

Our Caring Community





From Roadside to Bedside—Finn's Story

Two lab mix dogs, side of the road, no tags, nobody around. Along comes a Good Samaritan, thankfully, takes both dogs for vet exams and vaccinations, and then turns them in to animal rescue sources where they ultimately arrive at our Adoption Center. Every dog we rescue has their story, and this was Journey's and Gypsy's. But their story doesn't end there.

Polly Angelakis and Alan Willis, lifetime dog lovers, moved to Hendersonville from Hawaii and Polly started volunteering as a dog walker at the Adoption Center. Once she and Alan settled in their new home, they decided to adopt a rescue dog from BRHS. Looking, looking, looking at smaller dogs at the Adoption Center, they spotted this big white lab mix. Only 30 minutes ago Journey had been processed into the shelter, but it was instantly the start of the next chapter of his story. Polly and Alan renamed their new guy Finn, an homage to his fin-like paws, and to the sea creatures they had enjoyed snorkeling with in Hawaii.

Initially afraid of the car (perhaps leftover fear from his time on the road), Finn was gently coaxed and arrived at his forever home. After surveying his new

digs, he responded immediately to a ball game and then flopped comfortably on the floor. He was home. His transition to being a big, healthy, happy dog had begun—and Alan and Polly had their new heartdog. After graduating from our 8-week training program, Finn and his people have settled into a routine of long hikes and fun doggy daycare playtime. Polly continues to volunteer at the Adoption Center, walking dogs and providing enrichment activities.

Asked about her adoption experience, Polly replied, "Every step of the way we were set up for success—from the initial interview, selection and introduction to Finn, the medical exam and services included in the adoption cost, to training classes, and even home visits—every staff member was professional and, most impressively, full of love for the animals in their care. It was a terrific experience."

(Ed. Note: Not to worry, Finn's traveling buddy Gypsy also found a forever home!)

2019 Year-to-Date Stats







Average length of stay in 282 volunteers our Adoption Center:



SNIP services provided:

605 rabies vax



Animals transferred to us from Henderson County **Animal Services:**

SNIP Celebrates Its Two Year Anniversary

Two years ago, our community was faced with a crisis. Henderson County was in need of a low-cost public spay/neuter program. We knew we had to act quickly. After months of planning and research, Blue Ridge Humane Society created the Spay/Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP) in collaboration with Henderson County Animal Services and with support from the City of Hendersonville. With this innovative program, pet owners in Henderson County, regardless of economic status, can have their animals spayed or neutered for only \$10. We hired a SNIP Coordinator to work full-time from an office at Henderson County Animal Services, solidified our plans with the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance Training Center in Asheville, and put our human noses to the ground. We are now happy to celebrate SNIP's second anniversary. During this short period, Blue Ridge Humane Society has altered over 3,600 public pets and administered 2,800 rabies shots to previously unvaccinated animals. Of the over 3,000 participants surveyed, 72% say they would not have been able to afford the surgery without this program. This is remarkable progress, and it's only one way BRHS is performing its mission. It is possible only through the generous support we receive from our caring community.

"Spay and neuter programs are crucial to communities that are dedicated to animal welfare. We are all fortunate to have BRHS's partnership to provide affordable spay and neuter options to citizens of Henderson County," said Brad Rayfield, Director of Henderson County Animal Services.

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"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language." – Martin Buber

Double Trouble

Kelby and Odeletta arrived at our Adoption Center with five other kittens and their mother, Prima. Too young to be adopted, they were fostered for several weeks. For whatever reason, this pair ended up sticking around a little longer than most kittens do once they are on our adoption floor. Kelby and Odeletta were very bonded and since we do a BOGO adoption fee for cats and kittens, we really were trying to guide our visitors in their direction. Finally they found their forever home! Their new family recently lost one of their cats and felt like it was time to adopt. The McIntyres instantly fell in love with Kelby and Odeletta and sent a photo of them on their first night in their new home. We love seeing an adoption go full circle from foster home to Adoption Center and then finally to their forever family.



Transporting Together to Save Lives

BRHS is always on a mission to save as many lives as possible. To do this, we stay in close contact with all animal welfare organizations in Western North Carolina. However, there are certain times of year when all our shelters are full. When this occurs, it's difficult for local organizations to help each other out. To better coordinate our efforts, Blue Ridge Humane Society recently joined Asheville Humane Society and Brother Wolf in a WNC transport coalition. Since certain areas of the United States do not face as high intake numbers as we do in our region, transports help to alleviate space concerns by sending animals to other parts of the country that have more room in their shelters. As example, in May we joined with a half dozen other local animal shelters to fill a transport of 24 dogs that were sent to St. Hubert's, an animal welfare transportation hub in New Jersey. From there, the dogs moved on to shelters that had space to find the dogs homes in a shorter period of time. With transports scheduled each month, it is our hope going forward that we can ease our collective overcrowded shelters and save more lives by working together.

You've done so much to help the animals of BRHS:

Adopted your furry family member

Donated items to the Thrift Store

Contributed Adoption Center Wish List items

Responded to Giving Tuesday (mark your calendar: December 3, 2019)

Set up recurring donations

Partied at Wags to Riches, attended adoption events

Used <u>smile.amazon.com</u> for purchases (.5% of total goes to BRHS)

Now how about **PLANNED GIVING**?

Consider a gift of unconditional love with a legacy of kindness.
Include BRHS as a beneficiary of your estate plan,
the ultimate act of compassion.

Click the Donate Bone at <u>www.blueridgehumane.org</u> to see what options are available.

For further information, call Executive Director Angela Prodrick at 828-692-2639 ext. 302.



To Benefit the Animals - Plan to be There!







Providing second chances since 1950

Adoption Center 88 Centipede Lane Hendersonville, NC 28792 828-692-2639

Thrift Store 1214 Greenville Highway Hendersonville, NC 28792 828-692-2639

Administration 14 Towne Place Dr., Suite 130 Hendersonville, NC 28792 828-692-2639

www.blueridgehumane.org









Thank you for Donating!! Click here to go to our Donation Page



Looking for a Special Holiday Gift?

This year, give the gift of love by ordering a Pet Tribute Plaque for someone special in your life. Your lifesaving donation becomes a permanent display in our lobby at our Adoption Center.

Pet Tribute Plaques are metal plaques featuring a personal photo of a beloved pet. You may choose from two sizes: 5×7 (\$100) or 8×10 (\$150).

To order, go to blueridgehumane.org and click on the Donate Bone.



With the purchase of your gift, we will mail the recipient a personalized letter acknowledging your thoughtfulness.

You may also wish to pay tribute to your own pet by ordering a Pet Tribute Plaque. This ensures that your pet will not only be forever in your heart, but will also be forever memorialized at our Adoption Center.

The funds raised through our tribute plaques will go directly to the homeless animals in our care.