



“The evacuation was smooth and efficient,” said Shelter Manager Robin Potts, “the whole process couldn’t have taken more than an hour.”



In addition, the Idaho Humane Society in Boise reached out to help. Shelter Operations Manager, Nadia Novik, coordinated transferring some of our dogs to them. We are happy to report that many of those dogs were adopted within days.

The majority of the cat population was placed at dedicated shelter volunteer Jane Dettwiler’s house. Jane transformed her garage into a cattery while Shelter kennel staff rotated shifts at Jane’s home, cleaning litter pans, brushing the cats, and attending food and water bowls. Another long-time supporter and friend of the Shelter, Janice Blanton, opened her home for a group of cats who returned to the shelter looking happy and purr-fectly pleased.

Our Executive Director/ Medical Director Jo-Anne Dixon visited each location daily, checking with staff members to hear that all of the animals were healthy. Jo-Anne was also conferencing with our local law enforcement officers and attending the nightly fire update meetings to keep abreast of the situation. Although she knew the Shelter animals were safe and being cared for, she had a real concern for animals that may have been lost or displaced during the fires -- with the Shelter closed, our community had no impound facility for several days.

News broke that the mandatory evacuation was being lifted from the Croy Canyon area on Thursday, August 22nd. After six days of being displaced staff was anxious to get back and assess any damages. What they found was amazing. The Shelter and surrounding out-buildings, agility field, and kennels, were an oasis surrounded by scorched land and vegetation. An overwhelming feeling of relief rippled through all who call the Shelter “home”.

The staff spent Thursday afternoon cleaning the facility and preparing to bring the cats and dogs “home”. Friday, the cats returned early morning and the dogs shortly behind them. Saturday morning, we were once again open for business --

We cannot thank the firefighters enough for saving the Animal Shelter.



Squirrel: Dollars For Collars Helps



The Beaver Creek fire forced thousands of Valley residents into mandatory evacuation with the instructions “take essential belongings and pets and go now.” Our community came together to help each other when so many became displaced by this aggressive and fast moving fire. Homes in non-evacuated areas swelled with refugees and their pets from the evacuated areas. It was a stressful and confusing time for everyone but especially for many of our valley’s pets.

When the owners of “Squirrel” the cat had to evacuate their home they, like many others, moved in with friends. Somehow in all the chaos and confusion Squirrel became lost. With the Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley itself having been evacuated few resources were readily available to help owners of lost pets. When another fire evacuee found Squirrel seemingly lost in all the commotion related to the fire they were able to reunite her with her owners because she had been part of a very important Shelter program, **Dollars for Collars**. Squirrel, a recent adoptee from the Shelter, was wearing a collar and tag she had received from the Shelter when she was adopted. Squirrel was quickly reunited with her family and they were so appreciative of everyone’s help in bringing their new feline friend back home.

Once adopted, we want to help prevent our shelter alum from ever getting lost again. The Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley partnered with Wood River Valley student’s WOW generosity project this past school year to fund the **Dollars for Collars** program. With the help of the Shelter’s onsite ID tag machine, this program ensures that every animal adopted from our Shelter goes home with a microchip, a new collar and a pet ID tag. Throughout the year students raised money for this program as well as community awareness of the importance of ID tags for every pet.

Anyone can come to the Shelter and have ID tags made for their pets for a nominal fee. We have a large selection of colors and styles -- and would love to have you come by the office and have a tag made for your special furry friend!