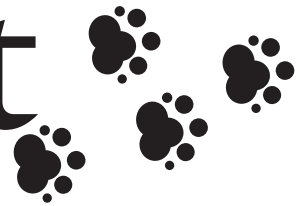


The Paw Print



January 2010

A LIFETIME OF LOVING CARE FOR EVERY PET: THE DREAM IS CLOSER BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS

Animal Allies Humane Society envisions a city and a region where there is a loving home for every pet. After a year of breathtaking progress, that vision is closer to reality than ever before. Adoptions are up, shelter euthanasia is down, animals in the shelter are happy and healthy, and a new low-cost spay/neuter service promises to fuel continued improvement. As we head into 2010, we celebrate these successes and give thanks for you, the animal lovers who made it all possible.

We are not, however, satisfied. Despite our dramatic progress, more than 2000 Duluth animals became homeless in 2009 and 365 had to be euthanized. This is not acceptable. As we look forward to the year ahead, we ask you to continue to work with us until the dream is fully realized, until there is a loving home for every pet.



LOOKING BACK AT 2009

Animal Allies' supporters spent years dreaming of a facility that brings animals and adopters together in a positive environment. In April, Animal Allies will celebrate one year in the new shelter, and what a year it's been!

- **Adoption.** With incredible community support, you helped save 1,836 cats and dogs in 2009! We all hoped a better shelter would increase adoptions, but no one was prepared to double the number of adoptions from 2008.
- **Spay/Neuter.** In our journey to end euthanasia of healthy, homeless pets, we helped Dr. Amanda Bruce launch a new spay/neuter program for low income households. In 2009 we financially supported the sterilization of over 3,300 cats and dogs in the region.
- **Humane Education.** Nearly 3,000 youth took part in our educational programming. In the classroom and at the shelter, children learned about the value of adopting from a shelter and the importance of caring for animals.



ANIMAL ALLIES 2010 RESOLUTIONS

Decrease Euthanasia at Duluth Shelters & Increase Live Release Rate.

These goals work hand in hand. We have laid out a road map to save even more lives in 2010:

- **Increase adoptions** to save more than 2,000 lives. Achieved through creatively promoting adoption, rehabilitating animals with mild-to-moderate behavior problems, and transferring special needs animals to appropriate rescue groups.
- **Facilitate spaying & neutering** for more than 7,000 animals in shelters and low-income households in the region. Effective spay/neuter programs have proven to decrease the number of pets who become homeless.
- **Reunite more strays with their owners.** By encouraging microchipping of all pets and more effectively communicating lost animal information to owners.
- **Educate More Young People.** Animal Allies is expanding the humane education program with the goal to reach all the children in Duluth public and private schools. Learning about caring for animals at a young age is critical to stopping cruelty against animals and in preventing pet homelessness.
- **Promote Responsible Pet Care.** Animal Allies will expand efforts to encourage adopters and the community to give pets the essential ingredients of a happy and healthy life - regular veterinary care, basic obedience training, nutritious food, exercise, socialization, and lots of love.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Mission, a Vision, and a Plan, for Helping Northland Animals

The Animal Allies Humane Society Board of Directors recently approved a mission, vision, and strategic plan that will guide the organization's work for the next three years.

The Board revisited, but did not change, our mission:

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

The group revisited, and only slightly changed, our vision, which now states:

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 northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin 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 in southern St. Louis County. In other areas of northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin, Animal Allies will support the efforts of partner agencies to provide high quality animal sheltering services.

New in this vision is identification of our expanded northeastern Minnesota/northwestern Wisconsin service area and clarification that our work in towns served by other shelters will be strictly supportive and intentionally low-profile.

Our strategic plan for 2010 to 2012 outlines how we plan to move toward the realization of our vision in the next three years. The plan includes four strategic goals:

1. Decrease Duluth-area shelter euthanasia by 50% and increase live release rate to 95% (principally by increasing adoption and spay-neuter).
2. Cost-effectively promote responsible pet care (principally by educating the community and encouraging pet owners to develop relationships with veterinarians and professional obedience trainers).
3. Support and develop our people (including board, staff, volunteers, and donors).
4. Generate a 10% annual operating surplus by 2012 (to support programs, cover building

maintenance costs, and slowly grow our small endowment).

The most important factor in fulfilling our mission, vision, and strategic plan is you – the animal lovers whose volunteer time, financial contributions, and voices are the engine of our success helping animals.

Imagine a Northland where there is a loving home for every cat and dog. That Northland is just over the horizon if we have the will, the skill, and the wisdom to reach it.

Please continue your generous support of Animal Allies so that, together, we can make this once fond but distant dream into a glorious reality.

Gratefully Yours,
Jim Filby Williams

P.S. Much of Animal Allies' progress in the last three years has been fueled by gifts from animal lovers who included Animal Allies in their estate plans. You can help continue the progress toward a more humane Northland by following their inspiring lead. Please call me at (218) 722-1269 if you would like to discuss how Animal Allies might fit in your estate plan.

SHELTER WISH LIST

We greatly appreciate your generosity of donated items, including items that may round out your house and not currently being used. Thank you for your support!

DOGS

Large Crates/Kennels
Soft dog treats
KONGS any sizes
KONG stuffers
Puppy milk replacer
Gentle leaders

CATS

Bird feeders and stands to place outside windows
Decorative mobiles to hang in cat condo rooms
Canned Prescription AD
Strained chicken baby food
Kitten milk replacer
Solid bright colored fleece blankets (orange, green or purple)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

70% Isopropyl alcohol
Vet wrap
Latex exam gloves
Ziplock freezer bags - quart size
Ziplock baggies - snack size
Tongue depressors
Dixi cups - 3oz
9V Batteries
4" x 4" gauze squares

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Dust buster
Lint rollers
Anti-bacterial hand sanitizer
Tall kitchen garbage bags
33 gal contractor garbage bags

Disposable latex gloves
Yellow dishwashing elbow gloves
Dust pans
Large waste basket
New toilet brushes
Flashlights (rechargeable)

OFFICE

Scotch tape dispenser
Scotch tape
Masking tape
Double sided tape
White out roller tape
Three hold punch
Black sharpie markers
Copier paper (white)
Page protectors
Postage stamps
Envelopes, size 9
Folders two-pocket

Labels (round orange, green, and white)
Filing tabs
Desks
File cabinets
Laminator
Hanging folders for filing
Legal paper pads (yellow or white)
1 Day use of a stair climbing appliance dolly

SHELTER

gazebo (for year-round use)
Silverware
Paper cups
Paper plates
AA batteries
Gas cards

VOLUNTEERS

Walk for Animals
Committee Members
Morning dog walkers
Communication committee members

Animal Allies is pleased to announce that we have been accepted into the Hill's Science Diet Shelter Feeding program. As of January 15, we are exclusively feeding Science Diet and therefore are only able to accept Science Diet pet food donations.

Animal Allies Humane Society SPRING RAFFLE

Kick off the new year by supporting the annual Animal Allies Humane Society raffle!

This raffle raises dollars that provide critical support for adoption, spay/neuter and humane education programs. Every ticket purchased gives YOU the chance to win fabulous prizes!

To support Animal Allies and enter the raffle, sell or purchase the 6 tickets enclosed in this newsletter.

Raffle Drawing: March 26 at 1:00pm

WHAT CAN YOU WIN?

- 1ST PRIZE** – Disney Vacation! Round Trip Airfare for 2 from Allegiant Air, 4 day passes to Disney and 3 nights hotel stay
- 2ND PRIZE** – 2 night stay at Fitgers Hotel AND dinner for two at Midi Restaurant
- 3RD PRIZE** – 2 tickets to Randy Travis at the Black Bear Hotel and Casino
- 4TH PRIZE** – 5 days of dog boarding at Harbor City Kennels
- 5TH PRIZE** – (Two winners) dinner for 2 at Texas Roadhouse OR dinner for 2 at Olive Garden

Many thanks to the generous businesses who donated for the raffle!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Help the animals by selling tickets to friends, coworkers and community groups.

Call Bobbie at 722-9084 to receive additional tickets.

Our top 3 raffle ticket sellers will receive prizes from the AAHS retail store!

Please send payment and raffle stub to:
4006 Airport Road, Duluth, MN 55811.

Did you know you can buy more tickets?
Call Bobbie at 722-9084 or stop by the shelter to purchase additional tickets!



KITTY KAT DONOR CHALLENGE

In 2009 we asked for your help to meet the Kitty Kat donor challenge and raise \$30,000 in the month of December. Thanks to the incredible support from so many generous donors, we met the Challenge! Because we met the goal, Animal Allies will receive \$5,000 additional dollars! Your contributions help support our adoption, spay/neuter and humane education programs. These programs all work towards our mission to ensure a lifetime of loving care for every pet. Every day we meet special animals that touch our hearts. Thank you for helping us to make the future brighter for more companion animals in the Northland.

*If you didn't get a chance to donate,
please consider a donation today by going to
animalallies.net or by calling (218) 722-9084.*

Thank you for your support. **YOU** make the difference in the lives of our furry companions. Thank you!



Kitty Kat, happy, healthy and loving his new life.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

GIFT WRAPPING FOR ANIMALS

Volunteers at Harley Davidson Sports Center for the Harbor City Roller Dames gift wrapping extravaganza. Thank you to the Roller Dames for wrapping and thank you to Harley for matching donations: the two groups raised \$1,900 for the animals!

VOLUNTEER LETTER

To Our Volunteers: Your Commitment Means A Lot and More In 2010!

Observations by A. Cat:

1. More volunteers means more help for animals.

The animals and staff are extremely grateful for the hands-on support in all aspects of our operation. Thanks to all the volunteers for animal care, committee and board, holiday volunteers, special events, offsite adventures, organizers, greeters, office assistants, maintenance, and those who drop off treats.

2. Long term volunteers. Humane societies especially need longer term volunteers because it takes time to master the regimen of care and cleaning that keeps our animals healthy and happy. Please consider volunteering at least for an extended period. The benefits to the animals, and the rewards for you, will be tremendous. Some of the volunteers who have made a long term commitment: Steve Saarela, Connie Larson, Jennifer Johnson, D Peterson, Carman Bates, Mary and Pat Valentine, Melanie Grune, Allison Gamble, Emily Madole, Sue Frey, Anne Edgren, Kathy Wilkinson, Sheryl and Mark Sandahl, Bruce Verbick, Mary Stromdahl, Memory Forsyth, Tom and Jan Slattery, Steve Kaplan, Bill Franzen, Janet Haynes, Jackie Olsen, Janice Doe, Sarah Denton, Samantha Webster, Bonnie Cusick, Ted Schick, Joan Christensen, Amy Kuronen, Cher Franzen, George Hanson.

3. Animals need volunteers. Dog and cat minds are stimulated by the games, grooming, and teaching. Those volunteers who have attended enrichment and other trainings to assist with these tasks are positively impacting the shelter life of our animals.

4. Time is valuable. In 2009, volunteers donated approximately 13,000 hours of time! That's equivalent to over 6 full time staff. Wow! That volunteer time is what makes this organization keep going!



VOLUNTEER MID-WINTER APPRECIATION AND FUN

Calling all Volunteers!

Join us on **February 22 from 3-5 p.m.** for an unforgettable afternoon. Don't worry about being late as the fun won't be over until the very last second!

- *Skijoring demos by some of our volunteers and former shelter dogs*
- *Everyone is welcome to be a contestant in the shelter game show "I Just Made That Up!" a game of cat facts and fiction hosted by our very own Dr. Mary Victor, DVM and starring some staff--you may be surprised at their talents!*

RSVP to Pat by February 21 • (218)623-6343.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Volunteer Opportunities: Join the Walk for Animals Committee, help with the newsletter mailings, assist with data entry, become a docent.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Total time donated by volunteers in December: 1,155 hours

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PETS

ShelDon Group Inc.

Animal Allies is able to do much more for animals today than even 5 years ago thanks in part to the generous and sustained support of the animal lovers at ShelDon Group Inc. Led by President, Dean Baltes, ShelDon began donating the printing of our newsletter in 2004 when a shorter newsletter went out to several hundred households. Today they continue donating the printing for a longer publication sent to 8,500 Duluth households. In addition, ShelDon has donated two high performance copiers, contributes topnotch graphic design services for all Animal Allies print projects, gives us dramatically discounted rates, and effectively gives back much of the modest expense we do incur. In addition to the \$10,678 annual value of these contributions, ShelDon's integrated

design, printing, and mail house services have dramatically improved the quality of all Animal Allies' communication tools making it possible to marshal community support for a new shelter, a new spay/neuter clinic, and many new and expanded programs.

Animal Allies is extremely proud to be a partner with ShelDon Group Inc. Their personal investment in our work has saved many more lives and transformed a struggling grassroots organization into a highly effective state leader in protecting companion animals.

Next time you are in downtown Duluth, please stop by the ShelDon location on Superior Street across from the Fond du Luth Casino and thank them for their services to the animals and people of our community.



*ShelDon Team ready to design and print the next issue of the Paw Print - **Thank you ShelDon for all you do for animals!***

TOUCHING TALES

This beautiful cat was a stray that came to Animal Allies Humane Society from the City of Duluth shelter. Five days after arriving at AAHS she met her human match! Margie and her husband love the new addition to their family, and being so close to Christmas they renamed her Holly Noel. Margie said, "I believe all elderly people should have a pet for companionship and entertainment. Sweetheart sleeps in bed with me all night and she brings us sheer joy."

Holly Noel loves to be kissed on her cheeks, and has recently been given a new post to sit on and look out the window. Margie and Twyla found each other through the Pets for the Elderly program which discounts adoptions by \$50 for those sixty and over. Pets for the Elderly also provides benefits such as the unconditional love of a furry forever friend.



Margie and Twyla, now officially named "Holly Noel," but more often called "Sweetheart."

THANK YOU DONORS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUR BALL!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



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Geof and Gudrun Witrak

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TRIBUTES

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.

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WALTER'S TOP 5 REASONS TO BECOME A MEMBER

1. Help me and 2,000 other animals meet their human match (I love humans!)
2. Support spay/neuter programs for over 6,000 cats/dogs (This stops me from reproducing which helps prevent euthanasia!)
3. Get a fabulous Animal Allies tote bag (I don't fit in a tote bag, but your groceries do)
4. 10% discount on your next retail purchase (like a new toy for me and a t-shirt for you!)
5. Knowing that you are caring for homeless pets!



Hi! I'm Walter and
I WAS ADOPTED
from Animal Allies. I hope
you will become a member
to help my furry friends
get adopted, too!



northland WISH LIST SPAY/NEUTER

OFFICE

Copy Paper
Ink Pens
Index Cards (Blue and Pink)
Masking Tape
Post-Its
Scotch Tape
Sharpies
Three-Ring Binders

CLEANING

Bleach
Dish Detergent
Dish Towels
Distilled Water
Dust Pans
Glass Cleaner
Hand Sanitizer
Kitchen Sponges
Laundry Detergent (HE)
Lint Rollers

Lysol Spray
Mop Heads (Clamp)
Newspaper
Paint Scrapers (Large Metal)
Paper Towels
Peroxide
Rubbing Alcohol
Scrub Brushes
Soft Soap
Soft Scrub
Toilet Paper
Toothbrushes
Towels
Trash Bags (Kitchen & Large Size)

MISC

Cat Litter
Dry Cat Food
Dry Dog Food
Flashlight (Rechargeable)

Industrial Rugs
Pillow Cases
Zip Ties
Ziplock Baggies (Sandwich & Snack Size)

Items may be delivered directly to 2002 West Superior Street or to the Shelter. Please mark as "spay/neuter" donation!

WINTER SAFETY FOR YOUR CANINE COMPANION

From Adoption Program Manager, Stefanie Kemp

Northland residents know plenty about the frigid winter weather. Although we may battle the temptation to hibernate during cold spells, staying active is important for the sake of our canine companions. Winter weather brings a mixture of snow, sleet, ice and general winter mush. Here are a few tips to help you and your furry pal enjoy winter safely:

- Wipe off your dog's paws, legs and underside after being outdoors. When cleaning themselves, dogs can ingest salt, antifreeze and other harmful chemicals stuck to their fur. Salt and snow melting chemicals may irritate the pads of your pet's paws. Consider "dog booties" to keep their paws clean and warm!
- Watch for signs that your dog has had enough time outdoors.
- "Ballerina" walking (tip toeing) or limping when their paws get too cold.
- Seeking shelter behind a tree, car or building.
- Tucking their tails close to their body to conserve body heat.
- Shaking or shivering.
- Proper grooming: matted hair or hair shaved to the skin causes a dog to lose their natural insulation. For short haired dogs, consider a coat or sweater that covers their body from the base of the tail to the top of the belly.
- Puppies and older dogs cannot tolerate the cold and should not be left outside without supervision.
- For those dogs that must absolutely live outdoors, provide heated shelter away from the wind, heated bedding and a heated water bowl to prevent the water from freezing.

Our feline companions are affected by the cold temperatures, too. Please keep your cats indoors. Cats who are allowed to stray are susceptible to being stolen, lost, injured or even killed. Outdoor cats must have heated shelter and water dish. Also, because cats seek sources of warmth, they may crawl under the hoods of vehicles. If you notice outdoor cats in your neighborhood, knock on the hood of your vehicle before starting the engine!

Everyone can enjoy the winter weather – but please remember to watch your furry friends to keep them safe!

BECOME A MEMBER

All new and renewing members receive the following benefits:

- Animal Allies organic cotton tote bag
- Membership wallet card
- AAHS Membership cling
- 10% adoption discount
- 10% retail discount
- Voting privileges
- Subscription to *Paw Print* newsletter
- Newsletter acknowledgement of membership

Membership levels

☐ Miriam Carlstedt Society and Kennel Sponsor. \$1,000

Addition benefits: 2 complimentary tickets to Fur Ball, recognition on the donor wall and a one year sponsorship of a cat or dog kennel marked by a plaque, and AAHS messenger bag

☐ Animal Angel and Kennel Sponsor. . \$500

Additional benefits: One year sponsorship of a cat or dog kennel marked by a plaque, and AAHS messenger bag

☐ Animal Protector. \$250

Additional benefits: AAHS messenger bag

☐ Animal Friend. \$100

☐ Family/Organization. \$50

☐ Individual/Pet. \$30

☐ Student/Senior. \$25

Make a donation

Donation Amount _____

In honor of Pet, name _____

In memory of Pet, name _____

In honor of Person, name _____

In memory of Person, name _____

Send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

Check out our web site at
www.animalallies.net

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Please be assured that AAHS will never sell or give contact information to any other organization.

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

4006 Airport Road
Duluth, MN 55811
218.722.5341
www.animalallies.net



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6
10:00am - 5:00pm

Animal Allies Day at Yarn Harbor

Yarn Harbor will donate 50% of all the profits from sales this day to Animal Allies! Volunteers and animals will be in the foyer

February 22
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Volunteer and Staff Mid-Winter Appreciation and Fun

Don't worry about being late as the fun won't be over until the very last second! Skijoring demos with former shelter dogs, game show hosted by Dr. Mary Wictor, DVM and more!

RSVP to Pat by February 21 • **218-623-6343**

February 1 - March 26

Raffle Drawing - WIN a Disney World Vacation!

Buy your tickets now for a chance to win a Disney vacation and more! Tickets are \$5 and included with your newsletter. Purchase these by sending a check to the shelter with your ticket stub.

- Additional tickets available by calling **722-9084** or at the front desk at the shelter. Don't miss the chance to win these fabulous prizes!

June 5

Mark your calendars for Walk for Animals!

EARLY NOTICE:

2010 FurBall - October 2, 2010



Animal Allies Humane Society
Now feeds our shelter animals
Hill's Science Diet pet foods!



All proceeds benefit the on-going Animal Allies adoption, spay-neuter, and education programs.

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