Homemade sweet treats Cookies of every shape, size & flavor Sold by the pound Breads - Pies - Cakes - Candy & other sweet treats COME EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTION! All proceeds to benefit the Best **Bitter Root Humane Association** WINNER

"Happy Tails" Holiday Online Auction



It's time to ring in the holiday season with Bitter Root Humane Association's *"Happy Tails" Holiday Online Auction*. We're celebrating our holiday fundraising season with a virtual event for a fantastic cause...to make it possible for us to care for all the wonderful critters that come through our doors!

We hope you will join us, and from the comfort of your home, start your holiday shopping by visiting our auction. With values ranging from \$10 to priceless, we're sure you'll find the perfect gift for everyone on your gift list...and for yourself too!

Bidding will open November 23rd, Thanksgiving evening, at 6pm and be open for your shopping pleasure all through Monday, November 27th at 6pm. So, don't fight the early holiday shopping crowds, relax and shop where your holiday dollars will buy great gifts, donated from local businesses & artists, and support a great cause!

Find the BRHA "Happy Tails" Holiday Online Auction at:

www.32auctions.com/BRHA2023



CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The Bitter Root Humane Association would like to invite you to volunteer to bake for their Annual Cookie Walk & Bake Sale!

The BRHA Fundraising Committee is holding this event, which the community has come to love and look forward to and they hope you will join the baking team to support the shelter by sharing your awesome baking talents. This year the event will again be held at the Hamilton City Hall/Bedford building on Saturday, December 9th 10am to 2pm.

The Committee will need your creations dropped off at the event site on Friday, December 8th anytime between 10am to 4pm, and if you can't deliver your donation they will make arrangements with you to pick up.

If you have any questions or to volunteer to bake, please contact Jen Chase, at

406.369.5328 or email: chasejenn@gmail.com

MANAGER'S CORNER.....by Tucker Chase

It's that time of year when we receive daily calls about pets that are left outside in cold temperatures or inside cars while owners run errands. A common misconception is that dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but that is not true. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia. They should be kept inside whenever possible or given appropriate shelter to escape the cold.

It is not advisable to leave pets alone in a vehicle during cold weather. Vehicles are like the cooler you take to the beach: they hold in the cold. If your pet must be left in your vehicle while you are doing errands, then have plenty of blankets for them to snuggle in or a coat to wear. Better yet, leave them at home.

When taking your dog on a walk, towel dry them as soon as they come inside, especially in-between the toes. Snowballs also need to be removed from fur and between foot pads, but don't run hot water over paws to warm them. Just like when your hands are extremely cold, dousing them in hot water can be extremely painful. Instead, wrap a warm, damp washcloth around the paws to gently warm them. You can also massage petroleum jelly into paw pads before your walk or use "booties" as they are the best protection from salt and other chemical agents.

Around the home, always use pet-friendly ice melts on sidewalks and driveways. It is also recommended to never shave your dog down to the skin, as a longer coat provides more warmth and protection. Pets with short hair should wear a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck. Coverage needs to be from the base of the tail to the belly. During cold weather it is better to bathe your furry friends as little as possible. Excessive bathing can cause dry, itchy skin due to removing essential oils. If your pet must be bathed, it is best to just rinse or contact your vet for a recommended moisturizing shampoo.

If you see a cat wandering your neighborhood and it looks clean and well fed, it probably has a caretaker. We ask that you do not try to catch healthy, well taken care of cats and bring them to the shelter. Cats will roam quite a way from home and return when they are ready. If a cat looks like a pet or a working cat that has a caretaker, it probably is. Leading scientific studies with trackers have shown that outdoor, neighborhood cats, once taken out of their home range will be replaced by another unaltered cat as quickly as overnight. Bringing in a wandering cat that suddenly shows up in your neighborhood will not decrease the cat population of your area, it will only ensure more room for other cats to move in. If you wish to help, there are free plans for cat houses made from recycled Styrofoam boxes and old coolers on multiple websites. For example:

https://www.worldsbestcatlitter.com/2021/02/10-awesome-outdoor-cat-house-ideas/https://www.alleycat.org/resources/feral-cat-shelter-options-gallery/

BRHA knows that your furry family member is important to you, and we are here to help if your pet becomes lost. Call 406.363.5311 to let us know that your furry friend is missing, and we will post on Facebook. Also, let your friends and neighbors know through your social media. Calling your vet to alert them is also recommended. Always have your pet's collar on and the tag information updated. BRHA can microchip your cat or dog for \$15, and we have name tags for \$7. Other options for listing your lost pet are the Petco Love Lost website, https://lost.petcolove.org/, where you can upload a picture of your lost pet, and using facial recognition, the website will match your lost pet with those reported "found" on the website. Also try Paw Boost, www.pawboost.com, which works like an Amber Alert. Their "Rescue Squad" will search to find any post that matches or could match your pet and using both email chains and social media, work to find your lost pet.

BRHA wants to help strays get home!

Petco Love Lost is a free, national central database for lost and found pets. It uses image recognition technology to identify possible matches from both other users who have found a pet, as well as over 2,000 shelter partners across the nation. Users can simply



upload a photo and begin searching thousands of pet listings, create easily sharable pet alerts (optimized for Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor and email), and download printable posters. Register your pets TODAY at www.lost.petcolove.org/



BRHA gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of so many who wish to honor the memory of loved ones. We are humbled by the dedication and love of animals that those departed loved ones exhibited, and are truly grateful to their families for suggesting that memorials be sent to the BRHA for the benefit of the animals.

In Loving Memory of Pets

For "Kenna", Love Mom & Dad From Jay & Q DeHart
For "Mona" From Mary Gehl
For "Wookie" From Gue & Dave McCormack
For "Oliver" Thomas From Don & Linda Williams
For "Petey" From Mary Gehl
For "Willow" From David & Judy Vella
For "Annie" From Jay & Q DeHart

In Loving Memory of People

For Chuck & Mary Jones From The Klein Family For Marti Haman From Steven Durr For John Barei From Cynthia Silva For Shirley Seman From Barbara Engler

For Charlie Oliver From Don & Linda Williams, Sue & Dave McCormack, Shear Delight Pet Grooming, <mark>Sandy</mark> Bradley, Genevieve Raines, and Ann Bachman

For Marti Hayes From Vicki & Frank Schuster, Ruth Storms, Lizbeth Pener, & Daniel Tipton For Shelly Gasvoda From Dan & Marie Myers

For Tony Molina From Dan & Marie Myers

For Freddia Gue Burleson From Dee Dee & Tom Ganders

For Sarah Adams From Beth Robbins

For Carrie Anne Madeen Benson From Virginia Optiz

For Shirley Seman From Don & Shirley McGourty

For Marlene Lewis From John & Linda Bird, Stephen & Gail Goheen

For Bobbie McCauley From Diana Runnels, Dennis & Elizabeth Ondyak, & Gue & Dave McCormack

In Honor of

For Charlotte Oliver From Genevieve Raines

For "Pauley's" Birthday From Chapter One Bookstore

For Gue McCormack From Chad & Christen Forster

When tomorrow starts without me Don't think we're far apart For every time you think of me I'm right inside your heart. ~ Author Unknown

The Pet Crematorium

Losing your pet can be a difficult experience for you and your family. To many, the loss is not only of a pet, but of a very close friend and member of the family. The Pet Crematorium at Bitter Root Humane Association will treat your pet with dignity, honor and the respect that a faithful companion deserves. For more information, please call us at 406.363.5311 or visit our website and click on Services.



Volunteer Happenings



Hello animal lovers!

Since our last newsletter, the days have grown shorter and the beauty of fall in Montana has surrendered to the sparkling snow. Even though the flowers and trees are dormant until spring, we are just the opposite here at BRHA!

Since starting as Volunteer Coordinator in May, we have had 65 new volunteers join our ranks! I was not sure what to expect, but the volunteers at BRHA, both veteran and new, have exceeded my wildest expectations. The volunteers have collectively increased their volunteer hours for FIVE months in a row, and at the end of September have over 2,600 hours year to date! I am so proud of each of you, and more importantly, all the animals that you have helped get adopted are very thankful for your love and attention! If you would like to join our elite team of animal lovers, please stop by the shelter for a Volunteer Application, or print one from our website, bitterroothumane.org. When your application is approved, I will extend an invitation to our next Volunteer Orientation.

From there you will receive training in the volunteer area of your choosing. Cat socialization, dog socialization, dog walking, dishes, and laundry are always needed on site, and off-site opportunities include servers, raffle ticket sellers, event photographers, parade dog walkers, poster distributors, and participants in special events.

Everyone has a special talent – does yours involve baking? Our annual Cookie Walk and Bake Sale is coming upon Saturday December 9th, and the more sweets you make, the more sweets we sell, and that makes life here all the sweeter for our animals.

Is your talent knitting, crocheting, or sewing? Our annual Happy Tails Holiday Online Auction opens on November 23rd. If you would like to create something to donate, or if you have items you would like to contribute to the online auction, please bring them to BRHA as soon as you can.

As the holiday for celebrating our thankfulness nears, I am thankful for each of you who volunteer, for those who will become volunteers, for those who support BRHA, and most importantly all who love animals. Because of you, the world is a better and kinder place.

With many thanks and much love,

Nikki Stevenson



The BRHA specialty plate has been a ongoing fundraiser since 2013. The revenue it generates each year is substantial to our annual budget.

The state requires that we maintain at least 400 new or renewed plates per year in order to continue in the MVD Program, and we thank everyone who has either purchased a new plate or renewed their plate in 2023 For each new purchase or renewal \$20 is donated to BRHA. By displaying our plate, you are not only donating much need funds but helping to spread the word that BRHA is here & what we do for the community!

Meet Gumdrop

Gumdrop is a young black and white domestic short hair. This pretty, petite gal came in as a stray and needed a lot of medical attention to her tail. She lost her tail, but she was able to be saved! Gumdrop has since healed up really nicely. This pretty gal can be a bit timid when meeting new people, but she is slowly learning to come out of her shell.



She is extremely friendly once she gets to know you and would be happiest in a calm, quiet home. She does well around the other cats, but we do not know what she would be like around kids or dogs. Poor Gumdrop has had a rough couple of months and would love to find a soft bed to sleep on in her new furever home,

What's Up at BRHA?



Bitter Root Humane Association has a new play yard underway to improve the quality of life for animals in our shelter. Play enriches dogs' lives and reduces stress so their true personalities show. Many dogs in shelters are misdiagnosed as dog aggressive. BRHA uses play and playgroups to exercise, socialize, evaluate, train and save as many dogs as possible.

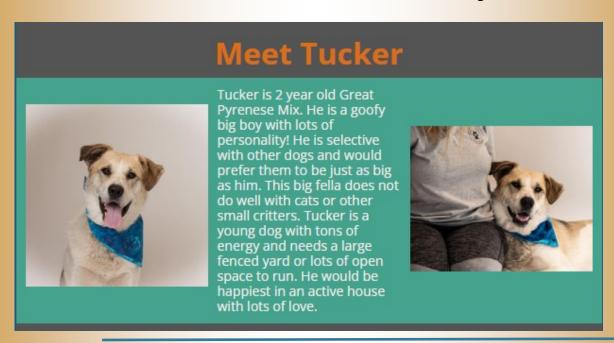
Dogs behaviorally deteriorate when they have been in a shelter too long. Dogs need both dog-dog play and dog-human play. The two serve different purposes. If you try to make the enrichment one-on-one with the keeper, you are not coming close to offering what dogs can offer one another. As much as we try, we still do not

understand the nuances of dogs' cues, signals, and behaviors, whether they are running, tumbling or dashing. And while many dogs will happily fetch a Frisbee for us, dog-dog play is less object-focused, more engaging. Our new play yard will give dogs an opportunity to have more social interaction as well as to practice appropriate play behavior in a controlled setting.

The new spacious play yard will also decrease territorial behavior within the shelter, increase a dog's ability to focus on training, maximize staff time — kennels can be cleaned while dogs play, and burn up mental/physical energy through intense social interaction. The play yard has a built-in safety gate and plenty of room to run and play.

Made possible by the kindness of generous donors, our spectacular dog enrichment play yard will be located along the front of the shelter. This area will be dedicated to providing a place for shelter dogs to play, socialize and receive much needed attention and training. By offering an outlet for play, most will flourish and be adopted into loving homes.

Repurposing an existing area, which was previously unused, the play yard adds space to run and play. BRHA is still searching for donations for several pieces of agility equipment to add to the space. If you would like to donate email the shelter at BRHAfront@bitterroothumane.org.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Local business help our guests in so many ways!

Here is a special thank you to our local veterinarians for helping keep our animals healthy and caring for emergent cases: Sentinel Veterinary Specialists & Emergency, Burnt Fork Veterinary Clinic, Valley Pet Clinic, Skalkaho Creek Veterinary Clinic.

Our Pint night partners helped raise funds and awareness, more dates to come soon at Tin Can Bar and Draft Room, Fins Taphouse, Bitter Root Brewing & Brigand Brewery.

At this years Fair several booth vendors donated a portion of sales to BRHA: Mimi's Portico, CHB Entertainment, Meandering Moose, Double K Ranch.

Angler's Roost hosted Woofstock 2023. Burlap Chic hosted an amazing raffle. Chapter One Bookstore celebrated their 1 year puppy adoption celebration, Country Store has been allowing the community to meet and adopt cats on site, Montana Professional Artists Association donated \$520 from their Annual Art Show, Murdoch's 2023 Calendars and "Round Up for BRHA" donations are greatly appreciated!

At the shelter, Greener Grass is keeping our shelter grounds well groomed and Touchpoint Designs is caring for our shelter's website needs.







Would you like to raise money for the BRHA? Consider doing a "Third Party Fundraiser"!

One of the most fun ways to help our animal shelter is to do a Third-party Fundraiser. This is where a person, business, a school or even a nonprofit has an idea to raise money or generate much needed supplies for the BRHA. This is one of the best ways to support our nonprofit organization. Some successful past Third-party fundraisers included: bake sales, a fun run, donation drives, a Pint night, some businesses even do a "round up" on retail sales or offer a discount or promotion and pass the proceeds on to the BRHA. Actually, anything that helps the Bitter Root Humane Association and the community it serves...you could raise money for general operations or to support specific funds such as senior pet adoptions, spay/neuter program or a pet food drive to make sure that our free Community Pet Pantry has plenty of pet food for those people who may need some extra help feeding their own pets. The sky is the limit and if you are interested in supporting the shelter with a Third Party Fundraiser please call Jen at 406.369.5328 or email chasejenn@gmail.com for more information.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Sandy Gay



Before joining the Hamilton community sixteen years ago, Sandy lived in Rochester, NY where she worked primarily in church music and in accompanying public school choirs. She has been active as a composer of church and 'classical' music for many groups and instruments and composing is still one of her great loves.

Since living here, Sandy has focused on volunteer work. She got her start volunteering by helping to build the two houses on Cherry Street for Habitat for Humanity then worked in their re-sale store. While concurrently volunteering at Haven House and helping the recycling effort for 6 years, Sandy also helped with Feral Cat Rescue fostering kittens for 4 summers and helped with pet adoptions at Farmers' Market and food drives at Lakeland.

After the recycling effort ended and FCR lost its funding, Sandy looked to BRHA as a good place to turn her efforts and enjoys being here immensely. She loves communicating and sharing life with the cats, but her favorite part is introducing them to folks who come to see them, and sharing what she knows about each cat with potential adopters. She admires the staff greatly and helps in any way she can. Sandy has been a loyal volunteer since before our new building was built, and faithfully socializes and loves our kitties at least twice a week.

Sandy's long-time interest in animal welfare and her lifelong love of cats make her the ideal volunteer. She considers cats her soul mates and strives to be as educated as possible about everything animal care and uses that education to interact with potential adopters to help them find the best match possible for a pet.

Sandy, we at Bitter Root Humane Association appreciate you so much!

Thank you for everything you do to make the world a more beautiful place!



What's better than adopting one cat? ADOPTING TWO!

Come visit our beautiful felines and you may just find your fur-ever friend or two! Remember, two cats are better than one, and we make it easy with our "CAT BUDDY" Adoption Program!

Adopt an adult cat and the second cat is free! Adopt one kitten and save 50% on the second kitten! *kittens must be 11 months old or younger

Cats make wonderful pets and studies have found that adopting two cats has many benefits:

- Cats who have a playmate tend to be more socially well-adjusted and avoid behavior problems like shyness, biting, hissing, being frightened and hiding in the company of people they don't know.
- If you must work long hours or travel for a couple of days, two or more cats keep each other company and are more tranquil during your absence.
- Your cat will remain more playful and youthful into their later years with a companion.

GIVE A LITTLE GIVE A LOT YOUR DONATION HELPS US SAVE LIVES



lf you would like to a	e list leaf name(s) on th	ent plan for buying a leaf,	please
Card # Name (Please Print) _		MastercardVisa Expiration Date	Security Code
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Thank You St. Patrick's Hospital



BRHA is grateful to
St. Patrick's Hospital for
their generous donations
of medical supplies.
Supplies are donated on
a regular basis by
volunteers to help care
for the animals in the
shelter. Their recycling
program saves thousands
of pounds of supplies
from entering the
landfill.



With your continued support we can continue to make "Happy Tails"!



Did you adopt a pet from BRHA? We would love to hear how they are doing in their new home!

Send us your updates to be featured in upcoming Newsletters! brhafront@bitterroothumane.org



"Mr. Taggart is taking his new position as chicken guardian very seriously! We have fallen head over heals with this dude and are so happy to have him in our family." -Paul & Vanessa



262 Fairgrounds Road PO Box 57 Hamilton, MT 59840 406.363.5311

PASS IT ON

To a friend when you are finished reading your newsletter. By increasing readership and awareness you will be performing a valuable service to the animals we're trying to help. Please help us keep our records up to date by advising us of any address change or duplicate mailings.

Thank You!

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Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Hamilton, MT 59840 Permit No. 38

Permit No. 36

NEW & RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Memberships run January through December. Your address label indicates the year that your current membership expires. If you have any questions, please call Sue McCormack at 406.370.8071. Your continued support is so important to all the animals. Thank You!

New	Renewal Senior (65+): \$15 each Individual: \$25 each Business: \$30 each
	Extra Donation: \$
Please Pr	rint
Name	Phone
Mailing A	Address
	·
E-mail	Add me to email newsletter mailing list
() Plea	se send me information on the Kennel Sponsorship Program
() Plea	se have the Volunteer Coordinator contact me
() Plea	se contact me with information concerning the Foster Program
() Plea	ase contact me about Board of Director positions & responsibilities

