



BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

September 2015



The 11th Annual Great ArfWalk Festival

We're hoping that you have your calendar marked and plan to join us for the Great ArfWalk Festival on Saturday, September 26.

10:30 Registration opens for the pledge walk to support Anana's Missions, funding for veterinary work for the dogs from Pine Ridge.

11:00 Senior Drum Major for the Lancers, Erin Oberle, and band members will lead off opening of the Great Arfwalk through Land of Memories Park.

As the walkers return, choose from:

- Fresh grilled food cooked by the South Central College Culinary program
- Playing with your dog in the obstacle course equipment
- Paw Print art by BENCHS staff and your dog
- Flyball demonstrations and a chance for your dog to participate
- Giant bubbles for everyone to play in
- Get face paints or temporary tattoos
- Shop at the BENCHS logo booth for a BENCHS t-shirt or BENCHS hoodie
- Buy a balloon animal
- Learn more about the rescue effort for dogs living at Pine Ridge and Rosebud

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- Pose at the photo booth We have costumes for your dog
- Shell game for your dog
- Did you adopt from BENCHS? Bring your dog for a photo and a free alumni bandana
- Fetch Zone with Frisbees and tennis balls
- Nicollet Vet clinic will provide microchipping and nail trims
- Music by digity radio
- More games for you and your dog
- At 1:00 Paul Biederman the K9 handler for Nicollet County will host a demonstration with Dillon his K9 partner.

2:00 is the start of the Treasure Hunt! \$5 to register you and your dog. On your mark set go! Search for as many prizes as you and your dog can find! Treats for your furry pal and gift card, etc for you!

2:30 Great ArfWalk closes for 2015. See you next year!

Don't have a dog? Don't worry! We've got food and music for you to enjoy. Students from the South Central culinary program will be whipping up some snacks for you to nosh on while you enjoy the music provided by Digity Radio.



Pledged Walk

We're going back to our roots this year with a pledge walk to kick off the Great ArfWalk Festival.

Ask your friends, relatives, co-workers and teachers if they wish to help Anana's Missions by sponsoring you. Collect your pledges BEFORE the walk and encourage your sponsors to write a check to BENCHS, as this is tax-deductible donation.

Dogs and their walkers who raise at least \$20 of pledges will walk a 1.5-mile route around Land of Memories Park. Pledge forms are available at the shelter, River Hills Pet Care Hospital, Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital PA, and Pet Expo. [Click here to print the form from our website.](#)

Great prizes will be awarded for collected pledges

[Give Your Dog a Treat](#)



Past Events

Barnes&Noble Bookfair

\$732.16

Thanks to Bookfair Co-Chairs
Bobbi W & Chris K



Upcoming Events

The Great ArfWalk Festival

September 26

Give to the Max Day November 12

Give to the Max Day was created in 2009 to launch GiveMN, a collaborative venture led by Minnesota Community Foundation and many other organizations committed to helping make our state a better place.

That initial spark touched off a blast of online giving — \$14 million in 24 hours.

Give to the Max Day has become a national model for giving days.

In 2014, BENCHS raised \$27,906 on Give to the Max Day! Our goal for 2015 is \$40,000.

Watch you mailbox for more information.



Vital Statistics

dropped off at Registration:

- Total Pledge Amount Prize:
- \$40-60 Anana's Missions bracelet
- \$61-120 BENCHS t-shirt and bracelet
- \$121-250 BENCHS sweatshirt & bracelet
- \$251-499 BENCHS t-shirt & sweatshirt & bracelet
- \$500+ BENCHS sweatshirt, t-shirt & bracelet & \$50 gift card

Don't forget to turn on WoofTrax before the walk and earn even more money for the shelter!



BENCHS Logo Wear

Volunteers at the BENCHS booth will be taking orders for BENCHS T-shirts and hoodies. The t-shirts are black with our signature green logo. Hoodies are available in several colors and samples will be available to help you select the right color and size. **Payment must be made at the time of the order – cash or check preferred.** We'll notify you by email when the shirts are ready to be picked up at the shelter. This is your last opportunity this year to support BENCHS by proudly wearing their logo. These make great holiday gifts, too.

- T-Shirts - \$12
- Hoodies - \$28 Sizes S-XL, \$30 Size XXL and XXXL

We will have 2014 Hoodies in limited sizes and colors available on Saturday for \$20.
Great ArfWalk Festival 2015 t-shirts -limited sizes - \$20



Cash or Check Preferred

With all the great activities and food at the GreatArf Walk Festival, please bring cash or a checkbook so you don't miss a single opportunity to support

August Adoptions

- Cats - 35
- Dogs - 34
- Total - 69



We Need Your Story

If you have a story of what BENCHS has done to impact your life, please drop us a note. We need your stories to share our story! Stories may be mailed to BENCHS - Paws for News, 1250 N. River Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 or emailed to info@benchs.org.



Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

[WoofTrax](#)



[Apply to Volunteer](#)

Dog Walkers

Orientation Session at 3:30pm on dog walking days. All dog walkers are required to attend a session. Sign up for Dog Walker Training during orientation

Front Desk Receptionist

Adopt-a-Cat-Condo Volunteers

Date for Training for Adopt-A-Cat Condo volunteers

BENCHS.



"Millions of Cats"

In this children's classic by Wanda Gag, there once was an old man and an old woman who were very lonely. They decided to get a cat, but when the old man went out searching, he found not one cat, but millions and billions and trillions of cats! Unable to decide which one would be the best pet, he brought them all home. How the old couple came to have just one cat to call their own is a classic tale that has been loved for generations.



BENCHS also has too many cats. Not quite millions, but more than we can fit into the shelter. Our solution? For the remainder of September, we are offering special pricing on cats:

- One spayed/neutered cat \$ 60 (40% off)
- Two spayed/neutered cats \$100 (50% off)
- Cats older than 7 years \$50 (50% off)

We have a few dogs who need special homes that are also included in this promotion. Stop by the shelter during adoption hours to see if you have the perfect home for Arrow, Luna, Raleigh, Sugar, or Keira.



BENCHS Holiday Bake Sale



BENCHS has the best bake sales! True statement! Who ever heard of a bake sale raising more than \$1000? BENCHS Bake Sales do!

How can that be?

We have amazing supporters who bake the most delicious treats.

How can I help?

Glad you asked. **Our Holiday Bake Sale will be December 5 at Pet Expo.** Plan now to do some baking. Make your favorite cookie, bar, cake or bread etc. Then on Friday, December 4 bring your treats to Riverside

will be announced soon. Sign up online to receive an email notification.

Cleaners

Yard Work, Snow Removal
Check "Groundskeeping/Gardening" on the volunteer interest form

E-Newsletter Editor and Writers

We are looking for someone to take over as editor for our monthly e-newsletter. Position requires regular communication with the Board of Directors and Shelter Manager on content, ensuring articles are submitted in a timely manner, proofing for spelling and grammatical accuracy. The editor may also be responsible for creating content. If you would like more information, please email Kathy at info@benchs.org.



Donate

[Become a Member of BENCHS](#)

Membership - \$35 individual/family

[Kibble Klub Sustaining Membership](#)

Sustaining members begin at \$10 per month

[Special Funds](#)

Sponsor a Pet Spay/Neuter Fund
Vet & Vaccine Fund

[SOS - Save our Smiles](#)

Help cover the cost of dental care for our animals

[Make a Contribution](#)

Support the shelter with a

Regional Pet Shelter between 11 am and 6 pm. You can also bake Friday night and stop at Pet Expo after 9am on Saturday to drop off your fresh items.

Have the items packaged and wrapped securely. Some of that plastic wrap is tricky!

Label the food you bring. If you have brownies with walnuts, please write that on the label. If you have created a delicious gluten free cupcake, please let us know. Our shoppers are going to ask us so it will be great if you provide this information. Some people make copies of the recipe and tape it to the bottom of the plate. Great idea!

You do not need to price your items. The staff at the sale will take care of that for you.

And, tell all your friends to come and buy also. Every cent of this sale goes to taking care of the homeless cats and dogs at the shelter and we need your support.

So bake or buy or bake and buy! Tell everyone and we will have a great sale again!



Happy Tails

Roo and Doug

Tena - Adopted 9/18/14



One year ago today we adopted this sweet girl. Best decision we've ever made. Thanks for all you do.

donation or memorial



The Right (and Wrong) Way to Give Your Dog a Treat Petdepot 7/22/2015

Offering your dog a [treat](#) may seem like a simple task, but doing it wrong can encourage undesirable behaviors and even put your fingers at risk. Below are a few common mistakes:

Mistake #1: Holding the treat too high

If your dog has to stand on his hind legs or jump to get a treat, you may be unknowingly reinforcing bad behavior. Your dog probably doesn't understand why it's okay to jump up on you to get a treat, but it's not okay to jump up on people when greeting them.

Solution:

Instead of waving the treat above your dog's head, bring it close to his mouth or at chest level.

Mistake #2: Holding the treat with your fingers

If your dog gets super excited when anticipating that tasty snack, holding the treat with your fingers is asking for it. It may be an accident, but your dog could easily nip your fingers while trying to get ahold of the treat.

Solution:

Close your fist as you lower it

Thunder

Just wanted to send an update on our boy Thunder who we adopted from you last year. He is doing great! Loves playing with his puppy sister Star in the backyard and now really enjoys giving kisses to his human sister Charlee. I have attached some pictures below 😊
thank you!



Beissel Family

to your dog's level. Then, offer the treat with a flat, open palm to avoid any accidental finger biting.

Mistake #3: Giving treats for the wrong reasons

Giving your dog a treat to "calm him down" when he's overly excited, jumping to get your attention, or whining will only reinforce these undesirable behaviors.

Solution:

Save the treats for when your dog really deserves them. Doing a trick, walking well on a leash, staying calm when the doorbell rings... all of these moments are worthy of treating.

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

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

www.benchs.org

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<https://smile.amazon.com/>