

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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