



Pet Talk

Welcome to *Pet Talk*, an occasional column about homeless pets and related topics.

Today's story is about bonded pair Chiko and Buddha—just two of the many homeless pets at the Flathead County Animal Shelter.



Each week, I walk lots of dogs at the shelter and I count on this exceptionally cute pair to give me great big belly laughs (which are sometimes few and far between at homeless shelters).

Talk about fun and funny! When I take these buddies out to the shelter play yard, big guy Buddha will chase his squeaky ball to the point of near exhaustion. Although many dogs do that, what's really hilarious is that his little buddy Chiko will then chase Buddha around, barking and hanging off the big guy's collar. All while being ignored by Buddha, who's totally focused on the squeaky ball!

Having grown up together, these two are like Mutt & Jeff (for those of you old enough to remember the old comic strip about a loving, mismatched pair). In short, basically inseparable.





Here's what their description says on the shelter website:

“Introducing Chiko and Buddha, two inseparable best friends who are looking for a loving home where they can stay together forever. These two are the perfect pair, each bringing their own unique charm to the friendship. Chiko may be the smaller of the two, but his heart is as big as can be. This terrier mix is full of spunk and joy, always ready to play and cuddle. Chiko loves to be close to his humans, offering endless snuggles and wagging his tail with happiness. He's a little bundle of love who brings energy and fun wherever he goes. Buddha, the gentle giant of the duo, is a black Labrador with a heart of gold. He's calm, affectionate, and always ready to offer a comforting nuzzle or a soft paw. Buddha is the perfect companion for quiet moments and loves to be by your side,

soaking up all the love and attention you can give.

What makes Chiko and Buddha truly special is their incredible bond. These two use each other as support, providing comfort, companionship, and endless love to one another. Whether they're playing in the yard, snuggling up for a nap, or just hanging out, Chiko and Buddha are happiest when they're together.”

So if you happen to want not one, but two, wonderful companion animals please consider adopting this cute pair. Separating them at this point in their lives, at 6 and 7 years old, would be kind of a travesty.

Otherwise, Chiko and Buddha are just two of the many adoptable pets at Flathead County Animal Shelter. So if you're an animal lover who just can't resist sweet homeless dogs or cats please phone the shelter at (406) 752-1310 to schedule a meet-and-greet.

Well, that's it for today's Pet Talk. As you can see, pet homelessness is a serious issue, both locally and nationally. So please support animal shelters in any way that you can.

And don't forget the generous adoption incentives at Flathead County Animal Shelter. First, a gracious donation from a local animal lover has allowed the shelter to substantially reduce its adoption fees. Flathead Shelter Friends also offers a Senior Pet Voucher, which pays up to \$350 toward veterinary care for 7+ year-old adopted pets.

For more information, please contact Flathead County Animal Shelter, phone number (406) 758-1310, or visit the website at <https://flathead.mt.gov/departments/directory/animal>.

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Personal donations are always appreciated!

For more information, see

www.flatheadshelterfriends.org