

PAD for POWS FOUNDATION

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



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Canine Rehabilitation Yields Great Benefits

By Jennifer Hill, Physical Therapist and Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner, Apex Animal Hospital

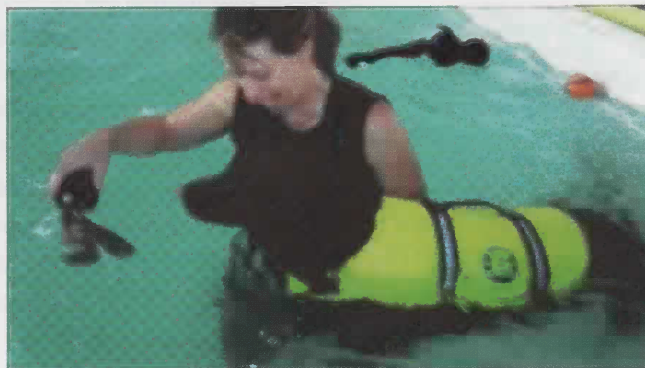
Recent advances in veterinary care now bring blessed relief to dogs suffering from a variety of physical ailments and injuries. According to the Veterinary and Physical Therapy Practice Acts in Montana, this therapy is designated as Canine Rehabilitation.



Photos (above) Jennifer measuring for improved flexibility (right) Jennifer using hydrotherapy on client

Canine Rehabilitation, as practiced in the best settings, is a team effort that involves the collaboration of two highly educated, licensed professionals: a physical therapist and a veterinarian. One must be a licensed physical therapist or veterinarian to gain certification from one of two national schools that specialize in Canine Rehabilitation. The team approach ensures that your dog will receive the best of both worlds—the knowledge and expertise of both a physical therapist and a veterinarian.

A special form of canine rehabilitation is hydrotherapy. Although water therapy has been used for centuries in the treatment of people's physical ailments, only recently has it become recognized for its value in the canine world of rehabilitation. Its benefits include decreasing pain to muscles and joints, decreasing weight-bearing stressors, relaxing muscles, and increasing balance and body awareness.



Additionally, hydrotherapy has been documented to increase metabolism, improve muscle tone and strength, and reduce swelling and improve circulation. Hydrotherapy specialists in consultation with veterinarians create individually tailored programs for canine patients. Some dogs will need post-operative strengthening programs; some will require weight-loss and muscle conditioning, while others will benefit from either relaxation or dispelling excess energy.

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*“Scratch a dog and
you’ll find a
permanent job.”*

— Franklin P. Jones

Pad for Paws Receives Two Much-Needed Grants



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Pad for Paws is the very happy recipient of two grants this month for its Paws Pantry program. Along with receiving a \$500 grant from Lewis & Clark Community Foundation, we also were awarded a \$500 grant from Lewis & Clark County.

The recognition from these two groups could not have come at a better time. The shelves in our pantry of dog and cat food were rapidly emptying after an unusually high demand for pet food during the summer as many families continue struggling to make ends meet. These two grants enabled us to buy much-needed food for these families’ dogs and cats, thus helping these families to buy food for themselves without denying their pets’ needs.

As Pad for Paws board members and volunteers get together to repackage big bags of weekly rations for Helena Food Share and dozens of economically stressed families, we gratefully remember the people who make our efforts possible with grants and other kinds of donations. Pad for Paws simply could not exist without their help. Their kindness and concern for needy pets and their families continue to inspire us.



Beautiful Quilt Donated to Pad for Paws Raffle

We also cannot thank the St. John’s Lutheran Women’s Group enough for donating a beautiful, home-made quilt called “Log Cabin” for the Pad for Paw’s charitable raffle this coming fall.

The quilt top was pieced by Janet Stetzer and quilted by Sandy Smith, whose names appear at the bottom of the quilt along with the date it was finished. Hidden in the design are also words relevant to the purple motif as well as feelings the quilter had while she was working.



Pad for Paws Board Member Nancy Jardon (left) and Supporter Veronica Carter display the quilt

Farewell to Duke

In mid-August while playing with his canine brothers and sisters in their sunny backyard, our beloved Duke (the abused dog featured in the last issue of our newsletter) suffered a heart attack and passed away. We will never know what role the abuse and severe neglect he suffered from his former owner played in his death, but we would rather focus on the wonderful, loving months he had with his new owners. His new family reported that Duke gained weight and sported a beautiful, fawn-colored, soft coat. They tell us that some of his favorite pastimes were romping in the backyard with the family, going for rides in the truck with his ears flapping in the breeze, and sneaking treats from the pantry. In every way, he was a loving member of the family, especially with the children who enjoyed him as a gentle playmate.

Pad for Paws would like to express its profound sympathy to Duke’s family who rescued him and gave him the best months of his life.



Paws Up...

... For Folks Who Care

As a grass-roots foundation existing entirely through Helena's extraordinary generosity and sense of volunteerism, Pad for Paws would like to recognize people who go out of their way to support animal welfare. These people come from all over the community. We want to thank them with our "paws up" recognition for a job well done.

We would like to begin by thanking Kaye Schloss, Barbara Chapman, and Erma Polich, the three angels in their 70s and 80s who braved the mid-summer heat to clean up the overgrown and abandoned Arly Burt Pet Cemetery. Not only did they do the hard work of weeding and restoring gravesites, but they also donated their own money to get the huge job done. Their efforts inspired those dozens of other people to "pitch in" on the project. This selfless kindness transformed the neglected cemetery into an attractive memorial ground for the beloved pets buried there for decades.

We also want to thank the hundreds of people who voted for Pad for Paws in the Helena Motors charitable giveaway, making us the organization that received the most votes. In voting the way they did, our many Facebook supporters clearly saw "the way it ought to be."

The spontaneous efforts of fellow citizens like these make us all proud to be Helenans.



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... For Two Of Our Own

From time to time, Pad for Paws wants to recognize supporters who really exemplify the spirit of volunteerism. This time we would like to thank Cristina Jardon and Nancy Kraft for all of the good things they do for our organization.

We begin with thanks to Cristina for sewing over 50 high-quality dog and cat beds that have given much needed relief and pleasure to so many animals who would otherwise be sleeping on hard concrete and wooden floors. Cristina has taken this kind of work upon herself for the past two years. At the same time she has regularly pitched in at "scooping parties" (gatherings to package up weekly rations of pet food for our clients), designing advertising materials, and performing many other services to Pad for Paws. She's really one of our "go-to" people.

We also want to thank Nancy Kraft for her generosity of time, energy, and spirit to our organization. Not only does she faithfully serve as the superb secretary at our board meeting by providing clear, complete minutes of meetings, but she makes many charitable donations to our programs. We recognize her for her quiet strength, her conviviality, and her sensible contributions to discussions about the board's policies and its daily operations.

Nancy and Cristina, you two are inspirations to the rest of us with all that you do. Thank you for being deeply appreciated members of our team.



... To State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign

Pad for Paws wants to thank the State Employees who made generous donations to our foundation during the last fiscal year. Your support makes a huge difference in the amount of help we are able to provide to domestic animals that would otherwise suffer from hunger and lack of crucial medical attention. Without your help we would not be able to keep up with this great need. Please remember us again this year.

The State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign (SECGC) will be officially conducted for six weeks this year, September 26–November 4, 2011. It provides an annual opportunity for all 14,000 state employees to support their favorite non-profit organizations by using payroll contributions or gift cards. This year Pad for Paws has been assigned the organization code 5261, which state employee donors can reference on their pledge forms or online with the Click & Give link.

Having no paid employees, Pad for Paws operates entirely by volunteers who donate their time and energy to food drives, fundraising, packaging and delivery of pet food, providing funds for medical care for sick and injured animals, and so on throughout the year. Our motto is "Keeping Pets and Their People Together." Thank you for helping us to live up to it.



...To Success at Safeway

Several times each year Safeway generously provides space and resources to Pad for Paws for pet food drives. This year's summer food drive on Saturday, June 25, was a great success. Tallying up the day's results, we were amazed to discover that shoppers donated \$315 in cash and an astounding 1275 lbs. of cat and dog food. The donations of that one Saturday enabled us to fill up Paws Pantry, which was nearly empty after meeting the needs of hungry pets during the previous two months.

Board members and volunteers working that Saturday were especially gratified by the warm reception we received. We heard lots of "thank you for the good work you're doing" from customers entering the store and making donations of money, pet food, and treats. We are also very grateful to Assistant Manager Ed Hagenbuch and staff members who made us feel welcome and provided timely announcements about the drive over the public address system.

And we would be remiss if we did not thank one more helper, our little canine spokesman Hermes, who did his bit by greeting countless customers.

Thanks once again to everyone who made the Safeway pet food drive one of the most successful drives we have ever had.



A Happy Ending...

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It was a hot, sunny Saturday on the July 4th weekend. Tee had just set up his camp along the Missouri River at Toston, Montana, and was ready to pop open a cold drink and relax a little in the shade before firing up the grill.

All of a sudden, he heard water splashing and looked up to see something strange. A man and a woman were standing a few feet offshore in the river. At first he couldn't tell what they were doing, but then he caught sight of them pushing a burlap sack in the water and trying to hold it down. He felt a chill rush through his body at the thought of what they might be trying to do. Without wasting a second, he raced toward the couple, yelling at the top of his lungs and waving his arms above his head. He was sure that there was something horrible about to happen.

Seeing Tee running toward them, the couple immediately released the burlap sack and ran up the hillside as quickly as they could. Tee had to make a split-second decision: chase after them or grab the sack that was sinking under the water and slipping away. When he grabbed the sack, he felt a small, cold body struggling inside the bag. From the little squeaks and cries, he could tell it was a small animal of some kind.

Quickly ripping the bag open, he found the tiny chocolate brown lab puppy lying still and limp in his arms. He removed the little guy and gently put him inside his shirt to warm up. Back at camp, he rubbed the soaked little body, afraid that he might have been too late. After some agonizing minutes, the puppy started moving and becoming alert. After resting from his near-drowning trauma, the tiny brown pup stayed close to Tee for the rest of the day and night, sleeping only inches from him.

As terrifying as their meeting had been, it has become the beginning of what promises to be a long, beautiful story. Little Burt and Tee have bonded for life. When Tee called Pad for Paws for some vet assistance in caring for Burt, we felt honored to help in any way we could. Tee had requested some vet care and neutering for when Burt gets old enough. We were thrilled that after a vet exam and his puppy shots, Burt was reported to be a healthy, happy little puppy. He appears to have suffered no ill effects at the



Precious puppy, Burt

hands of the man and woman who tried to end his life, thanks to Tee's quick, humane response.

Sadly, no one got a license plate number or a good description of the couple who ran away when Tee approached them. We will probably never know who they are and why they felt the only way to rid themselves of a puppy was to drown him in a river.

Pad for Paws Memorials, January—July 2011

Pad for Paws would like to thank the following generous people who have kindly remembered beloved friends and pets with memorial donations:

Donors:

Gayle and Dan Gilmore
William and Jan Brown
Terry and Karen Screnar
Margie Opitz
Mike Blessinger
Dick Morgan

Dick Morgan
Dick Morgan
Nancy Kraft
Nancy Kraft
Jeff and Marie Tobin
Wayne and Cathy Carriere

Memorial for:

"Maddie," beloved dog of Gail Moser
Dan Bridges
Darlene Gamble
Colleen Lordeman
For my cat "Tigger"
"Riley," beloved dog and lifetime companion of Margie Opitz
"Gertie," 17-year-long companion of the Gregson Family
Jean Weeks, friend and neighbor
"Morgan," pet dog of Mark and Connie Lere
Ralph Visconti, friend
"Erma," beloved cat of Chris and Mike Horner
Our friend's companion, Molly



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If you would like to remember a friend or a beloved pet who has passed away, please email us at info@padforpaws.org or visit our website. Your gift will help us to alleviate the suffering of domestic animals in the Helena area with food and medical attention.

