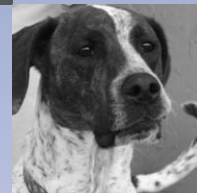
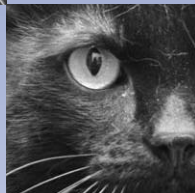
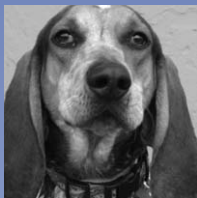


# MaxFund Animal Adoption Center

## 2008 Annual Report

a *small* shelter  
that makes

A BIG DIFFERENCE!!!!



M A X F U N D  
✦  
M I S S I O N



The MaxFund is a non-profit organization established to provide medical care for injured pets with no known owners and to find new homes for these animals once they have recovered.

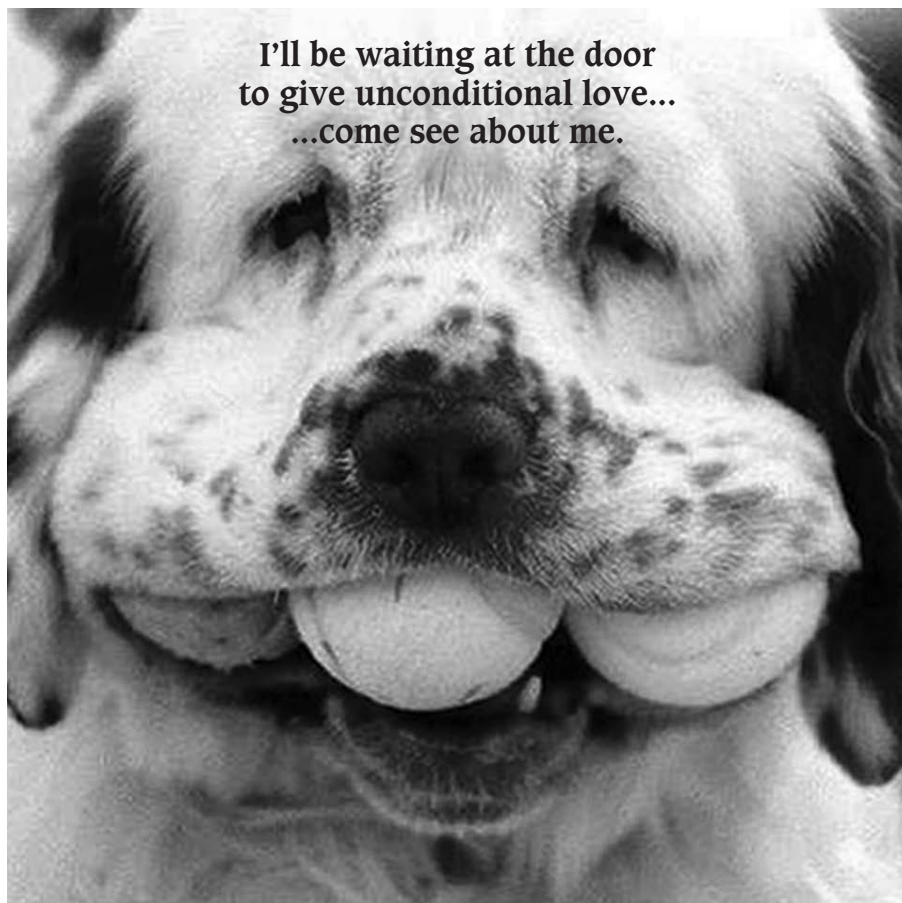
Further, the MaxFund is committed to the following goals:

Develop and implement education programs pertaining to animal care, with emphasis on the importance of spaying and neutering.

Disseminate information on spay/neuter facilities, and, on a periodic basis, conduct a spay/neuter clinic for pets of low income families.

Be a voice for the animals on issues of animal welfare.

Cooperate with other animal facilities/shelters in accomplishing these goals.



*Helping our community with their pets!*

Dear Friends of the Animals,

MaxFund Animal Adoption Center is a true no-kill animal shelter that has touched the hearts and given back to the Denver community for over 20 years. Despite facing challenges like most nonprofits in this turbulent economy, MaxFund managed to have a banner year thanks to the generosity of our donors and hard work of our staff and volunteers.

In 2008 alone, 710 dogs and 450 cats were adopted from our shelter; over 867 animals were spayed and neutered; and 1000+ needed medical procedures were performed by our Wellness Clinic and veterinary partners in the community on injured animals with no known owners.

One of these animals, Millie, is a dog who came to us earlier this year from Taos, New Mexico. Millie was presumably hit by a car and was living on the streets with a broken back and without the use of her hind legs. She survived by pulling herself around and was so quick that no one could catch her for eight months. Millie was finally caught in a trash can and ended up at MaxFund. X-rays indicated that her backbone fused itself together and she had broken bones and BBs throughout her body. Today, Millie gets around with a cart generously donated by a volunteer, has regained her trust of humans, and is ready to be adopted by a loving family.



*Elizabeth Grice*

We are continually working to advance our shelter operations, programs and services to help improve the quality of life for the MaxFund animals and their families. Because our animals usually start off with a medical bill and period of recovery and rehabilitation, and because we are a true no-kill shelter, our operating costs are much higher than other shelters. We have proudly become experts at stretching a dollar to ensure all donations to our organization are optimized and go directly toward the care of our animals.

Evidence of our frugality, MaxFund has consistently been granted Charity Navigator's highest rating for its ability to efficiently allocate and grow its finances. We're pleased to report that MaxFund has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the fifth consecutive year, a great honor for our organization.

Supporters of the MaxFund and their generosity have helped us speak for those that have no choice and no voice. We truly believe that every animal has a special place on earth and deserves a second leash on life. Thank you for helping continue our mission.

Warmest Regards,  
Elizabeth Grice  
President of the Board



**Officers:**

Elizabeth Grice, President  
Phyllis Eveleigh, Secretary  
Elizabeth Grice, Treasurer

**Board:**

Dr. William Suro  
Simon Melser  
Sherrie Parrish  
Jennifer Lane  
Jan Eckhardt  
Bob Murdock

# A B O U T 2 0 0 8

Nanci Suro; Cofounder

MaxFund experienced an exciting and challenging year during 2008. The neighborhood in which we located, the programs we provide, and the clients and animals we serve, all saw some transitions. With the slowdown of the economy, we are receiving requests for services for people who are recently unemployed or have fallen on hard times with no way to provide for their pets. When things are tough the animals fall to the bottom of the list. To meet our goals in providing the best quality of services possible, we implemented a cost cutting plan to continue our services: we planned to be even more frugal than we have been in the past. We solicited more companies for food, services, budget billing, and volunteers. We were successful in this effort only having to downsize by cutting payroll by 2 people.

MaxFund, like so many other non-profit organizations, faces the challenge of maintaining the level of funding that is necessary to provide quality services while following our mission. With past events, the slowdown in the economy and the increase of unemployment in Colorado, funding programs has become more difficult. We are still so fortunate to have foundations that continue to support our programs. We want to thank Soule Family Foundation for our spay/neuter program and Newman's Own Charity Foundation. We also received support from Laretta Boyd Foundation, Alice Jenkins Foundation, Carl Judd Foundation, Mary Bates Foundation, George Shields, and many other foundations that helped us survive. Many of our traditional funding sources have warned us of the limited dollars that most likely will be available for 2009. Therefore, we will work hard to make every dollar work in the best manner for the animals.

We have many challenges that we face in the future, but we are very optimistic about our programs and their ability to the changing world. Our dedicated staff and volunteers ( they put in 24,000+ hours) are well prepared to face the challenges presented to us. We feel we have been blessed with the many wonderful people who support us and care for the animals as we do, you all make this possible.

We look forward to another exciting year and we thank you for your support in our effort to save the animals.

Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending:		12/31/2008	
Revenue:		Expenses:	
Contributions:	\$1,232,971.00	Program Service:	\$1,455,506.00
Government Grants:	\$0.00	Admin Mgmt General:	\$55,444.00
Program Service Revenue:	\$0.00	Fundraising:	\$45,860.00
Investments:	\$5,556.00	Payments to Affiliates:	\$0.00
Special Events:	\$122,791.00	Other expenses:	\$214.00
Sales:	\$0.00		
Other:	\$492,972.00		
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$1,854,290.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,557,024.00</b>

**Three-year trend of Assets vs. Liabilities**

Year	Assets	Liabilities
12/31/2006	~1,000,000	~300,000
12/31/2007	~900,000	~250,000
12/31/2008	~1,000,000	~200,000

**Three-year trend of Revenue vs Expenses**

Year	Revenue	Expenses
12/31/2006	~1,500,000	~1,200,000
12/31/2007	~1,400,000	~1,100,000
12/31/2008	~1,850,000	~1,550,000

**Financial Ratios:** [FYE 2006-2008]

Program Services to Total Expenses: 60%

Fundraising Expenses to Contributions: 4%

[Ratios Discussion Paper](#)



# M A G G I E

## A L I F E W E L L L O V E D

by Bill Brunworth

On a Friday afternoon in May of 2001 I visited your shelter looking for a dog to adopt. I was looking for a small dog, and you took me to the small dog area. I didn't see any dogs that immediately got to me. On the way out you asked if I wanted to look at a "Spuds McKenzie" dog that was in the medium dog area. I agreed and you took me to meet Maggie who was a white bull terrier/ heeler mix. She was approximately 7 or 8 years old and had been in the shelter for 7 months, had multiple medical condition cards (for allergy and stomach issues) and was agitated and barking (something she almost never did later). I think she pressed her nose to my hand through the fencing, and I thought she was cute. I never took her for a walk or spent time with her out of her kennel. I decided that I wasn't really ready to adopt a dog after all.

That afternoon I headed home to western Colorado. Before I was even home it hit me that I couldn't believe I didn't adopt her. The MaxFund was closed by the time I got home, but I called the next morning to ask if she was still available and came down to Denver the following Monday to pick her up. I remember that seemingly the whole staff came out to see Maggie getting a home. I remember speaking to a volunteer there who told me that she would occasionally take Maggie home for the weekend and how she really liked getting on the couch. I said, "Well, she won't be doing that at my house." Of course within a week, the couch belonged to Maggie.

When we got outside I was surprised by how hard she could pull on her leash. I had been warned that she was an alpha female, but I quickly got an education about how difficult it could be to take her for a walk if other dogs were around. The hair would go up on her back and we'd be in the middle of a dog confrontation —every time I walked her. Consequently, I would go out of my way to walk her where we would not run into other dogs. It took me a long time to learn that it was all bluff and that she would always back down if any dog stood up to her. She just thought she was so tough.

I think she had abandonment issues. You had told me that she had been brought in by a family whose child had become allergic to her. She followed me relentlessly. At home, at work, at the home of friends; if I moved Maggie moved. She always wanted to keep me in sight. Or maybe that was her taking care of me.

I think and pray that Maggie had a good life. I took her everywhere I could and hated any time away from her. I made several job decisions based on being able to be with her more. I spoiled her as much as I could while trying to keep her from getting overweight, and took her for 2 walks a day. I discovered that she loved hard boiled eggs above all other food and would literally sit on my feet if I was peeling them. If I used the shop vacuum around the wood stove or in the house, Maggie would attack it. I would have to shut her in a back bedroom to be able to complete my cleaning—and she would bark and scratch the door trying to get out and get the shop vac that she apparently thought was attacking me. One day I turned the vacuum on her and discovered that she liked to be vacuumed. After that, the cleaning was much easier. Maggie loved to dig a hole outside and lay in it. She would inevitably roll in the red dirt and emerge looking very much like a dingo. I wish I could have gotten a photograph of her like that. The shop vac would come in handy then.

Maggie was the only dog I have had since I was a kid. She truly was my best friend. I could never have imagined how hard it would be to lose her and how empty the house would be. I think adopting Maggie was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have had to do some tough things in my life, but putting her to sleep was by far the hardest.

I want to thank the MaxFund for taking such good care of my little girl for those 7 months. I remember that baggie with hot dogs you all kept in your pockets that Maggie (and no doubt the other dogs) loved. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers for the wonderful work you do caring for these beautiful souls like Maggie.



# P R I N C E S S M I L L I E M A X F U N D

When we first heard about Millie in the beginning of October 2008 from a rescue that we work with in New Mexico, her name was Princess. It was another heartbreaking story of many that we hear about on a daily basis. When the pictures were sent, there was no turning back for the MaxFund.

As the story is told, she was a stray, fending for herself for 8 months. Dragging her legs and hind end, it was believed that her back legs were broken. Whatever it was, it was clear she was a fighter, a fighter for life. Being in a rural area, by the time the New Mexico rescue got to the spot where she was sighted, she was gone. Believe it or not, she moves very quickly. Then one lucky day for her, a man was able to get her in a trash can so she could be held until the rescue was able to pick her up. So it was off to the MaxFund for Princess. After her long journey, she was home at the MaxFund.

After her first meal in her new home at the MaxFund, she gave the one feeding her a big kiss on the cheek and was sent to Douglas County, a full service hospital for evaluation. She was anemic and her back feet were raw and infected. X-rays revealed a fused spine and BB's that littered her body.

She spent the next couple of weeks at Douglas County and then was moved to the MaxFund Wellness Center for physical therapy and continued bandage changes. More x-rays were taken to reveal broken ribs. We would watch, as she would try to sleep sitting up. To try to wrap your mind around what happened to this girl is nearly impossible and will take you down a path of sorrow and anger. We instead focused on where she was now and what we could do for her. She has been to the neurologist and her prognosis is not optimistic as far as ever walking again. However, many of you that know Angel's story know that we can be optimistic and will be. Millie continues with swim therapy, physical therapy and acupuncture. Donna Cashen, the same loving volunteer that purchased Angel's cart came to the rescue again and Millie now has her wheels!



This is only the first chapter for Princess Millie MaxFund. The prologue was tragic. We cannot skip to the end because we are all waiting to see what the end will be. What we do know is that she is now in a safe, loving place that will be able to give her what she needs and wants even though she would never ask. Millie is one of the happiest and most loving dogs that many of us have ever seen. She has come out of her shell. With her spirit ...anything is possible.

On the hunt for names, Millie was discovered to mean strength and determination. There could not be a more fitting name for this girl. Her feet are healed, she has wheels, she knows trust and love and we are now on the lookout for her patient, dedicated, loving forever home.

If you are able to adopt one of our many precious kids that need homes, it will help make a space for the next Millie. If you are unable to adopt at this time, know that your donations go to keep a safe haven for Millie and all of the other animals that call the MaxFund No-Kill Animal Shelter their home until their forever home is found. Who knows when we will need that next cart?

# MAXFUND'S FOSTER PET PROGRAM - WILL YOU OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME?

by Matt Adams

One of the things that is great about MaxFund is we are a no-kill, we will wait until our animals get adopted and they don't have to worry about a time deadline equalling euthanasia! This means that some animals in need of a loving home will take years or even more to get adopted. We do what we can to work with them to find them homes, but occasionally there are some animals that aren't easily adopted—they hide in the backs of their cages, or they act aggressive and scare off potential adopters. Other times, training issues or fear issues make them the least desirable. MaxFund has so many great success stories of dogs and cats who stayed at the shelter a long time and eventually found that PERFECT home, but there are always more dogs and cats in need of those perfect homes! Here are just a few of MaxFund's long-term residents who for one reason or another, haven't found their perfect home yet! Maybe you can help find them one?

**1. Teddie**—Teddie has lived at the MaxFund for over 2 1/2 years. Unfortunately, Teddie is very afraid of other cats and she gets overwhelmed by all the cats surrounding her. So she does not show off well. When people try to interact with her, she can act cranky and swat at people. She needs a home to herself where she can take a break from cats and just be able to relax. She hasn't been able to relax in over 2 1/2 years. She enjoys having her head pet, and she loves treats. She loves to play too. She needs a foster home or adoptive home where she can have space to just be a cat.



**2. Roscoe**—Roscoe has tested positive for FeLV and has been at MaxFund for 4 1/2 years. He is a sweetie and loves to sit in your lap. He loves to play too. He gets along with other cats and would likely be fine with a cat-friendly dog. He'd be fine with kids. He needs a foster or adoptive home with a non-smoker and someone with other FeLV cats or no cats. He'd make a great pet and deserves a home after so much time at MaxFund.



**3. Floyd and Emerson**—These two gorgeous boys used to live in the feral room, where adopters couldn't really see them. They got friendlier and were moved into Skylight. They both love to play. They love treats and wet food. Both are fine with petting, though Floyd likes it more than Emerson. Emerson has been at MaxFund for 3 1/2 years, and Floyd has been there 2 1/2 years. They may take time to adjust to a new home, so they need a parent who will understand and be patient. They are fun boys. They love each other and are soul mates, so they must go together.

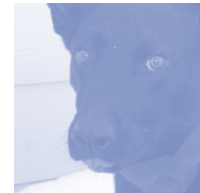
**4. Tiki**—Tiki is a gorgeous Maine coon. She has been at MaxFund for over two years. She enjoys petting and loves to sit in laps. She loves to play too. Her size may intimidate people, so they are nervous about adopting her even though she is a nice girl. She can be bratty with other cats, especially cats that are scared or shy. She may chase after them. But she is fine with most cats, especially confident or mellow cats. She may be happiest in a home alone though. She'd make a great pet.

## W H A T E L S E I S U N I Q U E A B O U T T H E M A X F U N D ?

**M**axFund is a TRUE no-kill shelter. There is no initial pre-sorting of animals into “adoptable” and “non-adoptable” categories, discarding the so-called “unadoptable.” The MaxFund takes every animal it has the space for. EVERY animal is kept until its owner is found or it is placed in a new adoptive home. The only reason for euthanasia is when it is in the humane interest of the animal. No animal is discarded to municipal shelters for them to be euthanized when the prescribed number of days run out. Because our animals usually start off with a medical bill and period of recovery and rehabilitation, and because we are a true no-kill shelter, our operating costs are much higher than other shelters.

*We also provide:*

- Low cost vaccinations, pet food, and spay/neuter clinics for pets of low income families.
- No-fee adoptions, pet food, cat litter and transportation for veterinary services for senior citizens and AIDS patients.
- Therapy Program which takes pets to visit senior centers, the VA Hospital and nursing homes.



## I N S U M M A R Y

**A**s we head into 2009, we want to thank you for your support and believing in us as we continue to grow and to help as many animals as we can. Your support is our lifeline, we could not accomplish any of this without you. We are looking forward towards another great year working for the animals. The wonderful animals are why we are here: and the inspirations is what carries us on to do the best for them. In return they enrich our lives and those who support and adopt them. *Thank you.*