

Focus on Animals

THE FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ 2007 - 2008 EDITION



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“BEAR-LY” ENOUGH ROOM AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER

“BACK TO THE WILD” GALA AUGUST 8
TO HELP FUND EXPANSION

A record number of orphaned bear cubs arrived at the Montana Wildlife Center’s rehabilitation facility this past year. Of the 45 cubs cared for, 12 orphaned babies are currently in residence, 32 yearlings were recently released to the wild, and one was placed in a nature center.

Our 2008 “Back to the Wild” gala, a fundraiser for the “bear essentials,” will be held August 8 in the historic Stedman Foundry building onsite at the center. The outdoor wildlife-enclosure project includes an open-air exercise area for young cubs that need lots of sunshine and exercise, but are too small to compete with yearlings in the larger outdoor compounds. Expansion plans for the rehabilitation facility also include more room for food preparation and veterinary care inside the intake area.

A highlight at the gala will be a special short film featuring bear cubs rehabilitated at the center as Patti Sowka, wildlife center manager for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, tells the story of their journey back to the wild.

Individual tickets are \$75; a table for 8 is \$500. A silent auction before dinner will feature artwork and a variety of destination packages. Individual tickets and tables for groups may be reserved by calling 443-6532.



photos courtesy of the Montana Wildlife Center



Orphaned black bear cubs arrive at the Montana Wildlife Center’s rehabilitation facility in various sizes.

Whose Pet Will Be On The Cover Of The 2009 Pet Calendar?

Dogs, cats, horses, birds, burros, turtles and other assorted species – each year about 100 photos of adorable pets are entered in the Foundation’s pet calendar cover contest. And each year it’s a tough job to select the winning pet photo, according to Pet Calendar Committee



Chair Kerry Sullivan-Lechner.

The winner of the 2009 cover contest will be unveiled at the pet calendar preview party in October. Copies of the handsome desk calendar will be for sale that evening and will be sold in Helena area stores October through December 2008.

Proceeds from calendar sales help support the Foundation’s spay-neuter and emergency funds programs. To participate in a future calendar, call (406) 443-6532 and ask to be added to the calendar mailing list.

PROGRESS REPORT ON PLANNED EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE CENTER

The planned expansion of the wildlife center intake building and wildlife enclosures got a big boost when Helena architect Bob Karhu of Karhu Architects Inc. volunteered his time to transform design concepts into drawings. A special thank you also goes to Paul Valle, Construction Bureau Chief for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, who worked with wildlife center staff to finalize plans for the expansion.

The 2007 kick-off to the fundraising campaign plus grants received this past year got us well on our way. In addition to individual donations, grants were received from Burlington-Northern, Santa Fe Foundation; Liz Claiborne-Art Ortenberg Foundation; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation; Plum Creek Foundation; and the Treacy Company.



Wildlife center manager Patti Sowka and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Paul Valle discuss what is needed to expand the rehabilitation facility.



Left to right: Lorin Hicks of Plum Creek Foundation presented a \$3,000 check for the wildlife center expansion to Kelly Kuntz, FFA chair, and Ron Aasheim of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



Bob Karhu of Karhu Architects in Helena gave valuable assistance to FFA in preparing contract documents to expand the rehabilitation facility.



Adopt-A-Species art contest winners in grades 3-5 include Helena elementary school students Taryn Holland (3rd grade, Montana City School) whose drawing of a moose took 1st place; Brita Binde (3rd grade, Radley School) whose Red Tailed Hawk took 2nd place, and Jessica Alles (5th grade, Kessler School) who took 3rd place for her drawing of a Bighorn Sheep.

ADOPT-A-SPECIES PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Respect Habitat, Respect Wildlife was the theme for the 2007-2008 Adopt-A-Species program at Helena area elementary schools. Last fall Helena High School theater students visited schools to host special assemblies and unveil each school's adopted species.

Now in its twelfth year, the Adopt-A-Species program is an education program that teaches students the importance of conserving habitat and wildlife and how each species fits into the ecosystem.

Students start the year with a kick-off assembly, and each participating school is given an education trunk spotlighting their adopted species. The trunks contain resource materials, classroom activities, artwork, games, writings and music, along with other references. In the spring, students submit essays and artwork to be published in a special Earth Day supplement in the Helena newspaper.

Sponsors of the program include the Foundation For Animals, Helena National Forest, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Discovery Foundation and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

VOLUNTEER AND IN-KIND THANKS

We are grateful for substantial and ongoing volunteer and in-kind donations to the Montana Wildlife Center from:

- Wal-Mart Super Center employees' volunteer "Swat Team" for preparing the Stedman Foundry building and grounds for "Back to the Wild" galas in 2007 and 2008.
- An American Arborist, for branches for the cubs' enrichment.
- Companion Animal Hospital for veterinary services.
- Marks-Miller Post & Pole for cubs' bedding.
- PETCO for pet food.
- Costco, The Real Food Store and Van's Thriftway for outdated produce.
- The dedicated volunteers who commit time and energy to the wildlife center rehabilitation facility.



Wal-Mart volunteers gave the historic Stedman building a major makeover prior to the 2007 Gala and a spruce-up in 2008.



Volunteer Lynne Burkhardt holds a bobcat kitten received at the rehabilitation facility of the Montana Wildlife Center.

STATE AND LOCAL SPAY – NEUTER EFFORTS DECREASE NUMBER OF HOMELESS ANIMALS

A primary goal of the Foundation for Animals is to reduce the number of litters that are unwanted or abandoned at humane society shelters. The Foundation issues vouchers to help defray the cost of spay-neuter surgery when pet owners cannot afford the full cost. Since 1992, over \$85,000 has been dedicated to the program and 3,700 pets have been altered through assistance from the program.

We also work with other animal groups, helping to fund spay-neuter clinics. These combined efforts have succeeded in dramatically reducing the overpopulation of pets and feral cats.

For information about the following organizations, refer to phone numbers or web pages indicated.

- Helena Area Friends of Pets (HAFoP) sponsors clinics in Helena designed for people who can't otherwise afford spay-neuter surgery for their pets. At March and June 2008 clinics, veterinarians altered 467 animals. To volunteer or to receive information about upcoming clinics, call 406-933-5922.
- The Montana Spay-Neuter Task Force coordinates programs for pet owners who need assistance. Since 1996, a total of 41,567 animals have been altered at 143 clinics in 94 communities. The Task Force assists communities at the invitation of local government and organizations. Their website is www.mtspayneutertaskforce.org.
- Spay Montana funds a mobile spay-neuter van that reaches low-income pet owners across the state. Their website can be accessed at spaymontana.org.



Helena veterinarian Julie Kappes, assisted by Sandy Goodwin, dedicate time to the spay-neuter clinics in Browning.



Pets and their owners wait their turn at the spay-neuter clinic in Helena.

ARLA BARKEMEYER, DVM EXTRAORDINARY VETERINARIAN AND HUMANITARIAN



photo courtesy of Sandy Newton

Arla Barkemeyer (1947-2008) joined the FFA advisory board in 1990 and was instrumental in shaping the spay-neuter and emergency funds programs. She cared deeply, worked tirelessly, gave generously -- and made a lasting difference in countless lives, both human and animal. We will miss Arla as a long-time member of the Foundation and a dear friend.

The Foundation's 2009 pet calendar is being dedicated to Arla in recognition of her remarkable life-long efforts on behalf of animals, domestic and wild, and the people who love them.

EMERGENCY FUNDS HELP ANIMALS IN CRITICAL NEED

The Foundation's emergency funds program was designed to serve as a safety net for animals in need. Since 1992, over \$58,000 has been provided through the program.

Most often, we provide financial assistance to help pet owners afford emergency veterinary expenses. Occasionally, an animal without an owner is found in desperate straits and given a second chance at life.

So it was when a dog groomer found a homeless, starving Pomeranian near death in the freezing cold and refused to give up on him. Instead, she contacted the Foundation and several generous individuals to arrange funding for immediate veterinary care that saved his life. Then she searched until she found just the right person to place him with. The little dog quickly bonded with his new owner, who dubbed him "Einstein," and the two are great buddies.



"Einstein," a lucky dog

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

Four non-profit groups have benefited from the Foundation's small grants program since our last newsletter. The program provides financial assistance for worthy projects that benefit both domestic and wild animals.

Green Grass Bull Animal Rescue, Browning MT, was granted \$1,000 to help fund a June 2008 spay/neuter clinic, the fourth to be held in the Browning/Heart Butte area. A total of 878 animals have been altered at the clinics that were held with the assistance of the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force.

Helena Area Friends of Pets, Helena MT, was awarded \$500 to help meet expenses for two spay/neuter clinics in 2008. A total of 467 cats and dogs were altered at the clinics.

Beartooth Humane Alliance (BHA), Red Lodge MT, was awarded \$200 to help meet expenses related to their low-cost spay/neuter voucher program in Carbon County.

Great Pyrenees Rescue of Montana in East Helena was granted \$100 to help pay for overhead fencing added to a kennel used to house large rescue dogs prior to placing them in new homes. The project provides a safer environment while the large dogs await adoption.



Volunteer Brenna Herlson provides post-surgical care for a kitten in the recovery area at the Helena Clinic.



Six-year-old Chance Hascall sits on a pet carrier that contains his kitty and best friend, "Daisy," while waiting in line at a recent Helena spay-neuter clinic.

Visit our website:
www.FoundationForAnimals.org



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The Foundation for Animals

2007-2008

Donor Recognition Honor Roll

LEGACY CIRCLE

\$25,000 - \$100,000+

Cumulative Gifts:

Arla Barkemeyer
Burlington-Northern Santa Fe
Fanwood Foundation
Mikal Kellner
Julie Kappes DVM & Kelly Kuntz
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation
Joan Poston
Louisa Rothfus
Treacy Company
Cindy & Jim Utterback

SUSTAINER CIRCLE

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Cumulative Gifts:

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Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg
Foundation
Carol Ferguson
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\$2,000 - \$9,999

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Mountain West Bank
Dr James Nickel
Robert Peccia & Associates
Plum Creek Foundation
Wal-Mart Foundation
Sue & Vince Yannone

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Donations since our last newsletter:

Sue, Edna & Lee Anderson
Lucy Dayton & Mark O'Keefe
Dorothy & Robert Franklin
Constance Horder
MT Assoc. County Road Supervisors
Tia Nelson DVM
Total Dynamic Balance Veterinary Clinic
NorthWestern Energy
Chili O'Brien's
Susan & Bob Russell

SUPPORTER CIRCLE

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Lee Harrison & Fred Olsen
Denise & Robert Pennington
Helen & Richard Rietz
Tizer Gardens
Valley Bank
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\$1 - \$99

Donations since our last newsletter:

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2008 PET CALENDAR PARTICIPANTS

A special thanks to participants in the Foundation's annual pet calendar! Purchase of pages and calendar sales support the Foundation's spay-neuter and emergency funds programs.

2008 Pet Calendar sales locations:

Al Swanson Gallery
Anderson ZurMuehlen
American Federal Saving Bank
Animal Center
Bears Den
Big Sky Roasters
Birds & Beasley's
Boxwoods
Companion Animal Center
DA Davidson
Dillard's
Dog Wood Lodge
Futura Lane
Grand Junction Mercantile
Guardian Kennels
Montana Book & toy Company
Mountain West Bank
Murdoch's
Panhandler Plus
Park Avenue Bakery
Real Food Store
Rock Hand Hardware
Jim Stevens Gallery
Van's Thriftway
Wells Fargo Bank

2007 "BACK TO THE WILD" GALA

Special thanks to in-kind and auction donors at the Gala 2007! Proceeds are designated to the Montana Wildlife Center improvements.

Al Swanson Gallery
All About Animals
All About Grooming
Allegra Print & Imaging
Anderson ZurMuehlen
Animal Center
Barnes Jewelers
Beartooth Nature Center
Archie Bray Foundation
Benny's
Bert & Ernie's
Birds & Beasley's
BOBCAT of Helena
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Chili O'Brien's
Companion Animal Hospital
Diamond Dream Wholesale
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Gardenwerks
Ghost Art Gallery
Nina Harrison
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Mediterranean Grill
Montana Book & Toy Company
Mt Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Sign Works
MP&E
The Nature Conservancy
North Fork Crossing
On Broadway
Panhandler Plus
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Pro-line Decorative Curbs & Borders
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Riverbend Publishing
Sage Spa
Silver Star Steak Company
Sussex Construction
Al Swanson Gallery
Linda Silverberg Jewelry
Jim Stevens Gallery & Country Framers
Valley Excavating Sand & Gravel
Barbara Van Cleve Photography
Eric Van Eimeren
Jesse Lee Varnado Photography
Windbag Saloon & Grill
Ralph Yaeger

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Holidays and happy occasions celebrated with donations in honor of special people.

In Honor of Chris Anderson
Shannon McGuire

In Honor of Marilyn & Ed Bartlett
Shelly Hopkins Poore

In Honor of Elma Bonar
Dianne Nickman

In Honor of Tori Kall Hunthausen
Valerie Kall Baptiste

In Honor of Julie & Kelly Kuntz
Dezi & Jeffrey Kappes

In Honor of Dick Morgan
Catherine & Frank McCall

In Honor of Dianne Nickman
Cathy & Don Nelson

In Honor of Dawn & Jim Powell
Susan Hambry

In Honor of Cindy Utterback
Sue Anderson
Barbara & Ron Spott

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Arla Barkemeyer DVM
Anonymous
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Mary Arnold
Janet Weeks Andrew
Michele & Helen Bailey
Judy & Steve Browning
Erika & Jonathan Burkhartsmeier
Deborah Butler
Rebecca Cooper
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Virginia Lane
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Kathy & Joseph Mayo & Family
Dawn & Bret Mayo & Family
Tia Nelson DVM
Total Dynamic Balance Veterinary Clinic
Dianne Nickman
Stephen O'Brien
Cynthia Overturf
Jayne & David Richardson & Family
Cindy & Jim Utterback
Rex Walsh

In Memory of Marie Barker
BJ & Hank Dahl

In Memory of Miles Griffith
Marilyn & Ed Bartlett

In Memory of Wilbert Janke
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In Memory of Pauline Juul
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In Memory of
Joanna Shoemaker Lieberg
BJ & Hank Dahl

In Memory of Nancy Melton
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In Memory of Shane Palmquist
Judy & Blaine Palmquist

In Memory of Jon Symon
Carol Ferguson
Susan & Kai Wong

In Memory of Bill Taliaferro
Bonnie Taliaferro

In Memory of Bob Tubbs
BJ & Hank Dahl

In Memory of Lorin Waling
BJ & Hank Dahl

PET MEMORIALS

In Memory of "Spanner" Anderson
Dianne Nickman

In Memory of "Louie" Barfnecht
Janet Weeks Andrew

In Memory of "Fanny" Browning
Sue Anderson
Sarah & John Etchart
Cindy & Jim Utterback

In Memory of "Cozmo" Carosone
Rick Carosone

In Memory of "Poncho" Cladouhos
Sherry & Thomas Cladouhos

In Memory of "Rascal" Clark
Robert Clark

In Memory of the Conver's Cat
Janet Weeks Andrew

In Memory of "Walker" Glasscock
Carol Ferguson

In Memory of "Chumley" Hanson
Janet Weeks Andrew

In Memory of "Dannie," "Ikie" &
"Rodney" Huber
Janet Huber

In Memory of "Red" & "Puddy" Jones
Deborah Jones

In Memory of "Hawk" Knoll
Marilyn & Ed Bartlett

In Memory of "Sage" & "Chant" Lahr
Beverly Lahr

In Memory of "Moose" Rux
Saundra Rux

In Memory of "Morpheus" Thomi
Lucas Thomi, DVM

In Memory of "Wally" Tyree
Marilyn & Ed Bartlett

In Memory of "Maud" McMahon-Wise
Sue Crispin & Randy Levin

In Memory of "Chelsey" Youmans
Heidi & Cliff Youmans

If you made a donation that has not been acknowledged in our newsletter, please contact us at:

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