



# THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

## Adopt A Friend Today!



**Oliver** is an aussie shepherd mix and is about a year old. He is good with other dogs.



**Rascal** is a Siberian Husky and is 2 years old.



**Shorty** is a Jack Russell Terrier mix and is good with other dogs and cats. He is about 7 years old.



**Oddball** is about 2 years old and short haired. She is good with other cats and is a love bug.



**Tuna** is about 4 years old and is short haired and is good with cats and dogs.



**Olive** is 6 years old and is short haired. She is good with other cats and ok with mild-mannered dogs.

## Fostering a Future for our Furry Friends!!

As we all know, millions of dogs and cats are found in shelters across the US each year. Increasingly more shelters strive to find forever homes for their animals and reduce the euthanasia rate. One strategy that is often utilized to help maintain space in shelters is fostering.

Foster parenting a pet can be both rewarding and challenging. As a pet foster parent, you provide a temporary home for an animal prior to adoption. Fostering animals is a meaningful and personal way to contribute to saving homeless animals. While dogs and cats are the most common animals needing foster homes, some organizations also offer homes for rabbits, birds, or even farm animals.

There are a number of ways that foster homes are advantageous to not only the shelters and animals, but to communities at large. Foster care can help save an animal's life when a shelter is full. Having multiple foster homes often means that shelters can maintain space to accept new homeless animals, in turn giving them a better chance for survival and adoption into a loving forever home, reducing both euthanasia and strays on the street. Sometimes, some animals simply don't do well in a shelter environment. The daily busy activity and noise may frighten them, or they may require a little more care and attention than others do. There may be newborn animals that need to be nursed or bottle-fed. These babies may respond better to a regular schedule of nurturing from consistent human care that can be provided by foster parents. And don't forget that some animals need time and special care while recovering from an illness or injury before being adopted into a forever home. Whatever the reason, providing foster care for a few days, weeks, or months can be a lifesaving gift for an animal.

Fostering can be flexible, fun and rewarding volunteer work. If you cannot commit to specific days and times to volunteer at a shelter or to a lifetime commitment of adopting a pet of your own, fostering may be for you. It's important to remember that your role as a foster parent is to prepare the animal for adoption into a loving home. Taking animals into your home, loving them, and then letting them go all require a special kind of person. It also requires dedication and some skills. It's best to have some knowledge about companion animal behavior and health. Some organizations provide training for foster parenting. The best route is to discuss your availability and experience with staff from the local shelter with which you will be partnering to determine what kinds of animals are best suited for your particular circumstances. Often, some animals are in need of a little extra love and attention, a regular routine, and consistent human contact. Just by getting to know the animal, you'll help the shelter learn more about his/her characteristics prior to adoption.

Each shelter has its own specific policies, practices and requirements regarding fostering. For example, many shelters provide foster parents with all the necessary food and

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medication. While they usually cover the cost of any necessary veterinary care they may request that you use a specific veterinary clinic for treatment. There are certain written agreements that will require your signature. If you have pets of your own, special attention is given to make sure that all the animals can live together comfortably in the same household, perhaps after gradual introductions, and your pets need to be up to date on their own immunizations.

Being in a foster home can be a lifesaving bridge for a frightened or special needs animal. It gives that animal a chance to get used to life in a house, and an opportunity to learn that people can be kind, food is available, and there is a warm, secure place to sleep. Fostering helps prepare a dog or cat for a new life in a permanent home and it's well known that there is no shortage of animals who need this preparation time before finding their forever homes. In some states, fostering makes an enormous difference in reducing the number of animals euthanized each year because many shelters don't have space for them. It is important, valuable work and, best of all, it saves lives! To learn more, visit the following websites: [www.bestfriends.org/resources/pet-fostering](http://www.bestfriends.org/resources/pet-fostering) and [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com).

Like many shelters in the northeast, PMFAS is fortunate to work with a number of pet foster parents in the area. Remember Kerry? In last winter's issue of *The Scoop* she shared with us her experience of adopting some of the more challenging kitties from PMFAS. As it turns out, Kerry has also fostered a few dogs and cats over the years. Kerry explains that one of the main reasons she and her husband began fostering pets is the grief they shared over the loss of a dog that had been their family member for some 17 years. "My husband had his heart broken. She was our child and we never made a move without her. To lose her was devastating. He feels like he never wants to feel that sadness again. Someday I want to have a dog again who can always be at my side, but for now fostering fills this need for both my husband and me." Kerry recalls that their first foster was a dog, Jasper, that had been treated very badly by previous owners, spending most of his days being tied in a yard with multiple other animals and little, if any, human contact. Naturally, when he first arrived he was quite defensive, somewhat nippy, and so nervous and scared that he had some severe intestinal problems. Kerry and her husband provided patience, calmness, daily nurturing and a regular routine of daily walks as well as appropriate food and consistent feedings. With this pattern of patience and consistency, in a matter of days, Kerry began to see improvement in Jasper's health and behaviors, and over subsequent weeks he adapted to his new, loving environment. "He warmed up to us quickly. He was a perfect boy in the house, curling up on the couch when we left and quietly waiting for us to come home." Being part Border collie, Jasper had a tendency to try to herd all of the cats in the fenced in yard, so it was evident that this could not be a foster-to-adopt situation! Jasper was adopted by a young man who had a lot of love to give and even took Jasper to work with him every day, where Jasper received even more love and attention. Needless to say, this fostering experience transformed Jasper into an easily adoptable dog when we all know that the outcome could have been much different.

In a more recent experience, Kerry tells us about Bentley and Bailey, a Chihuahua duo transported to PMFAS from a shelter in the south where euthanasia is common. As it turns out, little Bentley was heart-worm positive. This means that his treatment required utmost rest, every day for several months, with only minimal activity. His activity was restricted to being in a crate or sitting on the couch, going out only when needed for only a few minutes. With their big hearts, Kerry and her husband agreed to foster Bentley and adhere to the strict constraints of caring for a dog needing this treatment. Initially it was decided that Bailey would remain at the shelter as there was no reason for him to wait several months to find his forever home. Surely he would find one quickly. Well Bailey had his own ideas! He whimpered and cried for his bonded partner, and simply was so unhappy at the shelter without Bentley that Kerry took him into her home too. Meanwhile, poor Bentley was really quite ill at the beginning of his treatment, having little energy to even play. However, once the medication started working, Kerry found that "the boys were trying to play with each other. This still was not allowed, as Bentley had to remain quiet. So that was the hardest part – trying to keep them from running and playing together!" Kerry admitted that she is "not normally a little-dog person, but these two Chihuahuas stole my heart. They were like little people. They slept in bed with us and Bailey never stopped playing and making us laugh." Eventually, Bentley's health improved to the point where the two could be adopted as a bonded pair. They found their forever homes with a couple who had fallen in love with them and shared their thoughts with shelter staff, reporting that "We are so proud. We are so in love with these two. What they have brought to our lives can never be put into words. They certainly are our world!" For certain, fostering made a big difference in the future of this little dynamic duo!



*Bentley and Bailey – peacefully relaxing and thriving in their foster home while preparing to find their own forever home.*

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*Winnie – content with the wonders of her own back yard!*

On at least one occasion, Kerry and her husband adopted their foster animal. Without intending it to be a “foster-to-adopt” situation, they took in a cat from PMFAS named Winnie who for some reason was being “bullied” by other cats. Even after trying a number of strategies to alleviate the stress, Winnie’s anxiety continued to increase, urinary problems arose due to the stress and eventually she began treatment with a medication. It seemed like a foster home was the best solution, even if temporary. With eight of their own cats in the household, Kerry was uncertain as to how this would work out. Much to Kerry’s delight and satisfaction, her own cats simply left Winnie alone. This meant that poor Winnie could be weaned off her medication, and just continue on food formulated specially for cats with urinary problems. Adding an additional litter box to further reduce anxiety was another helpful improvement. Within a very few weeks Winnie’s condition improved significantly and within a few months it was decided that she had found her forever home right there with Kerry. That was over two years ago and Kerry adds that Winnie “is big, beautiful and has gained so much confidence. She loves to play, spend time in my husband’s lap and play with his shoe strings. We love her!”

Kerry and her husband are happy to be pet foster parents and the staff at PMFAS is extremely grateful for their services as well as all the help received from other foster homes. Certainly, you do need to consider your own household, circumstances and availability to help socialize the animals that come under your care. Overall, Kerry shares the following sentiment. “I would recommend fostering to anyone who can possibly fit it into their lives and want to make a difference. All they need is a little kindness, a safe environment and sometimes just allowing the animal a little aloneness, or for others, more interaction for them to blossom.” Clearly, fostering has made a difference in the lives of the animals that have spent time with Kerry, her husband, and other foster parents helping PMFAS. And after all, isn’t that what matters?

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## **Keepers of the Kennels/Kitties...**

*Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who graciously support our kitties and kennels each month:* Blanchard Oil, Julie Mountain/Al Brissard, Lidia & Steven Dow, Jean Arcangeli, Brenda Butler-Smith, Carol Piper, Mary Kate Lathari, Cheryl & Tom Wright, Katherine Mansfield and Ashraf Eassa, Cindy & Amber Divio, Janet Roberge, Colleen King, Betty J Malony, Rourke & Arden Yandow, Peter and Barbara Bell.

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## **Worth noting again: As of July 1, 2016, a new Vermont law went into effect..**

**Friday, July 1st**, a new Vermont law goes into effect that provides liability protection to individuals who forcibly enter a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a child or animal in danger. The law sets out certain requirements to follow in these circumstances. Please make sure you follow these guidelines should you ever be in the unfortunate situation of having to intervene to save a life.

- (1) Determine if the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise no reasonable method for the child or animal to exit the vehicle
  - (2) Reasonably and in good faith believe that forcible entry into the motor vehicle is necessary because the child or animal is in imminent danger of harm
  - (3) Notify local law enforcement, fire department, or a 911 operator prior to forcibly entering the vehicle
  - (4) Remain with the child or animal in a safe location reasonably close to the motor vehicle until a law enforcement, fire, or other emergency responder arrives
  - (5) Place a notice on the vehicle that the authorities have been notified and specifying the location of the child or animal; and
  - (6) Use no more force to enter the vehicle and remove the child or animal than necessary under the circumstances
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# Volunteer Spotlight

As readers of *The Scoop* you know by now that the efforts and generosity of our volunteers are extremely valuable to PMFAS. In acknowledging that it's important to recognize our volunteers we like to Spotlight someone in each issue of the newsletter. Our volunteers are essential in helping us fulfill our mission. Without them, we could not care for all the animals that pass through our door each year. This summer we're spotlighting Pam Parkinson and her son Andrew.

Pam is a certified veterinary technician and currently employed at a local veterinary clinic. She has been volunteering at PMFAS for over four years and works with both the cats and the dogs. As a vet tech, Pam is able to use her skill and experience in working with some of the dogs that need special assistance with some behavioral issues and could benefit from some socialization strategies. She also works with some of the cats that are a bit feisty and independent, helping to socialize them, soften their behavior and improve their adoptability.

Andrew recently graduated from Lake Region Union High School and plans to attend VTC for computer engineering. While Andrew is to be congratulated on this success, it isn't his only achievement. After a number of years in the Boy Scouts, Andrew is a recent recipient of the Eagle Scout Badge. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. According to one online source, ([www.nesa.org](http://www.nesa.org)) the designation "Eagle Scout" was founded over one hundred years ago and only five percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after meeting stringent requirements and a lengthy review process. Congratulations Andrew! In his role at PMFAS, Andrew also spends time with both the cats and the dogs. While there in the afternoons, he does what is called "cat tuck-ins" – feeding the cats their serving of canned food, making sure they have the right amount of dry food for the night, scooping litter and using any extra time to play with all those furry friends. He also spends time with the dogs, helping them learn to play and become comfortable with friendly humans. This also helps to socialize them and increases their chances of finding their own forever homes.

Pam and Andrew have long been animal lovers and over the years have adopted a cat and three dogs. Their favorite breed of dogs is Beagle - and there's never a shortage of those at PMFAS!

"What can I say? Pam and Andrew are wonderful! They are Beagle people – just like me!" states Amy Mariotti, Shelter Manager. "But more seriously, we greatly appreciate all that Pam and Andrew do at the shelter. They are reliable, friendly volunteers and their compassion for the animals is evident. Like many of our other volunteers, we know we can rely on them, and that's reassuring in our daily activities and tasks at the shelter."



Congratulations, Pam and Andrew! This time the Spotlight is on you! We know that we need you and our other volunteers to provide the care, love and attention to all the creatures that spend time at PMFAS. Thank you very much for your time, energy and dedication to PMFAS!

## Dog Ice Cream Recipe:

- 3 ripe bananas
- 32 ounces plain yogurt
- 1 cup peanut butter

### Directions:

Blend, pour the mixture into ice trays, freeze. In a couple hours you'll have a cool treat for your dog!



# What to do When You Lose Your Pet

Losing a pet can be fearful and anxiety-producing for families, as well as for the lost pet. When PMFAS is notified, we like to help by posting the information on our FB page. However, there are a number of other things that you can do quickly and easily to get the word out that your four-footed family member is missing and you want him back as soon as possible!

- Put up posters in your local stores. The best results come from picture posters. Use brightly colored neon poster board that attracts attention. Use a clear picture and lettering that's big, simple and easy to read.
- Notify your local town clerk or animal control officer (ACO) and those in surrounding towns to let them know that your pet is missing. All stray dogs go directly to the ACO of each town and are held for a few days.
- Notify your friends and neighbors and let them know how to get in touch with you.
- Notify the local veterinarians to see if your pet has been brought in for an injury.
- Use social media. Post the photo and some contact info on Facebook or other similar media and ask that the information be shared to get the word out far and wide.

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**YES! I would like to support the PMFAS in caring for the unwanted, abandoned, stray, neglected, and abused animals. Here is my tax deductible gift of: (circle one)**

Individual Membership: \$25. Family Membership: \$40. Benefactor: \$50. Guardian Angel: \$100. Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### IN MEMORIAM & IN HONOR OF

**YES! I would like to give a donation to the PMFAS**

In memory of my deceased  cat  dog  other \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of my living  cat  dog  other \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

No letter of acknowledgement of this gift is necessary.

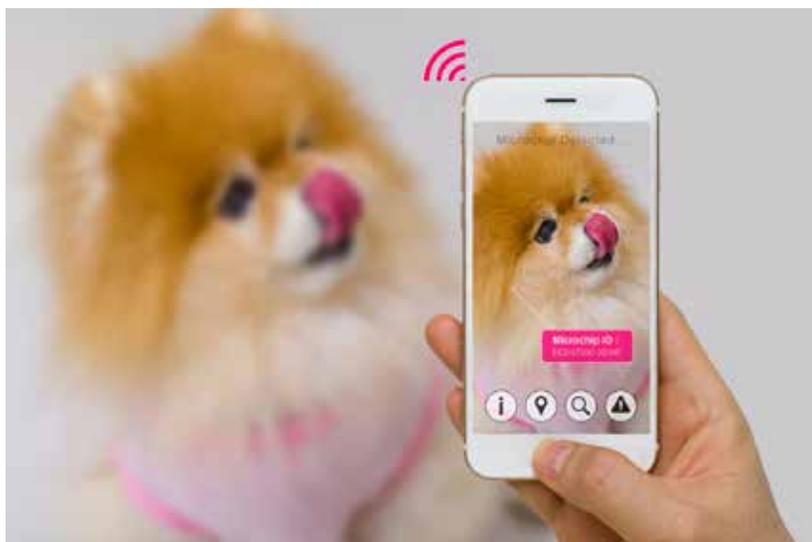
**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc., 502 Strawberry Acres Road, Newport, VT 05855.

**- KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS -**

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER, INC., 502 STRAWBERRY ACRES RD., NEWPORT, VT 05855

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_



- When your four-footed friend is found and returns home, consider getting him micro-chipped. Call your local veterinarian or shelter for more information about this simple procedure.
- Make it a regular practice to keep your dog's rabies, license and name tags up to date and on his collar. Be sure he's wearing the collar when you're both out and about. Thunder or fireworks can scare your dog into running. With collar and updated, readable tags, it will be easier for your dog to be returned to you if he should become separated.

At PMFAS, while we like to help return local lost animals to their families, we hope that it doesn't happen often. Following the action steps above makes it easier. ***Always make the safety of your pet a priority!***

**Visit us online at  
[www.frontieranimalsociety.com](http://www.frontieranimalsociety.com)**

**In Memory Donations**

Donations received  
 January 1 - July 20, 2017

PAUL DENTON  
 MARIE AUDREY THAYER  
 SEYMOUR  
 JOSEPH QUEENIN  
 RICHARD LEBLANC  
 CATHERINE LUCAS INNMAN  
 DAVID YANACHEAK  
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