



## BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

May 2016

### **A Time to Remember**

In recent years, Memorial Day has become the kick off for summer, but it's history goes back to the Civil War. The holiday got started on May 30, 1868, when Union General John A. Logan declared the day an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. In 1888, the name was changed to Memorial Day. Congress passed a resolution on May 11, 1950 requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. Declared a federal holiday by President Nixon in 1971, Memorial Day is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars. It has also become a day to honor friends and family members who have died.



BENCHS has their own Memorial Pathway lined with personalized bricks and pavers that winds through the beautiful gardens behind the shelter. These bricks have messages on them from friends and family. We will be adding new bricks to the path later this year. As we remember loved ones this Memorial Day, please consider a permanent tribute in our Memorial Pathway. Details and ordering information will be arriving in your mailbox or by email within the next few weeks.

### **Summer Health Hazards**



There is nothing better than summer in

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Minnesota and spending time outside with our pets. But this is also the time of year when we should be aware of the hazards come with warmer weather.

As soon as it warms up, fleas and ticks come alive and are ready to attack. They suck human and pet blood and carry diseases. The only way to prevent this from happening is to protect our pets from these pests. There are many effective flea and tick preventatives on the market for both dogs and cats and although some of them are rather expensive, they are well worth the cost.

In addition to driving us crazy, mosquitos are the primary cause of heartworm in dogs. This deadly disease can be prevented by giving dogs heartworm prevention medication all year long and having them annually tested for heartworm.

Because dogs and cats cannot sweat like humans, they rely on panting to cool them down. But when the temps heat up, they can overheat and experience heatstroke. When they are outside, be sure your pets have plenty of cold water to drink and shade to get out of the hot sun. Everyone knows not to leave pets in a parked car on a warm day, because even with the windows cracked, temperatures can soar in minutes. In Minnesota, it is illegal to leave a dog in a car in hot weather. If you see a dog in a parked car on a hot day, call 911 and report the incident. Did you know that in Minnesota it is legal to break a window if the pet's safety is in danger?

Finally, watch out for algae in the lakes. Every year dogs get sick and die from ingesting toxic algae. Blue green algae has a thick cloudy appearance that looks like green paint. When in doubt, stay out of lakes with algae. Let's enjoy this summer with our pets and keep them healthy and safe!



## Community Cats

At BENCHS, our primary goal is to find a loving forever homes for all the cats and kittens at the shelter. Sometimes cats come in as strays and because they have spent their entire lives fending for themselves, they are fearful of humans and cannot be socialized. In fact, keeping these cats at the shelter causes them to become so stressed they sometimes become ill.

What is the best option for these cats? Many shelters euthanize these cats in order to make room for adoptable pets. BENCHS is dedicated to the best care for all our intakes, and we spend lots of time trying to gentle these cats and tame them. When taming is unsuccessful, we believe the best



[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Homes Needed](#)



### Past Events

HyVee Food Tasting  
Event  
May 6 & 7

Plant and Bake Sale  
May 21  
\$2,200

*StarWreck*  
May 20 & 21  
\$620



### Upcoming Events

ArtSplash  
June 18  
10am - 3pm  
North Mankato Taylor Library

All proceeds from the auction are divided between BENCHS and N. Mankato Taylor Library! Music all day! Art Classes for the kids! Face painting, balloon animals and more! You should be there!

Volunteers are needed to set up, take down and help with a kids art project during the event. Contact Susan at [susan.kroon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.kroon@gmail.com)

### BENCHS Annual Garage Sale

July 22, 23 and 24  
600 Hope St.

Drop off donations  
July 15 - 21

option is to place these vaccinated, spayed and neutered cats in an outdoor environment where they are provided food and shelter and the freedom to be outside. Ideally, we release groups of three or more cats at the same location.

We are always looking for new placements for these cats. If you have property that would be housing for some cats and are looking for mousers or if you know someone who does, won't you please share the news about these cats?

Call 507 625 6373 and ask for Molly.



## SuperKids



Katelyn (age 13 and shelter alumni Deacon) bought some cat and dog toys with her own money! Thank you so much!



Happy birthday to these twins who collected donations for the shelter



## Volunteer Spotlight

When you think of BENCHS volunteers, what probably comes to your mind are the friendly people who work at the front desk, the dedicated dog walkers, or the cat lovers who adopt a cat condo. But sometimes it's the volunteers behind the scenes who make a real difference. Twice a month, Darwin Brekhuis emails a group of volunteers and asks them if they can provide lunch for the

More information in the June newsletter

Lots and lots of volunteers are needed. Do you know of a group that might be interested in a volunteer project? Contact Suzy at [susan.kroon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.kroon@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.



## Vital Statistics

April Adoptions

Cats & Kittens - 30  
Dogs & Puppies - 31  
Total - 61



## Treasury Notes

### April Income Statement

Operations Income: \$45,580

Operations Expenses:  
\$25,705

Net Income (Loss): \$19,875



## Painless Giving

[Amazon Smiles](#)

Are you an Amazon addict?

Click the link above to register for Amazon Smile and 5% of your purchases will go to BENCHS

[WoofTrax](#)

Add this app to your mobile phone, turn it on whenever you take a walk and BENCHS will receive a donation for every mile that you walk. Great for your, your dog and BENCHS.

staff during spay and neuter clinic days. Because these days are particularly busy for staff and clinic volunteers, they don't have time to go out for lunch. These volunteers make homemade soups, hot dishes, and breads and deliver them to the shelter. BENCHS would like to thank Darwin and all of the volunteers who make this such a great program!



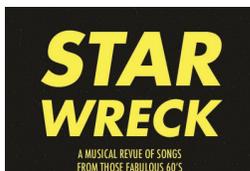
## Plant and Bake Sale Update



The weather was beautiful for our Plant and Bake Sale last Saturday. In addition to plants and baked goods, we added a "Flealess Flea Market" to the festivities. Thanks to the generous donations from gardeners and bakers, the hard work of event organizers and volunteers and all the people who came to shop, we were able to raise over \$2200.



## "StarWreck" Fundraiser



Early in May, BENCHS was asked if we would like to partner with *XYZ Live* to present their original musical revue, *StarWreck*, which featured music of the 60s. *XYZ Live* is a theater group

featuring performers age 55 and better from the Greater Mankato Area. Dinner was catered by Charley's Restaurant at the Mankato Event Center, BENCHS took care of publicity and ticket sales, and *XYZLive* made major revisions to their script to tailor the show to BENCHS. It was a delightful evening of music and laughter, along with a bit of education about BENCHS. Plus, we raised over \$600.

We're hoping to work with *XYZLive* on another event sometime in October. Details later this summer



## Happy Tails

Felix



### [Apply to Volunteer](#)

#### Computer Work

We are looking for a few volunteers who are familiar with InDesign to help with occasional document design work. We are also looking for someone familiar with Office Publisher to help create 3-4 paper newsletters per year. If interested, please contact

Kathy at

[rrpshelter@gmail.com](mailto:rrpshelter@gmail.com)

#### Know Weebly?

Our website is in need of an update. We are looking for someone who has done website work using Weebly who could would with the board and shelter staff in updating our website.

Contact Kathy at

[rrpshelter@gmail.com](mailto:rrpshelter@gmail.com) if

interested.

#### 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

##### Data Entry

Work with staff to enter data into our ShelterManager database during animal intake.

##### Cleaners

##### Yard Work

Check "Groundskeeping/Gardening" on the volunteer interest form



### [Donate](#)



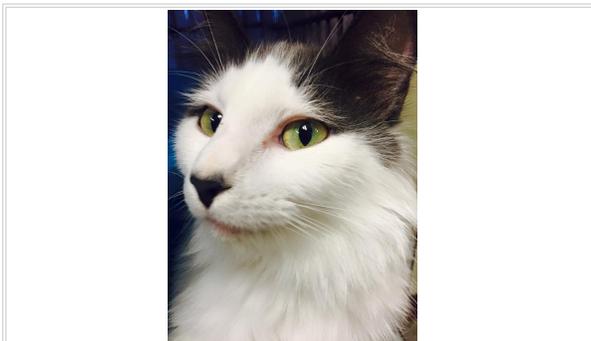
Awhile back, Caylin and her two year old daughter went to BENCHS looking for a cat. They knew they wanted an older cat and not a kitten because they already had an 8 year old cat and a dog and thought it would be a better fit. When the staff introduced him to Felix, they fell in love with him right away. Felix fit right in. Within a couple days he was friends with their other cat Linus and before long their dog warmed up to him. Felix is a perfect addition to their family.

### Sister



When Robb and his family read the story about Shu on the BENCHS website, they knew they had to help. Shu was one of the seven dogs that had recently been rescued from a puppy mill with advanced untreatable heartworm. When they went to the shelter, they learned that Shu had already been adopted, but Sister and Baby Sister were still available. Thirty minutes later, Sister was on her way home with them. Robb and his family are spoiling Sister and giving her the best possible life they can. When the family went to the Dairy Queen, she got her own ice cream cone. "She gets to do whatever she wants," Robb told me. BENCHS would like to thank Robb and his family and the other people who opened their hearts and homes to these dogs.

### Taffy - Cat of the Month



Taffy has won the "Professional Mother Award" for adopting and nursing kittens from 6 different litters who did not have a mom. Look what a huge difference one momma made in so many little lives!

### [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 donation or memorial



### **Waiting for a Home**

As the weather gets warmer, the shelter continues to receive calls daily about homeless animals. There are currently 200 dogs and cats available for adoption at BENCHS. To learn more about just a few of these cats and dogs and more, visit [Petfinder](#). Or stop at the shelter during adoption hours: Thurs - Sun 2pm - 6pm

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

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

[Sign up to receive Paws for News e-newsletter](#)

