

Helping One Furry Friend at a Time

For most pet owners, their dog or cat is more than a pet. They are faithful companions who provide friendship, joy, and sometimes even a reason for living. Many of these pets are the only “family” our clients have.

Every day we receive calls from low-income pet owners who are experiencing a temporary hardship such as unemployment, divorce, or a death in the family.

Unfortunately this year, the Foundation was called upon to assist with situations when a dog was abandoned or surrendered by an owner through an advertisement seeking a “good home” to a dog in a troubled situation.

Below are some of the situations that arose in which a hopeful new pet owner needing the Foundation’s assistance for veterinary care for a rescued pet:

- **Buck the hound dog:** Neglected because he could no longer hunt. Rescued by chance because his housemate was a chubby puppy. Luckily, the couple who showed up for the puppy saw Buck in squalid conditions and adopted him too. With the assistance of Pad for Paws, both are happy in their forever home.



Raven the lab after getting bit by a rattlesnake.

- **Spot the boxer:** Punched and kicked by his original owner when he was to be adopted. The horrified perspective new owners quickly picked up Spot and contacted Pad for Paws for advice on what to do next. After a vet visit, Spot was off to his new home where lots of love was waiting for him.

The summer of 2017 will live in many residents memories as being one of the hottest and smokiest in recent years.

As volunteers for the Foundation made their normal rounds to deliver pet food to many campers, small travel trailers, vans, trucks, and tents around Helena, they realized that bottled water was scarce and hard to come

by for many of these families. With sweltering heat, it was clear both those families and their pets needed assistance.

Heat stroke was the biggest concern. With the assistance of veterinarians on the phone, the volunteers quickly distributed gallon jugs of water and damp bandanas to pet owners to help cooldown their dogs and hydrate their four legged companions.

Sometimes, pet owners are faced with a situation that nobody could have predicted. Such was a case for Raven. On a sunny afternoon in the Boulder Valley, Raven was playing in the family yard with her “parent” nearby. In a quick flash, her parent saw Raven yelp and jump high in the air. A rattlesnake bit Raven on the face. (see picture)

Fortunately, her parent had the Pad for Paws contact information and called for advice and assistance.

Raven was quickly brought to a veterinary clinic so the anti-venom could be administered and Raven’s situation could be managed.

Thankfully after a couple days, Raven went home with her owner to make a complete recovery and we are so thrilled that we could help in this very scary situation.

Fall 2017

Total Pounds of Pet Food Provided to Those in Need Since 2008:

651,942

Total Pounds of Pet Food Distributed in 2016:

101,970

Pounds Distributed in 2017 Through September:

65,250

**Pad for Paws
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Nadia - Standing by her Man, a Veteran

Nadia, the mastiff, is the registered service dog of a local veteran who receives pet food from Pad for Paws. Nadia assists the veteran by providing stability for him when he walks, alerting him when someone is at the door and calming him when he becomes stressed.

Without assistance, in his own words, he would have had to surrender her to a mastiff rescue since he does not have the funds to provide her monthly medication from her vet clinic or give her the specialty food she requires due to her many allergies. He is on such a limited income when all necessities are paid there is not enough left for maintaining Nadia. He would be lost without her companionship and service she provides. Pad for Paws understands the human/animal bond they have and will continue to provide assistance for Nadia and we thank her owner for his military service.



Nadia

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Welcome Home Kitty Program

The Welcome Home Kitty program is for the mentally challenged who get a prescription for a therapy cat. We provide a litter box, litter, cat food, treats, toys and in some cases cat trees. We work with the individual and educate them on the proper care of their therapy cats. We leave written instructions and the Foundation's phone number in case they need further help. This program is hugely successful and both the therapy animal and the owner benefit from a long healthy and happy life together.

Shout-out for Petco's Groomers!!!

We assisted in helping some long haired dogs get shaved over the summer because their fur was so matted and dirty and their owners were enduring financial hardships. A huge SHOUT OUT to Brittany at PETCO who did an amazing transformation on one sweet female dog who was once just a surface of heavy, dirty matted hair. That dog was so happy when she got done and we can not thank PETCO groomers enough for their fantastic grooming skills. The poor dog would have been miserable through the summer in her matted condition.

Resources Shared

Through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations, Pad for Paws was able to provide grants to the following animal small welfare organizations in Montana to assist with educational out reach efforts, spay and neuter services, veterinary services, and to meet other immediate needs for the animals they serve in their local community.

- ◇ Animeals, Missoula
- ◇ Heart of the Valley, Bozeman
- ◇ Helena Pet Cemetery, Helena
- ◇ My Best Buddy Rescue, Helena
- ◇ Pet Paw-See, Great Falls
- ◇ Pintler Pets, Anaconda
- ◇ RezQ Dogs, Lame Deer
- ◇ West Yellowstone Food Bank
- ◇ Wild About Cats, Montana City

DONATIONS & MEMORIALS -

In Memorials to Friends or Family Members -

Georgia Baker for Vic LaForge

Maria Hubler for Stephanie Rutter

Karen Srenar for Val Tresnar and Don Burnham

Marcia Wall for Dick Morgan

Janet Weeks Andrew for Barb Kirkland

In Memorials to Beloved Pets -

Janet Weeks Andrew, Guage

Janet Harper, Mahalo

Marcia Wall, Dexter

The Pad for Paws Foundation distributes pet food to hungry dogs and cats. We assist low-income residents, including veterans, seniors, and those who are mentally or physically challenged, in the Helena area who are struggling to feed their pets. We also assist with emergency veterinary care to ease pet suffering. The management of the Foundation is all by volunteers with no paid staff.