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Focus on Animals

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Special thanks to the staff and
volunteers at the Montana
Wildlife Center.

Helping People and Pets SPAY/NEUTER AND EMERGENCY FUNDS ASSISTANCE

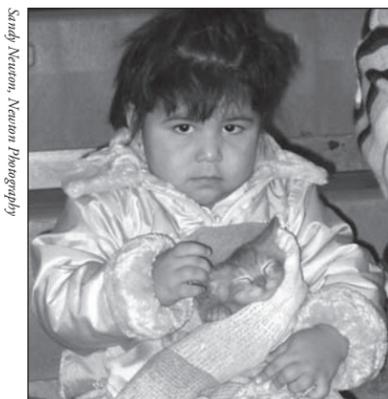
Spay/Neuter

Since 1992, the Foundation for Animals has dedicated more than \$92,500 to controlling the pet overpopulation problem in order to reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned litters received at overburdened humane society shelters.

In the past year, the Foundation's voucher program alone provided \$5,110 in assistance to alter 228 animals, including 154 cats and 74 dogs. Another \$2,300 supported community clinics in Montana.

Emergency Funds

Since 1992 when FFA's Emergency Funds program began, \$59,500 has been dedicated to helping animals in critical need. Since our last newsletter, the Foundation for Animals has provided \$1,500 in assistance to help pet owners meet unexpected veterinary expenses for pets they love.



Strandy Neutera, Neutera Photography

This little girl cuddles her kitten as it awaits surgery at a spay/neuter clinic in Browning MT.

It takes many volunteers to make community spay/neuter clinics possible. Here, two volunteers devote attention to a cat recovering from surgery at a clinic in Helena MT.



Dianne Nickman

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Focus on Animals

THE FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT NEWSLETTER ▲ 2008 - 2009 EDITION

20th Anniversary 1989-2009

1989 – 2009 TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ANIMALS Both Domestic and Wild

The success of the Foundation for Animals (FFA) has been a team effort from the beginning. We are grateful for your loyal support and will continue to work hard by ensuring that your donations are wisely used to achieve the greatest good for animals. This annual report newsletter outlines what your continued support has already accomplished, and other critical needs the Foundation has recognized.



Gene Fisher

Back in 1994, Cindy Utterback and Vince Yannone, together with a young antelope, looked over plans for the new wildlife rehabilitation facility.



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Orphaned and injured wildlife cared for at the new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center have a better chance of a successful return to the wild. Spacious bear enclosures allow needed exercise and sunshine, and feature tree structures and pools.



Photos Courtesy of the Montana Dept. of Fish Wildlife & Parks



Small bear cubs get a workout as they play and search for food on climbing structures.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION FACILITY More Room to Rehabilitate Wildlife

The Foundation's fundraising campaign to expand the wildlife rehabilitation facility at the Montana Wildlife Center was successfully completed in 2008. The Foundation recently contributed \$68,000 toward the project, thanks to individual donations and grants, as well as proceeds from the 2007 and 2008 "Back to the Wild" galas.

Project construction began in May 2009. The newly-expanded food prep area allows more and better refrigeration and storage of food, which means better care for injured and orphaned wildlife. In addition, the new outdoor exercise area allows smaller bear cubs to build the muscle and coordination they will need to survive in the wild. To further enhance the cubs' chances after release, they are taught to forage for food, and before being released, are fattened to twice the weight they would be in the wild. This fat reserve helps them survive a possible "lean" time while adjusting to their new wild world.

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A baby beaver is bottle fed until it can eat solid food.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility

Recently released to the wild were 14 black bear yearlings that had spent the winter at the facility, as well as an antelope, young coyotes, and a beaver. The facility also served as a temporary home for several injured birds transported to other facilities for rehabilitation.

The wildlife rehabilitation facility opened in 2002 after years of public-private fundraising to purchase the 5 acres of land and build 3 outdoor bear compounds and an intake facility. Once completed, the Foundation For Animals gifted the land, compounds and building to the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks which operates it as part of a state wildlife rehabilitation program for orphaned and injured wildlife. Success of this effort, especially the orphaned bear cub recovery and release program, required expansion of the facility within a few seasons. The Foundation For Animals led both fundraising campaigns.



Wildlife center volunteer Mikal Kellner holds a bobcat kitten that is bound for the Southwest Wildlife Center near Phoenix AZ because it cannot be returned to the wild. Two bear cubs and a beaver were also placed there.



This baby mountain goat found a permanent home at Colorado's Cheyenne Wildlife Zoo. A leg injury prevented his return to the wild.

A TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Due to noise, dust and other disturbances related to construction and earthwork required near the wildlife compounds, the facility must be closed to the public for several months. Orphaned and injured wildlife will still be received there but most will be transported to other facilities that can provide a safe, quiet environment conducive to rehabilitation.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Chris Smith was recently appointed by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to coordinate development of a new educational center that, along with the wildlife rehab center, will be part of the Spring Meadow complex. According to Smith, FWP "envisions the rehabilitation facility not only as continuing to provide a temporary 'home' for animals that can be returned to the wild or placed in an appropriate setting, but also as being fully integrated into the educational program."

ADOPT-A-SPECIES SCHOOL PROGRAM
Learning How to Become Partners with Wildlife

"Growing Up Wild" was the theme in 2008-2009 for the Adopt-A-Species program which teaches elementary school students how their school's chosen species rears its young, how a healthy habitat is important to its survival, and the species' place in the ecosystem. Artwork and essays were submitted by schools in the Helena area, and a selection of work was chosen for publication in an Independent Record newspaper supplement in May.

For 2009-2010, the Adopt-A-Species theme is "Celebrating Wildlife through Native Culture." Animals and wildlife are often depicted in Indian legends. Blackfeet Indian Jack Gladstone is a singer, story teller and cultural bridge builder who will be guest speaker at kick-off assemblies this fall when the new theme will be introduced and the school's new study species unveiled in front of the student body.

FFA's partners in the program are Helena National Forest, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, and MT Fish Wildlife and Parks Foundation.



Helena National Forest

Artwork and writings by students from 19 elementary schools were featured in the May 2009 Adopt-A-Species supplement in the Helena Independent Record.

"All our efforts to conserve wildlife are for naught if we fail to sow the seeds of an environmental ethic in the next generation."

— Annette Berkovits, Wildlife Conservation Society

Bob Krashing



Shirley Gannon, founding member of FFA, enjoys looking back at the Foundation's pet calendars with "Dodger" and "Lulu".

PET CALENDAR PROJECT

The 2009 pet calendar cover photo contest added fun and excitement to the popular fundraising project. Every photo submitted was entered in the contest and, after much deliberation, Mary Gegenhuber's friendly pup, "Stud," was selected the winner.



It was also with much deliberation -- and regret -- that the decision was made to forgo publishing a 2010 pet calendar due to the ongoing economic downturn and increased printing costs. Unfortunately, the economic downturn has also forced an increasing number of pet owners to turn to the Foundation for assistance. Since the calendar project provided major support for our spay/neuter and emergency funds programs, we hope that if you planned to participate in the calendar project this year, you will instead consider donating directly to these programs. Donations can be sent to FFA, PO Box 389, Helena, MT 59624.

Sincere thanks to all who have participated in and supported the calendar project. Special thanks go to photographers Sandy Newton of Newton Photography and Michelle Lashaway of DeWalt Studio, who generously donated their talent and services to provide many wonderful pet photos over the years.

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED

Six organizations and a community benefited from funding through 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.

- **The Beartooth Nature Center**, Red Lodge, was awarded \$200 toward expenses related to purchase of trees to provide habitat and sun/wind protection for gray wolves inside two enclosures which were originally treeless.
- **The Blackfoot Challenge**, associated with Montana Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program, Ovando MT, was awarded \$200 to help with expenses related to the Trumpeter Swan restoration program. Their goal is to establish 7 breeding pairs of genetically pure swans in the Blackfoot Valley where the species, seen by Lewis and Clark 200 years ago, had not been seen for well over a century.
- **Green Grass Bull Animal Rescue in Browning**, received \$100 to help support spay/neuter clinics held in that area.
- **Helena Area Friends of Pets** received \$200 to help with expenses of spay/neuter clinics held in Helena for low-income owners.
- **Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force**, Butte, was awarded \$200 to help with expenses associated with spay/neuter clinics held on Montana's Native American reservations (Fort Peck, Poplar, Wolf Point, Fort Belnap, Northern Cheyenne, Crow Agency). The Task Force works with communities to achieve humane solutions to pet-overpopulation.
- **Spay Montana**, based in Helena, received \$1,800 in designated donations to help fund community spay/neuter clinics at Browning, Montana, on the Blackfeet reservation. Six clinics have been held. In a special ceremony May 3, Tribal elders honored the group for their dedication and commitment.
- **Since 2008**, designated donations of \$2,250 have supported the purchase of dog shelters on the Blackfeet reservation, and collection and distribution of community-donated dog houses.

James Gibbons



Trumpeter Swans, part of the Blackfoot Challenge swan restoration program, were released in 2008.

Helping other animal organizations reach their goals is important to the Foundation. In that spirit, FFA has made a \$10,000 pledge to the Lewis & Clark Humane Society fundraising campaign to build a new shelter. If you would like to contribute to this pledge, send your donation in care of FFA at PO Box 389, Helena MT 59624, or donate directly to the LCHS Building Campaign, PO Box 4455, Helena, MT 59604.



Dr. Tia Nelson (left) and Nicole Meyer (right) with "Tucker." Nicole worked with Dr. Tia for 6 years while a Helena student, and is one of three students who have interned with Dr. Tia before successfully applying to veterinary school. Dr. Tia also teaches part-time at Carroll College in the Human-Animal Bonding course.

TOTAL DYNAMIC BALANCE VETERINARY CLINIC
Donates Funds to Special FFA Programs

Tia Nelson, DVM, considers it an honor to be compared with Dr. Arla Barkemeyer, who was her mentor, colleague, and friend. Fresh out of veterinary school, Tia worked for Arla before establishing her own clinic in Helena. The untimely death of Dr. Barkemeyer last year prompted Tia to carry on a tradition Arla established many years ago. Dr. Tia now donates her clinic's euthanasia fees to the Foundation for use in the spay/neuter and emergency funds programs. The positive impact of these programs that prevent unwanted litters and help distressed animals is incalculable.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE
Help Available in Challenging Times

The Foundation's spay/neuter program issues vouchers to help defray expenses of pet owners who could not otherwise afford the surgical procedure. FFA also helps fund community spay/neuter clinics designed for low-income owners.

FFA's emergency funds program lends a helping hand to people unable to meet the total cost of veterinary care for their beloved pets. Providing assistance that helps pay for treatment can mean the difference between life and death for a pet -- and in some cases, a pet may be the only family a person has.

It takes over \$10,000 each year to operate FFA's spay/neuter and emergency funds programs, which are administered by volunteer board and advisory group members. If you would like to help support the programs, please send your donation to FFA, PO Box 389, Helena MT 59624.