

WINTER 2022



**CREATING BETTER
TOMORROWS**

Luna

The People Behind the Organization

Meet a couple of our incredibly hardworking staff members who help keep things going smoothly here at BRHS as we provide the highest level of animal care, services, and resources.



Brittany Bodine is our Adoption Programs Coordinator. She oversees many facets of the adoption process at the Adoption Center, including facilitating adoptions and completing adoption counseling, training new adoption counselors on day-to-day operations, customer service, having knowledge of all the animals at the Adoption Center at any given time, Q&A on animals in our care, using shelter management software and affiliate sites for pet listings, and keeping animal records up to date. She also creates bios and updates photos for the website and online animal profiles, and trains and assists Front Desk volunteers.

Brittany's cheerful and calm demeanor helps keep the busy Front Desk functioning smoothly and ensuring a professional and easy adoption process for animals heading to their new homes.



Jessica Monroe is the Community Support Assistant, making her vital to any and all of the programs in the Community Support Services department. Jessica is hands on with the planning, prep, and execution of programs like Pet Food Assistance, Wellness Clinics, and SNIP. If you've attended an event, chances are you've met Jessica!

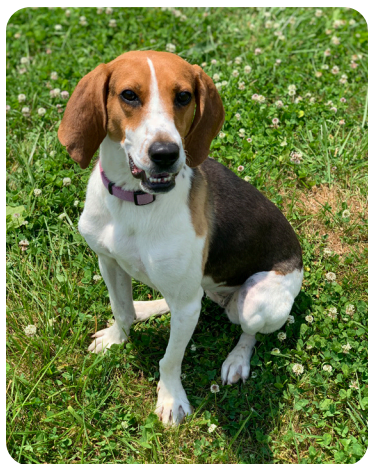
Jessica's energy and enthusiasm, paired with her love for animals and their people are a vital asset to Blue Ridge Humane Society.

Did You Know - The Rule of 3

The rule of three provides a wonderful framework for bringing your new pet home, allowing them to decompress and adjust to their new home and family.

3 Days – the major period of adjustment: Your new pet may either sleep a lot or exhibit a lot of energy, depending on how they handle stress. Don't force interactions, as they are still decompressing from their new environment and routine, or from being in a shelter. For cats, limit their space to one room, complete with everything they need. Cats are nocturnal so they'll sleep most of the day. Be patient but firmly gentle with your new pet during this time... it's a big change!

3 Weeks – starting to settle in: After three weeks, your dog is adjusting to their new routine for feeding, walks, and bathroom breaks. You'll start to see more of their personality show as they become more comfortable. Give clear and calm feedback when they start to misbehave, but praise every success! Your new cat can start to explore additional rooms of the house now. Just remember to add or move their food, bed, litterbox, and toys for easy access. You'll also start to pick up on any lingering behavioral problems for your new pet that may need addressing with specific training or environment adjustments.



3 Months – home at last: Your new cat or dog should be feeling completely comfortable and really starting to bond with you. Keep clear behavioral expectations and continue training to maintain the routine you've set.

Remember, each animal has their own distinct personality and needs, just like humans! Some may open up sooner or take a little longer. The most important thing is to be patient and flexible.

BRHS provides post-adoption follow-ups and support for the community. If you or your new pet are struggling to adjust, please reach out to us for help!

Trixie, a BRHS 2021 alumni was adopted in August. Trixie has adjusted well with her family and loves her new home!

**Text or call our Pet Helpline: (828) 393-5832
or submit a question online at
www.blueridgehumane.org/helpline
for advice and support with your pet Q's!**

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT 2021



851

Second chances provided through adoption and transfer



9.5

Average number of days an animal is with Blue Ridge Humane before adoption



45,958

Pounds of pet food provided to local food banks for pets in need



6,117

Animals fed through pet food giveaways



281

Volunteers contributing 73,310 hours, an increase of 179% over 2020



35.25

Full-time equivalent positions filled instead by volunteer hours



577

Animals fostered by 112 foster families, with 42 new fosters in 2021



233

Low-cost vaccinations provided for local pets



160

Families helped with Emergency Vet Assistance



118

Pets finding new families via Rehoming with support from BRHS



1,214

Spay/Neuter surgeries through the SNIP program with 824 rabies vaccinations administered



Marnie
Adopted in October



Mouse
Adopted in October



Logan
Adopted in November



Jingles
Adopted in December

“When you think of BRHS, you probably think of adoptions, but what we do for our community is so much more. If we solely focus on adoptions, we are only concentrating our efforts on the symptoms of larger problems facing animals in our community. As an animal welfare organization, we are taking a step back to look at the big picture. With our Community Support Services and post-adoption initiatives, Blue Ridge Humane is tackling the root of issues facing pets right here in Henderson County. By taking a holistic view of how we can better the quality of life for ALL animals, we are affecting change like never before. Unfortunately, the problems facing animals in our community will not be fixed in one year or even ten years. However, with your help, we continue making each year better than the year before.”

-Angela Prodrick, Executive Director

DONATE

Our work only can happen with your support! You can help animals find homes and stay with their loving families with a contribution to Blue Ridge Humane Society!

Visit our website at www.blueridgehumane.org, click the Donate bone, mail a donation, or stop by and see us!

Community Support Services Help Unexpected New Arrivals



Clover and Sham cuddle together after a fun playtime. Both cats are ready to find a new family on our Rehoming listing.

The Community Support Services department at Blue Ridge Humane has seen exponential growth over the past few years. Already existing demand for animal support services was further fueled by the impacts of COVID in our community. Blue Ridge Humane was able to respond with the leadership of Megan Burnett, Community Support Services Director, and her dedicated staff. The scope of BRHS's Community Support Services is wide, but for pet owners like Michele, every program matters.

When a stray cat crossed her path in early 2021, Michele took her home to keep her safe, with the intent of finding her a new home. Michele's three senior cats already ruled the roost, but as an animal lover, Michele knew she had to help this cat in need. Little did she know, the temporary addition to her home was pregnant, and would soon deliver three kittens on St. Patrick's Day!

On an already tight income, Michele needed a hand to feed and care for these unexpected mouths. Michele kept hearing about Blue Ridge Humane, and decided to

reach out. Her first concern was to get mama cat and her babies up to date on vaccinations as well as spayed and neutered. The Spay Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP) was just the ticket to get everyone's surgeries, vaccinations, and microchips taken care of without a large additional financial cost to Michele. She then learned about our free pet food giveaways, and started attending regularly. Michele shares, "It means the world having programs like this available. Without them, I wouldn't be able to provide necessary food and care."

As the kittens grew, Michele knew she needed to find them new homes, since her senior cats needed a calmer environment. The Community Support Services team was there to assist with listing mama cat and two of the kittens on the courtesy Rehoming listing provided by BRHS. Rehoming allows a pet owner, or good Samaritan like Michele, to get more exposure for a pet looking for a new home, all while keeping them out of a shelter.

Mama cat was quickly adopted, and Sham and Clover, the two kittens, are still hoping to find their new family. Michele is committed to finding the perfect fit for the two brothers, who love playing and cuddling equally. Michele is adamant in the importance of having support programs like SNIP, free food giveaways, and more available to community pet owners: "They are a lifesaver. Without programs like this, the community would suffer. Working with Megan and the staff restores my faith in humanity."

BB-8 Waits for the Right Family

Sometimes it takes a while for a pet and person to find each other, but when they do, it's magic!

BB-8 came to us in late October with a healed injury to her eye that gave her a unique look. It was determined for her long-term health, the injured eye should be removed. BB received several adoption applications but for various reasons they didn't work out.

Enter Chris. After learning about BB from a post on social media, he knew he had to meet her. His girlfriend Amy had wanted a cat for years, but due to housing had not been able to. She had recently moved and Chris wanted to make her dream of pet ownership come true.

Chris shares: "When I met BB for the first time, she immediately walked right up to me. She let me pet her and hold her as if we'd known each other for years. I knew right then that I had to take her home to Amy."

Chris took BB home to surprise Amy after work. "It was love at first sight and I had wanted a cat of my own for so long so I was very excited," say Amy. "She has a lot of people who love her - so many that she needed her own Facebook group! She's one special kitty and we are lucky to be her forever family! We absolutely adore her."

After 68 days at BRHS, BB had found her family, a fan club, and her new life. She reminds us all to give those long-term stays a second chance. Maybe they've been waiting just for you!



Learn more about the Community Support Services programs and how to get involved online at www.blueridgehumane.org, or by calling or texting the Pet Helpline at (828) 393-5832.

The Cat Whisperer



April holds one of the young kittens at HCASC, working on socializing her before stepping up to being placed for adoption.

In animal welfare, you often meet people who are passionate about helping the most vulnerable. April Castilla is one of those lifesavers, working diligently and creatively behind the scenes to help hundreds of feral and special case cats receive their second chance through Henderson County Animal Services Center (HCASC) and Blue Ridge Humane Society. April's official position at HCASC is that of Kennel Attendant – covering everything from care and feeding of all animals to intake and adoptions. But her secret talents are revealed when it comes to cats.

HCASC is an “open intake” facility, meaning they take in lost, found, or surrendered animals from the public. They also work hand-in-hand with Henderson County Animal Enforcement, who bring lost, found, or feral cats and dogs to HCASC for assessment and care. These cats can range from small kittens to adult cats, and often include multiple litters of kittens at once, stretching the already tight resources of staff, space, and supplies. Treatment and socialization has to start immediately, April shares. “You have to move quickly to get cats socialized, get them out of their comfort zone and used to being held, getting their shots, and any needed care, and interacting with humans.”

April focuses on working with cats who are six months and younger. Often, kittens will be transferred to BRHS for April to take as a foster to give extra attention at home, freeing up space for more cats to be housed at HCASC. Cats housed at HCASC graduate from medical isolation and are cleared for more social interaction while easing into a life indoors, before being placed for adoption through HCASC or partner rescue organizations. April uses traditional methods to socialize the cats, as well as new tricks, like modifying five-gallon buckets and shoeboxes to provide hiding places for the cats, while getting them used to being seen and interacting with humans.

April's call to work with cats comes from a desire to help those who might otherwise be overlooked. “There's a lot of expertise and resources for dogs—their potential is easier to see, despite them being underfed, scared, or shy. Cats however, tend to have fewer resources available and can be more difficult to read, since they take longer to warm up and need more encouragement to open up.”

April has fostered 64 cats since 2019 alone, adding one more person in the cat's corner. Her knowledge and expertise have grown since starting as a foster, making her an expert in caring for sick, injured cats and kittens that need extra attention. April does what she can at both work and home to care for those that are sometimes overlooked and give them the best outcome--a happy, healthy life and family through adoption.

The biggest takeaway April wants to pass on? The value of reading an animal and seeing through their fear or nerves. “Seeing an animal scared in a cage is one thing, but they'll often reveal a whole new wonderful and loving personality once they are in a home,” she shares. “Just give them a chance.”

To learn more about the services HCASC provides, or view currently adoptable animals, visit www.hendersoncountync.gov/animalservices.

Rug Sale Returns to the Thrift Store



L-R: Long time Thrift Store volunteers Kim Curren, Morgan Birge and Mike Rhymes, at the BRHS warehouse prepping rugs for the sale.

Happy customers, human and furry, sort through the hundreds of rugs at the sale held in November.

The hard work of volunteers and staff, and support from our amazing customers made \$11,000 in sales at the event which funds our care and programs for animals in the community.



1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792



Adoption Center

88 Centipede Lane
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Thrift Store

1214 Greenville Highway
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Administration

100-B Chadwick Square Court
Hendersonville, NC 28739

(828) 692-2639

www.blueridgehumane.org



Strut Your Mutt 5K & 1 Mile Furry Scurry

presented by Hunter Subaru
9am, Saturday, June 18, 2022

Walk, run, strut, or scurry with or
without your furry friend along the flat
and scenic route!

Save the Date!
Registration Opens
March 1!

Newsletter Sponsor: Four Seasons Dental



Blue Ridge Humane Society is grateful to Dr. Danielle Rowland and Four Seasons Dental for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter! Their support helps offset printing and mailing costs so we can share all the exciting things we've been up to!

Dr. Rowland and Four Seasons Dental are located in Hendersonville, NC. When you walk in the door you can tell that the entire office are "pet people," with a board highlighting staff and customer pets!

The practice believes that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" making preventative dentistry their foundation. They work to match the right treatment for each patient and case. Four Seasons Dental strives to provide patients with the most current dental knowledge in an effort to help patients make the best decisions.

Dr. Rowland, her husband, and their three dogs live in Brevard, NC and enjoy all of the activities that Western North Carolina has to offer including hiking, running, biking, and gardening.

Learn more about the practice, or just say thanks for being a supporter of BRHS at fourseasons.dental.

Visit www.blueridgehumane.org for info, registration, and more
calendar listings for all our events and activities!