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Paws for News

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

February 2015

We're Growing!

Just as puppies and kittens grow and change, so do organizations. BENCHS has been growing too. You may have noticed some changes in the staff at BENCHS over the last few weeks – and there are more coming! Early this month, Katherine stepped down from her position as Shelter Director. Her compassion and gentle care for the puppies, kittens and hurting animals that found their way to BENCHS is unmatched and we miss her. After taking a well-deserved break, we hope to see her back here caring for the animals.

The Board of Directors used Katherine's resignation as an opportunity to examine how we run the shelter as it continues to grow in numbers of adoptable cats and dogs and programs within a finite amount of space. On February 18, Molly Harvey joined the staff as Shelter Director, handling much of the administrative work of the shelter along with general oversight of animal care. Abby Michel has a new title, Animal Care Manager, but her duties will remain the same – making sure that our animals are healthy and well-cared for while waiting for their forever homes. The Lead Animal Care Technician (ACT) position has been added to the management team, and we are excited to promote Laurel Viera, an experienced ACT, into that role. Laurel is currently working on some special projects.

We think that this new direction of shared responsibility has the potential to allow for growth in our programs, our animal care, and our employees. We'll have more information on our team in future issues.



Furry Valentine Cats



It's not too late to give yourself one of our Furry Valentine's! Stop down at the shelter during adoption hours: 2pm-6pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Approved adopters will choose from a list of patient cats that are waiting for a forever home and will choose the adoption fee as well. This promotion is available through Feb. 28.



Cold Weather Cat Care Tips from the ASPCA

Brrrr—it's cold outside! The following guidelines will help you protect your companion animals

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Past Events

Pasta at the Pub
Feb. 8
\$2,402

Valentine Rose Sale
Feb 12-14

when the mercury dips.

1. Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.

2. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

3. Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

4. Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to clean up any spills from your vehicle thoroughly, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center more information.

Source: www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cold-weather-tips



Give Your Cat a Paw-dicure

A new alternative to declawing your cat or kitten has arrived on the market. BENCHS has purchased nail caps that can be applied to your cat's toenails. Nailcaps are painless and the cats seem to adjust quickly to them. It has been observed by the cat owners that the cats wearing these caps do not seem to enjoy scratching as much and they quickly leave furniture alone. You can choose to buy the caps and take them home and apply them, or we can apply them for you. It is very inexpensive and a completely painless process. We have ordered many colors and styles of caps to allow your cat to make a fashion statement. You can read more about nail caps at www.PurrdyPaws.com.



Happy Tales

Midge, Mori & Macy

The truth is I LOVE winter. Yes, you read it right. I LOVE WINTER! Not only are there no bugs and the garbage does not smell; it is also the time to sit with a blanket and a cat (or 2 or 3) on your lap. Our furry-faced BENCHS cuddly companions are Midge, Mori, and Macy, who like to read. My husband Andrew will take his book and lie on the bed to read, and pretty soon he has our fur balls lying on him or next to him. They are always in the same spot. Midge is between the book and his body, Mori is on the back of his knees, and Macy is beside him, without fail. All three in their assigned spots.

[Read more about Midge, Mori & Macy](#)



\$500

Pins For Paws
Feb. 22



Upcoming Events

Wine, Beer & Chocolate
Tasting
April 9

Dog Walking Training
March 9 and 22
12:00 -1:30pm

Alyssa Sue Memorial
Dog Walk
May 17

BENCHS Annual Plant
Sale and Bake Sale
May 30

BENCHS Colossal
Unbelievable Garage
Sale
Drop Off begins July 8

Sale Dates
July 17-19

January Statistics

Adoptions:

Cats: 16
Kittens: 12
Dogs: 8
Puppies 5

TOTAL 41



Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

BENCHS received \$23.23 from Amazon this quarter thanks to AmazonSmiles shoppers.

[WoofTrax](#)

Download the app and earn money for BENCHS whenever you walk your dog - or one of ours!

Toby



Toby at 8 weeks

Toby came into BENCHS with his two sisters and one brother when they were about two days old. I had received a text early the next day asking if I would want to foster them and took them without hesitation! I love a good challenge and they were my biggest yet. I was feeding them around the clock, every two hours, if not more. I would make them do their "business" after every meal, as well. They were my life at that point and I absolutely loved it. Between days 10 and 20 of their life, one of the boy kittens and two of the girl kittens passed away. I had one more little boy still hanging in there, Toby, and I thank God he did. By the time Toby was able to be adopted out, I did not have the heart to let him go and that was the day I became a foster failure! I just could not imagine my life without that little peanut so I took him home forever. [Read more about Toby's journey to his forever home.](#)



Minka's Kittens

You may remember the litter of Siamese kittens we had at the shelter late last Fall. We thought you might enjoy seeing how they have grown. Notice how those little white noses are turning dark!



Board of Directors

President - Susan Kroon Vice President - Judi Wendt
Secretary - Pat Bieber Treasurer - Kathy Mork Board Director - Steve Mork



Signup to Volunteer Today!

- * Dog Walkers
- * Front Desk Help
- * Adopt a Condo
- * Data Entry
- * Wine, Beer and Chocolate Tasting
- * Garage Sale



Donate

Our shelter operates on donations from people who believe that each cat and dog deserves a loving home. Please consider making a donation or becoming a member.

[Donate](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Become a Sustaining Member](#)

BENCHS is looking for people who have a passion for dogs and cats and would be interested in serving on a committee, chairing an event or becoming a member of our Board of Directors. For more information contact Susan at susan.kroon@gmail.com.

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

Happily at home at 1250 North Drive, Mankato, MN • 507.625.6373

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