

ENHANCING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND

THROUGH CARE AND
COMPASSION, FOR OVER 100 YEARS



101 Years of Service

A Brief History of Butte Humane Society

For more than 100 years, Butte Humane Society (BHS) has worked tirelessly to protect and serve the North State's animal population. The organization's rich history—filled with triumph and tragedy—is perhaps best told through the stories of two of its most memorable personalities.

The guiding light during the organization's early days was one Mary E. Hanlon. "She was a colorful, very active woman," explained Heather Schoepfach, who has worked in various capacities at BHS for over 13 years. "She used to go around to all the horses tied up while people were in church and take the bits out their mouths so they could be more comfortable."

In 1910, Hanlon heard a woman named E.M. Deardorff of the American Humane Education Society was traveling through California setting up humane organizations. Many of these organizations, Schoepfach noted, were initially created to help neglected, abused and abandoned children as well as animals.

Deardorff came to Chico at Hanlon's behest, even though the town—whose population at the time was under 4,000 people—had not been on her itinerary. Deardorff led the first meeting in November that year. The first board of nine directors included such noteworthy residents as Emma Wilson, Rev. W.G. White and J.R. Adler. On November 29, 1910 these Chico animal welfare advocates signed the Articles of Incorporation of the Butte County Humane

Society (the organization changed its name to Butte Humane Society in 1995 to avoid confusion with Butte County's

shelter). Hanlon remained involved with the organization for many years, even allowing the parlor of her home to be used as an office.

Decades later, a woman named Lois Pantel became involved when her apartment complex was overrun with feral cats. She was advised to trap the cats and take them to the city shelter. After she asked—and was shown—what

happened to the cats, she refused to leave them. Over the next 40 years, the name Lois Pantel would become synonymous with local humane efforts.

Driven and appalled by how she saw people treat animals, Pantel took her fight a step further. She paid money out of her own pocket to train to become a state-certified, badge-wielding humane officer. For 19 years, she was on call 24-hours-a-day, doing whatever she could to stop mistreatment of animals. Pantel's biggest coup as a humane officer was busting a notorious puppy mill on Aspen Street in 1989. The day Pantel and other authorities liberated

41 mostly small-breed dogs, living in filthy conditions with mouths taped shut, remains one of her proudest moments. Pantel recently celebrated her 90th birthday, and her voice still quivers with rage at the atrocities she's seen committed against animals. It also softens as she recalls details of the many animals she's fostered and helped over the years.

These stories are just a few highlights from BHS' long history. For more than 100 years, BHS has worked tirelessly to find loving homes for all the lost, abandoned and otherwise unwanted animals that come through their door, and to provide education to the public concerning animal care and the importance of spaying and neutering.

There have been thousands of unsung heroes, numerous challenges as well as victories as their commitment to animal welfare perseveres. As founding member Mary Hanlon once promised in a 1911 interview with a local newspaper, "Lots of other societies are dead, but this one isn't, and it's not going to be."



"FOR THE LAST 40 YEARS, THE NAME LOIS PANTEL HAS BEEN SYNONYMOUS WITH LOCAL HUMANE EFFORTS."

BHS TODAY

Recently there has been change at BHS that has generated many questions from the community as to the responsibilities and future of the shelter. In a nutshell, about 30 years ago, BHS entered into a contract with the City of Chico to care for stray, abandoned and neglected animals within the Chico City limits and to adopt as many animals as they could from that population.

Under the newly revised contract, the City now cares for all incoming animals for the state mandated holding period (approximately 5-7 days). BHS focuses on adoption, education, and outreach, taking adoptable animals and working to find them a new forever home.

For a visual on the new responsibilities see page 4-5.

FAST FACTS

IN 2011 BHS...

- Placed 2,050 animals into loving adoptive homes.
- Sent 199 animals to rescue.
- Sent over 250 animals to foster to get them ready for adoption.
- Averaged 128 volunteers per month.
- Logged 27,479 hours of volunteer time from students, retirees, parents, kids, clubs, and other community members.

A Day in the Life of an Animal at Butte Humane Society

Life in a shelter is unfamiliar and can often be a scary place for an animal.

Animals are typically confused when they come here. There is a lot of commotion, dogs barking, people coming and going and it can be very overwhelming for them. But for some strays and neglected pets, the shelter, food, water and attention our BHS staff provides is a big step up from what they're used to. – says Trent Burnham Adoptions and Rescue Manager.

Although the living conditions can be rough on some animals, BHS does everything within their resources to make their stay as comfortable and safe as possible. Volunteers provide walks for the dogs and kennel enrichment activities. For cats, volunteers help by brushing, petting and playing with animals daily to keep them healthy and happy.

All animals are continuously under medical supervision by not only their in-house veterinarian, but by their two Registered Veterinarian Techs and multiple qualified staff members. "Keeping our animals well is a priority. The longer they stay the harder it is to keep them well – we need to get them in and adopted as quickly as possible," says Burnham.

HOW DO ANIMALS END UP IN SHELTERS?

Typically animals are surrendered or picked up off the streets and go unclaimed. Studies show – and it rings true here in Chico as well - that the **top ten reasons animals enter shelters are:**

- Moving
- Landlord issues (ex. can't have pets where they live)
- Animal goes unclaimed (animals lose their way easily and can get disoriented – that is why BHS recommends microchipping)
- Cost of pet maintenance (ex. food, veterinarian care)
- No time for their pet
- Inadequate space for animal (ex. backyard or apartment too small) or too many pets already in home
- Personal or family problems (ex. divorce, breakup)
- Death of a family member
- Picking the wrong animal for lifestyle or behavior issues (ex. too energetic, too lazy, nipping or biting)
- No homes for littermates

COMMON SHELTER STRESSORS INCLUDE:

- Multiple-animal environment in which they see other animals coming and going but cannot interact with them
- Human visitors - which can overly-excite the animals and make them bark
- Kennel confinement - especially for weeks on end

"PEOPLE ARE SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT VERY FEW ANIMALS ARE HERE FOR BEHAVIORAL ISSUES. WHAT WE SEE MOST IS CHANGES WITHIN THE FAMILY; MOVING IS THE MOST COMMON."

- SAYS BURNHAM

SHELTER FACTS AND STATS

ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION IN BUTTE COUNTY IS HIGH

The national average is 30 animals per 1000 people. In Butte County there are 49 animals for every 1000.

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH HOMES FOR ALL SHELTER ANIMALS

Every year 3-4 million pets are euthanized in shelters all over the US. The #1 reason is overpopulation.

YOU SAVE TWO LIVES WHEN YOU ADOPT FROM A SHELTER OR RESCUE

The animal you adopted and the animal that gets to move into his or her kennel.

ON AVERAGE 35% OF ANIMALS IN SHELTERS ARE PURE BREED ANIMALS

The American Kennel Club alone lists over 500 breed specific rescues – shedding light on the significant overpopulation of pure breed animals.

ADOPTING AN ANIMAL IS MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN BUYING AN ANIMAL

Average adoption fees are \$0-\$150 whereas buying an animal can typically run \$300-\$5,000



Ollie's Journey from Intake to Adoption*

Days 1-5

A male puppy is found by the City of Chico Animal Services as a stray. The city vaccinates him, gives him flea prevention and de-worms him. They put his picture online as a stray and provide him love, care and a warm bed hoping his owner comes to pick him up (*this hold period is required by law*).



Day 10

Ollie is now in his new foster home and has to have regular appointments at the BHS clinic every other Monday for a few months. During visits, he has a check up and evaluation of his progress. Ollie takes daily medications provided by BHS and a bath every other day with special shampoos from his foster mommy.



Day 30

Ollie gets the rest of his vaccinations from the caring staff at BHS and his foster family gets him ready for adoption.

Day 55

Ollie's hair has grown back and he is now ready for adoption.

Day 5

Sadly his owner never claimed him. He can now be moved to BHS to get ready for adoption. He is tested for temperament and BHS tests him for heartworm to determine if he is adoptable.

Days 5-7

It has been determined that he is adoptable and BHS takes him. He is not responding to flea treatments and it is determined that he has a skin condition called Demodex that needs to be treated with medication. He will need to be sent to foster with a BHS volunteer and treated until he is ready to be adopted.

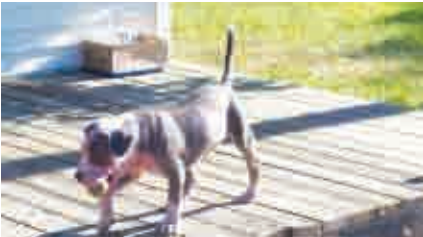
Day 25

Ollie is healthy enough for his neuter surgery and goes to BHS' Low Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic to be neutered.

BHS names him Rollie-Pollie-Ollie because is sweet and loving despite his skin condition and he has lots of darling puppy skin rolls.

Day 40

He likes to play outside with sticks and balls and is very happy to be getting extra love and attention.



*Please note the timeframe and specifics may not be accurate. Ollie's story is told as an example of a typical flow from intake to adoption.

CITY OF CHICO ANIMAL SERVICES
- FUNDED BY CITY OF CHICO

BUTTE HUMANE SOCIETY – FUNDED 100% BY DONATIONS



THE ADOPTION PROCESS

The adoption process begins with the "Meet Your Match" program where potential pet owners fill out an Adopter Survey form, which asks for the basic traits one might seek in a pet. A couple examples might be if you're looking for a dog that is good around children, elderly persons, other animals or a dog that can keep up with your active lifestyle. Or maybe it's a sweet and loving cat to cuddle up in your lap after a long hard day.

All animals are evaluated by counselors, and assigned a color code that fits their personality (Orange, Green and Purple). "Orange" would indicate more curious and playful. A "Green" profile indicates more active and requires more attention, and "Purple" indicates that an animal is mellow, dedicated and smart. Animals are evaluated for

general people/pet skills and personalities—whether or not they like being held, their playfulness and their reaction to new situations. **All animals are assessed individually and not by breed.**

"We have many ways to make sure we get adopters the right animal – we truly do our best to make sure that animal finds his or her forever home," says Lori Wells, Communication and Outreach Associate.

When potential owners fill out the adoption survey they earn the same color code and then are asked to choose a few prospects based on their personality matchups. They can then make an adoption appointment to spend time with the animal.

Adoptions Include...



Day 68

Ollie's foster family finds out that he is still available and they realize that they cannot live without him. They are thrilled to come back and adopt him.

Day 56

He is put up for adoption and has many admirers and new friends...but no one adopts him yet. Volunteers walk and socialize him daily and give him lots of love and belly scratches.



Today!

Ollie loves everyone and enjoys going to the DeGarmo dog park to meet new friends. He now has a kitty sister who he sleeps with at night.



IT'S EASY TO ADOPT

- Submit adoption paperwork with the list of animals you are interested in adopting in person, by email or fax.
- Renters are asked to check with their landlord to be sure they can have animals
- Appointments begin at 2 p.m. (11 a.m. on Saturdays).
- Call ahead to schedule an appointment – last appointment one hour before closing.
- All family members, including current pets (dogs), must come to the shelter for a compatibility assessment.
- Bring a collar and leash or cat carrier to bring home your new best friend!

To view adoptable animals go to buttehumane.org and click on the "Adoption Services" tab.

CAT

- Microchip - \$60
- FVRCP Vaccine - \$24 (each)
- Health Evaluation - \$50
- Rabies Vaccine - \$24
- Spay or Neuter Surgery - \$45-\$135
- FIV/FELV & Heartworm Testing - \$65
- Plus \$80 worth of additional perks and services



TOTAL VALUE \$438
TYPICAL ADOPTION FEE \$0-55

DOG

- Microchip - \$60
- Bordetella Vaccine - \$24 (each)
- Canine Influenza Vaccine - \$39
- DA2PPVL/DHLPP Vaccine - \$24 (each)
- Flea Treatment - \$15
- Health Evaluation - \$50
- Spay or Neuter Surgery - \$102-\$320
- Dewormer - \$13
- Rabies Vaccine - \$24
- Heartworm Vaccination - \$10 (each month)
- Heartworm Test - \$35
- Plus \$85 worth of additional perks and services



TOTAL VALUE \$699
TYPICAL ADOPTION FEE \$0-150

A Family's Grief Turns to Pure Joy

The Biery Family

When Connie Apostolakos Biery's mother passed away last November, she and her daughters—Julia, 14, and Justine, 11—found themselves in a dark cloud of grief.

"Her bedroom was very somber after her death. I didn't even want to go in to clean it," she recalled.

About a month later, Biery had an "aha!" moment and asked her girls if they'd like to volunteer as a foster family for Butte Humane Society. With Julia and Justine enthusiastically on board, Biery contacted a BHS employee who told her four eight-week old Lab-mix puppies were available for temporary adoption. Biery agreed to take the pups, picking them up the next day.

"It was that quick," she said.

And so the room formerly occupied by Biery's mother became a space for four energetic dogs and the "puppy remedy" for sorrow entered the family's household. Grief quickly dissipated as Biery and the girls cared for and socialized the young dogs.

"All of the sudden, there was joy and new life," Biery said. "They made my mom's room a place of joy."

The room itself transformed with the addition of baby gates, puppy bowls, puppy food, puppy beds, and puppy pee pads. It was amazing, Biery said, to go from grief to "Oh, my—we have these puppies wiggling and licking our necks."

"THEY GIVE US A REASON TO SIT DOWN & ENJOY THE MOMENT."

After caring for the first batch of puppies for a couple months, it was time to take them back so "forever" families could adopt them. It was difficult to relinquish them, Biery said, "But you know from the start that you're just fostering them."

Soon after returning those pups, they received a call from the shelter about a litter of Chihuahua-mix puppies. They took those



puppies, too, and took in a third litter just recently. Having each litter for about two months "gives us enough time to get to know their personalities," Biery said.

Being a foster family has also brought the family closer.

"As a parent, it can be hard to figure out something to do so kids, as they grow up, will interact with you," she said, adding that she feels

the puppies "ground" the family. "They give us a reason to sit down and enjoy the moment."

In sharing the duties involved with fostering for BHS, the girls have learned more about responsibility, but playing with the dogs has never seemed like a chore.

"We're puppy people," Biery said. "For puppy people, this is a great job."

Volunteer Puts Her Fears Aside to Help Animals in Need

with Shelly Rogers

Shelly Rogers, a volunteer with Butte Humane Society, admits her reasons for volunteering are cliché.

"I really love animals, especially dogs, and I want to make a difference," said Rogers, herself a dog and cat owner. "I suppose those are the two most important qualifications."

She had the desire to be a volunteer long before starting about a year ago, but she also had doubts.

"I've wanted to get involved for a long time, but I was worried that it would make me sad and that I would want to take the animals home," Rogers said.

She went through an hour-long orientation twice, but still hesitated to make the commitment. By the third time she completed the orientation program, it had been expanded to two hours. In addition, a two-hour Level One Dog Training course and a one-hour mentoring shift were added as volunteer training requirements. The additional training, knowledge and time invested in the organization gave Rogers

the confidence to jump in.

"It made all the difference," said Rogers. "The orientation teaches you about the organization and what is expected from volunteers while the training teaches you how to work with the animals."

Rogers started out working as a greeter at the front desk. As she became more familiar with the organization and more comfortable in that environment, she began working directly with the animals.

"I started out not wanting to work with the animals, but I got over my preconceived notions and embraced it," she said.

Rogers spends three to four hours per week at the shelter, which is typical, and plans to increase to five or six hours.

"I really love it. Anything I can do to help the animals be more comfortable and get them adopted is super rewarding," she said.

Rogers, however, understands it is not for everyone. The shelter can be very noisy, chaotic and, quite frankly, smelly.

"A lot of people say, 'I'd love to volunteer, but...' Put your preconceived

notions aside and just come down and look at the dogs," said Rogers. "I thought I was going to be sad, but this is not a sad place. You have to look inside yourself and follow your heart."

"I REALLY LOVE IT. ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP THE ANIMALS BE MORE COMFORTABLE AND GET THEM ADOPTED IS SUPER REWARDING."

Rogers continues to give her time and energy to the BHS because it is well run and has a dedicated staff, she said.

"There are a lot of worthy causes and ways to give back to the community, but I believe my time spent with the Humane Society is well worth it."





Q & A with President of the Butte Humane Society Board

with Kristen Staggs

Kristen Staggs dreams about Butte County becoming a model for treating animals well.

"If we work hard, the North State can be proud of its treatment of animals. I believe we have the capacity to be known for it and be a model for other communities all across the US," said Staggs, the 38-year-old president of the Butte Humane Society board. "Imagine our community, with its wonderful university, arts, culture, Bidwell Park. Now imagine us also being known as an animal town? There are communities that have done it successfully - I think we could be one too."

Staggs got involved with BHS over five years ago, and passionately leads the organization with about 20 employees and 150 to 200 volunteers (who log 1,000 - 1,500 volunteer hours a month). Staggs considers lowering the county's animal overpopulation rate as the organization's greatest challenge.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm obviously a pet-lover. I have two wonderful rescued pets; Max is a calico mix cat and Rockie is a "purebred mutt," as I call him. He's a healthy, happy lab/pitbull/ridgeback and who knows what else mix (pictured). I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and an animal degree from the school of hard knocks. I work full-time in marketing at a local graphic design agency and I'm also a member of Soroptimist International of Chico (a local non-profit organization).

How is being a pet owner beneficial to you?

My relationship with my pets is so important to me. Walking my dog for 45 minutes every morning is the best part of my day. He gets me up and going every day. Studies show pets help lower our blood pressure and increase our lifespan. My feeling is, we domesticated cats, dogs, rabbits and a variety of other companion animals all for our own gain. That's why what we do here at Butte Humane Society is so important - I feel we need to give back and take care of them.

Why were you drawn to working with BHS?

Almost six years ago, I met a group of people who were concerned about the way cats were being treated here. I felt the only way I could understand

their concerns and affect change if necessary was to volunteer, get on the board and see what was happening for myself. It was an education like no other. What I found was that people really did care about the animals here and they worked very, very hard, from the board on down to the folks that cleaned the kennels. But we were trying to meet the high expectations of our community and keep up with an ever-increasing flow of animals on significantly limited financial resources. I felt that my experience in marketing and business development could help in some way so I decided to get very involved.

How does the community benefit from BHS's services?

For over 100 years, we've been an integral part of the community. From adoption, education, outreach, community-wide events, school programs, employee volunteer work programs, kids' and senior programs. We really try to enhance the human-animal bond. Our newest contribution to the community is our low-cost Spay and Neuter facility, where we offer low-cost spay and neuter, low-cost vaccinations, flea and tick treatments and microchipping. We are committed to reducing the animal population and preventing disease.

Do you feel accomplished and satisfied at the end of the day?

I start my day every day doing something for BHS

and I end it with that. It is an amazing feeling of satisfaction and pride in our organization, our staff, our board and our awesome volunteers. We are so lucky! We've come very far in just a few years. I'm satisfied beyond belief—we are making a real impact and we will continue to do so.

Do you see any areas in which BHS can improve?

Every organization has to constantly change and re-invent itself — to continue to do better and better. We have to stay fresh and exciting. We have to—the animals depend on us.

What does the future hold for Butte Humane Society?

We are going to build a new state of the art shelter that serves not only Chico, but hopefully all of Northern California. We would like to be a destination shelter and a hub for education, outreach and adoption. Northern California has some of the highest euthanasia statistics in the country, upwards of 87-90% of all shelter intakes. There are a lot of struggling shelters and they need our help. I believe we can be there as a partner to help them save more animals' lives. We have 100 years of history that we can build on to do just that.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER OR FOSTER PARENT

Volunteering at Butte Humane Society can be a very rewarding experience for you, your family or even a group of your coworkers. To see the joy in an animal's eyes when you take a dog for a walk, scratch a kitty's belly or give a bunny some love is an amazing and gratifying experience - for you AND them!

Volunteers are asked to work six hours per month (usually in three shifts) for at least six months to provide the best, most consistent care for the animals.

To volunteer, visit buttehumane.org/volunteer or contact our Volunteer Program at 343-7917 ext. 133 or volunteer@buttehumane.org.

Volunteering is open to persons 16 years and older and ages 10-15 if accompanied by an adult over 18 years old.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Cat and Dog Care
- Cat and Dog Socialization
- Obedience For Adoptability - advanced dog training for current volunteers
- Adoption Counseling
- Animal Transport
- Foster Care
- Mobile Events
- Office/Publication Assistance
- Shelter Care/Maintenance
- Special Events & Fundraising
- Graphic Design, Marketing and PR
- Foster care

BHS' Commitment

BHS' commitment to reducing animal overpopulation does not stop at their education and outreach programs. In November, 2010 Butte Humane Society opened Chico's very own Low Cost Spay and Neuter clinic.

The Low Cost Spay and Neuter clinic serves a population of about 250,000 people, reaching pet-owners, rescues and spay and neuter voucher programs in Chico and all over the North State. "It is important work that we do here. We have performed over 5,000 surgeries preventing thousands of

unwanted litters. Says Dr. Rachel Caspary, Butte Humane Society's full time veterinarian, "We are making great strides at reducing the animal population- ultimately that reduces animal suffering and euthanasia."

The clinic is one of the ways that Butte Humane Society hopes to eventually generate income to fund their growing programs, but for now it is more of a service to the community by providing a low cost alternative to the many services pets need. "We charge very little for spays, neuters, vaccinations and microchips here, but it is important to us that we get these services out into the community," says Caspary.



"SPAYING AND NEUTERING IS THE #1 MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO REDUCE EUTHANASIA AMONGST HEALTHY, ADOPTABLE ANIMALS."



Dog Adoption Center:

Address: 2579 Fair Street, Chico
Hours: 2 - 6 p.m. Su - F
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sa

Cat Adoption Center:

587 Country Drive, Chico
Hours: 2 - 6 p.m. Su - F
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sa

Administrative Office:

Address: 2580 Fair Street, Chico
Hours: vary on employee availability

Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic:

587 Country Drive, Chico
Surgery Drop-Off:
7 - 8 a.m. for animals with appointments
Surgery Pick-Up:
5 - 6 p.m. for animals with appointments

Phone: (530) 343-7917

Online: www.buttehumane.org

Email: info@buttehumane.org

CLINIC OFFERINGS

- Spay and neuter for dogs and cats
- Vaccinations (Rabies, DA2PPL, Bordetella, Leukemia and Rattlesnake)
- Testing (Feline Leukemia and Heartworm)

- Nail Trim
- Flea and Tick treatments
- Microchip
- Euthanasia
- Cremation

(check website for pricing and details – buttehumane.org/spayneuterclinic)

BENEFITS OF SPAYING AND NEUTERING

- Spayed and neutered pets live longer
- Spaying and neutering can reduce or eliminate the following cancers; testicular, breast, uterine and ovarian
- Animals who have been spayed and neutered are less likely to have behavior issues or mark their territory
- Spayed and neutered animals are typically calmer and more easy to train
- 87 percent of animal to human bites are from un-neutered males (regardless of breed)

DONATE: HELP SUPPORT BUTTE HUMANE SOCIETY

If you would like to help BHS continue the lifesaving work they do or contribute to their outreach and education programs you would be doing a great thing. BHS relies 100 percent on donations from supporters like you to fund their programs. Donations from individuals, companies and foundations are always appreciated.

If you would like to help by making a monetary donation please contact their Development Department at **530-343-7917** or email donate@buttehumane.org. OR go online to buttehumane.org/donate

All goods and services donations can be dropped off at the BHS administration office at 2580 Fair Street in Chico.

BUTTE HUMANE SOCIETY IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR HELP IN THE WAY OF...

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Donations in the form of cash, check or credit card
- Monthly donations through their PAWS program
- End of year gift through their End of Year Gifting Program
- In-memory-of or in-honor-of tribute gifts for friends & loved ones
- Bequests and Estate gifts
- Workplace or employee giving
- Corporate partnerships and sponsorships

GOODS & SERVICES

- Vehicle donations (car, boat, trailer, RV, plane, etc.)
- In-kind donations (for example, canned or wet dog and cat food, heavy-duty dog chew toys like KONGs, "puzzle" balls and disposable cardboard scratching posts)
- Gift certificates and item donations to be used in silent and live auctions at our events

