



Pets leave a paw print on your heart

Paw Print

A newsletter from the Friends of
the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter

Susan Herzog, Editor

December, 2011

A message from Kelly McCartney, Director, City of Buffalo Animal Shelter

It's been a busy year at the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter (CBAS), and we couldn't do it without our volunteer organization, Friends of the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter.

"Friends" had a very active summer, attending the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market, Too Hot to Cook BBQ sponsored by Ten Lives Club, the BarkYard / PetTales Anniversary Party, GardenWalk, the Kitten Shower, Fantasy Island, Run for Rover, Elmwood Arts Festival, Kenmore Dog Days, Buffalo Bison Baseball, and Pet Expo, sponsored and coordinated by Maddie's® Fund.

Volunteers were also busy meeting the public and facilitating pet adoption at the Shelter's off-site adoption venue, PetSmart on Elmwood, and ensured that the SPCA's Adoption Facility at Galleria Mall always had an adoptable kitty to fill all available spots! Adoptable cats were also prominently featured at Pinewoods and Ellicott Veterinary Hospitals as well as Elmwood Pet Supply, a family-owned retailer of high quality pet products.

The Shelter's volunteer foster program is thriving. To date this year, 291 animals were placed into foster care, and 215 of those animals have been placed into permanent, loving homes directly from volunteers' foster homes.

Shelter volunteers continue to appear weekly on the ABC affiliate (WKBW television) PetTalk Tuesday segment and promote adoptable dogs on local radio station 104.1 FM. Volunteers continue to promote adoptions by maintaining the Shelter's PetFinder web site and fielding inquiries and applications.

Friends of CBAS persisted in their organization efforts by completing and submitting their application for Federally recognized not for profit status under IRS Code 501(c)(3). In late September, Friends of CBAS was awarded not for profit status, allowing them to expand their fund raising activities on behalf of the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter. Plans are currently underway to explore future grant and fund raising opportunities.

Other kind and generous "auxiliary volunteers" include local seamstresses who donate cat fleece blankets for our kennels, numerous scout troops and school organizations who have provided everything from yard cleanup, park benches, and collar and leash donations, local groomer Pawprints by Penny, providing comfort and care to some of our badly matted residents on a moment's notice, and Elmwood Pet Supply, providing our dogs with an ongoing supply of bones. THANK YOU, from the bottom of our hearts.

Kelly



Stay in touch with us on Facebook! Search for "Friends of the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter" and become a CBAS follower.

Animal Shelter Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays



The Pet Rescue Foundation



Byron W. Brown, Mayor

Adopt Your New Best Friend Today!

City of Buffalo Animal Shelter
380 N. Oak Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 851-5694



Saturdays in the City

by Kate Doran, Shelter Volunteer

Every Saturday from June through September, Shelter volunteers bring adoptable dogs and cats to meet market patrons attending the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market.

In addition to fresh fruits, vegetables, wine, and cheese, nine lucky families found their new best friends at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market this summer. Five dogs and four cats from the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter met their new families at the market and were successfully adopted.

Many of the patrons visiting the Shelter's table at the Farmers Market have adopted animals from the Shelter in years past – the volunteers love catching up with Shelter 'alumni' and their families.

Among the shelter animals who found homes were Katie, a lovely young pit bull terrier mix; and Snowbelle, a beautiful long hair white cat. Both Katie and Snowbelle lived at the shelter for longer than expected, given their sweet personalities. However, they had trouble showcasing themselves in a Shelter environment. Bidwell market gave Katie and Snowbelle the opportunity to shine outside of their kennels, and they were snapped up by wonderful families.

A few weeks after Katie was adopted, her new family brought her back to the Bidwell market to visit the volunteers. She was just so happy to be with a great family!

The Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market is not only a great venue to find homes for Shelter animals – the market's patrons are so generous that the volunteers raised over \$1,700! These monetary donations allowed Friends of CBAS to contribute to spay and neuter surgeries for 85 cats and 34 dogs from these donations alone.

Thank you for your support of the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter, and please come and see us at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market in 2012!

If you are interested in helping out at this venue or some of our other off-site events, please contact us at cbasvolunteerinfo@gmail.com to become a Shelter volunteer.

Double the Lovin'

by Kathy Gardner, Mother of Shelter Volunteer Christine Olen

In November, 2009, I checked PetFinder to glance at the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter dogs as I have always done in the past. On this particular day, I found a picture of a dog that immediately touched my heart. Although I never intended to adopt a second dog because of my Dalmatian's lack of reception to people or other animals, I couldn't get this one out of my mind and wanted to make it work. She was already in my heart when I filled out the application, and soon, Millie came into our lives as a little sister to my Dalmatian, Duke.

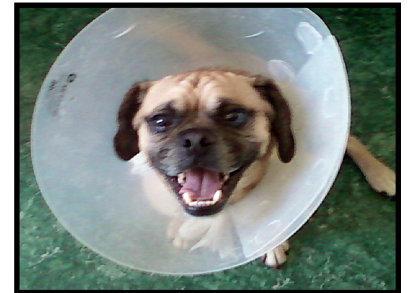
This "small beagle mix" (as she was described by the Shelter) has grown into a hundred pound beauty. She has graced our home with much love and devotion.

In April of this year, we lost Duke. While Millie and I were grieving his loss, my daughter Christine, a Shelter volunteer, announced that she was fostering a little dog in need of aftercare following surgical repair of a particularly delicate condition called Paraphimosis, which was funded by the Friends of CBAS.

Samson, named by the volunteers, recovered well and has completed our family.

Millie and Sampson spend their whole day together either at my side or cuddled up on the couch. They sit side by side at the dinner table, not begging but patiently waiting for that taste off the plate. And when the day is through, they sleep comfortably on the bed.

Nothing is more soothing than the sound of two happy dogs snoring in the dark. They are my therapy, my love, my life. Thank you, City of Buffalo Animal Shelter, for all you do.



Millie, left. Samson on the mend, above.

Friends of CBAS has partnered with Kuranda, a manufacturer of high quality pet enrichment products. In 2011, "Friends" purchased two nine-level cat towers to provide activity for our feline community.

Our wish list for 2012 is to equip ALL dog kennels with raised bedding. With just a few mouse clicks, you can help a Shelter dog by donating raised bedding from our wish list, online at <http://kuranda.com/donate/6075>.



Unconditional Love Update

by Kerry Neaf, Shelter Volunteer

Last year, we highlighted three special needs animals that were assisted by the Shelter and Friends of CBAS, Mimi, Finley and Ginger. In 2011, the names have changed, but the stories are similar, and we could not do it without the generosity of residents of the City of Buffalo:

Yoshi

is a purebred Sharpei surrendered to the Shelter by her owners. Her less than charming personality put her at risk of not passing her adoption assessment. A veterinary exam confirmed the suspicion that Yoshi's mood was affected by entropion, a condition which caused her eyelashes to grow inward. Left untreated, this painful condition can cause corneal ulcers and can result in vision loss. Friends of CBAS wanted to save Yoshi and launched a fund raising campaign to help her.



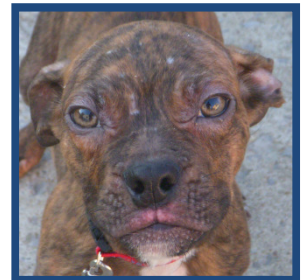
Following surgical repair, Yoshi was placed in foster care and with her pain gone, her true personality came through. Yoshi's stunning before and after photos remind us of Aesop's fable of the lion with the thorn in his paw, and that "gratitude is the sign of noble souls". She was placed with a family as a friend to their existing dog and has been a grateful companion from day one.



Adding to this happy tale are two more examples of the generous spirit of our animal-loving community, who helped expose Yoshi's noble soul. First, there is the guardian angel who stepped forward and donated the entire amount required for Yoshi's surgery, and second, the family, who adopted Yoshi, donated additional money to help "pay it forward" which allowed Friends of CBAS to fix the eyes of two other puppies, Ben and Gracie. Thank you, guardian angels!

Ben, in need of surgery to correct "cherry eye"

Ben, post surgery



Frankie

was just a tiny American Bulldog puppy when he was picked up by Dog Control. He was suffering from a badly injured back leg and knee, but one look at that face and we knew we had to save him. The orthopedic surgery that Frankie needed was well beyond what we could normally spend on one animal, even with a discount given by our Partner Vet, Buffalo Small Animal Hospital. Again, the community pitched in and raised over \$2,000 to repair his leg, even more than what we needed! After 6 weeks of rest and therapy in a wonderful foster home, Frankie hit the jackpot with his adoptive family. We get regular pictures and updates and this boy is certainly well-loved. Here's a picture of him at his final recheck at the Vet, looking good as new. When you donate to this fund you are providing hope and life to animals that would otherwise have neither. No amount is too small and we hope you will consider donating so we can fix the next Yoshi or Frankie that shows up at our door. **Donate online [bflocityshelter.pettfinder.com](http://www.bflocityshelter.pettfinder.com)**



Save the Date!

Join us on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. for a fund raiser to support Shelter Animals.

Basket auction, 50/50 drawing, live music by Chris Maloney, food and beverages.

Thomas E. Tehan VFW Post # 1449, 2075 Electric Avenue, Blasdell, New York 14219. Watch our web site **www.bflocityshelter.pettfinder.com** for ticket details.

Who Rescued Whom?

Jennifer Ward, Shelter Volunteer

I write this as the proud Adopter of the most fabulous Shelter dog that ever was, Zelda. Many people know how I came to fall in love with Zelda during a Channel 2 Daybreak Sunday Pet Profile and then spent many weeks trying to find someone else to adopt her. I came to my senses just in time for Christmas 2010 and Zelda has been redefining the story of my life ever since.

Many also know that Zelda came from horrific beginnings, as evidenced by the permanent scaring on her face and legs, and badly cropped ears. Many might imagine that there wasn't much of a future for a dog rescued from such a violent past and the most that such a dog could hope for was a humane euthanasia to end her life of suffering.

Buffalo is blessed to have the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter and its dedicated and devoted staff and army of volunteers to offer a brighter alternative. I owe them a debt of gratitude for their compassion and insight, seeing past Zelda's battle scars to the light in her eyes as the window to her sweet soul.

They gave Zelda a fighting chance to find true happiness in a new phase of her life by not giving up on her and loving her until she could find her way into my life.

Since bringing Zelda home, our lives have been filled with laughter, wet kisses, cuddling and belly rubs (for Zelda, not us). The unexpected bonus has been the wonderful people we have befriended directly because of Zelda. I didn't realize when we adopted Zelda that she already had a loving family – the Buffalo community. Upon adopting Zelda, my Facebook page was flooded with warm messages and "Friend Requests" from many of the volunteers of the Shelter who loved and cared for Zelda before us. It's hard to summarize the lasting impression made upon my heart and soul knowing so many kind and caring people commit themselves to finding perfect homes for animals otherwise unwanted and/or mistreated. The people I have met come from all walks of life, all age groups, all income brackets, all stages of work and retirement, but they all have one thing in common – they have a calling to make a difference for these animals, and to find them a better future no matter how long it takes.

I became a bit of a "Shelter Stalker", periodically visiting the Shelter with Zelda to see her old pals, but I also found myself sitting in the lobby and loving being a part of the activity there. I loved watching the volunteers walking (or in many cases running) from the kennels to the outdoors with a dog so ecstatic to be on his/her way to some fresh air, watching one of the "Cat Ladies" cuddling a sick kitty in her arms, watching a prospective family interact with the dog or cat that could become for them, what Zelda has become for me – a loving companion and friend, a daily inspiration and another reason to wake up every day with a smile on my face. You simply can't put a price on that.

I've bonded with many of the volunteers and staff as I "stalked" local events where the PAWS wagon was parked

full of pups hoping to connect with their forever families. I've met tireless foster mothers who lovingly bring dogs into their already crowded homes and lives, who make it their mission, no matter how long it takes, no matter how many meet and greets they must coordinate, to find the dogs in their care the BEST homes possible. They simply won't settle for less. They celebrate the success of placing a dog, delivering that foster to their new family, often with a care package of some of that foster's favorite things, then almost instantaneously move on to the next Shelter dog that needs them. Often, they remain in touch with the families who have adopted previous foster dogs. And so the circle of fostering, volunteering and love of Shelter animals goes on and on.

These phenomenal folks are unsung heroes in our community. They don't want accolades or commendations; they just want every homeless dog and cat at the Shelter to find a loving family to call their very own. I am so proud to be able to say now that I am no longer just an ADOPTER of a Shelter dog, but a brand new Shelter VOLUNTEER who anxiously looks forward to further life enrichment by being a part of this amazing group of people and animals!



ur Wish List . . .

While monetary donations to help the Shelter are always appreciated, there are other ways to donate. Following is a list of things that the Shelter can put to immediate use:

- Kuranda dog beds at <http://kuranda.com/donate/6075>
- Cat scratching posts! Find them at www.stretchandscratch.com. Our kitties LOVE them!
- Clean, used blankets. We prefer not to take comforters, as de-stuffing them is too much fun for the dogs and we can't watch them at all times.
- Used towels in any condition
- Toys, the ones your pets ignore
- Newspaper, just the newsprint sections, not the glossy ads
- Leashes and collars . . . maybe your pets outgrew them or were ready for a new look
- Crates or carriers you no longer use
- Canned food, cat, kitten, dog and puppy (dry food is supplied through a contract, so we just need the canned please)
- Laundry supplies, liquid laundry detergent, bleach
- Treats, dog and cat
- Fleece cat beds

If your class, troop or other service group is looking for something to do, organize a donation drive for us! We'd be happy to help you out with tips or ideas, or even pick up of large donations, please contact us at cbasvolunteerinfo@gmail.com.

YES! I WANT TO HELP!

Please accept my donation to help CBAS Shelter Animals. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF CBAS and mail to 380 N. Oak Street, Buffalo, New York 14203, or donate online at www.bflocityshelter.peffinder.com. If your donation is being made on behalf of someone else, we will send an acknowledgement in your name to the person(s) listed below:

Gift Recipient: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

From (your name): _____



YES, I would like to GO GREEN and receive future editions of Paw Print electronically:

My email address: _____

Friends of CBAS is a Federally recognized 501c3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.