



Best Friends®

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY • 5001 ANGEL CANYON RD • KANAB, UT 84741 • HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2006



Who's Been Naughty and Nice?

(And, in little Boomie's case, totally irresistible.)

He was found outside an animal hospital with a note saying, "Help, I've been run over."

Little Boomie couldn't even move until he'd been stabilized with oxygen and an IV. It was touch and go for a few days, but he clung to life. He was wearing a collar with a phone number, but the people there said, "We only borrowed him for breeding and we can't take him back." So the next call was to Best Friends to see if we could take this little Yorkie into our Guardian Angel program for special care.

That was two months ago. At first, he couldn't walk without help, but nothing was going to hold back this spirited eight-year-old. (Translation: *He's become an absolute rascal!!*)

Boomie still has some neurological problems and will need extra care for the rest of his life. But what a little darling. And he's just gone off to his new adoptive home with a member of Best Friends, who's going to be his guardian angel forever.

Wishing You and Yours a Very Happy Holiday

Thanks to you, Ruby will be enjoying a very happy holiday, too – her second here at the nation's largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals.

Ruby has feline leukemia, which is still a death sentence for cats like her at so many shelters around the country. But cats with fe-leuk can lead happy, healthy lives. Indeed, at any given time, the Best Friends TLC Cat Club cares for up to 500 kitties with special needs. Best of all, many of them are soon adopted by members of Best Friends.

Your kindness and generosity are a blessing to all the animals who come into the care of Best Friends. Together, we're bringing about a time when there will be No More Homeless Pets.

Bless you and thank you for caring. And may all good things be yours in return for your great kindness.



'Twas the Night...

Hobo and Puff deliver some gifts of love. A tale for the holidays.



Husky mix Hobo and Puff the Angora bunny.

The big, eager dog and his gentle bunny friend watched the sky as the silvery spot grew bigger. Was that the sound of sleigh bells?

Hobo and Puff knew they'd have to get to work quickly when it landed. That's because they had some very special gifts to deliver to their pals around the sanctuary.

It was Hobo's idea. "I'd lost my home and my family after Hurricane Katrina," he'd told Puff. "And I'd gone a bit squirrely and snappy. So they couldn't put me in a new home. Instead, they brought me back to Best Friends. I'm feeling much calmer, and Best Friends Dogtown is my home now."

Puff was the opposite of Hobo – a gentle soul, wracked with pain from tumors and abscesses until she came to the sanctuary to receive all the special care she needed.



Time to give something back, they both decided.

Now the sleigh was dropping down out of the sky.

"All aboard," said the man in the big red suit. "Where first? Cats or dogs?"

"There's a shy little goat who just arrived," said Puff. "Let's go see her."

"Ho ho ho!" said their driver. "And off we go!"

First stop: The gift of friendship

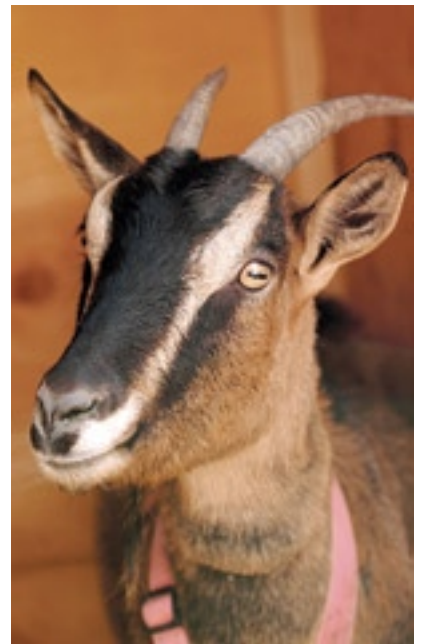
As a kid, Scarlet had been kept as a pet. But as she grew up, she found herself living alone in the backyard.

No one took care of her. They'd even forgotten to change her collar as she got bigger, and when she was rescued, it was so tight it was strangling her. She's feeling much better now, but still has a deep scar on her neck.

Scarlet was afraid of everything and everyone. But Puff hopped forward and began to tell Scarlet her own story.

"It took me a long time to trust people, too," she said. "I had to have lots of surgeries, and I almost didn't make it. But I started making friends with the other rabbits. And they really helped me pull through. C'mon, climb aboard with us!"

Gingerly, Scarlet stepped onto the sleigh and cuddled up with her new friends. It was the gift of friendship.



Second stop: Confidence – the gift of flying high

Next stop was Feathered Friends, the bird house, which set off a whole lot of chirping and squawking – except for Shaka, an Amazon grey, who was looking a bit sorry for herself.

Shaka had come from a home where she lived by herself in a small cage. That's no fun for a bird who needs to be part of a flock or a family. She was so upset, in fact, that she'd started pulling out all her feathers.

Here at the sanctuary, with lots of TLC, and surrounded by lots of feathered friends (and human ones, too), she was



beginning to feel like a new bird. But she knew she still looked nothing like the other beautiful African greys at Best Friends with their gorgeous, full feathers.

“I just learned to fly in this sleigh,” Scarlet the goat said to Shaka. “And I’m sure you can fly, too. You’re such a beautiful bird. Why don’t you come fly with us tonight?”

Shaka spread her wings, and yes ... she could feel her spirit beginning to soar. All it took was a little gift of confidence.

And finally:

The greatest gift of all

The sleigh took off again, stopping at Dogtown, the Horse Haven, the Bunny House, the Clinic, and then at the sanctuary’s foster homes.

Everywhere they went, Hobo and Puff brought gifts of comfort and cheer to all the hopeful little faces for whom Best Friends had become their last hope.



Finally, as dawn was about to break over the red canyons that surround the sanctuary, they made their last stop – at the TLC Cat Club.

Dilly and Maynard don’t get around too well, so they couldn’t hurry out to greet the sleigh. But they were cuddling up together, purring and grooming each other, when Hobo and Puff arrived.

“We still have lots of gifts left,” said Hobo. “So you guys can choose anything you like.”

“That’s very kind of you,” said Dilly as she and Maynard helped themselves to some extra good cheer. “But now that Maynard and I have each other, we really have everything we could possibly want. People who meet us think we have a disability, but we’ve discovered that life isn’t just about being able to get around. It’s about caring for each other.”

“That’s true,” Maynard chimed in. “So what we’d like most is a chance to share the love we have with other homeless pets. We’ll just need a little help loading it up.”

Hobo and Puff helped the two kitties until the sleigh was piled high with love and blessings.

And all the animals watched as the sleigh climbed higher and higher into the sky, knowing that kindness and caring are the greatest gift of all.



Home Sweet Home: Howie, Truffle, Buff, and Delgado arrive at their new home in Nashville, Tennessee, adopted from Best Friends by sisters Erin and Amy.

Delgado (*left*) has a bone problem and Truffle is very shy. Buff the Dalmatian has some neurological problems that are common in Dals. And Howie the beagle is the happiest of all – he came to Best Friends after being rescued by a local group from an old bomb shelter in Taiwan.



A Match for Each Other! Remember Miss Laura in the Fall newsletter? Her back legs don’t work at all, so she races around on a set of wheels. Her new friend is Kyle, a 13-year-old boy who also needs a set of wheels (in his case, a wheelchair) because of his cerebral palsy.

These two highly intelligent, fun-loving youngsters had the time of their life when they met up at Best Friends.

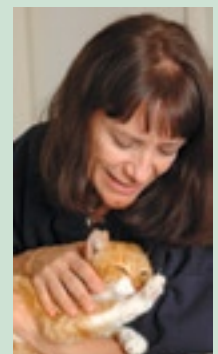
Employee of the Year

Miss Bigglesworth loves making visitors feel at home when they’re staying at the sanctuary.

Diane Eder, from New York, was on a volunteer vacation at the sanctuary – and slightly missing her own pets.

“I couldn’t believe I could have Miss Bigglesworth spend the night in my cottage,” she exclaimed.

“All part of the service!” said Miss B.

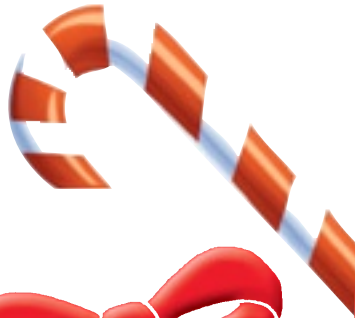


Dear Santa,

We've been very good all year. We ate all our dinner and didn't bark or meow too much. And we've all been naughty and nice!

We've got lots of treats for your reindeer when you arrive. So please bring whatever you can that's on our Wishing Tree.

Lots of love from Ginger and Irving and Chamika and Dilly and Penny and Cruz and Seppi and all of us!



Santa Paws Is Coming to Town

You'd better not bark,
You'd better not bite,
You'd better not scratch
The sofa tonight,
Santa Paws is coming to town...



...You'd better not growl,
You'd better just purr,
You'd better not howl
Or shed lotsa fur,
Santa Paws is coming to town...



...He sees you in the kitchen,
He sees your every try
At secretly snitchin'
The very last piece of pie...



...He's saying "Ho Ho"
To all his Best Friends,
He wants you to know
The message he sends:
"Santa Paws is coming to town!"



Medical supplies for the clinic





Medical checkup for new arrivals



Dog toys & treats



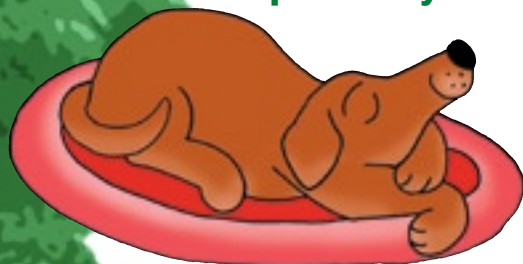
Kitty carriers for adoption days



Fluffy washable cat beds



Special diet foods



Comfy dog beds



Cat toys and treats



Cat trees and furniture

Parrot toys and perches



Your Holiday donation to Best Friends will keep your furry friends healthy and happy in the New Year. Your kindness and generosity are the greatest gifts of all.

Best Friends Across the Nation

A few highlights from this year

Best Friends is working with you, our members, and with shelters and rescue groups across the country to bring about a time when there will be no more homeless pets.

From special care at the sanctuary, to spay/neuter and adoption programs, to feral cat care, to major rescue efforts that no other animal welfare organization can manage, here's a sample of what you're making possible every day.

Thank you for bringing so much comfort and hope to these innocent creatures.

No More Homeless Pets It takes a city

Zeus failed his behavior test when he was brought to the county shelter in Miami, Florida.

And the local law says that if a dog shows any signs of aggression at the shelter, it's curtains!

Some 36,000 dogs and cats come into the shelter system there every year. And only a few of those can find new homes.

The new staff and directors want to change all that. And Best Friends is working with them to offer a new approach to city/county animal services.

It's just one of our new "no-kill" initiatives for 2007, and you'll be hearing more about it very soon.

(We've made a similar proposal to the City of Los Angeles, and we'll let you know about that, too.)

No one wanted to see Zeus come to a sad end. He's a real sweetie – and like so many dogs and cats, he was just scared to be in an unfamiliar place. And the shelter wasn't even allowed to place him in a new home in Florida. If he was going to live, he had to leave the state.

So Zeus got a ride to Best Friends, and soon he'll be going to a good new home.



Best Friends Network Members to the rescue!

Vermont: Windham County Shelter struggling for survival after county officials order them to take possession of more than 60 pets from an animal hoarder.

Local Best Friends members raise \$13,000 to care for the animals and stabilize the shelter.

California: Biggie the steer, raised as a pet in a 4H project, grows up and is sent to auction for inevitable slaughter. A lady wants to adopt him, but can't afford the fee.

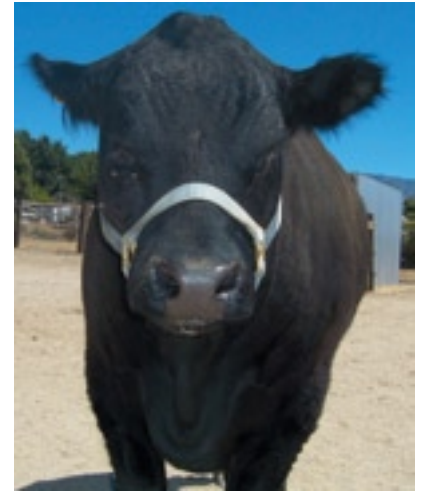
Best Friends members rally and raise enough to purchase Biggie and place him at a friendly ranch.

Wyoming: New shelter director ordered by city officials to kill 42 dogs with "canine flu" (entirely treatable).

Best Friends sets out protocols for shelters to ensure nothing like this ever happens at a shelter again. Meanwhile, members donate food and funds to support shelter through time of crisis.

It's grassroots rescue all across the country as members of the Best Friends Network rally together in local neighborhoods to help furry friends in need.

Be part of the action at network.bestfriends.org.



Feral Cat Care Alley cats, barn cats

Question: What does the County Commissioner say when you want to start a feral cat care program in his neighborhood?

Answer: "Maybe I can be one of your volunteers!"

Norm Carroll used to run the local county commission where Best Friends has its home among the national parks of southern Utah.

Today, he's a feral cat caregiver in our model program,



which covers 27 towns in a 120-mile radius from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Seventy people volunteer for this local effort. And the Best Friends Clinic not only offers free spay/neuter to everyone who brings in a feral cat – we even do pick-up and delivery!

And that's just one of the Best Friends TNR programs. In Los Angeles, the Best Friends Catnippers group of volunteers just celebrated their 10,000th spay/neuter.

Changing Public Policy Bad dogs? Or bad breeders!

Best Friends just held a summit meeting on the subject of dogs who are deemed dangerous by cities and counties.

More and more local governments are singling out dogs from specific breeds to be confiscated and killed. Is this the solution? We say no.

Why do there seem to be an increasing number of dangerous dogs around the country? Are breeders actually breeding aggressive tendencies into them to make them more attractive to unscrupulous people? Yes!



What can be done to stop punishing innocent pets and their families? It's the start of a major Best Friends initiative for the coming year. And we'll be reporting on it in *Best Friends* magazine in 2007.

"Rescue Me!"

The Best Friends Rapid Response Team

It was the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina – but this was no time for reminiscing.

War had just broken out again in the Middle East, with thousands of animals left homeless as people evacuated their homes.

In both Israel and Lebanon, helpless dogs and cats were running, crazed, from the bombs and rocket attacks.

As our Rapid Response Team headed out to offer help, Best Friends members rallied to the rescue, supporting rescue groups in both countries.

The situation was worst north of the border in Lebanon, where just one small volunteer group of 12 people make up the country's only humane society.

When we arrived on the scene, the dogs and cats had been moved from damaged shelters to a temporary sanctuary, but the humane group was struggling with threats of death and no cat food in the entire country.

As well as transporting some of these dogs and cats to new homes in the United States, Best Friends continues to work with these brave souls on both sides of the border. In a war-torn region, they are perhaps a small seed of peace and hope.

Note: The funds for special rescues like Hurricane Katrina and the Middle East are donated specifically for these rescues. Your donations to the regular work of Best Friends are not used for these special efforts unless so designated.



Lifetime Commitment Spencer's 10th "birthday"



Spencer came to Best Friends in 1996. So he's seen a lot of changes at Best Friends Dogtown over the years – like when we built Old Friends, a special home for old guys and gals like Spencer who need a few of the extra comforts of life.

You see, when Best Friends makes a commitment to any dog or cat or other animal, it's forever. No ifs, ands, or buts. (And that's even *after* they've been adopted.)

And so, a full 10 years later, this charming old fellow has just been adopted. Here he is with his new mom, Joyce Rosenfeld, who's a long-time member of Best Friends, too.

Before heading off to his new home, Spencer held a 10th "re-birthday" party for his friends at the sanctuary. And since he and Joyce are planning to be living together happily ever after, that means many more "happy re-birthdays" to come.

Happy Holidays!

Every donation, large and small, helps your furry friends, one and all!

Here's my donation of \$ _____ to help the work of Best Friends.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

And now a gift for someone you love

Best Friends magazine gives all the good news about animals, wildlife, and the earth. Plus top tips for your own pets, and all the latest from your furry friends at the sanctuary – in full color.

We send it to all members who donate \$25 or more each year. You can also give it as a gift for a year (six issues) to your favorite animal lover.

YES, send a gift subscription for *Best Friends* magazine with a special card from me to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

(If you'd like to send more than one gift subscription, write additional names and addresses on a separate sheet.)

My check includes \$ _____ for _____ number of subscriptions at \$25 each.

I enclose: Check/M.O. VISA MC AmEx Disc/Novus

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

Signature: _____

Donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. DN



Best Friends[®]
ANIMAL SOCIETY

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On any given day, there are about 2,000 animals at Best Friends. Here's how your donations help take care of them:

\$25 subsidizes the spay/neuter of a dog or cat to make sure no unwanted pets will be born.



\$100 provides emergency care for new arrivals.



\$240 (or \$20 a month) makes you a Guardian Angel for a year to the animals needing continuing care at the sanctuary.



\$500 provides life-saving surgery and medical care for traumatically abused or injured animals.

Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends is working with you – and with humane groups all across the country – to bring about a time when there are No More Homeless Pets.

The sanctuary at Angel Canyon, in the Golden Circle of southern Utah, is home, on any given day, to about 2,000 dogs, cats, and other animals from all over the country. Many of them need just a few weeks of special care before they're ready to go to good new homes. Others, who are older or sicker, or who have suffered extra trauma, find a home and a haven here, and are given loving care for the rest of their lives.

Through the Best Friends Network, Best Friends reaches across the nation and around the world, helping local communities to rescue animals in distress and to set up spay/neuter, shelter, foster, and adoption programs in their own neighborhoods, cities, and states.

And our rapid response team brings rescue and relief to people and pets in times of crisis and disaster.

The work of Best Friends is supported entirely through the donations of our members. Through the generous hearts and hands of people like you, we can ensure that animals who come into the care of Best Friends will never again be alone, hungry, sick, afraid, or in pain.

Thank you for being part of this work of love.