

PAD for PAWS FOUNDATION

Supporting the welfare of domestic animals with resources, education, and services in the communities we serve



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Just Another Day

Many times people have asked what a typical day is like for Pad for Paws as it reaches out to help people and their pets around Helena. The best thing we can say is that every day is unpredictably different and interesting. We are continually amazed by what happens on any one day.

Along with meeting our weekly schedule of picking up, repackaging, and delivering cat and dog food to organizations and families all around Helena, there are always sudden moments of sadness and joy. One morning we may find a tiny kitten deserted under a wooden pallet behind a large retail store or a chained, skinny dog abandoned in squalid conditions in a rain-soaked backyard. Thank Heaven, we have those warm moments of joy when we learn that a dog we provided medical attention to won't be losing an eye after he suffered abuse.

We'll start with a typical Monday. It begins around 8:30 a.m. with loading 500 pounds of dog and cat food onto the truck and setting off at 9:00 to deliver it to Helena Food Share. Every Monday, sunny, rainy, or snowy, we make this trip to fill the shelves for people who get their pet food for a companion dog or cat before they pick up their own daily rations.



Pad for Paws volunteer Debhe Pistoria gives treats to canine friend, Drake

Next, after the trip to Helena Food Share, we return to the warehouse to load another couple hundred pounds for our daily deliveries. Then it's off to the homes of disabled senior citizens, to the mentally challenged, and those who are temporarily without jobs and trying to support therapy or service animals as well as themselves. We also meet several different groups of people at one of our designated meeting places after making our home deliveries. As workers in a volunteer-based non-profit foundation, we are responsible for fueling and maintaining our own vehicles for these deliveries.

Once we return home about 10:00 a.m., it's time to listen to the daily phone requests. We then begin answering them, taking phone applications for pet food and/or medical assistance for injured or sick pets, and assessing the needs of each case. This

outreach work on an average day can range from 30 minutes to several hours depending on the number of calls and the needs of particular pets and their owners. At this time we are also making our own phone calls to various veterinarians and checking up on any pets we have agreed to cover services for.

On this particular Monday we answer a call from the Red Cross asking for assistance for a family who had a

Article continues on page 4

Page 2

Cat Food Update
Wine Tasting Event

What's  Inside

Page 3

A Dog Named Jax
Memorials/Honorariums

Page 4

Feeding Malamutes
Help to Animal Rescue Groups
Milestones
Just Another Day (con't)

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*"To err is human,
to forgive, canine."*

— Anonymous

Getting Your Cat the Right Food

By Tia Nelson, DVM, Total Dynamic Balance Veterinarian Hospital



"My kitty has been vomiting off-and-on for the last three or four weeks," stated Pam, stroking Elliot her short-haired, two-year-old, muted orange tabby. "Do you think he has hair balls?"

I rubbed Elliot behind his ears, and he rewarded me by purring and pushing his head into my hand. I noticed that his fur was a bit greasy, and he had dandruff. He was at a good weight for his size, but his abdomen was pendulous and felt doughy.

"What to you feed him?" I asked.

"Oh," she said with a frown as she tried to remember. "I'm not sure, maybe Purina Cat Chow? I think it's in a blue bag."

"Does he have diarrhea at all?" I asked.

"Well, now that you mention it, he does seem to have loose stools more often than not," she replied.

"Without doing radiographs (x-rays) and blood work, I can't be positive, but I think he may be sensitive to his food. Cats are obligate carnivores and should never be fed carbohydrates on a regular basis. As such, cats eat to a protein requirement, not a caloric requirement, so when they are fed high-carbohydrate dry food, they get a lot more calories than they need to the amount of protein they have to have. Most commercial dry cat foods are full of carbohydrates, like corn and wheat, and cats' bodies don't know what to do with those grains.

"Also, because cats are desert evolved, they don't drink like dogs do, and dry food sets them up to be mildly dehydrated all the time. This is hard on their kidneys. Better food for a cat would be a high quality canned food and best would be a balanced raw diet. When they eat dry food with all the carbohydrates in them, kitties end up with issues like inflammatory bowel disease (which is what I think Elliot's problem is right now), obesity, kidney issues, and diabetes. Changing their diets to a high-quality, protein-rich canned or raw food will often completely solve their problems.

"I'd recommend that his diet be changed to a high-quality canned diet and we set up an appointment to recheck him in two weeks. Of course, in the mean time, if he has any problems or seems worse, please call.

"Also, there's a website that is great for answering cat questions: catinfo.org. Please check it out, and if you have any questions, give me a call."

Two weeks later Elliot returned for his follow-up appointment. "Oh my goodness," Pam exclaimed. "I had no idea what a huge difference just changing his diet would make! He's more active, he plays, and just look at his coat! He almost glows!" Sure enough, Elliot's coat had lost its greasy look, and his dandruff was completely gone. His abdomen looked better, and, in general he looked like a much healthier cat. He gazed calmly at me, purring loudly and arched his back into the palm of my hand when I stroked him.

"I had no idea that what we were feeding him was making him sick!" Pam went on, "He hasn't thrown up or had loose stools in 10 days, and I even think he's friendlier than he was before! Thank you so much! I was afraid we were going to lose him or that fixing him would be expensive and involve giving him pills every day. He'll never have dry food again!"



*Pad for Paws President
Garry Pistoria and
Island Liquors owner
Laura Fix on hand for
wine-tasting.*

Fund-Raising Wine Tasting a Great Success

This past March Island Liquors and Pad for Paws partnered for their first wine-tasting fund-raiser. This first venture was an overwhelming success, drawing a sell-out crowd of wine lovers. People attending the event were delighted to sample 12 new red and white wines from around the world while they munched on cold cuts, cheeses, breads, and other snacks.

Pad for Paws would like to thank Laura Fix for hosting the event at Island Liquors and for her generous contribution of a case of wine as a door prize for the lucky ticket holder. Pad for Paws looks forward to future wine-tasting events at Island Liquors.





A Dog Named Jax

As luck would have it, Jax's owner told a coworker that he was looking for a home for his dog. The coworker happened to know of a wonderful family wanting to rescue an animal. Luckily, the next day Ben came to see Jax. One look at the pitiful dog curled up in a tight ball while it rained was enough for Ben to adopt Jax immediately.

Ben, however, was just starting a new job after months of being unemployed. Since vet care wasn't in his tight budget, he called Pad for Paws for assistance with the vet visit. After a short conversation Pad for Paws set up a meeting with Ben and Jax. It was heartbreaking to see how skinny and sad Jax was.

The vet agreed to see Jax that same day, which was followed up by a couple more visits. The vet was able to get Jax's health back on track and give Ben lots of good advice about how to keep him healthy and happy. But the love and tenderness would come from Ben's family, and that is what changed the little pup's life. After the vet visit, Jax got his first bath and brushing. Much to everyone's delight, Jax welcomed the warm water and wagged his tail for the first time.

A couple of weeks later Ben called to update Jax's progress. He reports that one of Jax's favorite things is riding shotgun with Ben's wife when she takes the kids to and from school. Then it's off to Mount Helena for his daily walk with Mom. Jax also loves to curl up on his extra large dog bed made by one of Pad for Paws' board members. Jax has become a well-behaved and much-loved family member.

Jax's story is played out in communities across Montana on a daily basis. Jax was a 9-week-old puppy, full of life and wonder, just aching for the love of a family. What he got instead was a cold-hearted family who put him on a short chain in a backyard filled with debris and dog feces. Except for the chain, the only evidence of Jax's presence was a small, dirty blue plastic bowl used for his food and an old bucket for water.

Jax's playful spirit was eventually broken from the endless hours of being chained and neglected. Abandoned like the debris that littered the yard, Jax suffered days on end without human touch or the smallest bit of attention. He soon adopted the behaviors typically found in a deserted dog—a dwindling appetite, constant barking, and painful chewing on his own fur.

Memorial Donations

Pad for Paws thanks the generous people who have kindly remembered beloved friends and pets with memorial donations



Donors

Memorials/Honorariums

In Memory of Kay Morgan

Mari Russell
Margie Opitz
Dick Anderson Construction
Doug & Linda Graham
Mountain West Bank
Nancy Davis
Mike Blessinger
Norma Tirrell &
Gordon Bennett
Marilyn Grant
Michael Day
Nancy Kraft
Dick Anderson
Bakula & Senn
Power Townsend
Garry & Debbe Pistoria
Ed Smith
Bonnie Lambert
Dr. Robert & Susie Neill

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Mike Blessinger
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Susan Marks
William & Jan Brown
Joyce Saunders
Janet Morley
Lenore Duel
Jennifer O'Loughlin

Debbe Pistoria's beloved cat Scout
Our beloved cat Katie
Linaire Ritter's dog Nacho
Gregson Family companion dog Gertie
Jane LaMoure's dog Jake
Ed Smith's beloved mother, Dorothy Smith Farlan
Pets of Dick Anderson Family, Hershey & Bogey
Our beloved dog Fergus
Nancy Kraft's dog Fergus
Dave & Ruthanne Hansen's dog Kate
Mike Misowic's cat Tiger
Dog Jack
In Memory of Dorothy Lesko
Tom Kandt's dog Tucker
In Memory of my Mom Lois
Nancy Kraft's loving dog Fergus
In Memory of Ginger Marks
To Honor Zoe Brown
In Memory of Jackie Gibson and Virginia Thompson
In Memory of Dorothy Lesko
In Memory of Dale Taylor, who loved all animals
In Memory of her brother

The Pad for Paws Foundation is 100% volunteer based, with no paid employees.





Feeding the Malamutes

Last fall in a legal action involving charges of animal cruelty, over 160 malamutes were seized from their owner in Jefferson County. While the fate of the dogs was being decided in District Court, Pad for Paws donated 910 lbs. of food to help care for them. We are always happy to help with worthy causes like this one.



Board Member Nancy Jordan presenting Jefferson County Commissioner Tom Lythgoe with a pallet of dog food.

Pad for Paws Distributes Food to Other Animal Rescue Groups

Each year pet food manufacturers remove millions of pounds of nutritious pet food from warehouses because it is getting close to its expiration date, has been re-branded, or has been incorrectly packaged. Rescue Bank™ has named Pad for Paws as a Rescue Bank Affiliate Distributor partner in the Northwest.

As a participant in the Rescue Bank™ Pet Food Distribution Program, Pad for Paws has distributed thousands of pounds of much-needed food to the following animal-welfare groups here in Montana:

Pet-Paw See
Great Falls

Wild Cat Conservators
Helena

Helena Area Friends of Pets
Helena

Pintler Pet Rescue
Anaconda

Thompson River Animal Care Shelter
Thompson Falls

Animal Shelter and Care Committee
Boulder

Humane Society of Cascade County
Great Falls

RezQ Dogs
Dodson

Life Savers Animal Rescue
Polson

Selina Memorial Animal Rescue
Curdwll



PAD FOR PAWS REACHES ANOTHER MILESTONE

In April 2012, Pad for Paws reached a milestone for donations of cat and dog food to the pets of needy area citizens. Donations now total 200,000 lbs. Thank you to Safeway, Murdock's, and PETCO who have made their stores available for our pet food drives. Thank you to all volunteers who have provided valuable help with our efforts.

Just Another Day *(Continued from page 1)*

house fire the night before and lost everything. This family had two adult dogs and seven puppies. Within an hour we meet with the family and a neighbor, bringing them several dog beds, a large supply of dog food, a continuous water container, food bowls, treats, and a bag of sturdy toys for all those puppies. We will add that family to our large list of people and pets we keep in touch with until the family is relocated and back on its feet.

The last call of the day came about 4:30 p.m. from a gentleman from East Helena who has a seeing-eye dog.

We learn that this gentle giant is out of dog food and needs to see a vet to check out a limp that he is developing. We drive over with dog food and some treats and make a vet appointment for the next day since the dog is the man's guide dog.

That is as typical day as we have. We know tomorrow will bring many more requests for assistance with food and emergency vet care. There will be surprising situations that we have never encountered before. At the end of the day we are gratified to know that our local supporters make this level of compassionate care possible with their generous donations. Being able to help people and their pets in this direct way makes all the work worth it.

If you would like to make a memorial donation for a loved one or a pet, or a donation to support our efforts, please send it to Pad for Paws Foundation, P.O. Box 287, Helena, MT 59624.

