

FALL 2020

# PAW PRESS



A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS



## Marty the Dog In Uncertain Times, a Story of Hope

This year of Covid-19 has brought disruptions to daily life along with some unanticipated experiences. We've felt the constraints of being virtually homebound for days and weeks on end. We've discovered what it's like to miss casual face-to-face interactions with family, friends and neighbors. And maybe we've experienced a touch of isolation from consciously creating social distance between ourselves and others.

In dealing with a topsy-turvy world these past many months, patience and perseverance have been essential in trying to craft a path through unfamiliar terrain, and there have been some stressful moments along the way. On the other hand, maybe some of those less enjoyable experiences illuminate a bit of what it might be like for a dog or cat that enters an animal shelter: familiar daily routines disrupted and the home they've known nowhere in sight; their world has indeed gone topsy-turvy.

*(continued inside)*

## Marty's Story Continued

By Mike Stoll, Executive Director

Our shelter truly is a safe haven for stray and abandoned animals, but it's not intended to be a long-term substitute for a secure and stable home. Even with compassionate care, animal shelters are inherently unfamiliar and stressful environments for their residents. That's why HSPS staff works diligently to create positive and timely outcomes for every dog and cat that enters the shelter. Whether it's reuniting lost animals with their families or finding loving new homes for the homeless, the goal is to return an animal to a normal life by making their shelter stay as short as possible.

Attaining that goal, however, is not without challenges. Fewer than half of the stray and lost dogs brought to our shelter are redeemed by their owners and returned home. Well over half of the dogs entering the shelter are never redeemed. Their shelter stay will last until we can find a new home or an acceptable transfer partner to increase their adoption options. That length of time is typically measured in weeks, not days. For cats, fewer than ten-percent of strays are redeemed by their owners, and their overall length of stay in the shelter tends to be even longer than dogs.

We know from experience that crafting an acceptable path out of the shelter will be inherently more challenging for some animals. As a licensed Colorado shelter, all our dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered before they can be adopted. That means neonates, puppies, and kittens will typically be with us many weeks until they are old enough to undergo surgery. For animals that have special needs or

The staff at HSPS works diligently to create positive and timely outcomes for every dog and cat that enters the shelter.



for senior citizen pets, the pool of prospective adopters shrinks and the wait for a home can be long. And for some cats and dogs, their appearance or breed may conspire to limit their adoption options from the start. That's why we don't place a limit on the length of time an animal can stay in our shelter.

338 days. A month short of a year. That's how long Marty was in our shelter before he finally found a new home. Marty was a handsome 5-year-old when he entered the shelter. His happy demeanor and enthusiastic greetings every morning quickly made him a staff and volunteer favorite. No sad faces for Marty! So, why did this happy, friendly dog wait so long for a home? Marty is a pit bull, and his breed was his primary challenge.

Marty's homelife before he travelled to Pagosa Springs put him in the company of a rough crowd and his care was inconsistent, at best. He was frequently allowed to run loose and was no stranger to the animal shelter in his hometown. When Marty's owner was ultimately incarcerated for criminal activity, he was brought to the animal shelter for safe-keeping, off the streets and away from known associates of his former owner. Once we understood Marty's backstory, we agreed to transfer him to our shelter so that he could get a fresh start away from an undesirable situation, even though we knew he might be with us for a while.

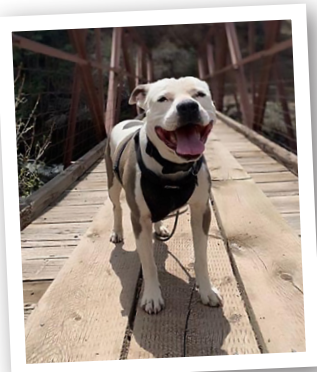
HSPS is part of a network of Colorado shelters that transfer animals among partners to expand their opportunities for adoption. In Marty's case, his transfer options were limited because of breed bans for pit bulls in some parts of Colorado, meaning his transfer to some otherwise great shelters was impossible. On top of that, public perception can make it more difficult to find acceptable adoptions for pit bulls. The result is that the average shelter stay for pit bulls and similar breeds is often much longer than most other dogs.

Marty didn't have the best of care before becoming a shelter dog. He arrived in our shelter with a limp and a lump, both of which were resolved with improved nutrition, medication, and attentive care. Marty also had not been well-socialized in his previous life and

wasn't always comfortable being around other dogs. To improve his social skills, staff worked with him on dog interactions during behavior training classes as part of our shelter enrichment program. Marty also went for on-leash walks downtown along the river where he could randomly interact with people and dogs. On the rides to and from town Marty loved to stick his head out the window and feel the breeze.

As Marty's shelter days extended to weeks, staff worked diligently to understand his needs and make his lengthy shelter stay as supportive as possible. Like people, not all dogs or cats are the same. It's imperative for shelter staff to look and listen, and ask the important empathetic questions: who are you, and what do you need? The answer, as it turned out, is that Marty is kind of a goofball and needed opportunities to express himself.

Marty loves water, so staff gave him his own long outdoor run with a private kiddie pool to wade in. As a short-haired breed Marty needed a little extra warmth when the temperature turned cool, so he had his own dog coat that he treasured. Tennis balls are one of his favorite things in the world, and he always had an ample supply in his kennel. Marty even had a pet rock that he adopted. The rock lived in his outdoor kennel and he liked to carry it around; he didn't chew on it, he simply carried it with him. Marty was so tolerant he willingly allowed staff to dress him as a pumpkin for Thanksgiving and adorn him with lipstick kisses for a Valentine's Day Instagram portrait. All of these objects and activities were part of Marty's enrichment during his lengthy stay in the shelter, and they enhanced his well-being by keeping him active and letting him be the dog he needed to be.



In the month Marty was finally adopted, nineteen other dogs, including labs, shepherds, border collies, huskies, hounds and a dachshund, were also adopted from HSPS. The average number of days in the shelter for those dogs was thirty-one, one-tenth the number of days Marty was in the shelter. But his new home was well worth the long wait. Marty's new dad has previous experience with pit bulls, and understands Marty's needs. Plus, he's as much of a water enthusiast as Marty! Dad sends us photos of Marty's outdoor adventures canoeing, camping, hanging out at rivers and lakes, and generally having a really doggone good time.

Before Marty left the shelter for his new home, staff members put together a little bag of his favorite things to take along. Among the treasures was his pet rock, signed by all the shelter staff to wish him well in his new life. Their collective sentiment is probably best described by Liz, our shelter manager: "After putting all the time and love into Marty it was wonderful to have him go to what we consider the best possible home he could have."

Maybe in a topsy-turvy world we need to take a page out of Marty's playbook: being resilient, staying patient, and persevering will help us get through troubled times to the good days ahead.

Thank you to all the supporters who make caring for a dog like Marty possible. And a special thank you to all our adopters, especially those who open their homes to the harder-to-adopt dogs and cats. We could not do what we do without you!

# Remembering Your Beloved Pet

## HSPS Offers Cremation Services and Pet Memorials

Many of us share an unconditional love and bond with our animal companions. For us, a pet is not "just a dog" or "just a cat". Animals are an integral part of our lives and a beloved member of our families. They bring us happiness, joy and companionship that feels irreplaceable so when we are faced with the loss of a beloved pet, it is often a time of overwhelming grief and emotion.

Losing a pet can be one of the most difficult experiences of your life. As you come to terms with such a loss, you may be left wondering how to honor your faithful companion and cherish the memories left behind.

At the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, we want every pet owner in our community to know that **we are here for you** to help you remember and honor your pet by providing cremation services and pet memorials.

In fact, our crematorium is rarely needed for animals that come through our shelter. 98 out of every 100 cats and dogs entering our shelter leaves alive. The only time we euthanize a shelter animal is if they come in with severe or terminal medical conditions and saving them simply isn't humane or possible. But for every other animal, we spend whatever time, money and energy it takes, and explore all options available, to get each and every one into a loving forever home.

The cost of cremations and pet memorials helps fund our animal shelter, giving you an opportunity to help other animals in need while saying farewell to your true friend and celebrating the life of your pet in a way that is meaningful. Each pet is treated with professionalism, care and compassion and we have multiple cremation and memorial options available. If you have questions or would like additional information about pet cremations, please contact our animal shelter at 970-731-4771.



Engraved memorial bricks



Glass bead infused with ashes



Remains scattered in our Serenity Garden



Hand-crafted wooden urn with engraved pet name

# A HUGE SUCCESS!

## First Ever VIRTUAL Auction for the Animals

This year the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals was brought to your home screen! Since this year's annual fundraiser had to go virtual, we knew we had to get creative with content to keep our audience entertained and engaged. We came up with a Pet Fashion Show where creative owners and their pets (pictured right) could strut their stuff in costume on our virtual catwalk in support of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs. Audience members got to vote on their favorites and all participants received an appreciation prize, while the top three best dressed were awarded additional prizes.

Our virtual silent auction was a huge success, full of incredible gift baskets, gift certificates, art, jewelry, camping gear, home décor, and more! Our top seller was a 2010 Ford F-150 Truck, which sold to the highest bidder at the unbelievable amount of \$20,250. Everyone was on the edge of their virtual seats, placing their bids and competing to win their items as the silent auction came to an end. Just imagine how far all of these auction funds will go towards helping our community's animals in need!

We want to thank every business, community partner and individual who donated items towards our silent auction. Without your support our auction would not have been possible. We also want to thank everyone who visited our event website to bid on auction items, vote for your favorite pet fashion show participants, and make outright donations towards our critical cause. The funds raised by your generosity will help us continue to provide the top-notch care, unconditional love, quality food, shelter and medical services that our shelter and community animals need and deserve.

We had amazing collaboration with local restaurants who supported our event by generously donating a percentage of their sales towards the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs on event day. Thank you to Java the Cup, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Thai Pagosa, Colorado Roadhouse, Riff Raff Brewing, Riff Raff of the Rio, and The Lost Cajun. And thank you to everyone who purchased meals at these restaurants to support them and HSPS!

We are grateful to all of the sponsors who dug deep this year in a time when we really needed the extra love and support. We would like to thank our two Platinum Sponsors, the Tennyson Building Event Center and our long-time sponsor Fort Lawrie and the Lawrie Dogs. Our Diamond Sponsor this year was another loyal supporter, Joan Ward. We had two Gold Sponsors, the Pagosa Springs Medical Center and Summer Phillips Goldsmith. Thank you all for your very kind and generous support!

Additional sponsors included our Bronze Sponsors: Jody Brown Farmers Insurance, Belvedere Arts, Chris Pierce Pagosa Woodworks, and Buck Frisbee Landscaping Services. Our Waggin' Tail sponsors were Piedra Automotive, Subway, Alpine Inn, The Malt Shoppe, OK Nails, Southwest Silver Gallery, Lauren & Richard Zak, Kogen Builders and Good Earth Meds.

Finally, we want to give a special thanks to our emcees Jason Cox from Riff Raff Brewing, Lauren Wolan-Zak our Board President, and Richard Miller our loyal volunteer and thrift store employee for donating their time and energy into communicating our messages and keeping the virtual show fun and entertaining.

**Every contribution of time and money made our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals a huge success. Thank you!**



Sam the Biker Dog



Callie the Unicorn Cat



Sahara the Lady Bug Dog



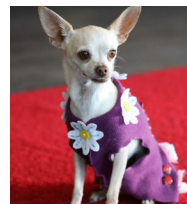
Moab the Cinco De Mayo Dog



Scout the Patriotic Dog



Calli the Dancing Dog



Daisy the Flower Girl Dog



Eva the Sparkly Dancer Dog



Jojo the Pumpkin Dog



Morgan the Bumble Bee Dog



Biscuit the Bull Rider Dog



Chouji the Party Pup



Yoshi the Cowboy Dog



Miss Kitty the Ballerina Donkey



Gus the Zorro Horse



Chay the Hippie Horse



Otis the Dracula Dog



Grizz the Headless Horseman



Jojo the Uncooperative Pig



Crazy Birds with Crazy People

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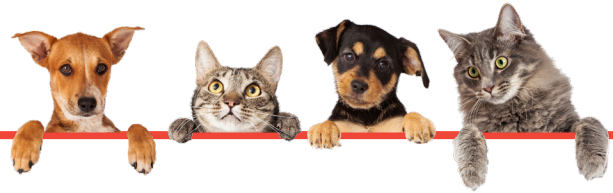
  
**FORT LAWRIE**  
 Technical Services

  
**LAWRIE DOGS**

# Check It Out!




The mural at the shelter is complete! The picture does not do it justice so come on out to our animal shelter at 465 Cloman Boulevard to check out our 40 foot long, 9 foot high mural to promote animal adoptions painted on our shelter evacuation supply container. Thank you, Kathy Steventon, for your beautiful and creative work!



## Stay Connected With Us

Follow us on these social media sites:

 /hspagosa and /hspagosathrift

 @hspagosa and @hspagosathrift

Follow us on social media to see the latest thrift store deals and sales, read our adoption success stories, learn about cats and dogs available for adoption, and so much more!

## In Honor Of

All of the wonderful volunteers from Alan Marzloff  
Carole Shewbridge and Rose Dippel from Tim Dippel  
Darcy Cat Adopted 6-20-10 from Sarah Walker  
Geraldine Crouch's Birthday from Scott and Rhonda Young  
Honza, Tony & Fino from Arline Rector  
Jack Crouch's Birthday from Scott and Rhonda Young  
Jesse James Hanson-Colburn from Jeanne Hanson-Colburn  
John and Joyce Webb from Jean and James Carson  
Kristin Vorhies & Pat Bremer from Jean Zirnhelt  
Maise Casias from Irvin and Andrea Casias  
Oscar Coleman from Paul and Victoria Coleman  
Priscilla's Birthday 5/4/20 from Coye Jones  
Ruckus - Little Girl from LuAnn Baker  
Sydonia Poenisch's Birthday from Clayton and Billie Poenisch  
Tas the Cat from Ben and Nora Mendenhall  
Trudy & Doug Scott from Betty Ford

## In Loving Memory Of

Barbara S Holmes from Rick and Janet Santopietro  
Benny Lohman from David and Carolyn Piirto  
Boo, beloved dog from Jeanne Hanson-Colburn  
Brenda Decker from Miles and Connie Davidson  
Brenda Decker from Lisa and Bob Scott  
Brenda Decker from Cindy V. Hamilton and Bradford Shutler  
Broadway from LuAnn Baker  
Buffy, beloved dog from Mary G. McCalister  
Callie, the cat with an unforgettable personality and the first place winner of the pet fashion show from the Knab family  
Capone, Karen Bartholomew's beautiful, crazy Husky from Jeff and Jan Hester  
Carole Shrewbridge from Gloria Todd  
Casey and Tumbler from Betty Ford  
Cassie, beloved dog from William and Patricia Curtiss  
Chloe, beloved dog from Ted and Kathy Fink  
Cooper from Becky and Rodney Slade  
Creole, beloved dog of Adrian Smith & Louie Brock from Tracy Allen  
Edward & Virginia Kaumeyer from Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey  
Eliza, beloved cat from Joanne Bridges  
Emma Rose from Becky and Rodney Slade  
Henri, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death (5/14) from Beverly Sondag  
Jessie & Sophie, beloved dogs from Will Dunbar and Nancy Cole  
Kaya (dog) from Karoline and Bob Brown

Levi, beloved dog from Donald and Alice Stidham  
Lewis Logsdon, Beloved Cat from Cher Logsdon  
Lily Curry from Lynn Donley and Davis Bennett  
Lois Norris from Connie Schanzenbaker  
Mandy, beloved dog from Richard and Camille Fulton  
May Callahan from Robert Obenour  
Mr. Bo, beloved dog from Stephanie King and Chris Mills  
My husky from Karen Bartholomew  
Norma Harman from Linda Portis  
Patt Gammill from Douglas Nichols  
Patt Gammill from Shanon Ratliff  
Patt Gammill from Carly Stroud  
Patt Gammill from Prestoncrest Church of Christ  
Patt Gammill from J D and Jana Schick  
Patt Gammill from Christopher Wardle  
Patt Gammill from Teresa and Terry Burge  
Patt Gammill from Miles and Connie Davidson  
Pooter, Bart from Barbara McNichols Carter  
Rudy, beloved dog from Catherine Rosul  
Rudy, our good boy from Jeff and Jan Hester  
Scout & Angus from Melinda Waldrop and Tom Porter  
Squeek, beloved cat of Jean and Jim Carson from Kelly and Jerry Evans  
Squeek, beloved cat of Jean and Jim Carson from Nita Niece Sumac (2007-2020) from David and Lucille Novak  
Stormy and Misty (dogs) from Timothy and Judith Patton  
Taz, beloved dog from Rose and Robert Chacon  
Vera Minkel from Alpha Property Owners Association  
Zoey Martin from Miles and Connie Davidson

## Memorial Bricks

"Zach You will always live in our hearts"  
from Thomas and Nancy Maxwell  
"In memory of Johnny Cash. Our little Boston with the biggest heart"  
from Laura Quimby  
"Nikki Strohecker, Our beautiful blue-eyed boy. Till we meet again."  
from Stephanie Miller  
"Pamela N Myerscough, 1934-2019 PUG, Your Loving Family"  
from Bonnie Schilf  
"Brian E Myerscough, 1933-2020 PUG, Your Loving Family"  
from Bonnie Schilf  
"James C. Schilf 1943-2006, Dad/Papa's Pennies"  
from Bonnie Schilf  
"In loving memory of Tracy Reavis, beloved daughter of Rice Reavis"  
from Rice Reavis



## Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Administration Office: 279 Pagosa Street  
P.O. Box 2230 • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(970) 264-5549 • Fax (970) 264-5593  
www.humanesociety.biz  
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz  
hsdirector@humanesociety.biz

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### Animal Shelter

465 Cloman Boulevard  
Mon-Sat 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Sun 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Open to the public by appointment only  
(970) 731-4771 | sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

### Humane Society Thrift Store

279 Pagosa Street  
Tues-Sat 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
(970) 264-6424 | hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

### Board of Directors

Lauren Wolan-Zak – President  
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Florence Hall – Board Member  
Shirley Keno – Board Member  
Leslie Sargeant – Board Member  
Richard Zak - Board Member  
Mike Stoll – Executive Director  
Robson Reyes - Marketing and Development Director

## Thrift Store Thrives Amongst Changes



It has taken a tremendous effort to keep our thrift store open and operating effectively with current restrictions, but with the tireless hard work from our staff, volunteers and supporters, we are still going strong every week.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. We currently have specific safety protocols to keep all of our staff, volunteers and shoppers safe and healthy. These protocols include requiring everyone to wear a face covering when in the store, regulating the amount of donations we take in every day, and limiting

the number of shoppers allowed to be in the store at any given time. We really appreciate everyone's compliance.

We have also implemented new safety protocols to further protect our staff by creating different stations that allow donations to sit for a day or two before our staff touches them. We have been overwhelmed with donations this year and sometimes cannot accept donations on any given day in order to give our staff time to catch up with sorting, sanitizing and organizing before placing items for sale. Please know we are doing our best and our staff is working hard to keep up with the amount of donations being received.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Thrift Store Manager, Bonnie Milburn, has had to take a leave of absence. We all miss her and wish her well with the hopes to see her soon. In her place, we are happy to welcome our newest addition and Thrift Store Manager, Matthew Eldredge. Mathew has been a long-time supporter and volunteer at our thrift and we are very excited to have him be a permanent part of our team!

The support from our community has been amazing and we are grateful for everyone who donates to and shops at the Thrift Store while supporting the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs animal shelter. Thank you!