



Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Fall 2016



Can you teach an old dog a new trick?

How about finding an old dog or cat a new home? Sometimes finding an adopter for a senior animal can take longer because people often overlook older dogs and cats when they visit the shelter. The kittens, puppies and energetic younger adult animals demand attention, while the staid, quiet seniors may fade to the background. Finding that just-right adopter for a senior can take time, which is why shelter staff is always on the lookout for people willing to give an older shelter dog or cat a well-deserved home for their golden years.

Fred and Jo were just such adopters. They were an elderly couple who had lost their beloved dog Gracie this past summer. Gracie was 13 when she passed, and had been with Fred and Jo since she was a puppy. They missed having Gracie in

their lives and were afraid they might not ever have a dog again. Fred and Jo were concerned that their age and limitations, Jo walks with a cane and Fred is not quite as spry as he once was, might preclude them from qualifying as adopters. But shelter staff understands that a pet-loving heart isn't diminished by age and they practice the art of looking beyond first-impressions. Fred and Jo were assured that adoption was certainly possible if a good match could be found, so they began visiting the shelter to meet the dogs. Yet memories of Gracie made that harder than they had imagined. Fred's eyes would begin to tear up before he could get beyond the front lobby, and he would have to leave. But one day they met Josie.

Josie was a sweet and gentle Beagle mix with big soft ears. Her exact age when she entered the shelter was unknown, but her gray muzzle and eyebrows were a strong indication that her puppy-days were a distant memory. Yet, when Jo and Fred met Josie, something clicked. Josie's gentle disposition and leisurely approach to life were well-suited to Jo and Fred's pace. It also turned out that their bed was well-suited as a resting spot for Josie, too! As Jo recently told shelter staff about adopting Josie, "It was just meant to be...and we're tickled to death and very lucky to have her."

The old saying that *timing is everything* was certainly true for Josie; she was in the right place at the right time when Fred and Jo were ready to look for another dog. Her shelter stay was relatively brief. For many senior shelter animals, however, that's often not the case. They can languish as they get overlooked for the younger, more enthusiastic dogs and cats.

So, here's a big thank-you to Jo and Fred and all the people who open their hearts and homes to senior shelter animals. It's not always easy because the senior years may include diminished abilities or medical concerns, and the relationship may be brief compared to adopting a younger animal. On the other hand, the rewards can be even greater in knowing that a senior dog or cat has been provided a secure and loving home to spend their remaining days.



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Unlike the carefree puppies and kittens, the senior pets seem to understand that they are being rescued, and often display real gratitude to their adopters. For a senior animal, feeling safe and comfortable can bring a look of peaceful contentment that can warm anyone's heart.

If you or someone you know would consider adopting a senior dog or cat please contact our animal shelter. If adoption is not in the cards but you would still like to help, the shelter occasionally needs people who can provide a temporary foster home for a senior or who can periodically visit the shelter and spend time walking, brushing and talking with a senior animal. A little care and comfort can go a long way to making a day brighter for a senior, and the benefits can truly be mutually rewarding.



Auction For The Animals Helps Fund the Shelter

The 22nd annual HSPS Auction for the Animals took place this past August 19th. Great company, excellent food and music, and a wide array of fabulous auction items made for an entertaining evening and a successful fundraising event for the animal shelter. 250 attendees were treated to a delicious dinner catered by the Alley House Grille and enjoyed live music from Jack Ellis. Emcee Thad McKain kept the evening moving through the silent auction, and the live auction proceedings were in the capable hands of professional auctioneer, Ken Kincaid, and local auction spotters, Mike Branch and Mark Crain.

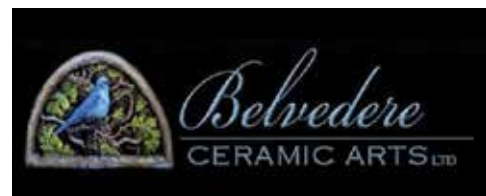
Special thanks are owed to all the financial sponsors whose support contributed significantly to the success of this year's auction. **Platinum sponsors included Evelyn and Mike Tennyson, Linda and Duncan Lawrie, Two Old Crows Gallery, and Arlene and Jim Payne. Silver sponsors included John and Joyce Webb, Belvedere Ceramic Arts LTD, and James and Mindy Provence.**

Our bronze sponsors were Jody Brown Insurance Agency and Gene and Kay Lunceford. Table sponsors included Summer Phillips/Goldsmith, Haley Goodman/Goodman's Department Store, Spectrum Construction, Richard Zak, M.D./Gastroenterologist, Fred and Ginger in honor of Lauren Wolan-Zak, and the three dog buddies (Chico, Maggie and Little T).

Sincere thanks and gratitude, too, goes out to all the attendees and volunteers whose efforts and generosity made the auction a very special evening on behalf of our shelter animals. Caring for the 600+ dogs and cats that pass through the shelter each year and administering our many community service programs carries a significant price tag. The Auction for the Animals helps to bridge the financial gap and keeps the shelter working at full speed. Thank you one and all for all your support!



FORT LAWRIE
Technical Services



Shelter Me Photography Improves Adoptions Through Better Photos



Nanette Martin of www.sheltermepotos.org recently held a workshop in Pagosa Springs on shelter animal photography techniques to benefit the HSPS shelter dogs and cats. Shelter Me Photography is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to changing the way people view shelter animals through compelling, professional photographs.

We've received numerous positive comments from folks following the workshop on how great our new blue-background adoptable animal photos look! Visit www.humanesociety.biz and click on dogs available for adoption or cats available for adoption to see the results because a picture is worth a 1,000 words!

Our Special Pets



Our shelter staff deserves a lot of credit for their hard work and dedication to our special-needs program, but the positive outcomes and continued success would not be as significant without the help of many other people. Our volunteers help socialize special-needs animals or drive them to veterinary appointments and out-of-town transfers. Volunteers may also assist staff with rehabilitation training or provide fostering and temporary care when a special-needs animal can benefit from being away from the shelter. HSPS supporters donate to our emergency medical fund and occasionally sponsor veterinary care and surgery for individual special-needs animals.

Here are some of the most recent special-needs success stories from our shelter:

Brady was a six-week-old puppy when he was found with a severely injured leg, alone and abandoned at a campsite in the national forest. The forest service volunteer who discovered him brought him to the animal shelter seeking help. Brady was immediately transported to a local veterinarian where a radiograph revealed that his leg was broken. He underwent surgery to pin and repair his broken femur. Two months after his surgery and recuperation in the animal shelter, Brady was adopted by a local family. Today he is a healthy, playful young dog that can run like the wind on four good legs.



Reita is a young Boxer mix with a sweet disposition. She was transferred to our shelter from a rescue group because they lacked adequate space and funds to care for a special-needs dog. Reita had badly torn ACLs in both rear knees and could barely manage to walk. So far she has had one successful surgery and is awaiting the repair of her second knee. Her surgeries have been generously sponsored by a wonderful HSPS supporter who admired Reita's dogged determination to keep going despite her discomfort. The hope is that she will be ready for an adoptive

home once she fully recuperates.

Timmy was a stray cat brought to the shelter this past summer by a person who noticed his erratic movements as he limped into her backyard. In obvious pain when he arrived at the shelter, staff immediately took Timmy to a local veterinarian where it was determined he had a broken pelvis. Following successful surgery and recovery, Timmy is now a very appreciative cat in a great adoptive home.

To date, twenty special-needs dogs and cats have entered the HSPS shelter this year. A list of their conditions and maladies includes the following: two animals with severe injuries that eventually required limb amputation; six animals with broken bones or severe joint injuries that required surgery to repair; three animals with significantly impaired sight or total blindness; three deaf animals; one animal with a chronic medical condition (seizures) that requires ongoing treatment; five animals with contagious and life-threatening diseases.

But here's the good news: Of those twenty animals enumerated above, eighteen are now in adoptive homes! The other two are still undergoing treatment and hope to be available for adoption in the not too distant future!

To help special-needs shelter animals, please contact our animal shelter (970-731-4771). If you would like to donate to our emergency medical fund or sponsor medical care for a special-needs animal, please contact the shelter or our administration office (970-264-5549).



A Dedicated Group!

By Kim Dilione

Here at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs we have many wonderful volunteers who give their time and energy to help our shelter animals while they are in our care. One of the most important volunteer opportunities is taking our dogs out for long walks. Dog walking is not only beneficial for the dogs; it also helps the shelter staff and benefits the dog walkers themselves.

Walking shelter dogs provides them exercise, lessons in manners, confidence on the leash, and all-important human companionship, which they greatly miss while they await adoption. When the dogs are regularly walked and worked with, they learn to build trust with the dog walkers and other human beings. This helps many dogs to come out of their shell and be less timid, which can make a good first-impression with potential adopters.

The dog walkers are a huge help to the shelter staff whose time for one-on-one interaction with the dogs during the day may be limited. The staff must feed and care for the needs of all the animals, as well as cleaning the shelter daily to keep it a healthy and safe environment.

Dog walking is also beneficial for the volunteers. It helps their emotional, physical and mental health. It has been scientifically proven that spending time with animals helps to lower stress levels and blood pressure. In addition, if you have ever visited the HSPS shelter you know it has some of the best mountain views in all of Pagosa Springs. What a gorgeous place to walk a dog!

Way back in 1997, our very first dog walker volunteer, Jean Carson, and two of her friends started volunteering every Wednesday to walk the dogs at the old HSPS shelter. They would pick up a leash and go into an outdoor kennel and try to get the leash on a wildly excited dog. All the while, perhaps two other dogs would be jumping on them saying, "Me, me, me!"

That little group of volunteer dog walkers gradually grew as word of the activity spread. For many years their Wednesday



group consisted of five or six regular volunteers who walked the shelter dogs year-round in all kinds of weather. In the summer, with part-time residents and visitors in town, group numbers would double. Friendships formed and the group started meeting for lunch in the summer after walking the dogs and then switched to breakfast in the winter to fortify themselves before bundling up and going to the shelter to walk.

In 2007, a new animal shelter was built in the present location on Cloman Boulevard. With the expanded space, upgraded outdoor kennels, and the new enrichment training program, dog walking conditions have greatly improved, too. Shelter staff uses enrichment training to teach dogs basic leash manners and social skills. Learning these skills helps keep the dogs mentally fit while they are in the shelter, and makes them easier to walk, too. The dog walkers no longer have to walk into a crowded kennel and try and put a leash on an excited and rambunctious dog. A staff member now brings out a dog that knows how to walk on a leash, matches the dog up with the skills of the volunteer, and then the pair are off for a 20 to 30 minute (or longer) walk.

As the dog walkers' numbers have grown over recent years, so have their volunteer duties. For example, one of our faithful gentleman walkers spends extra

time photographing the dogs and cats for our website. He also distributes monthly adoption flyers around town. Other dog walkers spend time after they walk grooming dogs and cats at the shelter. Yet others also volunteer at the HSPS thrift store, and still others help foster and transport dogs to out-of-town adoption destinations. Our dog walkers have become an important part of what makes our shelter work well.

It is now 2016 and there are approximately 20 regular dog walkers. Every volunteer is dedicated to exercising, loving, and socializing the dogs. Barring whiteouts and downpours, they still walk in all kinds of weather! The staff at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is forever grateful for the wonderful work that all of the volunteer dog walkers do to enrich the lives of each of our shelter dogs. They love what they do and we love them for helping to keep our shelter dogs happy and fit and on their way to getting adopted!

If you would like more information on volunteering to walk shelter dogs (or socialize shelter cats!) and other volunteer activities please contact our animal shelter at 970-731-4771.



IN MEMORY OF...

Adison (cat) from Donald and Alice Stidham
 Mandy (cat) from Deloros and Charles Livingston
 Charlie (dog) from Richard and Janet Brooks
 Star (dog) from James Smith
 Leesalee & Woody, Cool Catz of Christine Benson,
 from Bill Dellings and Lora Shank
 Woody and Leesalee, my beloved cats, from
 Christine Benson
 Sammy, beloved dog of Gloria & Dennis from
 Laren and Terry Traver
 To a good son, Bob Burch, in memory of June from
 Dan and Susan Crull
 Bo, beloved cat of Nancy Crowe from Laren and
 Terry Traver
 Pat Curtis from Mark and Sally Leavitt
 Emma, our beloved dog from Joseph and Deborah
 Hannigan
 Randy Hulshouser from John and Joyce Webb
 My beloved husband, Michael Jaworskyj from
 Diana Von Der Muhll Jaworskyj
 Harry Kidd, beloved dog of Judith Kidd from
 Claudia Howell

Clare Skaggs and the animals she loved from
 Sandra Brundage, Winnie Plager, Sepp and
 Tanice Ramsperger, Frances Smith, Laren and
 Terry Traver, Nettie and Bruce Trenk
 Donald Rickard from Jim and Cynthia Peronnet,
 Geraldine Wolfe
 Ella and Rollie Roth from Stephen Sproul
 "Wild Bill Smith" aka William Archer Smith
 from John and Cheryl Gwin, Fred and Norma
 Harman, Fred and Brenda Jackson, Nettie and
 Bruce Trenk, William C. Ward
 Allyson Stevens from Codie Wilson

Tag from Morgen Hickey and Robert Hill

IN HONOR OF...

Jimmy Walker #13391 from Fredrick and Jody
 Anschutz and Vicki Bauman
 Tillo from Michael and Jeri Sindelar
 Our "tiger" cat adopted from HSPS in early 2000's
 from Bottom Investment Co, Ltd. & Alamos
 Farms
 Maisie Casias from Irvin and Andrea Casias

John & Joyce Webb's 65th Wedding Anniversary
 from Jean and James Carson, Jim and Sharon
 Gorman, Thomas and Lisbeth Klein, Carolyn
 and Patrick Ullrich

Charley from Fred and Mary Webb
 Cubby from Coye and Priscilla Jones
 Bubba, adopted 10/23/15 by Tomi Currier
 My Dad, John Duvall, on Father's Day from
 Kristin Duvall
 Rex & Ann Shurtleff for all they do for HSPS
 from Pat and Mike Moffitt
 David Jones from Waste Management
 Carrie Miller from Michael and Alicia Brodner
 Carol Mola from Victoria Diana
 Larry Schwartz from Gerry and Sandy Cepon,
 Diane and John Maun
 Kim, who facilitated our adoption of Simone,
 from Bernard and Ethel Kolbor
 Sparky from Jeff and Sang Mi Owen
 Darcy, adopted 6/20/10 by Sarah Walker
 The Wedding of Erica VanSteen and Pavlos
 Zouridakis from Sandy and Tom Artzberger
 Lauren Wolan-Zak from Arlene Don
 Glessie Drake from Phil and Marti Parrish

MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

In Honor of Larry Schwartz, Dedicated Volunteer,
 Friend to Animals, from The Entire HSPS Family
 In Memory of Our Sweet Montana from Beth and
 Toby Tollefsen



- Replacement Shelter Van...Sometimes wishes do come true!
- Replacement Thrift Store Truck...A used box truck with a lift gate would be awesome!
- Bleach and other cleaning supplies
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Wet cat and wet dog food for shelter animals
- Snow Blower for the animal shelter
- Puppy training pads
- Dry and wet cat food for the feral cat TNR program and Pet Food Pantry
- Gently used water and food bowls for emergency sheltering
- Large (used) dog crates for emergency sheltering
- High-quality tasty dog treats for the shelter dog enrichment training program
- Cat toys for play and socialization time in the cat room

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



Year-End Giving and Big Ticket Items

Year-end charitable giving is a tradition for many people. This year HSPS is making a special request for a *Big Ticket* item for our 2017 Auction for the Animals. If you, or someone you know, have a car, truck, boat or the like that you no longer need, please consider donating it to the auction. Vehicles have raised a substantial funds for our shelter animals in the past and make the event that much more entertaining! Items donated to the auction are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. For more information please contact our administration office at 970-264-5549.



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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Animal Shelter

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

Humane Society Thrift Store

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

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Mark Your Calendar: *Great New Event!*

The first annual *Art for the Animals* art sale and fundraiser will be held the evening of Thursday, December 1st at the Gainstorming Center in Pagosa Springs located at 2035 Eagle Drive, Suites 102-103.

Pagosa Springs has some of the most talented artists in Colorado. We are fortunate that many of these artists love animals as well!

Art, jewelry and ceramics from several local artists will be available for purchase with a generous percentage of the proceeds donated to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to purchase gifts for holiday giving and support the shelter animals at the same time.

Refreshments will be served and admission will be a nominal donation at the door. Watch for more details in local media and www.humanesociety.biz!

