

Thank you for supporting our upscale Thrift Store!

2017 ended with record sales! We attribute that to increased donations and donations of such quality items from our wonderful donors. Our reputation continues to grow as a store where you can have fun and save significant money.



If you've been in our new boutique section lately, you might think that you walked into a New York City high-end clothing store by mistake. Our boutique area is now a dedicated room, completely redecorated, and it has received rave reviews! We carry designer clothing, purses, shoes, and accessories.

If you haven't heard of our **Frugal 500 Club** be sure to ask a cashier. We want to reward the customers who shop with us on a regular basis. Once you join the club, if any monthly total is \$500 or above you'll receive a \$50 BRHS Thrift Store Gift Card. It's your responsibility to tell the cashier you are a Frugal 500 Club member so you'll get credit for each purchase. Your balance adjusts to zero at the beginning of each month--there is no carry-over.

Our store has the best volunteers in the universe! We've had many new volunteers from all parts of the country join our team. As a thriving nonprofit thrift store we are always in need of volunteers looking for laughter, fun, and new friends. We especially need anyone willing to be trained as a cashier. We have both male and female cashiers and will train you on our computerized cash registers.

Construction has begun on an expansion of our thrift store to provide a new donation area, new larger sorting rooms for the volunteers, and some additional storage. It will also include a new paved parking area behind the store. There may be days when we will have to close with little notice due to construction safety issues, so please check our store Facebook page, our website on the bottom of the BRHS homepage (www.blueridgehumane.org), and also our email blasts for information on delays or closings. We ask for everyone's patience; it will be chaotic for a while, but when it's completed it will be well worth it.

And finally, please remember that we DO NOT accept donations on Sundays. We gladly accept your donated items Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. If you have a large item or a large amount of items to donate, please call (828) 620-3150 to schedule a free pickup.



Cats in Hats and Dogs Gone Nuts!



Proceeds benefit our animals and our shelter.



Seussical, the Musical: "Oh, the things you can think" when Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper! Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in this fantastical musical extravaganza. March 8-25 at the Playhouse Downtown.

Back by popular demand! **Mutts Gone Nuts** is a comedy dog thrill show that promotes the adoption of rescue animals. Expect the unexpected, as canines and comedy collide in a smash hit performance, that's leaving audiences everywhere howling for more. From shelters to showbiz, these amazing mutts unleash havoc and hilarity in a breathtaking, action packed, comedy dog spectacular, featuring some of the world's most talented 4-legged performers. Deemed "A Must See" by the Washington Post, the dogs are sure to steal your heart and then your shoes! May 18-20 at the Playhouse Mainstage.



Blue Ridge Humane Society
1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Make sure we have your email address to receive our e-newsletters. Go to the home page of our website and look for "Stay Connected" to sign up: www.blueridgehumane.org



Follow Our Tracks To ...

Seussical at the Flat Rock Playhouse Downtown...
March 8-25

Lafawnda's Birthday Party...
Sunday, April 8, 2:00-4:00, Jonga Java

Low Cost Vaccine Clinic...
Saturday, April 28 (Check our website for location and time info.)

Mutts Gone Nuts at the Flat Rock Playhouse mainstage...
May 18-20

National Adoption Weekend...
May 18-20, PetSmart Hendersonville
(Every adoption generates funds for BRHS.)

Golf Fore The Animals...
Monday, June 4, Kenmore Country Club, Flat Rock



2017 by the numbers...

87.7 cents of every dollar goes directly to our animals

Thank you! These two words do not seem adequate to express my gratitude for all you have done this past year for our animals. I cannot thank you enough for the differences you helped us make in the lives of our local pets. You were right by our side: you adopted, donated, volunteered, fostered, shopped in our Thrift Store, donated to our Thrift Store, attended our events, and sponsored our events--you showed up in so many ways for our animals.

We are very mindful of the value of your time and your donations--we appreciate the trust you place in us. We carefully consider our budget and I am proud to tell you that 87.7 cents of every dollar donated or earned by BRHS are spent directly to meet every need of our Shelter animals.

You made a tremendous impact in our year and because of you 1,367 pets have new forever homes. It is an honor for me to speak for every employee of the Blue Ridge Humane Society when I say "Thank You." I look forward to making a difference in 2018, too, with YOU! --Lutrelle O'Cain, Executive Director



1,367 second chances...here's just one story

It takes an open heart to adopt a 9-year-old cat with medical issues (and 6 toes)! When Rosanne Martino first saw Tickles as she was volunteering with socializing the kitties at the shelter, Tickles was suffering from dermatitis with loss of fur and even areas of open agitated skin. She was getting weekly allergy shots, but Rosanne decided to provide further help for this kitty. She began transporting Tickles to a dermatologist veterinarian who gave Tickles advanced care and recommended special dietary food trials. This year when the floors in the shelter were being refinished, Rosanne fostered Tickles in her home, despite fears that Tickles just might not get along with Rosanne's other two cats. After a month seeing that all three kitties were indeed compatible, Rosanne adopted Tickles! Despite occasionally hogging brother Jack's favorite toy, which earns her a gentle swat, Tickles apologizes by licking Jack's head and he loves it! Tickles is still getting weekly allergy shots and trying an anti-rejection drug, but she is eating regular food and her fur has come back in elegantly. "She's a sweetheart--a beautiful, loving, lap-cuddling kitty," says Rosanne, who continues her generous volunteering at PetSmart where she tidies our shelter kitties' temporary homes and gives them the love they deserve as they await their forever homes.



With record adoptions in 2017, the Shelter staff is all smiles!

Community Outreach...taking our show on the road

 <p>57 Education Programs Several classes, scout troops, clubs, and youth groups were taught the importance of kindness to animals.</p>	
 <p>64 Reading to the Rescue Programs Four schools, eight classes and over 150 students participated in 2017.</p>	
 <p>97 Adoption Events On-the-road adoptions allow us contact with people who otherwise would not come to the shelter.</p>	
 <p>32 Senior Home Visits We visited over a dozen assisted-living facilities and senior living homes throughout the year.</p>	
 <p>2,205 lbs of Food Since October we were able to deliver pet food assistance to those who otherwise would not have access to local community food pantries.</p>	
 <p>70 Low Cost Vaccines In October we held our first low-cost vaccine clinic for those in our community without access to healthcare for their pets.</p>	

20,170 volunteer hours valued at over \$161,000

Who cares for these kitties at PetSmart? Every day our volunteers show up there to provide warm laps, sweet tummy rubs, snuggling comfort, and playtime for the cats.

One volunteer, Rita Castline, offered this: "Animals that appear happy and healthy have a higher chance of being adopted. By socializing them we feel this makes them more appealing to a prospective adopter. My husband and I just a few months ago adopted one of the PetSmart cats that we cared for. She was a victim of hoarding. After getting to know her, there was NO question we needed to adopt her! She is a delight and keeps us laughing each day!"



Another volunteer, Jean Greeson, had this to say: "Every Sunday when I walk through the doors at PetSmart, I feel eager to meet the kitties in the condos. Some weeks they are my friends from last Sunday, sometimes new beautiful hopeful furry faces. It's fun to see how different each is, not just looks, but their natural tidiness, some timidly peeking out, others playfully whacking at me through their enclosure, flying out of their opened kennels, flipping toys in the air, jumping onto the cabinet, knocking supplies to the floor, and even leaping into the litter bin! One day, after totally cleaning a condo, I returned the four 8-week-old sibling residents to it, and within a minute they had flipped and rolled off their shelves into the water and food bowls--the entire space and outside floor covered! So full of themselves, I had to just laugh. After cleaning, visiting and loving on them, as I close the door to leave, I always feel grateful for the opportunity to know them for these short moments. I hope to be able to see them again next week, yet I also hope to never see them again because they will have moved on to the loving homes they deserve."

Please spread the word that our kitties at PetSmart are just waiting for the love of a new forever home.

Want to change a life forever? Why not foster an animal in your home.
Contact Robin at adopt@blueridgehumane.org

Partnerships...



Wild Birds Unlimited has been an invaluable resource to the Blue Ridge Humane Society. This store provides a safe and loving place for our BRHS cats that may find the shelter environment stressful. They blossom in this temporary home where their true personalities can shine. We can't thank Wild Birds Unlimited enough for helping them find their happily ever-afters!

"We absolutely love having a foster cat in the store," says Heidi from Wild Birds. "It's a meaningful way to partner with others in our community and one of the most rewarding things we do. Each cat comes to us afraid and unsure about what's happening and then the magic happens. They realize they are safe, that they have the whole store to themselves, and best of all, a staff to take care of their every need. They show us their true personalities, and before long they find their forever homes."

"Our customers are also very invested in what we do. They look forward to each happy ending and then can't wait to see what cat we will receive next. Some folks come in just to visit with our foster kitties and we happily facilitate that."

"We have placed almost 30 cats since November 2014 and it has been wonderful. We encourage other business owners to give this a try. Your customers will enjoy it as well as your staff."



Every year, an estimated 7 million pets enter U.S. shelters. Nearly 3 million never find homes. The founders of PetSmart created PetSmart Charities as a nonprofit animal welfare organization that now finds homes for more than 400,000 dogs and cats each year by partnering with local animal shelters.

That's a success story we saw as an opportunity to share, so since November 2016 BRHS has partnered with our local PetSmart store as an adoption center for some cats from our shelter. A wing of the store is set up beautifully to house four adoptable cats, providing a safe, clean free space and increased exposure of our mission to potential adopters who may not visit the shelter. In addition, PetSmart Charities holds weekend adoption events there. Since partnering with PetSmart, 99 of our shelter cats have been adopted from the store! Check the BRHS website (www.blueridgehumane.com) to find out when the next event is scheduled.

ASPCA Transport provided 221 second chances

Blue Ridge Humane Society's partnership with the ASPCA enables us to save an additional 20-30 lives each month through the Second Chances transport program! These dogs (many of them longer-term BRHS residents) are transported to a shelter in PA with additional space and resources. Most of the dogs are adopted within a matter of days, reducing their time in a shelter environment and improving their quality of life. It also frees up much-needed space in our adoption center to save more lives, a need which can seem never-ending in our community.

611 Spay-Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP) (Jul - Dec 2017)

With support from the City of Hendersonville and with support and collaboration from Henderson County, Blue Ridge Humane Society is able to offer low-cost spay-neuter surgery for dogs and cats in our new Spay-Neuter Incentive Program, or SNIP. The only requirement for the program is that you are a Henderson County resident. To sign up you can stop by the Henderson County Animal Services Center at 828 Stoney Mountain Road in Hendersonville. Megan is the SNIP Coordinator and she will be there to walk you through the process. She is onsite Monday through Friday, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. At the time of signing up the only thing required is proof of Henderson County residency and payment. The cost for surgery is \$10 which includes a rabies vaccination as needed. Other services offered at the time of surgery at a discounted rate include microchip, heartworm/FelV/FIV testing, distemper, nail trim, etc.

Once sign-up is completed, you will then get an appointment date to bring your pet in for surgery. The morning of the surgery you will drop your pet off at the Henderson County Animal Services Center. The animals are then transported to Humane Alliance, the spay-neuter clinic in Asheville. Your pet will stay overnight there so that the veterinarian can check them in the morning to ensure they are ready to go home. They are then transported back to the Henderson County Animal Services Center the day after surgery where you will pick up your pet. The drop-off and pick-up times are specific to the day the surgery is scheduled. You will get a reminder card with this information at the time of sign-up. If you have any questions, call (828) 698-4481 or email snip@blueridgehumane.org.

