



# Wallowa County Humane Society Newsletter – Fall 2023



*We are thankful for all the amazing people who make WCHS a success.*



Local cat lover, Lee, visits the WCHS Catty Shack on days we are open to play with and socialize the kittens and cats. We are not sure who has the most fun, but suspect it's equal. Lee is so quiet and gentle with his charges and it helps ease them into a new environment.

### I WOULDN'T PET ON IT

We've got a squirrel in the attic,  
We've got a robin in the eave.  
We've got a chipmunk in the garden,  
We've got pets you wouldn't believe.

We've got roaches in the kitchen  
And a collie in the house.  
We've got a kitten in the carport,  
And, yes we've got a mouse.

We've got parakeets and goldfish,  
We've got turtles in the tank.  
We've got gerbils in the bathroom  
And a Guinea pig named Hank.

We've got an ant farm in the sugar bowl  
And a pregnant peekaboo,  
We've got a station wagon full of kids,  
And we're going to the zoo!

*Charles Ghigna*

**COMING EVENTS**

**KIDS' MOVIE NIGHT-PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**  
Friday Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 6:30-9 pm at Re-tail Boutique

**PET THERAPY**  
Alpine House – Nov. 9 & Dec. 14 1 pm  
Wallowa Valley Senior Living Nov. 15 & Dec. 20 - 1 pm  
Followed by  
Wallowa Memorial Hospital after Senior Living - 1:45 pm

**THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE**  
Wednesday, Nov. 22 9am-2pm Wallowa Co. Grain Growers

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR JOSEPH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Silent Auction ~ Fri & Sat, Nov. 24 & 25, Dec. 1 & 2  
Santa Paws ~ Fri. & Sat., Dec. 1 & 2 10am-4pm



Michelle Baird welcomes a new friend visiting the WCHS booth at Alpenfest over the last week end in September.



### CAROL'S CORNER

When a member of your family dies, other family members and friends are understanding and sympathetic. When another member of your family dies, your pet, some people don't understand the grief you're feeling.

The sadness you feel is normal and part of the grieving process. But it can be difficult when you feel uneasy about expressing your feelings to others. You may fear ridicule

or a lack of understanding. However, it's important to express how you feel, and it's a vital part of the healing process. Find someone who will help you, someone who will listen. A pet-owning friend maybe easier to talk with.

If you are that someone that has been called upon by a bereaved pet-owning friend, there are ways to help.

The loss of a pet can be devastating. A few people are so bereaved at the loss of a pet, that they may become seriously depressed.

Listening can be most comforting in a time of sorrow. Memories of times shared with their pet play an important role in the grieving process. Sometimes a person will feel guilt, thinking they could have done more for their pet.

Let them talk openly, without fear of disapproval. "You have other pets or it was only a cat" is not helpful. It's sometimes hard to find the right words or you feel uncomfortable. Just let them know you care and you are there to listen. There may have been times when you've suffered losses. Remember your feelings. What helped you at the time.

Humans develop strong bonds with their pets. Time does help heal. But for now, a good friend being there with a smile, a hug and a good ear is what is needed. 🐕 ❤️ 🐕



## THE ADVENTURES OF RAFA – Episode 5: Calling the cat

Rafa was a sickly runt kitten. I kept him against my chest, inside my coat when outside doing chores. For hours every day, we practiced being vocal with each other, refining our vocabulary. Burmese are a vocal cat by nature, but he and I took this to another level.

Add to that, he really likes people and loves being right next to them, hoping to strike up a mutual conversation.



In this picture he is sharing a chair with one of four dinner guests. The man in the photo is a cat person and enjoys Rafa because he is so people friendly. Rafa often seems on the verge of speech when trying to communicate with others as he does

with me. One sound means "come to me" which he does from near and far when he hears it. He taught me that cat call.

Some years ago, I took a rural teaching position and rented the bunkhouse on a ranch owned by an elderly couple. They were semi-retired and had only few cattle left. They invited me over for an outside dinner one afternoon. Walking over, their cat Marianne saw me and ran away into their garage. They told me she was just so afraid of strangers and would never come back out. I let out the "come to me" call that Rafa and I learned together. Marianne suddenly stuck her head out. I did it again and she came over to me and sat down.

More recently I used the call to rescue three abandoned kittens up Hurricane Creek. Instead of chasing them, I called them, they left the bushes, and came to me.

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For information on animal adoption, our programs and how you can help out please visit our website at [www.wallowacountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.wallowacountyhumanesociety.org)

You can also find us on [Facebook](#), and please visit our Re-Tail Boutique at 119 E Main St. in Enterprise.