

Humanely Speaking

Bangor Humane Society Winter 2024 Newsletter

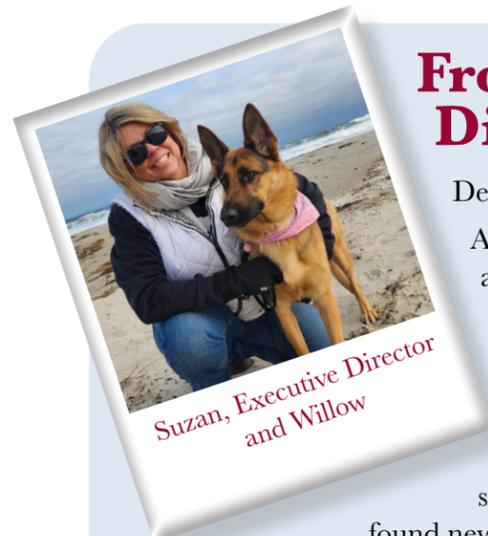
Annual Report Edition

Tina the hound prepares for the
runway at this year's Paws on Parade!

See more on page #6-7



MelBee Photography



From the Director

Dear Friends,

Another year of hard work and big love draws to a close at Bangor Humane Society.

Though the challenges of the changing landscape of animal welfare have kept us on our toes, it's been a year full of success. With your help, we've

found new homes for 1,744 pets, and celebrated BIG when some of our long-stay canine

friends finally found their forever families. We've reunited 280 pets with rightful owners. And thanks to your generosity, 2,080 animals found respite at BHS.

We completed work on a huge HVAC upgrade that simply couldn't wait any longer. Our heating and cooling systems can now keep pace with our modern facility. Our animals (and our people!) will be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Temperature control keeps everyone comfortable, making recovery times for the injured or ill that much faster. Thank you for caring so much that repairs like this are possible.

We have worked hard to improve our medical efficiencies, successfully transitioning all but the most complicated or emergent cases to our in-house staff and dedicated, on-site contracting veterinary partners. As costs for everything from food to medical supplies continue to rise, we thank you for making that care possible.

Your support means animals can continue to be housed and served for as long as it takes for them to find a home. The time you take to visit, share social media posts, tell friends about the work of saving animal lives, volunteer, foster, or collect and donate supplies is what keeps us going. The world feels a little like a roller coaster some days, but I am grateful our combined dedication to animals can help keep us grounded.

If the best way to improve your life is to be in service to others, then we hope your lives and hearts feel as full as ours.

Gratefully,

Suzan Prendergast
Suzan Prendergast
Executive Director

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 1pm-6pm
Saturday: 12pm-6pm
Sunday: Closed

Winter Hours of Operation

Effective Dec. 16
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 1pm-6pm
Saturday: 12pm-6pm
Sunday: Closed



Board of Directors 2023-2024

Russ Maynard, **President**
Chris Barry, DVM, **Vice President**
Jennifer L. Morren, CPA, EA, **Treasurer**
Abbey Ramsay, **Secretary**
Buddy Angst
Vicki Blais
John Bunker
Stacie Madrid
Emily McIntosh
Dawn Poitras
Jeff Russell

Our Staff

Executive Director
Suzan Prendergast
Director of Development and Communications
Kathryn Ravenscraft
Volunteer and Community Outreach Director
Chelsea Brown
Director of Medical Services
Allen Batchelder, LVT
Director of Animal Care
Sam Carruth
Licensed Veterinary Technician
Stacey Dunifer
Administrative Assistant
Gabby Hubbell
Adoption Counselors
Alicia, Jess, Kiki, Jay, Melinda, Vee, Gracie, Ada
Animal Care Technicians
Audrey, Alex, Lily, Mallory, Marin, Makayla, Emma

HOME FUR THE HOLIDAYS

We've brought you a lot of stories about long-stay dogs. Wonderful, deserving goodest dogs who have been in our shelter for longer than we like, but we KNOW are adoptable.

Well, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate a few long-stay Happy Tails because we couldn't have done it without you!



Hercules, 231 days at shelter

Trust was hard after the death of his first owner, but new owner, Tim drew him out of his shell and Hercules knows he's safe now. Congratulations, Herc and Tim!

Chance, 510 days at shelter

Arriving as a stray, fearful and dog-reactive, it took time to trust our staff. His excitable kennel behavior was a challenge, but but Sam and Emily could see the "Real Chance". <3



Bagheera, 957 days at shelter

One of our most exciting success stories, "Baggy" is a local celebrity. Beloved by regular visitors and featured on every media outlet in the region, she regularly attended community events, and for six months had her photo and profile on pizza boxes leaving Zeppa's Pizza in Ellsworth. But it took a visit from Kreg for sparks to fly, and Bagheera is now obviously living her best life.

Soul Friends Fur-tography



Soul Friends Fur-tography

Volunteer Spotlight: Des Lynn

Des began volunteering for BHS in 2021 and has become a valued and essential member of our volunteer corps. She and her daughter, Amaya, can be found cleaning kennels or walking dogs nearly every day. Amaya shared, "I'm glad she invited me to volunteer with her. Helping animals is something we have bonded over and it gives me a chance to spend some time with her. I love you, Mom."

Des is the first to raise her hand when the call goes out to bring animals to events or help our admin staff. You may have seen her at the Partners for Peace Gala with Bowzer the dog, showing off furry friends at Penobscot Theatre Company's holiday shows, or manning the BHS booth at any one of a dozen events in the Bangor region. "I am so thankful to have her a part of the BHS family," said Volunteer and Community Outreach Director, Chelsea Brown. In short, she is indispensable. Thank you, Des!



Des and shelter cat Misty



Des and daughter Amaya staff the BHS Yard Sale booth at Paws on Parade.



Des inspects a prize at Paws on Parade.

Dear Santa,

I'm writing because everyone says you make Christmas wishes come true, and I'm hoping you might consider mine. Of course, I AM still a cat and abhor dramatic displays of emotion, so let's skip any further pleasantries and get straight to the point, which is my very thoughtful and conservative wish list for the holidays.

1. **A Forever Home.** I know that's a big wish, but it's all I really want. A home where someone will pet me when I want, and let me have my space when I need it. I promise to be patient while the humans earn my trust.

2. **A Window to Look Out Of.** Picture this: me, basking in the sunshine, glaring at any dogs with the audacity to walk past my house, and trilling at birds before ambling into the kitchen to knock over my water dish and walk on the counters. Ah, that'd be the life.

3. **A Few Toys, Please.** A soft, feathery toy I can bat around, or a crinkly ball I can carry in my mouth, often while howling (because I'm a cat, and yes, sometimes I like to do that).

4. **Love.** Fine. You got me. I have feelings (yuck)! A gentle pet on the head, a quiet evening curled up on the couch—those things would mean the world to me. If you could help me find my forever family, I would be so, so grateful.

I can't wait to strut around a house of my own, batting things off of tables, and entertaining everyone with my midnight operas. But seriously, Santa, I know I have a lot of love to give and I appreciate your help. I'll be here, purring and hoping my wish comes true.

Love,
Kitty

Dear Santa,

We don't have any wants this year because our hearts are full. We do have a few needs though, can you help?

Blankets, sheets, towels
Dog toys
Cat toys
High value dog treats, like jerky
Cat treats
Canned cat or dog food
Cleaning supplies (bleach, paper towels, etc.)

Sincerely,
Your friends at BHS

Santa
123 Elf Rd.
North Pole 88888



Caesar, 8-1/2: looking to be the sole animal in the household, prefers teens and adults. Enjoys a prescription diet.



Frankie, 13-1/2: sweet blind boy. FIV+ and must be the only cat. Radiates a gentle, mellow spirit.



Ash, 15: senior lady with no known history. Looking for snuggles and peace.



Baby, 2: Timid lovebug who needed time to recuperate. FeLV+, vet relationship required.



Zatter, 9: lazy snugglebug who needs a few low-intensity workouts and prefers to be the only animal in the house.



Baron, 8: loyal companion and seasoned explorer who would do best as the only animal in a cozy home.



Mandy, 4-1/2: this spunky girl has been here a while. Looking for adventure and an owner as tenacious as she is.



Smitty, 1-1/2: playful boy still in his puppyhood. Needs time to warm up to people, and has a heart of gold.

Dear Santa,

Hi! Remember me? I was the one wagging my tail when you visited last year. I may have jumped up on you to say hello. Sorry about that—didn't mean to get paw prints on your uniform. I've been working really hard this year to be a good dog, so I'm pretty sure I'm still on the Nice List. Right? Right??

Anyway, I'm writing to you this year from a shelter. I've been here for a little while now. It's not so bad. The people who take care of me are super nice, but it's not the same as having a family of my own. Anyway, here's my list:

1. **A family to call my own.** I know it's a big ask, but I've been dreaming about it for a long time. Someone to take me for walks, to cuddle with me when they're tired, and to love me the way I promise to love them. I'll be the best dog ever, Santa, I swear.

2. **A soft, warm bed.** The floor here isn't always the most comfortable, and sometimes it's cold at night. I would love a soft bed where I can curl up and feel safe.

3. **Treats!** I don't think you understand how serious this one is. I'm talking the really good ones—like soft biscuits or chewy jerky. I'll even sit and stay for them (well, usually).

4. **A squeaky toy that never dies.** You know how sometimes I get really excited, and I play so hard that the squeaky sound stops? Well, I need a squeaky toy that can go the distance. Extra points for fluff!

I don't need much, Santa, mostly just love. I don't know if I'll get everything on my list, and that's okay, but if you only bring me one thing this Christmas, I hope it's a family and then I'll be the happiest dog in the world.

Thank you, Santa. I'll be waiting here, tail wagging, hoping my wish will come true.

Love,
The Goodest Dog

*All of these pets were available for adoption at time of printing and may have been adopted. Please visit us at bangorhumane.org to see whether an animal you may be interested in is still available.



MelBee Photography©



"I don't think people can begin to understand the amount of work it takes to put on this event every year. It involves every department in our organization, not to mention our many volunteers. Many thanks to every one of our donors for making the success of this event possible!"

-Russ Maynard
Board President



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Total Raised
\$116,767



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Your Commercial Building Solution

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ESTABLISHED 1975

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EDWARDS BROTHERS Supermarkets
"shop n save with us"

Veazie Veterinary Clinic

Danforth's Down Home Supermarket
ALL ROADS LEAD TO DOWNEAST
Toyota | Rent-A-Car | Auto Body

Quality JEWELERS SALES & SERVICE
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Eaton Peabody | blueberry | Brookings-Smith | LAZY MOUND | MAINE EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Maine Savings | Paradi Shop 'n Save Supermarket | VERSANT POWER

Bangor Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
BerryDunn
Changing Seasons FCU
Creative Print
Diversified Ink

Leighton & Longtin, LLP, CPAs
RBC Wealth Management
Sea Dog Brewing Co.
Skowhegan Savings Bank
University Credit Union



"Our community of supporters came through again this year to make Paws on Parade a success! As the needs continue to grow, the people and pets whose lives have been enriched by Bangor Humane Society show up with their leashes (and their dollars) to make sure that the important work of saving more lives and making more matches continues into the future. It's heartwarming.

-Emily McIntosh
Paws on Parade Committee Chair



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

You make me feel unbelievably lucky to serve on the BHS Board of Directors. As I complete my seventh year in service to the board, and my second year as President, I am at a loss to accurately describe just how lucky we ALL are to be part of this team. We often hear words like “team” and “teamwork” without experiencing the true meaning of them, and it has been a great privilege being part of this team with YOU every day. It’s been the most uplifting period of my life. As this year draws to a close, I reflect on the many accomplishments our team has celebrated, one of which was a huge improvement project that could not have been completed without your help.

At the beginning of the year, it was apparent that our old heating and cooling systems had reached the end of their service life. The constant repairs were both cost-prohibitive and inefficient, and a unanimous vote from the board approved the purchase of new systems, both of which were necessary to maintain top level animal care and comfort. Staff members were an integral part of planning, and while there were many inconveniences, they seamlessly adapted their workflow to accommodate the scope of this project. The replacements are finally complete, and our building and animals are warm. Your generosity helped make this a success! Teamwork!!

It takes a big team to run an animal shelter. Our generous community of donors, business partners, and grantors provide the financial support the shelter needs to keep operating; I have personally witnessed many wonderful people dropping off towels, blankets, food, and anything animal related; and the turnout and support for this year’s Paws on Parade was spectacular. Your cheerleading never fails to inspire us. You are all a valuable part of our team and thank you just doesn’t seem to be enough. Please know you are appreciated—**thank you all!**

Russ Maynard
President, Board of Directors

Shelter Statistics

- 1,136** Spay/Neuter surgeries on-site (dogs, cats, rabbits)
- 4,201** Vaccinations given (includes rabies, bordetella, and distemper)
- 185** Animals served through our Spay-Your-Mama program
- 650+** individual visits to our Free Pet Food Pantry
- 700+** cats admitted to low-cost spay/neuter clinic in partnership with **Maine Woods Mobile Vet**
- \$36,565** Redeemed value of spay/neuter vouchers for low-income individuals and families
- \$211,695.05** In-house medical care (vaccinations, spay/neuter, labwork, treatments)
- \$128,513.69** Extraordinary Medical Care (orthopedic, oral surgery, medical emergencies)
- 97%** “Live Release Rate”

*the rate at which our animals are reclaimed by owners or adopted out to new owners

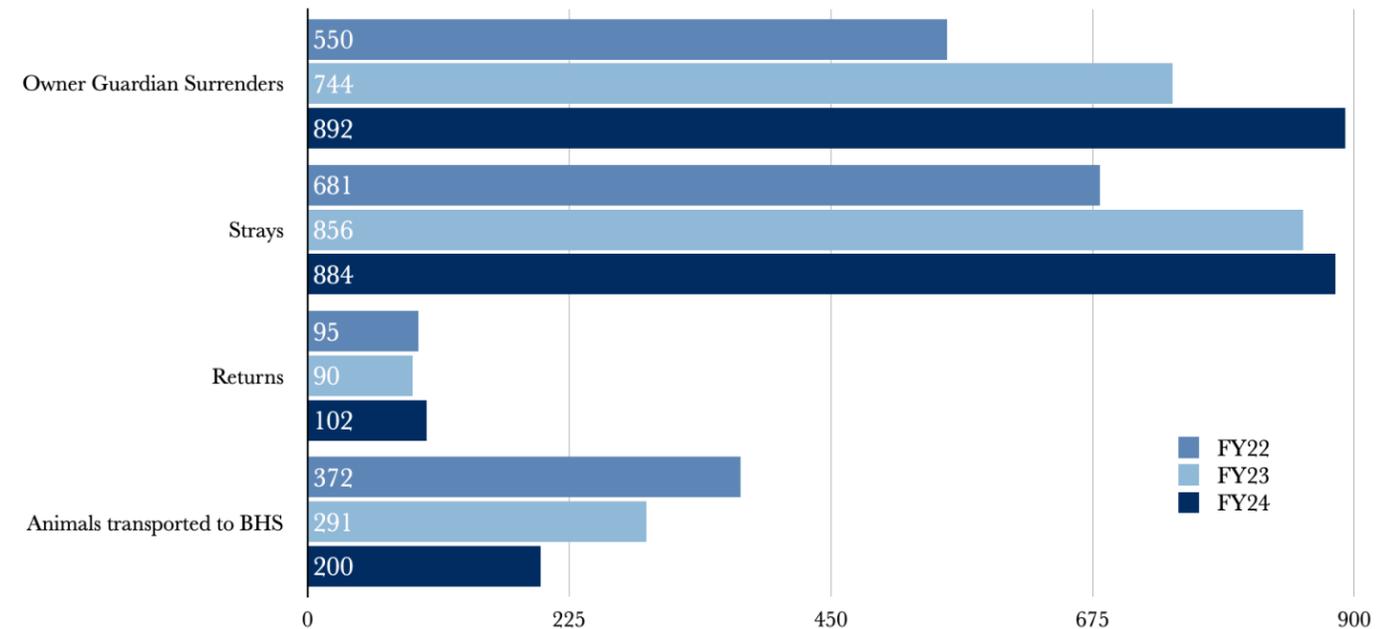
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES: RESOURCES FOR PETS AND FAMILIES

At BHS, we are deeply committed to supporting pet owners and the communities we proudly serve. We understand the challenges that many families face, and we remain dedicated to providing resources and assistance wherever possible.

Our mission centers on the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, while also prioritizing efforts to keep pets with their current families whenever feasible. In line with this commitment, we have provided access to low-income spay/neuter vouchers, marking 15 years of aiding pet owners in affording sterilization procedures and helping to prevent overpopulation. For the second year in a row, we have partnered with Maine Woods Mobile Vet to offer an on-site low-cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. Our Spay-Your-Mama program provides temporary shelter for pregnant or nursing mama cats and dogs, allowing them to care for their young and be sterilized before being returned to their owners. Lastly, we continue to provide essential pet food and supplies to families in need across our region, ensuring that pets remain healthy, well-fed, and supported.

We currently serve more than 34 cities, towns, and unorganized territories and our dedication to both animals and the people in our community remains unwavering. With your help, we are grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact.

Intakes by the Numbers



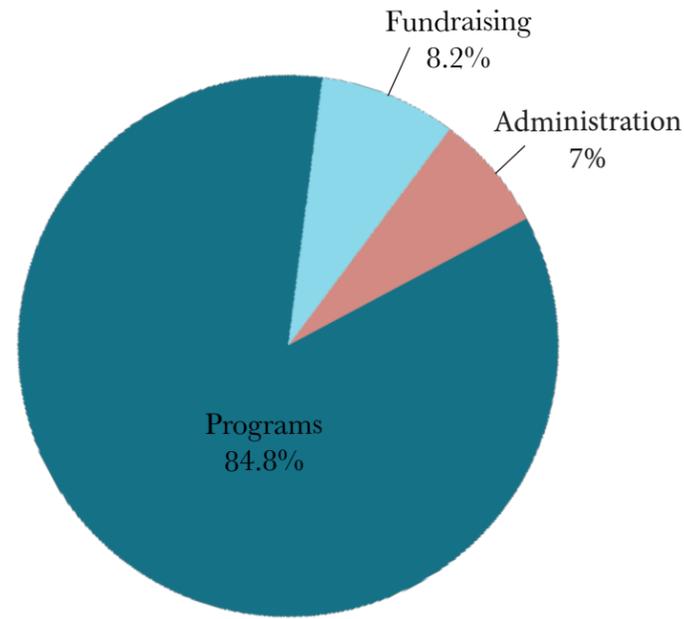
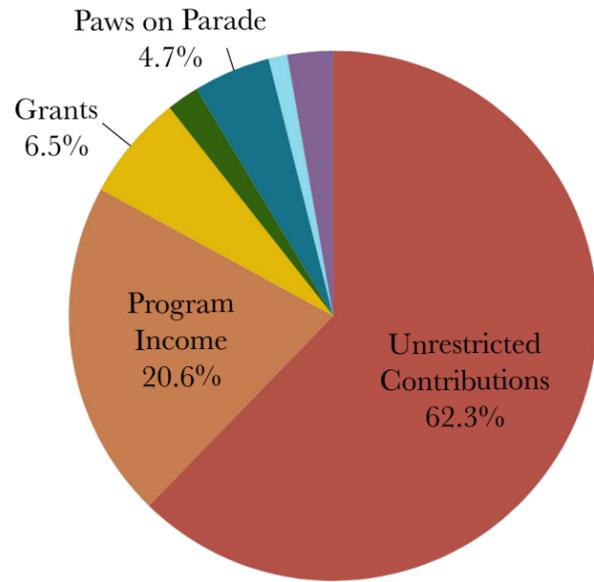
As challenges to daily life have increased and the needs of our community change, the total numbers of surrendered and stray animals have increased significantly. This has meant the number of intakes from southern shelters has been reduced so we can accommodate the needs of those animals in our footprint. As the demand for our help grows, we remain committed to the standard of care that our region’s pets, and people, rely on.

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Total Income \$2,099,590

Total Expenses \$1,819,462



- Unrestricted Contributions: \$1,307,787
 - Program Income (adoptions, municipal contracts): \$433,058
 - Grants: \$135,600
 - Restricted Contributions: \$41,560
 - Paws on Parade: \$98,952
 - In-kind donations: \$24,000
 - Net income for investments: \$58,633
- Programs: \$1,542,871
 - Fundraising: \$148,940
 - Administration: \$127,651

Active Volunteers

130

Volunteer Service Value

\$178,080

Active Foster Families

70

Volunteer Hours

5,600

THANK YOU!

Our Golden Paw Society is made up of donors that have given \$1,000 or more to the Bangor Humane Society during FY24 (May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024). These generous individuals, families, foundations, and businesses keep the work of saving animal lives moving forward in significant ways. We wish to thank the following donors for their extraordinary generosity.

Golden Paw Donors

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Hannah and William Allen
Hollis M. Allen Jr.
Cathy Anderson
Bangor High School Sub-Deb
Carol Bartlett
Kathy and Bruce Black
Karen Boudreau
Robert Brennan
Edith Bullock
Alfred and Esther Bushway
Ernest E. Capen
Susan Carlisle
Susan Cheff
Robin and David Climo
James Cohen
Jayme Colket
Judy Commeau
Justin Cronin
Jonathan and Sherri Cross
Joan Decato
Maura Emerson and Guillermo Olivos
Estate of Kim Erickson
Estate of Barbara Ericson
Amy Faircloth in memory of Dean Lewis | Robin Fulcher
Jim and Cathy Gero
Girl Scouts Troop 841
Randall Grace
Nancy Graham
Loretta Grinnell
Marilee and Glendon Harding
Richard Harnum
Sally Hartford
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Kari Hendrich
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Gregory and Elizabeth Jamison
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Michael and Gale Longo
Maryjane Low
Estate of Charlene Luce
Stanley and Marie MacMillan
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Matthew Ryan and Katie Ryan
Kathryn and Leonard Shultz
Kimberly Smith
James Spear
Hannah Tackett
Peter and Leslie Tuell
University Of Maine School Of Performing Arts
Teri-Lee Wade
Sheila Wellehan
Tori Weston Housecall Vet
Bruce Wilson and Christine Durham
Diana Yandell |
|---|---|--|

Businesses and Organizations

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bangor Savings Bank
Bell's Furry Friends Photography
Blackstream Custom Cycles
Bowman Constructors
Brookings-Smith
C.A. Newcomb & Sons
Casella Waste Systems - Eastern Region
Central Maine Harley Davidson
Changing Seasons Federal Credit Union
Coach House Restaurant
Corey Recycling
Creative Print Services
Cross Insurance
Danforth's Down Home Supermarket
Darling's Ford VW Audi
Downeast Toyota
Dysart's Family
Eaton Peabody
Edwards Brothers Supermarkets
Github
Hannaford | Hermon Meadow Golf Association
Hollywood Casino
Katahdin Trust
Liberty Mutual
Maine Beer Company
Maine Equipment Rentals
Mason's Brewing Company, LLC
Mclaughlin Logging
Means Wealth Management
MelBee Photography
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Northern Light Health
Penn Entertainment
Penobscot Veterinary Hospital
Quirk Subaru of Bangor
Rideouts Market
Subaru of America
Subaru of New England
The Keeping Room
Veazie Veterinary Clinic
Versant Power |
|---|---|

Foundations & Trusts

- ASPCA
- Carl E. Danforth Trust
- Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation
- Edward Mayo Bayard Trust
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Harnum Family Foundation
- Herfort Family Fund
- Joan C. Pederson Fund
- Laura J. Niles Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
- Nancy O. Egery Fund
- Pamela D. Chute Pet Trust
- Penobscot County Commissioners
- Spencer Murfey Family Foundation
- The Duane Family Charitable Fund
- The Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation
- The Ray Family Charitable Trust
- Walmart Spark Good

Volunteer and Community Outreach Director, Chelsea Brown, along with our volunteers, visited The Fairmount School in Bangor this fall to talk to students about the work of BHS. The children learned all about the animals at the shelter and how they are cared for. We mentioned to the children that it is a lot of work to come up with new names for all these pets and asked if they'd be willing to give us some ideas. We had no idea how much fun they would have with that question, and we received HUNDREDS of suggestions.

Our staff took a look at the list and voted on the top ten names:

10. Pookie
9. Bigfoot
8. Lenny Taco Meow
7. Mr. Meowgy
6. Sir Mr. Fluffy Kitty
5. Steve Harvey
4. WebMD
3. Mr. Clean
2. Womp Womp
1. **Dave the Magical Cheese Wizard**



Our Mission

The Bangor Humane Society champions the humane treatment and adoption of companion animals, provides quality care for homeless pets, and promotes animal welfare through education and advocacy.

Bangor Humane Society
693 Mt. Hope Ave.
Bangor, ME 04401
207.942.8902
www.bangorhumane.org
FB: @BangorHumane



BHS is proud to feed our pets
Hill's Science Diet Food!