

Focus on Animals

THE FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ 2007 - 2008 EDITION



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“BEAR-LY” ENOUGH ROOM AT THE WILDLIFE CENTER

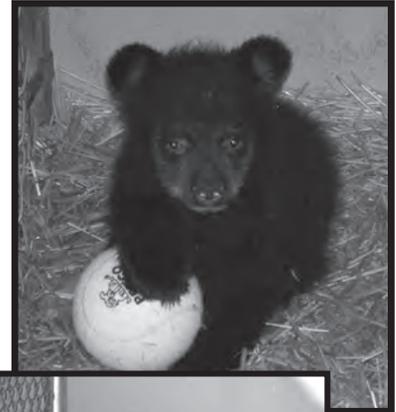
“BACK TO THE WILD” GALA AUGUST 8
TO HELP FUND EXPANSION

A record number of orphaned bear cubs arrived at the Montana Wildlife Center’s rehabilitation facility this past year. Of the 45 cubs cared for, 12 orphaned babies are currently in residence, 32 yearlings were recently released to the wild, and one was placed in a nature center.

Our 2008 “Back to the Wild” gala, a fundraiser for the “bear essentials,” will be held August 8 in the historic Stedman Foundry building onsite at the center. The outdoor wildlife-enclosure project includes an open-air exercise area for young cubs that need lots of sunshine and exercise, but are too small to compete with yearlings in the larger outdoor compounds. Expansion plans for the rehabilitation facility also include more room for food preparation and veterinary care inside the intake area.

A highlight at the gala will be a special short film featuring bear cubs rehabilitated at the center as Patti Sowka, wildlife center manager for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, tells the story of their journey back to the wild.

Individual tickets are \$75; a table for 8 is \$500. A silent auction before dinner will feature artwork and a variety of destination packages. Individual tickets and tables for groups may be reserved by calling 443-6532.



photos courtesy of the Montana Wildlife Center



Orphaned black bear cubs arrive at the Montana Wildlife Center’s rehabilitation facility in various sizes.

Whose Pet Will Be On The Cover Of The 2009 Pet Calendar?

Dogs, cats, horses, birds, burros, turtles and other assorted species – each year about 100 photos of adorable pets are entered in the Foundation’s pet calendar cover contest. And each year it’s a tough job to select the winning pet photo, according to Pet Calendar Committee



Chair Kerry Sullivan-Lechner.

The winner of the 2009 cover contest will be unveiled at the pet calendar preview party in October. Copies of the handsome desk calendar will be for sale that evening and will be sold in Helena area stores October through December 2008.

Proceeds from calendar sales help support the Foundation’s spay-neuter and emergency funds programs. To participate in a future calendar, call (406) 443-6532 and ask to be added to the calendar mailing list.

PROGRESS REPORT ON PLANNED EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE CENTER

The planned expansion of the wildlife center intake building and wildlife enclosures got a big boost when Helena architect Bob Karhu of Karhu Architects Inc. volunteered his time to transform design concepts into drawings. A special thank you also goes to Paul Valle, Construction Bureau Chief for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, who worked with wildlife center staff to finalize plans for the expansion.

The 2007 kick-off to the fundraising campaign plus grants received this past year got us well on our way. In addition to individual donations, grants were received from Burlington-Northern, Santa Fe Foundation; Liz Claiborne-Art Ortenberg Foundation; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation; Plum Creek Foundation; and the Treacy Company.



Wildlife center manager Patti Sowka and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Paul Valle discuss what is needed to expand the rehabilitation facility.



Left to right: Lorin Hicks of Plum Creek Foundation presented a \$3,000 check for the wildlife center expansion to Kelly Kuntz, FFA chair, and Ron Aasheim of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



Bob Karhu of Karhu Architects in Helena gave valuable assistance to FFA in preparing contract documents to expand the rehabilitation facility.



Adopt-A-Species art contest winners in grades 3-5 include Helena elementary school students Taryn Holland (3rd grade, Montana City School) whose drawing of a moose took 1st place; Brita Binde (3rd grade, Radley School) whose Red Tailed Hawk took 2nd place, and Jessica Alles (5th grade, Kessler School) who took 3rd place for her drawing of a Bighorn Sheep.

ADOPT-A-SPECIES PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Respect Habitat, Respect Wildlife was the theme for the 2007-2008 Adopt-A-Species program at Helena area elementary schools. Last fall Helena High School theater students visited schools to host special assemblies and unveil each school's adopted species.

Now in its twelfth year, the Adopt-A-Species program is an education program that teaches students the importance of conserving habitat and wildlife and how each species fits into the ecosystem.

Students start the year with a kick-off assembly, and each participating school is given an education trunk spotlighting their adopted species. The trunks contain resource materials, classroom activities, artwork, games, writings and music, along with other references. In the spring, students submit essays and artwork to be published in a special Earth Day supplement in the Helena newspaper.

Sponsors of the program include the Foundation For Animals, Helena National Forest, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Discovery Foundation and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

VOLUNTEER AND IN-KIND THANKS

We are grateful for substantial and ongoing volunteer and in-kind donations to the Montana Wildlife Center from:

- Wal-Mart Super Center employees' volunteer "Swat Team" for preparing the Stedman Foundry building and grounds for "Back to the Wild" galas in 2007 and 2008.
- An American Arborist, for branches for the cubs' enrichment.
- Companion Animal Hospital for veterinary services.
- Marks-Miller Post & Pole for cubs' bedding.
- PETCO for pet food.
- Costco, The Real Food Store and Van's Thriftway for outdated produce.
- The dedicated volunteers who commit time and energy to the wildlife center rehabilitation facility.



Wal-Mart volunteers gave the historic Stedman building a major makeover prior to the 2007 Gala and a spruce-up in 2008.



Volunteer Lynne Burkhardt holds a bobcat kitten received at the rehabilitation facility of the Montana Wildlife Center.

STATE AND LOCAL SPAY – NEUTER EFFORTS DECREASE NUMBER OF HOMELESS ANIMALS

A primary goal of the Foundation for Animals is to reduce the number of litters that are unwanted or abandoned at humane society shelters. The Foundation issues vouchers to help defray the cost of spay-neuter surgery when pet owners cannot afford the full cost. Since 1992, over \$85,000 has been dedicated to the program and 3,700 pets have been altered through assistance from the program.

We also work with other animal groups, helping to fund spay-neuter clinics. These combined efforts have succeeded in dramatically reducing the overpopulation of pets and feral cats.

For information about the following organizations, refer to phone numbers or web pages indicated.

- Helena Area Friends of Pets (HAFoP) sponsors clinics in Helena designed for people who can't otherwise afford spay-neuter surgery for their pets. At March and June 2008 clinics, veterinarians altered 467 animals. To volunteer or to receive information about upcoming clinics, call 406-933-5922.
- The Montana Spay-Neuter Task Force coordinates programs for pet owners who need assistance. Since 1996, a total of 41,567 animals have been altered at 143 clinics in 94 communities. The Task Force assists communities at the invitation of local government and organizations. Their website is www.mtspayneutertaskforce.org.
- Spay Montana funds a mobile spay-neuter van that reaches low-income pet owners across the state. Their website can be accessed at spaymontana.org.



Helena veterinarian Julie Kappes, assisted by Sandy Goodwin, dedicate time to the spay-neuter clinics in Browning.



Pets and their owners wait their turn at the spay-neuter clinic in Helena.

ARLA BARKEMEYER, DVM EXTRAORDINARY VETERINARIAN AND HUMANITARIAN



photo courtesy of Sandy Newton

Arla Barkemeyer (1947-2008) joined the FFA advisory board in 1990 and was instrumental in shaping the spay-neuter and emergency funds programs. She cared deeply, worked tirelessly, gave generously -- and made a lasting difference in countless lives, both human and animal. We will miss Arla as a long-time member of the Foundation and a dear friend.

The Foundation's 2009 pet calendar is being dedicated to Arla in recognition of her remarkable life-long efforts on behalf of animals, domestic and wild, and the people who love them.

EMERGENCY FUNDS HELP ANIMALS IN CRITICAL NEED

The Foundation's emergency funds program was designed to serve as a safety net for animals in need. Since 1992, over \$58,000 has been provided through the program.

Most often, we provide financial assistance to help pet owners afford emergency veterinary expenses. Occasionally, an animal without an owner is found in desperate straits and given a second chance at life.

So it was when a dog groomer found a homeless, starving Pomeranian near death in the freezing cold and refused to give up on him. Instead, she contacted the Foundation and several generous individuals to arrange funding for immediate veterinary care that saved his life. Then she searched until she found just the right person to place him with. The little dog quickly bonded with his new owner, who dubbed him "Einstein," and the two are great buddies.



"Einstein," a lucky dog

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2008

Four non-profit groups have benefited from the Foundation's small grants program since our last newsletter. The program provides financial assistance for worthy projects that benefit both domestic and wild animals.

Green Grass Bull Animal Rescue, Browning MT, was granted \$1,000 to help fund a June 2008 spay/neuter clinic, the fourth to be held in the Browning/Heart Butte area. A total of 878 animals have been altered at the clinics that were held with the assistance of the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force.

Helena Area Friends of Pets, Helena MT, was awarded \$500 to help meet expenses for two spay/neuter clinics in 2008. A total of 467 cats and dogs were altered at the clinics.

Beartooth Humane Alliance (BHA), Red Lodge MT, was awarded \$200 to help meet expenses related to their low-cost spay/neuter voucher program in Carbon County.

Great Pyrenees Rescue of Montana in East Helena was granted \$100 to help pay for overhead fencing added to a kennel used to house large rescue dogs prior to placing them in new homes. The project provides a safer environment while the large dogs await adoption.



Volunteer Brenna Herlson provides post-surgical care for a kitten in the recovery area at the Helena Clinic.



Six-year-old Chance Hascall sits on a pet carrier that contains his kitty and best friend, "Daisy," while waiting in line at a recent Helena spay-neuter clinic.

Visit our website:
www.FoundationForAnimals.org



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The Foundation For Animals
P.O. Box 389
Helena, MT 59624-0389
Telephone: (406) 443-6532
E-mail: mkfa@mt.net

Newsletter Co-Editors:
Marilyn Evans
Dianne Nickman

Contributors:
Judy Fenton
Spay-Neuter Coordinator
Mikal Kellner
Adopt-A-Species Committee
Dianne Nickman
Emergency Funds Coordinator
Kerry Sullivan-Lechner
Pet Calendar Chair

Photo Editor
Dianne Nickman

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