## The Paw Print "

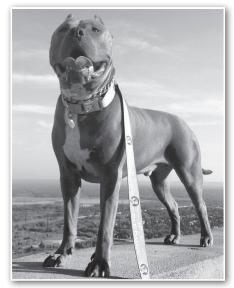
November 2015

## BAD RAP, GOOD DOG

By Keri Heise

At Animal Allies Humane Society, we believe that every animal in our care deserves an equal opportunity to live a happy, healthy life. Over the last few months, our organization has been discussing how this belief specifically relates to dogs labeled as "Pit Bulls."

While the name "Pit Bull" has become a popular term used as a breed identifier, this label is not actually recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC).
Just as the term "Hound" can refer to anything from a Basset Hound, to a Beagle, or a Bloodhound, "Pit Bull" is a generic term often used to describe any dog with a blocky head, short coat, and



Apollo is a local "Pit Bull" owned by breed advocate Jesse Hakala. Jesse runs Nice Pitbull Bully Club.

muscular build. Two AKC-recognized breeds, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and American Staffordshire Terriers, are most commonly labeled "Pit Bulls," but the term is also used to label dog breeds ranging from American Bulldogs to Boxers and even Mastiffs - all breeds that are as different to each other as a Beagle is to a Bloodhound.

There are many myths and misconceptions about dogs commonly labeled as "Pit Bulls." If you hear the designation "Pit Bull," you may picture a dog that is aggressive, unpredictable, or trained for dog fighting: a dog with an all-around bad reputation. But the idea that these are all unpredictably aggressive dogs has been disproved by the work of the American Temperament Test Society (atts.org), which has been conducting temperament tests on over 40 breeds of dogs since 1977. The exam used by this society is designed to evaluate each dog's ability to interact with humans, human situations, and the environment. Since testing began, 90.7% of Staffordshire Bull Terriers tested have passed this evaluation, compared to only 85.2% of Golden Retrievers and only 77.8% of Shih Tzus.



commitment to advocate for all dogs equally, Animal Allies has decided to stop using the term "Pit Bull" as a breed assignment. This shift will encourage shelter staff to more correctly assign breeds to dogs with "Pit Bull" characteristics, to decrease length of stay for dogs often passed over by adopters due to misconceptions - giving adopters a better opportunity to evaluate dogs based on their individual personalities, and to educate the community about these breeds.

After discussing the shelter's

### "Pit Bull" Myths and Misconceptions:

Myth: "Pit Bulls" have locking jaws.

**Truth:** No dogs have locking jaws. Terriers, from Jack Russells to Airedales- and yes, Staffordshire Bull Terriers- were originally bred to hunt and kill vermin. This makes them bold and tenacious dogs, but these qualities become an asset when they are directed to appropriate behaviors (chewing on toys, playing fetch, etc).

#### Myth: "Pit Bulls" are randomly aggressive.

**Truth:** There is always a reason for aggression with any dog. It may be medical, learned behavior, or an example of miscommunication between dog and human. Dogs will try to avoid confrontation if they can, but there is a lot of room for humans and dogs to misunderstand each other. For example, common human behavior such as hugging, kissing, and direct eye contact is interpreted by dogs as aggressive behavior. Some dogs, regardless of breed, are very tolerant of these behaviors no matter who is doing it. Others are okay with a select few humans engaging in these acts, and others are not comfortable with anyone hugging, kissing, or staring at them.

#### Myth: "Pit Bulls" are only used for dog fighting.

**Truth:** While they are the most common breed of dog used in dog fighting, most are house pets like any other breed. It should be noted that even dogs that are subjected to the horrific environment of dog fights can still make wonderful pets if they are given the opportunity to thrive. Michael Vick, a professional football player who was convicted of running a dogfighting ring in 2007, had his fighting dogs seized. Now called "Vicktory Dogs," many were able to be rehabilitated and have earned their Good Canine Citizenship certification so they can work as therapy dogs. Most were also placed in loving homes with cats, kids, and even other dogs.

#### Myth: "Pit Bulls" cannot be trusted with children.

**Truth:** As with a dog of any breed, some are great with kids and others would prefer adult company. Dogs and children should be monitored when they are together, for everyone's safety. Even the most patient dog may need a break once in a while!

#### Myth: "Pit Bulls" cannot make friends easily with other dogs and cats.

**Truth:** Being sociable with other animals varies by dog and is not breed-specific. Some are known to be social butterflies, happy to meet anyone and everyone! Others are pickier about who they like and who they'd rather not get to know. Just as not every person will get along with every other person, dogs can have preferences for who becomes their friend and who does not.

At Animal Allies, every animal in the shelter's care is treated as an individual, worthy of our compassion and respect. Our organization is proud to champion these misrepresented dogs and we encourage you to join us as we advocate for all shelter animals.

Want to learn more? Visit badrap.org, animalfarmfoundation.org, and nicepitbull.com.

Historical photo badrap.org



Lindsay Snustad

## FALL GREETINGS, FRIENDS!

Fall greetings, dear friends! I hope you are settling into your end-of-year routines filled with school, activities, and predictable schedules as we transition into winter.

After fostering a litter of three kittens who arrived at the shelter without their mother, my family is embracing the season change with the addition of a new four-legged family member. That's right, after one year of working for Animal Allies and enduring endless begging from the kids, we've officially become proud pet-parents of a tiny gray tabby kitten we call Olive. While our daily routines have shifted because of this change, we know that welcoming Olive into our family will be an enriching experience for us all.

Just as we embrace changes in the seasons and in our lives, we at Animal Allies embrace change that will help us best serve our mission. To that end, we are continually evaluating our direction and focus. One of the most recent changes at Animal Allies was with our Northland Spay/ Neuter program.

This past summer, our Board of Directors created a taskforce to evaluate the relationship between Animal Allies Humane Society and our partner at the spay/neuter clinic in West Duluth, Twin Ports Spay/Neuter. The taskforce looked at the successes this partnership has achieved since it was inaugurated in October 2009. These successes include:

- Altering more than 35,000 animals through Northland Spay/Neuter and Twin Ports Spay/Neuter clinics
- A decrease in intake of stray animals at the City of Duluth Animal Services
- Animal Allies' shelter cats and dogs now representing less than 11% of the clinic's clientele

Considering these amazing accomplishments, the taskforce felt confident that it was time to shift Animal Allies' focus away from managing the day-to-day operations of the Twin Ports Spay/Neuter Clinic, thus allowing owner and veterinarian Dr. Tammy Schilling to fully administer her own practice. Although Animal Allies will not be managing clinic operations, reducing pet overpopulation remains at the core of our mission. We are committed to altering every animal in our adoption program as well as providing financial support for low-income pet owners to do the same.

We will continue to work with outside veterinary partners, including Twin Ports Spay/Neuter, to spay and neuter shelter animals as well as performing as some surgeries in-house. We will continue to pursue grant funding that supports access to spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners. Programs Manager Betsy Bode will continue to oversee our spay/neuter program which remains at the heart of our mission.

Improving the health and lives of animals in our care is our daily mission. I am grateful to be surrounded by smart and passionate people who bring their knowledge and talent to this work.

Warm Regards,

Lindsay Snustad.

Executive Director T: 218-623-6348

E: lindsay@animalallies.net



P.S. Thank you for everything you do for Animal Allies. Because of you, we are able to continue our mission to ensure a lifetime of loving care for every pet.



#### **Mission Statement**

Animal Allies Humane Society strives to ensure a lifetime of loving care for every pet by reducing overpopulation, increasing adoption, and fostering humane values.

#### **Vision Statement**

Animal Allies Humane Society is guided by a humane ethic to build communities that universally value animals, understand their needs, and take action to meet them.

Animal Allies will be a leader in working toward:

- Elimination of pet overpopulation and the euthanasia of adoptable animals.
- Providing quality temporary care to homeless animals then placing them in permanent loving homes.
- Educating the community on humane treatment and responsible guardianship of companion animals.

Animal Allies will directly provide high quality animal sheltering services.

Animal Allies will support the efforts of partner agencies to provide high quality animal sheltering services.

# THANK YOU, FRANCES CURRAN FOUNDATION



Thanks to a generous grant from the Frances Curran Foundation, Animal Allies Humane Society is able to provide free spays and neuters for cats whose owners receive public assistance from Saint Louis, Carlton, Pine and Lake Counties in Minnesota. Discounted surgeries are also provided for dog owners receiving assistance in the same counties. To take advantage of this opportunity, please call Twin Ports Spay/Neuter at 218-623-6342 to schedule an appointment (funding is limited.)

This grant also provides reduced-cost spay/neuter services for cats and dogs in our shelter to ensure that every animal leaving our adoption program is spayed or neutered. We are very grateful to the Frances Curran Foundation for helping us remain a leader in reducing pet overpopulation and eliminating euthanasia of adoptable animals.



## Animal Allies Humane Society is proud to be the first organization in Minnesota to partner with Finding Rover, a facial recognition software to locate lost dogs.

## Collars fall off. Faces don't.

Facial recognition to keep your dog safe, free!



Register your dog BEFORE it gets lost at www.findingrover.com



In June, Animal Allies Humane Society announced a new partnership with Finding Rover, a free, social-media-based application that uses facial recognition to help reunite lost dogs with their owners.

As part of this partnership, every dog that leaves Animal Allies Humane Society will be pre-registered in the Finding Rover database. Once adopted, they can be automatically transferred to their new owner's Finding Rover account once the owner registers. If that dog ever gets lost, the Finding Rover Facial Recognition can expedite his return home.

The Finding Rover app will also show found animals that are currently in the shelter's care, as well as dogs that are available for adoption, providing an additional resource to the Animal Allies website.

"We're very excited to be a part of this cutting-edge technology to reunite families with their lost dogs," said Betsy Bode, Programs Manager at Animal Allies. "We highly encourage all dog owners to register with Finding Rover as this app's success rate will increase with the growth of users and dogs in its database."

To use Finding Rover, simply download the app to your Apple or Android device or access the app through **findingrover.com**.



## A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers, board members, and staff who made this event possible.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, and event supporters! It is only through a strong partnership with our community that Animal Allies is able to work toward increasing the quality of life for animals in the Northland. The success at the 2015 Fur Ball is due to your generosity. Thank you!

#### THE FUR BALL COMITTEE

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Continued on Page 9

## KE A DIFFERENCE!

#### **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Through October of this year, volunteers have donated nearly 21,000 hours of their time. That's the equivalent of 13 full-time employees! We would like to give a huge shout-out to our Dog and Cat Buddies, Interns, BARC trainers, Fosters, Adoption Assistants, Humane Education Volunteers, Office Assistants, Board and Committee Members, and Special Event and Community Outreach Volunteers. We are so grateful for everything you have done for the animals in our community. We couldn't achieve our mission without each and every one of you.

#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Animal Allies welcomes volunteers in any area, but right now we especially need Adoption Assistants and morning Cat Buddies.

#### **HELP OUR FURRY FRIENDS FIND THEIR FAMILY!**

Adoption Assistants are needed to greet visitors, give tours of the shelter, assist staff, and answer questions about our organization and the adoption process. Volunteers can also help potential adopters meet dogs and cats or fill out adoption surveys.

#### DO YOU HAVE FELINE FEVER?

Right meow, we have a great need for Cat Buddies to help keep our cat areas clean and our felines happy and healthy. Cat buddies provide fresh food and water, clean litter boxes, brush, socialize, and provide enrichment for cats in our adoption program. We particularly need volunteers between 8am and 11am.

#### **GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

If either of these positions sounds like something you'd enjoy, or for more information on volunteering, please email: volunteer@animalallies.net or call 218-623-6343.

## **C**KIEHNBAUM



How long have you been with Animal Allies? Almost a year. Where did you grow up? Shoreview, MN.

What brought you to Duluth? Duluth is a place I have always wanted to live and I came here for a job. I like the lake and lakeshore and the easy access to the outdoors. I spent a lot of time camping along the North Shore when I was younger.

#### What do you like best about working for Animal Allies?

The people. And being able to impact the lives of so many dogs and cats. There is a shared advocacy for the animals. I am excited to be doing more procedures on animals, including minor surgeries and dentistry.

What do you like to do for fun? I like to travel. I like to go hiking. I like to read. The last backpacking trip I took was with my dog and a one-person tent at Split Rock.

Do you have any animals? I have a dog and two guinea pigs and a handful of freshwater fish.

#### Give us your best animal-handling technique?

I like to put myself on the level with the animal. So if it's a small

dog, I'm on the floor with them so that I'm not towering over them. If they stand I stand, if they sit I sit.

What's your favorite pet story? I was very proud of how Iris's leg has healed after getting hit by a car. I know she still has a fracture, but she has spent over two months recovering and we saved her leg.



Animal Allies Humane Society was awarded \$500 for a new surgery table with the ASPCA Staffers' Choice Grant for General Operating Expenses in Honor of ASPCA Employee Theresa Harris.



Creation of the Paw Print can take up to six weeks. If you do not see your listing in this issue, look for it in the next. If you see an error regarding your donation, please call and let us know: (218) 722-9084.

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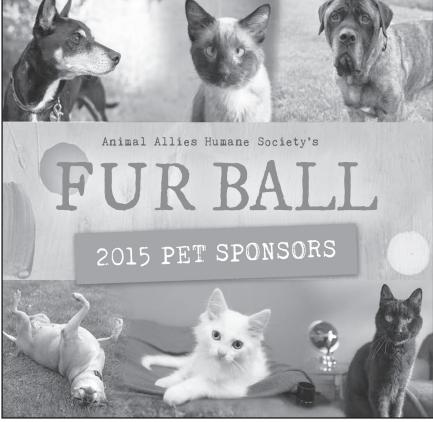
#### Fur Ball Donation Recognition Continued From Page 7

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#### FUR BALL PET SPONSORS

**IRIS** Animal Allies Humane Society Staff ROSIE and ROMEO Coleen Christensen **ROXY** Bob and Candy Madich **PETER** Sadie Franzen HOMER and KRAMER The Grune Family MILLIE Sarah Ojard SASHA Jennifer Allen and Mike Stowman **PLUTO** Pat and Mary Valentine **GATOR** Joe and Cheryl Meese

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#### **SUSTAINING MEMBERS**





#### We sincerely thank our sustaining members who provide a monthly gift for the animals in our care.

#### MIRIAM CARLSTEDT SOCIETY

Stanley and Janice Burns The Muskovitz Family Joy and Ken Lehtinen David and Robin Meierhoff Diane Orville Muriel Stewart Pat and Mary Valentine

#### **ANIMAL ANGEL**

Leif and Gloria Brush David Haspel Debra Hyde Diane Kessler Dan Leslie Judie Sands

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#### **ANIMAL FRIEND**

Carol Bock Julie Calligure Michele Des Rosier Stephanie Eastvold Sue Fleming Briana Gross and Jared Strasburg Mary Haasch Amber Jacobson Genie Jacobson David and Debbie Johnson Diane Klepatz Janet Lewis Kathleen Madrigal & Greg Turgeon Valerie Mctarlane Fred and Sandra Meyers Victoria Oestreich Danie-Marie Osterlund Craig Scherf



## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE THE GIFT OF COMFORT, LOVE, AND CARE WITH AN ANIMAL ALLIES HUMANE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP.

Join us in our mission to improve the lives of animals in our community: become an Animal Allies Member.

#### All members receive:

- The satisfaction of helping homeless cats and dogs.
- Animal Allies membership bag and window cling.
- 10% off adoption, retail, and humane education programs.
- Recognition in the The Paw Print newsletter.
- Voting privileges at the annual membership meeting.
- Additional benefits earned with increased membership levels!

Introducing a new membership incentive – for a limited time only! All members at the Animal Protector level or above will receive this 8800 mAh Power Bank device charger with multiple attachments for various electronics (pictured right). Show your support of Animal Allies and never be without power – it's a win-win!





## **SAVE A LIFE** BECOME AN MEMBER

#### All Members Receive:

- Animal Allies Membership Cling
- 10% off Adoption
- 10% Retail Discount
- 10% off Humane Education Activities
- Voting Privileges
- Continued Subscription to The Paw Print newsletter

**HUMANE SOCIETY** 

• Membership Bag

Additional benefits earned with increased membership levels!

<u>Membership levels</u>	Name
☐ Spay/Neuter Hero \$5,000 Annually / \$400 Monthly*	Address
This level spays/neuters all the animals in the shelter for one month. Additional benefits: 4 complimentary tickets to the Fur Ball, recognition on the Spay/Neuter Donor Wall, kennel sponsorship and an Animal Allies cooler bag.	City/State/Zip
	Phone
Miriam Carlstedt Society \$1,000 Annually / \$80 Monthly*  This level provides an animal extra care to treat ailments such as heartworm, broken bones, or medical conditions.  Additional benefits: 2 complimentary tickets to the Fur Ball, a personalized paw on the Donor Wall and cat or dog kennel,	Email Animal Allies Humane Society does not sell or give contact information to any other organization.  Payment Method
and an Animal Allies cooler bag.	\$Amount Enclosed
☐ Animal Angel \$500 Annually / \$40 Monthly*	☐ Check or Cash☐ Credit card
This level feeds 40 dogs and 27 cats in the shelter for one month. Additional benefits: Personalized kennel sponsorship for one year and an Animal Allies cooler bag.	□ VISA □ MasterCard □ Discover
□ Animal Protector	Acct #
\$250 Annually / \$20 Monthly*  This level spays/neuters a mother and her litter of 4 puppies. Additional benefits: Animal Allies cooler bag.	Signature
□ Animal Friend \$100 Annually / \$10 Monthly*	<ul> <li>I have included Animal Allies in my estate plans.</li> <li>I would like more information about including Animal Allies in my estate plans.</li> </ul>
This level vaccinates 10 dogs against disease.  Family/Business – \$50 Annually This level feeds 20 dogs for one week.	Thank you for your donation
☐ Animal Ally – \$30 Annually	Donation Amount
This level microchips 3 pets to help them return home should they become lost.	In honor of Person, name
•	In memory of Person, name
☐ Student/Senior - \$25 Annually This level feeds 25 cats for one week.	In honor of Pet, name
	In memory of Pet, name
*Become a Monthly Sustaining Member! Same great membership benefits, one monthly payment.	Send acknowledgment to:
For more information, or to become a Sustaining Member, visit www.animalallies.net/member orcall (218) 722-9084	Name

Address



4006 Airport Road Duluth, MN 55811

Change Service Requested



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



Be the first to know! Sign up for e-mail notifications on our website or follow us on Facebook to learn about exciting events and adoption promotions!

Third Thursday of Every Month 5:30pm

#### Pet Loss and Grief Support Meeting, Humane Education Room

The loss of a pet can be an extremely difficult experience. These meetings are designed to give people a chance to meet with others who have also experienced pet loss. Contact Hannah at 218-623-6343 or hwiberg@animalallies.net if you are interested in attending or have any questions regarding the meetings.

November 21st & 22nd

#### Miller Hill Subaru "Love-a-Pet" Adoption Event

Give a cat or dog a home for the holidays! Join Animal Allies and other animal welfare organizations on Saturday, November 21st (10am-6pm) and Sunday, November 22nd (10am-1pm) at Miller Hill Subaru for the "Love-a-Pet" adoption event! If you're not looking to add a new four-legged family member, you can browse the many animal-related vendors or bring your furry friend to get your Holiday Pet Photo taken with Santa! A microchip clinic and donation drive will also take place. Mark your calendar, this is an event for the whole family.

**December 31st** 

#### Last day to make a tax deductible contribution for 2015.

Please consider making a donation before December 31st. A gift in memory of a beloved pet, family member, or friend makes a thoughtful holiday present!

January 29th

#### **New Year's Celebration Event**

Join us for the second annual New Year's Celebration event. Mingle with fellow animal lovers and staff of Animal Allies to learn what's in store for the upcoming year.

April 4th-8th

#### Spring Break Camp

Animal lovers aged 9-12 years old can sign up for our Spring Break Camp! Stay tuned to our website and facebook page for details.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Muriel Whiteside and the trustees of the Muriel Whiteside Charitable Trust who provide a generous annual gift to help the homeless cats and dogs we serve. We are humbled by the ongoing support and could not achieve our mission without you. Thank you!

