



Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Winter 2014

Which Way to Wichita?

by Mike Stoll

How far is far enough to find a dog a home? That's a question that often gets asked in animal shelters when seemingly good dogs lack immediate prospects for an adoptive home. Most often, "how far" refers to the amount of effort expended. In the case of Crystal, "how far" not only measured effort but also miles traveled.

Crystal arrived at the HSPS animal shelter in the back of the animal control truck in August, 2012. She had been found wandering near downtown Pagosa Springs without a human companion or identification. No one ever contacted the shelter looking for her. Over the next two months Crystal settled into life at the shelter. She proved to be a happy, energetic young girl who greeted people enthusiastically, loved to go for walks, and could one-hop a tennis ball like a shortstop. Still, no adopter was found for her.

When good dogs can't find a local home, shelter staff expands the search for workable options. Those options may include placement with a breed-specific rescue group or a transfer to a shelter in a larger population area where the prospective adopters far outnumber the available dogs. The transfer option has worked well for us over the years. HSPS has transferred numerous dogs to various Colorado front-range shelters where the average wait for an adoptive home is significantly less than it is in our smaller community.

In mid-November, 2012 Crystal and four other dogs loaded into the shelter van with a volunteer driver and headed for a shelter in Fort Collins, Colorado and a fresh chance at finding an adoptive home. Crystal was quickly adopted and the future looked bright. Just as quickly, the adoption unraveled when Crystal and the dog already living in her new home failed to coexist peacefully. Her adopters returned her to the shelter who in turn contacted HSPS with the question, "We no longer think she's fit for adoption here. What do you want us to do with her?"

So, on a frosty December morning another volunteer headed back to Fort Collins to retrieve her. A 700 mile roundtrip later, Crystal settled back in to our shelter, picked up her tennis ball, and began to patiently wait for whatever might happen next.



HSPS uses several websites to generate more exposure for our adoptable animals. In early May, 2013 we received a message from Julie Minor in Wichita, Kansas through the website RescueMe.org asking about Crystal. 600 miles of separation was not going to deter Julie, because Crystal's photo and description had really struck a chord with her. Julie filled out pre-adoption paperwork and asked lots of questions and received lots of answers. Due diligence and information gathering by both parties is important for successful adoptions and especially so for long-distance adoptions.

Julie was determined to make this adoption happen, so she bought a crate and blanket, a harness and leash, packed her car and headed for Pagosa Springs. A 1,200 mile roundtrip later, Julie was back in Wichita with her new family member, and the well-traveled Crystal had finally found a home... a bit farther than "just down the road."

By early summer, Julie reported that all was well in Wichita. "She is very sweet, loving, and loyal to me. She loves to play fetch and I am teaching her to jump up in the air and catch a ball. She is also learning to wait and stay." Julie concluded, "She is changing my life and I feel so lucky to have her!"

As a part of the shelter's follow up with recent adoptions Julie was contacted again this fall to see how the pair was doing. She wrote

Continued on next page

Which Way to Wichita? (con't from page 1)

back: "Oh my gosh, can you sing *You light up my life*? We are just wonderful. She is my daily joy!"

Crystal's story is a thank you on many levels. Thank you to Crystal for her patience and to Julie Minor for opening up her heart and home to a dog that had been overlooked by many. Thank you to the shelter staff and all the loyal volunteers who made Crystal's long stay in the shelter a more positive experience. And thank you to all our supporters near and far who make good dog deeds possible, however many miles it may take!



Crystal at home with her new family in Wichita



Number 19 and Counting!

The 19th annual *Auction for the Animals* fundraiser held this past August 23rd at the Ross Aragon Community Center in downtown Pagosa Springs was another rousing success. The donated auction items ranged from gorgeous jewelry and art work, to resort and travel packages, to fun and practical gifts, and everything in between – including a 14' sailboat and a hand-crafted walking loom! Delicious hors d'oeuvres were donated by The View restaurant, pizza was donated by Farrago's Market Café and additional tasty treats were provided by the Alley House Grille and DSP Pizza. Wine, beer and soft drinks complimented the evening's food, and music was provided by DJ Mike Hayward.

A sincere thank-you to all the many volunteers who made the evening so successful, including (but by no means limited to) Diane Maun and her kitchen crew, the many-handed volunteer setup crew, the Pagosa Springs high school cheerleaders, auction spotters Mike Branch and Carl Smith, auction scribes Robbie and Steve Schwartz, and professional auctioneer Ken Kincaid, who donated his services for the second consecutive year. A special heartfelt thank-you to event co-chairs Evelyn Tennyson and Siri Schuchardt, whose long hours, hard work, and attention to every last detail made the event sparkle. And finally a huge thank-you to all the people and businesses who donated auction items and to the many auction attendees whose ticket purchases and auction bids raised valuable funds to support the animal shelter.

Save the date for the 2014 *Auction for the Animals* on August 22nd. It will be a festive gala evening as we *put on the dog* in a special celebration of our 20th annual auction fundraiser. Stay tuned for details!

City Market Cares

The City Market Cares program is tied to your City Market/ King Soopers Value Card. Once you have enrolled in the Cares program and list HSPS as your organization of choice, each time you use your Value Card it helps HSPS accrue a share of the money that City Market donates and distributes to charities throughout Colorado. Last year we received over \$1,800 from this program!

Enrollment forms are available at the Thrift Store, the Shelter or on our website. You can be sure that your enrollment is complete and active by checking your store receipts – you should see our name at the bottom of each one.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact us at 970-264-5549 or hsadmin@humanesociety.biz.



Lucky on location with Doris Leitch (Lucky's owner) and Michael McCrudden (movie director Ian McCrudden's father)

Lucky Movie Star!

When a dog or cat ends up in the HSPS animal shelter it's often because their life has taken an unintended and usually unanticipated path. They've become lost and fail to reunite with their family; life takes a turn for the worse for their owners and they can no longer stay together; what could have been a good living situation somehow sours or never materializes and the animal is abandoned. The reasons are numerous, but the results are similar. Animals come to the shelter for a second chance and an opportunity for a fresh start.

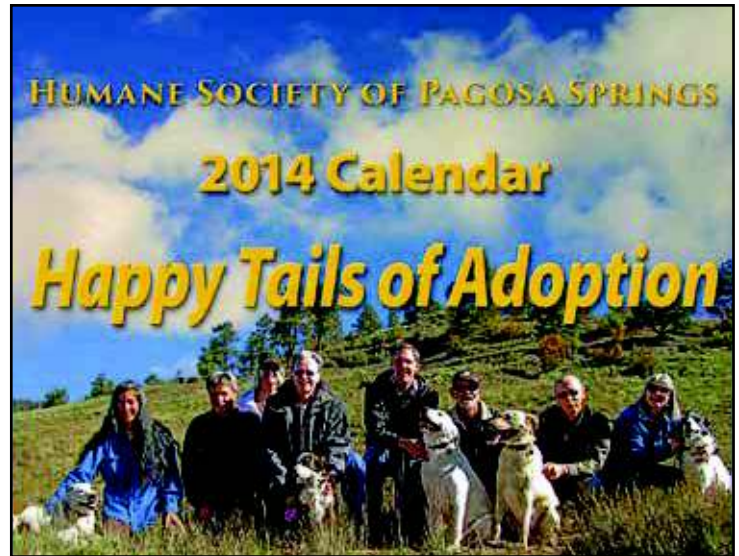
When a dog or cat gets adopted, shelter staff sends them on their way with a fond wish – whether spoken or not – that this is their best possible new beginning, their time to shine, that they are about to become a star in the feel-good story they deserve.

One recent HSPS shelter alumnus has taken that potential star-turn to a whole new level. Lucky is a black Lab that was adopted this past February by Doris and Mike Leitch. Lucky is an older dog that liked to take naps when he was in the shelter, and his new adoptive family noted that he became a bit tired after long walks. Little did anyone know that Lucky was saving his energy for something truly special.

Pagosa Springs was recently a filming location for the independent film, *The Girl in the Lake*. The role of Buster in the film was landed by Lucky – Lucky indeed! The role called for a happy, affectionate dog that befriends a young girl. One

professional on set said Lucky was better behaved than some union-trained dogs that they have worked with. Lucky would probably tell you that all the treats were a good deal and well worth good behavior, especially when there were multiple takes of a breakfast scene that involved sausages!

So, three cheers for Lucky and all the other fortunate dogs and cats that get a second chance at a starring role in life, whether that's an ensemble role in a good household or a star-turn on the big screen. And three more cheers for all the people who answer the permanent casting call at the shelter for adopters. They often land what will become one of the best roles of their lifetime, too!



New for 2014 – HSPS Calendars!

Our 2014 calendar features a different photo each month of local folks and their four-legged family members adopted from the HSPS animal shelter. The calendar is printed on heavy-weight paper and highlights holidays and other special dates each month. The right margin of each month's page has a place for notes so you can jot down important reminders. Calendars will make great holiday gifts for animal lovers, so get them while they last!

Calendars are available now and may be purchased at the HSPS thrift store and animal shelter. They may also be ordered by calling the HSPS administration office at 970-264-5549. Phone orders will be shipped via USPS and will include additional shipping and handling fees for each calendar.

Prices are: \$13.99 for one calendar; \$12.99 each for two calendars; \$11.99 each for three or more calendars. Proceeds from calendar sales will support our animal shelter.

Special thanks to Kathy Steventon who volunteered her time to take all of the photos, to Barbara Rosner who volunteered her time to do the calendar layout, and to all the families and their dogs and cats who so graciously volunteered their time and smiles for the photographs. The cover photo depicts a gathering of the *Loma Linda Lowlanders*, each of whom adopted a dog from the HSPS shelter. Huzzah!

Shelter Open House: A Great Day for Families!

Our fourth annual Shelter Open House was held on July 14, 2013. Although some looming storm clouds gave us pause, the weather held and there was a great turnout for the event. Over a hundred people – many of whom brought canine supporters, too – came to tour the facility, attend the dedication of the Bark Park, and enjoy the lunch served out in our Memorial Garden. Thanks to generous donations from local merchants we also held raffles for a year's supply of pet food and gift baskets filled with toys and treats. Kathy Steventon beautifully captured the spirit of the day in the pet family photos she took. All-in-all it was a wonderful celebration of both the shelter and the loving relationships that start with a shelter adoption.



Incredible 5th Graders

Jack Foster and Kevin Cole of Pagosa Springs Middle School initiated a fundraising drive to benefit the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs. They created a competition among the 5th grade classrooms. Kevin came up with the idea to put mason jars and flyers in each of the classrooms and see which room could raise the most money.

The boys put a lot of hard work into their fundraising efforts and it really paid off. They collected \$160 which they donated to the HSPS animal shelter.

It's truly great to see young people engaging in volunteerism and experiencing the gratification of charitable works. Way to go Jack and Kevin for your community involvement!



Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

On July 29th we gathered in Town Park to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers. Monsoon clouds threatened rain, but in the end the sun came out to make a perfectly beautiful summer evening. Volunteer chef, Larry Schwartz, worked his magic on the delicious BBQ chicken. Thrift store manager, Bonnie Milburn, decorated a great cake with our logo and birthday candles for an honored guest, Golden Retriever Jack Lawrie, who turned 14 that day. Thanks to our Board of Directors for all their help in setting up and serving up a great picnic in honor of our super volunteers and great staff!

Outgoing President's Message

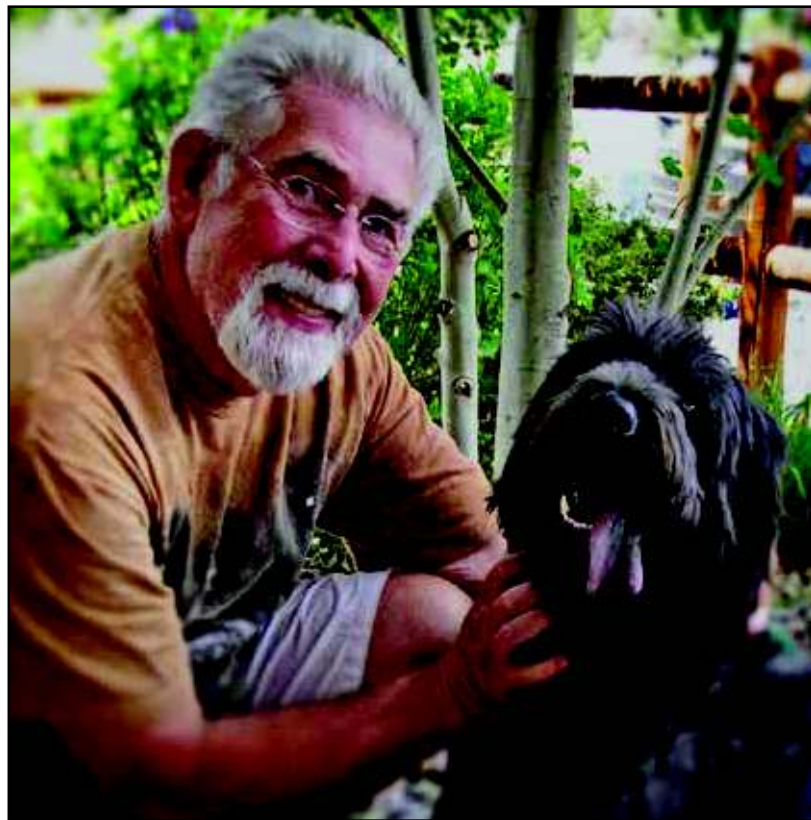
by Larry Schwartz

Let me take a few moments to try to sum up the dedication, effort, and changes I've witnessed in three years as president of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs – a thriving and innovative non-profit organization that is so well-respected within the community and surrounding areas of Southwest Colorado.

We care for all of the cats and dogs that are brought into our shelter with love and devotion. Our goal was and remains finding permanent homes for these animals. Our shelter has been enhanced by donations from devoted community members resulting in the recent addition of beautiful outdoor facilities for both cats and dogs, and a new fenced public Bark Park where dogs can run and play freely in a secure and safe area. Our new Memorial Garden at the animal shelter honors the memories of beloved people and pets and is a place of tranquility for people to spend quiet time remembering loved ones or simply enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery. New, innovative approaches at the shelter, such as our enrichment program for dogs and our spay/neuter program for free-roaming cats, improve the lives of the animals in our care and better serve the community, too.

Our thrift store has become the place to purchase amazing items at more amazing prices and receives daily compliments from both locals and out-of-towners. The store thrives because of tremendous daily donations and the support of the public. My weekly volunteer-work at the cash register lets me see first-hand how well the store operates, and I'm constantly reminded that the thrift store's continued success is a major source of revenue that supports the animal shelter.

Despite challenging economic conditions these past three years, our grant writing and fundraising efforts have successfully complimented thrift store revenues. The past three *Auctions for the Animals* have been among the most successful in the history of the society, and our annual *Chocolate Auction* continues to grow in



donations and importance. We have also instituted shelter open houses to invite and encourage more of the public to experience our wonderful shelter, and we continue our yearly volunteer appreciation functions to express our gratitude.

Which leads me to a final note: The staffs at the shelter, thrift store, and administrative office continue their hard work and are responsible for many of the good things that have happened, but the major thanks goes out to the volunteers who, on a daily basis, give of their time, their money, and most of all their love for the benefit of the animals. There are not enough words for me to express my gratitude – from my fellow Board members, to the thrift store volunteers, to the dog walkers and every other volunteer who helps at every event so that the dogs and cats are safe and cared for until and after they find new homes. We cannot succeed unless we have these wonderful people who are the heart and soul of the organization. My fervent hope is that we continue to attract even more volunteers so that our success continues unabated.

My official term ends January 2014, but I will stay on and volunteer in any way I can. It has been a true labor of love and I thank all of you who have helped make our time together successful.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Buddy, beloved dog of Bonnie Schiff – from Nancy & Joseph Grovhoug
Boots, beloved cat of Nancy & Michael Ray – from Glenda Sadler
Dakota, beloved dog of Brenda, Kameron, & Duane Winkler – from Laren & Terry Traver
Duke, beloved dog of Norma & Jan Karn – from Patrick & Sheila McKenzie
Glenn Vanderweele – from William & Maurine Marshall
Gypsy, beloved dog – from Marcia Jarvis & Ron Tinsley
Ida, beloved cat and "My Sweetie" – from Beverly Sondag
Jack DeLange – from Lenore & GH Bright, Kyle Cox of Citizens Bank, Jere & Lois Hill, Robert & Carole Howard, Kurt Kaeser and from the Special District Association of Colorado
Jake, Vicki Quijada's beloved cat – from Elmer & Peggy White
Kara, beloved dog & Mercedes, beloved cat – from Lawrence Christine & Dorothy Mueller-Christine
Lucky, beloved cat of Anthony & Kathy Stevenon – from Linda & Duncan Lawrie
LuLu, beloved dog of Robert & Betty Clouse
Otis, beloved companion of John Elliott – from Jacky Reece
Rascal, beloved pet of Ronnie Lohr – from Sherry Spears
Sean Michael – from Tom & Elizabeth Griffin
Sissy, beloved dog – from Fred & Mary Webb
Sketch, beloved Border Collie of Angela & Barrett Tennant – from Don & Paula Tennant
Smokey & Rocky, beloved cats of Doug & Deb Reynolds – from Laura Gunnels
Sophie, beloved dog of DC & Jaye Duncan – from Marilyn Smith
Sophie, beloved pet of the Starks Family – from Terry & Andrea Wyatt
Thelma, beloved dog – from Marianne Alpers

IN HONOR OF...

Anne & Rex Shurtleff – from Dave & Sandy Filleman
Don and Ann Cole – from Donna Cole
Domino – from Larry Crowe
Janice McIntyre – from Martha Hayes
Mickey & Charley, beloved dogs of Fred & Mary Webb
Rusty, a cat happily adopted from HSPS – from Coye & Priscilla Jones
Sarah, a Pit Bull happily adopted from HSPS – from Mary-Ann Burger
Simon & Baby, beloved dogs of Don & Alice Stidham



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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Animal Shelter

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sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

Humane Society Thrift Store

269 Pagosa St
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(970) 264-6424
hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

Board of Directors

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Joe Donovan, DVM – Board Member
Linda Lawrie – Board Member
Mike Stoll – Executive Director

Something to Cheer About!

For the past several years the Pagosa Springs High School cheerleading team has volunteered its assistance at the Humane Society’s annual *Auction for the Animals*. In recognition of this ongoing assistance, HSPS wanted to help the cheerleaders in return. At last August’s *Auction for the Animals*, the live auction portion kicked off with an item entitled *Pirate Spirit Basket*. The basket included some PSHS pirate memorabilia and a family pass to all 2013–2014 PSHS sporting events donated by the high school. Before the bidding began, HSPS pledged to split the proceeds from that particular auction item with the cheerleaders. Bidders were generous and the cheer squad netted \$625 for their volunteerism and hard work!



Mike Stoll, HSPS Executive Director, presents a check for \$625 to Coach Mable Barber & the Cheerleading Squad