



Heart of the Valley
animal center
NEWSLETTER

Volume 2
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Fall 2003

Home Is Where the "Heart" Is New Digs and Staff Member # 2

If anyone doubts the need for Heart of the Valley Animal Center, a visit to the office will confirm that not only is there a need, but HOTV has developed the reputation of lending a helping hand in our community. Each week dozens of phone calls are received from people asking questions about adoption, surrendering, lost and found, spay/neutering, kenneling, general animal care, or just calling to find a resource to help care for their pets.

In addition to providing information, HOTV has experienced an enthusiastic response to its Matchmaking and Pet Loss and Grief Support programs. The Matchmaking/Adoption program through word-of-mouth, has successfully helped over 400 people either adopt or find a new home for their pets. The Pet Grief and Loss Support program has been equally successful. With the help of local veterinarians, over 350 informational packages have been distributed. Pet Loss "listeners" have helped over 75 individuals deal with the array of emotions surrounding the loss of a pet, and The Reverend Mary Piper has performed over 25 pet remembrance ceremonies. All of this has been accomplished with long days, one staff member (the executive director), and a host of great volunteers. As our reputation grows, so does the need for our services. In response, HOTV has taken the next step by hiring an Administrative Assistant and moving into larger offices.

Amy Trebella was hired with a full slate of duties including running the office, fielding calls, and overseeing programs, such as the Pet Loss and Grief Support and the Adoption/Matchmaking program. Amy is up to the task, bringing an extensive background in office management, sales, customer service, volunteerism, and most importantly a true love of animals. "I am so delighted to be a member of Heart of the Valley's team, and more importantly, to aid in the betterment of human lives through the good company of our animal friends," says Amy.

After settling into our new offices, located in **Suite 323 in the Bozeman Hotel**, Amy's first project will be to expand and manage our Adoption/

Matchmaking program. "The addition of staff will allow us to be of even more service to the community," says Terry Profota, Executive Director. "People have come to us with so many needs and great ideas of how to help; now we will have even greater ability to respond and provide for both the people and animals in our area."

The coming year will be exciting as HOTV launches its new facility. "I am looking forward to seeing the hard work of our great team come to fruition with the construction and completion of our new facility. With this, our Adoption/Matchmaking program will expand even further. We'll have accommodating temporary living quarters in which to house the animals as we focus on our primary goal of placement for them in permanent, loving homes. This is my ultimate goal." Amy's genuine enthusiasm for what can come next is evident.

Kevin Costner in *Fields of Dreams* made "build it and they will come" a phrase that carries excitement, commitment, and passion. Judging by the Valley's response to HOTV, "they" are already coming . . . Now we just need to build.

New Office Wish List

House plants
Dorm size refrigerator
Good, working lap top computer
(at least 1.20 GHz and 240 MB of RAM)
4-drawer file cabinet (gray or beige)
Donation of matting and framing for office "artwork"
Coat tree
Small TV with video player
Boom box/compact stereo
Paper cutter
Slide projector
Projector screen

A special thanks to:

Sign-A-Rama, Carpet Mill Outlet,
Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage, John Idland of
Gallatin Valley Communications, Jessie Close,
Steve Eshbaugh, Mary and Harry Piper,
Tia Persson and Dan VanLuchene

And a very special thank you to Sharon and Bert Hopeman and the Montana Gift Corral staff for providing a home for Heart of the Valley during its first two years of operations!

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To Declaw or Not to Declaw

That Is the Question!

by Edward Childs, DVM

Few topics spark more lively discussion than politics, religion, and cat declawing. As with most issues, there are different points of view, for and against.

Of course, we cannot ignore the news hype over the last six months when the City Council of West Hollywood, California, voted unanimously to ban the procedure of declawing cats. It is thought to be the only city in the U.S. that prohibits "pet guardians" from having this surgical option, which the rest of the "free world" has available.

Let us look at the viewpoints of those against and those for declawing, review the surgical procedure, the options available to owners, and address some of the myths that inevitably will be offered in rhetorical discussions. Individuals against declawing (onychectomy) and tendonectomies state that these are cruel and inhumane procedures that are absolutely unnecessary and that most cat owners don't know what they are putting their pet through. Some say it is for the benefit of the owner, not the animal. It is done to protect the drapes and furniture. It is a risky surgery and is capable of causing lameness and arthritis. They add that declawed cats are defenseless and cannot get away if chased.

Those in favor of declawing cats have an equally strong position from another viewpoint. The procedure, they say, can be a lifesaver. It is well known that the number one killer of pets is behavior. Pets that behave in a manner unacceptable to owners often are surrendered to shelters, abandoned or euthanized. The *Cat Fancier's Association*, the *Animal Council*, and the *American Veterinary Medical Association* are proponents of declawing. The AVMA encourages veterinarians to provide cat owners with complete education with regard to declawing and the options. For many people, owning a cat would not be an option if the cat could not be declawed. Immune compromised owners could be in danger if scratched. Declawed cats are not defenseless. They use the hind claws to climb trees or fences and to scratch, and they can still bite.

While there is no surgery without risk and without some degree of pain, declawing is a procedure performed with general anesthesia. The toes are surgically scrubbed, and a tourniquet is applied to control hemorrhage during surgery. The last joint of each toe that contains the claw is removed. Each

incision site is closed with sutures or tissue adhesive. A bandage is placed on each foot for 24 to 48 hours. The surgery does vary slightly with the size and age of the cat along with the preference of the surgeon. The younger the cat at surgery, the faster the recovery. The surgery is elective and can be safely done at any age after 12 weeks or after the cat weighs at least three pounds. When appropriate, pain medication is prescribed for several days post op. Many surgeons use additional pain control by injecting a long acting anesthetic during surgery at nerve sites above the foot. After surgery, restriction of activity at home may be suggested,

especially for heavier cats. To reduce chance of infection, most surgeons recommend a dust free plant fiber (pelleted) litter be used during the one- to two-week recovery time. There are special cases, but generally only the front feet are declawed.

Options to declawing are limited. Routine clipping and trimming of nails can be done weekly. The disadvantages are obvious, and accidental damage to the nail bed while clipping can cause the growth of a disfigured nail. SoftPaws are "plastic caps" applied monthly with glue to the nails. While good in theory, they often fall off, are expensive, and actually allow the nail to grow more rapidly since it is protected under the cap. Another surgery, called tendonectomy can be performed. The AVMA and most surgeons do not recommend it because the nail is not removed and the tendon that allows the cat to extend the nail is severed. This does not affect the continued growth of the nail or the need to trim the nails. Laser surgery is starting to be used and is reported to further minimize pain during recovery from the declaw surgery, but few hospitals have it available.

The AVMA is a national organization of veterinarians and is the voice of its 60,000-plus members. In response to the request of the *AVMA Animal Welfare Committee*, the Executive Board approved an updated position statement regarding the declawing of domestic cats. A summary of the important points is:

- *Scratching is normal feline behavior. It is a way of marking territory, claw conditioning or "husking", and stretching.*
- *Owners should provide suitable implements to direct scratching to an acceptable site. These devices need to be firmly anchored, tall or long enough to encourage full stretching, and inviting to the cat. Examples include: carpet-covered posts, cardboard boxes, and logs.*
- *Declawed cats should remain indoors.*
- *Scientific studies indicate cats with destructive clawing behavior are more likely to be euthanized, released, abandoned, or surrendered to shelters, thus contributing to the homeless or feral cat populations.*
- *There is no scientific evidence that proves declawing leads to behavior changes, i.e., aggression.*

There will continue to be differences of opinion concerning declawing the family cat. My position as a surgeon and a cat owner is that surgery should be an individual decision and choice, looked at as a reasonable option to consider if faced with preserving our home and fixtures while attempting to cohabitate with our normal, scratching cat. We as cat owners have taken on the responsibility to care for our pets in the best way possible. Cats that live primarily indoors live two to three times longer than outdoor cats subject to cat fights, cars, contagious diseases, and other dangers. If the normal scratching behavior of a cat living indoors becomes an issue the owner can neither accept nor correct, then I would hope the owner would have the insight and the choice to allow the cat to give up its claws instead of its home.

Adoption the Other Option

If a declawed cat is your choice, consider contacting HOTV and other local shelters. We may have just what you're looking for in a cat who's looking just for you.



"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: — Albert Schweitzer

Veterinary Spotlight

Edward Childs, DVM, Retired . . . Ha!

by Tami Pasquiesi



A recent HOTV interview found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for south central Montana's pets. The rainbow we refer to is "retired" Dr. Edward Childs's colorful career as a D.V.M. The gold, his valuable work with the Park County Shelter, Animal Medical Center in Bozeman, and Animal Clinic of Billings.

HOTV: What led you to become a veterinarian?

Dr. Childs: As a little fellow, I always looked forward to having the veterinarian out to the farm to work calves because I liked the smell of the disinfectant used on the instruments. I liked medicine, but was shy when little so figured animals would not need me to talk to them. Anyway, I decided in grade school I would be like my brother-in-law and go to vet school. Growing up on a farm, I was surrounded with animals all the time. Of course, we had lots of cats because we had a dairy . . . and lots of milk.

HOTV: Where and for how long did you work at a full time practice?

Dr. Childs: Immediately after graduation from vet school, I moved to Chickasha, Oklahoma. I worked in a mixed practice, small and large animal, for 5 months before going into the Air Force for 2 years, working as a base veterinarian and then on a remote tour in Southeast Asia. After returning to the States, I started working in a mixed practice in Loveland, Colorado. Soon I found I couldn't keep abreast of all the information needed in all the species. I knew I needed to limit my scope of practice. Two years later, I designed and built my first hospital that was primarily equine with some small animals at first. With time, it grew to a 3-doctor hospital, and I designed and built a second hospital. By then the practices had changed and become mostly small animal with less equine. I started branching out and developing special interests. When I sold the original practice in 1997, it was 60% feline and the rest, dogs and exotics.

HOTV: How long have you specialized with felines?

Dr. Childs: In the 1980's I joined the American Association of Feline Practitioners. In 1992, I became a Fellow in the Academy of Feline Practitioners. There are 80 Fellows in the U.S. and 2 in Montana.

HOTV: How about your shelter work in Park County? Have you in the past worked with other shelters?

Dr. Childs: While practicing in the Denver area in the 1980's, I spent a year working as liaison to the Colorado Humane Society under the auspices of the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Association. This was my introduction to animal shelter matters. During those years, I learned a great deal and appreciated the issues of animal care through a new viewpoint.

HOTV: In what way do you currently help out at the Livingston shelter?

Dr. Childs: In April, 2000, I was asked to be on the staff of the Humane Society of Park County to help address some major issues, including disease control and sanitation. Within a year they became the first

shelter in Montana with a surgery suite under the same roof. I became the surgeon for their sterilization program and implemented the juvenile surgery protocol. I helped teach the staff at the shelter to be more aware of signs of contagious diseases. They have a better understanding of how to prevent disease in the shelter if they know the etiology and pathophysiology of the disease.

HOTV: What kind of situations do you get called in to deal with?

Dr. Childs: Normally, I visit the shelter one day a week for medical examinations and do sterilization surgery of pets ready for adoption. Typical evaluation and treatment may include digestive upsets, pre-existing wounds or trauma of new arrivals, skin conditions, heart and lung conditions, tumors, eye, ear and mouth diseases. I am available via phone for conditions that cannot wait until the next scheduled visit.

HOTV: How does your shelter work fit with your general veterinarian philosophy?

Dr. Childs: I have found that I have a unique insight in working with the staff of the shelters stemming from my experience in large animal practice. Dealing with shelter issues is sometimes like dealing with a "herd health program". In a shelter environment, sometimes, due to irreversible conditions, the removal of one ill pet may save many other healthy pets from becoming ill and preventing them from being adopted. It is much easier and so much smarter to be proactive. Being an animal caregiver in the shelters is a very stressful position, and some decisions are very difficult. But the questions must be asked: Do we have the facilities to keep the sick pet from infecting others? Do we have the manpower to treat the pet, and do we have the knowledge of what the disease is, and do we have the money to treat it properly. Do all the workers understand and work in unison, following established protocol for the betterment of the shelter? Will we have an adoptable pet when we are done?

HOTV: In the rapidly changing field of veterinarian medicine, do you find it a challenge to keep current since you are semi-retired?

Dr. Childs: Remaining current of the latest medical information is fun and so very important for me. I enjoy sharing new things (and old things, since I have more gray hair than anyone) with the staff of the two hospitals and the shelter. Having more time off, it's easier for me to travel to high quality continuing education meetings around the country. As a Fellow in the Academy of Feline Medicine, I am required to have over 30 hours per year of specific feline medicine. But I have averaged over 60 hours per year over the last 5 years.

HOTV: What do you enjoy most about your current practice?

Dr. Childs: I enjoy seeing feline medical and surgery cases at both hospitals and offering current and latest dental procedures. Both hospitals have excellent support staffs. I can devote all my time to attending patients, visiting with owners and doing research on challenging cases - and not be involved with management issues associated with practice ownership. I built my practices on the principle that an educated client is a better client, and the pet gets the rewards. I enjoy spending much of my practice time educating clients about their pet's issues and trying to answer their questions.



Mitch Childs & Mercedes

"A day is lost if a person doesn't learn something. I am still practicing medicine. Practicing until I get it right. I guess you can see I am failing my retirement. Ha!"

Fostering Speaks Volumns

Jet's Story

Wouldn't it be great if animals could talk? If so, Jet, the cat, would likely have quite the story to tell. He was found early this summer under a house that serves as a summer home belonging to a young lady from California. To her surprise, upon her arrival at her summer home, she heard crying coming from underneath her porch. After a short time, she managed to coax a very frightened, long-haired black cat out from underneath the house. The cat was badly injured. The woman quickly contacted the nearest veterinarian for medical treatment.

It appeared that the cat (now Jet) had either been hit by a car or possibly attacked by another animal. He was covered in multiple lacerations that were badly infected. After a full examination by the veterinarian, it was discovered that Jet also suffered from a broken tibia. In addition, he was a ragged mess of hair and debris, which would require some serious grooming. In the beginning, Jet's care provider was concerned about Jet having a full recovery. Through patience and constant care, however, Jet's wounds began to slowly heal along with his broken leg. Knowing that Jet's full recovery would take several months, his care provider decided to take him home and foster him. Now, after a full recovery, Jet shares a home with his original care provider and has flourished into a very handsome,



long-haired black cat. He spends his time lounging on the couch, harassing the family dog, and serving as the 2:00 a.m. alarm clock for his new owner.

Stories like Jet's would not have the happy endings they do without the wonderful care provided by foster homes. In Jet's case, he required long term care. By being fostered, he received that care until he became an adoptable cat. Although Jet found a permanent home with his foster family, foster families usually serve as temporary care providers, generally not longer than two months, until an animal has become adoptable. Heart of the Valley currently does not have a permanent facility in which to shelter homeless animals, therefore, foster volunteers are greatly needed.



**Love Cats and Dogs?
Foster Homes Needed!**

If you are interested in serving as a foster parent, please contact our foster coordinator, Lindi Kopecko at 579-2898.



Cornet's Corner

A big thanks to those who have sent in their applications and reported hours. Keep those hour reports coming in. Remember, they are key to our grant writing!

Volunteer Needs

OFFICE

Logging volunteer hours to database at the NEW office.

FOSTER CARE

Urgently need loving, short-term homes for both dogs and cats awaiting adoption.

PET LOSS PACKS

Distribution around the community (to vets, etc.).
Help get the word out!

EDUCATION

- Coordinator for our Youth Education program.
- MSU Responsible Pet Ownership/Owner's program

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

LET'S GET THAT BUILDING UNDERWAY!
(3-6 month commitment)

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

Help design ways to promote what we're already doing and the expanded possibilities once we have a shelter.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Capture the faces that capture the hearts . . . online.
Meet our animals face to face. (Weekly or as needed.)

Call for more info on specifics and time commitments.



Top Cop's Finest

Top Cop's Best Friends

City of Bozeman Animal Control

On the streets in the familiar blue and white truck, Connie Lien tells us that there is no such thing as a typical day for her. She responds to calls on neglected or endangered animals. This could be a pet trapped in an overheated vehicle, an animal loose on the roadway, animal at large, or an animal that is being mistreated. She also is responsible for caring for those animals whose owners have been placed under arrest. "I hope we're not viewed as the Nazi or the police because sometimes we do have to act strongly, but we do try to listen to everyone on all sides. We do protect people's identity when they call in."

In her 26 years working as Bozeman's Animal Control Officer, Connie feels she has evolved as a person. She is now more comfortable with the law and more effective at making tough decisions, such as seizing a neglected animal. Her favorite part of the job is educating people. "As pet owners evolve, their care levels increase, and they can become marvelous with their animals," Connie explains. "You do see people change, and it's fun to see."

Part of the "education" process that Connie and fellow officer Kathy Ham engage in may involve continued follow-up on barking complaints or neglect concerns and looking for solutions that work for everyone. Connie can offer such alternatives as spay/neuter certificates or suspension of fines based on enrollment in an obedience class or behavioral training.



Connie Lien

Many Bozeman residents remain unaware of the City's strict law regarding cats. Cats are required to be licensed and to be on leash when off of the owner's property. Connie's advice? Netting or some form of backyard covered enclosure, or "Be outside when the cat's outside."

*"We're trying to do something that improves the neighborhood and the welfare of the animals as well as the overall picture."
Connie Lien, Animal Control Officer for the City of Bozeman.*

With a background in Animal Science with MSU and a Masters in Ag Education, Connie seems well-suited for her animal control work. And she always has had an interest in and regard for dogs and cats. This she feels is completely necessary for the job.

Of course in our rural setting, the usual dog and cat calls are sprinkled with calls on coyote hybrids, moose, bear, skunks, marmots, snakes, cattle, horses. Animal Control works closely with Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Connie advises calling Big Sky Wildcare when injured or protected birds are involved.

"Hopefully people are not afraid to call us when they see something, whether it is abuse or a loose dog or something they don't think is right, because there is no harm in checking," Connie says. "We'd like to work with people."

You can reach Bozeman's Animal Control at 582-2037 or 582-2000 (dispatch).



Seaman's Story

The Tale That Wags the Dog



How many thousands of K-12 assignments will be handed out over the next two bicentennial years about the Lewis & Clark journey? The English and history reports. The flora and fauna science projects. The geography/geology maps color-coded in crayon, pencil, or marker pen. And for the dog lovers, HOTV offers a couple of doggie treats in the form of two books featuring the Corps of Discovery's canine hero Seaman, the Newfoundland Retriever.

Seaman is mentioned briefly, but always with either drama or affection, a total of 34 times in the various journals of Captains Lewis and Clark and other Corps members. But, like any dog worth his salt, this Newfy with the giant face and the heart to match simply had to find his way into the historical fiction surrounding the journey.

Seaman was both hunter and retriever equally skilled, it seems, on land and in water. There's an early episode of hunting and retrieving enough squirrels (from the Ohio River!) to feed the Corps dinner. There's Seaman's beaver hunt gone wrong. He went under the water and came back up with not only a beaver for dinner, but also a severed artery (oh, those beaver teeth) which almost cost Seaman his life and turned Lewis into on-the-spot veterinary surgeon (with Sacajawea assisting). There's an Indian dognap episode. And enough snippets of in-charge work dog and loyal, playful companion to warm any dog lover's heart.

What About Those Newfies?

A giant head, a giant thick coat, a giant gentleness inside. 120 - 150 pounds of dog. Thought to be the first "North American" breed, these working dogs are generally said to be as good on land as in water (including sea where they have been known to be outstanding water rescue dogs). They are also praised as extremely loyal dogs with a profoundly sweet disposition.

Remember Nana, the "nurse" dog in *Peter Pan*? Originally a Newfy.

If you're interested in a Newfy - as with any breed - check with breed rescues, trainers, and (of course) your vet to see if breed needs and your needs are a fit.

For young readers and parents looking for a short bedtime book we offer *The Dog Who Helped Explore America* by R. W. "Rib" Gustafson. Told in short segments, each giving a taste of some major theme or moment of the voyage, Seaman is the first person narrator of the book. Gustafson is a retired vet living in Conrad, Montana. A quick, fun read with a very local flavor.

Seaman, the Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis & Clark by Gail Langer Karwoski, is a larger book but still a quick read. Into reading with your elementary school child? Check this one out. Seaman is definitely the featured player in this brief and lively chronicle of the entire journey. Maps in the front and notes in the back, offering details of what's fact and what's fiction, help keep this fictional history honest. Perhaps a nice read for late elementary and middle school student dog-lovers. English or history report, anyone?

Whether you and your family sip from the shoreline or dive headlong into Lewis & Clark mania, a little bit of Newfy perspective is bound to sweeten the waters. Sit. Stay. Read. Enjoy!

Providing for Your Pets in Your Will

by Cindy Younkin

Many of us have four-legged family members which may outlive us. Unfortunately, we can't take them with us when it is our time to go. I recently told my husband that if there aren't dogs in heaven, I ain't goin'! I think there are dogs in heaven, because it would be a pretty dull place without all of the wonderful critters we get to enjoy on earth.

You can make provisions in your Last Will and Testament or a Revocable Living Trust to take care of your pet after you leave this planet by appointing a guardian of sorts. Of course, you should visit with the designated guardian before naming him or her in your Will or Trust.

If you are able, providing a monetary bequest to the guardian for the needs of your furry pal is recommended. You don't want to unnecessarily burden a friend with all your pet's food, vet care and grooming needs if you have sufficient assets to include a cash bequest for the care of your pet. The size of such a bequest depends on the type and age of your pet. You might want to include that in the event of your pet's earlier demise, the bequest go to your favorite charity which supports animals in some way, such as the Heart of the Valley Animal Center or the Humane Society.

Speak to your attorney when preparing your Will or planning your estate. Including provisions for the care of your pet is becoming common. Your attorney will understand, because, more than likely, he or she has a dog or cat with a notable position in the family.



Cindy Younkin has been practicing with the law firm of Moore, O'Connell, Reffling since 1989. A considerable amount of her practice has been in estate planning, wills, trusts, and probate.

Care-for-Life Program Offers Peace of Mind



Heart of the Valley's Care-for-Life Program will give you peace of mind, knowing that your companions will be lovingly taken care of when you no longer can.

What Care-for-Life can do for you:

- a) Help you choose a person to serve as your animal's ongoing caretaker.
- b) Serve as a contingent caretaker for your animal should your designated guardian be unable or unwilling to care for your companion at the time of your death.
- c) Assume responsibility for your animal, providing care and housing for your pet while searching for a long-term home.

To join the Care-for-Life Program you are encouraged to talk with Heart of the Valley regarding your specific wishes and then specify in your will your intent regarding your pets' care.

Although HOTV can provide you with sample language we recommend that you consult with your attorney for further information and assistance. A bequest to Heart of the Valley Animal Center can also be a part of your overall estate plan, providing tax benefits while supporting and caring for homeless animals.

For more information contact:

HOTV
PO Box 4783
Bozeman, MT 59772
406-556-451

heartofthevalley@bridgeband.com

Memorials and Honors June 1 - October 31, 2003

In memory of BONSAI	by Sally Frey & Cameron Christianson
In memory of PANDA	by Sarah Aldrich
In memory of JESSE	by Ann Bertagnolli
In memory of KATIE	by Melody Schwartz
In memory of MISSOULA	by Josie, Bill, Joker & Puna Erickson
In memory of MISSOULA	by John & Patricia Fisher
In memory of POPCORN	by Debbie Blackburn
In memory of TUCKER	by the Doctors & Staff at Creekside Veterinary Hospital
In memory of ELLY FONDREN	by Mrs. Eunice Nelson, Olga Indreland, Herman L. Armbrustt, Wayne & Shirley Brozek
In honor of JEAN CIONE	by Kelly Gillespie
In honor of PRISCILLA FOSTER	by Meredith McKenney



From the Heart

A "From the Heart" **Memorial Donation** is a meaningful remembrance and continuing legacy for departed pets and people who have affected your life. Please include name and address of the family who should receive memorial acknowledgment.

A "From the Heart" **Honor Donation** celebrates special occasions or simply says "thank you!" to a friend, family member or much loved pet. Include name of honoree, event, and their mailing address.

Send your gift to:
HOTV
PO Box 4783
Bozeman, MT
59772

HEARTLINE

Bert Hopeman, President

Heart of the Valley's goal is to save animals and help animal owners. The benefits of saving animals and helping their owners are many. Saving animals and treating them humanely makes our society more civilized. People who respect animals tend to respect each other more. Additionally, pets have been shown to improve people's quality of life. Pet owners live longer and show signs of being less stressed. Many older people's primary companion is a loving dog or cat. And animals are being used more and more on rescue and therapy missions. It's hard to put a dollar sign on such benefits, but the obvious value is undeniable.

The cost of caring for and adopting out homeless animals is a factor of the number of animals that become homeless, the time the animals are held from surrender to adoption, the number of adopted animals that are returned to the shelter, and the number of paid staff needed to run the facility. Heart of the Valley's approach minimizes the number of animals that become homeless by stressing education, pet owner assistance, and spaying and neutering. By providing every surrendered animal with a clean, low stress environment, adequate medical care, and behavioral training, HOTV's new facility will greatly reduce the time that animals are held waiting to be adopted, and thereby, reduce the necessary size of the facility and staff size needed to care for the animals. In addition the new facility will also attract an abundance of prospective customers.




Concurrently, by offering only healthy, well-behaved animals to new owners and then following up to assure correctable problems are promptly taken care of, the number of adopted animals that will be returned to the shelter should be minimal. And with an attractive, clean, cheery environment Heart of the Valley will have no problem attracting an army of volunteers, further minimizing the need for paid staff.

The cost of Heart of the Valley's facility represents \$100,000 per year over 30 years. Because this new facility should be able to handle at least twice as many animals as an old facility, the cost per animal will be reduced by almost half and every homeless animal will have a chance to be adopted. By building the facility today, Heart of the Valley can save our community hundreds of thousands of dollars in the near term and millions over the life of the facility. Join us in helping make this a reality. Call the office today and find out about Naming Opportunities and the Founders' Club.

556-4651






PetSmart Volunteer Orientation:
November 13, 6:30 pm
Galusha, Higgins & Galusha
777 E Main, Board Room

New Office Address:
Bozeman Hotel, Room 323
New fax: 556-1113

Pet Grief & Loss Support Information & Help:
Deb Gertiser, LCPC – 587-5552
The Rev. Mary Piper – 587-6381
Donna West – 585-9989

Looking for a new dog or cat, or maybe you need to find a new home for your pet?
Call HOTV's Adoption/Match-Making Network:
556-4651

Training or animal behavior questions? Before you get frustrated get help:
Ask the Trainer direct e-mail:
jackie @blackdog.cc



Heart of the Valley
animal center
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 4783
Bozeman, MT 59772

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The greatness of a community can be judged by the way it treats its animals.
Compassionate Care, Quality Adoptions, Lasting Relations.



Heart of the Valley
animal center
NEWSLETTER

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"If there is no heaven for dogs, then I want to go where they go when I die." — Anonymous

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www.dharmadesign.com
406.920.0333

"I am sometimes asked: Why do you spend so much of your time and money talking about kindness to animals when there is so much cruelty to men? I answer: I am working at the roots." — George T. Angell

In your lifetime, try to be the person your pet thinks you are. — Unknown

"The lives of animals are woven into our very being - closer than our own breathing . . ." — Gary Kowalskiz