



Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Summer 2014

How Prin Found Her Forever Home

By Elizabeth Schroder

“Debbie, I’d like to borrow a dog. Got anyone who needs a break from the shelter?” It was last October and Debbie Smith, then the Shelter Manager, and I were driving back from a CFAWA conference (Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies). Remembering a previous and positive experience as a foster parent, and being inspired by the conference to generally just do more for animals, it was time to foster again.

And so it was that Princess came to me. Prin, as I came to call her, was an 18-month-old Lab-Hound mix who had just arrived at the shelter. While she obviously had a sweet and loving nature she was also terribly scared of meeting new people, especially men. She often cowered or barked defensively when approached and engaged in submissive peeing when especially agitated. Even though our shelter is a warm and loving place, it is just the nature of shelters to be noisy and often filled with chaotic dog energy. Prin needed a place where she could feel calm and safe.

We hit it off and she immediately let me pet and hug her. But when I brought her home, her insecurities came out. She had come to the shelter crate-trained and for the first few days she would only come out when invited or coaxed. She was also easily startled and a too-sudden movement from me would send her running back to her kennel. “Calm and Gentle” became our mantra.

In the beginning I took Prin to work with me at the HSPS Administration office. The first days were challenging because Prin was inclined to stand at the top of the stairs and bark at anyone coming up. The answer was to put a crate in the office for her. When I heard the door downstairs open I would ask her to go to her kennel. Given a little time to get used to a new person’s presence while in her safe place, Prin was able to rise to the occasion of being a polite hostess, showing our guests her true, sweet and friendly nature when she came out to meet them.

The Thrift Store proved to be a great place for Prin to practice meeting new people. It wasn’t very long before she greeted the staff and the volunteers she knew with confident, happy body wiggles instead of fearful growls. Some of the male customers still triggered her fear responses, but I tried to create some safe space for her by keeping her close, petting and talking to her, and she usually calmed down enough to let them say hello with a pat.



*Above: Prin in her crate at the office
Right: Prin (now Sadie) with her new Mom, Shirlee, and her new brother*



We spent a lot of time playing ball in the parking lot of my condo building and it became a classroom, too. Thanks to some kind and patient neighbors, we discovered the highly effective power of play in developing trust; all it took was throwing the ball a few times for a suspicious stranger to become a trustworthy playmate!

In December, Prin started spending her days at the shelter so she could show off her new social skills to potential adopters. Every day when I picked her up, I would ask with a mixture of both hope and dread if any adopters had looked at her. And then, sometime in February, Shirlee called.

Shirlee had seen Prin’s photo on the internet and said that she knew right away that she was the dog she had been seeking. Shirlee is retired, lives on 3 acres, and had another dog who needed a playmate. When I brought Prin to her, Prin just walked into the house like she already owned it – so different from the day I brought her home from the shelter. We had come a long way together to end up at just the right place. Prin had found her forever home.

I’ve heard many people say that they could never foster an animal because they would become too attached to let them go. I felt the same until circumstances prevented me from permanently adopting a dog of my own. Truthfully, letting Prin go was very hard. But with time and perspective, and knowing that Sadie (her new name) is living the life I dreamed of for her, my now-mended heart is filled with gratitude. It was such blessing to have that beautiful creature in my life, even if it was just for a short time.

Would I foster again? Yes, I would. Would I recommend fostering? Absolutely. Be prepared to give a little piece of your heart away, but the hope, joy and love created along the way are so worth it.

The Many Benefits of Fostering

By Kim Diliono

“Do you think you can help our Humane Society by fostering one of our dogs for a few weeks?” That was the question I was asked 20 years ago by a friend who worked at our local shelter in Kansas. I was hesitant at first because I had never fostered a dog before. But my friend said the Kansas shelter was so overcrowded that, sadly, some of their dogs would have to be humanely euthanized to make room for more dogs coming in to the shelter. Once I heard that, I knew that I wanted to help. So I told my friend that I would try it. Fast forward 20 years and over 100 foster dogs later, I am very happy that I made the decision that day to make a difference in those dogs’ lives.

My name is Kim Diliono, and I am the foster coordinator for the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs. I have been fostering shelter dogs, puppy mill dogs and owner-surrendered dogs for the past 20 years. When I tell people that, most of them respond by saying, “I could never do that! I would fall in love with the dog and never be able to give it up.” I would be lying if I said that I didn’t shed a few tears when I had to say goodbye to my foster dogs. But they were happy tears because I knew that by fostering I had helped my foster dog find its forever home. I also helped an adopter find their healthy and happy 4-legged best friend. Lastly, I helped the shelter by freeing up space to bring other animals in to a safe haven.

Shelters are always looking for more foster homes, especially through the busy spring and summer seasons. A cat or dog might come in with an injury and may need a few weeks in a caring home to rest and recuperate. An animal may stop eating due to the stress of the shelter environment. These animals need the security of a quiet, loving home to perk up their appetite. Some dogs may have a minor behavioral issue and need a foster home to work on some basic training techniques.

In many shelters puppies and kittens under 8 weeks used to be euthanized (and in some communities still are) because they were too young to be adopted. Shelters

often lack the staff or space to give the kittens and pups the time and care they need to get them to a more adoptable age. The solution to this problem is a short-term foster home to provide a healthy environment and tender loving care. At 8 weeks these animals can be returned to the shelter for placement.

What’s great about fostering is that you can ask for a dog or cat that fits your lifestyle. If you live in an apartment (and your landlord approves) you can ask for an older, low energy cat or dog. If you’re active, you may want to foster a dog that needs lots of walks and plenty of exercise. If you are the nurturing type who is at home most of the time, you might want to foster a litter of puppies or kittens. I have a friend, who is a diabetic, and she prefers to only foster diabetic dogs.

I must be honest and say that over the years I have fallen in love with several of my foster dogs, and I chose to adopt them as my own. In fact, one of my current dogs was my foster dog. Most shelters would prefer to keep you as a foster home, rather than adding you to the list of adoptive homes, because good foster homes are hard to find. But if your foster dog ends up being the perfect match for you, and you want to adopt it, the shelter folks understand.

HSPS is always looking for good, qualified, caring people to open their hearts and their homes to help some of their animals who need a little TLC before being placed for adoption. If you think you would like to foster or want more information about what’s involved in fostering you can contact our animal shelter (970-731-4771) or email me: hsfoster@humanesociety.biz.

Fostering helps an animal through a difficult time and is an immensely rewarding experience. It requires time and patience, but in the end you will know that you made a difference in an animal’s life by creating a loving bridge to your foster dog or cat’s new adoptive family.



Kim with foster, Patch



Patch, in foster care in Kim's home



Patch, happy and secure in the yard of his forever home



Auction for the Animals

Friday, August 22nd, 6 p.m.

Ross Aragon Community Center

Dinner & Live/Silent Auctions

Tickets \$35 Advance Purchase

(NO tickets at the door)

Tickets: HSPS Thrift Store, Community Center

or Online at www.humanesociety.biz

Reserved Tables of 8 Available for \$280

More Info: 970-264-5549



You could drive home in this 1987 T-Top Ford Mustang!

A Gala Dinner & Auction

This year's annual Auction for the Animals will be held on Friday, August 22nd, and will be a gala event to commemorate our 20th anniversary of the Auction. The annual auction is the Humane Society's largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

This event will feature a seated dinner hosted by Alley House Grille, a cash bar, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Our event planners have been working diligently all year to collect auction items that will appeal to everyone.

Our big auction item this year is a 1987 T-Top cherry red Ford Mustang in mint condition with fewer than 5,000 original miles, donated by a long-time and ardent supporter. Photos of the Mustang and other items can be viewed on the humane society website.

Come join the fun and celebration on August 22nd at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30. Tickets are \$35 or \$280 to reserve a table of 8. Purchase your tickets in advance because no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets go on sale in early August at the Thrift Store, Community Center or through our website. For more information please call 970-264-5549 or visit humanesociety.biz. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Our Wish List



- Foster homes (see articles on fostering on pages 1 & 2)
- Bleach, other cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper
- Puppy training pads
- Wet cat and dog food
- Large (used) dog crates for emergency sheltering
- Gently used water and food bowls for emergency sheltering
- Cat toys for play and socialization time in the cat room
- Dark colored blankets for camouflaging feral cat traps at night
- High-quality tasty dog training treats for the shelter dog enrichment program
- Kongs and other indestructible dog toys to relieve boredom
- Drivers for our dog transfers to the front-range and beyond

[Drop off items at Thrift Store or shelter or make a donation online by credit card at: humanesociety.biz/new_wishlistdon.htm]

Wide-Reaching Effects of our Spay/Neuter Programs

By Mike Stoll, Executive Director

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has a variety of programs and services to aid animals in our shelter and in our community. The common bond that anchors all of our endeavors is our mission statement: *To provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, reunite lost pets with their owners, and humanely reduce pet overpopulation through community education and aggressive spay/neuter programs.*

The first three elements of the HSPS mission – creating a safe haven, promoting adoptions, and reuniting lost animals with their families – are obvious and essential functions that most people associate with our animal shelter. The latter portion of our mission, to promote spay/neuter, is not as readily associated with HSPS and the animal shelter for some people, yet it, too, is a fundamental part of our purpose.

Each year the HSPS animal shelter receives numerous calls from people overwhelmed with the birth of an unwanted litter of puppies or the discovery of a litter of stray kittens under their deck. Many of us have witnessed the giveaway of young animals outside the local grocery store knowing that at least some of these impulse purchases will eventually find their way to the animal shelter when the new care providers realize they've taken on a task requiring more commitment and responsibility than they're prepared to give or can afford.

The mission of the animal shelter is to provide a safe haven for these unwanted and un-owned pets, but a shelter that is constantly full to capacity is not always in a position to offer help when it is most needed. The purpose of the HSPS spay/neuter programs is to target the root cause of pet overpopulation and alleviate the stress and pressure constant crowding can create at the shelter.

There are four primary components to what we refer to as our Pet Overpopulation Program. In each case, HSPS pays local veterinarians for services they provide. The program components are:

Fix-It-Free is a voucher program for income-qualifying households. Those who meet the program criteria receive a voucher, redeemable with any of our local veterinarians, that covers the entire standard cost of a pet spay/neuter surgery. Fix-It-Free is a direct benefit to lower-income members of our community who are often least able to afford the cost of veterinary care for their pets.

Our Spay-Aid program provides a spay/neuter discount coupon to community members who may not qualify for the free voucher program but who may also find it difficult to cover the entire cost of pet sterilization. Each Spay-Aid coupon has a face value based on the species, gender, and size of the recipient's pet. The pet owner is responsible for paying the balance of the veterinarian's standard spay/neuter fee after the discount coupon has been applied.

Mother's Aid (also known as the **Mama Program**) offers a voucher for a free spay for any dog or cat that has recently had an unplanned litter. There is no income-qualifying for a Mama voucher, although we do our best to target funds for those who can least afford spay surgery with the goal of preventing additional unwanted litters. Recipients of Mama vouchers are also encouraged to surrender the young litter to the shelter at the appropriate time so that we can vaccinate, spay/neuter, and socialize the young ones for a good start in life and help them find great adoptive homes.



Feral Cat Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) was added to our Pet Overpopulation Program to address the local free-roaming community cat



population. Free-roaming cats are significant contributors to the annual *kitten tsunami* that inundates the animal shelter, and we recognized that failing to include this un-owned population would be a weak link in our community spay/neuter efforts. TNR is time and labor intensive to carry out, and we are grateful for the efforts of dedicated volunteers without whom the program would simply not be feasible. We're always eager to welcome more TNR volunteers!

Covering the operating costs of our animal shelter and meeting the needs of the animals in our care is our top priority, but programs like Pet Overpopulation are also an essential part of our mission. Clearly, in a community our size, our ongoing spay/neuter efforts are making a difference in limiting the number of new-born unwanted pets, yet the evidence of litters of puppies and kittens still making their way to the shelter means our work needs to continue into the foreseeable future. We rely on fundraisers, thrift store revenue, grant awards, and the generosity of donors to meet not only the expense of caring for our shelter animals but also meeting the needs of our community spay/neuter programs. Thanks to our wonderful supporters we continue to make a positive difference in lives of numerous animals and people in our community!

Did you know? Over the past three years our Pet Overpopulation Program provided financial support for nearly **1,100 spay/neuter surgeries for community animals, at a cost of almost \$80,000. During that same time we also provided spay/neuter surgeries for nearly 650 shelter animals** prior to placing them in adoptive homes.

Back in the Saddle

By Linda Lawrie, President

This is a year of *recycling* a past president (2007-2009) of the board of directors. Let me recount a few of the changes since I was president back then. We said hello to a new shelter manager (2009), Mike Stoll. Then, we said good-bye to long-time executive director, Robbie Schwartz and hello to a new executive director, Mike Stoll (2010). We've had a few changes in personnel at the shelter and thrift store, an unavoidable aspect of the employment cycle in a small mountain town where people come and go with some regularity.

On a program front, we have increased our annual grants, helping to fund our spay/neuter voucher program as well as being able to bring outside trainers in to foster our enrichment program. And speaking of fostering, this year we are striving to get foster families for some of our shelter animals – both to get them adjusted to a family setting as well as provide a richer environment than the shelter can offer. We've started the TNR program – Trap-Neuter-Release for feral/community cats in the Pagosa Springs area. The TNR program is largely a volunteer effort; few staff hours are devoted to the program.

On the facility front, we've added the new outdoor shaded kennel areas, courtesy of John and Joyce Webb, providing the dogs sheltered outdoor time in all seasons. The *Bark Park* was built with a private donation and a grant from the Archuleta County PROST (Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Taskforce). Our serene memorial garden came to fruition and is a very pleasant place to sit and contemplate the beautiful surroundings.

And some things don't change. We continue to have wonderful volunteers without whom we would not be in existence. We have a dedicated staff. And we have our hard working board of directors who each volunteer on some basis for the Society.

Thanks to all of you for your part in continuing this great organization.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Amber, beloved dog of Virginia Ruhn – From Laura & Ross Isaacson
Amy Jo Stone, who loved all animals – From her aunt, Loretta Conder
Bailey – From Brenda Nash
Betsy & Charlotte, beloved dogs of Carolyn & Pat Ullrich – From Sandy & Tom Artzberger
Bob Crowe & his beloved dog, Domino, adopted from HSPS – From Larry Crowe
Bodie, beloved dog of Linda & Duncan Lawrie – From Norma and Fred Harman
Bonnie Sue, sweet and dearly loved doggy of Glenda & Keith Huckabay – From Elizabeth
Buffy, beloved dog of Pat & Gerry Gammill – From Connie & Miles Davidson
Cassie, beloved golden retriever of Julie Johnston
Chase, devoted friend & companion of Donna & Kirk Mlinck – From Marilyn & James Reynolds
Chimney, beloved dog of Rose Smith
Clancy, beloved cat of Susan & John Dennis
Doc & Butter, beloved cats – From Ranza Boggess & Barbara Sanborn
Dottie & Olly, beloved dogs of Patrick and Ann Malloy
Ed & Virginia Kaumeyer, long-time Pagosa residents – From Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey
G.H. Bright – From Lenore Bright
Gracie who loved Pagosa, beloved dog of Spud Sullivan & Dorothy Brooks – From Louise Bailey
Grendel, beloved dog of Jean Moore – From Tim & Diane Bowden
Gypsy, beloved dog of Marcia Jarvis & Ron Tinsley
Hooty, beloved dog of Anita & William Hooton
Jackie McGuire – From Judith & Ronald Taufen
Kitty Kiesel & Homer, beloved cats of Donald & Alice Stidham
Mandy, beloved cat of Lora Shank & Bill Dellinges – From Christine Benson
Max, a dearly loved dog
Millie, beloved dog of Sue Fischer & Andy Butler – From Time & Diane Bowden
Misty, beloved cat of Eileen Anderson
Moki, beloved dog of Randy Smith & Wendy Mirr – From Janet Santopietro
Molly, beloved cat of Tim & Gloria Shumaker
Mookie, beloved dog of Nancy Esterbrook
Mr. Kitty, beloved cat of Lee Martinez
Newt, beloved dog – From Patrick & Janet Kindred
Newt, beloved dog – From LuAnn Baker
Nick Hamilton – From Alice & Thomas Myers
Norma Johnson and Phyllis Gibson – From Eldon & Rosina Johnson
Phyllis Gibson & Norma Johnson – From Ruth Blanchard

Romeo, beloved dog of Maxine Sproul -- From Stephen Sproul
Ronnie & Rio, beloved dogs of Ron & Martha Carlson
Sambo and Sugar Ray, beloved cats adopted from HSPS in 1992 – From Don & Barbara Rosner
Sebastian, beloved cat of Angela Giampaolo
Smokey & Rocky, beloved cats of Doug & Deb Roberts – From Laura Gunnels
Sugar, beloved dog – From Steve Sutterfield
Tosca – from Michael Lubin & Barbara Edidin
Tres, beloved dog of Stephen Rester
Vira, beloved dog of Victoria Diana
Willow, beloved cat of JR & Jo Huestis – From Ted & Patsy Thurston
Willy, beloved dog of Jane Day
Licorice, beloved dog of Betty and Rod Snow
Abby beloved dog of Joan and Bob Arnold from Nita Niece.
Samantha to Fred and Carolyn Whitten from Sue Ford

IN HONOR OF...

All those who open their hearts to adopt shelter pets – From Sadie, Scooter, Bitsie, Rootie & Moose Traver
Abbie Oswald – From Brenda Oswald
Alice Farley -- From Tierney Bruce McCaughrin
Ann & John Graves
Arlo, a great dog adopted from HSPS – From Marilyn & Ben Hazlewood
Aspen, beloved Bearded Collie of Susan & Tracy Childs
Evelyn & Mike Tennyson – From Nicola Cain
Jan Cunningham & Sean McCallister – From Kathleen & Ronald Thomte
Jenny, a beloved Australian Cattle Dog – from Victoria Diana
Lucy & Marmalade, sister cats happily adopted from HSPS – From Bob & Carole Howard
Maggie Hart – amazing HSPS volunteer! – From John & Karen Hart
Marge & Don Jones – From Jeana Enrietta
Mr. Boudreax, Dingo, Emma, El Vira & Frye – From Nicole DeMarco
Ruckus, a great dog – From LuAnn Baker
Sarah, a beloved Pit Bull adopted from HSPS by Arther & Maryann Burger
Tiger, adopted from HSPS ten years ago! – From Adelle & Elliott Bottom
Veronique Jerrel King – From Wayne & Susanne Pippenger
Glessie Drake Happy Birthday from James and Jean Carson
Glessie Drake Happy Birthday from Mary Ann Sayre



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Animal Shelter

465 Cloman Blvd
 Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
 (970) 731-4771
 sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

Humane Society Thrift Store

269 Pagosa St
 Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
 (970) 264-6424
 hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

Board of Directors

- Linda Lawrie – President
- Lauren Wolan-Zak – Vice President
- Barbara Harris – Treasurer
- Bonnie Hite – Secretary
- Joan Arnold – Board Member
- Nita Niece – Board Member
- Kristi Nolan – Board Member
- Rex Shurtleff – Board Member
- Larry Schwartz – President Emeritus
- Mike Stoll – Executive Director

Chocolate Fantasies Came True

The annual HSPS Chocolate Auction this past March 22nd was a sweet success thanks to the many delightful donations from local chefs, bakers, and chocolatiers, along with the tireless efforts of numerous volunteers and the generosity of those in attendance who helped make the event a super evening. What a wonderful way to raise some much-needed funds for the animal shelter! A special thank-you to Chef Larry Schwartz, our outgoing HSPS Board President these past three years, who treated the gathering to a sumptuous lasagna dinner. It was a fun, satisfying evening for a great cause!

