

SPRING 2023

PAW PRESS

A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

From Pregnant at the Dump to a Loving Forever Home

By Gale Kohlhagen

For a number of years, I have been fortunate to walk the wonderful dogs sheltered at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs and have learned so much from the amazing staff who care for these deserving animals.

(continued inside)

From Dump to Loving Home *(continued)*

Story provided by Gale Kohlhagen

This past July, on one of my volunteer days, I was asked to spend some time with a dog who had recently been brought in from the dump. She was pregnant and needed a little extra loving care. I spent my time brushing, petting, and singing to her. As she rested her head in my lap and gave me her paw, I realized she and I belonged together. Before I left, I went straight to the front desk and told them I wanted to put in an adoption application.



I visited Darcy often to brush her, walk her and enjoy her wonderful companionship. She gave birth to a huge litter of nine puppies, each one very different and very beautiful. Once she had weaned them, finally, I was able to take her home. I renamed her Tilly after my great, great aunt who had the same welcoming tilt of the head and sweet, loving disposition. How fortunate I am to have another Tilly in my life.

Tilly is a wonderful traveler and my husband, who isn't as jealous of her as he should be, drove her cross country to Charleston where we spend the winter. She has become "The Belle of Charleston" and people stop us on our walks through the old city to pet her and tell me how beautiful she is. The tourist officer calls her, "snow bear" and my amazing dog sitter, Mary, calls her "gentle bear".



Even our children and grandchildren adore her and ask to see her on FaceTime when they are not with us in person.

Tilly and I are looking forward to our trip back to Pagosa in May where she has a number of acres protected by an invisible fence, to romp and play in.

Thank you, Humane Society of Pagosa Springs for the great work that you do, and for Tilly, my loving forever companion!



Did you know?

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) funds a local program that humanely manages the growth of our community's free-roaming cat population. Through our TNR Program, HSPS works with volunteers to conduct live-trapping. Trapped cats are examined, vaccinated and sterilized by local veterinarians, then released back to where they came from. This program helps limit dozens of unwanted kitten litters each year! Read more about it in the "Trap-Neuter-Return (TRN) Program Helps Cats *and* Our Community" article to the right.

Please Help Us With the Upcoming Baby Season!



Kitten and puppy season is upon us. Last year, we sheltered more than 100 kittens at any given time, and more than 20 puppies. We had a record-breaking 193 kittens and 124 puppies that came through our shelter in 2022! We expect to see similar numbers in 2023 and we urgently need your support to help us care for these babies.

Kittens and puppies require a significant amount of our time, funds and resources. Not only do they need to stay at our shelter for 3-4 months before being ready for adoption, they need additional vaccinations and medical care that protect against common illness and viruses. They also require round-the-clock feedings to get the nutrition they need to grow strong and healthy.

Can we count on your support to help us care for the babies coming into our care this spring? Join us at our upcoming Baby Shower event on April 1 (details on the back of this newsletter) and/or please donate today at:

www.hspagosa.org

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program Helps Feral Cats *and* Our Community

By Carol Blechschmidt

"How you behave toward cats determines your status in heaven."
- Robert A. Heinlein



My husband and I retired to Pagosa seven years ago. At first, we lived downtown where I encountered stray and feral cats, a rarity in our Denver-metro suburb. I began educating myself on Trap-Neuter-Return, got some traps, and off I went to help homeless cats and kittens.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a humane option for cats who might otherwise have little hope. TNR started in the US about thirty years ago after being successful in other countries. During TNR, homeless cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated, and neutered. Socialized cats can be placed for adoption. Feral cats considered unadoptable are returned to the location where they were found. Ideally, they will be fed by a caregiver, especially during the hard winter months.

That year, a woman called the Humane Society for help because she had hungry kittens on her porch. As a volunteer, I was sent to Nancy with cat food. I offered to trap the cats and kittens and that is how our friendship started. It is also how I became a kitten foster parent.

When Nancy observed how I trapped the stray cats, she offered to help. She set the traps and monitored them for me. (Nancy called it "cat fishing".)

Together, Nancy and I trapped 12 adult cats and 11 kittens. All eleven kittens and three adults were adopted into good homes by the Humane Society. I know that two of the kittens are living in a wonderful home near Durango while another was adopted by my son. Two more kittens were adopted by their foster mom. There have been no kittens born since Nancy and I did TNR in her neighborhood, and we are so excited by this success!

Interested in volunteering?

Visit www.HumaneSociety.biz or call 970-731-4771.

In Honor Of

All critters from Silverhawk Whiteswan
Ally & Tinsel from Sue Fager
Bear from Cody Diekroeger
Belle & Luther
from Gerald Shoaf & Claire Harrison
Bodie from Cynda Green
Buddy, Boots & Hank from Carlos Somers
Buttons from David Hopkins
Cade White
from William James & Helen Hoff
Carolyn & Dan Burch
from Roxanne Maki & Robert Wallace
Clancy from Laura Metallo & Cheryl Flynn
Dr. Polly Thibault
from Tom & Gayle Broadbent
Ed & Virginia Kaumeyer
from Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey
Gale Kohlhagen from Jeffery Dial
Hannah Banana Roane's Birthday
from Paula Miller
Jamie Baune from Kathryn Engstrom
Jean Zirnhelt from Kristin & Lee Vorhies
Lauren & Rick Zak
from Steven & Linda Wolan
Laurie Taub from Greg & Cori Finch
Linda Bright from Annette Bornhoft
Little Bitty Kitty that we adopted
from Karen & Charles McClure
Lou & Ann Miller from Carolyn & Mark Olcott
Maise Casias from Irvin & Andrea Casias
Matt & Osa Hissey from Sue McAvoy
Minou from Margaret Elizabeth Coleman
Mira from James Hoke
Mouzer Kitty
from Nancy Fryer & Dan Senjem
Nadine McConnell from SJR Funtimes LLC
Nancy Cusack from Anna K. Cusack
Pat Bremer from Kristin & Lee Vorhies
Phoebe from Christine Young
Phoebe from Eowana Jordan
Sam I Am from Roger & Donna Hagengruber
Sampson from Susan Marie Snyder
Seidon Highsmith
from Thomas & Delores Highsmith
Sparky from Jeffrey Owne
Stella, the best dog ever from Bob Sandvig
Stephen, Claudia, Leonie & Sophie Leslie
from Roxanne Maki & Robert Wallace
Susan & Chris Stephenson's beloved dog
Mike from Lois & Steve Dacus
Sweet Pea from Terri Ranken
Terry Gebert from Helen Gebert
Veronique Jerrell King's birthday
from Susanne & Wayne Pippenger
Winston, & Clare Skaggs
from Winifred Plager
Your new best friends from Tim Pankowski

In Memory Of

Allie, who still holds my heart
from Kathryn Alfred
Anthony Steventon
from Joanne & Karl Irons
Anthony Steventon
from Barbara & Don Rosner
Bella Russell
from Deloros & Charles Livingston

Beloved Chaco from Dale & Kay Harris
Blue Coutoy from Robert & Linda Burke
Bo, Bella & Bailee
from Aubrie & Terrence Limebrook
Bob Howard from Ron & Sheila Hunkin
Bob Howard from Katherine Miller
Bob Howard from Candida Young
Bob Howard from Laurie Williams
Bob Howard, the most generous, kind and
intelligent man in this world or the next
from Nita Niece
Bob Howard who loved cats
from Virginia & John Baxt
Brawley & Gypsey
from Roger & Judith Puryear
Buck from Jim & Christine Snead
Buddy from Susan Marie Snyder
Buster, My Soulmate
from Wesley & Pamela Wark
Carol Showbridge from Tim Dippel
Carolyn & Fred Whitten's beloved dog Spice
from Betty Sue Ford
Carroll Dunne from Patricia Powers
Catherine Threet from Jack Threet
Chase from Sabrina Alexander
Chloe from Susan K. VanDenberg
Chromo from Catherine White
Clare Skaggs from Christina Easterling
Cleo, Daisy, Ginger, & Dixie, best dogs EVER
from Charlotte & Mark Westby
Darlene & Genrose Falvey
from Marilyn Falvey
Dolce, Beloved Dog of Melanie Talboys
from Connie & Miles Davidson
Donald Guyll from David & Luann Martinez
Fritz & Irma from Gregory & Lisa Foss
Gary Rawlinson from Jack & May Latson
Gigi Flick from Kathy Shackelford
Gigi Flick from Judith & John Jordan
Ginger from Barbara & Dwight Munro
Iris Vermillion
from Cindy Hamilton & Bradford Shutler
Jackie from Chris & Mary Kay Thomas
Jackie McGuire from Judith & Ronald Taufen
Jacob Paine from Matthew Deason
Jason Mills from Ruth Mills
Jeanne Valla from friends & family
Jessie & Sophie, our precious dogs
from Will Dunbar & Nancy A. Cole
John & Beaumont from Ann Graves
Josie from Rade & Linda Orell
Katy Threet from Jack Threet
Ken Youker from Patricia & Jerry Roads
Kiska, beloved dog of Bruce & Karen Swaim
from Barbara & Clark Shively
Koukla, Zoe, Ouzo, Pandora & Penelope
from Eowana Jordan
Lee from Robert & Sarah Nemeth
Lucky & Sophie from Cheryl & Galen Wethey
Maggie, our beloved dog who waits for us
at the rainbow bridge from Tom & Gayle
Broadbent
Mark May from Debra May
Max from Karla Kruger
Michael Hayes from Rachel Johnson
Micki & Dexter from Sam & Ruth Pittmon
Missy from Christopher Wardle
Mojo, our beloved Airedale
from Barbara & Don Rosner
Nancy Trout from In Balance Physical Therapy
Oscar Coleman from Victoria & Paul Coleman

Patrick Lawrence from Judith Forbes
Penny from Madeline Lyon
Piper Van Halen from Diane Word
Queenie from Nan & Keith Serkes
Ramsey James
from William James & Helen Hoff
Rex & Anne Shurtleff
from Judith Meyer
Rosie, Eddy, Bart & Frisky
from Linda & Thomas Lemmer
Rowdy Thomas from Marci Thomas
Sam, the best dog! from Anita Gardner
Sophie from Larry Luffel
Sweet Spencer from Paula Miller
Xena Pashmina from Betty Church
Zorro and Zena from Craig & Doe Watson

Memorial Bricks

In loving memory of Sepp Ramsperger
3/21/41 – 5/13/22 from Ross & Laura Isaacson
In loving memory of Ginny Ruhn
7/29/33 – 3/19/22 from Ross & Laura Isaacson
In loving memory of Hana
2/8/06 – 4/27/20 from Ross & Laura Isaacson
In loving memory of Lucky & Sophie
from Galen Wethey



DID YOU KNOW?

HSPS offers the following services for our community:

Cremation & Memorial Services

Honor your faithful companion and cherish the memories left behind with our cremation and memorial services.

Pet Food Bank

In 2022, HSPS gave away more than 14,000 pounds of free pet food to our community in need.

Medical Financial Assistance

Programs including emergency medical aid and spay & neuter vouchers are made available to pet owners in need.

Microchips and Tags

Lost pets with ID have the best chance for a speedy reunion with their owner.

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Because of your support, the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) helped save hundreds of animals in 2022.

766

animals cared for at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs in 2022



220
cats
adopted



121
dogs
adopted

**NOTE: 187 animals returned to owners,
113 animals transferred to other shelters.**

In 2022 we Trapped Neutered & Released (TNR) 291 Feral Cats

Penguin Plunge a Great Success!



We just want to say a big **THANK YOU** to our three daring plungers, who were cheered on by hundreds of spectators as a part of the Annual Pagosa Springs Penguin Plunge! This event encourages individuals to jump into the freezing San Juan River to raise funds in support of their favorite charities. This year, Pat White, Cindy Cunningham, and Edgar Torres braved the cold waters of the San Juan River to generate much-needed funds that will help us continue to provide quality care and shelter to our community's animals in need. A special thanks to Pat for his 7th year plunging on behalf of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs! And a special thanks to everyone who donated in support of our plungers and the animals in our care.



Humane Society



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Administration Office

279 Pagosa Street • P.O. Box 2230
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(970) 264-5549
www.humanesociety.biz
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz
hsdirector@humanesociety.biz

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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
Susan Weiland – Vice President
Eric Burt – Treasurer
Ursula Rieger – Secretary
James Baxter – Board Member
John Feehan – Board Member
Kitty Neal – Board Member
Phil Rosenstein – Board Member
Robson Reyes – Executive Director

Join us for our 2nd Annual



ENTRY FEE: \$25 TICKET PRICE

Limited number of tickets available!

Visit www.hspagosa.org or call
970-264-5549 to purchase your ticket!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1 FROM 3-5PM
AT THE PLPOA CLUBHOUSE**

230 PORT AVE, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147

Every spring, our shelter is overwhelmed with kittens and puppies in need of care until they are ready for adoption. **We hope to see you at our 2nd Annual Animal Shelter Baby Shower to support your local Humane Society and the upcoming puppy and kitten season.**

Light snacks are included and a cash bar will serve mimosas and beer!



\$5 Mimosas

Silent Auction of Cakes & Gift Baskets!



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Laura Daniels



Jean Ward

TEAM PAGOSA REALTY GROUP

PURCHASE BABY SHOWER GIFTS AT CHOW DOWN,
OR ONLINE AT: **WWW.HSPAGOSA.ORG**