

# PAW



# PRESS

A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

## Bella Finally Learns to Love and Trust

*Story provided by Roxanne Maki*

Our beloved best friend and joyful rescue dog, Lydia, died September 1, 2021. Before Lydia, we had said our painful goodbyes to three other rescues, magnificent Newfoundlands. We were crushed by all of this loss and definitely not ready to love another dog.

But a phone call came out of the blue, bringing us a new beginning that mended and healed our inconsolable broken hearts. Her name is Bella, sweet Bella...

Barb from *For Pooch Sakes Grooming* was grooming Bella for the Humane Society shelter. She called and told us that Bella had been surrendered to the shelter three days after Christmas 2021. She only spent a few days at the shelter before going into foster care, but she was being returned. We had a lengthy conversation with Bella's foster parents and ultimately, we decided to adopt her.

*(story continued inside)*



# COVER STORY

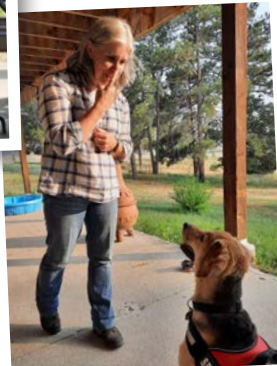
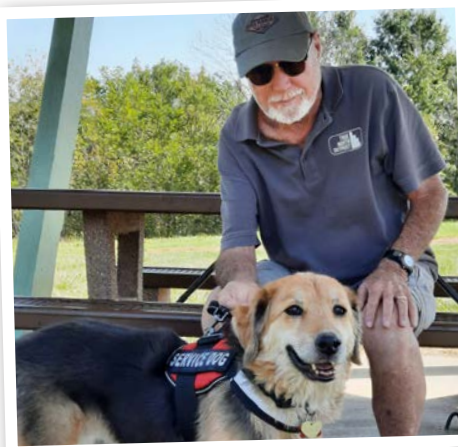
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The first week we had Bella, she appeared to have some PTSD and trauma symptoms. We recognized that her behaviors may not have been exhibited at the shelter. As time went on, we started to research dog PTSD and behaviors like Bella's so we could provide her with everything she needed to feel safe.

For Bella, indoors was a scary place. She did not know her name. Physical contact seemed to be foreign and scary. She saw us as strangers and kept her distance. If we were in the kitchen, she would move to the living room or to the laundry room. She preferred lying under the kitchen table or in other safe hiding spots rather than on the several cushy dog beds we had dispersed throughout our home. Despite her fears, Bella was incredibly sweet.

We were bonding emotionally to Bella. She avoided living room furniture, didn't touch or sniff anything, wasn't curious, and didn't explore. She was fearful of toys and didn't know what to do with them. She was afraid to take a treat from our hand. She would crouch and reluctantly approach a treat, like a feral, when it was tossed to her. We needed to gently coax and encourage her to her bowl for meals. She ate ever so slowly all the while keeping an eye on us and her surroundings. If we coughed or sneezed she would cower. In spite of her fears, she was easy to live with. Always sweet, but painfully submissive.

Bella feared almost everything in our forested neighborhood... tall grass, foreign smells, unknown sounds, trash bins. She was even scared of the dark! Daily walks were a stretch for her. We honored that and let her go at her own pace. We were learning her language; what she needed to feel safe and how to trust. But we also recognized we needed professional help in order for Bella to live a happy life and thrive.



We had Alyssa Forrest with *Forrest Tails Dog Training* help Bella build self confidence, self assurance, gain trust and feel safe. Over the next few months, Bella's health checks confirmed her diagnosis of lupus and also diagnosed her with pannus eye disease, both of which need constant attention and care.



Bella is now a more confident dog who simply needs us to follow her rhythm and pace in order to feel safe. We have found that slow, patient, gentle, and quiet is her language, and we are more than happy to honor that. It is most important for us to pay attention and learn her language so that she can feel supported and uplifted.

Bella has come so far with her demeanor and daily life. She now initiates play. She exuberantly plays with squeaker toys and balls. She plays catch and seeks out snuggles and affection. Now she sits at the kitchen drawer patiently waiting for her treat after dinner. She never lets us forget that she deserves her treat!

Thirteen months after adopting Bella, she went upstairs for the first time by herself to realize it's not a scary place. She finally discovered the cushy dog bed that's been waiting for her. She hauls her toys upstairs and down. And most importantly, Bella knows what love feels like and that she can count on it and fully trust.



*Our Thrift Store mural is underway! Come check it out at 279 Pagosa Street to see this beautiful artwork come to life. The concept of the mural is famous-paintings-meets-animal-lovers. The backdrop of the mural will be the Cafe Terrace by Vincent Van Gogh. Dispersed throughout the painting will be individual famous paintings, featuring cats and dogs of course! Pictured left to right: Cindy Chomley (Shelter Manager), Robson Reyes (Executive Director), Liz Andreas (Community Programs Director); Cindy Cunningham (Thrift Store Manager).*

## Meet Our Leadership Team

**Robson Reyes**, our Executive Director, came to us from the Los Angeles area with an extensive background in marketing for non-profit organizations. His love of the mountains brought him to Pagosa Springs, and with this non-profit knowledge he transitioned seamlessly into the Director position when it became available. This marketing and fundraising expertise has helped grow the organization, and we are extremely grateful to have him on board. He and his wife also run a parrot rescue from their home and currently have over 30 birds, as well as two well behaved cats, and an adorable daughter.

**Liz Andreas** has been with HSPS since 2011 and is currently the Community Programs Director. Before this, Liz successfully managed our animal shelter for eight years, taking incredible care of the animals during her tenure as Shelter Manager. In her new role as Community Programs Director, she has been instrumental in educating and assisting the community with several of our programs, such as our feral cat TNR program. Liz also works with the Department of Human Services and Sheriff's Department to help those in need of food, spay and neuter assistance, and emergency medical care. Liz is also currently fostering kittens that are too small to be placed up for adoption.

Our Shelter Manager, **Cindy Cunningham**, started her career with the Wild Animal Park in San Diego, and worked with every animal from possums to mountain lions. She branched out into veterinary medicine for 22 years as a veterinary technician and as a manager for various clinics, boarding facilities, and an equestrian center. In the Virgin Islands she worked with everything from iguanas to pelicans! We can't think of an animal that has not passed through her kind hands and received loving care. She has adopted several special needs pets that go everywhere with her. Positive reinforcement training has always been a cornerstone of her ideology, and sharing this knowledge with our shelter staff has benefitted our animals greatly.

**Cindy Chomley** has been with us for seven years. After owning a drafting and design company for 15 years, Cindy is currently the Manager of the Thrift Store and under her guidance it continues to flourish. The store is our main revenue source other than our fundraisers and donations, so her position is extremely important to the success of our organization as a whole. Cindy loved traveling to National Parks out west and wanted to relocate to the mountains. After a visit to the area, Cindy and her family moved here from Florida years ago. Always having been a "thrifter" family, her kids call this "mom's dream job". She currently has four lovely cats.

## In Honor Of

Belle & Luther

*from Gerald Shoaf & Claire Harrison*

Carole Shewbridge *from Tim Dippel*

Clancy *from Laura Metallo & Cheryl Flynn*

Corbey Cheshire *from Marc Seymour*

Corbey George Cheshire *from Mike Wallace*

Oso Bridges *from Cher Logsdon*

Dennis Anderson & Bob Tucker

*from Thomas & Sandra Artzberger*

Jack Crouch *from Rhonda Young*

Jimmy Knott *from Judith Knott*

Joni Watkins & Matt Umberger

*from Francesca Tronchin*

Kathy Miller *from Jeri Rich*

Minou, my rescue kitty

*from Elizabeth Coleman*

Pat McKenzie *from Rod & Lacy McMullen*

Penelope & Emery *from Dian Allen*

Shirley Christensen *from Julie Jones*

## In Memory Of

Anthony Steventon *from Greg McCarthy  
and the Pagosa Chess Club*

Carroll Moore *from John & Judith Jordan*

Carole Shewbridge *from Gloria Todd*

Carol Shewbridge *from Tim & Rose Dippel*

Charlene German & Vicki Worthing

*from Leona & Joe Merola*

Cheyenne, our friend

*from Sharon and Joe Armenta*

Corbey Cheshire *from Gary Carmouche*

Corbey Cheshire

*from Spyros & Marian Catechis*

Emmy & Oscar *from Charles Cox*

Frederick Sorenson Jr.

*from John & Judith Jordan*

Kathryn Serkes *from John Feehan*

Jeanne Vaala *from friends and family*

Kathryn Serkes *from Krishna Mathison*

Kathryn Serkes *from Lisa Miller*

Kathy Miller *from Margot Gedert*

Kerry Dermody, a loving, loyal, generous

friend with a heart of gold, indomitable

spirit and sweet soul *from Sally Hameister*

Kim Coleman *from Brian Smith*

Kim Coleman *from Dana Stango*

Kimberly Ann Coleman

*from Richard & Ben Anderson*

Kitty Boy & Mickey

*from Amy & Michael Wilkinson*

Layla Nolte-McCuller *from Kristin Nolte*

May Callahan *from Robert Reed Obenour*

Nancy Siclair *from Terry & Andrea Wyatt*

Patrick B. McKenzie *from Sheila McKenzie*

Ramsey James *from William James*

Roxanne Wise

*from William & Tawee Prepodnik*

Sasha *from Deborah Moberg*

Sue Bauer *from Leona & Joe Merola*

Sydney & Mackie, our best friends forever

*from Carol & Richard Helsel*

## Memorial Bricks

Kathryn Serkes, "For your endless dedication in the fight for fair and equitable healthcare. Rest in Peace, Kathryn" *from Jay Crutchfield*

Kathy Miller and Loren *from Katherine Spittler*

Poquito, "Roam heaven's hills beloved

Poquito! Miss You Little Buddy" *from Nita Niece*

## Leave A Legacy of Love




Those of us fortunate enough to share our homes and lives with animals know the joy and happiness they can bring. There is something very profound about knowing that the things you care about during your life will be supported, even after your lifetime. Making a planned gift to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) is an incredible way to leave your legacy.


**What is a planned gift?** Planned giving involves making arrangements now to have HSPS and the animals benefit from some of your assets, either currently or in the future. Through this type of giving, individuals can often make a more significant gift than they ever thought possible, while maximizing the financial and tax benefits to you, your estate, and your family.

There are many ways to make your planned gift. A planned gift can be as simple as transferring long-term appreciated stock to HSPS directly (rather than selling it and donating the after-tax proceeds) or naming HSPS as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy. Please ask your attorney or financial planner about planned giving. Your simple act will help you leave a legacy that will provide for animals for years to come.

## 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!

## Thank you to our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction for the Animals Platinum Sponsor:



## Please Support Our Work!

We can't provide critical care to our community's animals without you! Send your donation in the envelope provided or give online at [www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz).

**Join us for two upcoming events!**



**Humane Society of Pagosa Springs**

# Halloween Party

**SAT, OCT 22**  
**AT THE PLPOA CLUBHOUSE**  
230 PORT AVE, PAGOSA SPRINGS

**\$25 ADMISSION TICKET**  
TICKET INCLUDES A FREE DRINK, SWEETS & TREATS, DJ & DANCING, PUMPKIN CONTEST & AUCTION, AND MYSTERY PRIZES

**Pumpkin Contest Viewing & Voting from 1-4PM**  
**Adult Party & Pumpkin Auction from 7-9:30PM**

**BUY TICKETS AT [WWW.HSPSAUCTION.ORG](http://WWW.HSPSAUCTION.ORG)**



# Virtual Holiday Auction

**Auction Starts:** Black Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6am  
**Auction Ends:** Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

*Give while you're giving!*

**Humane Society of Pagosa Springs**

*Participating in our ONLINE auction is easy!*  
**To preview and bid on items starting on Black Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, visit:**  
**[www.HSPSAuction.org](http://www.HSPSAuction.org)**



# 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  
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz  
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.  
(970) 731-4771 | 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 | hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

### Board of Directors and Executive Staff

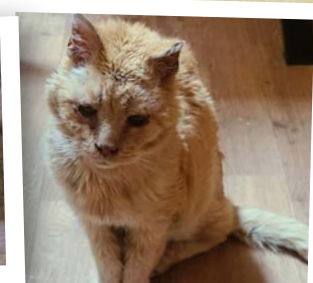
Do Engelhardt – President  
Richard Zak - Vice President  
Eric Burt – Treasurer  
Susan Weiland – Secretary  
Phil Rosenstein – Board Member  
Kitty Neal – Board Member  
Robson Reyes – Executive Director



## Gummy Bear Gets a Second Chance at Life

Gummy Bear was found dumpster diving in the cold months of winter near a food truck in downtown Pagosa Springs. Fortunately, some very kind and compassionate people decided to trap Gummy Bear so that he could get the shelter, food and medical care he desperately needed.

When Gummy Bear came to our shelter in March 2022, he seemed to be more than 15 years old. He was in rough shape with eye infections and very few teeth, most of which had to be removed due to dental disease. He is also blind in one eye and mostly deaf. Fortunately, he was placed into foster care by one of our most caring and experienced cat fosters, where he happily purrs in the morning sun. We are so grateful that he is in a loving home with the perfect person that will give him a second chance at life.



## Did you know?

Since January 1 the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has given **more than 10,000 pounds of free food** to people in need in our community!

### Help Fund Emergency Care

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