

Thompson River Animal Care Shelter



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Dear Adopters, Supporters, Friends of TRACS, and future Friends of TRACS -

Happy 2024 to all of our friends and supporters and adopters out there! We hope that you are well and enjoying your year. We completed 2023 as our seventeenth year of full operation and we are starting 2024 with a “bang”! We are starting into our 18th year of operation at this point and we are proud of our continued success and growth. 2023 certainly had its trials and tribulations, but the year was a success for us in that we brought in and found homes for 1025 homeless pets who now have a wonderful life ahead of them as a result of our efforts. We continued to try to overcome the recently experienced challenges of peoples’ lifestyle changes and economic uncertainty. Post COVID attitude changes in adopters was definitely an experience that we dealt with in 2022 and again in 2023, and we have to admit that this made our jobs more difficult. People are now seemingly expecting more perfection and seem to be less willing mentally to deal with anything but that. We again had our highest return rate of adopted pets ever. Because we at TRACS fill our resident kennels with new homeless pets as dogs move out into homes, and with less pets being adopted and moving into homes, and more pets being returned to us, we were able to take in fewer needy pets. We were able to keep up with our needed local intake very well, and our “rez dog” intake has been very high and helpful for the folks who try to save homeless dogs in Browning, MT. Additionally, we were able to help out the southern municipal shelters with high euthanasia rates as much as we possibly could. More is always better when it comes to saving pets lives, so we truly hope that 2024 will be a wonderful year and that we can help many more.

2023 was a wonderful year for some very lucky local dogs who found themselves discarded and unwanted. TRACS often found them and helped them in the “nick of time”. We have several stories of local dogs who would not be with us today had we not intervened in their misfortune. We will share 2 of these stories with you next. And then of course, we have a similar story for a number of dogs who were saved from a euthanasia list in the California area at the very last moment before their death. We are so very glad that we were able to be there for them and to put in the time and effort to get them safely to Montana for adoption into great homes.

Nellie is truly a very lucky girl to be alive and living her best life! This poor girl was well into her adult years when her owners had a baby. Nellie was not exactly happy about this change and did some acting out. This couple decided that they no longer wanted her and took her to a large veterinary clinic in Missoula and told them to euthanize her due to her age and mental issues. OMG! The very kind staff at this clinic decided she was just too nice to end her life and they decided to find a safe place for her. After reaching out to the 2 local animal shelters and getting turned down due to Nellie not being good with babies, they called TRACS. Well, since we do not have any babies working here, LOL, we took in poor Nellie and found her a wonderful home where she is living a wonderful life. She gets to walk 4 miles a day with her human companion, Kathleen. She loves other dogs and everyone she meets everyday She has lots of wonderful years left! And we receive and appreciate all the heart warming pictures she has Kathleen send to us!



So Very Happy to be alive!



This Year Lots of Discarded Pets find help here at TRACS....



We call Bowser our Thompson Pass dog! And just how anyone would be so heartless to dump a dog in a remote area where no one is traveling due to winter road closures is beyond us. But thankfully someone was in that remote area for a short time and Bowser found him. The kind gentleman brought him right down to TRACS and we were totally amazed at his condition. He was skin and bone! Not a smidgeon of muscle on this boy. He had been starving for quite some time and he may have only lasted another day. The interesting thing is that local individuals have identified the owners of the dog. And although we can not prosecute this animal cruelty due to lack of evidence, we can now watch this area for further signs of animal abuse and take action when we can. Lucky Bowser was able to gain weight and due to all the local press on this abuse situation, he easily found a great new home that loves him dearly and treats him wonderfully!



These furry kids came to us directly from the euthanasia lists in California and Texas, the 2 highest kill states in our union. Roughly 30 percent of the dogs killed in the US at kill shelters have their lives ended in these 2 states. Why? People are throwing them out with greater ease than ever before. Thankfully TRACS has a relationship with several southern rescue groups that are trying to help with this terrible issue. When we are able to, we "pull" these dogs from their fate and put them on "buses" to Montana. So many great dogs have found homes here that otherwise would have perished. It can be a costly endeavor for us, but so very worth it when we see their sad eyes turn happy again. And it stresses our staff tremendously when we receive a whole van load and on occasion a whole plane load. But we persevere and when they go to their forever homes, we rejoice together as a team. So many beautiful and deserving dogs and here are just 5 saved at the last minute with their new families and homes!



Homelessness comes in many forms for cats.....



Cats usually do well on their own when they have to, but not when they are treated like rubbish. Their cats were left behind to die when the owners of a piece of property sold and moved from their “home” and left all of their cats behind. And yes there were 21 of them. No one even knew until some kind people were allowed to go to the property to remove some building materials and found cats everywhere. It took a few trips to get them all to TRACS, but they finally arrived safely. All these furry felines have been spayed and neutered and vaccinated and they are all out to new homes now. How very fortunate they are that they were found in time.



Pets can be well cared for and loved and still find themselves homeless. By no fault of their own, many pets are homeless due to their owner becoming ill or otherwise unable to care for them. TRACS has taken in several pets this year whose owners passed unexpectedly. 10 local cats became homeless at once in this manner. Please protect your pets from this situation by ensuring they have had plans made for them in case something happens to you and your loved ones.



TRACS staff love “Double Fun” Adoptions and we have several!!



“Double Fun” adoptions... What?? TRACS staff love it when we have adopters who come back to us for their second or third furry companion. Repeat business is always such a wonderful statement to us that we have done something good! And sometimes we have double adoptions as the first adoption! We do take in bonded pairs of pets and we feel it is way too hard on them to separate them at this point of their lives. We work hard at finding them a home together, knowing that most people in our adoption world like to have more than one cat or dog in their home. Here are a few of our bonded pair adoptions on the left and our repeat adoptions on the right. In all cases, everyone is so happy with their new furry families. And TRACS is elated to have been a part of these new families!



Here a few successful and delightful adopted TRACS kids

Adopted pet photos are so wonderful to receive and thankfully we at TRACS do receive a lot of them! Thank you to everyone who adopts and shares these wonderful photos. One endearing thing about adopted pets who are comfy in their new homes...they love their toy time and their nap time. Or their nap time ON their toys, couches, and bookshelves. Here are some adorable photos of toy and nap time for a few of our adorable adopted furry friends.



Donating to TRACS is easy and rewarding!

- ◆ All donors to any organization should be aware of the use of their funds by that organization. The organization's IRS form 990 is a wealth of information. It is available on the IRS website. **Check this before you donate to a national or a large non profit organization.** Your donations may be paying high Directors salaries!! :(
- ◆ TRACS is proud to say that **100% of our donated funds go directly to the animals and their care.** Our Directors are volunteers!
- ◆ **Do remember to keep TRACS in mind when you do your estate planning.**
- ◆ Check our website for a list of items that we use frequently and help us by purchasing some



- I would like to help TRACS with the Monthly expenses
 - \$ _____ per month pledge by mail
 - \$ _____ one time donation by mail
 - \$ _____ per month pledge by credit card on pet-tracs.com yellow donate button
 - \$ _____ one time donation by credit card on pet-tracs.com yellow donate button

- I would like to help TRACS by becoming a volunteer at the shelter or with fundraisers and activities!

What you Always Wanted to Know....

TRACS is a private and independent 501c3 non profit organization. We are not affiliated with any governmental body or other animal welfare group. We are totally funded by small grants and by caring donations from our local and extended support community. Please join us in our mission to save lives and find new homes for the homeless and abandoned pets that need our help!

*****Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.******