



THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

Adopt A Friend Today!

Betty is about 5 years old and is a sweet, loving and active girl looking for her new forever home. No cats please, she thinks they are fun to chase.



Comet is a super cute very shiny little man looking for a loving forever home.

Dungy is a 4 year old Spring Spaniel. He is good with dogs and children. Dungy is house trained and crate trained. He is a sweet and active guy and would make a great outdoor buddy! Dungy is not good with cats.



Frisco came to us as a local stray. He is about a year old and he is one playful and active dog. He is great with other dogs and loves to play He is house trained

and would make a great running, walking, hiking pal. Come in and meet Frisco, he might be your new best friend.

Fancy is a beautiful older gal in need of a peaceful home to spend her golden years. Fancy was in pretty tough shape when she came to us, She seems pretty happy now. She prefers a home with out dogs or a very mild dog and loves humans and other cats. Fancy has been at the shelter for 3 years and would love to have a new forever home to call her own.



A Tribute to Three Shelter Angels

This past year, the Northeast Kingdom lost three wonderful ladies who were amazingly generous to the Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter.

Rita J. Maloney passed away this summer after devoting over twenty years to the financial well-being of our organization. She untiringly collected donations from the coin drop containers at over 30 local retail businesses. Her very supportive husband, Dean, often assisted her in this endeavor. Rita desperately wanted to “retire” from her duties on her 80th birthday, after collecting \$80,000 through the years. Fortunately for the shelter animals, she was convinced to continue her efforts. Her new personal goal became \$100,000 which she nearly reached before her death. To the animals, staff and board of PMFAS, however, Rita’s dedication and commitment were worth millions, no matter how many coins she collected.

Alma Burlton was another shelter “angel”. Having no immediate family, Alma wanted to help our shelter animals by remembering them as her benefactors. Alma particularly loved kitties, and her kind generosity has secured shelter, warmth and food for many homeless cats and kittens for years to come.

Lastly, Audrey Betz of Craftsbury was a true philanthropist to the PMFAS. Audrey, and her sister Geraldine, were both believers in helping and adopting rescue animals. They were passionate about educating and assisting pet owners in responsible care with special emphasis on spaying and neutering. With Audrey’s help, our shelter will be able to offer low-cost spay/neuter clinics for decades to come.

“We wish to express our deepest thanks and gratitude for the generosity demonstrated by these three wonderful ladies,” states Betsy Hampton, one of the founders of PMFAS and the current Board Treasurer. “As a sign of our appreciation we have installed memorial plaques in the shelter. We will continue to honor their memory and the difference they have made for the homeless animals of our area.”

www.frontieranimalsociety.com



In Appreciation of Our Volunteers



PMFAS Volunteers – We Salute You!

On October 24, Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter celebrated the value of volunteerism by hosting an appreciation dinner for current volunteers and friends at the Eastside Restaurant in Newport. In this photo, taken by volunteer Lisa Robinson, Doe Ruggles (right forefront) expresses congratulations to Ruth Gjessing. Both women have volunteered at the shelter for many years. While Doe spends most of her volunteer time working with and walking the dogs, Ruth's passion is the spay/neuter clinic for cats and kittens. The number of hours expended by both of these volunteers is innumerable and invaluable, yet it represents only a fraction of the hours spent by all the volunteers combined throughout the year. In the background of the photo, Audrey Rockwell (left) is both surprised and pleased as she converses with Amy Mariotti. Audrey works at the shelter through the VT Associates Program and knows each of the cats by name and by their particular likes and dislikes.

Approximately 45 volunteers and guests were honored at the dinner. "Without the dedication and commitment that you demonstrate by giving of your time, your caring and compassionate interactions with our animals," noted Sherry Girard, Board President, in her opening remarks at the dinner, "the Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter would not be able to fulfill its goal which is to find loving, permanent homes for pets in Orleans and Northern Essex Counties and to help control the pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering each animal that comes into our care while supporting a low cost cat spay/neuter clinic for our community." Girard further reported that since opening its doors in 1993, the shelter has cared for several thousand cats, dogs, kittens and puppies. "This has been accomplished because of YOU - our volunteers," continued Girard. "It's pretty amazing what a community of volunteers can accomplish when they believe in something!" After noting all the duties and chores involved in working at the shelter, some less pleasant than others, Girard asked "So why do we continue to volunteer at the shelter when our lives are so busy day to day? Because each one of us has a memory etched in our hearts. You remember the gentle lick or very faint purr of the cat or the dog that was crouched in the back of his kennel. And YOU were the human he chose to trust. You remember the faces on the new adoptive family as they led their new forever friend out to their waiting car. This is why we return to the shelter time and time again. It can be hard work, but it is so very much more to each and every one of us as volunteers." Following a message of sincere appreciation to all the PMFAS volunteers, Girard honored them with a quote well known by animal rescue groups across the country and particularly meaningful to shelter volunteers... *"By saving the life of one animal we may not change the world, but the world will surely change for that one animal."* (Author unknown)

Keepers of the Kitties and Kennels

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who graciously support our kitties and kennels each month:

Blanchard Oil, Pam & Carl Brodhead, Steve & Lydia Dow, Jean Arcangeli, Toni Rushlow, Mary Jo Gallagher, Carol Piper, Brenda Butler-Smith, Paula Manzi, Julie Mountain & Al Brissard, Carol Martin, Chris & Amanda Lalich, Kathleen & Art Ross





Morgan - A Special Dog Finds a Special Forever Home

In this issue of The Scoop, we bring you the heartfelt story of Morgan, a lab/pit mix who is a former resident of Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter and her adopted person, Beth Hayden. Morgan and Beth have shared the touching tale of how they found each other. Here is their story, as told by Beth...

The story of Morgan starts out with the story of my previous dog, Tigger. Tigger, a bullmastiff, died at a young age of lymphoma. I had adopted her through a mutual friend of her owner at that time. Tigger was a big dog, shy, especially around men, not well socialized and, as with many dogs, prone to periods of high energy. When I adopted her, she wasn't even leash trained. I was fortunate enough to have just over two years with Tigger. With some regular work and attention she blossomed into a wonderful dog and got along with other dogs. While she required time and patience in learning manners and getting to know people, I never thought I'd meet another dog like her.

Since I live alone, when Tigger died, I wanted to find another dog to fill the big void that she left. I do have three cats and cats can be very mellow and loving, but as many of you know, they just don't replicate that experience of being the most important person in the world every time you walk through your door. I knew I wanted a shelter dog, and I thought I'd go a little smaller because I remembered the times when I had to lift Tigger. At 120 pounds, that was fairly difficult! I also knew that I wanted a dog with a shorter coat to make bathing easier, especially with a nervous dog. Since I have friends who really like their pit bulls, I focused on a search for a dog better known as the American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier.



Morgan and my friend, Sarah, and her son, Quentin, on my couch. Sarah and her husband watch Morgan when I'm out of town.

I didn't have to wait very long! While cruising around on petfinder.com I found Morgan at Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, and instantly I thought she was incredibly cute. I found myself laughing at her ridiculously sweet photo with one ear up and one ear to the side. If it isn't already obvious, I'm a sucker for "Charlie Brown" cases (as in a "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree!"). I read the story of Morgan that PMFAS had posted on petfinder. She was found as a stray, had poor social skills and the shelter advised a home without children and without other dogs. It seemed that she was ok with cats. Well, that certainly fit my situation! As an aside, she was listed as a pit bull mix. Depending on whether you talk to "lab people" or "pit bull people," Morgan may be a small Lab or she may be a bigger Staffie.

None of that really matters! What matters is that I made contact with the shelter to arrange a visit, filled out an application, and was approved to take her home that weekend if I wanted! Since I had a business trip within another week I didn't want to take her home only to leave her in an unknown environment. Because of that, we thought it best to just arrange the visit first, and then if we hit it off, I'd come back and finalize the adoption within a few weeks. When I drove to PMFAS to meet her, Morgan initially was outside with her kennel buddy, barking incessantly. (If I were housed in a kennel, I'd probably bark too!) To allow for a quieter encounter, Morgan and I officially met in a room adjacent to the main kennel. As instructed by the shelter experts, I paid no attention to her at first as we all stood around and talked while Morgan sniffed and checked us out. She was clearly interested, but very shy. I didn't try to make eye contact during the first few minutes. I



Morgan let us put a cape on her.





was given some hot dog bits because that's one of her favorite treats (although now it's probably bacon!). Eventually, I knelt down and just let her come to me and sniff. She let me pet her, and right away, I knew she was the dog for me! We went for a walk, played with some toys, and got lots of treats.

As it turned out, it was advantageous that I had a business trip because Morgan had one or two more sessions of obedience class. I must say it's really great to have a dog that's had some training and can even go off leash. I can now take her hiking and let her go outdoors without worrying about her not coming back. She sits, has excellent manners (when I'm around), and she's eager to please.

When I brought Morgan home for the first time, she sat in the back of my truck and slept. During our first few months together, whenever we went for a car ride, she'd fall asleep sitting up. Occasionally, she fell asleep while sitting upright on the couch! One minute her head is up and she's looking around, the next, her head is on her chest, eyes closed. I'm happy to report that she has since learned to lie down to sleep!

There were a few growing pains with Morgan. She's very smart and definitely food driven. I learned that I couldn't leave food items out. Once I left a cornbread on the stove and she ate half of it. At another time, I accidentally left a package of beef jerky on the kitchen table with the intention of bringing it to work as a snack. I came home to find only shreds of the wrapper remaining on the living room floor. It has been challenging for Morgan to make dog friends and I was worried that it might never happen. She does not like other dogs coming up to her face. Nor does she like being on the leash when meeting new dogs. So, the best way for her to meet is outside and off leash. It has taken a while, but she finally has quite a few dog friends, including the neighbor's dog - her best friend. I really enjoy watching her run around and play with another dog. She's very energetic. She can be very protective and demonstrates this with her "big dog" bark.



Morgan gets a ride in the Mustang.

I'm also happy to tell you that Morgan is now GREAT with children! When I'm out of town, she stays with friends who have a one-year-old child and she's excellent with him. She's excellent with their kitten as well - a kitten that sometimes plays with claws to the face and Morgan just takes it.

Lastly, and most importantly, Morgan is very loving. When I get up in the morning, she's excited to see me. When I get home from work, she's excited to see me. When I feed her, she's so excited. She loves to sit on the couch with me and snuggle. If I take a nap, she sleeps right beside me. She sometimes thinks she's a lap dog, so when I play video games, she wants to sit with me. She's a little big for that, but that's her sweetness showing. Morgan loves to play. Whether retrieving toys or playing tug-of-war, her playfulness is a joy to see!



My girls, Morgan and her sister, Tanzy, laying on my bed.

Morgan's a great dog. To me, she is amazing! Clearly, the staff at PMFAS did a great job in working with her. I still cannot believe that she spent a year at the shelter. On one hand, I feel badly that it took so long for her to find a forever home, and on the other hand I am so happy that she waited for me to give her that forever home. Morgan was the best Christmas present ever! I'm very thankful to all involved for the joy and pleasure of having this wonderful dog in my life.





Volunteer Spotlight



To show our volunteers how much we appreciate all they do, we like to shine the spotlight on someone in each issue of The Scoop. We are fortunate to have so many generous and committed volunteers at PMFAS. Through their work, increasingly more homeless animals are able to find their “forever” homes each year. This time, we’ve turned the Volunteer Spotlight on **Nancy Rovero!**

Nancy is well known for the time and energy she spends taking care of so many kittens – anywhere from one to six at any given time - providing foster care in her home. We hear she’s done this for 19 litters so far! Sometimes the very young kittens require special care and skills. For example, if they are young enough to still be dependent on their mom, but momma cat is not available for whatever reason, Nancy bottle feeds special formula to the kitties around the clock, even through the night. “Nancy is a great foster mom,” explains Amy Mariotti, Shelter Manager. “She takes care of the baby kitties as if they are her own. The kittens always come into the shelter as very social creatures that seem to get along well with humans, other cats and dogs. Nancy is very kind to everyone, animal and human,” adds Mariotti, “with always something pleasant to say.” It’s also important to note that Nancy is more than willing to share detailed information

continued on next page.....



Please put the PMFAS on your holiday gift giving list!

The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc. is financed entirely by adoption fees, fund raisers, and donations from animal lovers like you. Because we are a primarily volunteer organization, almost every penny goes directly toward the rescue and care of the animals.

In 2012, we estimate that nearly 500 pets will have been adopted from our shelter. Please help our dogs and kitties this holiday season. The average cost to provide medical care, shelter and food, before being adopted into a home and family, is in excess of \$300 per animal.

Please help us with a holiday donation.



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.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No letter of acknowledgment of this gift is necessary. **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Mail to: Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc., 502 Strawberry Acres Rd., Newport, VT 05855

In Memory Donations

Donations received
June 15 - November 30, 2012

Charleen Bronson
Rita Maloney
Ellen Hommel
James Rafferty III
Margaret B. Kambour
Quinn Finnegan
William Slaiby
Arthur Blouin
Emile Royer
Jeanine Paré
Vivian Whipple
Eileen Wiggett
Helen Bernier
David Bradley

about the kittens with potential adopters, giving them the opportunity to know special things about their adopted friend.

Nancy has been volunteering at PMFAS for several years. In addition to her foster care responsibilities, she works in the cat spay/neuter clinic which is held once or twice a month. At the clinic, Nancy helps to awaken the cats and kittens from anesthesia after their surgery, making sure that it is safe for them to go home again or return to the shelter.

It's obvious that Nancy has a special place in her heart for homeless animals. Previously involved in Newfoundland Rescues, one of her two dogs is a "Newfie rescue." In addition, she shares her home with five cats, at least two of which are from PMFAS. Two donkeys also call Nancy's property "home."

Living in Newark, VT, Nancy commutes a fair distance to volunteer at the shelter but that's not a problem to her! She volunteers to help humans on a regular basis too, providing transportation for people who have appointments at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH.

Indeed, Nancy goes above and beyond in making life easier and more comfortable for both animals and humans! Thank you for your dedication and commitment, Nancy. This time the Spotlight is on you! We want you to know how much we appreciate all you do!

Frontier Animal Society
Wish List
Dish Soap
Laundry Soap
Everyday Household Cleaners
Paper Towels
Peanut Butter
Large & Small Dog Biscuits
Kongs
Cat & Dog Toys & Canned Food



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