

## THE DREAM HAS BECOME A REALITY! Heart of the Valley opens the doors to the new shelter

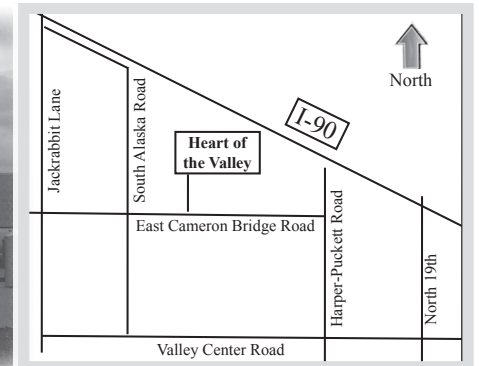
Animal lovers in the Gallatin and Madison valleys have reason to rejoice today – the long struggle to build the community an animal shelter it can be proud of has finally resulted in the opening of Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter’s new facility!

Anyone who has set foot in the old shelter over the past several years knows

that this accomplishment hasn’t come a moment too soon. The homeless dogs, cats and rabbits of our area deserve better than the decrepit and unsanitary facility they have been forced to endure while they await permanent homes. And the community has spoken! Generous individuals, businesses and foundations in the local area and beyond have stepped forward to fund the campaign

to build the animals a better shelter, and today we join together in celebration of this accomplishment.

On behalf of all of us at Heart of the Valley – dogs, cats, rabbits and humans alike – thank you for supporting the cause of animal welfare in your community. And join us during the Grand Opening weekend October 20-21 for the happy celebration!



## THE LONG ROAD TO THE NEW SHELTER

The Humane Society of Gallatin Valley (HSGV) constructed the old shelter building on North Rouse Avenue in Bozeman atop a reclaimed landfill in 1975. According to Vickie Lutz, former Heart of the Valley



**Board Member Lou Spain & Operations Director Erika Leckington raise the flag at the new shelter**

Operations Director and current volunteer, things were quite different back then. During the first years of the shelter on

Rouse, the Executive Director was the animal caretaker, lived on-site in what is now the cat adoption room, and did everything.

As years passed and the population in the Gallatin and Madison valleys grew, the facility continued its expansion to serve the community’s growing homeless animal population. With a combination over the years of three additional trailers, much outdoor fencing and kennels, several new staff members, and a “can-do” attitude, the shelter gradually morphed into the facility many of us have known recently. While it may not have been pretty to look at, it served its purpose.

It became clear that an entirely new shelter would have to be built as the surrounding area continued to boom, the

old shelter reached the limits of expansion at the original site, and the existing facility – now over 30 years old – became more and more dilapidated. “The shelter was in such a bad way,” states Jane Lerner,



**Shelter dogs Mama Beau, Baby Beau & Arrow peer out of the window of the HOV van as they arrive at the new shelter**

former President of HSGV and current board member, “that people who might have adopted their dogs and cats at the shelter were staying away because it was too depressing

*(continued on page 4)*

**SEE THE GRAND OPENING WEEKEND SCHEDULE ON THE BACK PAGE!**

Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter • 1549 East Cameron Bridge Road • Bozeman, MT 59718 • (406) 388-9399

Open daily 11:30 am - 5:30 pm; Tuesdays 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to you, we made it! The new building was finished on schedule and on budget. The community and homeless animals of the Gallatin and Madison valleys now have the new animal shelter they deserve. The last of the animals were moved from the old shelter on October 6. It was an emotional moment for the staff and volunteers involved. Staff and animals were settling in as the last of the “punch list” items were completed. It is a comforting feeling knowing that winter can come and it will no longer make the animals wet, cold and miserable.

Heart of the Valley could not have taken this momentous step without the community’s help. You stepped up to the plate with \$4 million in donations to pay for the construction. You were there with over one hundred volunteers to move the dog pens from the old shelter. Other volunteers provided foster care and boarding for animals during the week of the move. Scores more turned out in a snowstorm to move the cats. HOV cannot begin to thank you adequately for all that you have done to bring this dream to reality.

Now comes the next challenge—focusing our efforts on becoming a better animal shelter—a resource center dedicated to improving the lives of companion animals each and every day. In this vision, animal guardians come to HOV to find: fitting companions to enhance their lives, worthy solutions to animal problems, or a place to work, train, or just have fun with their pet. Guardians surrender their pets with confidence they will be evaluated, treated as appropriate and either go to a new home rapidly or are humanely euthanized if deemed unadoptable. Low-income families receive spay/neuter and food assistance for their pets. The community and especially the next generation of guardians receive education on pets and responsible pet ownership. HOV actively promotes policies, planning and viewpoints that reflect compassionate and animal-friendly solutions.

In staff news, I am delighted to welcome Mary Peterson as our new Development Director to assist with the new challenges. She brings a wealth of fundraising experience to help HOV complete its campaign to increase its endowment and raise the money necessary to operate the new facility. More importantly, she will further diversify HOV’s sources of income. HOV was very sorry to see Charleen Engberg move to Milwaukee but Angela Sandoval will become the Volunteer and Education Manager—a key position as we focus more attention on preventing homeless animals through education. Please join me in welcoming Mary and Angela to their new positions. I hope to see all of you during our Grand Opening weekend.

*Margie Taylor*



*Heart of the Valley is a proud member of Montana Shares, a partnership of Montana-based non-profit groups devoted to improving the quality of life in communities throughout the state.*

## Question of the Season: What is your favorite part of the new shelter?



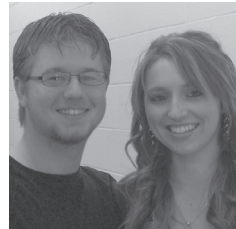
**Red Audiss**  
HOV Staff

“It doesn’t smell! The surfaces in the shelter are cleanable and sanitary, and the whole building is now much more inviting.”



**Kim Nettuno**  
HOV Volunteer

“I love the new dog walking trails on the property - they are awesome!”



**Jake & Elizabeth**  
HOV Visitors

“The dogs are all inside now, and they are not so loud and barking - it’s much quieter inside the shelter.”

## HEART OF THE VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

1549 East Cameron Bridge Road  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
Open daily 11:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Tuesdays 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
(406) 388-9399  
[www.montanapets.org/hsgv](http://www.montanapets.org/hsgv)

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## New Faces and New Places

### Two Key Positions Filled at HOV

Heart of the Valley is proud to announce the addition of Mary Peterson, Director of Development, to the HOV team. Mary brings with her a long and solid background in fundraising, starting in Washington D.C. in 1990 and continuing today. Mary and her family became residents of Bozeman in 1994, when they moved here for a community better suited to raising their daughter. In 1995, Mary began working with the Museum of the Rockies, where she headed development and fundraising until August of 2007.

“Mary was an essential player in raising the money to make Museum of the Rockies a preeminent institution,” states Margie Taylor, HOV Executive Director. “We are delighted to have her expertise on our team.” And of course, Mary is also an animal lover. Her face lights up as she shows off pictures of her two canine companions, Abbie the golden retriever and Dusty the sheltie.

Asked about her goals in her new position at HOV, Mary says “I am inspired by what Heart of the Valley has already accomplished. My hope is that we can raise money for the endowment fund to keep the shelter sustainable for years and years to come, and raise enough annually to fulfill our mission as an open-door, no-kill shelter.” Here her face lights up again: “It takes a special community to maintain that kind of shelter.”



Mary smiles for a photo during moving week at the new shelter



Angela with her family at home in Bozeman

Also stepping into a new position at the shelter is Angela Sandoval, who has worked as Development Assistant at HOV since July of 2006. In late October, Angela will be stepping into the Volunteer & Education Manager position, which has been open since Charleen Engberg moved out of state with her family. In her new position, Angela will oversee volunteer programs and recruitment, and will also focus on reaching all members of the community with the messages of responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying & neutering, and keeping pets for life.

Angela lives in Bozeman with her husband and their three rescue mutts: Corvus, Ellie and Cherokee, who was adopted from Heart of the Valley in 2006. “I am thrilled to have this opportunity to grow as an employee of HOV and to reach as many folks as possible with positive messages about companion animals,” states Angela. “My goals are to support all of our amazing volunteers in their much-needed endeavors and to grow HOV into a complete community resource for pet education and awareness.”

## Black Cats and Halloween

By: Traci Weller, HOV Board Member

Unfortunately, the black cat is also associated with mischief and mayhem this time of year.

Much has been said about the more violent indignities that may be practiced on black cats at this time of year. Many black cats are tortured or killed around Halloween as part of a pathetic prank or as some kind of satanic ritual. A more subtle cruelty has surfaced in recent years: across the country, animal shelters have noticed a spate of adoptions of black cats shortly before Halloween, with many of these cats returned to the shelters in the days after the holiday because “He just didn’t work out.” One might assume that these people wanted just another Halloween decoration for their home, and it probably did not even occur to them that this practice is cruel and inhumane, with the cats experiencing real trauma from being dragged back and forth from shelter to home and back again. As a result, many animal shelters, including Heart of the Valley, refuse to adopt black cats around Halloween time. This year, HOV will stop adopting black cats on October 24, and will resume adoptions on November 7.

Of course, not all cultures see black cats as spooky or unlucky. Depending on your area of the world and what century you live in, black cats may portend either good or bad luck. All cats were thought to be sacred in ancient Egypt, while the Druids believed that black cats were really humans being punished for evil deeds. In Asia, Australia and the UK, a black cat is considered lucky. Scottish lore has it that a strange black cat on a porch brings prosperity to the owner, while another belief states that a bride will have a happy married life if a black cat sneezes near her on her wedding day.

While October may be the favorite month of thousands of humans, cats - particularly black cats - have little cause for celebration this month. Halloween has become a multi-billion dollar holiday across the country, and the black cat - along with pumpkins, candy, ghosts and goblins - is undoubtedly part of the October 31st tradition.



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**A WAVE OF THE PAW TO...**

**Dr. Sue Geske and Vet Tech Cara Greger at Double Diamond Vet Hospital** for giving shelter dogs a generous therapy workout on their water treadmill.

**Keys for Life Pianos** for donating proceeds of a special piano sale to Heart of the Valley!

**Jessica at East Main Trading Company** for continuing her used furniture consignment program with proceeds benefitting Heart of the Valley!

**All of the wonderful volunteers** who helped in ways big and small during the move to the new shelter! We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

(continued from page 1)

to see the animals living in those conditions."

In March of 2004, the memberships of the Humane Society of Gallatin Valley and Heart of the Valley Animal Center joined forces to create a new organization called Heart of the Valley Humane Society. Soon after the merger, Heart of the Valley began to seriously reconsider its options for a new facility. With the generous anonymous donation of a 58-acre parcel off of East Cameron Bridge Road, and a pledge of \$1 million from Bridger Feeds owner Marcia Anderson, the decades-long dream of building a new shelter started to look more like a reality. With the capital campaign for the new shelter in full swing,



A volunteer "Cat Caravan" moved cats to the new shelter on a snowy Saturday

generous individuals and businesses in the community have donated more than \$4 million toward the combined new facility and endowment fund goal of \$5 million.

Ground was broken for the new facility in September of 2006, and Martel Construction began work immediately thereafter. About a year later, the shelter is complete, the animals are moved in, and the dream that took root over a decade ago has become a reality.

Features of the new shelter include:

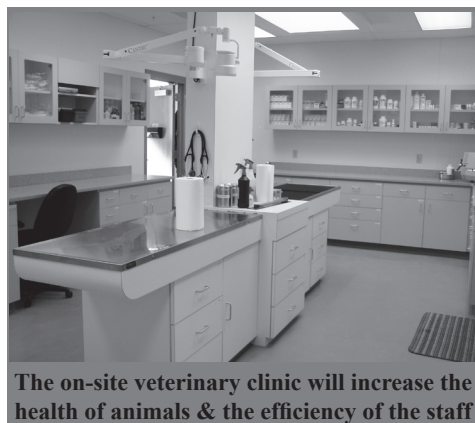
- Resin-sealed cleanable surfaces
- Housing for all animals indoors during all seasons
- 12-15 air exchanges per hour in animal care rooms
- Natural light and visual barriers to

create a calmer atmosphere for the animals

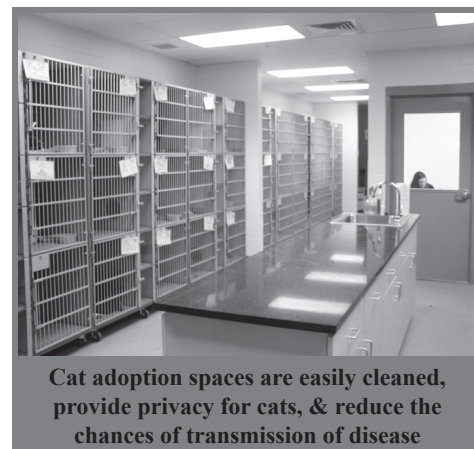
- Community meeting room available for public and shelter use
- Public walking trails and a fenced off-leash dog park
- Double wall construction and dropped ceilings where possible to increase insulation

Overall, the new facility embodies the best of what an animal shelter should be: clean and low-stress for the animals, inviting for the public to use as a resource, and efficient for the staff.

It has been a long road, but we think all the animals would agree that it has certainly been a worthwhile endeavor!



The on-site veterinary clinic will increase the health of animals & the efficiency of the staff



Cat adoption spaces are easily cleaned, provide privacy for cats, & reduce the chances of transmission of disease

## “Ask the Vet” . . . Declawing

By: *HOV Staff Veterinarian Crista DeJoia, DVM*

Behavioral problems are among the most common reasons given for relinquishment of pet cats to animal shelters, with house soiling and aggression toward people among the most commonly cited problems. Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is no exception to this trend. We currently have a significant number of cats with litter box or aggression issues that are “long stays” with us due to the degree of difficulty associated with finding these animals suitable homes.

Interestingly, many of the HOV cats mentioned previously are also declawed. Research studies aimed at determining if there is a direct link between declawing cats and later behavioral problems (such as house soiling and aggression) have been very contradictory, with no clear answer to the question. However, if you ask an animal shelter worker if declawed cats in their shelter commonly exhibit behavioral problems, you will most likely get an overwhelming “YES!” Twelve of the 16 declawed cats we currently shelter at HOV have litter box issues, aggression issues, or both. Cats at HOV who show litter box avoidance are given a medical work-up to rule out physical reasons for the behavior, but a majority of these animals have no underlying health issues. Shelter staff must then try and discern the reason for not using the litter box, such a litter preference or preference for a specific box type. Unfortunately, these cats are difficult to place due to their history of house soiling, especially since they are not considered great “outdoor cat” candidates due to their declawed status.

So what can be done about this issue? It starts with owner counseling, both at the animal’s veterinarian before the declaw procedure and at the shelter, before relinquishment of the cat. The decision to declaw a cat should be made after the owner has received information regarding the benefits and possible complications (both physical and behavioral) of the procedure, and has been informed about non-surgical ways to deal with scratching and clawing. It is our job at HOV to ensure that owners have the information they need regarding strategies to curb these behavioral problems before they make the decision to surrender their pet. There is no right or wrong answer to the “declaw debate”, but educating pet owners is the best way to ensure that cats have the best possible chance for a healthy, happy life - claws or no claws.



## HONORS

There are many reasons to honor someone you love with a donation to Heart of the Valley. Holidays, birthdays, weddings, or just everyday good deeds can be a reason to celebrate - and transferring that good feeling to direct aid for the shelter animals is the sweetest gift of all!

### In Honor of Those Who Love Animals

In Honor of Banfield Pet Hospital for their care of Lefty  
Kristen Messer  
In Honor of Debby & Jim Bangs  
Con & Daphne Gillam  
In Honor of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Pat & Teresa Lynch  
Joe & Angela Rossman  
In Honor of Lauren Matzinger  
Kellie Matzinger  
In Honor of Connie Van Luchene & Creekside Veterinary Hospital  
Gena Powell

In Honor of the Wedding of Dan Warthin & Morgan Miller  
Mary M. Wilson  
In Honor of the Wedding of Susan Wimer & Ray Kagel, Jr.  
Anne Schumacker & Ben Kluver

### In Honor of Special Pets

In Honor of Amy  
Her Mom & Dad, Georgiann & Steve Williamson  
In Honor of Anna  
Jane Barber  
In Honor of Shelter Dog Cue Ball  
Doris Henson  
Karla Rowland

In Honor of Shelter Dog Elijah  
Kristin Lineback  
In Memory of Esmund  
Pearl Rusch  
In Honor of Hobbes  
Geraldine Schessler  
In Honor of Jake  
Anne Banks  
In Honor of Kato  
Clifford & Brooke Everest  
In Honor of Lady & Misty  
Bill & Diane Wheeler  
In Honor of Maddie Davidson  
Tara & Stickeen Mills  
In Honor of Rubuse A. Basenji  
Lilli & William Moffit  
In Honor of Tucker’s Birthday  
Marni Cota



## MEMORIALS

A memorial gift to Heart of the Valley is a thoughtful way to express your sympathy and honor a departed loved one. A Heart of the Valley memorial not only remembers the life of a loved one, it also offers hope and opportunity to the animals at the shelter.

*“Gone from our sight, but never our memories. Gone from our touch, but never our hearts.”*

### In Memory of Those Who Loved Pets

In Memory of Doug Adelman  
Eleanor & Allan Metrick  
In Memory of Paula Amrhein  
Lori & Kenneth Hess  
Ursula & William Sherman  
In Memory of Martha Baptie  
Same Day Surgery Center  
In Memory of Gerry Beck  
C. P. Atterberg  
In Memory of Alan Bristol  
Edward & Darlene Monforton  
In Memory of Max Braune  
Richard & Beverly Wilson  
In Memory of Juanita Bushman  
Cindi & Steve Cochran  
Dottie & Harry Mann  
In Memory of Irma Fritts  
Eleanor J. Lee  
In Memory of Ruth Guthrie  
C.P. Atterberg  
In Memory of Carol Heidecker  
The Toohey Family  
In Memory of Leo Hoffart  
Duncan & Donna MacNab  
In Memory of Julius Katz  
Jaclyn Katz  
In Memory of Judy Marchwick  
Mildred T. Cox  
Laura Roe  
In Memory of Ann Makua  
Joan Florence  
In Memory of Dr. John McIlhattan  
Debby & Jim Bangs  
Kris & Jim Hall  
Jessica Houland  
In Memory of Michael Moncada  
Ellen & Ross Rodgers  
In Memory of Thomas Nabb  
Nelva Sears  
In Memory of Esther Nash  
Art Hazen

In Memory of Harry Noel  
Elise Donohue  
In Memory of Shirley Taylor  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Denison  
Bill & Debbie Tierney  
In Memory of Kathleen Thompson  
Virginia Church  
In Memory of Linda Todd  
Larilyn Miller  
In Memory of Lori Kahler Waltsak  
Clayton & Helen Schievelbein  
In Memory of Norman Wangerud  
Candy Bartholomew & Mary Ann Kent  
In Memory of Kayla Wilhelm  
Lee & Mary Wilhelm  
In Memory of Hildie Young  
Paul Imai & Desiree Barrett

### In Memory of Beloved Pets

In Memory of Ace  
David & Krista Palagi  
In Memory of Aladdin & Simon  
Jim & Cynthia LeFevre  
In Memory of Amigito O'Donnell  
Nancy O'Donnell  
In Memory of my "Angels"  
Anonymous  
In Memory of Axel  
Theresa & Gerald Hoeffs  
In Memory of Carmen Matzick's Beloved Baily  
Sue & John Mills  
In Memory of Barney  
Cindi & Steve Cochran  
Rocky & Helen Longano  
Roxane, Dan & Scooby Rister  
In Memory of Bear  
Diana R. Dixon & Christine Greve  
Kimberly Walker  
In Memory of Bodhi, the Handsomest Guy in the World  
Gena Powell  
Ruth Rudner-Muench

In Memory of Bogie & Sammi, Best Friends in Life, Companions in Heaven  
Joy Richardson  
In Memory of Buck  
Sandy McCue  
In Memory of Buddy & Kitty  
Kristin & Brian Hodges  
In Memory of Buzz  
Marie, Skyler, Kip & Jackson Tressell  
In Memory of Callie  
Bob & Elisabeth Montgomery  
Georgia Jenkins  
In Memory of Charlie Snowtoes & Captain  
David, Mary Lou & Mittens Wilson  
In Memory of Chugach  
Bryan Swindell & Camden Easterling  
In Memory of Cleo  
Richard & Allison Garwood  
In Memory of Deke  
Dave & Carol Elliott  
In Memory of Duke, Mable, Khan, Tia, Gypsy, Pilot, Hunk, Tippy, Garvana, Junior, Ringo, Bette, Belle & Grizz  
Vickie Lutz  
In Memory of Gunner  
Jim & Sherry Schupbach  
In Memory of Hank  
Amy Washtak & Brian Reddicks  
In Memory of Harley  
Lana Kolokotronis  
In Memory of Heather  
Harold & Mary Jo Paul  
In Memory of Huggy Bear  
Jayne Van Alstyne  
In Memory of Indigo  
Jim & Debby Bangs  
Anne Sherwood  
Margie Taylor  
Kimberly Walker  
In Memory of Jazz  
Lynne Hine

In Memory of Jeep  
From two HOV volunteers who  
loved him  
In Memory of Jessie  
Kendall Child  
In Memory of Katie  
Becky White  
Kimberly Walker  
In Memory of Kuma  
Jim & Sherry Schupbach  
In Memory of Lady & Punkin  
Helen B. Collier  
In Memory of Leo  
Roger & Lynne Barnes  
In Memory of Lucy Sisson  
Beverly Adams  
Jim & Debby Bangs  
In Memory of Luna  
Elise Donohue  
In Memory of Macgiver  
Anonymous  
In Memory of Mackenzie  
Daun Clemens  
In Memory of Max  
Margaret Parker  
In Memory of Midnight  
Jane Lerner  
Joanne Pieper

In Memory of Mittens  
Ed & Jennifer Abbott  
In Memory of M. M. Sounder  
Martha Hendricks  
In Memory of Moose  
Gerry Ralston  
In Memory of Mr. Dinker  
Ellen & Mel Cutler  
Janice Goldhaber & Douglas Junge  
In Memory of Muggs  
Connie Murray  
In Memory of Muffy  
Don & Reba Regli  
In Memory of Myrtle the Turtle  
Jean Munch  
In Memory of Oakley  
Jennifer Elsner & Amber Miller  
In Memory of Odie  
Pamela Olyphant  
In Memory of Oreo the Cat, Double Stuff  
Joy Richardson  
In Memory of Peach, One Great Dog  
Mary Anne Hansen & Craig Hall  
In Memory of Purriisa the Cat  
Jessica Houland  
In Memory of Rambo & Tigger  
Elaine Reardon

In Memory of Sabu  
Dick & Bea Horswill  
In Memory of Samantha "Sam Sam"  
Shelly Martel  
In Memory of Schuylar  
Lauri McCommon  
In Memory of Sir Quigley  
Tim & Sara Johnson  
In Memory of Sky  
Kevin & Heather Moriarty  
In Memory of Smokey  
Tim & Sara Johnson  
In Memory of Suzy  
Joy Richardson  
In Memory of Toby  
Jenna & Dan Bennett  
In Memory of Tucker  
Bette-Jo Plum  
In Memory of Webster  
Snaque & Ford Rollo  
In Memory of Winnie  
Lana Kolokotronis  
Ray & Margie Erickson  
In Memory of Winston  
Carolyn & Val York

*Gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one are special to those who send and receive them, and are truly appreciated by Heart of the Valley. To make a memorial or honor donation to Heart of the Valley, or if an error or omission has occurred, please contact us at (406) 388-9399 extension 112 or via e-mail at [deva@heartofthevalleyshelter.org](mailto:deva@heartofthevalleyshelter.org).*

*This list reflects donations made between July 1 and October 1, 2007.*

## WISH LIST

***Your unwanted items and in-kind donations  
may mean the world to the animals at the shelter!***



- Gift cards to pet supply stores
- 55-gallon trash bags
- Small cat brushes
- Indestructable dog toys
- Copy paper, staples, pens, paper clips
- Paper towels
- Shop rags, washcloths & towels
- Volunteers to socialize adoptable animals



**And a big thank you to First Security Bank  
for offering up all of their local branches  
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## SAVE - THE - DATE!

### **NEW SHELTER GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

**Saturday & Sunday, October 20-21, 2007**

*Join the celebration at the new shelter as we fill a weekend with fun pet events and trivia contests, as well as the final chance to enter the Pet Parade 2008 children's art contest!*

#### **Saturday, October 20**

- 11:30am Ribbon Cutting with Bozeman Chamber Greencoats
- 12:30pm Shelter Tour - a behind the scenes look at the new facility
- 1:30pm Microchipping Clinic - reduced price of \$35.00!
- 2:30pm Shelter Tour - a behind the scenes look at the new facility
- 3:30pm Dog Agility & Flyball Demonstration by Bozeman Agility Club

#### **Sunday, October 21**

- 11:30am Working Dogs for Conservation Demonstration
- 12:30pm Shelter Tour - a behind the scenes look at the new facility
- 1:30pm Inter-Faith Blessing of the Animals - for all pets
- 2:30pm Shelter Tour - a behind the scenes look at the new facility
- 3:30pm Moonlight Basin Avalanche Rescue Dog Demonstration

### **SANTA PAWS IS COMING SOON!**

*What could be more festive than a photo of your pet with Santa? Bring your whole family - pets included - for an instant, professional portrait with Saint Nick - great for holiday cards! Look for upcoming November and December dates at local Bozeman businesses to be announced.*



#### **Staff's Pick Pup:**

### **"Denali"**

Denali is a 78lb hound mix that was surrendered to the shelter because he was a hound and was going over their fence. He is a smart, active dog that is extremely social with people and dogs alike. Denali is housebroken and knows some basic manners. If you enjoy the love of a hound and can keep this boy safely confined when unsupervised, swing by and visit with Denali!

#### **Kitty Pick of the Litter:**

### **"Cali"**



Cali is a spayed 2-year old beauty of a cat with exotic bengal markings and quite the personality! One of her favorite activities is perching on the shoulders of her new friends at the shelter. She's smart, she's vocal, and she needs a home that can provide the intellectual stimulation she craves. Are you a match?