

FALL 2021

# PAW PRESS



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## A Story of Love & Commitment

**Bittersweet.** This is the word that describes how our staff feels every time an animal gets adopted. Although each story of adoption brings us great joy and relief, we can't help but feel a little sad that an animal we have come to know and love will no longer be in our care. With Mitsy's adoption, her story could not have felt more bittersweet to our staff and volunteers who worked with her during her extended stay at our shelter...

*(continued inside)*



# A Story of Love & Commitment

**Mitsy is a fun-loving, energetic dog. Like most dogs, she loves to get her belly rubbed and to jump into your arms for a hug and a slobbery kiss whenever she gets the chance. But Mitsy wasn't always this way...**

Mitsy's story started at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs from a place of tragedy. She lived in a home full of chaos, destruction and violence. She witnessed the tragic murder of her owner right in front of her eyes, and she came to us with an understandable lack of trust for humans and their intentions.

When Mitsy first arrived at our shelter more than two years ago, she was confused and afraid, which led to some aggressive behavior that made it impossible to handle her. We knew we had a long road ahead of us to help Mitsy become the type of adoptable companion we knew she could be.



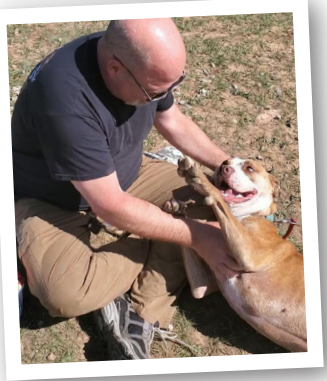
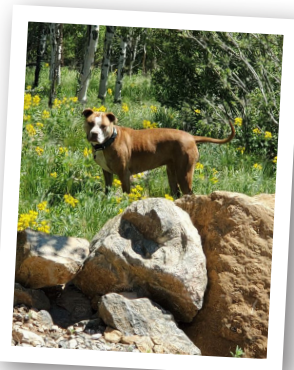
As people who care deeply about animals, our first instinct is to quickly shower every animal that comes into our shelter with an abundance of affection and love. But we have to set our wants aside and understand that the needs of an animal can be far different than our personal desires. Sometimes, an animal just needs time and space, which can be a true test of our patience. And so for weeks, we gave Mitsy the time and space she needed to settle.

After seeing Mitsy start to relax into our animal shelter environment, our staff created a plan to start to address Mitsy's behavioral issues. Not only was she aggressive towards most people, she also did not get along with other dogs and animals. We knew she would have to be kind and friendly towards all people and animals before she could be eligible for adoption.

Every day, our staff spent time with Mitsy, reading and talking softly to her, feeding her treats and gaining her trust. Eventually, they were able to interact with Mitsy and spend time petting and playing with her. Once she got more comfortable with staff, it was time to get her more comfortable with other people and dogs.

Another avid dog lover, Maria Depalma at Doggy Day Care, partnered with us to help further train and safely socialize Mitsy. Our staff would drop Mitsy off at Doggy Day Care regularly so she could spend time around other dogs. Her behavior training was extensive, but eventually Mitsy became a happy pup who loved to be around people and other animals.

Mitsy's road to recovery did not take days, weeks or even months. Our shelter staff spent nearly two years working with Mitsy to make her eligible for adoption.



## Our No-Kill Commitment

Like in Mitsy's case, no matter how much care an animal needs, or no matter how long it takes for one to get adopted, we are committed to the well-being of each and every animal that enters the shelter. We spend whatever time, money, and energy it takes – and we explore all options available – to place animals with loving families.

In addition to her behavioral problems, Mitsy is a pit bull, so the stigma attached to her breed wasn't going to help her chances of getting adopted. But despite the challenges we knew were ahead, never once did we waiver in our commitment to Mitsy, her future, and our search for her loving forever home.

Before beginning to work with Mitsy on her behavioral issues, our first course of action was to give her time. She needed time to settle in at the shelter. She needed time to understand we were here to help her. She needed time to mourn her owner and grieve her past life.

## Did You Know?

To be considered “no kill” in the animal shelter industry, a shelter must have a 90% placement rate. Although there are sometimes severe or terminal circumstances where saving an animal simply is not humane and euthanasia is an act of compassion, at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, we have a track record of placing 98% of all animals into forever homes!

We are so excited to share that in June, Mitsy got adopted by the best owner with the most ideal circumstances... lots of room to run around, other pups to play with, and someone who loves her dearly!



Mitsy is the perfect example of our no-kill commitment. We invest whatever time, money and care necessary to place each and every animal like Mitsy into their loving forever home. We love you Mitsy!

## Stay Connected With Us

Follow us on these social media sites:



/hspagosa and /hspagosathrift



@hspagosa and @hspagosathrift



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

## Letter from the Board

### HSPS Looks Ahead to the Future

As you may know, our organization has recently undergone some major changes. With the retirement of Mike Stoll in June of 2021, we are excited to share that our organization is under new leadership. We welcome Robson Reyes as our interim Executive Director!

Through the transition, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to caring for our animals.

- **Our Thrift Store is thriving** with changes that have built staff morale and enhanced the customer and donor experiences. Thank you to everyone who donates to and shops at our Thrift Store!

- **Our Animal Shelter is successfully caring** for more than 50 cats and 30 dogs with in-takes and adoptions going better than ever. Thank you to everyone who has adopted an animal!

- **Our Administrative Staff has been hard at work** securing donations, cultivating better and stronger relationships and community partnerships, pursuing new projects and opportunities, and building our brand to help our local Humane Society succeed and grow now and well into the future.

We have lots of new and exciting things we are working on! Perhaps most important is that we are creating partnerships with local non-profits to help them fulfill their missions while we continue to fulfill ours...

We are providing Rise Against Violence with vouchers to our thrift store for free clothing and household goods for victims of domestic violence; we are offering pet food to Meals on Wheels as a part of their weekly distribution to seniors, veterans and others in need; we are supplying our Food Bank with pet food for low-income households to help owners keep and care for their beloved pet when times get tough; we are working with the Pagosa Arts Initiative to give local artists an opportunity to showcase their talent by painting a mural on the street side of our thrift store; we are offering donations of overflow clothing from our thrift store to our local theatre productions to help support the arts; and we are donating old electronics to Aspen House in support of their electronics recycling program for adults with developmental disabilities.

We ask that you continue to support HSPS as it enters this exciting new chapter of change and growth so we can continue to care for our community's animals in need today and well into the future. Thank you!

*Gratefully,  
HSPS Board of Directors*

# Pets Strut Their Stuff to Raise Funds for Our Animal Shelter

## Virtual 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals a Big Success

On July 3, 2021 our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals went virtual for the second year in a row. With COVID continuing to threaten our community, our annual fundraiser once again came to the screens of our supporters in an effort to raise funds that will help the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs continue to provide quality care to our community's animals in need.

Our emcees Jason Cox, Lauren Wolan-Zak, and Richard Miller returned this year to communicate our message and entertain our audience. Back by popular demand, our second annual Pet Fashion Show was our fundraiser's primary source of entertainment. This year's pet fashion show didn't disappoint with an even more diverse variety of animals donning their best and most creative costumes to try to win best dressed. This year, we encouraged other local animal-related non-profits to enter the fashion show and we donated 50% of proceeds from their votes to their representing organization. Thank you to Lasso Horse Rescue and 4-H for participating!

Our virtual silent auction was full of incredible gift baskets, adventure packages and getaways, gift certificates, art, jewelry, sports gear, home décor, and more! Our top seller was a Growing Spaces Growing Dome, where the lucky bidder will get the chance to test her green thumb! We are so grateful to all of the people, businesses, restaurants and community partners who donated items towards our auction to help make it such a great success.

We also want to thank everyone who joined us for our event, bid on auction items, voted for your favorite pet fashion show participants, and made outright donations to help us continue to provide the care, love, nutrition, shelter and medical services that our shelter animals need and deserve.

Again this year, we collaborated with local restaurants who offered to donate a percentage of their sales towards our event. Thank you to Papa Murphy's Pizza, Thai Pagosa, Riff Raff Brewing, and Riff Raff of the Rio. And thank you to everyone who purchased meals at these restaurants to support them and HSPS!

We are incredibly grateful to all of our event sponsors. We would like to give a special thanks to our Platinum Sponsor, Fort Lawrie and the Lawrie Dogs. Our two Diamond Sponsors this year were Team Pagosa Realty and Joan Ward. Our Gold Sponsors were the Pagosa Springs Medical Center and our Silver Sponsor was Arlene & Jim Payne. Thank you all!

Our Bronze Sponsors included Jody Brown Farmers Insurance, Belvedere Arts, The Break Room Brewing Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Southwest Bank, and Buck Frisbee Landscaping. Our Waggin' Tail Sponsors were Subway, The Rose Restaurant, Adobe Abode, Foster's Hotel in Chama, Piedra Automotive, Southwest Silver Gallery, The Malt Shoppe, Patsy's Restaurant, High Grade Specialists, The Last Resort RV Park & Campground, Ears 2 U, Downstream Gas & Mercantile, Coyote Moon, RG Bank, Alpine Inn, Rick & Lauren Zak, Snow Country Snowmobile Tours, and Pagosa Springs Inn & Suites. Thank you sponsors!

**Every contribution, whether small or large, made our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals another huge success. We appreciate each and every one of you for your attendance and support. We hope to see you all live in 2022!**



Winchester the Llama Herder



Yoshi the Police Officer



Chouji the Pirate



Biscuit as Uncle Sam



Ace the Wedding Beer Burrow



Beatrice and Bonnie the Ballerina Chickens



Ranger as Madonna



Pinecone the Cowboy



Louis and Moose as Hot Dog & Mustard



Jojo the Pig in a Blanket



Miss Kitty as 4th of July



Izzy as Baby Shark



Frankie the Groom



Bogey as Stars & Stripes



Luna, Ivory and Mystic Snakes



**FORT LAWRIE**  
Technical Services



**LAWRIE DOGS**



# Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers make everything we do possible. Tell us your interest and availability, and we'll find a position for you!



## Help Us Help More Animals!

**The more you support our programs, the more animals we can help. If you are passionate about trying to save animals, here's how you can make a difference:**

**Donate:** visit [www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz) to give online or send your tax-deductible gift in the envelope provided.

**Volunteer:** we need more volunteers at our thrift store and shelter! Contact us at [hsvolunteer@humanesociety.biz](mailto:hsvolunteer@humanesociety.biz) to learn more about volunteer opportunities and to get started.

**Foster an Animal:** because we are a no-kill shelter, we rely on foster families to help care for animals when our shelter approaches capacity. If you have a little extra room in your heart – and home – please call us at 970-731-4771 to become a foster parent!

## VOLUNTEER AT OUR ANIMAL SHELTER

If you want to be hands on with the animals, volunteering at our shelter is the place for you!

- Assist with animal care including socializing cats, walking dogs, grooming, help with cleaning and laundry.
- Transport animals to and from surrounding areas.
- Foster kittens or puppies until ready for adoption.

## VOLUNTEER AT OUR THRIFT STORE

Our Thrift Store generates funds to sustain our shelter. If you like working in retail – for a good cause – we need you!

- Help sort, price and tag incoming donations.
- Assist with organizing and displaying merchandise.
- Research specialty items.

## VOLUNTEER IN OUR ADMIN OFFICE

If computer and admin skills are your thing, we can use you!

- Help with entering donations and other data entry.
- Assist with maintaining our social media presence.
- Help fulfill fundraising tasks, organize files and papers.

## In Honor Of

Ally & Tinsel from *Sue Fager*  
 Maise Casias from *Irvin and Andrea Casias*  
 Trudy & Doug Scott from *Betty Ford*  
 Stan from *Ronald & Sharon Cairns*  
 Lily Bell Leeper from *Marcia Leeper*  
 Minou (Gracie May) from *Margaret E. Coleman*  
 Doug & Sally Neel from *William C. Ward*  
 Shadow from *Joyce & John Webb*  
 Dr. Polly Thibaut from *Jeff & Jan Hester*  
 Xandir's Story from *Karen & Rick Bartholomew*

## In Loving Memory Of

Cheryl Henry from *Terry & Andrea Wyatt*  
 Kendall, beloved Golden from *Jean & James Carson*  
 Daphne, beloved dog of Stephanie Pham  
 from *Nancy & Joe Drake*  
 Sadie Matzdorf from *Claudia Matzdorf & Lars Schneider*  
 Skittle from *Wendy & Kenneth Kellett*  
 Wicket, beloved dog from *Olin & Sharon Garrison*  
 Don & Ann Cole from *Donna Cole*  
 Millie Blankenship, sweet yellow lab  
 from *Joan & Mark Blankenship*  
 Emma from *William & Cathleen Belanger*  
 Nancy Trout from *Jim & Dagmar Huffman*  
 Buster "Brown" from *Norris & Cindi Tidwell*  
 Callie from *Laura Metallo & Cheryl Flynn*  
 Penny (Lyon), beloved dog from *Margaret E. Coleman*  
 Morgan, beloved dog of Nita Niece  
 from *Linda & Duncan Lawrie*  
 Bailey, beloved dog of Luann Fritz from *Nita Niece*

Chickory, beloved cat of Elizabeth Andreas  
 from *Linda & Duncan Lawrie*  
 Boomerang, beloved 14 year old cat  
 from *Judith & John Jordan*  
 My Beloved Rescue Dog Sam from *Loretta Conder*  
 Bentley Spears from *Will & Christi Spears*  
 Prize from *Jeff & Jan Hester*  
 Kai & Kenai, beloved huskies of Kevin Weiser & Jennifer Martin  
 from *Jeff & Jan Hester*  
 Layla Nolte-McCuller from *Kristen Nolte*  
 Cocoa, beloved dog of *Jo Ann Stockwill*  
 Don Macleod from *Siri & Roger Cooper*  
 Carole Shewbridge from *Gloria Todd*  
 Taylor Sue, Beloved dog of Russ & Jacqui Weidner  
 from *Connie Treadwell*

## Memorial Bricks

"Tony & Frankie, Brothers Forever"  
 from *Leah & James Baxter*  
 "In memory of Connie Martin whose love for her friends and dogs  
 will forever live in our hearts"  
 from *Alice Woodall*  
 "Shyboy, 3/14/2008-3/21/2021, Forever in our Hearts"  
 from *Sherry Trujillo*  
 "In loving memory of Sable & Ace"  
 from *Toby and Leah Beth Tollefsen*  
 "Sweet girl Lucy Sullivan, 2006-2021"  
 from *Gwenn Glotnis*  
 "My Pups, Autumn, Mila, Lilka, Karma, & Morgan Niece"  
 from *HSPS*  
 "In memory of Bentley Spears"  
 from *Will & Christi Spears*

# Humane Society



## Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

### Administration Office

279 Pagosa Street • P.O. Box 2230  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(970) 264-5549

[www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz)  
[hsadmin@humanesociety.biz](mailto:hsadmin@humanesociety.biz)  
[hsdirector@humanesociety.biz](mailto:hsdirector@humanesociety.biz)

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

### Animal Shelter

465 Cloman Boulevard, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
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](mailto:sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz)

### Humane Society Thrift Store

279 Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Mon-Sat 9:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
(970) 264-6424 | [hsthiftstore@humanesociety.biz](mailto:hsthiftstore@humanesociety.biz)

### Board of Directors and Executive Staff

Phil Rosenstein – President  
Do Englehardt – Vice President  
Eric Burt – Treasurer  
Susan Weiland – Secretary  
Shirley Keno – Board Member  
Lynn Weiland – Board Member  
Richard Zak – Board Member  
Robson Reyes – Executive Director

## A Happy Outcome for Morris the Cat

**Morris is a big, lovable orange cat who, like most cats, loves to lounge around and sleep. His story at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs started from unfortunate circumstances...**

A caring couple driving early one morning on Piedra Road noticed a cat having a hard time walking. He was assumed to have been hit by car. When the couple called our shelter, our staff instructed them to take the cat in to a local veterinarian immediately for emergency care.

When Morris arrived at Elk Park Animal Hospital, it was obvious he had sustained some serious injuries. An x-ray showed that his hip was severely dislocated and that Morris was going to need surgery. Dr. Thompson didn't hesitate to get right to work on Morris. He had surgery that morning and was transferred to our shelter for recovery and further care by our shelter staff that same afternoon.



Our shelter staff spent weeks monitoring and rehabilitating Morris to be sure he had a speedy and successful recovery. Morris is now a healthy and fully mobile cat again.

Like almost every animal who comes into our care, Morris had a happy outcome. He was adopted earlier this year and spends his days running, pouncing, jumping and – of course – sleeping!

The story of Morris is a great example of why our emergency medical care fund is so important. When a stray is brought in that needs medical care, our local veterinarian partners know they don't have to hesitate to do what's necessary to provide every sick and injured animal the care it desperately needs. That's because the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs will cover the medical costs and is then committed to caring for the animal during its recovery and until it is ready for adoption.

We are grateful to Elk Park for giving us a big discount on Morris's surgery, and we are grateful for donors who contribute to our Emergency Care Fund to help us save more animals like Morris!

### Help Fund Emergency Care

We can't provide emergency care for animals like Morris without you! Send your donation in the envelope provided or visit [www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz) to give online.