



# Because Animals Matter

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## Time and Patience

The following stories are of dogs that needed a little extra effort to find the right home. It's proof that with patience and time any dog can find a family....



Sierra, a one year old Pit Bull mix, spent the first year of her life in a shelter. Many overlooked the sweet, loving girl because of her breed's reputation. Several months passed and Sierra began to think of the shelter as her home. She became very protective of her kennel and attached to the animal control officers. Sierra was destined to live out her days wondering when a family would come for her. Fortunately for Sierra, Because Animals Matter (BAM) had the perfect foster home for her. A couple, having experience training misunderstood breeds with bad reputations took Sierra into foster care. She received the training, love and attention she needed to help her find a home. After 5 months in foster care Sierra finally found a family to call her own.

Skye, a young Heeler mix, came to BAM after being adopted from a local shelter. She had behavioral issues that made it hard to find her the right home. Skye had lots of energy, she needed to run and play frequently. When Skye got bored, she became destructive. Chasing cars and ATV's made it necessary for Skye to have a fenced in yard. Poor Skye spent 13 months in foster care. During this time 6 different families tried adopting Skye. She took on the name "rubber ball" because every failed adoption sent her bouncing back into BAM's foster care. The persistence of Syke's foster home eventually paid off. Finally, a couple, with an active border collie adopted Skye and fell in love with her loveable, energetic spirit.



**Because Animals Matter is looking for caring individuals who are willing to give an animal a temporary home. Fostering is a rewarding experience and saves lives of innocent, homeless animals. Check with your local shelters and rescue groups to learn more about fostering.**

## Home for the Holidays

Celebrate the Holidays with Because Animals Matter, Best Friends, Friends of Ivins, Grey Hound Adoption, Grey Hound Gang, Healing Heart Sanctuary, Hurricane Shelter, Pet Matchers and more.

Give a dog, cat or rabbit a home for the holidays. Also enjoy Christmas carols sang by Riverside Elementary school choir and meet Santa Paws.

December 13<sup>th</sup> @ Petco in Washington City, Utah 10am-3pm

# Choosing a Dog

A dog can be a fun addition to your family. Before adopting any animal it is important to consider the responsibilities that come along with pet care, the reasons for adopting a dog, cost, and how it will affect the family. Here are a few simple suggestions to make adopting a dog fun, simple and educational. First, decide what you and your family are looking for in a dog; companionship, protection, an exercise buddy, a playmate for the kids. Second, consider the amount of time and space you have for a dog.

**Check out these sources for Breed Info**  
*Choosing a dog for Dummies* Walkowicz, Chris  
 Dog Fancy Magazine  
[www.dogbreedinfo.com](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com)

For example, if a person works several hours a day, lives in an apartment or prefers to spend Saturday afternoons curled up on the couch, don't get a Border Collie or other high energy breeds. Always research a breed before adopting. Third, how

much are you willing to spend on dog food, medical bills, and other various items. The amount of food a dog eats or how frequently a dog may need to visit a veterinary varies between breeds. Also consider the initial cost of adopting, spay/neuter and annual vaccinations. Most important, understand that when adopting, you are making a commitment to a dog to care for it for the rest of its life.

## Care and Share

Layoffs, house foreclosures and a lack of work is affecting every one today, including our animals. BAM has gotten several calls over the last few months from pet owners who can't afford to feed their pets. Instead of taking their beloved family pets to shelters, where their fate may be death, BAM has been donating food, cat litter, treats and toys to Care and Share in Hurricane. Along with pet items, BAM is launching a spay/neuter program to help lower costs for pet sterilization.



## Free Spays & Neuters

One of the projects BAM has been working on this past year is a grant for low cost spay-neuter. BAM is proud to announce that it has received a grant from Petsmart Charities and will be offering FREE spays or neuters to low income people, residing in Washington County, Utah, who qualify.

Your pet qualifies for a free spay/neuter if you are receiving assistance in one of the following programs: Medicaid, WIC, Food Stamps, SSD, Major VA Disability, Section 8 (HUD) or you have a copy of the first page of your last years tax return showing an annual household income not exceeding 150% of federal poverty level guidelines: Check the chart below to see if your family qualifies. If you do or if you know someone who does, please contact BAM.

Number of people in Household	Total Annual Household Income
One	\$15,000
Two	\$21,000
Three	\$26,000
Four	\$31,800
Five	\$37,200
Six	\$42,600



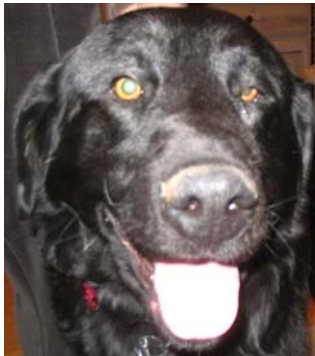
## Happy Endings; A Cat in Need

Miss Winnie, a lovable young cat with beautiful eyes and face, was a stray who took up residence in a garage. Miss Winnie wasn't spayed and gave birth to two kittens. Lack of nutrition caused both kittens to die. Soon after, Miss Winnie came to foster care with Because Animals Matter where she was given proper nutrition, a warm bed to sleep in and other cats to play with. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Miss Winnie found a new forever home. She has two human companions, and another cat with which she can play.



## Annual Rummage Sale

It's that time of year again! Because Animals Matter has started collecting items for its annual Rummage sale. This year BAM is raising money to help support its community spay/neuter program and to increase funding for major medical surgery



performed on animals taken into foster care.

In the year 2008 BAM took in two dogs needing to undergo medical surgery. Big Mack, taken from death row at a nearby shelter, needed to have emergency surgery to remove his ruptured scrotum and fix an eye problem he had since birth. More recently, Vincent, dumped from a car, came to BAM with several wounds from abusive human actions. A wound became an abscess from a foreign object that had become lodge in his skin and needed to be removed. Vincent underwent surgery in order to remove

the object and drain the infected area. This year's rummage sale proceeds will help insure that these animals can get the medical treatment needed. When cleaning out garages, basements and closets please donate unwanted items to Because Animals Matter. More items donated means more funding for special needs animals. Items donated are being held in a Hurricane storage garage until spring when the rummage sale is expected to be held. Location, time and dates are still undecided. All donations are greatly appreciated.



**Save a life. Adopt a dog or cat rather than buying from a breeder.**

## Free Adoptions to Senior Citizens

BAM has joined with Purina to make pet adoptions to seniors, 60 years of age or older, FREE OF CHARGE. BAM and Purina Pets for Seniors both recognize the importance of animals in our lives and the joy they bring to senior citizens in providing companionship. Please contact BAM if you are a senior and are interested in adopting through our program. Keep checking our website and local newspapers to see pets that are available for adoption.

## Natural Remedies

**Aloe-** Relieves itching

**Ginger-** Relieves stomach problems

**Yucca-** Used as an anti-inflammatory

**St. John's Wart-** Substitute for Prozac

**Shark Cartilage/Glucosamine-** Promotes healthy joints

**Passionflower-** Natural sedative

## Arthritis in Pets, What you can do to help

Start by making sure your pet is comfortable. Special orthopedic pet beds are designed to help distribute weight evenly so there is less stress on the joints. Make sure that food dishes, water bowls and toys are easy to reach. A healthy diet will give your pet the supplements needed to keep strong muscles, ligaments, bones and joints. Using natural supplements like Yucca Root and Glucosamine will help relieve pain in joints and rebuild cartilage. Don't allow your pet to gain weight. Extra weight adds stress to joints. Pets with arthritis need gentle forms of exercise such as swimming, walking on soft, flat terrain and several short periods of activity rather than one long walk. After a walk or other activities, give your pet hot cold treatments. Apply a hot towel wrap to hurting joints and muscles. Ice packs will also help to relieve inflammation. Above all educate yourself on the appropriate foods and treatments to ease the pain of arthritis. New studies and theories are always emerging from veterinary medicines.

**To learn more and purchase natural supplements, organic pet foods and treats, visit Bone Appetite on Telegraph Road Washington City, Utah.**



*"The cat did it."*

CutePicturesOfCats.com

### Just a Reminder: Some Human Treats can be Fatal for Dogs.

Raisins and grapes can cause kidney failure-even just a few can be toxic. Watch out for onions, chocolate, cocoa, and macadamia nuts. They can be fatal too.

## Hurricane Dog Park

Looking for a safe environment for your dog to socialize with other dogs, run and play freely without getting the evil eye from on lookers. Most of Hurricane city parks currently don't allow dogs, even on a leash. That is soon to change. One acre of natural desert landscape has been set aside by the city to create a fully fenced in area for dogs of all ages and sizes to romp freely off leash. The area is at the West end of Stout Park, just past the pavilion and playground. The park will allow for dog owners to train, socialize and exercise their dogs in a safe, dog friendly environment. The dog park is still in the beginning stages, but the city of Hurricane can look forward to a park that accepts and welcomes dogs. Any persons interested in participating in the creation of the Hurricane dog park contact J, President of BAM.



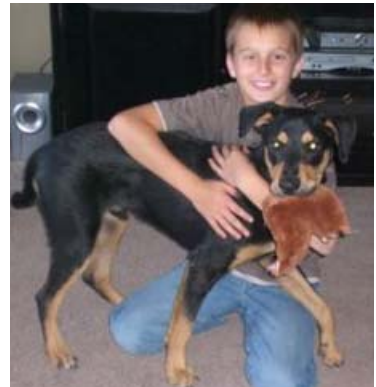


## Lost in the Desert; a Happy Ending

Border was found wandering on the Colorado/Arizona border by a couple from Spain here on their honeymoon. Only a year old, he was in sad shape...dehydrated initial stages of starving, sores all over his body, open cuts and poor skin and hair. He was

transferred to BAM where his healing began. He had no energy, wobbled when he walked and could not go far without having to lie down and rest. He was given a special grain free diet for a while, salmon oil and special shampoos were used on him to get his skin conditions under control. He was brought up to date on all his shots and neutered. Border progressed slowly but steadily and began playing with other dogs and toys. His skin improved and he no longer needed a special diet but did continue on a high quality food. He had a special place in the heart of the people who fostered him and there was discussion of keeping him. However, BAM foster parents know they are there for a reason and so the search continued for a family.

On October 18th, 2008 Border found his family at BAM's monthly adoption event at Petco. The perfect family for him: a mom, two kids and another dog. They wrote: "Border is doing great. The kids absolutely love him. He hasn't had any accidents in the house — he goes outside many times during the day. He is doing well with our other dog. . . .He seems to like taking turns sleeping in the boys' rooms. They love that! He is eating well, and very playful. We love our new addition to our family."



Want to create a happy ending for a special cat or dog...Visit Because Animals Matter the third Saturday of each month at Petco in Washington City, Utah 10am-3pm.

## Break the Chain

It is common occurrence to see a dog chained in a back yard secluded from people. Many dog owners don't understand the consequences of a dog being chained for several days and weeks. Chained dogs often become over protective of their space, aggressive toward humans and other animals. A dog can become destructive due to boredom. It is unnatural for a dog to live life alone. Dogs are pack animals and need socializing from other dogs and people. Imagine living life with only 10 feet of space to roam. Chaining not only causes mental anguish to a dog but can harm them physically as well. A chain can actually become embedded around the skin of a dog's neck. In the State of Utah neglect and abuse of an animal is a felony. Think before adopting a dog, especially if it will spend its life time on a chain.



## Reducing Abuse and Neglect

### With Education



Dogs chained in back yards, cats roaming free in neighborhoods, unaltered animals wandering the streets. We've all seen inhumane treatment or neglect of neighborhood pets and irresponsible owners allowing intact pets to overpopulate our shelters with litters of kittens and puppies. Often animals end up in shelters because of ignorance. It is the goal of Because Animals Matter to help reduce abuse and neglect of animals through education. Several programs have been designed to help educate children and adults about proper treatment of an

animal, the importance of human interaction, preventing dog bites, training a new pet and how to choose the right pet to begin with. BAM has been visiting elementary schools, bringing cats, dogs and reptiles into classrooms. Each program is designed to give children hands on education in animal behavior and treatment. Children are encouraged to take the time to play with their own pets, treat them with respect and make sure that animals kept outside have shelter, clean water, food and attention. In 2009 BAM will be introducing a new program to the Hurricane area. This program is designed specifically for expecting mothers. Often families are concerned about introducing a pet to a newborn. With the arrival of a new baby, often the family dog or cat is pushed outside, ignored or given away. BAM hopes to change this by giving expecting parents the tools and training methods to give both baby and pet a safe environment to coincide together.



## Humanitarian Award

Because Animals Matter wants to recognize those in the community that strive to make a better world for animals. In 2008 BAM donated money to help support Susan Barrett's feral cat program. Susan spends a large amount of her time and money working to reduce the population of feral cats in Hurricane Valley. Many people complain about feral cats living in nearby neighborhoods, parking lots and vacant land. Sounds of mating, fighting, males spraying, the killing of wildlife, and population growth and health concerns of the feral cats are a few of the issues. Often feral cats are killed by individuals with shots guns, pest control, and poisons but this form of elimination doesn't address the initial cause of feral cats. Susan believes in a more humane way of reducing the feral cat population.



Unless there is a feral cat colony living nearby, most people are unaware of them, the problems their colonies bring to communities and to themselves. Feral cats are the “wild” offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners' abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Many owners assume their animals will survive on their own, but often animals put out in the desert or abandoned die a long, slow death by starvation, dehydration or by predators.

Large cities having feral cat problems often believe in the “trap and kill” method. This method may eliminate one cat at a time, but doesn't prevent breeding. For one cat killed, several others are born. Often feral cats are trapped by animal control and tax payers' money pays to have them euthanized. Feral cat caregivers, like Susan, are able to preserve and protect the lives of these cats without adding to the problem. Feral cat caregivers provide day-to-day monitoring of the colony so that any newcomers can be quickly trapped and sterilized. Spayed and neutered feral cats often have clipped ears. This helps define them easily as being sterile.



Susan cares for several colonies in the Hurricane Valley area and has spayed and neutered hundreds of cats in the last 7 years. She provides food and water weekly for feral cats and traps those that need to be spayed or neutered. Susan works with the Desert Vet in Hurricane Utah and Best Friends Sanctuary in Kanab Utah to sterilize feral cats. Often feral cats, unless very young, cannot be domesticated. The trap and release program allows for feral cats to survive in the wild without populations growing out of control. Providing feeding stations also eliminates the need of feral cats to hunt wildlife, such as birds for food, prevents feral cats from wandering into neighborhoods or backyards and reduces the chance of starvation and dehydration.



An individual can do their part, much like Susan, by providing food and water for feral cat colonies. Most importantly spay and neuter your own cat whether they spend time inside or outside. Preventing unwanted cat litters is the best method in reducing feral cat populations. Abandoning animals isn't the solution either. Several rescue groups, shelters and individuals in the community can help find homes for unwanted cats and can even help provide cat food and litter temporarily for families in need. Medical needs can be met as well. Many rescue groups and veterinarians have programs to help pay for spay and neuter, shots and other medical needs. The solution to reducing feral cat population growth is for individuals to take responsibility for their own actions and help reduce unwanted cats by spay or neuter.

Susan Barrett is a great contributor to reducing and educating about the feral cat populations in Southern Utah. It is something she loves doing and will continue her work to help save the lives of innocent feral cats. Her donation of time and money to help feral cat populations is not only rewarding work but helps southern Utah communities by reducing the amount of feral cats euthanized in shelters. Susan will continue to care for all animals and do the work needed to protect and provide for feral cats.





## Special Notes From Because Animals Matter

### Happy Tails

Please send pictures, comments and stories of pets adopted from Because Animals Matter, via e-mail, to contribute to the website's Happy Tails. All pets adopted spent time in foster homes and hold a special place in the hearts of those who helped find them homes. Visit [www.becauseanimalsmatter.com](http://www.becauseanimalsmatter.com) to read the Happy Tails section and acquire the e-mail address to send your own stories.

### Pet of the Week

Check out KCSG, St. George Utah local TV station, Tuesday nights at 5:30pm to see the featured pet of the week. Clips can be viewed on Because Animals Matter website as well. Click "See BAM on TV".

### Donations

Because Animals Matter appreciates your donations

Animals in foster care always need

- Blankets, Towels, Beds
- Crates
- Food
- Litter
- Chew toys
- Treats
- Leashes & Collars
- Advertising space
- Paper towels & Cleaning Products
- Brushes

Donations of money can be used to buy

- Shots for foster dogs and shelter dogs
- Spay/neuter
- Medicine
- Medical emergencies
- Animal transportation
- Printing and advertising
- Purchase of equipment for educational programs, event booths, apparel, and other various items

**For information about programs, Adoptions, donations Contact:**

**Because Animals Matter**

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