

Focus on Animals

THE FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ 2006 - 2007 EDITION



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FUNDING SOUGHT FOR MORE WILDLIFE ENCLOSURES

The Montana Wildlife Center's rehabilitation and release program has been so successful that more wildlife enclosures are needed. Patti Sowka, wildlife center manager for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, asked The Foundation For Animals (FFA) to help raise funds to implement the expansion plan. That campaign is now underway.

You can help support this worthwhile project by joining us at the fundraising gala to be held at the Center on August 23 (see story inside). Donations earmarked for the campaign may also be sent to the Foundation. Your gift will ensure a second chance for injured and orphaned wildlife.



Photos courtesy of the Montana Wildlife Center



The wildlife center has shown an increase in orphaned wildlife since its opening. Funds are being raised now for more animal enclosures and other improvements at the rehabilitation facility.

EVERY PET IS A STAR IN THE FFA PET CALENDAR



Pet Calendar chair Kerry Sullivan-Lechner unveiled the 2007 pet calendar (inset) at the calendar preview party last fall. The winner of a photo contest for the 2008 cover will be announced at this year's preview party on September 27, 2007.

There are many stars, but only one will grace the cover of FFA's 2008 pet calendar. Each photo submitted for a page in the calendar has been entered in a contest for the cover. The winner will be announced when the new calendar is unveiled at a special preview party on September 27. You're invited to join the party, join the fun, and get a discount on calendars purchased that night. The handsome desk calendar will be sold in Helena area stores from early fall through the holidays.

Proceeds from calendar sales support essential ongoing programs of the Foundation, including spay-neuter certificates and emergency funds. To participate in a future calendar, call (406) 443-6532 or e-mail mkfa@mt.net and ask to be added to the calendar mailing list.

The Foundation is very grateful for the generosity of Anderson ZurMuehlen, First Montana Title and South Hills Medical Center for helping to underwrite printing costs of the calendar.

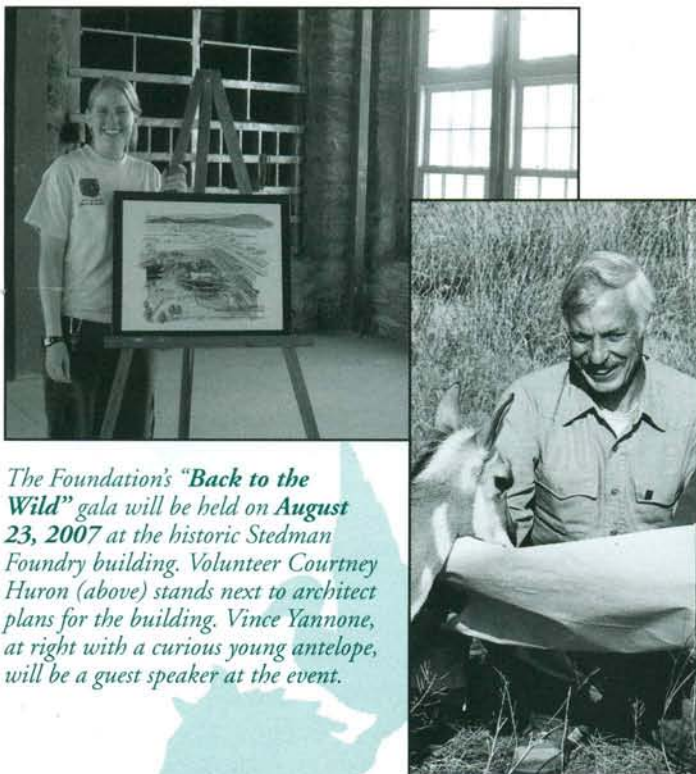
FOUNDATION TO HOST AN EVENING AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER

Make Reservations Now

A summer gala “**Back to the Wild,**” will be held **August 23, 2007** to help raise \$150,000 for wildlife enclosures and other improvements at the Montana Wildlife Center in Helena. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy a “wild” event in the historic Stedman Foundry building and find out what’s in store for the center.

The evening includes cocktails, dinner, entertainment and a silent auction. Wildlife advocate and conservation educator, Vince Yannone, will share the stage with several ambassador animals. Vince, who has worked with Discovery Channel TV, will talk about the important role the Center plays in the future of Montana’s wildlife. Wildlife center staff will present stories and a video on the animals at the center.

Tickets are \$75 per person or a table of 8 may be reserved for \$500. Early reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (406) 443-6532.



The Foundation’s “**Back to the Wild**” gala will be held on **August 23, 2007** at the historic Stedman Foundry building. Volunteer Courtney Huron (above) stands next to architect plans for the building. Vince Yannone, at right with a curious young antelope, will be a guest speaker at the event.



ADOPT-A-SPECIES STUDENTS CELEBRATE WEB OF LIFE

The 2006-2007 Adopt-A-Species theme, “Discovering Montana’s Wild Web of Life,” encouraged students to explore the various connections between their adopted species and other animals, plants and resources in the environment. In the Helena area, 19 elementary schools participated in the program. The school year kicked off with special assemblies, guest speakers and wildlife videos. Students researched their species, wrote papers and submitted works of art which appeared in a special supplement of the *Independent Record* during Earth Week. Selected artwork from the supplement was also displayed at the annual Montana Wildlife Federation banquet and auction in April 2007.

Next year’s theme will be “Respect Habitat – Respect Wildlife.” Helena High School theater students will visit each school with a special presentation based on the theme.

The school program sponsors include FFA, Helena National Forest, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Discovery Foundation and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



An Adopt-A-Species fur and feather exhibit allows students a close-up, hands-on experience.



Earth Week Adopt-A-Species art contest winners included illustrations of the Bald Eagle by first-place winner Rhett Jorgensen, a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School, and the Pine Marten by second-place winner Kinsey Vavruska, a 5th grader at Radley Elementary School.



SPAY – NEUTER: IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR PETS

Controlling the pet population is vital to reducing the number of unwanted and abandoned litters received at overburdened humane society shelters. To address the problem of pet overpopulation, the Foundation issues certificates to individual pet owners who need financial assistance to alter their pets. Since 1992, the Foundation has dedicated over \$82,000 to spay-neuter efforts in Montana.

FFA has contributed to organizations and communities that sponsor spay-neuter clinics and encourages donations to the following:

- Donations are being accepted through FFA for a series of clinics to be held in Browning MT. FFA applauds Helena veterinarian Julie Kappes DVM, for her exceptional efforts on behalf of this project, which is part of the Blackfeet Nation.
- The Helena Area Friends of Pets (HAFoP) sponsors low-cost clinics in Helena each year. At the April 2007 clinic, volunteer veterinarians altered 209 cats and 97 dogs. HAFoP’s fall clinic is scheduled for September. *To volunteer or receive information about upcoming clinics, call (406) 465-0009.*
- The Montana Spay-Neuter Task Force coordinates programs designed for pet owners in need of assistance. Since the organization was established in 1997, more than 45,000 pets have been altered at over 100 clinics. The Task Force assists a community at the invitation of local government and organizations. It has become a model for spay-neuter programs in other states and countries, and a program guide and video are being developed. *For information, including a list of upcoming clinics, access the Task Force website at www.mtspayneutertaskforce.org.*



Above: At the Helena Area Friends of Pets (HAFoP) spay-neuter clinic, 306 pets were altered.

Right: A pet owner settles down on a blanket with her dog in the post-surgical recovery area at the spay-neuter clinic.



Photos by Dianne Nickman

The Foundation For Animals works diligently to promote the importance of altering pets. FFA provides spay-neuter certificates to pet owners who need financial assistance. In 2006, FFA devoted \$11,241 to the spay-neuter certificate program, which made it possible for 396 animals to be altered at local veterinary clinics. For information about the program, call Judy Fenton at (406) 933-5922.

Alarming statistics: An unsprayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies and their puppies’ puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to: 1 year: 16; 2 years: 128; 3 years: 512; 4 years: 2048; 5 years: 12,288; 6 years: 67,000. (Statistics provided by SPAY/USA.)

This little cat, hit by a car in January, was nearly dead when found on a highway by ranch manager Gary “Glimm” Enzler who immediately took her to a veterinary clinic. FFA helped with expenses. The cat spent 2 months with the rancher while she recovered, and then his efforts to find her owner paid off. In April, “Isabelle” was reunited with her family.



Photo by Cheryl Lodo

EMERGENCY FUNDS PROVIDE SAFETY NET

The Foundation’s emergency funds program was designed to help animals and people. A beloved pet is often considered a member of the family; sometimes, a pet is the only family a person has. This program helps low or fixed income pet owners meet emergency veterinary expenses. In 2006, the Foundation provided \$5,600 in assistance. Since 1992, nearly \$57,000 has been provided through the program.

Visit our website:
www.FoundationForAnimals.org



Focus on Animals

The Foundation for Animals

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YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS, LARGE AND SMALL

Tax-deductible donations allow the Foundation to assist projects that promote animal welfare, prevent animal suffering and provide needed improvements for animals. One of the easiest and most effective ways to donate is through our pledge program. Even a small amount, when given regularly through a monthly or quarterly pledge program, can grow into a large gift over time. Every dollar helps us to assist animals.

Endowment gifts to The Foundation For Animals will ensure that programs to help animals will continue for years to come. FFA's endowment fund is managed by the Montana Community Foundation. *For more information on how you can give to the FFA endowment, call the Montana Community Foundation at (406) 443-8313 or call The Foundation For Animals directly at (406) 443-6532.*



Photo by Dianne Nickman

Six-year-old Madelaine loves animals. She's a seasoned volunteer at Montana Spay Neuter Task Force clinics where her mother works as a veterinary technician.