

PAD for PAWS FOUNDATION

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



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Winter 2011 Newsletter • Volume 1 • Number 3

Helena Helps Paws Pantry Reach a Milestone

It's time to celebrate! During the first week of January, the Pad for Paws Foundation reached a record for donations of cat and dog food we never imagined possible—a whopping 100,000 pounds! That's 50 tons of much needed food for hungry cats and dogs that we've been able to provide to desperate individuals and families struggling to survive the loss of jobs, illnesses, the rising costs of food, gasoline, heating fuel, and other necessities.

What's surprising is the short time it took the Helena community to donate this mountain of pet food. Starting up a little over two years ago, our Paws Pantry program has steadily grown to keep up with the growing need for pet food in these difficult economic times. But we didn't do it alone. We've had lots of help from friends and neighbors along the way.

The employees of Safeway and Murdoch's have generously made their stores available for pet food drives. With their help, we've been able to fill the bare pet food shelves at Helena Food Share, or the cupboards bare of cat or dog food in the homes of the elderly and many others living on limited incomes. Additionally, banks, credit unions, educational institutions, state employees, businesses and a local radio station have helped us. They have all reached into their pockets or rolled up their sleeves and offered their help.



And we can't say enough about those hundreds of people who have handed us a bag or two of pet food or a few dollars to help us in this worthy cause. Saying "thank you" doesn't begin to express our gratitude to everyone who took the time to think about the problem of hungry animals and then did something about it.

At this point we wish to thank all who accepted our invitation to the Not At All Ball ~ that is, an invitation to *not attend* another formal dinner party, dance, or auction! Thank you for appreciating our humor and sending your generous contributions to help feed needy cats and dogs.

We also deeply thank the dozens of volunteers who join us for monthly "scooping" parties in which we break down large bags of dog and cat food and re-package it into weekly serving-sized packages. Their generous donation of time, energy, and good spirits is crucial for the Paws Pantry program.

The Pad for Paws Foundation is staffed entirely of volunteers. We have no paid employees, and none of us receives compensation of any kind. We passionately believe that the work we do for the needs of dogs and cats is crucial. Literally, every penny we receive in donations goes directly to the needy dogs and cats in the Helena area.

PET FOOD DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Batteries Plus	Helena Food Share	Quik Check
3091 N. Sanders	1616 Lewis	1101 E. Lyndale

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*"Dogs come when
they're called;
cats take a message
and get back to you
later."*

— Mary Bly

A Message From Wild Cat Conservators *by Bobbie Pomroy*



Abandoned, but not forgotten!

Did you know that the Helena area has a feral cat population that is out of control? These felines stay out of sight, so you rarely see them unless they're on your property or found dead on the roads. Feral cat colonies are everywhere, in town and in the surrounding counties. Frequently found among the feral cat population are cats that have been abandoned by their owners or dumped by some uncaring and cruel individual. The community's only solution to control the population of wild cats in this area, thus far, has been to trap and kill them.

Who We Are

We are a group of individuals who believe there is a better, more humane solution for these cats. We are trying to solve the over-population problem by live trapping and spaying and neutering to eventually reduce their numbers. We have processed over 600 cats to date, and have an overwhelming number of colonies waiting for our group to assess. Our observation is that almost 80% of the feral cats are tame, which sadly reminds us that most of these cats once had homes.

What We Do

When we trap a colony, we first get the members spayed or neutered, get them vaccinated, and then attend to any medical issues they may have. We determine if a caregiver is present, and if so, and the colony is not creating a problem, we return the cats to their home, now unable to reproduce and now protected against diseases. If the colony is considered a nuisance and is at risk of being harmed or endangered, volunteers take the cats and provide shelter, care for, and feed them until new homes can be found for each and every one of them.

Adoptions

Our adoption rate has been around 70% per year. Many of these cats have great personalities and are in need of a permanent loving home. We also have cats that would make great working barn/ranch cats. Our group provides cats to responsible and caring homes and ranches. And while these cats are provided free of charge, we seek donations to help continue our work.



Cats feeding in outdoor play area

Volunteers

Our group is small, and we work out of our homes. The care and feeding of neglected felines involves a great deal of work, discipline, and determination.

As a compassionate group, we are dedicated to solving the overpopulation problem and putting an end to the abuse of Helena's feral cat colonies. Up until now, we have funded our efforts mostly from our members' individual donations. But we are growing, and the word is spreading about what we do, including the realization that we have much more to do. We have begun to receive donations and have also received support from the Pad for Paws Foundation.

Supporters of our efforts include Helena Area Friends of Pets (HAFoP), vouchers for spay and neutering; Pad for Paws Foundation, litter and cat food; Jane Claassen's Bedding Central, cat bedding; and local veterinarians Total Dynamic Balance and Apex Animal Hospital, who are our primary vet clinics. More information is available by mail: WCC, 9 Williams Way, Clancy, MT 59634, or by calling 439.3106.



Duke's Story

Why did my owners lock me in this dark, cold shed? Why is there no food or water for me? What did I do? I loved them and I was a good boy. Why am I forced to stand here in my own feces and urine? There is no space to even lie down and rest. What will happen to me; I am so tired and cold. Please, somebody help me!

In early January, a family pulled in the driveway to inquire about a litter of puppies that was advertised in the newspaper. After speaking with the breeder, they were drawn to the pitiful noises coming from the shed. They asked about the dog kept in the shed, and were told the dog was supposed to be a hunting dog, but since that didn't work out, the family kept the dog locked up.

Stunned by this information, the family asked to see the dog. The shed door was opened, and Duke wobbled over to the visitors, with his head down and the putrid stench of the thick dried feces covering his skinny body. The shed was filled with feces, urine, and garbage and there was no sign of food or water anywhere. The owner quickly stated he disliked Duke and the visitors' could have him. As they put out their hand to the neglected dog, Duke's tail started wagging slowly, two blank eyes looked directly into their faces, and he slowly licked their hands. Fighting back tears, the family told the owner that they would consider taking Duke, but needed to think about it.

Many tears were shed on the sad drive home, and panic for Duke's fate set in. But all factors had to be weighed: the family already had dogs and kids at home, and they weren't sure they could afford the obvious veterinarian expenses that would be needed to help Duke. After a sleepless night, the family returned the next day and rescued Duke from his horrific confinement.

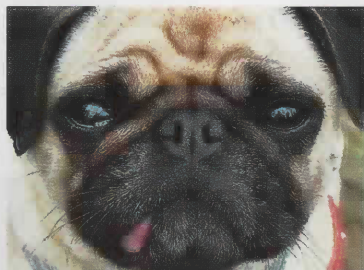
The stench was so bad that the first stop the family made was to the dog wash. It took two complete washes to rid

Duke of all of the dried feces and filth. Duke was so grateful, he just lay in the bath and welcomed the warm water washing away the severe neglect and hatefulness that had been his life. A beautiful buckskin-colored coat emerged, and he began looking like a regular dog.

The next morning a phone call was placed to the Pad for Paws Foundation, and Duke's new owners asked for veterinarian assistance. The following morning, Duke received a very thorough exam complete with several treatments. After completing his exam and an array of shots, Duke went to his new home with his head held high and tail wagging. Later that day, Duke met with Pad for Paws Foundation volunteer Debbe Pistoria. She recalls the encounter:

With a new leash and collar, and wearing a sweater to cover his protruding ribs, Duke was gently lifted out of a truck. He held his head high, and while wobbly on his feet, he walked over to me and licked my hand. After giving the family an ample supply of nutritious dog food, treats, and an orthopedic bed, I watched Duke's new family gently and lovingly tending to him. It was obvious Duke was finally going to be receiving the love and care he deserved. The family has since reported that Duke is thriving in his new home and is "the sweetest dog we have ever owned; our dogs love him, the kids adore him, and he adores them." I am deeply saddened and angered by the people who tossed Duke in a cold, filthy shed, heard his pitiful pleas for help and just ignored this precious animal. Thankfully Duke was rescued and we were able to help in his recovery.

*Want to pay
tribute to a
friend or dear
family pet?*



Consider making a honorary or memorial donation on behalf of your beloved pet, dear family member or friend. Donated funds will be used to provide support for domestic animals in the Helena area. Donations can be made on-line, or mailed to:

Pad for Paws Foundation
P.O. Box 287 ~ Helena, MT 59624



Curious About Our Activities?

As another year comes to an end, we reflect on our accomplishments and the impact our foundation has had in bettering the lives of domestic animals in the Helena area. Several successful fundraisers allowed us to increase our pet food deliveries to Helena Food Share to five days per week and provide a 30% increase in additional pet food deliveries to the pets of needy individuals. Cash donations gave us funds to assist with several emergency veterinarian expenses and provide some desperately-needed outdoor shelters.



In early January, our pet food delivery totals passed the 100,000 level, an amazing milestone that our board and volunteers are extremely proud of. The Pad for Paws Foundation now supplies Helena Food Share with approximately 500 pounds of nutritious dog and cat food each week. The demands continue to be harsh on families who have fallen on hard times due to job loss, illness, divorce, and limited incomes. Our support has helped these individuals provide care for their loving companions, even if their need is only short-term.

With the economy still lagging, demand continues to increase, and our mission to assist becomes even more important for our furry friends. Donations of pet food and cash are even more critical now. We can't do it without our wonderful animal-loving supporters! This year alone, Murdoch's, Safeway, PETCO and others (who wish to remain anonymous) have partnered with us to host pet food drives. Cherry Creek Radio has been generous in helping us get our message out to the Helena-area community. None of this could be possible without the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

Pad For Paws Foundation Board of Directors



Paws Pantry Pet Food Deliveries

Due to the generous donations received from Helena retailers and local citizens, the foundation has donated, through its Paws Pantry program

100,000 lbs.
of cat & dog food

for the pets of individuals and families presently experiencing financial hardships. If you'd like to make a donation, please visit our website or call 442.7373.



*If you would like to
join the effort of
alleviating the suffering
and enhancing the lives
of domestic animals
in our community,
please contact us,
or visit padforpaws.org*



Halloween Fun

On October 30th, PETCO held its annual Halloween Animal Costume Contest. Numerous entrants, ranging from cats, dogs, a ferret, and a goose, vied for three prizes. Everyone, including the pets, had a great time. The grand prize went to Killer the goose, as pictured in this photograph generously supplied by Donald Dayo, Photographer at Large, who was there to catch all the action.

