



## BLUE EARTH NICOLLET COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

August 2016

### Our #1 Priority



It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and a new school year is around the corner. Because caring for the dogs and cats at BENCHS is the number one priority, we have decided to focus this newsletter on medical treatment at the shelter.



### Those Medical Bills Add Up



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Every week animals arrive at BENCHS with special needs. The medical expenses are often \$300-400 per rescue when the pets require additional attention to resolve ongoing health conditions. When the animals require specialty veterinary care, the costs run much

higher. Because BENCHS is a no-kill shelter, animals are given a chance they otherwise might not get. The Riverside Regional Pet

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Shelter houses 20 dogs and 80 cats on average, so medical expenses can quickly add up.

When a pet is ill, the shelter often starts by looking at the animal's teeth. Tooth and gum infections, exposed roots, and chipped teeth can manifest other symptoms, such as lethargy, fever, sinusitis, and difficulty breathing. Dental procedures and extractions are common, particularly in older animals and those who have lived a rough life. Dental procedures must be outsourced to local vet clinics and can cost \$200-800 per animal.

Other frequent medical issues include injuries, immune disorders, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), heartworm, cancer, and cataracts or blindness. As part of the diagnostic process, ill and wounded pets at the shelter often require bloodwork, x-rays, and ultrasounds. After the medical issues are diagnosed, treatment is provided whenever possible, including medications and surgeries.



Currently there are several pets at BENCHS with special needs. A recent owner surrender in foster care, Bubba Sir, is heartworm positive and undergoing treatment, but he will soon be available for adoption. Also up for adoption is Mr. Spicy Pants, an underweight, brown tabby who needs someone to fatten him up.



In addition to medical treatment, medical issues like deafness require special training and equipment. Senorita, a deaf pit bull mix, needs a \$200 vibrating collar that can be used to catch her attention when she isn't looking at people. She will also need special training to understand the collar's use and visual commands.

To help BENCHS cover the cost of medical expenses, consider a donation to our Veterinary Care Fund. This fund covers the cost of vaccinations, check-ups and additional medical treatment. sponsoring a pet. For more information visit the [Support: Special Funds page on the BENCHS website.](#)



## Keeping Shelter Cats Healthy



If you have ever visited the cats here at BENCHS, you may have wondered how they afford to keep all those kitties healthy. Animal owners know that even one cat can be quite spendy with vaccinations and teeth cleaning. So how does a non-profit keep several animals in good health?

After talking with staff member Eric Hohertz, I learned that when you adopt a cat or dog, the adoption fees don't always cover the vet and shelter costs that incur from their stay.



### Can You Help?

It costs almost \$30,000 a month to operate Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. The adoption fees we collect cover only 1/3 of those costs.

The remaining \$20,000 each month is paid for through donations and fundraisers. Would you like to help save the life of a helpless, homeless animal?

Consider sponsoring a pet for a week. For your donation of \$30 or more, you will receive a photo of your favorite shelter animal, a certificate of appreciation and the knowledge that you have helped a pet who stole your heart. Sponsorship funds go toward the care of the pet, not the adoption fee. Any pet in the shelter can be sponsored.

[Click to Sponsor](#)

[Download Sponsor Form](#)

BENCHS memberships are only \$35 per year for a family or individual. Members receive a window decal to show their support.

[Become a Member](#)



### Past Events

Garage Sale



THANK YOU

to the many volunteers who donated hundreds of hours to haul, sort, mark, straighten and sell at our garage sale. We raised almost \$21,000 in 3 days. This event is our most successful fundraiser, not only in dollars, but in sharing our mission with the community.

Donations such as food and litter help offset the costs. There have even been instances where vets have donated their time to help with very sick kitties that need emergency or more complicated medical attention. Partnerships with nonprofits such as The Kindest Cut, and MN SNAP offer low cost spay and neutering for the animals. They usually come once a month to offer their low cost services.

Some of the common illnesses BENCHS sees in the cats are upper respiratory illnesses, eye infections, and ear infections such as ear mites. These illnesses are usually easily treatable with medicine and vet attention. The cats also receive vaccinations for Rabies and Distemper and are microchipped.

The single best practice visitors can do to keep the animals healthy when visiting BENCHS is to follow the staff instructions and wash your hands between cats and cat colonies. Although it is hard to remember when all of the kitties are so cute!



## Working Together



While BENCHS is the only animal shelter in Nicollet and Blue Earth Counties, there are other groups that rescue homeless pets as well.

St. Peter, as most cities, impounds stray animals. Per city ordinance, they are required to hold stray animals

for 5 business days to allow time for owners to claim them. Since the problem was that no one had any financial obligation to these animals after this time, Providing Animals With Shelter (PAWS) was developed as a fund to provide shelter and medical care for these animals until they could be adopted or placed with a rescue agency.

BENCHS will have a photo booth at PAWS 16th Annual Trick or Treat Walk for the Animals on Oct. 8 at Mill Pond Park in St. Peter. Registration begins at 9:30am and the walk takes place between 10:00-11:30. Pets and humans are encouraged to dress up in costumes and at 11:45 prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and top fundraisers.

If you would like to volunteer at the photo booth, contact Suzy at susan.kroon@gmail.com.



## SuperKids

Hayden, his little sister, and puppy Nala, (BENCHS alumni), had a lemonade stand and



## Upcoming Events

### Volunteer Recognition Event

Sunday Oct. 16 3pm  
Christ the King Lutheran Church

Our volunteers are an important part of making our program a success.

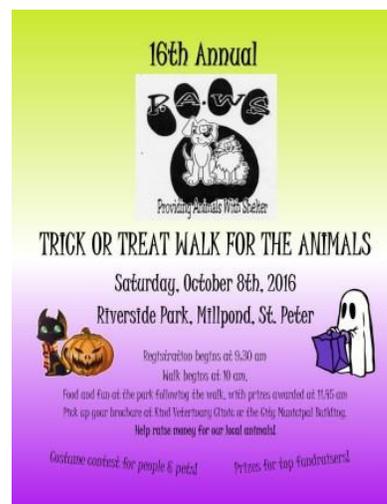
On Oct. 16, BENCHS will honor these awesome people with a show, featuring XYZLive! and music from the 60s, treats and a few surprises.

**Volunteers who have recorded their volunteer hours on our website will receive a free VIP ticket to this event.**

[Click Here](#) to record your volunteer activities.

Tickets for friends, family and BENCHS supporters will be available for \$10.

### PAWS Trick or Treat Walk for the Animals



## Vital Statistics

July Adoptions

donated their earnings to help other shelter animals. Way to go!



## Volunteer Spotlight

### St. Peter 4th of July Parade

This amazing group of people represented BENCHS in the St. Peter 4th of July parade. Board members, staff and volunteers promoted BENCHS to the thousands of parade watchers. Mark your calendar now to join the fun on July 4, 2017.



## Volunteer Recognition

Have you volunteered with BENCHS? We know that volunteers donate hours and hours of their time to make sure that BENCHS is focus on our mission of providing for the homeless cats and dogs in our area. In an effort to understand just how many volunteer hours are donated, we've set up a simple link on our website that allows volunteers to record their hours work. We're not asking you to punch in and out, just to give us an estimate of how much time you are volunteering.

At the shelter, go to BENCHS.org on the computer at the front desk. Go to the **Volunteer** Tab and click on **Volunteer Log In**. Type in your name, your email address, the estimated number of hours you worked, and what volunteer service you provided. You may record daily, weekly or monthly.

Want to give it a try? [Click Here](#)

**Volunteers who have recorded their volunteer hours on our website will receive a free VIP ticket to a special volunteer recognition event on Oct. 16.**



Cats & Kittens - 38  
Dogs & Puppies - 28  
Total - 66



### Treasury Notes

July Income Statement

Operations Income: \$39,578  
Operations Expenses: \$37,221

Net Income (Loss): \$2,358



### 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.

This quarter we received \$37.  
When shopping, make sure you log in on

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

[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.



### Apply to Volunteer

#### Dog Walkers

Orientation Session at 3:15pm 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



## Happy Tails

### Coco



**Coco**, BENCHS longest resident and oldest cat found his forever home. His new owners looked past his age (13) and chose him for his calm and affectionate nature. Looks like Coco is adjusting well to his new life!

### Hershel

Hershel came to the shelter with a foot missing, but that doesn't stop him from zooming around his new forever home chasing any feet he can. Miranda fell in love with Hershel the minute she laid eyes on him and he is one happy kitty in his new home!



### Flash



When their dog died last summer, Mary and her husband were devastated. At first they thought they would never get another dog because they couldn't bear the heartbreak again. But their son knew better and told them that another dog to love was exactly what they needed. After doing some research, they decided

that a Corgi would be the perfect dog for their family. As fate would have it, BENCHS had a Corgi available for adoption and the minute they met him, they fell in love. Flash has been part of the family for a little more than a year now. He loves to chase the water that comes out of the sump pump hose and loves his toys. Flash has enriched their lives in so many ways!

### Taffy

Taffy, who won the "Professional Mother Award" this summer, has been adopted by one of the staff! She nursed and loved orphaned kittens from 6 different litters.



our ShelterManager database during animal intake.

### E-Newsletter Writers and Editor

Our newsletter editor has resigned and we are in need of someone to take charge of Paws for News. We are also looking for people who have an interest in writing short articles. If interested, send information about your writing experience and involvement with BENCHS to Kathy at [rrpsheptr@gmail.com](mailto:rrpsheptr@gmail.com)

### Cleaners

### Yard Work, Snow Removal

Check "Groundskeeping/Gardening" on the volunteer interest form



### 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 donation or memorial



Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

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

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