

# Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Fall 2012

## An Old Fashion Love Story

by Linda Reed

Once upon a time there was a wonderful puppy brought to the HSPS animal shelter as a stray. He was a white four-month-old Catahoula Leopard dog and it quickly became apparent that he was deaf. We named him Keller in honor of Helen Keller. No one came looking for this cute young pup, and so it was that Keller began his life at the animal shelter in February 2012.

When he arrived Keller was a playful young dog with little training—a typical puppy in every respect, except that he was also unable to hear. Marnie George, a local dog trainer, fostered Keller and taught him basic commands such as “sit,” “down,” and “stay” with hand signals. That training introduced some needed structure into what can otherwise be a chaotic life for a deaf dog. As spring and early summer progressed Keller grew and adjusted to life in the shelter.

Finding a forever home for a special needs dog is seldom easy. It takes vast amounts of patience and adjustment on the human side of the equation. Many people want a dog to fit into their world and lifestyle, not the other way around. So the weeks passed and Keller waited. Some of the other shelter dogs were not as well-adjusted as Keller, and he gradually began to pick up on their energy and demonstrate that he really was not happy with shelter life. Yet he ran and played in the dog park and enjoyed the visits with the Wednesday Dog Walkers. And he waited.

In late September we received a call from Lisa Johnson of South Jordan, UT. She had seen Keller’s profile and picture on Petfinder as part of a promotion for “special needs animals.” Lisa said she was very interested in adopting Keller. We asked her why she wanted a deaf dog and she told us that she has an older dog that had lost her hearing and realized what a special and unique bond is created when a dog is without hearing. She also had previous experience with a special needs dog as her mother’s dog was deaf too. When she realized that her dog Princess had lost her ability to hear, she felt it was a natural thing to look for a deaf companion. So her search ensued and lead to Keller.

Lisa has two daughters who are specializing in the study of language and linguistics. One is currently taking American Sign Language in school. What a perfect situation—a family that already knows the special value and love of a deaf dog and with

family members ready and capable of teaching this youngster many more “words” with sign. The long-distance adoption process was completed, and on September 29 Lisa arrived from Utah to pick up our Keller. After 227 days in the animal shelter Keller was finally heading home.

There was an immediate connection between Lisa and Keller. He happily jumped into her van and right onto a seat where he sat expectantly as if to say, “OK Mom!! Let’s go!” And off they drove—Keller to his forever home and Lisa anticipating years of enjoyment loving our young Keller.

### Update from Keller’s Family

*Keller is such an amazing dog and a wonderful addition to our family. He settled in immediately just like he was made for us. Princess instantly was attached to him and Ashley and Sadie were in love the minute they saw him. The girls went to work with him on signing, which he is picking up very quickly. He is so smart. He is such a sweet and loving soul, and we are so lucky to have him. Thank you again for caring for Keller until we were able to make him part of our family. We already don't know what we would do without him!*

*Lisa, Ashley & Sadie Johnson*



Ashley, Princess, Sadie & Keller



Keller meets Lisa



Sadie, Ashley & Keller at home

# Cats Get New Outdoor Patio

In our last newsletter we wrote about the shelter enrichment program and some of the things we're doing to improve the lives of our dogs while they're in the shelter. Now, it's the cats' turn! We've improved and expanded our kitty accommodations at the shelter thanks to the wonderful gifts of volunteers and supporters of HSPS.

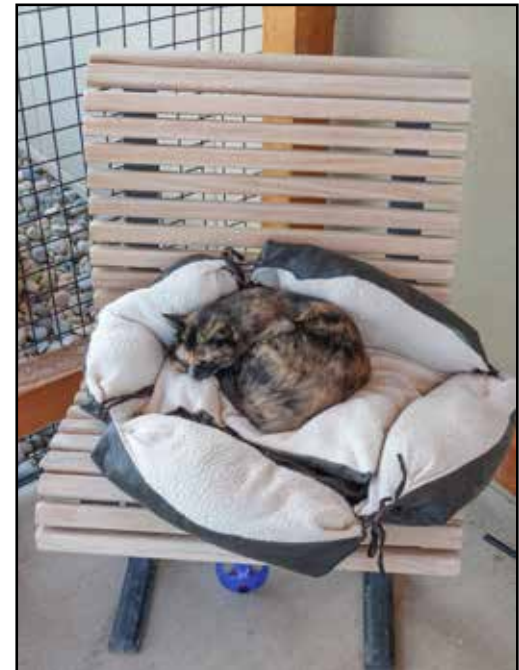
A couple of months ago we asked a loyal volunteer to help research outdoor cat enclosures so that we could buy something to allow our shelter cats the opportunity to get some fresh air in a controlled outdoor environment. After looking at some expensive, ready-made enclosures, she suggested that her family could create and build something to save money. Convinced by her enthusiasm and design ideas, we gave the project a green light.

By mid-September the finishing touches were being put on a new outdoor enclosure that is not only a wonderful space for our cats but an attractive addition to the entry area of our shelter, too. We'll be adding some climbing features and a couple of hiding places for the cats so they can have a fun, stimulating and safe outdoor experience. We've also added some people-friendly seating to encourage folks to spend time in the enclosure and interact with the cats. It's fun for cats and people alike!

If the cats enjoy spending time outdoors like we believe they will, the next step will be to create an active passageway from the outdoor enclosure through the exterior wall and directly into the shelter's adoptable cat room so that the cats can freely move from inside to outside as they choose. Target date for *Operation Kitty Door* will be next spring, so keep an eye out for cats in hard hats when warmer weather returns.

In addition to improving our cat accommodations with the outdoor enclosure, we've expanded our indoor cat kennels, too. The shelter is often full to capacity with stray and homeless cats throughout the year. As part of our mission to create a safe haven for animals in need, the additional kennels allow us to help more cats. Money for the new kennels was raised through pledges as part of the live auction portion of our Auction for the Animals on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Individual pledges ranged from \$100 to \$1,500 and raised enough money to pay the entire cost of a bank of six large new kennels that give us the flexibility to accommodate various combinations of adult cats and litters of kittens.

Both of these projects happened so successfully because of volunteers and supporters. Thank you for caring and making the lives of our shelter cats better!



# The Summer in Review

by Larry Schwartz, President

And what a wonderful summer it was. We started with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Golden Retriever and Friends Roundup, a two-night, one-day event featuring games, agility, behavior modification demonstrations and a Veterinary Clinic. The summer ended with a most successful Auction for the Animals... our most successful ever thanks to Evelyn Tennyson and Siri Schuchart who spent months planning and organizing this event.

In July we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open House at the shelter which provided an opportunity for the community to come and see what beautiful improvements have been implemented there including the Serenity Garden; Dog Park; indoor and outdoor kennels and play area; and outdoor cat enclosure. The day was highlighted by the dedication of the outdoor dog kennels to honor the continuing and loving involvement of John and Joyce Webb. A plaque in their honor was unveiled and everyone was treated to a demonstration of "clicker" training that is a part of our dogs' routine.

At the end of the month we had a picnic to thank our volunteers and staff for all their hard work during the year. This was a fun-filled, food and fellowship afternoon at Yamaguchi Park. Without them there would not be a Humane Society of Pagosa Springs and we look forward to working together to continue to provide care and love to our four-legged friends.



## Road Trip!

We're looking for more volunteer drivers to help with animal transfers.

We have a wonderful and supportive community that opens its doors to create homes for deserving dogs and cats from our animal shelter, but sometimes the number of animals in the shelter exceeds the number of available local homes. In 2011 our dogs were in the shelter an average of 45 days before being adopted and for cats that number was 86 days. That's too long in a shelter environment, so our challenge is to reduce those numbers of days as much as we can.

Part of the solution to that challenge is to develop more transfer opportunities so that deserving animals can go to another great shelter in a location where the adopters outnumber the available animals. There are shelters elsewhere in Colorado where dogs and cats are routinely adopted in less than two weeks.

Our goal over the next six months is to develop strong working relationships with several additional shelters as transfer partners so that we will be able to routinely transfer animals when our shelter reaches maximum capacity or when animals have been with us too long. We have a super volunteer who regularly drives our current transfers when he can, but when we increase the frequency of our transfer trips we'll need more drivers!

HSPS provides transportation, gas and overnight lodging if the destination requires it. If you are available to help us as a transfer driver please let us know. If you *can* provide your own appropriate transportation that would be a bonus! Contact Linda Reed at the animal shelter (970-731-4771) or Mike Stoll in administration (970-264-5549). Help our animals experience the wonders of travel through colorful Colorado!



*John and Joyce Webb*  
OUTDOOR KENNELS

To Honor Years of Dedication  
and Support in the Tireless  
Pursuit of a Better Life  
for the Dogs and Cats of  
Archuleta County

*Joyce & John Webb plaque dedication*

# Holiday and Winter Pet Tips

by Linda Lawrie, Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and other winter holidays are almost here. Though we don't have a lot of snow yet in Pagosa Springs, we've had plenty of cold weather. This article brings you a few tips for your pets that will help make the holidays and cold weather more enjoyable.

**Holidays:** To our pets, the holiday season doesn't mean much. They feel the excitement and smell the food, but don't understand why one day is so different from others. But they can feel stressed. Anything that upsets the routine for the pet will be stressful: boarding; taking a trip; strangers in their house.

- Try to maintain their routine and give them quiet places to avoid the hubbub if necessary.
- Looking into those soulful eyes makes it doubly difficult to resist feeding them those extra goodies like turkey skin, fat, crackers, kids' leftovers. And having company who lack your steely resolve just compounds the problem. But resist! You do not want to spend Christmas evening calling your veterinarian. Dogs' systems are sensitive and cannot handle lots of rich, fatty or spicy food. A serious condition, known as pancreatitis, can result from their over-indulgence. Also, older pets' systems cannot handle as much as the younger ones. To help them feel part of the celebrating, add a little turkey and/or broth to their evening meal.
- Don't forget that chocolate is also a bad substance for dogs. Theobromine in the chocolate is the culprit and there is more in dark chocolate than milk or light chocolate. Just half an ounce per pound of dog is enough to be fatal! Likewise, rich desserts and candy should be kept out of pet's reach.
- Watch for potentially poisonous plants, such as poinsettia, azaleas, oleander, yew plants and Easter lilies, mistletoe, holly, and amaryllis and keep them out of reach. Christmas trees should be securely fastened or fenced away from the pets. Christmas tree decorations, glass ornaments, tinsel, should NOT be swallowed by pets. And watch for wrapped packages that could contain food—a dog's sense of smell is much better than ours!
- If all your careful plans fail and the pet does eat something and starts to show signs of distress, call your vet or emergency facility and describe the situation. If possible, bring some of the ingested contents should you have to bring your pet in.

**Cold Weather:** Frostbite and hypothermia are dangerous possibilities in the winter.

Watch your pets for signs of discomfort. If they whine, shiver, seem anxious, slow down or stop moving, or start to look for warm places to burrow, they need to be taken inside. In general, keep them inside as much as you can. Provide shelter against the wind and plenty of non-frozen water if they must stay outside.

- Our feline friends may seek warmth and shelter from the winter chill by crawling into a car's warm engine compartment. Checking to make sure kitty is not under the hood and providing a warm and cozy nest for your cat in a quiet and warm spot will help prevent a mishap. Usually, the air pockets in their coats insulate them nicely. But if they get wet, the air can get compressed out and they may get cold.
- To keep pets that go outside (where their pads can accumulate rock salt, ice and chemical ice melts) from getting chapped and raw, wipe their feet with a washcloth when they come inside. Spraying their pads with a cooking spray product can keep snowballs from forming. There are several non-toxic ice melts on the market that can be used in the winter months. Signs of toxic ingestion include excessive drooling, vomiting, and depression.



*Keep your pets' diet healthy during the holidays!*

- If your pet gets wet from snow or sleet, dry him thoroughly with a towel or a warm (not hot) blow dryer. Lawrie dogs stand in line to be dried off!
- Be careful if you walk your pet near frozen lakes and ponds; he could slip and become seriously injured or drown. If you can't skate on it, your dog probably shouldn't go on it either.
- Never leave your dog in a vehicle because the cold air could become dangerous. On the other hand, sometimes even winter sun can overheat a car.
- Your pets may need a little extra food in colder months for more energy production and to keep the body temperature regulated.
- Be aware of poisonous substances, such as antifreeze, which may smell good and taste sweet to your dog - but is lethal. Just a half teaspoon of Antifreeze per pound is enough to cause problems for your dog. Early detection and treatment is a must! There is no known truly safe antifreeze product on the market.
- If you have a fireplace, keep it out of range of tails and paws. Likewise for space heaters. Not only could your pet be burned, knocking over a heat source could endanger the entire family.
- No pet, but especially young, debilitated or older pets, should stay outside for unlimited amounts of time in extremely cold weather.

## Our Wish List



Bleach and other cleaning supplies  
Paper towels  
Dry and wet cat food for the feral cat TNR program  
Puppy training pads (for puppies AND to line cat traps for feral cat TNR)  
Wet cat food and wet dog food for shelter animals  
Large (used) dog crates for emergency sheltering  
Gently used water and food bowls for emergency sheltering  
Dark colored blankets for camouflaging feral cat traps at night  
High-quality tasty dog treats for the shelter dog enrichment training program  
New Kuranda dog beds to replace several worn and well-used beds (donate online at: [kuranda.com/donate/3584](http://kuranda.com/donate/3584))  
Kongs and other indestructible dog toys to relieve kennel boredom  
Cat Evacsak  
Foster Homes for kittens and puppies  
Drivers for our dog transfers to the front-range and beyond

[Drop off items at Thrift Store or shelter or make a donation online by credit card at: [humanesociety.biz/new\\_wishlistdon.htm](http://humanesociety.biz/new_wishlistdon.htm)]

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Zipper from William Taylor  
Molly beloved cat of Bob & Carole Howard from Nita Niece  
Guen beloved pet of Mr. & Mrs. Porter from Gary & Susan Rawlinson  
Dempsey beloved dog of Don & Barbara Rosner from Michael & Nancy Ray  
Balou from Emil & Ellen Maxton  
Amber our beloved Pagosa shelter rescue who brought us so much joy from Kitty & Brian Benzar  
Bones dog to Teresa & John Huft  
Holly dog to Mr. Milton Bludworth from Marilyn Smith  
Mr Bill Goddard from Hawk & Cathy Rothell  
Harry Campbell Gun from Jesse & Mary Porter Jr.  
Gypsy from Marcis Jarvis & Ron Tinsley  
Lucy dog to Diane & John Maun from Annette Foor  
Lulu from Robert & Betty Clouse  
Molly cat to Bob & Carole Howard from Sheila & Ron Hunkin  
Chester D. Miller from Doug & Barbara Miller

### IN HONOR OF...

Jean Carson's Birthday from The Dog Walkers  
Pat & Linda Parelli & their wonderful staff & my dear friend Dina Siegwald; thanks for all you have done for my guys. Merry Christmas from Sopunky Dagenhart.

## People Who Made the Auction Great

by Mike Stoll, Executive Director

August 24th was a very special night as the Humane Society held its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Auction for the Animals. The community turned out in large numbers, the auction items were many, varied, and often unique, the food and beverages were tasty, and a near record amount of money was raised to support the animal shelter.

All of us at HSPS owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who helped make the auction both a reality and an overwhelming success. We could not have done it without your help! An extra special thank you goes out to our two auction co-chairs, Evelyn Tennyson and Siri Schuchardt, who spent countless hours of their time creatively bringing together all the aspects of the event.

It is impossible to name all the auction sponsors and donors in this limited space, so please visit our website ([www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz)) for a complete

list of businesses and people to whom we are very grateful. We would, however, like to mention just a couple people whose donations made a remarkable difference: Jenny Hoit who, in memory of her late husband, Tom Hixon, donated a 1979 International Scout that raised \$6,500; local artists Rick Unger and Kathy Steventon whose original oil paintings raised a combined \$6,000; and all the people whose combined pledges, from \$100 to \$1,500, raised the \$5,000 needed to buy a new bank of cat kennels for the shelter.



*We all love those new cat kennels!*



## In Stock Now

Our short sleeved T-shirts have been such a hit that we added a long-sleeved version to our inventory at the Thrift Store. With cold weather knocking on our door they make a fabulous addition to anyone's wardrobe. These soft cotton shirts come in a variety of fashionable colors, too: stone-wash blue, stone-wash green, sport gray, white, light pink, burnt orange and brick red. Stop by the Thrift Store and get yours today. *Sorry we cannot sell them online at this time.*



## Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Administration Office: 269 Pagosa Street  
P.O. Box 2230 • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(970) 264-5549 • Fax (970) 264-5593  
www.humanesociety.biz  
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PAGOSA SPRINGS  
CO 81147  
PERMIT NO. 7

PRSRST STD

### Animal Shelter

465 Cloman Blvd  
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
(970) 731-4771  
sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

### Humane Society Thrift Store

269 Pagosa St  
Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
(970) 264-6424  
hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

### Board of Directors

Larry Schwartz – President  
Joan Arnold – Vice President  
William “Rex” Shurtleff – Treasurer  
Bonnie Hite – Secretary  
Nita Niece – Board Member  
Joe Donovan, DVM – Board Member

Mike Stoll – Executive Director

## Meet Linda Reed, New Shelter Manager

by Mike Stoll, Executive Director

Our new shelter manager, Linda Reed, moved from the apple country around Selah, WA to the wide mountain vistas of Pagosa Springs in early September to join the management team of HSPS. She brings a strong combination of work experience and knowledge of animal behavior to the job. We are glad to have her on our team.

As Linda readily admits, earlier this year she might not have imagined herself managing an animal shelter, but now it seems like a natural culmination of many years of training and experience in the animal field. Linda is a certified Dog Trainer, specializing in positive reinforcement training methods (including clicker training). She is also certified by Pet Tech to teach all phases of pet care, including pet First Aid and CPR, and she is completing certification in Healing Touch therapy for animals.

Linda’s previous animal welfare work includes active involvement in animal rescue while working on the Navajo reservation as a speech language pathologist. Her experience in rescue work and her knowledge of animal behavior and animal health make her well qualified to help carry out the HSPS mission of creating a safe haven for the homeless dogs and cats of Archuleta County.

Please take the time to stop by the animal shelter and welcome Linda to the team – and be prepared to be recruited because she is actively seeking volunteers to help in our shelter enrichment programs. Thank you to Linda for making the commitment to HSPS and thank you to all of our volunteers for making a difference in the lives of our shelter animals!

