



animal FOUNDATION of Great Falls

*Fostering a caring
community for animals*

PRESIDENT
Robert James

TRUSTEES
Sally Cerny
John Huber
Melanie Lattin
Sue Skees
Mary Willmarth

TREASURER
John Gilbert

ABOUT OUR BOARD

Sally Cerny is the retired CEO of Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seals-Goodwill. She and her husband Chuck are active in "Montana's Precious Gold," a Golden Retriever rescue group, and have two older rescued dogs.

John Gilbert is a business appraiser and forensic financial analyst. His dog Beemer goes to work with him each day. His wife Donna is also a CPA and shares an office with John and Beemer.

John Huber is a financial consultant with D.A. Davidson & Company. John and his wife Mary have six children and a five-year-old Golden Retriever named Rossi.

Bob James is a partner in the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins and has been a trial lawyer for 31 years. Bob and his wife Cindy have five grown children, three cats, and three dogs.

Melanie Lattin is a certified dog trainer and works part-time for the City of Great Falls. She and Matthew Gressard share their home with a cat and three dogs, two of whom are rescued.

Sue Skees previously owned Mountain Title Services and now works part-time at Fox Fine Jewelers. Sue and her husband John have shared their home with a rescued cat and a dog from Camp Collie.

Mary Willmarth is co-owner of a project planning and business services consulting firm. She and husband Mark have a young son, a rescued dog and a high-spirited, rescued cat.

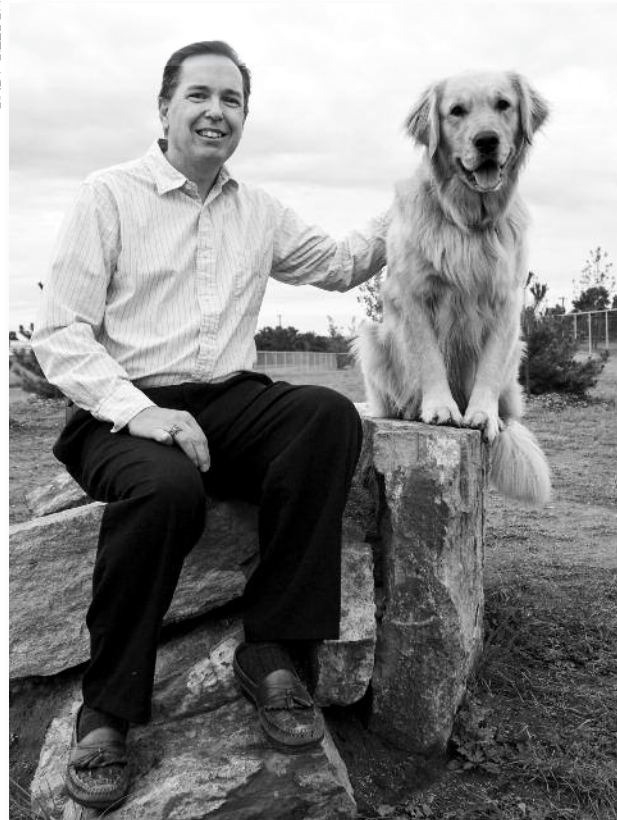
Sheltering Skies

ANIMAL FOUNDATION OF GREAT FALLS NEWSLETTER

FALL / WINTER 2008

Dog Park Gets New Name and Very Generous Sponsor— Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park

CINDY CIELUCH



Moab enjoyed sitting on the big rocks at the newly named dog park with Ron Hayes, Marketing Manager of Pacific Steel & Recycling.

It's official! We no longer have to refer to the new dog park in Great Falls by the generic "dog park" label. Pacific Steel & Recycling generously donated \$30,000 to sponsor the park. **Ray Wahlert**, president and CEO of the company, said **"The park will be a wonderful amenity to Great Falls and we are pleased to be a part of the project."** The Animal Foundation is delighted by their generous donation. Naming rights have also been sold for a large dog sculpture, drinking fountain, plaza area, 12 benches, and a fire hydrant (*for dog use only, of course*).

We had originally projected opening the park in late summer, but that was not to be. An extremely rainy spring and numerous other weather interruptions delayed the opening. However, a preview week was held from August 8 through August 13 to let dogs and people visit the park, see what had

Story continues on page 2

Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park

Story continued from cover page

been done to that point, and to help people understand why the opening had to be delayed until after the grass is well-established. The preview week also introduced people and their dogs to how a dog park works.

The highlight of the week was a canine birthday party in which at least 25 dogs were in attendance; all had a tail-waggin' good time. Many community members used the park during the week and they look forward to the day when the gates can be unlocked for good. Although it was disappointing to not be able to permanently open the park so dogs could begin playing safely off-leash this summer as hoped, the weather was perfect for transplanting trees and the 92 trees which volunteers planted in May all seem to be growing just fine.

The primary development has been completed at the park and it's quite an impressive list of accomplishments:

- ✓ Sprinkler system installed
- ✓ Fencing installed
- ✓ Plaza area graded and temporarily surfaced
- ✓ Vault toilet installed in partnership with Recreational Trails, Inc.
- ✓ Canine-human drinking fountain installed
- ✓ 92 trees planted
- ✓ Existing grass overseeded
- ✓ Fire hydrants installed (for obvious purposes!)
- ✓ Rock mounds formed in off-leash areas
- ✓ 2 concrete garbage cans installed
- ✓ 2 disposal bag dispensers installed

What's next?

The crucial components required in a dog park are in place but we're in the process of adding other amenities which will make it an even better place for dogs and humans to play. These will include a large pavilion in the plaza for protection from the sun and rain; a granite sign listing charter donors; signs depicting how to use the park; dog park rules and dog park pet etiquette; shrubs to provide visual barriers for the dogs; concrete benches; and, additional disposal bag dispensers and garbage cans.

The dog park is being developed by funds raised by the Animal Foundation and the City of Great Falls is providing services related to developing a city park. In these times of extremely limited public funding, the dog park is a great example of a private-public partnership that will benefit the entire community. The dog park will be part of the City park system and will be free to the public. The Animal Foundation and the City will collaborate regarding ongoing maintenance and volunteers will help with special events and to educate the public about how to successfully use the park.



Finnegan enjoyed his birthday party during preview week.

In case you haven't seen the park, I'd encourage you to check out the Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park at 800 River Drive North.

The dog park is two acres in size and has two separate fenced off-leash areas—one for big dogs and one for small dogs.

The off-leash areas were seeded with a blend of grasses that once established should be hardy enough to stand up to rowdy canines. Once the landscaping has had an opportunity to be developed, this spot—which only a short time ago was barren, undeveloped parkland—will be a beautiful little park with plenty of shade for dogs and people.

Lots of people to thank.

In addition to our appreciation to Pacific Steel & Recycling for sponsoring the park, the Animal Foundation would like to take this opportunity to again thank the **Dog Park Committee** which worked diligently for months to develop the park. We also would like to acknowledge the many local businesses who contributed to making a dog park in Great Falls a reality. These include **Northwest Fence Products, Torgersons, Dusty's Sprinkler Service, Central Plumbing, RK3 Architecture, Forde Nursery, United Materials, L'Heureux Page Werner Architects, Lou Fontana, Fagenstrom Company, Grass Man Tractor Services, Cindy Cieluch Photography, Great Falls Voyagers, Allegra Print & Imaging, Great Falls Tribune, Big R Stores, and TD&H Engineering Consultants.**

Individuals have donated more than \$40,000 to the Animal Foundation to be used specifically for developing the park and we look forward to recognizing each of you at the grand opening event. We hope that event will be in June 2009—but we'll have to wait to see what the weather brings...



—Melanie Lattin



These three dogs were having a great romp near their own hydrant.

What's Happening with the New Shelter

A Message from the Board President



We are getting closer to breaking ground on a new shelter and we hope that will occur in the fall of 2009. Our plan has always been to create a public/private partnership and we have met our goal of raising over \$1 million.

The remainder of the money must come from public sources and our city administration and commissioners acknowledge the city has an obligation to address animal welfare issues. Cascade County Commissioners have not made that commitment.

The city commission recently directed our city manager to work with the Foundation to discuss funding and management issues. Over the past several months, we have been working with the City's administration to address these complicated matters.

The Foundation hired nationally-recognized expert **Kim Staton** to assist us in this process. The City previously retained her when the City assumed responsibility for running the shelter and she evaluated the status of the shelter.

We also formed a Shelter Committee to explore management structures and to draft job descriptions for an executive director and a shelter manger. **Wayne Dunn, Bill Zins, Pam Guschausky and Sarah Sexe** have spent an enormous amount of time addressing these issues and we are finalizing their recommendations.

We sincerely thank all of our supporters for your work and contributions. Our strength lies in the volunteers who serve on our committees, those whose "elbow grease" made the Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park a reality, the hundreds of people who helped alter our pets at the Spay of the Falls clinics, and our financial supporters.

We are successful because of you. This project will succeed because of your strong commitment to improving animal welfare in our community.



Bob James
President, Board of Trustees



Three dogs try out the vestibule before entering the big dog area.



Big rocks add interest to the landscaping.



92 trees will provide beautiful shade in years to come.

Dog Park Still Needs Volunteers & Donations!

If you have questions about the dog park or would like to volunteer to help with the park once it opens, call Melanie Lattin at 453.8598 or check the Animal Foundation website at www.theanimalfoundation.org. Donations for the dog park are much appreciated and can be sent to the Animal Foundation of Great Falls, P.O. Box 3426, Great Falls, Montana, 59403



Contributions to the Animal Foundation Cumulative through November 2, 2008

Making a difference for animals.

The Animal Foundation genuinely appreciates each contribution we receive, regardless of the size of the donation.

More than 1,000 individuals or businesses have contributed to the project and we are thankful for every one. Once the new shelter is built, we intend to recognize each and every contribution at a grand opening for the facility.

Treasurer's Report —John Gilbert

Since our inception in 2002, we have raised \$1.6 million in cash and pledges for the new shelter and dog park, including \$90,000 that donors restricted to the dog park. We have spent \$30,000 on architect fees and land development costs for the new shelter. The interest income has fully paid for all of our operating expenses.

The dog park has cost \$80,000 and we expect the total cost to be \$90 - \$100,000, excluding in-kind donations. Our successful fundraising for the **Pacific Steel & Recycling Trailside Dog Park** has allowed us to move ahead with phases of the project that we had not expected work on so quickly.

We have \$1.4 million of cash and pledges available for shelter construction and completing the dog park. All of the cash we raised for the shelter and dog park has been



invested in FDIC insured certificates of deposit and bank accounts. **At no time has any of the Foundation's cash been in jeopardy because of the current financial crisis in the United States.** We have stayed within the FDIC insurance limit in each financial institution. We plan to continue this conservative investment approach to protect the money entrusted to us by our generous donors.

Since they joined us last year, **Spay of the Falls** has raised \$22,000 and spent \$15,000 on the spay/neuter clinics. All of these funds are accounted for separately and the \$7,000 cash balance is held in its own checking account.



Two Paws Up to North Middle School Students for Fantastic Fundraising for the Animal Foundation!

For the second year in a row, **North Middle School's National Junior Honor Society** officers and board members set the goal of raising \$1,000 to purchase a paver at the new animal shelter. It's going to be wonderful that when the new shelter is built across the street from North Middle School, the generosity of students who attended North between 2006 and 2008 will be recognized on two inscribed pavers.

The students raised money in some very creative ways: contributions anywhere from pennies to \$100, raffling off two Valentine Baskets in February, and a large part of it was raised by having a "Pie in the Face" contest. This contest involved 32 interested teachers who were willing to have votes purchased in their names. The top two vote getters received a "pie in the face" during halftime at North's annual faculty-student basketball game in April. The teachers were all great sports about this, especially the two winners—**Christi Fought** and **Tom Mills!**



It's very impressive to see how young adults, 13 and 14-year-old students, worked together to reach their goal. Their interest in the new shelter and enthusiastic efforts for the animals is inspiring.

Special thanks to the officers and board members of National Junior Honor Society...they were the "worker bees" behind all of the activities who kept the project moving forward. They are: **Colton Carter, Cameron Oswood, Christian Peterson, Garrett Lankford, Emma Speight, Skye Ljunggren, Lise Spencer, Jenni Peer, Brandon Knowles, and Robert Boyle.**

Also, kudos to **Pam Kampher**, a counselor at North Middle School, who is also the NJHS advisor. She loves to see young people take off with a project and has done a great job of motivating the students.

Two Paws Up to all involved!

—Cindy James



The 2008 Fur Ball Ended with Snow Balls!

April 19 was the 4th Annual Fur Ball and a record breaking snowstorm didn't stop animal lovers from attending the fundraiser for the Animal Foundation and raising \$62,000 for the new animal shelter and dog park. Maybe the thought of "Yappy Hour" caused folks to warm up the cars a bit early and head to the Heritage Inn for a night of lively conversation with other kindred spirits! The Fur Ball is such a unique event and many tell us it is their favorite. It was another sellout crowd at 400 people and there was a wonderful spirit in the air. Love of animals is a common denominator for people who attend the Fur Ball and the whimsical animal-themed evening just barks and mews "FUN!"

Starting with appetizers and live music, the night included a gourmet dinner, amazing silent and live auctions, and ended with "Purrfect Dessert."

Always a poignant moment, the 2008 Purple Paw was awarded to Misty, our first cat to receive the award. Misty was the beautiful cat that was abandoned at the door of the animal shelter, with rubber bands wound tightly around her rear leg. Animal Shelter staff, who found her suffering, took her to a veterinarian and her leg had to be amputated. She was adopted by **Monica Lewis-Evert, Dave Evert** and their 3 children. They said she is a sweet and affectionate pet, in spite of having been cruelly treated by humans. Misty received her medal and a gift certificate to Petco, and her owners proudly walked her around the room so everyone had a chance to meet and pet this endearing feline. Misty was unfazed by all the attention and seemed to enjoy being the belle of the ball!

It is because of the Mistys of the community that the Animal Foundation is building a new shelter where homeless, abused and neglected animals can live in a safe and comfortable environment while they find a new family to care for them.

Another highlight of the evening was when **Terry Fox of Fox Fine Jewelers** drew the winning raffle ticket. **Mary Brennan-Dutro** was the lucky winner of a stunning diamond tennis bracelet, valued at \$8,200 and donated by Fox Fine Jewelers. The snow and ice was swirling outside but this bracelet provided a lot of sparkling ice inside, too!

Many thanks to our generous 2008 Fur Ball Sponsors: Headline Event Sponsors were **Stockman Bank, Pacific Steel and Recycling**, and **L'Heureux Page Werner**. Event Sponsors were **Davidson Companies, Farmers Insurance Group, KRTV, Petco Foundation, Renaissance Creative, Great Falls Tribune, Printing Center USA**, and the **Heritage Inn**.

As windshields were being scraped on snow-covered cars, with that special auction purchase tucked in the back seat, people seemed to stay warm ... giving to a special cause just seems to do that.

—Cindy James



2008 Purple Paw Winner Misty got lots of strokes during the Fur Ball. CINDY GELUCH PHOTOGRAPHY



Mary Brennan-Dutro (center) receives the winning raffle prize from Joe and Terry Fox. Fur Ball co-chair Susan Dell witnessed the exciting event. Many thanks to all who sold and bought tickets!



Far left: Gordon Johnson played emcee once again, keeping the event lively and fun. Susan Dell joins Gordon to announce one of the prize winners.

Board President Bob James spoke to the animal-loving crowd about the progress of the Animal Foundation's projects and fundraising.

CINDY GELUCH PHOTOGRAPHY



Cindy Cieluch Photography provided portraits of pets from the Great Falls Animal Shelter. More than beautiful decor, one sign helped find a loving home for a pictured pup. (See Monty's touching story at right.)

Fur Ball Goes Home to Canada



Patti Pugh and Rick Muzeen were extremely touched by the photograph of the bedraggled little American Eskimo shelter dog which was part of the centerpiece on their table at the 2008 Fur Ball. So moved, in fact, they adopted the dog! They didn't make this decision lightly and had to find a veterinarian who would give rabies shots on a Sunday. You see, Patty and Rick live in Calgary and couldn't go across the border to take them new pooch home until he was vaccinated. Thanks so much, Patty and Rick, for attending every Fur Ball and for giving Monty a forever home (yep, they named him after Montana).

Fifth Annual Fur Ball 2009: Fun for All

Your support of the Fur Ball helps us build a better shelter for homeless pets.



Animal Foundation of Great Falls
Fifth Annual Fur Ball
 Saturday, **April 18, 2009**, 6pm
 Heritage Inn, Great Falls

Mark your calendars for an exciting evening for the animals! April 18 is the 5th Annual Fur Ball at the Heritage Inn. Please invite new friends to attend our event and buy a table to support the new shelter.

The committee is busy working and has already purchased some unique items. The live and silent auctions will continue in our tradition of offering extraordinary objects for the right bidder.

For those of you who have attended previous Fur Balls, you know that we have an incredible array of fine offerings. In fact, our "signature" FAO Schwarz plush animal has already arrived and is very cool ... you won't believe this one!

Convince your friends, table, or business to buy a magical, full-sized unicorn.

Many past bidders have donated the signature piece to another non-profit to benefit not only the Foundation but other children in our city.

Stockman Bank and Pacific Steel & Recycling will again be Headline Sponsors, as part of a longer-term commitment as sponsors. We appreciate their support and will be contacting our other loyal sponsors. **We would love to hear from any other business or individuals who would like to be a sponsor and help with the success of the 2009 Fur Ball.**



We are pleased to announce that the **Great Falls Teachers Federal Credit Union** has already agreed to a \$1,000 event sponsorship! Our thanks go out to all the sponsors and donors who make the Fur Ball really something to howl about.

Come join the fun! **Fox Fine Jewelers** will again sponsor a beautiful diamond tennis bracelet in our annual raffle, the quick card blitz will dazzle you with a wonderful opportunity to win a grand prize, and the selection of food and company makes this an event like none other.

Fur Ball tickets will be available the first week of April, so be watching for advertisements when the time gets closer. Please contact Co-Chairs Cindy James (452.6648) or Susan Dell (452.8695) if you have any questions or for sponsorship information.

You are the future for our animals. This important event highlights our community's interest in support of animals that deserve a better life.

—Cindy James



Spay/Neuter Clinics: Smashing Success

The building block for animal welfare is altering animals and Great Falls is doing a fantastic job. We have had FIVE clinics with hundreds of volunteers helping us. The enthusiasm for holding future clinics to help people who cannot afford to alter their pets continues to grow.

In September 2008, the Spay of the Falls Committee held its second clinic and altered 196 cats and 58 dogs. In June, vets altered 254 cats.

This brought the total for the five clinics over the past three years to 2,268 animals! Spay Montana, an organization that arranges equipment and veterinary teams assisted our last clinic.

Gloria LaMott, Committee Chairperson, said clinics are held "to assist pet owners of low-income families as well as address the feral cat and dog problem." She said, "An altered pet makes a community a more pleasant place to live."


Until every pet has a home.



Spay of the Falls

Except for surgical teams, the clinics are staffed by volunteers. Over 180 people assisted in September covering tasks such as set up, traffic control, registration, surgery prep, weighing pets, recovery, food preparation for volunteers and vet teams, clean-up, and take down. Pet owners helped provide care as their pets recovered from surgery.

The proof is in the pudding for frequent clinics. One person, who resides in a local trailer park, said she would not bring any ferals to this clinic because, "For the first time in years, we do not have any litters of unwanted kittens!"

Two clinics are planned for 2009. In **May**, the "FOR CATS ONLY!" clinic will help eliminate the breeding season for new kittens. In **August**, all dogs and cats are cordially invited to be our guests. Hope to see you there as a financial sponsor writing a check, or as a volunteer! -Sally Cerny 



Neutering these three felines will reduce the numbers of cats that end up unwanted and homeless.



Counter-clockwise from top center:

Two beautiful dogs wait their turn in their owner's lap. Surgery in progress. Judy Cummings and her granddaughter Sarah. The check-in crew, John Newell, Wales Davis and Judy Cummings visit with Karin Hedglin, whose cooking kept the volunteers from getting hungry. A cute dog carries his warm rice bag as volunteer Julie Stimac helps in the post-surgery area.

They can't add or subtract, but they sure can multiply!



Until every pet has a home. **Spay of the Falls**
Animal Foundation of Great Falls

Just a Dog?

From time to time people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "That's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, time spent, or costs involved for "Just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "Just a dog." Many hours have passed with my only company being "Just a dog," and not once have I felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about by "Just a dog." In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "Just a dog" provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day. Because of "Just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly into the future.

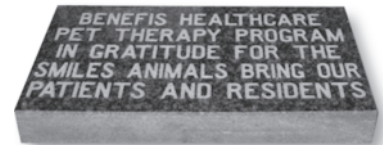
For me and folks like me, it's not "Just a dog." It's an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.



I hope that someday people can understand it's not "Just a dog." It's the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "Just a man or a woman."

So the next time you hear the phrase "Just a dog," smile, because they "Just Don't Understand."

—Author Unknown.



Create a lasting tribute.

**Honor Your Beloved Pets,
Loved Ones & Friends with a
Commemorative Paver at the New
Margaret J. Maclean Animal Shelter**

Help support the new animal shelter in Great Falls by honoring a special pet, loved one, or friend with a commemorative paver prominently displayed at the new shelter. Your personal inscription will forever celebrate the unique relationship you cherish or had with a beloved pet or animal-loving friend.

For more information, call Mary Willmarth, 727.6826.




animal
FOUNDATION
of Great Falls

Fostering a caring community for animals

Each paver is handsome and durable, and engraved with your message. The cost is \$950 for a 12" x 12" paver; \$450 for a 6" x 12" paver, and \$200 for a 6" x 6" paver. A business logo or paw print is available for just \$50 more.

Order your paver today! Clip out the form on page 10.

Order Your Paver Now!

Please print your inscription, using one box for each character. Punctuation and spaces count as one character each. On multiple orders of the same size paver, please use a separate form for each inscription.

4 lines / 10 characters per line

6" x 6"

\$200

6" x 12"


\$450



5 lines / 25 characters per line

12" x 12"

\$950

6 lines / 18 characters per line

___ 6 x 6 Paver(s) at \$200 each = \$___ total / Add pawprint: Cat  Dog 

___ 6 x 12 Paver(s) at \$450 each = \$___ total / Add pawprint: Cat  Dog 

___ 12 x 12 Paver(s) at \$950 each = \$___ total / Add pawprint: Cat  Dog 

I want a pawprint. Please circle Cat or Dog above. \$50 per paver = \$___ total.

I want a logo. Please contact me to arrange art. \$50 per paver = \$___ total.

ORDER TOTAL:

\$ _____

Mail to:
Animal Foundation Pavers
P.O. Box 3426
Great Falls, MT 59403

Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Please make checks payable to the Animal Foundation.

Please bill my credit card for \$_____. VISA Mastercard

Name (please print)

Address

City / State / Zip

Telephone (please include so we can verify your inscription)

credit card number _____
expiration date

cardholder signature / date

**“I’m really excited
about the
Pacific Steel & Recycling
Trailside Dog Park!**

**Dodger is an only dog
so the dog park will be fun
for him to run off-leash
and play with other dogs.**

**Please join me and
support the dog park.”**

–Jean Dybdal



Cindy Cieluch Photography



The fence is up, the sprinkler system is in,
the trees are planted, and the grass needs to grow!
That’s real progress, and by early summer 2009,
dogs will run leash-free in the
Pacific Steel & Recycling Dog Park.

FREE THE DOGS!

**United
Way**



United Way of Cascade County

DID YOU KNOW?

You can designate a cash donation or
pledge to the Animal Foundation
through the United Way.



I want to help build the dog park!

We still need donations to keep the momentum
going on the dog park. Any amount is appreciated!

ENCLOSED is my check for \$_____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Checks should be made payable to:
Animal Foundation of Great Falls
P.O. Box 3426 / Great Falls, MT 59403

For more information, call 771.0007

We’re on the Web!

Check us out on our web site. There’s lots of information
about our projects and how you can help.

You can contribute to the capital fund drive online using
PayPal or your credit card.

www.theanimalfoundation.org

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*Sheltering Skies
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406.452.6648

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Pet Haiku

I am your best friend

Now, always, especially

When you are eating

—Author Unknown



**If animals make a
difference in your life,
won't you make a difference
for them?**

Year-End Gifts: A Beautiful Thing

When you sit down to plan your end of the year contributions, please keep the Animal Foundation of Great Falls in mind. We are grateful for any past donations you may have given, and appreciate you considering donating this year to help build a better shelter for the animals.

I want to help animals in our area.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- \$ 1,000 \$ 250 \$ 50
 \$ 500 \$ 100 \$ ___ Other

Name (please print)

Address

City / State / Zip

SS Dec2008

Phone

*Please make checks payable to the Animal Foundation and mail to
P.O. Box 3426, Great Falls, MT 59403*

You can also donate on our website: theanimalfoundation.org