

# PLAYING FOR LIFE

The importance of treating dogs as individuals with unique needs and unique personalities.

Take a stroll through the dog runs at Animal Allies, and you will most likely meet a dog with "poor kennel presence." She will be barking loudly, jumping and pawing at the front of her cage. She looks wild, agitated, and frankly kind of scary. Adopters hurry past her kennel, sure that they could never handle such a rowdy dog in their home.

But then a volunteer comes to take her into the play yard to meet another dog. As soon as she's out the door, this crazy, barking maniac undergoes a transformation—now she's calm, alert, and curious. She trots around the play yard, happily sniffing the ground. She approaches her dog friend, sniffs him, and immediately dips into a play bow. She looks like the kind of dog anyone would want as a pet.



In recent years, Animal Allies has seen a change in our shelter dog population. With increased spay/neuter and greater awareness of responsible pet ownership (thanks, Humane Education!) there are fewer homeless dogs in Duluth than ever before. At the same time, the dogs that end up at the shelter now are more likely to have medical or behavioral problems requiring intensive treatment or training.

Whether behavioral issues arise from fear, anxiety, boredom, or lack of training, they need to be addressed and corrected for the safety of adopters and of the dog himself. For such dogs, our job is twofold: first, prepare him for a happy home life: and second make sure his time at the shelter is as stress-free as possible. Play time helps achieve both.

At the best of times, it is stressful to live in a kennel surrounded by other dogs you can hear but not see. The more shelter dogs get out, the better for their bodies and minds. While interaction with people is comforting and rewarding, interaction with other dogs occupies dogs' minds and burns their extra energy to an even greater extent. By letting dogs play together in supervised groups, shelters can keep them happy and occupied and prepare them for success in their future homes.



In July, Dogs Playing for Life<sup>TM</sup> visited to educate staff and volunteers from Animal Allies and other local rescues about best practices for dog play groups in a shelter setting. Over two days, the training laid out the principles of safe and healthy play. Dogs Playing for Life emphasizes the importance of treating dogs as individuals with unique needs and unique personalities—personalities that express themselves differently in play style.

Accordingly, shelter staff and volunteers must use their judgement when matching play buddies and supervising play groups. Now at Animal Allies, specific dogs are linked with others they have been observed getting along with, and their names on the volunteer whiteboard are often marked with notations like "plays well with Buddy and Ella." When dogs come to us as strays and we don't know their history, information gleaned from watching them at play can fill in the gaps. By giving a fuller picture of their personality,





# LEADERSHIP & TRANSITION TIPS FROM THE SCOCER FIELD





Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past five years serving as the Executive Director for 'the Best Nonprofit in the Northland", I see a lot of similarities between life as an Executive Director and as a player on the soccer field. Everything I have learned from team sports comes in handy, especially the importance of defining and revisiting roles and responsibilities, trusting one another and striving to be the best.

On the field and in the office, coaches and leaders spend an enormous amount of time defining roles in an effort to maximize strengths and minimize weaknesses. Articulating these responsibilities is crucial because we are always careful with our staffing resources and rely heavily on volunteers. Like soccer teams, humane societies must adapt in the moment as new opportunities and challenges arise. Players get injured, staff come and go; it is a leader's responsibility to think upstream, knowing full well that constant adjustments and resilience are the name of the game. Trusting your team to make great decisions and carry them out is the true challenge. In order to score points, win games, be the best humane society for out community, we rely heavily on our people and trust their work. A fully engaged board of directors and reliable volunteers who embrace their roles are key components to our success. Ultimately, allowing people to do the job for which

they were recruited and giving them the opportunity to grow makes Animal Allies the best place for pets and people.

We talk a lot about creating a stable place for the animals in our care, recognizing that change is hard and so is living in the grey. For a stray or surrendered pet, comfort comes from consistent commands, routine, and an enriched environment. For an organization or soccer team, stability comes from co-creating systems, structure, and culture with input from all players. Animal Allies is a collaborative collective of talents, thoughts and ideas that create a game plan each day under the basic tenets of safety, accountability, and self-care.

If we do all of these things, on the field and in the adoption center, we will to continue to build on the legacy born in 1958. As we celebrate 61 years of service to pets and people in the Northland, I wish you the biggest and brightest future. Thank you for all you have done to support me both personally and professionally over the years. When I come home at the end of the day to my cat Olive and my dog Luca, I will remember these years fondly and know my family will too. I am confident that Julie Waltenburg, our next Executive Director, will continue to leverage your time, talents, and treasures to ensure that every pet has a loving home. For more information on Julie, check out page 3.

Warm Regards,

Lindsay Snustad

Lindsay Snustad, Executive Director T: 218-722-5341, Ext. 215

E: lindsay@animalallies.net





### **Mission Statement**

Animal Allies Humane Society strives to ensure a loving home for every pet.

### **Vision Statement**

Animal Allies Humane Society recognizes the importance of pets in people's lives and is guided by a humane ethic to serve the community through:

- Educating the public about humane treatment and responsible guardianship of companion animals.
- Reducing overpopulation by altering all animals who are in our care.
- Intervening to help animals overcome medical and behavioral issues.
- Providing safe, temporary care for animals while they are readied for adoption.
- Providing people the opportunity to invite pets into their lives.
- Saving lives by transporting animals from shelters that are overcrowded.
- Contributing to our community by engaging with students at all levels, the elderly and others to share
  the importance of the relationship of animals to society.

4006 Airport Rd, Duluth, MN 55811 • (218) 722-5341 • animalallies.net

# TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

You might notice some new faces at the shelter, and familiar faces in new places. We will miss Lindsay Snustad and Shawna Weaver, but are excited to welcome Julie Waltenburg and Shirley De la Torre. We would also like to congratulate Emily Spurgeon and Nicole Facciotto on their new positions at Animal Allies.

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**JULIE WALTENBURG



Julie Waltenburg joined the Animal Allies Humane Society team on July 1. Julie brings 30 years of leadership experience working in healthcare administration, from managing medical records to clinic operations.

While completing her undergraduate degree, Julie considered pursuing veterinary medicine. Though she ultimately went into healthcare administration, Julie retained her love of animals and desire to work in the animal-care field. Now, Julie is excited to have a chance to combine her years of healthcare experience with animal welfare as the Executive Director of Animals Allies. Julie served as Director of the Duluth Library Foundation Board and has led several healthcare-related associations and committees. She is a current commissioner for the St. Louis County Human Resources Civil Services Commission.

Julie and her husband Bob have three dogs: 9-year-old Lab Lewie, and 9- and 6-year-old Cockapoos Sunny and Jordy. They recently lost two senior cats adopted from Animal Allies almost 19 years ago. Of her new role, Julie says, "I'm a servant leader and I'm excited to join Animal Allies where I can serve people, animals and our community."

# **ADOPTION MANAGER:** EMILY SPURGEON



After overseeing volunteer recruitment and training at Animal Allies for more than two years, Emily Spurgeon began managing the adoption program in June.

"I am so excited to work on adoption and create

loving matches between people and pets," says Emily. "It is fun to see a totally different side of our work, moving from Volunteer Coordinator to Adoption Manager. I've already learned so much!" Emily lives with her dogs Boomer and Fargo and cat Khal Drogo, all Animal Allies alumni.

# HUMANE EDUCATION MANAGER: NICOLE FACCIOTTO



Nicole began as an intern at Animal Allies in the spring of 2015 and was officially hired in August of that year. She has worked in several different positions at the shelter over the years, including on the adoption team and in animal enrichment. Nicole has

adopted dogs Dozer and Gustavo from Animal Allies.

"I am thrilled to make the transition into Humane Education," says Nicole. "The Humane Education department holds a very special place in my heart as it's how I was first introduced to Animal Allies when I was in grade school. It sparked my passion for animal welfare and I am so excited to continue educating the community. I am looking forward to growing the number of people we see each year and discovering new learning opportunities we can offer to the public."

# **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** SHIRLEY DE LA TORRE



Shirley De la Torre joined our team as Volunteer Coordinator in July. Shirley's extensive experience in animal care includes time at The Wildcat Sanctuary, The International Wolf Center, and on the "flight crew" at the Raptor Center, preparing recovering

birds to take off. She has worked in development, fundraising, management, and as a volunteer coordinator. As if that weren't enough, this Renaissance woman is also certified as a canine massage therapist and as a level 2 Reiki practitioner.

Shirley just moved to Duluth with her rescue cats, 11-year-old Maine Coon mix and therapy cat Kemet and 2-year-old Nedjem, "a doll but a whirling dervish." After time away from animal welfare, Shirley is excited at to begin as the Volunteer Coordinator at Animal Allies. "I'm so thrilled to be in my field again," she says, "and to have a chance to get back into doing good things for animals and the people who love them."

# \* THE 27th ANNUAL ANAL ANAL FOR ANIMALS

After two cold and miserable years, the 2019 Walk for Animals gave us perfect weather! Saturday, June 1 was sunny, not cold but not too hot, just the right amount of wind—everything a walker, runner, or spectator could ask for!

The lovely weather brought a record crowd to the event at Bayfront Festival Park. Over 250 people walked and over 60 ran, in addition to the many vendors, volunteers, and other attendees. Grown-ups, kids, and dogs ran in the second annual Furry 5k. The Grand Marshals led the Walk, which flowed down Railroad Street and across the freeway before returning to the finish line at Bayfront.

Every dog imaginable showed up, from Shih Tzus to Great Danes—many of them Animal Allies alumni. There were also special appearances from cats, alpacas, and a goose! Vendors sold treats for people and animals and gave away cool

freebies. Many dogs tried their skill on the professional-level agility course.

The races were followed by closely-fought talent, pet/owner lookalike, and cutest puppy contests. All in all, the day raised more than \$52,000 for the animals!

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered, participated, and donated, including the all-star fundraisers listed below. Please note that next year's Walk for Animals will move to Leif Erikson Park.

# **5K WINNERS AND TIMES**

### MEN

Matt F.	20:49
Josh Hunter	22:22
Bill Lundberg	25:09
Brent Chouanard	26:19



Kristi Nixon	24:17
Brittany Olson	26:05
Marguerite Bischoff	26:37
Kristin Schmitt	26:37

### YOUTH

Anna Mattison	36:09
Makayla Pearson	36:09
Adrianna Anderson	40:18
Eryn Elfving	41:51















## **TOP FUNDRAISERS**

### **TEAM**

- 1. UHC/Optum Connected Cities, \$1160
- 2. The Mutts, \$985
- Aries and His Dogs of War, \$790
- 4. The Girls, \$757
- 5. In Honor of Izzy, \$725
- 6. Aubrey and Friends, \$700

### **WALKER**

- 1. Becky Mathiowetz, \$1335
- 2. Denee Taylor, \$757
- 3. Shannon Schwartz, \$600
- 4. Amber Jacobson-Williams, \$485
- 5. Heather Prout, \$422

### **5K RUNNER**

1&2. TIE: Sherry Lahti and Margi Petersen, \$740

- 3. Brittany Olson, \$480
- 4. Sara Sundstrom, \$350
- 5. Cassandra Prange, \$290

### YOUTH WALKER

- 1. Aubrey Lindahl, \$570
- 2. Leah Running, \$545
- Eda D, \$145
- 4. Clara Thompson, \$115
- 5. Jack Brennan, \$110

### YOUTH RUNNER

- 1. Macy Manning, \$555
- 2. Eryn Elfving, \$300
- 3. Makayla Pearson, \$105

### VIRTUAL 5K:

Abby Larson, \$325











# **NEW VENUE NEXT YEAR**

After decades in the same location, for the 2020 Walk for Animals we are switching it up. Instead of Bayfront Park, next year's race will be headquartered at Leif Erikson Park. Save the date for Saturday, June 6th!























Continued from Page 1

likes, and dislikes, these observations help us match dogs with adoptive homes that are a good fit.

At first glance, using play groups in a shelter setting can be alarming. After all, we don't know everything about these dogs—even after passing their behavior assessment and initial dog-to-dog meeting, their reactions could be unpredictable. If worst came to worst, someone could get hurt.



However, our experience, and that of other shelters involved in the Dogs Playing for Life program, is the opposite: when implemented responsibly, daily play groups make dogs happier,



calmer, more confident, and less likely to react aggressively or fearfully to pets or people.

Dogs show their inner selves at play. Seniors become puppies again, anxious new shelter arrivals loosen up and let their tails wag. Adopters who might have passed them by as they moped or barked in the kennel fall in love when they see their true, fun-loving nature.

Beyond the pure joy of a dog bounding into the yard to run and wrestle with her buddy, play time ensures a safer, happier future for the animals in our care.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KENNEDY





Kennedy applied to become a volunteer when she was just 14 and soon started spending about four hours a week in the medical department, where she quickly learned how to perform fecal flotation tests, enter medical information in the shelter database, and assist with veterinary exams. After two years of dedicated volunteering, she joined our medical staff.

According to Practice Manager Lindsay Niemi, "Kennedy is always happy to be here and willing to roll up her sleeves and help with anything and everything. She is a wonderful addition to our team and we are so glad that she is now an employee!" We talked to Kennedy about her early love of animals and what it's been like for her to work at the shelter.

# What was your experience with animals growing up?

Although I'm still in the process of "growing up," I have a dog named Benedict and a family dog named Tofu. In the past I've had fish, hermit crabs, guinea pigs, and chicks. For as long as I can remember, I have been the family animal doctor. Perhaps some of my early "work" on guinea pigs wasn't official or necessary, but "Doctor Kennedy" was ready to serve.

# Did you always know that you wanted a future in animal care?

Yes. I have had a fascination with animals even when I was quite young.

# How did you first get involved with Animal Allies?

My parents are always trying to help me accomplish my goals. They knew my desire to work with animals and, at 14,

suggested applying as a volunteer at Animal Allies, who were kind enough to allow someone so young to participate.

# What were your duties as a volunteer in the medical department?

My volunteer duties included running tests, distributing medications, and helping with paperwork. Although those were my main tasks, I learned something new almost every day.

# How did you transition from volunteering at the shelter to becoming an employee?

The day after I turned sixteen, I was blessed to be asked to work at Animal Allies. One week after the offer, I was on the schedule. It was a quick process but, thanks to coworker help, not an overwhelming one.

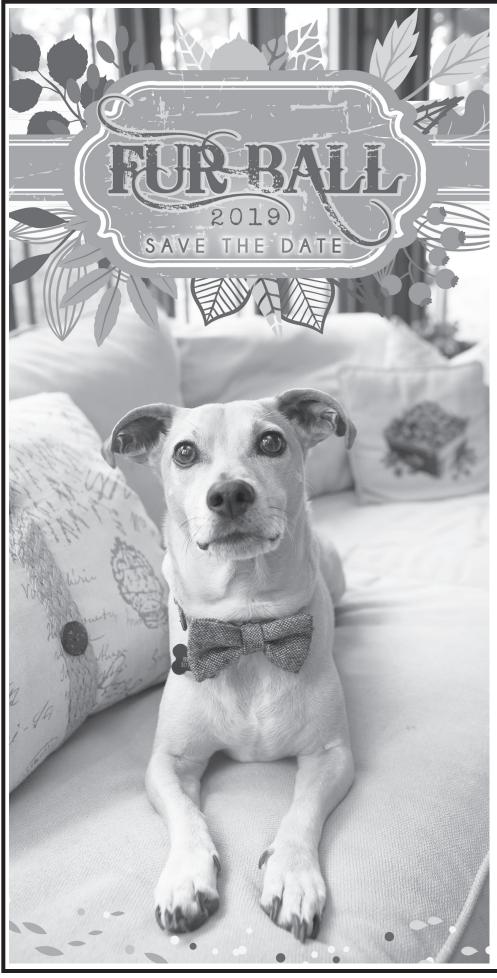
### What are your next plans for school and work?

I am still in high school and just finished sophomore year. I plan to go to LSC full time this upcoming fall. My current long-term goal is to pursue veterinary studies at the University of Minnesota or marine biology at the University of Maine.

# What's it like being a part of Animal Allies' medical team?

The people - they are both kind and patient, especially as I continue to learn Animal Allies' systems as an employee. I am thankful to be working at Animal Allies and, even more, working with these wonderful people.

My time at Animal Allies has reinforced my young desire to work long-term with a team in caring for animals. While I don't know what setting that will ultimately be, I feel more prepared for that season because of my time here at Animal Allies.



# Looking forward to the Fur Ball

This annual special event gathers supporters from across our pet-loving community for an evening of fine dining, live and silent auctions, and fundraising

live and silent auctions, and fundraising for homeless pets.

Our signature gala is back and better than ever this year on Saturday, October 19th at Northland Country Club. Auction items include amazing collectibles like an official Avengers: End Game poster signed by the entire cast and gold memorabilia signed by Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods.

The 2019 featured artist is Patricia Canelake, who created a custom piece just for the Fur Ball Gala, titled The Dog Walker. Fans of Canelake's work will love this one-of-a-kind original piece in her signature style featuring warm and cool tones.

This year's Fund-a-Need is focused on our life-saving transport program. We are raising funds for a much-needed new van for animal transports and off-site community services like microchipping clinics.

# WANT TO BE PART OF THIS YEAR'S EVENT?

Sponsor your pet as a pet sponsor like Cheech, opposite, and your pet's photo will be featured at the event! You will receive a professional photo session compliments of Lisa Johnson of

Pupparazzi Photography. Contact Lisa directly to arrange your session and sponsorship today at pupparazzi. photography@gmail.com.

Help raise funds for the animals: Donate an auction item for our live or silent auction and purchase your ticket to be part of this magical evening. Reserve your tickets today online!

All of this information can be found online at www.animalallies.net or by calling 218-722-5341 ex. 221.

# **MEMBERS**

### Thank you to all who became a new or renewing annual member in April, May, and June.

### ANIMAL HERO

Stephen and Stephanie Jones Diane Orville

### ANIMAL ANGEL

Susie and Allen Decker Widerness Wellness Chiropractic

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athy Anderson Cynthia Butcher Don and Deborah Johnson Jonathan Maps Mark and Nancy Melhus Sherie Wedin

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### **SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

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

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Sharon F Buchanan Warren Johnson

### **ANIMAL HERO**

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Maddie's Fund

Harley Davidson Sport

Miller Hill Subaru Mount Royal Fine Foods The Petco Foundation Pet Smart Sheldon Group Shirley Viergutz Trust Twin Ports Cyclery Whiteside Charitable Trust



# **TRIBUTES**

The following tributes were recieved in April, May, June.

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) 722-5341, Ext. 214.

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BOB CAT PRESTON
Laura Anderson Catherine Podeszwa Swenson TRAVIS Elizabeth Marsaa MARK and BETH Diane Klepatz SISTER VERDA CLAIRE Robert and Linda Plucinak Andrew Frey PELLE EICHNER WILHELMSON TUFFY Kathy Noble Madeline Zhu Michael Kurtovich **PEBBLES** Patrick and Kelly RICHÁRD HÁBLE BUDDY Jayne Iverson WHISKERS Shirley Pommerville BUTCH Finnegan RODNEY Donald Doane ROSE Jeane Binney KIM HOLLAND IN HONOR Gayle Salmela PENNY Judith Gray OF PET Ben Lee PIXIE Vickie Ceder CAMIELLE Natasha Kowelowski CARMEL ANNABELLE Brian Vtech Darlene Sandra Lundberg PIXY ROTT Katherine Frick Larissa Wolfe-Hechtl CASPER, MICKEY and SPIKE Jill Bianchet Kushman Laurie Northrup

# **A GROWING SHELTER**

Humane Education expansion plan: A brand-new Activity Center



In 2018, Animal Allies asked Fur Ball guests to give towards a special Fund-a-Need: expanding our Humane Education program to reach more people in the community. The program teaches humane values through classroom visits, tours, camps, and clinics, emphasizing the importance kindness and respect for animals. The key to this Humane Education expansion plan: a brand-new Activity Center added onto the shelter. This addition would house camps, birthday parties, and clinics, allowing us to offer more outreach while also freeing up space in the shelter.

Fortunately, our generous community recognized the importance of this project and gave to make it possible. Grants from RBC Wealth Management and the Petco Foundation supplemented your individual donations, and Kylmala Truss donated the trusses for the building.

When the snow finally melted and the ground finally thawed this spring, excavation began and concrete was laid. Before we knew it, the whole structure was up. Now, the Activity Center is housing summer camps, birthday parties, puppy classes, microchip clinics, and more. We are so glad to have this opportunity to reach more people and help more pets! Thank you to everyone who contributed and continues to support our work.

A work in progress in early June.



Summer campers gathered in the Activity Center.



# SAVE A LIFE BECOME AN ANIMAL ALLIES MEMBER

### Membership levels

### ■ Miriam Carlstedt Society \$5,000 Annually / \$400 Monthly\*

This level provides spay/neuter services for all the animals in our shelter for one month.

Additional Donor Benefits: Four (4) complimentary tickets to The Fur Ball Gala (\$400 value), recognition on the Spay/Neuter Donor Wall, kennel sponsorship, membership incentive and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### ■ Animal Champion

\$3,000 Annually / \$250 Monthly\*

This level provides extra care for an animal to treat ailments such as heartworm, specialty surgical procedures, medical conditions or broken bones.

Additional Donor Benefits: Two (2) complimentary tickets to The Fur Ball Gala (\$200 value), personalized paw on the donor wall, kennel sponsorship, choice of membership incentive and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### Animal Hero \$1,000 Annually / \$80 Monthly\*

This level provides in-house dental procedures for 4 shelter dogs.

Additional Donor Benefits: Two (2) complimentary tickets to The Fur Ball Gala (\$200 Value), personalized kennel sponsorship, membership incentive and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### Animal Angel

\$500 Annually / \$40 Monthly\*

This level spays/neuters a mother and her litter of 6 puppies.

Additional Donor Benefits: A personalized kennel sponsorship for one year, membership incentive and 2019 Animal Allies Membeship Family t-shirt.

### ■ Animal Protector

\$250 Annually / \$20 Monthly\*

This level provides food for 4 dogs for one month at the shelter.

Additional donor benefits: Membership tote bag and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### Animal Friend

\$100 Annually / \$10 Monthly\*

This level vaccinates 10 dogs against disease.

Additional donor benefits: Membership tote bag and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### ☐ Family/Business - \$50 Annually

This level feeds 15 cats for one week.

Additional donor benefits: Membership tote bag and 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### Animal Ally - \$30 Annually

This level microchips 3 pets to help them return home should they become lost. Additional donor benefits: The 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### ☐ Student/Senior - \$25 Annually

This level feeds a mother and her 7 kittens for one week.

Additional donor benefits: The 2019 Animal Allies Membership Family t-shirt.

### \*Become a Monthly Sustaining Member!

Same great membership benefits, one monthly payment. For more information, or to become a Sustaining Member,

visit www.animalallies.net/member or call (218)722-5341 Ext.214

### **All Members Receive:**

- 10% off Adoption Fees
- 10% Retail Discount
- 10% off Humane Education Activities
- Continued Subscription to The Paw Print
- 2019 Membership T-shirt
- "Third Thursdays" Membership Appreciation Day Save 20% on adoption fees and retail purchases.

**HUMANE SOCIETY** 

\*Additional benefits earned with increased membership levels!

Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Phone	
Email Animal Allies Humane Society does not sell or give contact information to any other organization.	
Payment Method	
\$Amount Enclosed	
Check or Cash	
Credit card	
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover	
ACCT #	
CVV Exp	
Signature	
☐ I have included Animal Allies in my estate plans.	
☐ I would like more information about including Animal Allies in my estate plans.	
Thank you for your donation	
Donation Amount	
In honor of Person, name	
In memory of Person, name	
In honor of Pet, name	
In memory of Pet, name	
Send acknowledgment to:	
Name	

Address

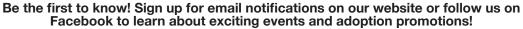


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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**





Thursday, August 1st

### **Humane Society Day at Wade Stadium**

Gates open at 5:30! Come cheer on the Huskies and visit the AAHS mascots, get a temporary tattoo, play some games, and meet furry friends.

Saturday, September 7th

### **Charity Brewery Crawl**

Join the fun and raise money for charity! Animal Allies is one of many charities participating in this local brewery crawl. Get your ticket and more information at www.animalallies.net. \$15 from each ticket sold benefits Animal Allies when you select us as your charity of choice at check out.

Saturday, October 19th

### The Fur Ball Gala

SAVE THE DATE - Northland Country Club hosts an evening of life-saving fundraising, chef-inspired gourmet food and a selection of incredible live and silent auction items. Our featured artist Patricia Canelake's custom piece *The Dog Walker* will be auctioned alongside an authentic *Avengers: Endgame* poster signed by the entire cast! This evening is one you won't forget. Reserve your ticket at www.animalallies.net.



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!

