

# HUMANE HAPPENINGS

The Newsletter of the Foothills Humane Society  
989 Little Mountain Road, Columbus, NC 28722

Telephone (828) 863-4444. On the web at [www.foothillshumanesociety.org](http://www.foothillshumanesociety.org)



## Rescue partners help FHS find forever homes for shelter animals

Foothills Humane Society successfully partners with reputable animal rescue organizations around the country to find forever homes for many of the dogs that are turned in to the shelter. The rescues – and there are rescues for just about every breed of dog, as well as cats and other species – play a key role in matching animals with the right adopters.

Bob and Deborah Dickerson are the North and South Carolina coordinators for The American Bouvier Rescue League, a not-for-profit rescue for Bouvier des Flandres dogs. Among the 83 purebred and mixed Boviars that have come to the Dickersons, five, so far, have been from the Foothills Humane Society.

Deborah recounts the story of three FHS shelter dogs that found loving permanent homes through the Bouvier rescue:

Roxie, a purebred Bouvier, came to us in 2009. FHS volunteer Deborah O'Donnell saved Roxie, who was about two years old and had been

unaccountably surrendered by her owner to Foothills. Deborah fostered Roxie for just a bit before we found her forever home. Roxie was and is just the sweetest and most well-behaved Bouvier anyone could wish for. Classic coat, with docked tail and uncropped ears, she was silky to touch and easy to live with. Roxie now lives



Roxie

in Duluth, GA, and owns her own teenage girl who is a champion swimmer. Roxie attends all the swim meets as a mascot when Mom and Dad go to watch. Rox is a veteran traveler, staying in hotels with chic sophistication and owns the entire backseat of the SUV.

Noble was transferred from FHS to our rescue a number of years ago. A stray, he was obviously a young dog of Bouvier des Flandres lineage and had already been adopted out once, but returned to the shelter for repeatedly jumping over the fence at his new home. I happened to be dropping off some dog food for a donation, saw Noble there and knew he was a candidate for our rescue.

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*"Don't Mess with Me."*  
Photo by Caroline Skellie

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Fall 2011

## **Foothills Humane Society Board of Directors**

**Emily Clark**  
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**Sandra Sibley**  
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**No More Homeless Pets**

**Spay, Neuter, Adopt**

**We Can Help**

**828-863-4444**

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*Happy Tails Dog Walk is the start of something wonderful. One of the happiest events of the year was held at FENCE on September 18 when dog owners got together with their pets for an afternoon of fun and frolic. The event was sponsored by Costco, The Book Shelf, Pup 'n Tub and Dogwood Farm Kennels. Betty Johnston and Sue Delameter also showed off their wares. A big attraction was "doggie art," where the dog itself painted the picture. Check in next year for how to do it because Happy Tails will be an annual event. Thanks to all who participated and helped.*

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## ***FHS moves forward...***

The past few years have seen Foothills Humane Society grow into a successful and complex organization. In August the Board of Directors made the decision to transition FHS from a volunteer-led organization to one with a full-time professional Executive Director.

The new ED will be responsible for the overall administration of FHS, including fund-raising development, finance, marketing and long-range planning. He or she will coordinate with the active working Board, whose members will remain an integral part of FHS' success.

The search for the new ED is nearing completion. The Board hopes to have an announcement before the end of the year.

In the midst of this transition, we bid a sad farewell to Board President Ruth Kellick Grubbs. Ruth and her husband, Greg, moved away from the area in October to be near family in Pennsylvania.

We wish Ruth and Greg all the best as they enter a new phase of their lives, and hope they will one day return to beautiful Western North Carolina.

Board Member Emily Clark has been elected to serve as interim President until January, when the Board will formally elect officers for 2012. Thanks go out to Emily for agreeing to step into the leadership role during this period of transition. Thanks also to Bertie Phayer and all of the members of the Board who have "stepped up to the plate" during the last few months.

*Sandra Sibley, Vice President, Board of Directors*

***Visit us on the web at:  
www.foothillshumanesociety.org***

# Bouvier des Flandres dogs find homes through FHS and rescue

*Continued from Page 1*

He fostered with us, learned the concept of housebreaking, leash walking and what a house was actually for, and now lives in a wonderful home next to the water in Charleston. Noble now has a little white French bulldog, Mattie, as a sister.

They go everywhere together, and because Mattie cannot jump the fence, Noble does not even attempt it. Noble is now in his elder years and a little creaky around the edges, but he and Mattie still enjoy their beach walks and walks downtown to their favorite cafe with their human housemates.

Trevi was another Foothills/American Bouvier Rescue League graduate. Small, young, dark and quite matted of coat when I pulled him from the shelter, upon grooming and the application of groceries, Trevi actually turned out to be a Portugese Water Dog/Bouvier des Flandres cross. It was obviously meant to be, however, that he came into our rescue and was placed on the website. When I told some applicants who had applied for Trevi that I thought he was not, in fact, a full Bouvier des Flandres, but appeared to be a PWD cross, I was amazed they were absolutely thrilled. Turns out their previous and dearly beloved dog had been a Portugese Water Dog. So Trevi was adopted and lives in Pennsylvania. In fact, he is doing wonderfully. Trevi may have been a crossbred dog, but he was true to the Bouvier side of him as well: Right after his adoption, he faced down and herded the neighbor's bull and 37 cows through the pasture fence, and two miles down the road through the center of town. Glad we were that Trevi lives in rural PA.

I can say that the dogs we have had the honor to foster and place that originated with the Foothills Humane Society have been full of character, love and laughter. Especially character. They have become dearly beloved friends and companions and the light of the lives of their adopters. Foothills Humane Society and liaison with rescue is a very good thing.

For more information about breed rescues, contact FHS rescue coordinator Dana Mayer at 828-894-2088.

## Check out these upcoming FHS events

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Dec. 23    | Make-Believe Ball  |
| Jan. 7/8   | On the Road at the Petco National Adoption Weekend (specifics TBA) |
| Feb. 11/12 | On the Road at the PetSmart National Adoption Days (specifics TBA) |
| March 31   | ASPCA Mega-Match-a-Thon  |



*Dana Mayer and Joan Roseberry of Dogwood Designs pose with one of the new signs Joan and her partner, John Putnam, designed and donated to FHS. The very attractive signs are located at either end of Little Mountain Road. Thanks, Joan and John!*

## 'Make Believe Ball' invitation in the mail

The invitations are in the mail for this year's Make Believe Ball. This year artist Susan Beardslee and poet Bertie Phayer take on Shakespeare.

You can start making your preparations for the Ball by laying in a supply of snacks, checking with Netflix for an old favorite movie, buying new pajamas for the occasion, or checking out a really good book for the weekend. You can promise your pets that you will stay home and cuddle up with them. Remember, this is one time you do not have to get dressed up and go out.

The door prize for this non-event is a portrait of your pet by Columbus artist, Betty Hill. The drawing for the prize will be December 23.

## Shelter needs list...

Foothills Humane Society is in need of the following items. Can you help us out?

- Costco chicken/rice/veg adult dog and puppy food
- Wellness kitten food
- Friskies pate canned cat food
- Canned dog food
- Hot dogs
- Dog treats
- Kong toys
- Cat toys
- Non clumping cat litter
- Liquid hand soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Blue Dawn liquid dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Regular chlorine bleach
- Clorox Clean Up
- Paper towels
- Bath towels
- Black pens
- White copy paper 8.5" x 11"
- 33 gal black trash bags
- Laptop computer
- Professional services: landscaping, carpenter/maintenance, graphic art
- Gift cards: Costco, Petco, PetSmart, Walmart, Sam's
- Newspapers. No small papers or ads
- Low-fat peanut butter
- Low sodium chicken broth
- Cardboard boxes (used is fine)
- Brown paper bags

Items can be dropped off at the shelter during operating hours, or call (828) 863-4444. Thank you for your continuing support of FHS.

### Report Animal Cruelty

*If you suspect an animal is being abused, call the Polk County Sheriff's Department Animal Control Officer.*

**(828) 894-3001**

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*Board Secretary Bertie Phayer officially dedicates the FHS Pavilion.*

## November Open House offered a full day of activities

Things were hustling and bustling at the FHS Open House on Nov. 6. The event featured an adopt-a-thon, volunteer gathering, tours of the shelter and the dedication of the new FHS Pavilion, complete with patio showcasing our new commemorative pavers.

Board Secretary Bertie Phayer dedicated the Pavilion, whose construction was generously supported by grants from the Polk County Community Foundation and the Carol M. Wellman Trust. The Pavilion has already proven to be an outstanding and well-used asset for FHS.

Folks and pets were lined up for photos with Santa Claus, AKA Sam Hook, husband of board member Gerda Hook. Local artist Elaine Pearsons was snapping the pix.

The public also got its first look at the new brick patio marking the entrance of the Pavilion. The patio features the first set of engraved pavers, purchased and inscribed in honor or memory of loved ones. The adopt-a-thon saw some 14 animals adopted, a success by all accounts.

Thanks go out to volunteer Sev Bennett, who organized the event, the Polk County High School Humane Society Club, who volunteered 14-strong at the Open House, sponsor Costco, and all the volunteers and staff who made the day possible.

**Humane Happenings** is published three times a year  
by the Foothills Humane Society.

The deadline for the Spring, 2012 issue is Monday, March 6.

Newsletter articles and photos may be emailed to  
editor Sandy Sibley at [sibleysand@windstream.net](mailto:sibleysand@windstream.net)

## Pension Protection Act offers donors a way to make a tax-smart charitable gift

Only a few weeks remain in order to take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed by President Bush on August 17, 2006. It provides an exciting new way to make a tax-smart charitable gift. Donors, age 70-1/2 and over can now donate up to \$100,000 a year directly from their Individual Retirement Account to the Foothills Humane Society or other charities.

Unless the act is renewed, this is the last year that the Charitable IRA Rollover gift can be made. The gift provides the equivalent of a 100 percent income tax charitable contribution deduction for the gift.

The gift also reduces the amount that a donor must take into taxable income as an IRA required minimum distribution. For example, a donor who is required to take a 5 percent minimum distribution from his IRA can instead direct the entire minimum distribution to the Foothills Humane Society and reduce taxable income. This will also reduce adjusted gross income so that amount will not impact other deductions or the Alternative Minimum Tax.

These requirements must be met for an IRA distribution to qualify as a charitable distribution:

- Taxpayer/donor must be at least 70-1/2 years of age.
- The gift from the IRA must be made on or before December 31, 2011. The time frame for the IRA Charitable Rollover is limited and not permanent, unfortunately.
- Distributions can only be made from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. However, you may rollover funds tax free from another qualified plan such as a 401(k), TIAA-CREF, 403(b) (you know who you are) etc. to a traditional IRA or Roth IRA for a subsequent gift to The Foothills Humane Society. If you have both traditional IRA and Roth IRA funds, utilize your traditional IRAs first. This may provide the greatest tax benefit.
- Gifts must be made directly to the Foothills Humane Society by the IRA trustee. This means that you must never receive the funds directly.
- The gift from the IRA (a qualified charitable distribution) can be counted as all or a portion of the required minimum distribution of the taxpayer as owner of the IRA.
- A taxpayer and the spouse, if they both own their own IRAs, may each take advantage of this tax break.
- Since the IRA charitable distribution can count as a portion or all of your "minimum required distribution" for the year, you are essentially receiving your required distribution tax free.

Consult your tax advisor or your IRA trustee for more details. An FHS volunteer will be happy to help you with this benefit.

No more homeless pets. Spay. Neuter. Adopt. We can help.

**(828) 863-4444 or click here**

## Bark-outs for the animals

Foothills Humane Society gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations and trusts for their continuing support of our programs:

The Dorothy Morrow Trust; the estate of Jeanne Millett; Eric Aschaffenburg and Julie Gordon for the Chicken Soup Fund;

Kenneth and Betty Tucker for Lennie's Fund; Tryon Thermal Belt Rotary; The Polk County Community Foundation; and The Book Shelf, Pup n Tub and Costco, for sponsoring Happy Tails.

Derbyshire and Tryon Health and Fitness for hosting fund-raising events; Blue Ridge Wine and Spirits for the Po' Kitties gala; Hospice Thrift Barn, Little Mountain Farm Supply and Frog and Swan for hosting adoption kitten "condos."

Dogwood Farms Kennels, Landrum Vet and Bonnie Brae Boarding for fostering animals; and especially all our Fabulous Fosters who took in animals during this very busy fall season.

We couldn't do it without the support of a generous community.





Help FHS meet its mission of “no more homeless pets” by supporting the “Paving the Way” project. With a \$50 donation, you can purchase a personalized brick that will be installed in the patio at the entrance to the new FHS Pavilion.

Become a permanent part of the FHS caring community by ordering your brick today. Commemorative bricks are a great way to honor or remember a loved one. See page 8 for order form or order online at: [www.foothillshumanesociety.org/buy-a-brick.html](http://www.foothillshumanesociety.org/buy-a-brick.html)

## Feed bags needed!

Foothills Humane Society is the grateful recipient of an ongoing donation of bulk dog and cat food from Walmart for our “Keep ‘Em Home” program. In order to distribute the food, we need to put it in bags.

Larger dog or cat food or horse feed bags are perfect. Just drop them off at the Shelter. It’s a good way to recycle those bags. Thanks for your help!

# Until he came to FHS, Lucky was down on his luck

It was Lucky’s lucky day. The kind folks who had been feeding him in Tryon called in a panic: he had been run over by a car and couldn’t move his back legs. They were frantic, and with Animal Control on the other side of the county in the middle of another call, FHS’ Dana Mayer hopped into the car and went to see if she could help.

She scooped up the little cat and rushed him to Landrum Vet, where x-rays revealed a shattered pelvis, broken tail, and horribly fractured hip, along with a multitude of scrapes and bruises. With all the swelling, it wasn’t clear what other organs may have been crushed under the wheel of that car. But they decided to give him two days to see if there was a possibility that Lucky might survive and, if he were to survive, if he would be able to walk. The staff at Landrum Vet took exquisite care of Lucky, a friend did Reiki and energy work on him, and everyone hoped for the best.



To the amazement of all, within two days Lucky was standing in his cage and using the litter box, and two days after that everyone celebrated as he went home with Dana to recuperate. Within a week he was trotting up and down the hall, purring all the while.

A small black miracle with thick, velvety fur and gorgeous green eyes, Lucky is ready for a home of his own. He moves somewhat like a drunken sailor, but that doesn’t stop him! He will need an indoor home for life, since he will never be fast enough to outrun a predator -- or a car. Sadly, the folks who were feeding him can’t keep him indoors, so FHS is looking for someone who will treasure this special Lucky charm. If you’re feeling lucky and want to offer this cat the loving home he deserves, call Dana at 828-894-2088.



### Looking for a few good barns.

FHS is always seeking people willing to adopt barn cats. All that’s needed is a dry barn that offers some protection from the elements, food and fresh water.

All cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped.

Good mousers! Interested? Call Dana Mayer at 828-894-2088 or [click here](#).



*"Don't Mess with Me," the Po'Kitties Photo Contest "Best In Show" photograph by Caroline Skellie.*

## Po'Kitties photo contest, gala draws supporters to TFAC

Congratulations to Caroline Skellie for winning Best in Show at the Po' Kitties Photo Contest. Caroline's winning photograph titled: "Don't Mess With Me," topped a competitive field of photos.

A large crowd was on hand at the Po' Kitties Gala, which took place Oct. 29 at the Tryon Fine Arts Center.

Thanks go out Stuart Evans, and Roger Martin of Blue Ridge Wine and Spirits for the amazing food and wine. Flowers were courtesy of the Expressions Florist of Landrum. Veterinarians Donna Raines and Angel Mitchell judged the photo contest and were generous sponsors.

The Po' Kitties Photo Contest and Gala would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals and businesses: Oaks Bed & Breakfast, Orchard Inn, Vines & Stuff, Green River Gallery, Landrum Veterinary Clinic, Bonnie Brae Veterinary Hospital, Be Kind Solutions, and Nature's Storehouse.

The Brick, Tryon Therapeutic Massage, Swedish Solutions, Dr. Deborah Fitzgerald, Dana Mayer, Paula Mullenax, Landrum Veterinary Hospital, Jeb's Grooming, Paul and Kate Pittman, Landrum Leader, and the Tryon Daily Bulletin, Beth Child and Jimm Brink of Tryon Fine Arts Center, and Randy Grobe.

Thank you especially to the caretakers of the Po'Kitties colonies. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, you are there for the cats. You will always be the Po'Kitties heroes.

The Po'Kitties Committee is very grateful for the many wonderful folks who supported the gala with their generous donations of cat food, money, photos, and most importantly, their presence. See you next year.

## Calendar features adopted animals

"Home At Last," the Foothills Humane Society's first-ever calendar goes on sale Dec. 1. The calendar features portraits of 12 animals (dogs, cats, a horse, and two bunnies) that found their "forever" homes through FHS' adoption program.

The calendar is the brainchild of Elaine H. Pearsons, an award-winning local artist who has photographed the area's beautiful scenery for more than 20 years. Early this year, Elaine offered her creative services to FHS. A life-long animal lover, her photographs capture the beauty of the animals as well as their joy at being "home at last."

Look for the calendar at commercial outlets throughout the Columbus, Tryon and Landrum area (check our website for a list) or at the Shelter.

At only \$12 each, these calendars will make welcome gifts at Holiday time. Proceeds from the sale support FHS general operations. [Click here to order.](#)



*Another happy dog at Happy Tails*

Foothills Humane Society  
PO Box 126  
Tryon, NC 28782



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
P A I D  
Tryon, NC 28782  
Permit No. 57

**Honor or remember your loved one with a brick in the FHS Pavilion patio.** For a \$50 donation, you can be a permanent part of a community where there are NO MORE HOMELESS PETS.

*Step 1: Provide us with your name and contact information. Please print clearly.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Step 2: How many bricks do you want? \_\_\_\_\_ Please make one copy of this form for each ordered brick.*

*Step 3: What would you like your brick to say? Limit of 3 lines with a maximum 13 characters and spaces for each line. Hearts count as 2 characters. Please print clearly.*

Line 1


Line 2

Line 3

*Step 4: Enclose one form and donation of \$50 (\$32 tax deductible) for each brick and mail to:  
Foothills Humane Society, PO Box 126, Tryon, NC 28782. Thank you for your support of FHS!*

*Would you like Foothills Humane Society to acknowledge your memorial or gift? Yes \_\_\_\_\_*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_