



# Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Summer 2016

## In Memory of Cubby



Cubby, the animal shelter's office cat for more than a decade, passed away earlier this spring. She is missed by many people, especially shelter staff and volunteers.

Cubby was a constant presence in the shelter office for many years. She often perched on the front counter in full view of the main entrance, and the discerning gaze from her striking eyes captivated many people. Cubby took inventory of nearly every shelter visitor, and it was readily apparent that assessments were made and judgments rendered by her own cat standards...she was like having a built-in mood detector for whoever walked through the door.

She had a distinct v-shaped notch in her left ear that visitors would occasionally ask about. That ear notch was one of the keys to Cubby's story because it was the distinguishing mark of a feral cat that had been trapped and spayed.

Cubby started life as a big black fluffy feral kitten. She was trapped and brought to the old animal shelter in 2000 with several of her littermates. Born in the outdoors and

fearful of people, feral cats will not tolerate being housed inside. So it was that Cubby and her siblings took up residence under a shed on the shelter grounds where they received fresh food and water daily with the hope of slowly socializing them to humans.

Wary, but smart, Cubby soon understood that proximity to humans meant food. During the summer months the shelter front door was left open, and she figured out that a cautious daily trip to the office was rewarded with an extra special morsel of food. Over the course of the summer Cubby progressed from peeking around the door frame, to crossing the threshold, to finally doing a daily circumnavigation of the office. Still, she didn't allow anyone to pet or hold her, and she wouldn't stay inside for long.

Patience is said to be a virtue and a trait not often associated with the very young. In 2002 a family with a young daughter began visiting the shelter weekly to pet and walk the adoptable dogs. The little girl noticed the sweet looking black cat and



asked if she could cuddle with Cubby. When she was told that Cubby simply wasn't friendly enough to be held, she wasn't deterred. Every visit the little girl would patiently sit by the shed and sweet-talk to the young black cat. One day, to the surprise of everyone but the girl, Cubby climbed into her lap and curled up. From that day on Cubby made the decision to be an inside cat and readily accepted touch and attention.

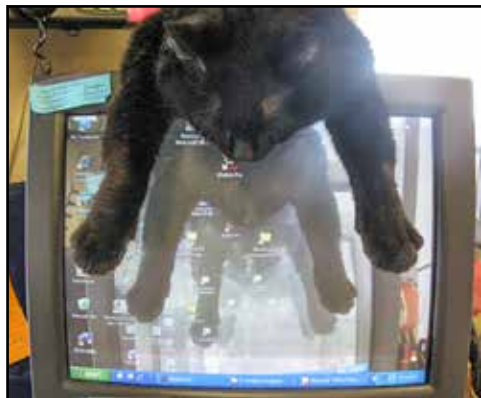
When I came onboard as shelter manager in 2009, Cubby was firmly entrenched in her official shelter duties: office greeter and mood detector; guardian of the front counter, food taster extraordinaire, and document supervisor: her stamp of authority consisted of plopping down on any and all documents that entered her domain, especially those really important ones.

She also earned her keep over the years as an active participant in our dog behavior assessments. It's important to assess how shelter dogs relate to cats, in the event a prospective dog adopter has one or more felines living at home. Cubby's *dog radar* was exceptionally fine-tuned. If she gave a dog the *ho-hum*, nonchalant treatment or boldly walked into the dog's space during the assessment, we knew that dog did not have an issue being around cats; on the other hand, when Cubby became wary around a dog, even if the dog was not showing signs of pursuit, we knew that dog probably wasn't cat-friendly. Her feedback often proved invaluable in helping match the right dog to feline homes.

One of Cubby's more endearing behaviors was her winter warming trick. In the days

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before flat screen monitors, Cubby would take the chill off by sprawling across the top of the computer monitor, draping her paws over the screen, and soaking up the heat emanating from within. She would initially tolerate the computer person gently moving one paw and then the other aside to read the screen, but she could become a bit indignant if that rude person persisted in disrupting her peaceful, warm slumber. Needless to say, she was not a fan of the slim, no-sprawl flat screen monitor when it arrived.



Over the past year or so Cubby spent more and more time curled in her basket atop the front counter, venturing less frequently outside to patrol the shelter grounds and greet arriving visitors. As her health failed, she received all the care our staff and local veterinarian could muster. When she finally stopped eating, staff knew it was time to say goodbye...now gone but never forgotten.

And so we dedicate this issue of *Paw Press* to the memory of Cubby: shelter greeter, office paperweight, dog tester, and one very cool cat. RIP Cubby.

### Animal Shelter Volunteering

If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities at the animal shelter please call Liz or Kim at (970) 731-4771 or email [sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz](mailto:sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz).



## We Couldn't Do It Without You!

HSPS shelter manager Liz Andreas, Kim Dilione and their staff do an excellent job taking care of the nearly 600 dogs and cats that enter the animal shelter each year. Quickly reuniting lost animals with their families, efficiently handling medical emergencies that arise, and working tirelessly to find new homes for the homeless animals in their care, are all in the day's work for the staff. Even so, without the contributions of time, skills and supplies from a wide array of volunteers, organizations and businesses, shelter staff would be hard pressed to attain the level of care and service they strive to achieve.

As you might imagine, providing proper nutrition and feeding so many mouths can be very expensive. When it comes to animal food we are very fortunate to have great working relationships with some of our local merchants. **Chow Down Pet Supplies** and **Pagosa Feed and Nursery** regularly provide us access to quality pet food at discounted prices. Our local **Tractor Supply Company** and **Walmart** also donate food on occasion. Donated food, if not used to feed the shelter animals, goes to our food bank to help less fortunate community members feed their pets when circumstances make it impossible for them to make ends meet. Food support also comes from some unanticipated quarters: like the **4-H kids** who organized a fundraiser to buy bags of food for the shelter animals, and the **Best Friends** organization who, because we are members of their partners' network, recently donated over 5,000 pounds of dog food to the HSPS shelter.

There are volunteer groups that regularly visit the shelter to roll up their sleeves and help. For many years the **Wednesday Dog Walkers** group has made it a goal to spend quality time with all the adoptable shelter dogs, walking, grooming and socializing them. The group's membership may change from time to time, but their dedication never flags, regardless of the season. On Thursdays, members of the local **Rotary Club** get their hands dirty stuffing food into Kong chew toys. The stuffed toys are then frozen and given to the shelter dogs as pacifiers to help stimulate activity and

alleviate boredom in the kennel. For the past two years a group from the **Ignacio middle school** has regularly visited the shelter to help with laundry, stuff Kong toys and provide social interaction with all the cats and dogs. What a wonderful way for the kids to experience volunteerism and community service! Residents from the local **Pine Ridge nursing home** also visit the shelter regularly to spend mutually beneficial time with the dogs and cats and help provide much needed human interaction for the shelter animals.

The shelter also benefits from the support of various professionals. The certified trainers from **Durango Dog College (DDC)** make a weekly trek to Pagosa Springs to meet with clients and donate time to the animal shelter. The DDC pros work with shelter staff to develop and enhance the skills they use in our shelter enrichment program. They also lend assistance with implementing appropriate training for those shelter dogs that need a bit of behavior remediation prior to adoption and offer a free training session to shelter dog adopters. Some dogs have experienced neglect prior to entering the shelter, and their tangled, matted fur makes it difficult to see the true dog within. The folks at **Waggin' Tails Pet Grooming** frequently transform a scruffy shelter mutt into an attractive dog whose chances for adoption increase exponentially and they seldom ask for compensation for their efforts. The deputies and officers from the local **sheriff's department** and **town police department** lend their expertise and vehicles to bring many of the lost, stray, and abandoned dogs to the safety of the animal shelter. Without their dedication many more animals would be looking for refuge from the streets. HSPS also works with all the **local veterinarians** who perform surgeries and provide needed medical care to keep the shelter animals healthy and ready for adoption.

There are so many more people who volunteer their time and energy to the animals and the programs of the shelter that it is impossible to recognize everyone by name. Nevertheless, their contributions are every bit as essential. So, to each and every person, organization and business that lends their support, a huge shout-out and heartfelt thank-you from all the dogs, cats and staff!



# Test Your Humane Society Knowledge

Take this quiz and you might learn some things that surprise you!



## True or False?

**The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) receives financial support from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).**

**False.** HSPS is not affiliated with HSUS, nor do we receive any financial support from HSUS [or any other national organizations such as American Humane, ASPCA or United Way]. It's a message that we strive to get across because some folks believe that a contribution to a national animal welfare organization results in direct financial support to their local shelter. It does not.

The Humane Society of the United States is a *big-picture* organization, committed to affecting broad social change and not to providing financial support to local shelters. HSUS does good work on national and international animal welfare issues. Their research, teaching tools and efforts to raise public awareness for animal issues are beneficial to local animal shelters. It is, however, important to dispel any misconception that there is a financial pipeline from HSUS to HSPS. We are an independent and locally-governed humane society, and we rely on the financial gifts of our many supporters to fulfill our mission of helping local animals in need.

## True or False?

**The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs euthanizes numerous animals.**

**False.** Over the past five years nearly 3,000 animals have entered the HSPS shelter. During that time fewer than 40 animals, or just over 1%, were euthanized, and the majority of those cases were animals with deteriorating or untreatable medical conditions where euthanasia was the most humane approach to end suffering. It cannot be stated too strongly that we make every effort to find a home for every adoptable animal in the shelter, either locally or by transfer to shelters in communities where the adoption-demand exceeds our own.

## True or False?

**The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs operates a crematorium.**

**True.** HSPS owns and operates the only pet crematorium in Archuleta County. Given that the shelter euthanizes very few animals each year, why do we have a crematorium? The simple answer is to provide a needed service to the community. Unfortunately pets pass away,

and, for many of us, keeping the ashes of a beloved four-legged family member is an important part of remembrance. When our local veterinarians need to have pets cremated for their clients, they turn to HSPS. We also serve the public at large when beloved pets have died and their owners choose to have them cremated. In 2015 HSPS performed over 280 cremations, the vast majority of which were for community members' pets.

In addition to benefiting the community, our crematorium also generates revenue for the animal shelter. That revenue source is important enough that HSPS is making a significant investment in a new more efficient crematorium this summer to replace our current aging one. The greater efficiency of the new crematorium will represent a cost-saving investment that will pay for itself over the next few years and provide a long-term sustainable source of revenue.

Which brings us full-circle: Since HSPS does not receive funding from any national animal welfare organizations the revenue to support our operation has to come from locally-based efforts. We are extremely fortunate to receive financial gifts from many supporters, both within and without the community, through memberships, general donations and various fundraising events. At the same time, we also rely on sustainable sources of revenue to help us in our mission of providing a safe haven for animals in need. Revenue from our pet crematorium is an essential complement that helps keep the animal shelter operating at full-strength.

If you would like more information about our pet cremation service, please call the HSPS administration office at (970) 264-5549 or animal shelter at (970) 731-4771.



# Faces Seen at the Chocolate Auction & Dinner April 2, 2016







## IN MEMORY OF...

Daisy (cat) from Sandra Butcher  
Lady (cat) from Michael Burrows  
Morris (dog) & Minnie (cat) from LuAnn Baker  
Moses (cat) from Don & Barbara Draper  
Sparky (cat) from William & Mary Foreman  
Tory (cat) from Carla Evans & Monk Tarbell  
Vanna White & Black (cat) from Ted & Kathy Fink  
"Willie Pooh" Mills (dog) from Laddie & Nancy Lou Mills  
Abby (dog) from Peggy Andrews  
Allie (dog) from Deloros & Charles Livingston  
Aspen (dog) from Cody & Denice Griffin  
Beaumont (dog) from Ann & John Graves  
Belle (dog) from John & Rebecca Campbell  
Daizie, our precious Black Lab from Trish & Doug Burkholder  
Foster Knoll (dog) from Paul & Victoria Coleman  
Kinnikinik (dog) from Kathleen Daniel  
Max (dog) from Frank Hutchins  
Newt (dog) from Patrick & Janet Kindred  
Nickie (dog) from Joseph & Janet Donovan  
Rottie (dog) from James Tasker  
Sam (dog) from Anita Gardner  
Sedona (dog) from David & LuAnn Martinez  
Star (dog) from James Smith  
White Socks (dog) from Michael Fikani  
Yoshi (dog) from Stephany & Alfons N. Bouchier  
Callie & Missy Blue (dogs) from Richard Whitaker  
Ranger & Boomer (dogs) from Kent Davis  
Our dog, Walker, who passed away in August, from Gary & Paula Liermann  
Ginger (dog), July 9, 2014 from Jane & Gerald Manzanares  
King, beloved dog of Heather Baucom from Charles & Wanda Price  
Shotzie, beloved dog of Reggy Beach from Carol Blechschmidt  
My cat, Blue from Mariali Garcia  
Brandy from Sally & Herbert Rode  
Daizie, beloved dog of Trish & Doug Burkholder from Sandy & Gerry Cepen  
Lucy, beloved dog of Kriss & Dave Campbell from Jeff & Betty Switzer  
Ernie Canonico from Lora Shank & Bill Dellinges  
Cassie from William & Patricia Curtiss  
Our wonderful Fraidy Cat from Mary Ann & Bill Sayre  
Snowflake, our beloved cat from Patrick & Ann Malloy  
Our dogs & cats from Ruben & Erma Mesa  
Patterson Curtis from 1st SouthWest Bank, Mack Jone,

Kent & April Curtis, Linda & Duncan Lawrie, San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, & Maynes & Bradford, Shipp & Sheftel Attorneys At Law  
Domino from Larry Crowe  
Katie, beloved cat of Susan & Dean Dussell from Pam & Gary Hopkins  
Phyllis Gibson from Ruth Blanchard  
Traci Ann Gillespie from Martha Forrest & William Morgan, Jr  
Buttons, beloved cat of Dana Hardy from Beverly Sondag  
Our cat, Hollis from Coye & Priscilla Jones  
Jersey, precious black lab of Sue Iverson from John & Joyce Webb  
Jeb from Anonymous  
Phyllis Gibson & Norma Johnson from Eldon & Rosina Johnson  
Ed & Ginny Kaumeyer from Linda Kaumeyer, Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey  
Eula Craven Womble, mother of Patsy Kissick from The Wednesday Dog Walkers  
Wayne Logan from Cher Logsdon & Gerald Logan  
Ginger, pet of Jane & Gerald Manzanares from Drury & Sheila Arrington  
John McCann from Marilyn McCann  
Dasher, beloved pet of Susan McDowell from Rick & Janet Santopietro  
Jackie McGuire from Ronald & Judith Taufen  
Valentine, cat of Pat Mitchell from David & Carolyn Piirto  
Missy, beloved dog of Chris Morrissey from Donna & Robert Frederick  
Nikki from Joseph & Janet Donovan  
Ashley & Oscar from John & Helen Richardson  
All of my pets that have passed from Catharine & Arthur Edwards  
Lizzie, favorite granddog of Nettie Reeves from Marilyn M. Smith  
Donald C. Rickard from El Pomar Foundation  
Zoe Rothweiler, dog of Sally Ann Rothweiler from Miles & Connie Davidson  
Samantha from Bill & Joyce Chapman  
Sean from Thomas & Elizabeth Griffin  
"Wild Bill" Smith from David & Bonnie Brooks, Barbara Moore, James & Sharon Vierbicher  
Spot from William & Elaine Blaylock  
Taz Stoll from Linda & Duncan Lawrie  
Tag from Morgen Hickey  
Maggie Ward, dog of Joan Ward from Sepp & Tanice Ramsperger  
Mike Ward, husband of Joan Ward from Sepp & Tanice Ramsperger  
Rory White from Helen White  
Casey, beloved dog of Tom & Lynne Winterton from Kathie Taggart  
Daisy, Love Decker's dog of 16 years, from Marilyn M. Smith  
Kenneth Youker from Patricia & Jerry Roads

## IN HONOR OF...

Hunter Keno (cat) from Shirley Keno  
Amani & Boo (dogs) from Dana Hayward  
Kristen Albers from Thomas & Mary McConnell  
Mrs. Gale Kohlhaugen, for the animals from Jocelyne Tufts

Astro from Charles A Wallace  
Louise Bailey from Donna Brombacher & Beth Hobensack  
My former colleague, Gail Brannan, from John Duvall (John has officially renamed a shelter cat "Trouble" in Gail's honor.)  
Maisie Casias from Irvin & Andrea Casias  
Buckley, my cat from Scott Goodman  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cleveland from Mark & Cindy McNown  
Bob Crowe from Larry Crowe  
Darcy from Deloros & Charles Livingston  
Buddy, my Katrina dog from Nancy Bills  
Alice Farley from Tierney McCaughrin  
Nita Niece & Dana Ford from Sepp & Tanice Ramsperger  
John Graves from Ann & John Graves  
Marilyn Hutchins from Frank Hutchins  
Marge & Don Jones from Jeana Enrietta  
Newt, great old dog who brings us lots of joy from Clayton & Ruth Watson  
Sue & Doug March from Jerry & Peggy Matthews  
Jan Cunningham & Sean McAllister from Kathleen & Ronald Thomte  
Cameron Olson from Ceil & Fred Reese  
Pat White (Penguin Plunge) from Joseph & Janet Donovan, Teresa Grella, Lynn & Melody Munyon, Helen White  
Maggie Cepen, our princess from Sandy & Gerry Cepen  
Sam from Anita Gardner  
Mary Ann Sayre from Jim & Beverly Smith  
Carole Shewbridge from Tim Dippel  
Our little dog-son, Chico from Karen & Patrick White  
James Spence from James & Judy Spence  
My niece, Amy Jo Stone, from Loretta Conder  
Jack, the big-headed dog (A Love Story), from Robert & Mary Anne Wisniewski  
Ralph Sturdevant from Mary Lou Hudson  
Bella, Bonnie, Boomer, Miss Sunny from Barbara Moore  
Trek from LuAnn Baker  
Veann Kelley, employee of Vantiv, from Charles Drucker & Matt Taylor  
Darcy, adopted on June 20, 2010 from Sarah Walker  
John & Joyce Webb from Thomas & Lisbeth Klein  
Darlene Wyatt from Terry & Andrea Wyatt  
Lauren Zak from Arlene Don

## MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

For Katie, Don't cry because it's over.....SMILE because it happened  
Purchased by Pam & Gary Hopkins in tribute to beloved cat of Susan & Dean Dussell  
In Memory of Cubby, SHELTER CAT EXTRAORDINAIRE, 2000 – 2016 from Humane Society of Pagosa Springs employee family



## Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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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

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

### Board of Directors

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## A very sweet evening

Chocolate and good times seem to go together naturally. The annual HSPS Chocolate Auction this past April 2nd was absolutely no exception.

Chocolatiers, restaurants and gourmet bakers donated nearly three-dozen delectable and artistic creations to help raise money for the shelter animals. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, this year's Chocolate Auction was the most successful ever, raising even more funds than last year's record setter.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we send out our most sincere thank-yous to all those who made this special evening happen: to all the bakers who shared their many talents for a great cause; to all the businesses that donated prizes for our highly entertaining balloon-pop event; to all the volunteers who contributed their talents and numerous hours of effort to bring everything to fruition; and not least, to all the attendees who contributed to the evening's success and had a great time doing so!

Mark your calendars for next year's Chocolate Auction on March 18, 2017 and make a date to celebrate three of the best things in life: dogs, cats and chocolate!



*See more photos inside!*