



From the Chair of the Board



When I volunteer at the Shelter on Fridays, I often greet visitors who are both interested and hesitant. On the one hand, they love animals, and some of them are looking for one to welcome into their family. On the other hand, they're afraid that seeing homeless animals will be just too sad to bear. By the time they've left, they have probably seen volunteers cuddling dogs and taking them for walks. If they visited the cat room, they will have noticed cats having a grand time in the playroom, and others sleeping or maybe enjoying a little catnip in their condos.

What they can't see is the huge safety net these animals have behind the scenes. We will do everything possible to create a good future for the animals in our care. Donations from you make it possible to provide vet care for animals who might normally be considered unadoptable. Staff and volunteers work with dogs whose behavior needs to improve before they can be adopted. And, even if it takes a while, it seems like there's a home for all kinds... even the most grumpy animals are someone's first choice. If you visit the Sonsini Shelter, you may see animals who have obviously had a rough time. But they are loved there, and their great new life is probably just around the corner. Thank you for your part in making this possible.

Carol

Carol Lew



Allen Harris of Berkshire Money Management with Larry the Basset Hound. If you visit their office on Merrill Road in Pittsfield, you'll probably be greeted by a Basset Hound or two.

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Shelter fix-ups on the way

The Sonsini Animal Shelter is about to be helped in a big way by a local business: Berkshire Money Management, a professional team that manages investment portfolios. Stacey Carver, Chief Operations Officer of the company and also president of New England Basset Hound Rescue, visited the Shelter one day last spring and decided that our humble facility could use improvement.

She and her husband Allen Harris, company president, are launching an effort to fix some of the most troubling issues that plague the Shelter; a leaky roof, the need for adequate ventilation, rusty dog kennels, and the broken pavement in the outdoor areas. Allen and Stacey are planning a call to action in the community and will match funds that people donate for these improvements. In the meantime, they purchased a great new washer for the shelter to replace one that needed to be kicked when it was time for the rinse cycle.

Stay tuned. When these projects are done, we're going to have a big party and you'll all be invited.



Volunteers Maureen O'Connor and Sandra Livsey with our great new washing machine donated by Berkshire Money Management.