



# THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

## Adopt A Friend Today!



**Dane** is an energetic fun loving 15 month old Lab. He good with other dogs and has lived with children, but will chase cats. He knows some obedience commands and learns new commands quickly.

Dane is playful and affectionate and he can't wait to show you how he can catch treats in the air when tossed to him. He would make a great addition to any family! Come meet Dane to see if he is the dog you have been longing for.



**Willis** came to us as a local stray and seems to be about a year old. Willis is a sweet and quiet kitty and is looking forward to a special family to

come in and adopt him. He gets along with other cats.

**Guinness** came in as a local stray and seems to be about 4 years old. He is a little stressed while adjusting to shelter live. He is a sweet and gentle boy. He is a seal point Siamese.



**Anna and Henry** came in as local strays and seems to be around a year old. They were dumped at a local farm, and are a little shy with humans because of this, but ones they warm up to you they are sweeties. They would love to be adopted together, but it is not required.



**Blink** is a sweet domestic medium hair cat. She is playful and gets along with other cats. She seems to be about 2 years old and would love to have a new forever home.



**Scooter** came to us as a local stray and is under a year old. He is a sweet and happy pup who loves to play with other dogs. He is good with cats and would fit into most any household.

## Another New Beginning . . . . .

Hi there! My name is Jade, and I know a thing or two about new beginnings! I've had several over my life time and I'm over nine years old now! In dog years, that's getting past middle age!

You know, starting over in a new beginning can be really tough. It can get complicated. There are new humans to meet and new routines to learn. You have to figure out new things about houses or yards you've never seen before and



you have to learn how to live with humans and other creatures you don't know well. It seems the older you get, the harder it is to start over again. So here's my story and I'd like to share it with you because those terrific folks at Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter have helped me with my new beginnings more than once!

I arrived at PMFAS this past summer. I think it was July because it was really hot and humid out - too hot to do much running and playing. Once I got there, I remembered that I had been there before. I guess it was over two years ago. I wasn't a young pup then either - almost seven years old at that time. I had been in and out of homes several times. It seems the humans just couldn't make up their minds as to where I should live. You see, I'm very gentle and quite sweet, even if I do say so! I like other dogs. I get along well with cats - and you know how annoying they can be! I like most humans, as long as they treat me right, and I love those little humans they call children. I'm so gentle, that even one of those little humans can lead me on a leash!

Anyway, I'm not sure why I kept going from house to house all those years ago, but I finally ended up at PMFAS. I don't think I was there very long before I got adopted. Well that was great! Even though it meant another new beginning, I was ready to live with a new human and see how I could best get along with her.

Things started off just fine. I got to eat and sleep and eat and sleep, and then eat and sleep some more! After a while though, that lazy lifestyle began to be problem... and a pretty big one! You see, us dogs, well, we need some exercise! We need to go walking at least every day, and some running helps to keep us in shape too. I think it's the same for humans - although I don't think they all get the exercise they need either. But that's another story!

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Over the following two years or so, the human I was with just didn't have time for me. That was very sad for both of us. She worked long hours every day and was too tired to take me out when she got home. Don't misunderstand me. She wasn't mean to me and she did feed me. That became part of the problem. With no exercise and lots of food, I just got bigger and bigger. Finally, in July, when she decided she really couldn't take care of me anymore, my human brought me back to PMFAS.

That's how I remember that it was summer. It was so hot and I was so overweight, that all I really wanted to do was lay on the cool floor of the shelter kennel.

Well...no way! I can tell you that Amy, the Shelter Manager, and the other folks that work and volunteer there had other ideas for me! Turns out, I had gained about 30 pounds! That's not good for anyone – four-legged or two-legged! And as an older dog, it was especially not healthy for me. It's harder to take off pounds when you're older than when you're a "spring chicken!" And I'm no chicken!

So, those folks at PMFAS made it their priority to make sure that I went outside for a walk every day and usually more than once a day, rain or shine! Sometimes I was on a leash, and sometimes I had off leash time with some of the other dogs in the fenced play areas. Those other dogs kept me moving, especially because many of them were half my age or younger! Imagine trying to keep up with someone half your age! The staff also put me on a diet of sorts. They gave me healthy low-calorie food and I only got a little of it each day, not a lot. This new routine was ok with me! I knew that if I was ever going to find another human to love me and take me home, I'd have to act and look my best!

Well, the weeks went by and rolled into months. Eventually I lost at least 20 pounds! I sure feel better and I think I look a lot better too! Best of all - it all helped! All that work and effort paid off! I have found a new forever home, and this time I think it really IS forever! I'm so excited and happy! I live with some great humans and they don't mind that I'm an older dog and that I got out of shape for a while.

I owe so much to those talented and caring humans at PMFAS-- the staff and volunteers that made me get out and walk, paid close attention to what I was eating, and got me back in shape! Sure, it's another new beginning, and I've got some new humans to learn to live with. I know I can do it! I can tell they love me a lot and we'll just take care of each other - together in our new forever home! Thanks everyone at PMFAS – You sure know how to help with new beginnings!

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## Volunteer Spotlight

If you read The Scoop regularly (and we hope you do!), you know very well that in each issue we like to put the Spotlight on one of our many dedicated volunteers. We fully understand - and we want you all to know - how valuable all our volunteers are in helping us carry out the day to day operations of the shelter. Some involve manual tasks while others provide a special caring touch to the furry friends that temporarily reside at the shelter, and some volunteers combine both of these aspects. Such is the case for Volunteer **Barbara Hittle**, and this time, Barbara, the Spotlight is on you!

Barbara has been volunteering at the shelter for over eight years, having started in October 2006. While her role has changed a bit over time, she primarily works with the cats, and has worked at the cat spay/neuter clinics. These are held at least monthly, and sometimes twice a month, at the shelter. Currently, Barbara is at the shelter every Wednesday, cleaning and disinfecting two of the cat rooms called the Jungle Room and the Sunshine Room. When she has completed these tasks, Barbara likes to just sit and spend time with the kitties. She talks to them, pets them, and gives them lots of love – all of which might help some of them become more adoptable and find their forever homes. Sometimes, if the cats in one of the rooms are not in a particularly sociable mood, she sits with them and reads a book so that they are not alone and someone is with them. She makes it a practice to really know the cats in these rooms and enjoys each of their special qualities while they are at the shelter.





When not volunteering, Barbara works in the busy and challenging field of real estate at Golden Rule Properties and enjoys gardening and reading at her home in Glover. "Barbara is always smiling and very social," explains Amy Mariotti, Shelter Manager. "During the summer we discuss gardening, and we're always sharing ideas about the cats. She is a caring person and that shows in how she spends her time with the animals."

Congratulations, Barbara! This time the Spotlight is on you! Thank you for all your years of service at PMFAS and for everything you do for our animals. We certainly appreciate your dedication, time and energy! Thank you!

## Bringing Home a New Dog – Preparations and Patience Count!



Are you considering adding a new member to your household? Great! We can't wait to see you at PMFAS to adopt one of our adorable furry creatures!

Bringing home a new pet, particularly a new dog, is both very exciting and challenging. It can also be a joyful and rewarding experience if some basic guidelines are followed. While the adjustment can take some time, the keys to success for all concerned are preparation and patience.

A first step is to gather the supplies that you will need. At the top of your list should be an identification tag! Then include a collar and leash, food and water bowls, healthy food, and of course, some toys and a pillow or blanket for your new friend to call his own.

Discuss a plan with your family or household members. Consider responsibilities like who will walk the dog in the morning, or during the day, and at night. How often will he be fed and who will feed him? Will he be allowed on furniture and in all rooms or are there some restrictions? Where will your new furry friend rest his head and sleep at night? Are there other pets already in the home? If so, be sure to allow for sufficient "meet and greet" time. Is there a dog-friendly park nearby or a fenced area where the dog can have some off-leash play time?

In planning for the new arrival, consider bringing him home at the start of a weekend or when you can arrange to have a couple days at home. This helps in getting to know each other, allows for some quality time together and reduces stress. It also allows time for the new arrival to get to know any other pets already living in the house.

Be prepared for houstraining. Even a dog that has been acting well-houstrained at the shelter can experience some nervousness and apprehension in a new environment. Accidents can happen. Consistency and a regular routine are the key factors in training your dog to go outside "to do his business."

Give your dog a crate! While you may think of it as a restraint, dogs instinctively like to den. Their crate can be their own "room." Choose one that is large enough for your new friend to stand and turn around in and furnish it with a pillow or blanket, a small water bowl and toys. This makes houstraining and obedience-training easier for everyone. While crating all day or all night isn't advisable, crating for a few hours at a time is very useful. If crating isn't possible, consider using a small room or gating off part of a room to give your new addition a dog-proof place of his own.

Become established with a local veterinarian. While all our animal friends at PMFAS have been vaccinated and spayed or neutered, it's helpful to introduce your new arrival to a vet of your choice for a wellness check within the first few weeks. In this way, your vet can more easily diagnose and treat any problems that might arise in the future.

Creating a happy home for your new family member as well as for all the current family members requires time and attention. Dogs need order and they enjoy routine. Let your pet know from the start who is the boss. Stay calm and use a stern voice when trying to correct behavior and be sure to use rewards and praise when he does well. Consider a local dog obedience class to enhance your skills and your dog's behavior. Yes, it takes time and patience. It's time well spent when you soon realize you have a happy, healthy new addition to your family!

*(Adapted from Partnership for Animal Welfare [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org))*





## A Time for Gratitude . . . . .

As a new year rolls around, we at PMFAS realize we have much to be thankful for. As we begin celebrating our 22nd year of providing shelter, food, and tender loving care to so many homeless dogs and cats from this area, we remember some wonderful events from 2014. Among them is the Shelter Improvement Day on July 12. We thank all our dedicated volunteers that contributed hours of work on that day accomplishing some challenging tasks such as painting, replacing window screens and repairing dog yards and dog kennels. Thanks also to the organizations that partnered together to support this event – Greater Good Organization and Pedigree Dog Food for their Shelter Renovation Project Grant and Animal Lifeline. Another memorable event was our annual Sunset Cruise on the Northern Star ([www.vermontlakecruises.com](http://www.vermontlakecruises.com)) which took place on August 22. A big thank you to our partners at Northern Star and to all those who purchased tickets and participated in the silent auction! Once again this was a successful fundraiser for the shelter and we certainly appreciate your contributions – as do our furry friends that temporarily call the shelter their home! On October 26, Waterfront Lanes ([www.waterfrontlanes.com](http://www.waterfrontlanes.com)) hosted youth and adult bowling tournaments to raise funds for the shelter. We sincerely appreciate their time and effort in initiating and publicizing this event. Overall, we want to take this time to acknowledge all our friends and supporters, from individual volunteers and families to local businesses and towns. Whether your support comes in the form of time, work, kind words or donations of many varieties, we appreciate it all! While the list could go on, we don't want to overlook our adopters! We are grateful to this year's adopters from near and far who made new forever homes for nearly 300 homeless dogs and cats. Hearty and sincere thanks from Board, Staff, and all our furry friends at PMFAS!



*Nate Michaud (L), Shelter Manager Amy Mariotti (center), and board member Betsy Hampton get ready to bowl a strike (or maybe a gutter ball!) at the Waterfront Lanes fundraiser on Oct. 26.*



*Shelter supporters and fellow animal lovers Glenda Nye (L), Lesley Olin (center; also a board member) and Sharon Smith take a moment to relax during the bowling tournament at Waterfront Lanes.*





## 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  
Julie Mountain & Al Brissard  
Carl & Pam Brodhead  
Lidia & Steven Dow  
Jean Arcangeli  
Brenda Butler-Smith

Sheila Quinn  
Aydin & Mary Kate Lathari  
Tom & Cheryl Wright  
Carol Piper  
Bill & Faye Perkins



## 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 2014, we estimate that nearly 300 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 - December 15, 2014

Andrew March  
Fabien Poutre  
Martha VanTubergan  
Robert Clapper  
Ballard Perry  
James Lantagne  
Corey Carpenter  
Carl Tyler  
Lewis Sarracco



# Pet Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

'Tis the season for friends and family, eggnog and other treats, and good times! During this busy time it can be a challenge to juggle everything that needs to be done -- including caring for your four-legged friends. Here are a few tips to help keep your furry friends safe for the holidays:

### No Chocolate, Please

Although Fido and Fluffy may be attracted to the smell and taste of chocolate, in sufficient quantities, chocolate can make her very sick. The result? Vomiting, diarrhea, and a lovely holiday spent at the emergency vet clinic.

Be sure to store chocolate well away from pets. Open counters or ledges are not good places -- some dogs may 'counter-surf', and cats easily reach counters (what's worse, they can knock chocolate off the countertop and straight into the path of enthusiastic dogs!).

### Tinsel's Pretty, But...

Although it's a popular decoration for trees, it can pose a danger if your pet swallows it. It's possible for it to cause an intestinal blockage -- and again, no one (least of all your pet!) wants to spend the holidays undergoing surgery!

### What's That? Who's There?

Holidays are often filled with friends and family going in and out of the house. If your pet is excitable or tends to get stressed with noise and crowds, consider placing her safely in a crate or a room that's "out-of-bounds" to guests. Give her blankets, food, water, toys ... and check in with her regularly to make sure she's okay. This will help to ensure your pet stays safely with her family, rather than accidentally slipping out the door.

### Mmm mmm! Extension cords!

With all the pretty lights during the holiday season, you probably have a variety of extension cords running every which way. Some pets have a real 'taste' for extension cords -- keep an eye on them to prevent chewing, or they could be in for a real 'shock'! Where possible, tie cords out of the way. Some hardware stores also sell a plastic tubing into which you insert cords to keep your gnawing little pet from hurting herself.

*Happy Holidays to you and your family -- both two-legged and four-legged!*



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