

# Help Us Save More Animals Than Ever This Year!

Support our ambitious plans to expand our programs and services this year by making your tax-deductible gift to IMHS online at [www.imhs.org](http://www.imhs.org) or select from any of the funds below and mail in the reply form to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Thank you for your generosity and support!

**Yes! I Want to Support the Life-Saving Efforts of IMHS!** Here's my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Check or Visa/Mastercard (circle one) Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities: Yes No

## Specially Designated Funds

- ☐ **Rescue the Rescuers** — Your support of this fund helps with the most urgent operating needs of the IMHS shelter.
- ☐ **'Fix 'Em Up' Spay and Neuter Program** — These essential funds guarantee that all animals coming in to the IMHS system are sterilized prior to adoption. This policy is strictly enforced by IMHS and is central to our efforts to combat pet overpopulation.
- ☐ **'Home Away From Home' Foster Program** — IMHS relies upon the assistance of approved foster families to house and care for many of the pets in our system. While foster families freely give love, shelter and basic training to these pets, IMHS is responsible for their food, bedding and veterinary care. Your contribution to this program will help cover these costs.
- ☐ **'STOP' Shelter-Transfer-Outreach-Program** — IMHS is actively committed to the rescue and care of animals from underserved shelters in our region. As a prime destination shelter, IMHS acts as a lifeline for animals who may otherwise be destined for euthanasia. Your contribution to the STOP program supports our rescue efforts and ensures that all these pets are afforded the full IMHS standard of care.
- ☐ **'Go Dog Go' Project** — Contribute "gas money" for the IMHS van to transport pets in the STOP program as well as on routine trips to/from the vet or to offsite adoption locations, etc. This fund also covers maintenance costs for the van.
- ☐ **'SNAP' Special-Needs-Assistance-Program** — Funds from this program help specific animals requiring non-routine veterinary care (e.g., extraordinary treatments or surgeries extending beyond spay/neuter or routine vaccinations).
- ☐ **'Raising the Walls' Fund** — Contribute to the future of IMHS through this restricted fund created to finance the establishment of a new animal care facility.
- ☐ **Sponsor a Cage** — Help shelter residents during their time at IMHS by covering the cost of care for a specified period of time. A special message, dedication, and/or recognition certificate is posted on a shelter animal's cage for the length of your sponsorship period.

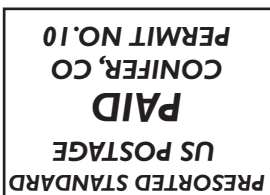
www.imhs.org



Post Office Box 1250  
Conifer, Colorado 80433



intermountain  
HUMAN SOCIETY



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# Intermountain COMPANION

Summer 2013 Edition

## A Gentle Dog Finds Her Happily Ever After

A gentle soul with cloudy brown eyes, Gretchen the Collie/Lab mix was in dire need of help when she arrived at IMHS in July of 2012. An unclaimed stray from Park County, it was obvious that grey-faced Gretchen was at least 13 years of age; she had a myriad of health issues related to neglect and advanced age that would require medical attention. Her skin was bright red and fiercely itchy, she had infected teeth, and lumps on her sides and feet. She was also slow-moving and in need of treatment for her arthritic hips and legs. Despite her "old girl" health challenges, Gretchen was sweet and loveable, and endeared herself immediately to everyone at IMHS.

The IMHS all-volunteer veterinary team got busy right away providing care to make Gretchen more comfortable...teeth were extracted, masses were removed and biopsied, allergies treated, and special medications prescribed to improve her skin and coat and relieve itching. Pain management medication was given daily to ease the discomfort of arthritis.

Gretchen quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite at the shelter--everyone was drawn to this golden girl's sweet face and gentle nature. During her recovery period, the Shelter staff and volunteers teamed up to ensure that Gretchen got her daily regimen of skin treatments, medicine and special food, and also to give her extra doses of love, slow walks and "cuddle time" in her kennel.

As reality would have it, weeks passed and Gretchen was passed over by adopters who chose younger animals. When Gretchen stopped eating on her own, the IMHS team knew something more must be done for her. While she was on the mend in a physical sense, Gretchen's spirits were low and it was hard to "jolly her up". The staff knew that Gretchen's quality of life could only improve from transitioning her into the care of a loving foster home.



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## SAVE THE DATE

**JOIN US for the  
2013 IMHS Silent  
Auction for the  
Animals**



**Saturday, October  
19th at The Ranch  
Grill**

**19423 N Turkey Creek Rd.,  
Morrison, CO 80465**

**Entertainment  
provided by Kicked  
to the Curb**

# INTERMOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

serves animals and people by offering programs that promote animal health and responsible pet-stewardship, and foster compassion towards animals.

IMHS is nonprofit organization established in 1982.

P.O. Box 1250  
Conifer, CO 80433  
Phone 303-838-2668  
Fax 303-838-4419  
[www.imhs.org](http://www.imhs.org)



## STAFF

**Marta Anderson**  
Shelter Director

**Susan Morrison**  
Shelter Supervisor

**Lori Lombardi**  
Shelter Associate

**Nancy McGinnis**  
Animal Care and Shelter  
Operations Associate

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Matt Blumenshine**  
President

**Cheryl Ide**  
Vice President

**JJ Sackett**  
Treasurer

**Mary Sobzack**  
Secretary

**Debra Hayes**

**Sharon Thompson**

**Ellen Feller**

**Carol Haykus**



## At IMHS, our vision is to:

- Serve, educate and inspire the community to advance the welfare of animals and elevate their value in society.
- Safeguard, rescue, shelter, adopt out and advocate for animals in need.
- Act as a lifeline to underserved regional shelters.
- Maintain our 100% placement rate for adoptable animals.
- Reduce dog and cat overpopulation through spay, neuter and education.



**Like us on Facebook!** Visit our page at Intermountain Humane Society. Albums are updated frequently to feature animals available for adoption. You can help the animals by sharing our news and albums with your FB friends!



## Through the Eyes of an IMHS Volunteer

**Dog Enrichment Volunteer Ellen Feller  
shares the story of Brady**

I knew Brady had it rough before coming to IMHS. This senior boxer made his way to us via the Lifeline Transfer Program from an animal control shelter in Denver. At the transferring shelter, he was considered unadoptable due to both his age and fearful behavior. IMHS to the rescue!

When I first met Brady in late November of 2012, I felt confident that his time at IMHS would be short. With that “smooshy” boxer face and slightly bugged eyes, someone would surely fall in love and take him home quickly. Once at IMHS, Brady became a happy guy who enjoyed attention from everyone in the shelter. Since Brady’s outlook seemed so positive, and his IMHS volunteer fan club was taking such good care of him, he didn’t appear to need my extra attention in particular. Of course, I walked him on every shift, did a little grooming and really enjoyed being around him. He loved to go out on the nearby trails, and would give me a face-licking after each walk.

In December, Brady—who had been kicking back and enjoying his plush bed and kennel toys up to that point—transformed. His behavior started to go downhill. At times shelter life can cause “kennel stress” in some dogs, and Brady was exhibiting typical symptoms. He showed signs of panic when going back into his kennel after a walk, and he became very reactive to the other dogs through the kennel, which caused this otherwise perfect dog to look quite monstrous.

Kennel stress can often be helped with some extra attention, lots of exercise and a bit of soothing music.... IMHS is great at providing that! But despite our extra efforts, we began to feel Brady’s desperation and knew he needed a way out of the shelter, and fast.

That’s when we reached out to our big-hearted community for help by posting special pleas on local web bulletin boards to help us find a suitable foster home for Brady. And we’re so happy that Sandi Armstrong and Rose Eager reached back! Luckily for Brady, his story and special needs just touched their hearts. Getting Brady out of the shelter and into a foster home was just what he needed to show his best side—and his true self. In a home environment, Brady was a calm and well-behaved dog.

The IMHS team was overjoyed when after fostering Brady for only a few days, Sandi and Rose knew he was their perfect match and adopted him! Brady now likes to play with the dogs next door, and cuddle on the couch with a large stuffed Teddy bear. Says Rose, “We are surprised at how perfect he is! He catches on quickly to everything, and is no trouble at all.” Brady is a great example of a senior dog—and an otherwise wonderful, normal dog—who is just too sensitive to handle being in a shelter for long, but fell right into place in a home. Rose and Sandi report, “We are blessed to have him in our lives”. Thanks to IMHS for taking a chance on special-needs dogs like Brady, who deserve a second chance at life!

*Want to help at-risk animals like Brady? Donate to our Lifeline Transfer Program online at [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org), or by mailing your gift today to IMHS Lifeline Transfer Program, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433.*

## IMHS Shelter Adoption Hours

Open daily 11 a.m.–4 p.m. and  
open Wednesday evenings until 7 p.m.

Closed on major holidays.

### Can’t come to the shelter? ADOPT offsite!

Lovable IMHS felines are available for adoption 7 days/week at several Denver-area PetSmart and Petco locations. Visit [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) for details!

## IMHS Second Chance Thrift Shop Hours

Open Tuesday–Sunday from 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m.



# EVERYDAY HEROES NEEDED!

## IMHS Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight:



### RETAIL ASSOCIATE, SECOND CHANCE THRIFT SHOP—

**Position Summary:** Volunteers sought to assist with sales and merchandising in the IMHS Second Chance Thrift Shop. Duties may include cleaning donated items, sorting and displaying items for sale; staffing the cash register; promoting IMHS programs, services, and adoptable animals; light animal care duties for resident shop cats available for adoption.

**Qualifications:** Commitment to a minimum of one shift each week,

shift times will typically be assigned between 9.30am – 6pm. Good customer service skills, dependability, and the desire to promote the mission and objectives of IMHS sought. Join our thrift shop “family”! For more details on volunteering in the Second Chance Thrift Shop call 303-816-2471 or visit [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) to apply on-line.

In August of 2012, five weeks after Gretchen came to IMHS, long-time volunteers Ken and Carol Haykus came to the rescue by opening up their home to Gretchen. According to Carol, “Despite her many physical problems, her sweet gentle nature and love of life shined right through and captured our hearts.”

In no time at all, Gretchen began to thrive. She bonded right away with her new foster “mom and dad” and enjoyed the company of her four-legged foster siblings as well. As she settled in to her life as a pampered foster dog, the changes in Gretchen became apparent. She was eating on her own and gaining weight, her mobility improved, and her coat began to shine. In foster care, Gretchen reached her potential—she was a happy, healthy senior dog, and enjoying life!

In January of 2013, the IMHS team celebrated Gretchen's adoption, when Carol and Ken decided that Gretchen was home... to stay. According to Carol, after seven months of providing foster care for Gretchen, “She became such a treasured member of our family, we couldn't imagine giving her up! We wanted her to be in a home where she can live out the rest of her life with dignity, affection, and comfort.”

Now in her forever home, Gretchen enjoys lounging with the family in the living room and cuddling up with Puma the cat. Her new parents say, “She has a sense of calm and peace about her that rubs off on us all. We feel lucky to have her in our lives!”

Got love? Sign up to foster an animal for IMHS! Visit [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) for details on becoming a foster parent to a needy shelter animal, or visit the shelter in person any day to inquire about how you can help. The shelter is open daily from 11am – 4pm, with Wednesday evening hours until 7pm.



## Cats Are Safest When Kept Indoors

**Just ask Isabelle....**When the IMHS staff received the call that a good Samaritan nearby had found a badly matted stray cat who appeared to be starving, the staff expected to see a skinny, scruffy cat in need of some TLC come through the shelter doors. When the stray cat finally arrived, at first the staff couldn't tell if this obviously long-neglected cat was a “he” or “she”...this poor cat's long coat was so badly tangled and knotted that giant balls of feces were matted like glue to her skin. She was infested with ticks and had painful hot spots on her skin. The staff and volunteers got to work right away to relieve her discomfort by first shaving the soiled mats from her back, legs, and tail. After an hour of initial clean-up, the new arrival was discovered to be female, and named “Isabelle”. The IMHS volunteer veterinary team ultimately sedated Isabelle and gave her a full-body shave in order to give her a fresh start at being comfortable. She was vaccinated, de-ticked, de-wormed, and tested for disease. Isabelle could not have been more grateful! Obviously feeling intense relief, Isabelle was radiant and gushing with affection the day after getting her new haircut, and wanted to be held and petted by everyone she met! Isabelle found the ultimate path to comfort when a week later, the kind person who originally found her in such a pitiful state outside was able to talk her family into adoption. Five days after coming to IMHS, Isabelle went to her forever home with her original rescuer...to live happily INDOORS for life!





# SNAPSHOTS FROM THE WAGS & PURRRS BOARD



Sadie finally found a home after 1 year of shelter life!

## Sadie Finds Her Forever Home!

Sadie, a young and active Boxer/Lab mix, arrived at IMHS in the fall of 2012 from a transferring shelter that was overburdened with dogs. In reviewing her transfer records, the IMHS staff were saddened to learn that she'd been homeless for nearly one year—but we were up for the challenge!

Sadie's picture was taken and ads were placed on multiple web sites, online bulletin boards, and she was featured as Pet of the Week in the local newspapers. We hoped that soon some lucky adopter would take notice of this lively, fun-loving girl and give her a forever home.

On March 8th, that wish came true. The whole team at IMHS celebrated Sadie's happy ending when her adoption to the Hahn family was finalized. After one year of life as a shelter dog, Sadie was finally home! *To help dogs like Sadie find homes, LIKE us on Facebook and share our "Adoptables" albums with your FB friends.*



Butch Cassidy: at IMHS 7 days...  
ADOPTED 4/9/13



Wren: at IMHS 7 days...ADOPTED 3/22/13



Chelsea: at IMHS 2 months, 5 days...  
ADOPTED 2/2/13



Gabby: at IMHS 8 days...  
ADOPTED 3/12/2013



Hadley: at IMHS 2 weeks, 6 days...  
ADOPTED 3/10/2013

Walter: at IMHS 7 days...ADOPTED 2/25/13



Marcus: at IMHS 11 months, 21 days...  
ADOPTED 3/6/13

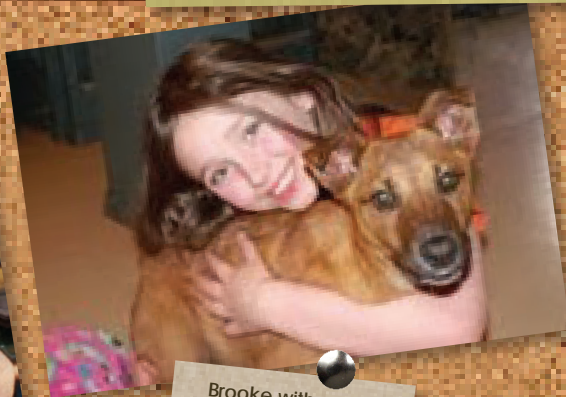




# 2013 IMHS Adoption Desk Snapshots: Going Into Their Forever Homes..



Libby: at IMHS 13  
days...ADOPTED  
2/3/13



Brooke with new  
puppy Nellie



The LeComtes  
with new puppy  
pal Kaerys



Christopher: at  
IMHS 2 weeks, 2  
days... ADOPTED  
2/9/2013



Clyde found his  
perfect match in  
Joyce



Dr. Pam and "foster  
failure" Simon



Milo: at IMHS 2  
weeks, 1 day...  
ADOPTED 2/9/13



Rose - foster mom be-  
came adoptive Mom  
with Brady



Marci and new love  
Ariel



Nicholas: at IMHS 1  
week... ADOPTED  
1/27/13



Oscar: at IMHS  
6 days....  
ADOPTED  
3/28/13

Lila finds her forever  
home with Bob





## GRATITUDE CORNER



Big thanks go out to the following for their extraordinary kindness and support of IMHS:

**WhiteWave Foods** for their corporate sponsorship of IMHS by means of donating the printing services for our quarterly newsletters. THANK YOU to Trish and the whole team at WhiteWave Foods in Golden, CO for your generous in-kind donation!

**The Kyjen Company** for offering corporate sponsorship of the IMHS Dog Enrichment Program in the way of donated Kyjen toys and plush beds for the shelter dogs; for donating a CD player so the dogs can relax to special soothing music; for funds to construct a new play yard at the shelter for dogs to play off-leash!

**Alco in Conifer** for offering a generous 20% discount on products and supplies needed by IMHS!

**Hunter Douglas Window Fashions** for their kind donation of fashionable new window shades for the shelter, and for installing them for free. Our windows look gorgeous, thanks to you!

The following **KIND KIDS** in our community...**Keet Holdridge** for collecting donations for the shelter at his birthday party; **Autumn Zale** for coordinating a donation drive at her elementary school for the shelter animals; **Chloe Hock** and **Stella Kaulbach** for asking for donations to IMHS in lieu of gifts at their joint birthday party. We are inspired by your kindness and your compassion for animals... thank you!

Your Gift Makes a Difference to the Animals!

## TO MAKE A DONATION TO IMHS:

Visit our website at [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) or mail your check to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Your gift is 100% tax-deductible and your support for our work is enormously appreciated!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### IMHS Clinic Marks One-Year Anniversary

#### Spay-Neuter Clinic Prevents Thousands of Unwanted Births in One Year

This spring IMHS celebrated the one-year anniversary of its spay/neuter clinic, noting that the in-house surgeries helped prevent births of more homeless animals. In the first year of operation, the clinic spayed or neutered 96 canines and 172 felines, which prevents the births of approximately 1536 puppies and 2064 kittens in the next year.

“Whether planned for or not, there will unfortunately be many litters born contributing to the cat and dog overpopulation crisis,” said IMHS Shelter Director Marta Anderson, “IMHS is doing our part by spaying and neutering every puppy, kitten, dog or cat before they are adopted into their new lifetime home, which will help all the shelters in the region as we struggle to find homes for the wonderful animals in our care.”

The IMHS clinic opened on Feb 18, 2012. Board members and volunteers labored to transform the rented space into a surgical suite, adding plastic paneling to walls and installing cages for patients, a donated surgery table, and other equipment.

Every shelter cat and dog aged 8 weeks of age and up is sterilized prior to adoption in order to fulfill IMHS's mission to reduce pet overpopulation. When space allows on the schedule, feral cats from the community have been spayed/neutered for free.

The clinic is staffed by an all-volunteer medical team. In addition to spays/neuters, the medical team has performed other necessary surgical procedures including amputation, removal of lumps and growths, and umbilical hernia repairs.

IMHS seeks to add more volunteer veterinarians and licensed technicians to the surgery team. Veterinary professionals may email Marta Anderson, Shelter Director, for more information at [marta.anderson@imhs.org](mailto:marta.anderson@imhs.org)







## Another Happy Tale... Simon's Story

Little Simon, a 4-month old brown tabby kitten, came to IMHS with a large, open abdominal wound after being thrown from a moving car. The IMHS staff could tell right away that Simon was special...despite a gruesome, life-threatening wound and the obvious trauma he had endured, this little guy stared up at everyone who approached his cage and instantly began to purr—loudly--and knead his paws on his blanket. When the IMHS volunteer veterinarian examined Simon's injury, she made preparations to perform surgery right away to clean and mend his wound, in an effort, quite literally, to save his life.

Simon got lucky in more than one way when he came to IMHS for life-saving medical care—he went home with the veterinarian to be fostered after surgery so she could care for him firsthand through his recovery and treatment. When the IMHS staff next laid eyes on him, less than two weeks after his surgery, the difference in little Simon was profound! His body had healed beautifully and his attitude was the same....cuddly, affectionate, and all purrs.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Pam, and to all IMHS supporters, for making a difference in the lives of animals like Simon. Truly, we couldn't do it without you!

*Want to help save animals like Simon? Donate to our Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) by giving on-line at [IMHS.org](http://IMHS.org) or mailing to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433.*



# IMHS WISH LIST



The shelter uses the following items often and has an ongoing need for the supplies listed. Your donation of the items listed below is tax-deductible. IMHS relies solely on donations and the generosity of the community in order to fulfill our mission. Heartfelt thanks for your compassion and support!

Canned cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Dry cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Baby food, chicken or turkey formulas

Peanut butter

Clay non-clumping cat litter

Pellet cat litter (Good Mews®, Feline Pine®, or wood stove pellets)

Hand sanitizer

Bleach

Laundry detergent

Dish liquid soap

Paper towels

Ziploc® baggies

Distilled water by the gallon

30- and 45-gallon trash bags

Rubber gloves

Copy paper

Business envelopes

1st Class postage stamps