

Minus one leg, Trips doing just fine

Fund established for stray animal care

BY ROBERTA FORSELL STAUFFER
of *The Montana Standard*

Trips is one lucky puppy. He's got his own bedroom in a nice apartment, and every night he kicks back in his easy chair and watches TV with his human, Lynn Morris.

What a contrast from just a few weeks ago, when the stray was found lying on Texas Avenue, his left back leg crunched to pieces by a car.

A good Samaritan found him and took him to the Animal Hospital, and when Butte's Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter Director Erin Wall learned of his plight, she set about raising money for the leg amputation he desperately needed.

Lucky for Trips, Morris was one of his caretakers at the Animal Hospital and volunteered to take him home while he recuperated from surgery. Now she wants to adopt him.

"He came along and I just fell in love with him," Morris said. "He's

Benefit tonight

The benefit evening for Albert's Angel Fund starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Julian's Piano Bar & Casino, 113 Hamilton St., in Uptown Butte.

Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Butte Hill Catering. Live music with George Groesbeck starts at 8 p.m. Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter Director Erin Wall will be on hand with volunteers to talk about plans and goals for the shelter.

Admission is by a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

For details, call Julian's at 782-6500, or the shelter at 782-8450.

been a lot of company for me."

Wall nicknamed him Tres after his three legs, but Morris has changed it to Trips.

"He trips a lot," she said.

No more hauling him up and down the stairs to her apartment though. Now the 7-month-old pup drags her up the stairs after their walks. She's guessing the mid-sized dog is a mixture of golden retriever, chow, and German shepherd, a real "Butte special."

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WALTER HINICK / THE MONTANA STANDARD

LYNN MORRIS has decided to adopt an injured dog she calls "Trips" after helping him recover. The pup was hit by a car and his leg had to be amputated.

Trips ...

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"They're always the best," she said.

Wall managed to raise \$1,100 for Trips' care and surgery from people in Butte and the Bitterroot Valley.

And because she wants all of Butte's injured strays to have a second chance at the good life, Wall has launched Albert's Angel Fund, named after the shelter mascot dog. Donations will go toward emergency care for sick and injured strays.

A benefit is Friday night. "It's desperately needed," Wall said of the fund. "I don't want to euthanize any animal that can be treated. I want them to have a long, happy life."

Injury and illness are all too common.

The same weekend Trips was hit, a big black cat named Storm had his jaw crunched in yet another car accident, and Ginger, a stray pomeranian, needed 20 rotten teeth pulled.

This week, a stray poodle was beat up pretty bad in a car accident, but luckily suffered no broken bones.

Wall stressed that she makes every effort to locate

the owner of an injured animal and hold them responsible for the vet bill. Only when all avenues are exhausted does she pay.

Wall is meeting next week with Public Works Director John VanDaveer to discuss the shelter's budget for next year, but she knows all too well that money budgeted for veterinary care will not cover all these emergency expenses.

"When they're strays, they are the community's animals," Wall said. "I just hope the community realizes they are worth saving."

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