



# Animals Best Friends

## News... Views... Aarfs... Mews

Fall 2007

### Olivia's Success Story

Less than one year ago, six tiny puppies were taken to the Independence Animal Shelter. Their mother died in an accident before the puppies were weaned. Animals Best

Friends took the puppies in and fostered them for the Independence Shelter. ABF volunteers came to our rescue facility morning and night to bottle-feed the puppies. This went on for several weeks until the pups could eat on their own. Soon the puppies were growing and knowing we could not part with them, we transferred them to our shelter. They grew into six beautiful shepherd mixes. Over the past year, ABF has placed most of these pups in loving homes. Olivia was one of these pups. Her sweet personality and shy



nature won the heart of her new Mom, Jan. After a two-week trial, we went out to visit Jan and Olivia. We saw how much Olivia loved her new Mom and how comfortable she was in her new home. When we finalized the adoption, we knew it was the right home for Olivia. A month later, we received the following letter from Jan:

Dianne & Everyone who helped in my adoption of Olivia, I just wanted to drop you a note to thank you all so very much! Olivia is such a sweetie and we are getting along GREAT! She has learned to sit, shake both paws, and to lie down. Next trick will be rollover. That may take longer. She is getting very spoiled and she never leaves my side. I could not be happier. You girls are doing a wonderful thing with these dogs. Keep up the GREAT work!  
Jan and Olivia

**Ali** is a Blue Heeler/Australian Cattle Dog mix. She is less than one year old, very smart, and has a great



personality. Ali gets along well with other dogs and cats and loves people. Ali needs to be active and might be a good walking or jogging friend. She also may enjoy agility training when she gets older. Ali would love to meet you.

**Ember** is an orange, domestic short hair, male cat. He is one and a half years old and litter box

trained. Ember is assertive and will come to greet you. He will stick his face in yours to get your attention. His beautiful amber colored eyes are expressive. He will also talk to you to tell you what he thinks. Please consider Ember for the next member of your family.



### APPLEBEE'S DINING TO DONATE

November 23rd through November 30th

A great opportunity to help ABF, simply stop by the Applebee's located at Independence Center Mall during the week of November 23rd and bring along the enclosed flier to give to your server. Applebee's will donate 20% of your bill. This is an easy and fun way to help ABF and get some Christmas shopping done while you are at the mall! Fliers will be available on our website, [www.animalsbestfriends.org](http://www.animalsbestfriends.org), in a pdf file. Feel free to print out as many as you wish and pass them out to your family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

**The more we eat the more we earn!**

**We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made.**

**-M. Acklam**

## Summer Quarter ABF In Action

- ◆ **Adoptions:** Dottie, Gunther, Dora, Spencer, Lilly, Grace, Oliver, Ivy
- ◆ **Rescues:** Annie, Ivy, Salt, Mae, Taylor, and Hudson
- ◆ **Adopt a Pet:** 87 Independence Animal Shelter dogs and cats were adopted in the 2nd quarter of 2007 through PetsMart with ABF volunteers assistance.
- ◆ **PetsMart Cats:** Each day ABF volunteers continue to feed, water, and clean cages of shelter cats that are showcased at the PetsMart Luv-A-Pet station. ABF facility volunteers also care for and medicate the sick cats from PetsMart and the Independence Animal Shelter.
- ◆ **ABF Volunteers** continue to take Independence Animal Shelter dogs to PetsMart each weekend for Adopt A Pet. Unfortunately adoption numbers have been down during the past few months. Volunteers are there each Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4 pm. Many weekends ABF dogs are also there to meet potential adopters. ABF also follows up on adoptions when adopters give ABF their e-mail address. We want all of the animals we adopt out to go to permanent, loving homes. When dogs and cats are recycled through the shelters repeatedly, they tend to develop problems which make them harder to place. This is not unlike the situation many foster children face.



This June the annual Gala fundraiser for PAWS and ABF was held at the Country Meadows Community Room. The theme was magic and several young magicians from the Society of Young Magicians had the opportunity to show off their talents. There was a silent auction, raffle, and the popular Pick A Paw table. Attendees enjoyed food and wine along with the entertainment. ABF and PAWS each received over \$2,000.00 from the fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who worked on the Gala, donated items and funds, and thanks to all the supporters who attended. Plans for next year's Gala are already in the works. Rumor has it that the theme is tropical.

In July, we made a few more improvements to our facility. We had a big bathroom converted into a storage room for food and cleaning supplies. We also had some waterproofing work done in our tub room and a leak repaired. Hacker Construction custom built a "Dutch Door" and installed it in our hallway which helps keep the dogs in one area while we clean in another.

The biggest improvement we made was for the play yard. Jerry and Brendan Meinert cleaned the yard completely before workers from Hacker Construction put down a layer of lime. Dianne Sanderson, Jerry, Brendan, and Stacey Smith



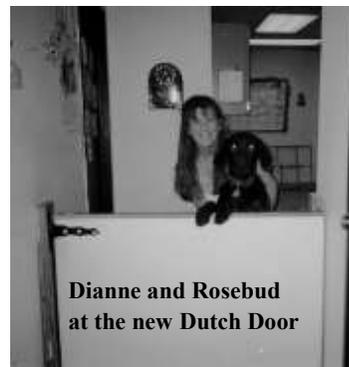
helped the workers spread a thick layer of pea gravel all over the yard. The yard is now a much cleaner place for the dogs to play. Now we will not have to worry about those muddy paws tracking up the building when the fall rains come.

August was hot so Dianne Sanderson brought out the kiddie pools to help the dogs cool off while they played in the yard. Our girls, Rosebud and Peaches, were particularly grateful as

they love to splash and tromp in the pools. Ribeye also likes the pools but wants to get in when no one is looking. Peaches also enjoys digging in the drinking water tubs.

Our new website is up and running. There are still a few "kinks" to work out but overall we are happy with the way it looks and how easy it is to use. The application has more detail and makes it easier to screen potential adopters. Check out the new format at [www.animalsbestfriends.org](http://www.animalsbestfriends.org).

Right now we are gearing up for our busy fall season including our Garage Sale, Chili Supper & Bingo, and participation in the Independence Halloween Parade.



Dianne and Rosebud  
at the new Dutch Door

Ali



April



Bear



Billy Bob



Brandy



Buffy



Carson



China



Connor



Cookie



Copper



Dollie



Hudson



Mae



Mickie



Mister



Peaches



Petey



Petunia



Ribeye



Rosebud



Rusty



Scout



Scrappy



Shorty



Shilo



Stewart Little



Todd



Tori



Wendi



For more information, please go to...

[www.animalsbestfriends.org](http://www.animalsbestfriends.org)

or call (816) 254-8664 / (816) 254-4609

Ashes



Cali



Ember



Flame



Gato



Leo



Moeshe



Salt



Sootie



Sylvia



### **Estate Planning for your Pet**

Have you thought about what will happen to your pet if you die or become incapacitated? Unfortunately, most people do not think about their pet when planning for the future. The assumption is that “I will outlive my pet”. Famous last words. Did you know that Shepherds and Retrievers could live up to 13 years? When kept indoors cats can live up to 18 years. A Cockatoo can live up to 70 years and a Macaw up to 80!

Did you know that your pet is considered “tangible property”? Like the patio furniture and the china, Rover will be passed on to whomever you have in your will. That might work if the heir is an animal lover. If there isn't a family member or friend who is willing to take your pet, you might be leaving his fate in the hands of a court. At the very least, you should carry contact information of a trusted individual who can come to your home and care for your pets in case of emergency.

Your beloved Felix or Rover could end up in an animal shelter because you did not arrange for their care. There is a huge amount of information on this subject at [www.estateplanningforpets.org](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org) and we highly recommend you visit this website. It covers how to determine if you need to plan; the types of Pet Trusts; what happens to your pet if you have no will or trust and many more issues. If your pet is indeed a “family member”, you should give this serious consideration.

#### **Check out your local dog parks**

Dog parks are gaining in popularity, and dogs certainly know why. There is nothing as much fun for a dog as to run around off-leash and play together in a nice park. Most dog parks post general rules to follow such as: 2 dogs per handler, handlers must scoop the poop, dogs must be current on all vaccinations, puppies must be 4 months old, aggressive dogs are not allowed, etc.

#### **Independence**

Santa Fe Park located at 2731 S. Santa Fe Road has two large fenced in grassy areas with shade trees, park benches, poop bags and a dog water fountain.

Van Hook Park located at 3231 S. Shrank Ave is still under construction.

Fairmont Park located at 300 N. Home Ave offers a small fenced in area with no other amenities.

#### **Blue Springs**

Blue Springs Dog Park located at 1049 NE 20th Street is in the Gregory O Grounds Park east of Lake Remembrance. This park is located on 2.7 acres and includes access to a small pond, lots of open space, and large trees for shade, benches, poop bags, dog water fountain, and a dog wash area at the exit.

#### **Lee's Summit**

Happy Tails Dog Park located at 1251 SE Ranson Rd (a few blocks south of Highway 50 and Ranson Road) is located under a big water tower. There is a paved trail that circles the park with dog agility equipment and large grassy areas for the dogs to play, park benches, dog water fountain, and poop bags. There is a separate area for smaller dogs to enjoy.



## Thank You, Gracias, Merci !

Thank you to all of our helpers who flatten newspapers and bring them to our facility.

Thank you very, very much to all of our regular supporters

Thank you to Three Trails Animal Hospital who is always there when we need them.

Thank you to Dave & Connie Mayta for the 13th Producer's Night Reception & Play, "Funny Money", held on September 6th as a fundraiser for PAWS and ABF.

Thanks to Pocock Heating and Cooling for being there when we need them.

Thanks to PetsMart and the Independence Animal Shelter for allowing us to do Adopt-A-Pet.

Thanks to Comcast for regularly featuring ABF animals on its station.

Thanks to KMBZ Channel 9 for featuring ABF animals each quarter on its Adopt-A-Pet segments.

Thank you to the Independence Examiner for allowing us to have an article in the paper every Wednesday.

Thanks to the ABF cleaning and maintenance crews for their consistent hard work.

**A huge thanks to all of our supporters and donors. We could not do rescue and adoptions without your help!!**

- Purina Kitten Chow
- Kitten Formula
- Purina Cat Chow
- Purina Dog Chow
- Dog & Cat Treats & Chews
- Cat Litter
- Ground canned Alpo or Pedigree dog food, no gravy
- Cow Hooves



- H.E. Laundry Detergent
- 39 Gallon Trash Bags
- Paper Towels
- Newspapers (without slick ads)
- Kong Toys
- Dawn Dish Liquid
- Stuffed toys (no beads please)
- Bleach

## Ongoing Fundraisers

- Do you use Best Choice products? If so, please save your labels and send them to us at PO Box 493, Independence, MO 64051.
- ABF has three green and yellow paper retriever bins in the parking lot of the CVS Pharmacy located at the corner of 40 Highway and Lee's Summit Road.
- ABF has a collection box at the northeast corner of our building for empty ink jet, fax and laser toner cartridge recycling. We can recycle cartridges made by Apple, Brother, Canon, Dell, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Panasonic, Pitney Bowes, Ricoh, Samsung, Sharp and Xerox. We can also recycle cell phones made by Audiovox, Blackberry, Ericsson, Handspring, Kyocera, LG, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Panasonic, Samsung, Sanyo and Siemens. If you are interested in helping with this program and think you can place a collection box at your work place or another location please contact us at [rescue@animalsbestfriends.org](mailto:rescue@animalsbestfriends.org) and we will arrange pick-ups for the cartridges.

### Memorials and Honorariums

William Burke in memory of William E. Hidy  
K. A. Graham in memory of Ernest Graham

### Volunteers Needed

Help at the PetsMart Adopt-A-Pet on weekends with setting up cages, transporting animals, and assisting animals find new homes. For more information on ways you can volunteer contact Dianne Sanderson at 254-8664 or email to [rescue@animalsbestfriend.org](mailto:rescue@animalsbestfriend.org).

**Animals Best Friends**

P.O. Box 493  
Independence, MO 64051  
816 – 254 – 8664

<http://www.animalsbestfriends.org>

**Our Mission is to**

**effectively contribute to the humane  
care and treatment of shelter animals**

**maximize adoptions**

**minimize euthanizations**

**increase public awareness to reduce  
companion animal overpopulation**

**and**

**enhance responsible lifetime ownership  
of companion animals**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**

INDEPENDENCE, MO  
Permit # 510

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**UPCOMING  
MARK  
CALENDAR**

Reminder: Keep your Applebee's flier in a safe place until November. You can also print more copies from our website if needed.

**EVENTS —  
YOUR**

- 📍 **ABF Garage Sale** will be held on Saturday, October 6, at the National Guard Armory, 2323 S. Chrysler, Independence MO 64052. Hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Donated items for the sale can be dropped off at the ABF facility, 2302 S. Chrysler on Thursday, October 4th, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Please come check out our great bargains.
- 📍 **Annual ABF Chili Supper & Bingo Night** will be held on Saturday, October 20th, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 600 N. Liberty, Independence, MO 64050. Chili supper hours are 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and BINGO from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There will be raffles and many bingo prizes, throughout the evening. It is always a fun time for all.
- 📍 **Independence Annual Halloween Parade** will be on Saturday, October 27th. ABF members, volunteers, and of course our dogs in special costumes will be walking in the parade or riding on the annual ABF float. Last year we received the 2nd place trophy for our division. It is a great time for both kids and adults.
- 📍 **Applebee's Dining to Donate** at the Independence Center location will be November 23rd through November 30th. Bring the enclosed flyer to give to your server and Applebee's will donate 20% of your bill. This opportunity is available for an entire week giving everyone time to stop by for some of your favorite dishes.
- 📍 **ABF will be taking Santa Photos** at the Independence PetsMart. The dates will be posted on our website and in the Winter newsletter when they become available.