



# animal FOUNDATION of Great Falls

*Fostering a caring  
community for animals*

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Sally Cerny  
Andrea Johnstone

**TREASURER**  
John Gilbert

Melanie Lattin  
Sue Skees  
Mary Willmarth

## ABOUT OUR BOARD

*Sally Cerny* is the retired CEO of Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seals-Goodwill. She and her husband Chuck are active in a Golden Retriever rescue group and have two older rescued dogs.

*John Gilbert* is a business appraiser and forensic financial analyst. His dog Beemer goes to work with him each day. His wife Donna is also a CPA and shares an office with John and Beemer.

*Bob James* is a partner in the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins and has been a trial lawyer for 28 years. Bob and his wife Cindy have five grown children, three cats, and two dogs.

*Andrea Johnstone* has been the owner of a decorative plumbing and tile business for 26 years. She and her husband Bill have two sons, two very large dogs, and a grand-dog adopted from the HSCC shelter.

*Melanie Lattin* works for the City of Great Falls and is a canine and human massage practitioner. She and Matthew Gressard share their home with a cat and three dogs, two of whom are rescued.

*Sue Skees* previously owned Mountain Title Services. Sue and her husband John have shared their home with a rescued cat and a dog from Camp Collie.

*Mary Willmarth* is co-owner of a project planning and business services consulting firm. She and husband Mark have a young son and a spirited, rescued cat.

# Sheltering Skies

ANIMAL FOUNDATION OF GREAT FALLS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006



## Moving Steadily Forward

*Melanie Lattin*

THE ANIMAL FOUNDATION HAS RAISED \$1,078,259 at this writing in its capital campaign for a state-of-the-art animal shelter and dog park! What a testimony to the generosity of so many people and to the value people place on helping animals. The Foundation's goal is to raise a total of \$2.2 million, so we are nearly halfway to the target.

The Foundation contracted with Animal Arts/Gates Hafen Cochrane, a Colorado architectural firm which has specialized in designing animal care facilities for 27 years. Based on what they learned through their assessment visit to Great Falls, the architects prepared a conceptual design of the new animal shelter.

Mark Hafen relates that he strove to incorporate elements of historic buildings in Great Falls to make the structure not only aesthetically pleasing but also compatible with other buildings in the community.

As the design reveals, the homeless cats and dogs in Great Falls will have an impressive place to live while they wait for people to adopt them and take them to their forever homes. The staff, volunteers and visitors will also enjoy a healthy, comfortable, pleasing environment. Although critics might contend the proposed design is too grand for animals, the new shelter will be more than a holding place for strays. It is foreseen the facility will become a community center for animal welfare activities. Along with being a safe, pleasant place for homeless animals to live, the building will provide space for adoption services, animal control services, animal training, humane society activities and community education. In short, the animal shelter will be a gathering place for people who care about animals and are interested in improving animals' lives in Great Falls.

In addition to fundraising and selecting sites for the animal shelter and dog park (see pages 2-3), trustees from the Animal Foundation are meeting with Humane Society of Cascade County director Chuck Tourillot to determine the approximate size and configuration of the new shelter. Specific questions, such as how many dog kennels will be needed or what size the communal cat colonies should be, are being addressed. Consideration is being given to a multitude of factors to best meet the needs of the animals and people who will be using the facility.

*Story continues on page 2.*



ANIMAL ARTS  
MARK R. HAFEN, ARCHITECT

# Moving Steadily Forward *Story continued from cover page.*

Once the size and use determinations have been made, Animal Arts will design preliminary floor plans using their expertise in animal behavior and health. The architectural firm will make recommendations regarding mechanical designs and building materials best suited for an animal care

facility. They will also provide revised cost estimates prior to the project being handed off to a local architectural firm.

The board of the Animal Foundation has one other major endeavor in the works—attending the Fur Ball on April 22 and having a great time!



*Just two of the reasons we want a better shelter for homeless animals in Great Falls.*

## Shelter Site Chosen

*Melanie Lattin*

GOOD NEWS! The Animal Foundation and the City of Great Falls have come together and selected the optimum location for the new animal shelter. Although a street address will not be assigned until the project progresses further, the site is immediately south of North Middle School on 25th Avenue NE between 6th and 8th Streets NE.

Ultimately, the site will encompass four acres—more than enough room to meet the requirements of a new building and to allow for future expansion if that should ever be necessary.

The site is centrally located, an important feature for the convenience of those going to the shelter and for the delivery of efficient animal control services. The attractive new building will be a great addition to the visible, high traffic area where it will be located. The site is easy to find, which is another advantage for anyone who wishes to visit



the shelter. Once the new shelter is built and people see for themselves the monumental differences between a state-of-the-art shelter and the current facility, it is the Animal Foundation's belief the number of people who visit the shelter to adopt animals will dramatically increase.

The site is within the city limits so the infrastructure is in place to the property boundary. The cost of building a new facility will not have to include substantially extending water and sewer lines or constructing roads. These improvements are very expensive and the Foundation worked hard to find an appropriate location which would not require undertaking these types of site development. Another plus for building the animal shelter at this site is the relative lack of potential conflicting interests.

A “future home of” sign marks the western edge of the property where the new shelter will be built. The Animal Foundation would like to thank **Johnson-Madison Lumber Company** for donating lumber for the sign posts and **Matthew Gressard** for installing the sign.

We encourage you to drive by the site and envision the building which will one day be there to house homeless animals and provide a center for animal welfare events and activities in Great Falls.





# Dog Park Progress *Melanie Lattin*

DOGS IN GREAT FALLS—and the people who want a protected, enjoyable place to let their dogs run free—will be happy to learn a site has been chosen for the dog park.

The dog park will be developed on an approximately three-acre site west of 9th Street North between the River's Edge Trail and the railroad tracks. The property belongs to the City of Great Falls and is undeveloped park land. The site is expansive enough for two areas for dogs: one for large dogs and another separate area for small or elderly dogs.

The dog park will be a vital addition to the special use areas in the Park and Recreation Department's inventory of parks. Just as particular parks in Great Falls are designed to be used by people who wish to golf, swim, play soccer or skateboard, the dog park will provide a place in the sun for people who wish to safely and legally allow their dogs off leash to run and play with other dogs.

People who like to walk their dogs on River's Edge Trail will be able to spice up their regular walks by unleashing their dogs to run and play with other dogs before continuing on with their walks. And, as many people who have dogs know, watching dogs play is a form of entertainment in itself.

Once the Animal Foundation has finalized a conceptual drawing of the dog park, dog-loving people in the community will be organized to spread the word about the dog park and to help raise funds to develop the park.

Call Melanie Lattin at 453-8598 with questions or if you would like to help with the dog park.



*Dogs of all kinds will enjoy the future dog park. Jolene Monheim photographed these happy canines on an adventure last winter.*



*That new dog park should keep Moab & Guido busy for hours! Then we can get a REAL cat nap.*



## *Did you know...*

Benefis Healthcare uses dogs for "Pet Therapy" to help patients in Rehabilitation. The friendly dogs are specially trained to help the patient with their care!

455-5000 [www.benefis.org](http://www.benefis.org)



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The Animal Foundation truly appreciates each and every contribution it receives, regardless of the size of the donation. However, because of space considerations in this issue of *Sheltering Skies* only donations valued at \$250 and above and memorials will be listed. On an annual basis we will acknowledge all donors. We make every effort to get names and amounts correct, but if we have made an error, please call Mary Willmarth at 727-6826 and accept our sincere apology.

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John Moran
- SPLASH—LESLIE & TESSA DeDOMINIC**  
Ben & Caroline Carter
- JIMMY—MARK & PATTY HIGGINS**  
Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins
- ARABELLA—JOHN & SUE SKEES**  
Chuck & Sally Cerny  
John & Donna Gilbert  
Bob & Cindy James  
Ed & Carolyn Dolezal
- BIG SKY ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER PET MEMORIALS 2005 & 2006**  
WON TON—SMITH FAMILY  
NELLIE—LOPER FAMILY  
MIDNIGHT—TERRY SCHOTT  
SPARKY—GARY-VEEN FAMILY  
DAISY—BAHLMANN FAMILY  
DAKOTA—JENNY CORDEIRO  
PATCHER—MARQUIS FAMILY
- SIDNEY—ADAMS FAMILY**  
PAYTON—MIKE FISCHER  
BRECKIE—VON DRAN FAMILY  
HARLEY—PACHEK FAMILY  
HARRY—KOLAR FAMILY  
MAGGIE—HEATH STILLWELL  
TRIGGER—JEANNE VLASIC  
GENERAL—ROBERTA McCUNE  
PEEWEE—KAIN FAMILY  
SADIE—EDWARDS FAMILY  
GUINNESS—DAVID FLANNAGAN  
ASHLEY—DONN GRILLEY  
SCOUT—BARKLEY FAMILY  
STORM—TOM MASTERTSON  
WINNIE—NANCY GARNES  
ABBY—WHITNEY OLSON  
FOXI—ECKE FAMILY  
CASEY—SUE EADES  
OAKLAND—SHANAHAN FAMILY  
YANKEE—NILSEN FAMILY  
LEVI—LEANNE BREWER  
LANA—CRETE FAMILY  
GINGER—CONNIE WILLIAMS  
NEWTON—HARRY WINKLER  
TACKET—KARL MUELLER  
GINGER—SHORT FAMILY  
BABE—LUELLA DUNDUS  
KIKI—MAILLET FAMILY  
BOGGIE—PUTNAM FAMILY  
BENJAMIN—ROBERTS FAMILY  
MURRAY—SALLY SHULTZ  
CANDY—GLICK FAMILY  
BUDDY—FROOM FAMILY  
LIZZIE—TONNE FAMILY
- GYPOY—WATKINS FAMILY**  
YETTI—GORDON FAMILY  
GOLDIE—TUCKERMAN FAMILY  
ITTY BITTY—FLORENCE FAMILY  
RUSTY—KNOX FAMILY  
CODY—DANITA BISTODEAU  
SADIE—MARANNA DEAN  
BANDIT—MARTIN FAMILY  
TWO SOCKS—JERRY GEIST  
BERTON—SANDY & BYRAN DAHL  
SHEBA—MR. & MRS. JUERGEN HEMLIKER  
PRINCESS—PATTY HARRISON & CARLA LUX  
CHUB CHUB—DEBBIE NETTE  
BANDIT —PATRICK & DEVA ANN STEWART  
KATIE—GRACE ABBOTT  
BROOKE—LEX VAN TIGHEM  
MERCURY—KATHLEEN & CHRIS HICKMAN  
GIDGET—LONNIE LACHINE  
JOCKO—CONNIE ZECH  
PEKIE—CAROL ZELEGER  
URSA—ROLAND & TRACY YOUNG  
STORMY—FLORENCE SNOWBARGER  
RINGO—DANIEL & SUSAN ARMSTRONG  
SNAPSHOT—STAR FERREL-McDONALD  
DROOP—KIM BERINGER  
AMBER—SUE ROGERS  
MISS KITTERS—AL THAIN & DAVID SEARS  
BEAU—GLORIA SMITH & FAMILY  
GINGER—STEVE & CANDY SHORT
- DEMON—RICH & LEAH MERCER**  
JORDAN—TERRY & JACK BURGESS  
TIGGER—CINDY MORRIS  
BOE —KATHE MIEYR  
CALLIE—CHAR ROSS  
MAGGIE—DEB DEAN  
MICKEY—SHARMAN TOKERUD  
BAILEY—LORI SMITH  
SMOKEY—ANNE HOPPER  
BLAZE—HAZEL & JOE FILIPIAK  
HALLIE—MERLA WARDEN  
SPIKE—MICHELLE KITCHEN  
HEIDI—EARL & NANCY GARNES  
NOVA—REBECCA & RUSSELL BRUNS  
LOUISE—PAUL & LINDA LEQUIN  
OSSO—JASON & KIM McMICHAEL  
CRYSTAL—DEE MITCHEL  
GUNNAR—TRACY & WYNELL MARQUIS  
MINOT—DANIEL & SHARON KEDER  
RASHA—JIM MCGREEDY  
TILLIE—MARK ZAREMSKI  
CHLOE—KRISTINE PETERSON  
PAWS—JASON & DEVIKA MYERS  
DERBY—KRISTEN & KEVIN JACOBSEN  
GRACE—DEBBIE MILLER  
MISS KITTY—EARL & MAUREEN NILSEN  
SOPHIE—COURTNEY & JIM FELDMAN  
ISSY—VICKIE MARKO  
GRACIE —SARAH KNUTSON  
MAGGIE —KELLY JOHNSON  
LOU LOU—DONDE & TOM HAYES



## Help the Environment & Animals at the Same Time

When you take your recyclable cans to **Steel, Etc.** at 302 3rd Street South, you can donate the proceeds to **“Cans for Critters.”**

The money you contribute through recycling your cans will be designated to the Animal Foundation to help with our fundraising campaign.



## Remember A Friend

*More than 300 donations have been made to the Animal Foundation in memory of animals or people who have touched lives in a special way. Please remember the Animal Foundation if you would like to commemorate the memory of an animal or person in this poignant way.*

## Dr. Scherr's Memorial Gifts Help Build Fund

Local veterinarian Dr Rick Scherr kindly donates a memorial gift to the Animal Foundation on behalf of each pet put to rest at his clinic, **Big Sky Animal Medical Center**. Dr. Scherr has contributed \$2,010 toward building a new shelter through this inspired and benevolent program. The Animal Foundation respectfully requests other veterinarians to consider starting a similar program. This method of contributing can help clients balance the heartache of losing their pet with the knowledge their veterinarians have their pets in mind while helping to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals in our community.



# The Fur Ball Rolls In *Melanie Lattin*

If you're a person who cares about the welfare of animals in our community, what could be better than spending an enjoyable evening with people who feel the same way you do? How about the fact that your presence will help the Animal Foundation build a state-of-the-art animal shelter and develop a dog park in Great Falls?

This year's Fur Ball will be held Saturday, April 22, 6 pm, at the Heritage Inn and promises to be an exceptional event. The evening will begin with a yappy hour and music will be provided by Society Swing. An elegant dinner will be served, with a delicious vegetarian option, of course.

The featured speaker will be **Dave Pauli**, director of the Northern Rockies Regional Office of the Humane Society of the United States. Dave spent several months in the Gulf Coast region with the HSUS rescue operations after Hurricane Katrina and will be sure to have captivating stories to recount about his experiences there. The Purple Paw Award will be presented to a very special animal to recognize that animal's actions which demonstrate extraordinary service to humans and the wonder of the animal-human bond.

If you attended the Fur Ball last year you know about the caliber and variety of items which will be offered in the live and silent auctions. For a sneak preview of what you might want to be ready to place your bid on, consider this sampling of auction items: gourmet dinners in private homes; cat and dog topiaries; handcrafted birdhouses; veterinarian, grooming

and dog training certificates; handcrafted quilts; restaurant packages; an American Girl doll; 3-day stay at Seeley Lake; wooden rocking Golden Retriever; fine art; antique oak washstand; yoga lessons and LARGE plush animals. The list of incredible items goes on and on. If you're a sports fan, be aware that a Notre Dame football game package and an Ironhorse golf package will be on the bidders' block! If you (*or perhaps someone you know?*) is partial to diamonds, you won't want to miss the opportunity to bid on a pavé diamond bracelet and a diamond and sapphire pendant or try your luck at winning the raffle for an extraordinary 1.01 carat brilliant-cut diamond pendant.



Along with the fun of socializing with like-minded people and the entertainment of competing for great auction items will be several activities which put the f-u-n in fundraising. But the best part of the evening is sure to be meeting, talking and laughing with people who have

opened their hearts to help homeless animals who cannot help themselves. This gala event truly is a celebration of compassion and kindness.

If you don't already have tickets, there may be a few seats left. Last year we sold out early. Call 761-8399 for reservations. Tickets are \$60 each or \$450 for a table of eight. If you have your tickets, plan to be generous! Proceeds from the first Fur Ball reached an incredible \$45,000. The Animal Foundation will be using all funds raised to make the goals of a new animal shelter and dog park a reality for Great Falls. 🐾

An FAO Schwarz Bengal Tiger will be in the Fur Ball live auction—it's an amazing 3 by 6 feet. Who would want such a critter? Benefits Foundation told us the Sletten Cancer Center would LOVE the tiger for the children's area.



Buy the Bengal, donate it to the cancer center, and benefit both the new shelter **and** kids.

We hope that individuals, organizations, or a business will consider bidding on the tiger. "Mr. Bengal" might bring \$750 to \$1500 and if you win, your new friend would bring smiles to hundreds of kids for years to come.

## Take a Chance on our Diamond Raffle!

Call Cindy at 452.6648 to get your raffle tickets before it's too late!

RAFFLE TICKET

**\$10** each  
4 for **\$30**

### Stunning 1.01 Carat Brilliant Cut Diamond

Photo: McMillan Studio



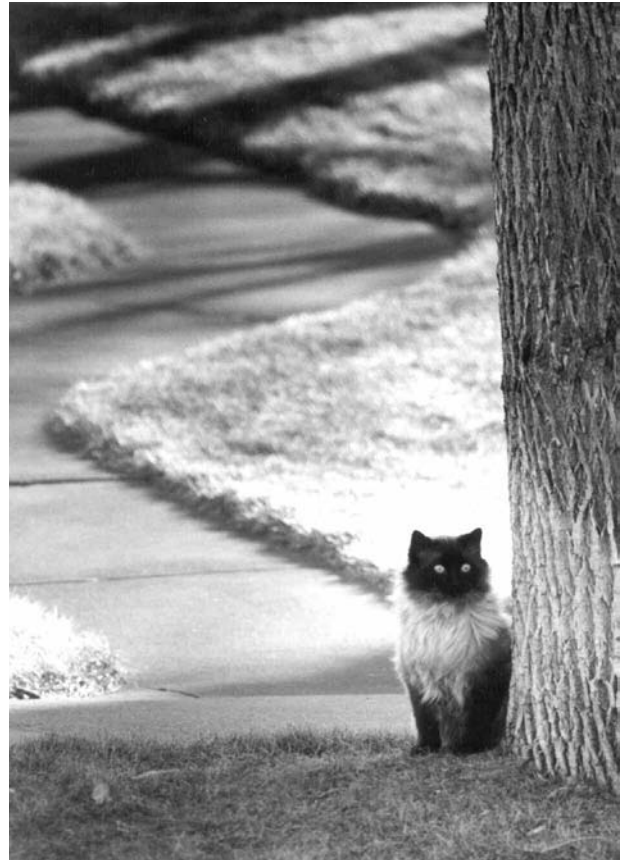
Independently Certified Diamond in a 14-karat White Gold Pendant with Italian 1-karat White Gold Chain-Link Chain  
**Appraised value: \$7,315**

Diamond pendant generously donated by **Big Sky Gold & Diamond Brokers**  
More info: 727.3594

*Need not be present to win.*

# Honor Your Beloved Pets, Loved Ones and Friends with a Paver at the New Animal Shelter

Help support the building of a new animal shelter in Great Falls by honoring a special pet, loved one or friend with a commemorative paver. Your personal inscription will forever celebrate the unique relationship you now cherish or have had with a beloved pet or animal-loving friend. Pavers will be prominently displayed in visible locations and be of a material consistent with the décor and architecture of the new shelter. The price will be \$950 for a 12"x12" paver, \$450 for a 6"x 12" paver and \$150 for a 6"x 6" paver. Business logos or paw prints are an additional \$50.



*Kelsey, Chance and Calder were cherished canines, still remembered with great love. The kitty was a neighbor who tolerated dogs and enjoyed a short movie career.*

  
**animal**  
**FOUNDATION**  
*of Great Falls*

*Fostering a caring  
community for animals*

Be sure to check out our website,  
**[www.theanimalfoundation.org](http://www.theanimalfoundation.org)**,  
for more information about the  
Animal Foundation.

The website includes a virtual tour  
of the existing animal shelter  
which may be of particular interest  
to people who have not visited that  
facility. And, for your convenience,  
you can contribute to the capital  
fund drive on-line!

P.O. Box 3426  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
[www.theanimalfoundation.org](http://www.theanimalfoundation.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Robert James  
406.452.6648

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