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# Paws for News

## BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

April 2015

### I Love Spring!

Minnesotans love spring – that season between the last of the ice and snow and the arrival of the mosquitoes. It’s a great time to enjoy some time outdoors while making a difference in the lives of homeless cats and dogs. This year we celebrate the fifth anniversary of Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. We love our facility, but are noticing that it’s time for a little sprucing up and some general maintenance. Our calendar is full with fundraisers, gardening and lawn care, and building and grounds projects.



In this issue, we’d like to share some opportunities for you to roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty or take a walk. Can’t volunteer? Please consider making a donation to help finance one of our projects. Can’t donate? Tell your friends about the impact that BENCHS has had in your life or that of your friends and family. Encourage others to become involved.

You can [volunteer](#) and [donate](#) on our [website](#). Also, share your BENCHS story and pictures with us at [info@benchs.org](mailto:info@benchs.org). We are always on the lookout for stories of how our adopted pets have changed lives.

See you soon!



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### Past Events



## Building & Grounds Spring Projects

When I was a kid, it wasn't officially spring until my mom's sister arrived to help with the spring cleaning. For several days, dust flew. Closets were emptied and the contents sorted and rearranged. Walls, floors, and ceilings were scrubbed and sometimes even painted. Outside, we cleaned up the yard and got the garden ready for a new crop of vegetables and flowers. Even though my aunt isn't here, it's time to do some cleaning up and sprucing up at the shelter. We've been living in the "new" building for more than five years and it's time to undertake some projects to protect our investment. The following are some of our current projects.

With all the traffic we have the parking lot, striping has disappeared. We are looking for volunteers to clean the lot, measure and mark where the lines should go, and then paint new lines.

On the north side of the property, a steep slope next to the dog runs fills up with weeds and is hard to maintain. We plan to place some heavy duty poly over this area and cover it with rock. The rock was hauled in and stockpiled last fall. We will need volunteers to assist in putting the poly in place and moving the rock in wheel barrows to cover the poly. This effort should improve the outdoor appearance of the shelter.

The gutters and downspouts are leaking and need to be sealed. Plus, the garage is in need of a good cleaning and reorganization.

We need more volunteers who would like to help maintain the flowers and grounds. This project includes weeding, planting, and lawn mowing. We are looking for individuals who own a riding lawn mower and are willing to bring it periodically to mow the back open area and keep it looking nice.

We are also looking for individuals with some carpentry skills who can assist in projects that come up at the shelter. For example, we could use some shelves built in our storage shed.

Several areas inside the shelter could use a fresh coat of paint and we need some volunteers to assist in the painting.

During winter months, the cat condos on the outside wall of the shelter get very dark starting in late afternoon. We are looking for a licensed electrician who could donate time (or give us a reduced rate) to install lights in these cat condos.

**Wine Tasting**  
**\$ 14, 350**

**Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and bought silent auction items. Save the Date - April 7, 2016**

Bean Bag Tournament  
April 25  
Mankato Brewery

Final figures not available



## Upcoming Events

**May 2**  
Bake Sale  
Pet Expo  
10am - 1pm

BENCHS celebrates spring with a bake sale to raise money to take care of our homeless friends waiting at the shelter. Our tables will be heaped with delicious home baked treats. Cookies, bars, cupcakes, bread, and snacks will be available for purchase. Please take time to stop by to help us afford the medicines and vaccines that we need for the cats and dogs.

**May 17**  
Alyssa Sue Memorial Walk  
Red Jacket Trail

**May 30**  
Plant and Bake Sale  
Riverside Regional Pet Shelter

This is a joint project with  
Modern Woodman

**July 17-19**  
BENCHS Colossal  
Unbelievable Garage Sale

Drop Off begins July 8

These projects are just a sample of the work and volunteer opportunities we have at the shelter. If you are interested in donating your time, please complete the volunteer interest form on our website. If you can't volunteer, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of these projects.

We take great pride in our facility and want to maintain its appearance as well as protect our investment.



## Alyssa Sue Memorial Walk



In December 2014 the world lost a bright light and we lost a beloved volunteer when Alyssa Sue and her unborn daughter were killed in a car accident. Alyssa a Pitbull advocate whose impact could be felt across the country. Since her passing, the rescue community has come together to honor her

memory in various ways.

Join us at the **Alyssa Sue Memorial Walk, Sunday, May 17th** on the scenic Red Jacket Trail in Mankato, Minnesota. This dog walk will honor Alyssa and her unborn daughter, Sutton, and raise money for the animals at BENCHS.

Alyssa was a beautiful soul that brightened the lives of everyone she met. Ask anyone that knew her, and you will hear funny, sweet stories about the girl that we all miss. Please help us celebrate Alyssa's life and raise money to help rescue animals in Southern Minnesota.

### Here are the details:

Sunday, May 17  
11:00am – 3:30pm  
Scenic Red Jacket Trail  
Mount Kato, 20461 MN-66, Mankato, MN 56001

\$15 per person / \$25 per family suggested donation to participate. All donations welcome.

For more information, [click here](#)



## Plant and Bake Sale

It's not too early to start cleaning out the flower beds for the upcoming gardening



## Happy Tails

### Kodiak

Just a quick update on Kodiak, the Giant Malamute: He's SPOILED.

He loves his big yard, his walks, and his family, especially the baby who is starting to drop food. We set up one of our huge crates, and he knew it was his right away and sleeps in it all the time with the door open. He loves his Mini-Pin friend Lucy, even though she gets crabby with him sometimes and snaps at him when he gets too rowdy (which he just laughs off). Lucy is 11 and will only put up with so much goofing around.

Kodi sheds even worse than our Akitas did, but I found out he LOVES to be vacuumed! That Shark is coming in handy.



We saved a little of that last snow on the deck for him, and you can see by his play bow that he loved it. His favorite place to be is anywhere with his head in Mom's lap.

Kodi is a handful, no two ways about it, but he considers everyone he meets a new friend. We want to get him around other dogs a little more this summer so he doesn't



season. We scheduled our sale later this year because previous springs were cool and few plants had started showing themselves. Even with a cool spring last year, we still had a great assortment of donated plants. We had such a great sale that the tables were pretty much bare at the end of the day. The few plants left over were planted in our flower beds at the shelter. If your plants have grown so big that you need more room in your garden; please think of BENCHS and donate them to our sale. In past years, some of our best sellers were:

Hostas Columbine Astilbe Bleeding Heart Day Lilies  
Yarrow Coreopsis Dianthus Coneflowers Liatris  
Phlox Monarda Penstemon Rudbeckia Salvia  
Hen and Chicks grasses Snow on the Mountain  
rhubarb

We also need donations of:  
Tomato and pepper seedlings  
Herbs (Basil, parsley, cilantro, thyme)  
Annuals (marigolds, zinnias)  
Bulbs (Gladiolas, dahlias, cannas)  
Houseplants

We will be looking for bakers to donate baked goods once again. The tables packed with breads, cupcakes, bars, cookies, and even homemade doggie treats have been very successful.

Watch for more details on the upcoming event as we get closer to our sale.



## SOS Fund Update



We are so happy to report that Elan has had the surgery required to remove and restore his teeth. His adoption is final and he is enjoying his new life with a family that adores him! Thanks to all who have donated to the Save our Smiles Fund.

This is Betty Lou. She does not look happy in this photo because her mouth hurts. Sometimes it is a bit uncomfortable for her to eat so we watch her carefully. She is on the waiting list to have her teeth cleaned. That will allow her gums to heal up and save her smile.



lose that socialization. He is happy and healthy and still about 155 pounds, and after cleaning up all the winter land mines in the back yard, we have learned that he can ingest and pass whole paper towels which we continue to try to discourage (you can tell he survived from garbage cans at a point).

Thank you to everyone at BENCHS for taking care of him and helping him find us.

Amy, Rick, Jerad, Kirby, and Vada and even the Mini-Pin, Lucy!



### Carmel & Sundae

Hello BENCHS!



Back in October (2014) I adopted two kittens, Carmel and Sundae. It's probably been a long time since you've seen these two! Their new names are Poppy (Sundae) and Oliver or Ollie (Carmel). Oliver is a female but when I first picked her out, we thought she was a male so Oliver was his name and stuck as she "turned" into female. They are extraordinarily friendly kitties. They tolerate my 15 month old daughter very well! They sleep with me at night and most mornings I wake up with both of them on my pillow! Oliver above my head and Poppy along the side of my head.



Meet Rusty Rose! Odd name? Yes, she was found living in a rusty truck. She had been there long enough that her coat is still stained with the rust even after a bath. That will grow out and she will be rid of the rust color but

her teeth are also the wrong color! She needs a cleaning and possible extraction of bad teeth before she can go home. Such a nice girl who lived in a truck certainly deserves your help getting healthy. Please help save her smile.



## **BENCHS Annual Super Colossal Tremendous Garage Sale July 15- 17**



Oh yes! Once again we will be hosting our gigantic garage sale! **You cannot miss this.**

We will begin taking donations daily July 9 through July 15 from 10am-5pm.

Please start collecting your gently used household items you cannot use or no longer want. We can turn your discards into a life-line for homeless cats and dogs at RRPS. Those cats and dogs all need vet care, food, and attention and that costs money!

In the past, our garage sales raised a lot of much needed cash for the shelter. Last year our profit was \$13,341. This year the goal is to have the biggest garage sale in our history and raise \$20,000 at the sale. How can we make it happen?

First, we have so many supporters and people who really care about the animals. If everyone took an hour to sort a drawer, clean a closet, organize the garage, and shuffle through their books, then box everything up and bring it to the sale site, we would have enough inventory to reach our goal.

Second, we need volunteers to assist. Many, many people will be needed to set up.

Thank you so much for showing me these two lovely souls :) Their personalities are awesome! Although I think they are entering their terrible twos....! Ah!!!

Thanks! ~Morgan



### **Vital Statistics**

#### **February Adoptions:**

Cats 60

Dogs 16

**Total 76**

#### **March Adoptions**

Cats 34

Dogs 23

**Total 57**

#### **As of 4/6:**

Pending Adoptions: 49

Fostered: 16

In BENCHS care: 178

### **Painless Giving**

[Amazon Smiles](#)

[WoofTrax](#)

Aluminum Cans

Help fill the wire cage at the back of our parking lot with aluminum. Our volunteers have asked that we remind you we can only sell aluminum - not plastic, foam food containers or glass. Please place your cans in tightly closed plastic bags.

To date we have earned \$408 recycling aluminum.



[Signup to Volunteer Today](#)

If you are able on short

Can you volunteer for three hours? Can you sort out boxes of items? Can you put price tags on and roll the priced items to their display area? We have a job for everyone--from young strong lifters to not so young or strong people who can unpack and sort while seated. We need volunteers to do everything from loading cars to unloading boxes. There are so many things to do and you can be part of this giant fundraiser.

Third, we would like to get some youth groups involved, service clubs, and troops. Do you know groups that would help us? Please contact Susan at [susan.kroon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.kroon@gmail.com).

Mark the dates on your calendar and start looking for things to take to the sale.

BENCHS annual Garage sale! July 16, 17, 18!

notice to help transport animals, please email [Judi](#)



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Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society [www.benchs.org](http://www.benchs.org)

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

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