

# Pops for pets concert to benefit Humane Society

By MICHAEL CLEVELAND

Correspondent

AMHERST – Patricia McMullen recently adopted a greyhound, loves animals and wants to do what she can to help them.

And because of her musical ability, she's able to do just that.

McMullen is the director of the Amherst Town Band and head of the music department at Souhegan High School. The combination is good news for the Humane Society for Greater Nashua because McMullen, the band and the school's Acappella Singers group are putting on a concert this month to benefit the society.

To make it a success, the society's Elizabeth White and McMullen agree, the key is the audience.

"We're not sure what to expect," said White, the Humane Society's event and outreach coordinator. "It's by donation. I think we would be pretty happy if we had \$1,000 from it."

At a suggested donation of \$5 per person, that's a lot of folks in seats, but the society will also sell baked goods and hold a raffle the night of the Spring Pops Concert for PAWS, 7 p.m. May 21, and hopes to do well from those.

McMullen is hoping for "a huge turnout" not only to help the Humane Society, but also to show people the Souhegan High auditorium.



Courtesy photos

Smokie is a 3-year-old male pug who loves to go for walks. He is one of the animals available for adoption at the Humane Society for Greater Nashua.

"We have a beautiful venue here," she said, "and it's a really great opportunity for our band to play on our home site. We rehearse here."

And, she said, the students in her a cappella group were thrilled when they heard the Humane Society would receive the donations.

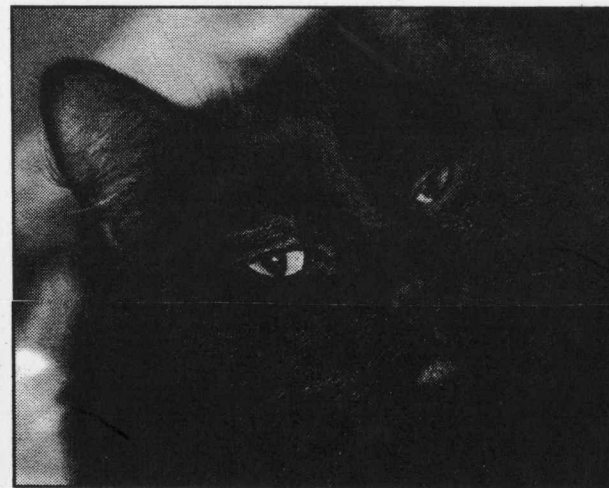
"We're hoping it will be an annual event," she said. That would be a boon to the Humane Society, which spends about \$2,750 a day

taking care of animals, White said.

"We take in 2,500 animals a year," she said, for which the society provides medical care and food.

"Every pet is spayed or neutered, well-fed and cared for," White said. "All this is about being able to take good care of the animals that come into our shelter."

The Souhegan venue and the participation of the town band are important, White said, because Am-



Smoochie is a 1-year-old female who loves to give kisses. She is also available for adoption.

herst is one of the towns serviced by the society.

If residents "have a stray or want to release an animal, they bring them here and give them to us and we find another home for them," White said. "We are the closest shelter for them to come and adopt an animal, too."

Quite a few Amherst residents have either adopted or released through the shelter, she said.

Even McMullen went

there looking for an animal before she and her husband adopted their greyhound. That's part of why she approached the society about benefiting from the concert.

"We were looking for an organization that would help us get the word out about the concert, for one thing, but also one that had a connection with a lot of people. We're all animal lovers," she said, referring to the a cappella group and the band.

## IF YOU GO

Spring Pops Concert for PAWS

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

WHERE: Souhegan High School auditorium, Amherst.

COST: Suggested donation of \$5.

MORE INFORMATION: Visit [www.hsfm.org/event.asp](http://www.hsfm.org/event.asp).

The Town Band will perform a pops-style program with a mix of show tunes, jazz and marches. The Acappella Singers will perform popular music selections, including songs from "The Lion King" and "Cats," plus an original student composition. "One of the students is arranging a piece as part of his senior project," McMullen said.

That student, Nathan Ouellette, has been rehearsing with the Acappella Singers himself. McMullen hasn't even heard the piece yet.