



THE SCOOP

POPE MEMORIAL FRONTIER ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

Adopt A Friend Today!

For more information on any of these animals, please call the shelter @ 802-754-2228 or fill out an application!



Gabby is probably the most beautiful cat you'll ever see. Gabby is confident about herself and not afraid to let you know. If you are interested in a lap cat, Gabby is your girl.

Dart is a 6 year old husky Australian Shepherd mix. I love to run! Would do best in a home without any young kids or cats. And as for cats. If you're looking for a new running partner, I'm the man of your dreams!



Margret is a small 12 year old girl with the most beautiful eyes! She is a sweet and cuddly girl who loves to be around people! If you look into her eyes, you will see you in her future.

Nosey is a 7 Year old Bluetick Coonhound who would love a home with another older dog to hang out with, cats & kids too! Don't let his age fool you, he still knows how to have fun and qualifies for the senior incentive program!



Milo is a 13 year old male! He is super sweet and lovable, but the shelter is a bit scary! If you are interested in giving a senior a loving home please come in and take a look at him. Milo qualifies for the senior incentive program!

Biff - The Little Shelter Dog with a Big Success Story

Over the 12+ years that I've been volunteering at PMFAS, I've acquired many good memories of animals that enter the shelter and soon - or eventually - find a loving forever home. Some of these I recall with a special fondness.

At the time that I started volunteering, in the early spring of 2007, my brother, Joe, began thinking that he would like a dog. He and his wife, who live out of the area, were soon to become "empty nesters" and while they had already become a forever home for a sweet Dachshund that they named Libby, she was primarily his wife's dog. They had found Libby wandering on a street and, unable to determine her owner, soon gave her a loving, safe home. Libby was a happy addition, but Joe was thinking he'd like his own dog. Surely they could handle two dogs, after rearing two children!

Enter Biff at then-called FAS. Biff was a little blonde-colored dog, just a mix, maybe a lab mix but only about 25 pounds. Shelter staff estimated that, at that time, he was at least one year old. It was early summer of '07 and I was going twice a week to help walk dogs in the evening. Having the opportunity to spend some time with Biff, I thought he might be a good match for my brother. Not too big, not too small, and while he needed some TLC and training in manners (don't we all?), he seemed very sweet and liked to cuddle. So, with the approval of all involved, Biff was adopted, staying at my house for a few days until my brother was due to come up to VT.



Well, Joe has had that dog ever since. In all his travels up here to VT - several times each year - he always, without fail, brought "Biffy" with him in his truck. Biff has always been an adventurous little traveler. Joe and Biff stayed at the family farm house, and Biff enjoyed running freely in the fields or in the woods with Joe. Back at his own home, Biff often accompanied Joe on his jobs in the maintenance of homes and properties. Mostly, they were inseparable; simply best friends.

Joe and Biff were most recently here in VT in late May, as was most of their family including Libby, who is by now about 15 years old. It hasn't been unusual for Libby to come up to VT. Many times over the years, she accompanied Joe and Biff - my brother

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Volunteer Spotlight

Vinny Murray



Vinny Murray is a Volunteer Superhero! So we would like to shine the spotlight on him!!

We are nothing without our volunteers, and when it comes to Vinny, we know we can always count on him for help and support. Vinny helps in every possible way, whether it's socializing dogs, walking them, cleaning and disinfecting the kennels, helping adopters, or any task that caring for our animals requires. Vinny rolls up his sleeves and is ready to pitch in, whatever the need may be.

A lifelong animal lover, Vinny shares his home with three dogs, Lexi (who came from PMFAS) Tooley, and Teddy Boy. Vinny and his wife, Linda, became aware of the plight of homeless animals when Linda shared a store, "Sweet Adeline's"

with Betsy Hampton, one of the founders of PMFAS. This was before the shelter had a building, and kittens would be put in the storefront window, or cats and dogs advertised through word of mouth. Vinny, a UPS driver, continued to stay in contact with Betsy while making deliveries and saw the evolution of PMFAS firsthand. Upon retiring from UPS, Vinny was finally free and never forgot the impact of seeing those animals in need so many years before. He decided the best way to help was to volunteer!

Vinny's support goes beyond the day to day operations of the shelter. He's donated staymat to line the fences, and cords of firewood to be raffled to raise funds for shelter projects. He has a soft spot in his heart for a dog that might seem sad or one that is still waiting their turn to find a forever home. He's known to jump in his truck and take him/her downtown for a burger. This simple act of kindness makes such a difference in that animal's day. Vinny is dedicated to the needs of each individual dog. He loves seeing the progress they make, especially dogs like Benelli, whom Vinny says had a big impact on him. Benelli went from timid to brave, and Vinny was a huge part of her journey.

Vinny, Thank You for your tireless work, passion, and commitment to all things shelter related. We are so grateful for your incredible support and your dedication to helping animals in need. Our animals' stories have happy endings...thanks to your continued support. We love that you are part of their journey and ours.



Biff continued . . .

and his two beloved canines! When I visited them in May at the farmhouse it was clear that Biff was losing ground. Easily over 13 years old, he moved very slowly and needed help getting up on the couch. That brought tears to my eyes. He could no longer climb into Joe's truck. Joe had to lift him in and out of the truck when they traveled. His loving, loyal companion was slowly slipping away.

My brother notified me in late June that Biff passed away - very peacefully, in their home, on a Sunday evening. Joe and his wife, supported by their family, gave Biff excellent end-of-life care, keeping in touch regularly with their vet. Biff had been having mini-strokes and was developing congestive heart failure. He was getting medications prescribed by the vet. Despite all this, Joe and his family knew it was the end and they stayed with Biff, providing all the comfort that they could.

Biff is buried in the shade of their backyard.

Joe has since returned to VT, making the trip alone – a very big change. I dreaded that journey for him. It undoubtedly was a tough one without "Biffy."

The bottom line is that this little dog had the best life any pooch could ever want. Quite inseparable, Joe and Biff were well-matched companions for each other. My brother is missing that little dog very sorely. I am sad also, but mostly I am grateful that this little shelter pup ended up having such an incredibly awesome life!

A well-known saying by a little known writer named W. R. Purche goes something like this: *"Everyone believes they have the best dog. And none of them are wrong."* I think my brother would not disagree.





In Memory Donations

Received
Throughout 2019

Barry Duval, Marie & Princess, Phoebe, Phyllis Merrill, Kevin Bailey, Esther Donovan, Howard Storm, Ruth Santaw, Wendy Jean Corkins, Belva, Tracy Wagner, Cecil Aubin, William Cruess, Marjorie Syeks, Zoey, Audrey Bickford, Cora Marandola, Brian DaMoulen, Jean Percy, Beverly Duchesneau, Janette Patten, Roderick Marcotte, Maryann Souliere, Kyra Birchard, Ronald Kennedy



Please put the PMFAS on your holiday gift giving list!

The Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc. is financed entirely by adoption fees, fund raisers, and donations from animal lovers like you. Because we are a primarily volunteer organization, almost every penny goes directly toward the rescue and care of the animals.

In 2019, over 350 pets were adopted from our shelter. Please help our dogs and kitties this holiday season. The average cost to provide medical care, shelter and food, before being adopted into a home and family, is in excess of \$350 per animal.

Please help us with a holiday donation.



YES! I would like to support the PMFAS in caring for the unwanted, abandoned, stray, neglected and abused animals. Here is my tax deductible gift.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

No letter of acknowledgment of this gift is necessary. **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** _____

Mail to: Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc., 502 Strawberry Acres Rd., Newport, VT 05855





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Keepers of the Kitties and Kennels

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who graciously support our kitties and kennels each month:



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Frontier Animal Society

- Dish Soap • Laundry Soap
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- Kongs • Cat & Dog Toys & Canned Food



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