

Rimrock Humane Society's

# PAWPRINTS



## Long Distance Love Connections

Thanks to the internet, long distance adoptions are on the rise!



The year 2012 seems to be best remembered as the year of the long distance adoption. We are continually amazed at the number of our pets who ended up heading out to various regions of the U.S. all because their sweet faces were viewed on one of the many websites on which we post. This seems to be the trend for a growing number of animal welfare organizations throughout the U.S. and many of those groups have enacted the policy to not adopt out of their home state. We believe, as long as the home passes all of our stringent adoption criteria and abides by our return policy no matter the miles involved, it is well worth their drive time and our exacting adoption process.

We would like to share these amazing adoptions with you in this newsletter and decided to begin with Thunder and Rogue as their story is doubly happy! These boys came to us when Mom had to move into an apartment and could not care for them anymore. Thunder (on the right) is the 5 y.o. father and Rogue (left) is his 1 y.o. son. Both Malamute mixes; we happily welcomed them into the RHS fold. As our foster mom got to know these sweet dogs, she realized how bonded they were to each other and was truly hoping that someone would not only adopt them as a pair but also that

it would be someone with Malamute (or northern breed) experience under their belt. Along comes Dave & Christina Wright from Santa Barbara, California. They wrote us a heartfelt email that literally moved us to tears. You see, they were still grieving the loss of their Malamute of 13 years, Nootka, but felt it was time to welcome a new love into their lives. Not only did they have the northern breed knowledge we were looking for but they had that loving devotion we are striving for in our adoptive parents. They were first interested in Rogue only but as we chatted, the idea of adopting both dogs started to crystallize.

We thought we were dreaming when Christina said she would like to fly out to Montana, spend several days meeting and bonding with these dogs and then Dave would come out later in the week to meet them as well. If all went well, they would then rent a car and hopefully take them home. WOW! So it took a lot of planning on both sides but after several weeks, in the middle of October, Christina came out and actually got to stay with our president on her property where the dogs were fostered. Since there was a bunkhouse available right on the property, no sense staying in a hotel ... this gave Christina ample time to spend 24/7 with the boys! (Suggestion was made that perhaps we should start an Adoption/Bed & Breakfast—hmmmmm) Of course, it only took a very short amount of time before Christina announced she was in love with BOTH dogs and they were going home with them! Christina took over their complete care for the days she was visiting and was so excited for hubby Dave to arrive so he could meet the boys as well. Upon his arrival, everyone was in love and it was time to take these two home. Friendships were formed and lots of hugs and tears were exchanged as they loaded Thunder & Rogue up in their rented SUV to make the long journey back to Santa Barbara, California. We got updates along their journey of all the places they stopped ... Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole, Las Vegas, etc. These boys were so good on the trip ... bless their hearts.



Thunder & Rogue are flourishing in their new home ... they are now California dogs where they get to not only climb mountains but visit the ocean. The RHS cannot thank Christina & Dave enough for their devotion and commitment to giving these two the best home possible. Please read further in this issue about the other long distance adoptions and happy endings it was our joy to experience this year. Our hearts are full with so many blessings! 🐾






## A Note from the Prez

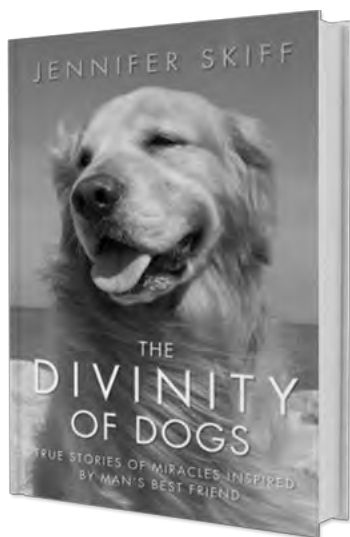
YOWZA! What a year ! 2013 was full of generosity, kindness, challenges and of course ... animals, animals, animals! As you will read on the following pages, the Mini Cooper raffle was a HUGE success and we met so many wonderful people on our forays selling tickets. Again, we cannot thank Michael & Denise Kok enough for their generous contribution of this vehicle to our organization. Also, in the month of December, a very large monetary donation was bequeathed to us by a wonderful man, David Cavanaugh. During his lifetime, he served our country for 22 years in the military through the Korean and Vietnam wars. Never married, no family but an avid animal lover, David wanted to leave behind a legacy for the care of animals and we are SO very grateful to his kindness and trust in our work. The generosity of his donation will assist us in helping homeless pets for years and years to come. R.I.P. David Cavanaugh ... your memory lives on in happy tail wags.

We are very excited about our two new endeavors to assist struggling families keep their pets fed and healthy. In June, the RHS opened our Pet Food Pantry in downtown Roundup and in December we started our RHS Hay Bank. Both programs are in place to help qualified families keep their pets before starvation or relinquishment become an issue. We are very proud to be able to assist owners in this manner as we do understand these tough economic times.

The summer of 2012 was a challenging one for those of us living in Musselshell County—fire was ever prevalent and rearing its ugly head more often than any of us would have wished. Big thanks to all who helped pull together during these unfortunate situations and helped ease the strife that many were feeling. We are hoping for no floods OR fire in 2013!

The RHS has taken in close to 100 animals this year and between fantastic long distance adoptions and loving families stepping forward to give forever homes to these pets, it has been an incredibly heart warming year! Huge thanks to all of our supporters for always renewing our faith in humanity! Myself and all of us at Rimrock Humane Society wish you a wonderful new year filled with abundance, joy, and treasured moments. May 2013 be the best year ever!


 Sandy Church ~ President




## RHS Alumni Stories Included in Book

The Divinity of Dogs—True Stories of Miracles Inspired by Man’s Best Friend

We cannot thank author Jennifer Skiff enough for including not one but two stories about dogs Red and Gunny who were both cared for and placed by the Rimrock Humane Society in her new best selling book. The Divinity of Dogs is a book of short stories where people describe the moment they learned something spiritually profound about life, from an experience with a dog. Red is the story of a springer spaniel who was rescued from being locked in a small shed for two years and Gunny is a wondrous tale of a bond between owner and dog where the handsome chocolate lab becomes a devoted member of the teaching faculty of a Bozeman high school. How proud are we that “our” adoptive pets have been included in this heart warming book?

beyond compare! Here is a quote taken from Amazon.com: “The stories that make up *The Divinity of Dogs* provide hope, help, and healing for readers in the complex and difficult times in which we live. Whether you believe dogs are divine or are actually a gift from the divine, *The Divinity of Dogs* gives you permission to accept what you know: dogs are healers, educators, protectors, and tangible examples of pure love.” Know what else is grand? Jennifer donates a portion of the proceeds of this book to animal charities around the world. For all of us who own dogs, we know that they are divine but the stories brought forth in this book confirm it! Get your copy today at Amazon.com! 



We are continually amazed at how social media has opened so many doors for our homeless pets. The idea of a “virtual” shelter never would have been successful in a world without the internet and more currently, social networking websites like Facebook. The Rimrock Humane Society currently has over 1,869 “likes” on Facebook and that number grows on a daily basis. It has not only brought us adopters from all over the U.S. but has also assisted us in finding owners for lost pets, transports for pets and the list goes on and on. If you haven’t already joined our crusade on Facebook, we sure would love to have you join us there! 

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# Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!

## Mini Cooper Raffle brings in much needed dollars!

As we announced in the last newsletter, the RHS was blessed to receive the most awesome donation of a 2011 Mini Cooper by the Kok Family. Thus began the diligence and hard work of organizing and selling raffle tickets to give away this great little car. Ticket selling began in earnest in March and the raffle drawing date was set for September 15th.

Our weekdays and weekends over the late spring and summer were filled with bringing "Zippy" to the public. The list of where we sold tickets is long and varied: Shipton's Big R West, Petsmart, Rimrock Mall, Maurices, Billings All Original Car Show, West Side Kustoms Car Show and Montana Fair. Many of the tickets were sold thanks to word of mouth, our website and the free TV advertising provided by Big Ideas Media. We cannot thank

these awesome folks enough for their generosity in allowing us to drop by and sell tickets.

As the date of the giveaway was fast approaching, the fervor to purchase tickets grew exponentially. We were thrilled to be able to team with Maurices in Rimrock Mall as they asked us to share in their Rescues & Runways, a nation wide event hosted by Maurices to highlight their fashions while giving great exposure to our dogs available for adoption. At this event, we would also draw the winning ticket for the vehicle! Perfect match up and a very exciting day! Before the fashion show, many more tickets were sold and the excitement in the air was



tangible. First the fashion show commenced with thirteen models of all ages who got to walk the runway in gorgeous clothing provided by Maurices along with leading RHS pups for adoption. (Of course, the dogs stole the show!) Then it came time to draw that winning ticket ... so many hopeful faces in that crowd. The winner of the 2011 Mini Cooper was Louise Jensen of Billings. She was not present but a quick phone call to her cell phone and it was discovered she was at Hobby Lobby shopping with her daughter. When told she was the winner, she must have asked us a dozen times if we were kidding and then hurriedly made her way to the mall to claim her prize. Not a dry eye in the place!

The final result of this amazing raffle was \$32,858 raised—truly a phenomenal gift that will help so many animals in the future. Huge thanks to the Kok family and ALL of the volunteers and ticket purchasers who helped us make this a hugely successful fundraiser! 🐾

# Get your 2013 Canine or Feline Calendar!

### Check these out! Great cause—save a life—buy one today!



*Furry Feline Friends include: Anya, Jake, Opo, Myron, Kiwi, Abigail, Gary, Sadie, Ned, Goldee, Trops, Festus & Noel*

We are now offering our 2013 canine and feline calendars for purchase! The beloved faces on these calendars are a selection of the sweet critters who found new forever homes in 2012 thanks to our very successful adoption program.

Proceeds from the sale of these calendars will benefit the animals in our care. Calendars are only \$15.00/ea. plus \$3.25 shipping and handling. You can purchase your calendars several different ways: Purchase on-line by going to our website [www.rimrockhumanesociety.org](http://www.rimrockhumanesociety.org), send us a check made payable to Rimrock Humane Society, PO Box 834, Roundup MT 59072, or give us a call at



406.323.3687 and give us your credit or debit card number (we accept all major credit cards). Calendars are only \$15.00/ea plus \$3.25 shipping and handling. These make great gifts - your thoughtfulness will be appreciated 365 days a year! OR . . . just order one for yourself to enjoy day after day - these adorable faces will surely make you smile! Either way, we so appreciate your support and all of the critters send slurpy kisses and happy tail wags your way! 🐾

*Cuddly Canine Cuties include: Rogue & Thunder, Gizmo, Moose, Thor, Sandy, Rudy, Miley, Buttercup, Twig, Bentley, Toby, Slick and Sampson.*

# Through Loss Shines Hope

## Social networking helps work miracles



It was only two days after Christmas in the year 2010 that we placed sweet little Dezi with Greg Hall and his wife. They were SO thrilled -- Greg was battling cancer but he was so very positive about his outcome and Ms. Dezi was going to be the catalyst to help him recover! The two bonded instantly and it was a two year love affair that unfortunately ended in late April 2012 with Greg losing his long fought battle. We were devastated to hear the news and Dezi was reported to be incredibly depressed - how do you explain to a devoted canine that her one and only is no longer walking this earth? On top of this, Greg's widow lost her father just a week before Greg's passing - because of all of this, she had to move back to her home state and could not keep Dezi. It was Greg's last wish that should wife Cheryl not be able to care for Dezi, that his sister in Pittsburgh, PA who ADORES this sweet Beagle girl have her for her very own. The family struggled trying to figure out how to get Dezi from Roundup, MT to Pittsburgh. The RHS is always there for the animals we adopt out and we were contacted to try and assist with this situation. The cost of flying Dezi was an issue and we all were so concerned about her in the belly of a plane. If only we could find someone that was driving in that direction who might be able to let Dezi hitch a ride. But how do you find that person? We thought it was a long shot but decided to post Dezi's plight on the RHS facebook page and see what happens. Never leave a stone un-

turned right? Within five minutes of our posting, we were contacted by Renee Olsen. She was headed to New Jersey in a few weeks and would be driving right through Pittsburgh and said that Dezi was more than welcome to hitch a ride. Renee explained that she could so relate to this story as her husband had passed away in March and left behind his dog for her to care for as well. We were moved to tears ... how could this plan have come together so quickly? Within five minutes of our posting, Dezi's path to her new life was laid before her. We strongly believe that Greg may have had a hand in making sure this all happened. His sister Nancy was SO excited and thrilled that this sweet girl would soon be hers! So the first week of June 2012, Dezi climbed into the car with Renee and her family and was soon happily ensconced in her new home with Nancy and her border collie sisters! For Nancy, this was so cathartic as Dezi is a living, breathing, loving connection with her late brother. The RHS was so thrilled to have played a small part in this wondrous miracle. 🐾



# From Rags to Riding on the High Seas

## Montana to Maryland? No problem!

Sweet Sandy was found as a stray near a northeastern Montana Indian reservation ... her rescuer saw some children feeding bread to a little dog. When the rescuer asked about the dog, the kids told her that she had been running in the area for months, fending for herself. Lucky day for Sandy as this kind Samaritan snatched her up and brought her to us. Everyone fell in love with this sweetie. We put her up on our Facebook page and within five minutes (it was 6 a.m. Montana time! Ha!) our phone rang! It was Gail O'Donnell, a long time RHS supporter who lives in Wittman, MD ... she said that she saw that face and fell in love. She and her husband Tom are retired and Gail announced, "we can leave tomorrow and come get her!" Let's see ... Sandy LOVES the water and Gail & Tom live right on the Chesapeake Bay and enjoy boating. But really? All the way from Maryland? You bet! They hauled their little "egg" camper and made the long & lengthy trek across the U.S. Thanks to modern technology (satellites & GPS), we could actually track them across the map as they traveled! When they arrived in Billings, they were nervous about meeting Sandy. They asked, "What if she doesn't like us?" Well, that wasn't a problem—it was love at first sight and after a short day of rest ... they were back on the road with their new girl! Sandy has adapted wonderfully to her new home ... what a perfect fit for her! We believe Sandy probably believes she is living in doggy heaven! She now has a new puppy brother, Moose, to whom she is teaching the fine art of hunting squirrels in their back yard! Big thanks again to Gail & Tom for their dedication and devotion to this little cutie patootie! 🐾





## Reunited & It Feels So GOOD!

### Nacho aka Jake goes home!

We would like to introduce you to Nacho - he came to us as a stray in July, very thin, covered in ticks but ever so sweet. He was found in the Bull Mountains not to long after the Dahl Fire. We just knew that someone had to be missing this love muffin so we advertised him in the paper and through posters in the local neighborhood. Alas, no one claimed him so we had him neutered, micro-chipped and fully vetted. His foster home had been enjoying him immensely and the RHS was just getting ready to put him up for adoption. It was then that we acquired a booth at Montana Fair to sell raffle tickets for the Mini Cooper. As we always do at various functions, we had pictures of our animals available for adoption there. Late on a Sunday evening at the fair, one of our volunteers called to say that there was a woman looking at Nacho's picture stating that he was her long lost kitty. Excited phone calls were exchanged and she told us the story of how Nacho aka Jake had disappeared and they looked for him for weeks and weeks. Heart-broken, they had to move to Billings less one favorite kitty. After the Dahl fire, they assumed he probably was dead. Nacho shared a very special relationship with the 18 month old child in the family, who still was going to bed at night crying for her Jake. Holding our breath, we scheduled a "meet & greet" the next day to confirm that this cat was in fact the Jake that had been lost back in late May. IT WAS! Jake is now reunited with his family and there have been a lot of happy tears shed because this great cat is home where he belongs. WOW! Fate had a hand in this one ... the owner said she had never heard of the Rimrock Humane Society before but felt compelled to visit our booth at the Fair ... gives us all goose bumps!



Sadly, Jake is one of only a lucky few cats who gets reunited with their owners. According to the ASPCA, only 2% of lost cats will make it back to their original owner (15 to 20% for dogs). Most of the animals are reunited because they are microchipped or tagged. We are thrilled that Jake was one of the lucky 2%. The RHS strongly suggests keeping your cats inside and not allowing them to venture outside to face the perils of the world. Let's collectively strive to keep all stories like this one HAPPY! 🐾

## FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

### Musselshell County's Summer of Disaster



According to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center, there were 2,116 fires reported during the Montana 2012 fire season scorching more than 1.1 million acres. Half of those fires were human caused but the largest and most devastating blazes were started by lightning. Thus the scenario of the Dahl Fire which, on June 26, ravaged a 22,000 acre scar through the timbered hills of the Bull Mountains. It consumed 223 structures, including 73 residences, and ran up a bill of \$3.5 million to fight. Pushed by 50 mph winds and devastatingly low humidity, the fire roared through the acreage like a tempest causing a loss of personal property and livestock that was devastatingly high. Most folks just did not have time to get anything out of their homes or the ability to move their livestock. For many, the only choice was to open their gates hoping the animals would flee on their own. Sadly, with the speed of the fire's movement confusion and panic ensued and, upon their return, owners found the remains of their deceased animals still ensnared within the confines of their pastures.

RHS president Sandy Church and her husband, Warren, had to evacuate their 40 acre parcel of land, relocating 7 dogs and 4 horses to safer ground. There was no time to grab anything

except a few changes of clothes, a computer or two and out the door they went. Thanks to the efforts of 30 firefighters and air support, their home was saved. "You truly have no idea how you are going to react in a situation like that until it is staring you straight in the face", Church said. "As we were loading the horses, my only thought was for my animals ... #1 priority was to get them to safety. I remember leaving our house with tears in my eyes — those tears were not of sadness but relief that my furkids were going to be OK." This is where disaster preparedness is so vital. When the call comes to evacuate, all clear thought goes out the window so trying to put together a "plan" at the last minute is not effective. Before disaster strikes, develop an evacuation plan that includes where you and your animals will go in an emergency. Keep all vet records and brand inspection paperwork together with your own records in a portable container. Have another container for medications, collars, leashes, food and, for your horses, lead ropes and halters. Keep all of these items together in an area of your home that is easily accessible and convenient.

We commend the residents of Musselshell County and others who came to help for extraordinary acts of kindness, bravery and a true spirit of working together during a crisis. We are deeply saddened that animals were lost but rejoice that many were evacuated and went to live temporarily with other families or were welcomed at the two area vet clinics. Because of this Herculean community effort, RHS was not called upon for any long term housing. Thanks to press coverage, donations came pouring in enabling the RHS to set up the Dahl Fire Animal Fund. This fund assisted in paying the vet bills for several burned animals that the displaced owners could not afford. Let us hope that the upcoming summer of 2013 will be one of gentle rains and peaceful days .... WHEW! 🐾

# RHS Awarded Two \$1,000 Grants in Shelter Contest



We are pleased to announce that during the year 2012, the RHS won two \$1,000 grants in the Animal Rescue Site's Shelter Challenges.

The Shelter Challenge is a nationwide contest where supporters vote on a daily basis for their favorite humane society or animal shelter.

The \$1,000 prizes were awarded for being the highest ranked animal welfare organization in the state of Montana. The RHS also makes it into the top 100 shelters in the country and that is truly an honor in itself!

Both of these grants were applied to the Community Low Cost Spay/Neuter program.

The Animal Rescue Site offers four of these challenges on a yearly basis. They did change the rules in 2012 to specify that an organization cannot win back to back challenges thus giving more opportunity for smaller groups to win.

We are so grateful to the Animal Rescue Site and Petfinder.com for offering these grants to the animal welfare world!

The next contest we are eligible for starts in January so please join us on Facebook or check our website often for notification of this contest and help us maintain our standing of #1 animal welfare organization in the state of Montana.

The RHS wants to thank all of our supporters who voted diligently on a daily basis for us in these contests ... as far as we are concerned, your folks are the true heroes and the animals are the real winners! 🐾

# New Hay Bank To Assist Equine Owners

## Drought & fire stress hay reserves

The RHS is proud to announce a new program designed to assist private horse owners residing in Musselshell County who are experiencing financial difficulties by providing a free 30 day supply of hay for their horses. This past summer hay production percentages were a third of normal due to persevering drought and fire conditions. With these numbers in mind, the RHS is anticipating that the low inventories and escalating costs of hay will make this an exceptionally challenging winter for families already struggling to keep their horses fed. With the aid of a large monetary donation, the RHS will proactively assist qualifying families feed their horses before starvation or abandonment occurs. The RHS Hay Bank can provide qualified Musselshell County applicants with hay for their horses for 30 days in the event of a financial crisis or hardship. This assistance is **NOT** intended to be relied upon on an ongoing basis. A qualifying financial hardship or crisis includes, but is not limited to, job loss, medical bills or other hardships. In addition to a genuine need for financial assistance, applicants must present a well thought out plan for how they will get back on their feet and manage their horse care after the 30 days of Hay Bank assistance has ended. For further information and to obtain a Hay Bank application, please contact us at 406.323.3687 or [wschurch@midrivers.com](mailto:wschurch@midrivers.com). 🐾

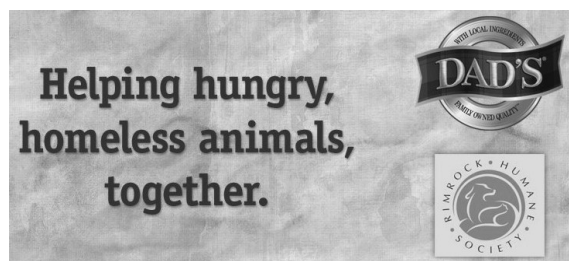


# Pet Food Pantry Opens

## Large food donation from Dad's Pet Food

On June 2, 2012, the Rimrock Humane Society proudly opened it's doors to their Pet Food Pantry located on 231 Main Street in Roundup. This new endeavor was spurred on by the many phone calls we receive during the year from families who sometimes need help keeping their animals fed during these tough economic times. It is amazing how a week or two worth of free food might be the difference between owners being able to keep their pets or having to surrender them. This food pantry was especially helpful to families during the horrific fire season this past summer of 2012. The RHS got a good start with stocking the pantry when a Billings pet food distributor contacted them with several hundred pounds of dog food and puppy food. We also have received some donations from private citizens due to the fact that their pet had passed away and they had extra food that was no longer needed. That is always bitter sweet.

In May, we were notified by Dad's Pet Food that they were working in conjunction with the Professional Bull Riding circuit and Tractor Supply. Dad's was donating 1,000 lbs. of free pet food to a humane organization in each city the PBR stopped. The Rimrock Humane Society was selected as the recipient of this huge donation of food in the Billings area. Being the RHS's own dogs & cats are on a specialized diet purchased through a food distributor out of Bozeman, we decided this would be an awesome contribution to our Pet Food Pantry. The great thing is that it is all coupon based so we can get the food as we need it—no spoiling! If you would like to make a donation to our pantry or know of a family who could use our assistance, please call Rochelle Hatter at 406-323-3873. (HINT: We could really use kitty litter too!) 🐾



# Our Annual Events - Well Attended & Successful!

## 10th Anniversary Rimrock Rover Ramble



You sure do have to give credit to hardy Montana folk! April 28th dawned incredibly cold and very windy—it also looked like rain. Being this event is “rain or shine”, all of us truly prefer NOT to have to experience rain along with the cold. Our luck held as the first few rain drops fell right after the last person left at around noon! The weather did not dampen the spirits of our fierce competitors though. Eighty six die hard pet enthusiasts showed up to pound the pavement to help end pet overpopulation (and get some very rosy cheeks as well!). The Ramble was held at a new location and we cannot thank the folks at Pine Ridge Golf Course enough for allowing us to invade their territory with people and canines alike. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new course and they all REALLY liked the toasty warm clubhouse after the run! We had to switch venues as the fairgrounds where the ramble is normally held, was still not usable due to the floods of 2011. These happy rambler assisted us in raising \$9,400 which will be applied to our very successful low cost spay/neuter program. Since its inception in 2006, we have assisted with altering 1,100 cats and 578 dogs! Next year (2013), there is a chance that the Ramble might be able to go “home” to the fairgrounds ... rumor has it that restoration is taking place. The RHS may have to donate some man hours to help clean up trails as well. See you for the 11th annual Rover Ramble on May 4th! Mark those calendars! 🐾



## Patrick Lomantini’s 50 States Tour



For the 2nd year in a row, Patrick Lomantini, master hair stylist from Wichita KS made another historic tour around the US cutting hair and helping homeless animals. Cutting 50 heads of hair in 50 states in 50 days all to benefit humane societies in each state’s designated city. What a devoted (and maybe a bit crazy) fella he is! Huge thanks to Marcie Smith, owner of JenMar Salon, for basically putting their normal business aside to assist with this worthy cause on September 4th. Within a matter of 12 hours, Patrick cut 45 heads of hair and helped us raise a whopping \$3,200 (last years total was \$2,500) for the homeless animals in our care - always love when our annual events continue to grow and grow! Marcie and Sarah Love (also of JenMar Salon) grabbed a basket, one of our dogs available for adoption and went door to door visiting local businesses and raised \$1,000 for the cause. Great job ladies ...we are so appreciative!

Patrick has now formed his own non-profit organization called BarkAid ([www.barkaid.org](http://www.barkaid.org)) and promises that next years event will be bigger than ever! We are not sure where this man gets his energy ... imagine travelling to 50 states in 50 days let alone standing on your feet in each location for 12 hours cutting 50 heads of hair! Such devotion to our four footed friends! It was such an incredible day filled with positive energy, inspiring people and giving hearts. Patrick will be back next year so mark your calendars for September 4th! 🐾



## 3rd Annual Wine & Whiskers



*Wine & Whiskers*

As always, our Wine & Whiskers event was eagerly anticipated and everyone had so much fun—you just can’t go wrong with being able to dress to the nines, enjoy a glass of complementary wine and bid on awesome items — all to help homeless animals!

Our silent auction at Wine & Whiskers looked incredible showcased in the Passenger Room of the old Depot. Our auction brought in \$12,000 and we cannot thank Rochelle Hatter enough for all of her hard work acquiring the majority of the items!

Big thanks to our dear friend and artist, Kira Fercho, who dazzled us with her quick draw for the third year in a row! Her artwork is "stunning" and the finished piece was live auctioned for \$2,300! The list of folks we need to thank is long and varied ... it takes so many dedicated people collaborating to pull this event off ... you all know who you are and the RHS is so thankful for all of your assistance! Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as we announce the date and plans for the 4th annual Wine & Whiskers ... we want to see you all there!







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or join us on



## Open Your Home & Your Heart

Become a pet foster guardian today!

There is no greater gift you can give a homeless pet than a warm bed, a roof over their head and the love in your heart! The Rimrock Humane Society is only successful as a virtual shelter because of the kindness and caring of our dedicated foster homes. Our pets are blessed to live out their stay with us in the comfort of the circle of loving families while a new forever family is found. The key to this equation is the more foster families we have, the more animals we can assist!

RHS will supply all of the veterinary care, food and litter — the requirements for a foster family are a fenced yard for dogs and indoor living only for cats. The family will be instrumental in assisting with training (house or obedience), running the pet back and forth to vet appointments and also observant of the animal's health. The RHS also allows the foster home to be very instrumental in the adoption process —interviewing the adoptive family and doing home visits (barring any distance constraints). This truly lends itself to giving the foster folks some closure with the ability to now visualize the pet in its new environment.

Foster home applicants go through the same screening process as our adoptive homes — phone interview, application process, reference checks and a home visit. If we are going to be careful where that pet will spend it's life, we certainly are also going to screen the animals temporary home. There is no greater gift for an adoptive family to not only get a calm, well adjusted pet but to also have the opportunity to speak with the foster parents so they can get the full "scoop" on their new pet i.e. likes, dislikes and any important information that would make the transition into the new home easier. Plus, they are viewing the animal in a safe and quiet home environment where they are actually witnessing the true behaviors of the pet in a stress-free living situation.

Are you sold? We would be thrilled to speak with you about possibly signing up to be a pet foster guardian! Please give us a call at the number above or you can email us at [wschurch@midrivers.com](mailto:wschurch@midrivers.com). Truly, you will not find a more rewarding pursuit in life ... be careful though, it's addicting! 🐾

