

Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Fall/Winter 2018




friends in Pagosa Springs. Adrian found Drifter's picture on your website after going down an online rabbit hole searching for local thrift stores. He instantly fell in love, and so did I. We were told that Drifter had been taken to the shelter after a couple found him collapsed on their porch during a snowstorm. At the age of at least 12, the staff expected he might live the rest of his life in the shelter. They cried when we loaded the old boy in our car to drive him the three hours home. We had no idea we had adopted the sweetest animal on earth.

Drifter was a gentle eater, he almost never barked, he loved my toddler nieces, he was scared of the cat, and he tolerated my hugs. He wasn't much for giving affection, but when he did, it meant a lot.

Adrian and I love to imagine the lives Drifter led before we adopted him. Maybe he survived the War of 1812 and the Titanic, maybe he was a cowboy in the old west. The dog was resilient and tough, despite his unassuming demeanor. But in the end, his little old body just couldn't go on.

He left the world on Friday morning, and things are a little less sweet without him here. We will miss our slow walks with him, the way his ears perked up when he saw us, his funny, bushy tail, and his quiet presence in our home. We are so grateful we had the honor to be his family for a while.

We love you always, Drifter!! 

Joanna wrote about why Drifter was just right for them: As a busy freelance writer and jewelry designer, I don't have the time to spend two hours a day wearing a young dog out at the park. Drifter's speed suited our lives perfectly. He was happy to relax

Do Old Dogs Need New Tricks?

Maybe not. Maybe they simply need to be old dogs, or cats, and live life on their own terms. The trick might be finding some loving humans willing to accommodate.

Senior shelter animals have a tough time generating the same buzz and fan base as the youngsters. Families with children often visit the shelter looking for younger animals that will grow older as the kids do. Active lifestyle folks typically want an energetic animal that can keep pace and be a part of their adventures. When we envision the best adopter for a senior animal we often think of senior people because, perhaps mistakenly, they're both old and tend to move at a similar pace.

All of which makes perfect sense on the surface of things, but our relationships with people and animals are a bit more complex than that. Young or old, we tend

to gravitate toward people and animals that resonate with us or simply open us to new ways of seeing, thinking and experiencing life. In those terms, there's no reason why young and old can't be a perfect match for one another.

We were recently contacted by Joanna who wanted to let us know that Drifter had passed away. Drifter was a senior dog she and her husband Adrian had adopted from the shelter the previous year. She shared some heartfelt memories of their time with Drifter. When we asked if we could share their story in our newsletter she was happy to oblige. Here is Joanna's remembrance of Drifter.

A year and a half ago, my husband Adrian and I made the somewhat impulsive decision of adopting a dog from the Humane Society while traveling with

on the rug near me while I worked from home. My husband and I would take him on short walks in the evenings and spend time in the yard with him often. But more than anything, Drifter liked to chill. He reminded us to take things a little slower and appreciate our down time.

We have been so touched by our experience living with and caring for our sweet Drifter that we've decided we only want to adopt senior dogs from here on out. They have so much love to give and wisdom to share, and it is a shame that they're often overlooked. Drifter was a true angel on earth, and we are so lucky to have had him, even for just a short time.

I sincerely hope that our beautiful experience with him will inspire others to adopt senior pets! We made a donation in his name this morning, and we are so happy that his brick will be placed in your memorial garden. We are forever grateful we made the decision to stop by the shelter and found our sweet boy.

Pets can enrich our lives in ways we may never have imagined possible. And time often becomes relative. Whether we have years together or only months, the richness and memories of our relationships with our pets often weave a thread that stays with us forever.

Thank you to all the folks who adopt shelter animals. Each one deserves a loving home and a chance for comfort and security no matter the age. And thank you Joanna and Adrian for giving Drifter a wonderful home and for sharing your story about your life with a truly special old fellow.



Auction Highlights & Celebrations to Come

Bob Hemenger's soulful saxophone created the atmosphere for a *Bluesy Night in Memphis*, our annual Auction for the Animals. A sold-out crowd enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Sage Mobile Eatery and a delectable dessert from AD Cakes. Our local high school boys' soccer team capably served up food with a smile. Through the tireless efforts of all our volunteers and staff and the generosity of our sponsors and auction attendees, the 24th annual Auction for the Animals was a fun evening and a great fundraising success!

Thanks to the generous donations from businesses and individuals, the silent and live auction portions of the evening were packed with an array of awesome items that raised enough funds to keep our shelter dogs and cats healthy, happy and well fed for the coming months! A big thank-you, too, to everyone who donated to support our *Aid to Seniors with Pets* program. Sufficient money was raised to launch our new program helping low-income and disadvantaged senior citizens care for their pets.

Special thanks go out to our financial sponsors who helped underwrite the auction. Platinum sponsors included Evelyn Tennyson, Joan Ward, Drs. Rhonda and Bill Webb, Arlene and Jim Payne, and DHL Consulting; Two Old Crows (sponsoring the "Crow Bar") and Pagosa Springs Medical Center as our bid card sponsor; Gold sponsor was Spectrum Construction, and Table Sponsors included Alpine Inn, Jody Brown/Farmers Insurance, Kelly King and David Faust, Pagosa Springs Arts Council, Piedra Automotive, Ponderosa Lumber Company, Summer Phillips Goldsmith, and Terry's Colorado Home Supply.

Make sure you Save-the-Date and circle August 23, 2019 for a big ol' bash celebrating our silver anniversary of the auction! It will be a great opportunity to throw a party and thank everyone for helping to make 25 years of annual auctions so entertaining and successful. Plan on awesome food, great music and a chance to put on the dog and be the cat's meow. We'll dance the night away and celebrate in style for a great cause!



Did you know?

Nearly one in ten of every adult dog or cat that enters the shelter is ten years or older or approaching senior status. More than half of older stray dogs are reclaimed by their owners, but older stray cats are not as fortunate. Over the past year, it took an average of 112 days for a senior pet to get adopted, almost four times longer than other adult animals. Every year a small handful of senior animals make the shelter their final residence. The shelter is a much better alternative to no home at all, but every old animal deserves a home at the end of their days.



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The Adventures of Indy

We love it when adopters stay in touch with us and share stories of life with their adopted shelter animals. These stories come as posts to our FaceBook page, via emails to our shelter and office, or with cards that arrive in the mail. There is nothing more heartwarming than hearing that *our kids* are doing exciting things in their new lives.

This spring a young stray dog was adopted from the shelter. His new name is Indy and his mom, Becky, has kept us entertained with photos of Indy's activities. We assume he's named after Indiana Jones because there's plenty of photographic evidence that he has been having a lot of really grand adventures and the time of his life!

It's a dog's life is an old expression originally meant to imply life can be unpleasant, difficult and even cruel. It certainly looks like Indy has turned that phrase on its head and given it a much more positive meaning. Thank you Becky for sharing your joy and adventures with Indy!



Did you know?

When George Lucas created the iconic movie character Indiana Jones, Indy's first name was a nod to Lucas's Alaskan malamute named Indiana, the same dog that previously inspired the Chewbacca character in Star Wars. Our pets are a constant source of inspiration to us!



All You Need Is Love

by Mike Stoll, Executive Director

The Beatles once said, “All you need is love.” Overly simplistic? Probably, but for a fearful dog maybe it speaks most directly to the heart of the matter.

The HSPS shelter received reports last winter of a stray dog in town, hiding in the willows along the river and impossible to approach. Where did she come from? Was she truly feral as she appeared to be? No one really knew, and efforts to capture her proved frustrating and fruitless.

The shelter staff investigated and learned that a downtown business was putting food out for the dog. The folks feeding her had no idea of her origin story, but they’d taken pity on her plight and hoped to keep her from starving as she continued to elude capture. Finally, in late April, local animal control was able to trap the dog and bring her to the shelter.

Shelter staff soon determined she was not a feral dog, but she was exceedingly timid and fearful. Our enrichment coordinator, Sommer, began a slow and steady process of helping Reesie, as she is now known, to find small bits of comfort. Sommer would toss treats to her and walk very social dogs by Reesie’s kennel. After Sommer had spent several days sitting with Reesie in her kennel, she was rewarded when Reesie shyly allowed Sommer to gently pat her. Eventually, Reesie began climbing partway into Sommer’s lap, but she would retreat if she heard anyone else approaching the kennel area.

While still shy about human interaction, Reesie would play bow and act very friendly toward other dogs that passed by her kennel. Staff knew there was a social dog inside and they needed time and patience to help set her free. After two months in the shelter, Reesie was finally ready for a foster home so she could continue her socialization with people she could learn to trust. In early July she went to the foster home of John and Eileen. Two months later, John and Eileen went from fosters to adopters of Reesie, the dog they had come to love. I’ll let John and Eileen tell it in their own words:

Our dog passed away in January of 2018. It was a difficult time but we knew at some point we would want another dog in our life. After five months we started volunteering to walk dogs at the shelter. The day we saw Reesie we fell in love. As we learned about her story, we knew we wanted to provide her the home and love she had not been able to experience. With the care and attention Sommer and others at the shelter provided, she had begun to trust people but was still very shy. We were determined to earn her trust and knew it would take time.

Reesie has been with us for three months and has truly settled in as part of the family. She makes us laugh every day. She is so sweet and very playful. She loves her stuffed raccoon, loves to hike and take car rides. She’s quick to curl up on the couch next to us while we read. She definitely has us wrapped around her paw.

We believe in the quote, “Dogs are not our whole life but they make our lives whole”. Friends say how wonderful it is that we’ve given Reesie a loving and safe home but we feel she’s the one who is giving us so much.

Many thanks to the dedication and effort provided by everyone at the shelter.

All you need is love? Well, warmth, food and shelter help too, but perhaps the lesson to take from Reesie is that compassion, patience and understanding are essential to disarming overwhelming fear and isolation. Our pets can teach us a lot if we take the time to really listen. What makes a tail wag or a body purr? Maybe it’s not really simple, but it is truly basic. Thank you Eileen and John for giving Reesie the home she needs and deserves.

Share the love with a shelter animal, and you will indeed be loved in return!



Reesie, hiding in the willows



Reesie’s animal shelter photo



Reesie with her new Dad, John



IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Callie (cat) from Laura Metallo and Cheryl Flynn

Buffy and Holly (cats) from Barbara J. Dickson

Blair (dog) from Donald and Alice Stidham

Blondie (dog) from Jan and Claud Hardie

Cheyenne (dog) from Ventura and Sharon Armenta

Drift (dog) from Adrian Toto and Joanna Manganaro

Mally, a beloved friend (dog) from Barbara and Don Rosner

Mikey Pooh (dog) from Laddie and Nancy Lou Mills

Cappy, Opie and Tea Cup (dogs) from Julie Wilhelmi

Ann Shurtleff, a true lover of animals from Judith A. Meyer; Barbara and Don Rosner; Terry and Andrea Wyatt

Skyler, beloved cat of Bob and Carol Ashmore from Carol and Steve Blechschmidt

Peachie, beloved cat of Diana Baird from Carol and Steve Blechschmidt

My pal, Rick Beasley from Thomas and Elizabeth Griffin

Maggie, beloved pet of Dianne Burnside from Candice Sinclair

Our cat from Ted and Patsy Thurston

Drew, a great dog! from Terry and Andrea Wyatt

Cajun – my sweet Hurricane Katrina rescue dog from Rick and Karen Bartholomew

Joe Donovan from Pagosa Piecemakers; Carol Mullavey

Daniel Goodcase, DVM from Chuck and Judy Jordan

Lulu, best dog ever from John and Joyce Webb

Minka, beloved dog of Bill and Beth Filiowich from Dianne Burnside

Reggie Lawrie from Robert and Barbara Rawlings

Bond Lydick, pet of Tom and Teresa Lydick from Rachel Duran and Michael Medellin

Huaponga (19.5 years), pet of Jorge and Patti from Lynn Anthony and Mike Grimm

Maggie Mae Ryan, beloved kitty of Joyce Ryan from Joan Ward

Sadie, sweet dog of Lynn Sampsell from Terry and Andrea Wyatt

Maya, beloved cat of Mary Ann and Bill Sayre from Barbara and Don Rosner

Wilhelm, beloved pet of Blair and Penny Watson from Annie and Charlie Jacobi

Bode Bear Mill Weeden from Glenda Weeden and David Curtis

Zoe and Reba, pets of Paula Miller and Lowell Wiles from Annie and Charlie Jacobi

Lucy, beloved dog of Aileen Wolfer from Tobi Wilton

MEMORIAL BRICKS

“In Loving Memory of Lulu, best dog ever, John and Joyce Webb” from John and Joyce Webb

“Mojo 2003 – 2018, beloved companion” from Phil and Karla Rosenstein

“Maggie Mae Ryan, beloved kitty of Joyce Ryan, 2018” from Joan Ward

“Our sweet boy, Drift, Joanna and Adrian” from Joanna Manganaro and Adrian Toto

IN HONOR OF...

Emmy, Rose and Sparkle (cats) from Barbara J. Dickson

Jack Crouch's Birthday from Scott and Rhonda Young

John Webb's Birthday from Thomas and Lisbeth Klein

Masie Casias from Irvin and Andrea Casias

Kim Dilione from Bernard and Ethel Kolbor

Happy Father's Day to John Duvall from Nikki, Caroline and Will, Kristin and Chuck

Happy Birthday to my daughter, Karla Fellin from Nancy Olson

Mary Kay Hanily Frost from Julie Wilhelmi

Katie from Fred and Mary Webb
Maurine Marshall from Phyllis Smallwood

Noah on his 15th birthday from Nana and Tom from Tom and Gayle Broadbent

Noah's best friends, Lucy and Puzzle from Tom and Gayle Broadbent

Happy Father's Day, Walt Tormohlen from Tamara Tormohlen

Dr. Polly, High Peaks Mobile Vet from Terri Theisen

HSPS, thank you for providing a dog park from Laurie Williams

Gifts of the Heart sponsored by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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Holiday Shopping Galore at *Art for the Animals!*

Join us for the third annual Art For The Animals (AFTA) on November 24. AFTA is a collaboration between the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs and the Pagosa Springs Arts Council to showcase the work of local artists and raise funds for the animal shelter.

AFTA is a perfect opportunity to do some holiday shopping for the special folks on your gift list and to bring some cheer to the shelter animals at the same time. Local artisans will be selling a variety of wonderful and creative items ranging from

art, jewelry, and photography to home décor, apparel and makeup. A wide variety of gift baskets will also be available.

If shopping makes you hungry you can purchase some gourmet baked goods and custom chocolates or take some delectable delights home to treat deserving family and friends. There will be a selection of festive and traditional holiday drinks to help slake your thirst as well.

Join us for a fun and festive holiday shopping experience!

Art for the Animals

Saturday, November 24

10 AM to 4 PM

PLPOA Clubhouse

230 Port Avenue

Pagosa Springs, CO

