



## **“The Fragrant Fish Cologne”**

**By Kit Belcher, Executive Director  
Beltrami Humane Society  
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**Our spring weather has finally arrived. The lake ice is darkening up, and soon will be floating back and forth from shore to shore until it finally disappears. I know all you fishermen and women are anxiously waiting to get back out on the open water to “catch up and fry up” those tasty walleyes. I always look forward to my first “fresh fish” meal of the season. It’s always quite delicious!**

**Did you know however, that we are not the only ones looking forward to splashing around a little, heading out in the boat, or helping to clean up the shore line! Yes, it’s Scruffy, Jack, Rover and Captain who are “biting at the bit” to head on down and coat themselves with that fresh aroma of dead fish smell that to us is rather disgusting. Being smelly however, makes them stand out from the crowd. It’s like us using cologne or perhaps putting on a classy outfit to attract the opposite sex. Another way to describe canine appreciation of foul odors can be compared with one of us cheese lovers who may enjoy the taste of ripe Limburger cheese. Yep, that’s pretty stinky too.**

**Dogs may just possibly be camouflaging their own odors to hide their scent from predators or prey. Some folks who have studied dog behaviors think that smelly fur may be another way dogs communicate. They may be saying, “this is what I found while I was out hunting”. When he does return home, tell him what a good boy he is, than “grab the shampoo” before he gets through the house door. If it’s a warm day, he just may enjoy the bath!**

**We may never have any great answers as to why dogs roll in dead things. It’s just a “dog instinct!”**

**At Beltrami Humane Society, we have a number of big dogs who would just love to be out in your boats as “fishing opener” arrives to help with the fish. “Heath” is a male, medium to large chocolate lab-chesapeake**

**cross who was brought to the shelter after being picked up by our city Animal Control officer. He is approximately 1-2 yrs old. He was running about as a stray. He is friendly and rather “happy go lucky”. “Herby” is also a dog who recently came from the city pound to our facility. He is a male, reddish to yellow golden lab cross who is approximately 2-3 years old. He seems to do better with adults. Both dogs have had their basic kennel vaccinations. Upon being neutered, they will be ready for their new homes. Do these two dogs sound familiar to you? Might they be your lost dogs?**

**If so, they can be seen at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 12-5:30 p.m. If you have questions, call us at (218) 751-7910. You can also check out our website photo gallery at [www.beltramihumane.com](http://www.beltramihumane.com) or [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to see other dogs or cats up for adoption. Our pets of the month are posted at Pamida; you can see a few pictures of our animals at the ends of the pet aisles in Walmart, or listen to the early show on KKBJ Mix 103 to hear about our “pet of the week”. With your help, we can place each lost animal back with their owners or unclaimed animals in new forever homes, where they can have a life of love, health and happiness. I think they deserve that, don’t you?**

**Other Shelter Projects you can help with include: Adopt-A-Kennel, Become A Member, Paws to Recycle (aluminum cans), Doggy Banks, “We Care”(grocery receipts) or donate to our Guardian Angel Fund which was established to support the routine care of our animals in areas of vaccinations, medications and emergency treatment.**

**Don’t forget an Easter Basket for the homeless pets waiting to go to their forever homes at the shelter. With a \$10 donation, you can sponsor a cat or dog, provide it with a treat and new toy, and have your name displayed at the shelter. A special photo of your sponsored animal will be sent to you in the mail as a “thank you” for caring.**

**Upcoming Events: “Furr Bowl” – May 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bemidji Bowl. We are getting teams together now. Pick up your registration packets at the shelter and get ready for a weekend of bowling, trophies, pizza and just “great fun!”**

**Shelter Wishes: New Conference Room Table/10-12 folding chairs,  
puppy chow, kitten chow, clay cat litter, 2 dog room 25-50' hoses.**