

Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Spring/Summer 2018

From Trash to Treasures

By Mike Stoll

There's a saying that one person's trash is another person's treasure. That may be the principle that underlies the popularity of local yard sales, but it probably isn't an expression that would come to mind thinking about dogs and cats. Even so, at the animal shelter we have witnessed one person's unsuccessful pet relationship eventually blossom into another person's newly adopted best friend, so perhaps "upcycling" happens in the animal world, too.

In the case of nine pups that came to the HSPS animal shelter last fall a more apt description might have been, "out of the trash came some beautiful diamonds in the rough." The pups were living at the local landfill and were trapped and brought to the shelter on two separate occasions. The first group of six came to the shelter in late September; the second group of three avoided capture initially and finally arrived in mid-November. The dogs were literally "dump puppies," probably born to a feral mom and living on the margins, surviving on what could be scavenged at the dump.

No one knows exactly when they were born, but the first group was probably around two months old when they were trapped and brought to the shelter. Scared, covered in fleas and noticeably malnourished, staff knew it would take extra-special attention and a lot of work if the dogs were to have a positive future. The second group of pups, having spent more time on their own and away from humans, was even more wary of people than the original six.



It was obvious that the puppies faced some physical challenges. Veterinary exams and blood work indicated some liver function issues for most of the dogs, possibly related to their dump diet and the state of their mom's health. One young pup in particular failed to respond to treatment and died while under veterinary care.

Youngsters born in the wild learn to be wary of humans fairly quickly. To help the dump puppies, staff spent as much time as possible in the vicinity of their kennels so they would become used to human presence, and volunteers came to the shelter to sit and quietly talk with the puppies. Initially staff had to carry the puppies from their indoor kennels to their outdoor kennels because they were too frightened to venture forth on their own.

Slowly but surely, through the efforts of staff and volunteers, the pups started to lower their guards, first tolerating and then seeking social interaction with people. As our shelter manager Liz Andreas observed, "Every bit of progress with the puppies

was a big victory for us! Every tail wag and every direct look in your eye was such a big thing...they brought their own little happiness to us in the shelter and enriched our lives."

With regular veterinary care, vitamins and supplements, and a steady nutritious diet the puppies began to put on weight and grow. Once the pups were more comfortable around people, shelter staff administered the "Puppy-ality" assessment, which is the puppy equivalent of the standard assessment all our shelter dogs are given. These assessments give some clues into each dog's personality and can help adopters choose a dog that might fit well with their lifestyle and expectations.

Not surprisingly, most of the dump puppies scored in the "kindergartner" range, meaning they were timid but also curious about the world around them. Sharing these assessments and medical histories with prospective adopters helped people understand that these particular pups would need some extra time and TLC to grow and flourish in a new home.

Because of their rough start on life and poor initial diet most of the pups needed a bit of special care and might always require dietary supplements. Thankfully, their conditions did not deter people from opening their hearts and homes. Shortly before Thanksgiving, Jax, one of pups from the original group, was the first to leave the shelter for an adoptive home. In early December Rosie and Robby were adopted together, and on Christmas day Zoe and Zack received the special gift of a new home to share. Gizmo was the first of the latter group of puppies to be adopted in December Very shortly after New Year Chappy headed for his new home, too.

See our Treasures on next page...

With all the other dump puppies adopted only Buddy was left. Buddy was trapped and brought to the shelter with the second group of pups. He was the most timid and wary of people. When Buddy was carried from inside to outdoors he often peed on his human transport because he was so scared. Fortunately for Buddy's sake, he met an awesome volunteer named Tony who had a secret weapon.

Tony's secret to gaining Buddy's trust was food, but not just any food. Turns out that plain McDonald's cheeseburgers were temptation enough to gradually overcome Buddy's fear of people. Tony would visit Buddy nearly every day, spending one-on-one time with him and building trust. Tony eventually worked with Buddy on leash-walking skills so that he could leave the shelter for one of our great foster homes to continue his gradual socialization.

In the Burt's foster home Buddy had a chance to find out what life could be like away from the dump and out of the shelter. He learned that playing ball and getting belly rubs from humans was not so bad. Tony continued to visit Buddy in his foster home, eventually taking over Buddy's foster care himself. Eventually, as February was about to become March, Tony let Buddy know that he had truly found a home and adopted him.

Buddy may always be a bit wary of most people, but he has a special someone looking out for him. All of the dump puppies had a tough start in life, but they now have places to call home with people who care for them. Maybe people who adopt shelter animals are a bit like treasure hunters, searching for an overlooked gem they can help polish. The dump puppies came to the shelter as diamonds in the rough, and they've each left the shelter with a chance to grow and thrive and hopefully shine.

Thank you to everyone who adopts a shelter animal and offers a second chance at a good life to a deserving pet. And an extra-special thank you to the folks who willingly open their homes to those animals that need a bit of extra care. You are all heroes to the dogs and cats of the shelter!



Buddy



Chappy



Gizmo



Decadent Desserts Defy Description

The PLPOA clubhouse was the site of the annual HSPS Chocolate Auction this past March 17. The theme of this year's auction was *Celebrating the Spirit Mardi Gras*, so perhaps it was the perfect year to expand the auction to include chocolate and other decadent desserts. It was truly a fun, festive, and colorful celebration for a good cause.

Nearly 175 auction attendees enjoyed a beautiful March evening in Pagosa Country. The balloon pop, buy-it-now desserts, and an array of fine beverages got the festivities rolling into dinner and dessert and the lead-up to the live auction portion of the evening. Nearly three-dozen wonderfully creative and tasty desserts made the rounds of the live auction and raised more funds for the shelter animals than any previous HSPS dessert auction! Proceeds will go a long way toward buying food, medicine, and vaccines for the 700 dogs and cats that will pass through the animal shelter this year.

A huge thank-you goes out to all our sponsors, dessert donors and attendees who made this year's auction so successful. The auction truly is a collaborative effort, so an extra special thank-you goes to all the many volunteers (and HSPS staff) who worked tirelessly to bring it all together. Life is that much sweeter for the shelter dogs and cats!

Save the date for March 16, 2019 for the next great *Chocolate and Other Decadent Desserts* auction. See you next year!

What are you waiting for?

By Shirley Keno, HSPS Volunteer Coordinator

I have met a lot of folks around town and whenever the conversation turns to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs, many will speak enthusiastically about the dog or cat that they adopted from the shelter. Some will mention that they've "been meaning to pay a visit to the shelter to walk a dog or socialize with the cats." Others will rave about how much they like our organization.

Have you ever thought about becoming an HSPS volunteer? I know some readers already are. I've been volunteering since 2011 and, as Volunteer Coordinator, I feel inspired to share with you just how gratifying it is for me to see the enthusiasm of the volunteers that work closely with me. As a volunteer, you set your own schedule and donate your time when it works best for you. No matter when or how you volunteer, there is great satisfaction in knowing that you are contributing to the welfare of the shelter animals and to our efforts in finding them their forever homes!

To give you just a few ideas. The animal shelter always needs volunteers to help with laundry, washing bowls, stuffing kongs with yummy food to keep the dogs occupied in their kennels at night, brushing, playing and socializing with the cats and much more. The Wednesday Dog Walkers are a lively group that meet every Wednesday morning year-round to walk and socialize all the shelter dogs. The dogs also enjoy being walked any other day of the week, too!

The thrift store needs help with sorting and tagging donations, hanging clothing, handyman help and more. If ringing up sales and handling money is more your thing, the thrift store can use cashier help, which frees up time for staff to organize the store and keep it humming along. Revenue from our thrift store keeps the shelter open and operating, so volunteering at the store is just as important as volunteering at the shelter.

If you enjoy parties, we always need help prior to and during fundraising events! Volunteers also assist with our semi-annual newsletter and holiday mailings.



For more information visit our website at HumaneSociety.biz. Volunteer brochures with a full listing of volunteer opportunities and an application form can be picked up at the shelter or the thrift store. You can also stop by the administration office above the Humane Society thrift store.

This is a very exciting time to be involved with HSPS as we continue to develop new programs and expand our services to the community. Volunteering is also a great way to meet likeminded people. So whether you're new in town, seasonal, or a long-time resident, we would love to have you come join the fun.

The HSPS Board of Directors meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room below the thrift store and the meeting is open to the public. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself and see firsthand what we're up to. Light refreshments are served.

We love our volunteers and take every opportunity to say *thank you for all that you do for the shelter animals*. So, what are you waiting for? Come and join the fun. Don't forget to visit us on FaceBook too. Woof and meow!

Farewell, Kim! Welcome Sommer!

Goodbye and a very fond farewell to Kim Dilione, who retired on April 26. Kim had joined us in early 2014 when we were searching for the right person to fill a newly-created staff position at the HSPS animal shelter. That person would launch our new shelter enrichment program and, at the same time, expand our network of transfer partners to create more adoption options for our shelter animals. Kim proved to be the right person at the right time, as she brought over twenty years of rescue-transfer experience and an extensive dog training background to the job. Because this was a brand new position dealing with new programs, there wasn't any well-worn path to follow toward success. Kim was brave enough to take it all on with a smile and a mind that was open to all the possibilities. Her dedication to the well-being of the shelter animals and her unflappable disposition proved essential. Kim displayed a willingness to work through the unknowns until we got it right. Thank you, Kim, for helping make the shelter an even better place for the animals in our care these past four year!

Hello and welcome aboard to Sommer Davidson. Sommer was recently hired for the position vacated by Kim's retirement. Sommer brings five years' experience working for Colorado Animal Rescue in Glenwood Springs. She has a great background in enrichment training as well as a working knowledge of some of the partner organizations in our transfer network. Upon moving to Pagosa Springs in 2017 Sommer first worked in the HSPS thrift store. If you encountered Sommer while shopping the store you'll already recognize her smiling face and constant sunny disposition when you see her at the animal shelter. So, plan a trip to the shelter to walk a dog and socialize a cat and take the opportunity to give Sommer a warm welcome! We're confident our enrichment program and shelter animals are still in good hands with Sommer taking over for Kim.

Disaster Volunteers Needed

by Mike Stoll

It's time to talk about an unpleasant topic that could impact both community pets and shelter animals: drought conditions in southern Colorado and the potential for wildfire this year.

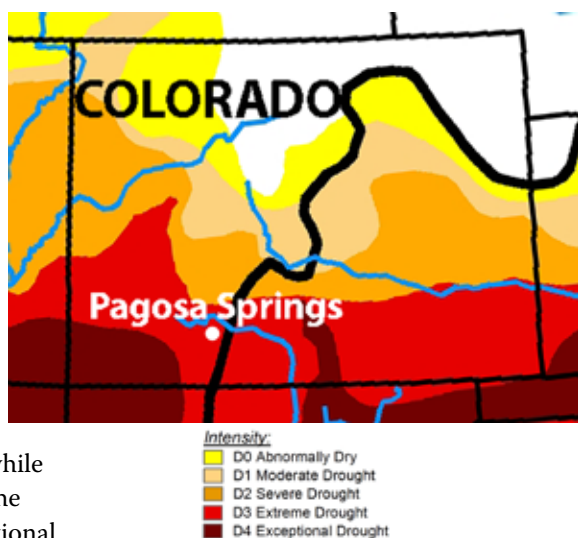
According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's drought monitor, Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County were experiencing "extreme drought" conditions as of mid-May. Extreme conditions also existed to the north, east and south of Archuleta County, while areas due west of the county were at the farthest end of the scale under "exceptional drought" conditions.

While it doesn't mean that wildfire is inevitable this year, it certainly means that we would be very prudent to prepare. For those of us with pets, being prepared also means having a plan for taking care of our animals, as well as ourselves, in a natural disaster scenario.

For HSPS staff, planning for the safety of our own pets also extends to the many dogs and cats in our care at the animal shelter. The shelter population is often at its peak during warm-weather months. Upwards of 100 dogs and cats could be in residence at any one time. Providing a timely response to moving the shelter animals safely out of harm's way will be our foremost priority in the event that fire or some other disaster makes evacuation necessary.

Creating and implementing an effective shelter evacuation plan is a fairly complex undertaking. There are substantial hard goods that have to be organized and moved, such as crates for animal transport, kennels for temporary housing, bedding, food, bowls, sanitation and cleaning supplies, and properly stored medications. Then there is the task of quickly evacuating the shelter population which will require the help of many people.

HSPS is putting out a call for additional volunteers to help with shelter evacuation. Volunteers need to be able to respond quickly and without reservation when evacuation becomes necessary, so each



prospective volunteer must factor personal safety and obligations for the safety of family and others into a decision to assist the shelter animals. For those willing and able to help, HSPS is looking for drivers with vehicles capable of transporting multiple animals in crates. Horse trailers or other transports that can safely move numerous dogs and cats would be especially useful. We also need volunteers capable of helping to load animals and supplies at our shelter, and volunteers willing to help unload and provide basic animal care in a temporary shelter at the evacuation destination.

To volunteer or learn more about shelter evacuation: Contact Mike Stoll, Executive Director, 970-264-5549, hsdirector@humanesociety.biz or Liz Andreas, Shelter Manager, 970-731-4771, sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz.

Protecting Your Own Pets

The key to caring for our pets in a disaster is to plan ahead. An emergency situation can develop quickly and demand immediate action. Several websites provide great information on making a disaster plan for your pets. The website www.ready.gov/animals enumerates the basics of a good pet plan and includes a link to an Emergency Preparedness Pet Kit List brochure that can be downloaded. The brochure was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in consultation with several national animal welfare organizations.

Auction Alert and Raining Raffle News!

Save the date of Friday, August 24 for the 24th annual Auction for the Animals. Always a fun evening, the event features delicious food, great beverages and fabulous items in the silent and live auctions. The Auction for the Animals is the biggest HSPS fundraiser of the year, with proceeds supporting the operation of the animal shelter. Tickets will go on sale mid-July, so watch for more information in the Pagosa Sun newspaper, on the HSPS website and FaceBook page or by calling 970-264-5549.

Coming Soon: the second annual *Raining Cats and Dogs Raffle*. The raffle prize is cash, a whole bunch of cash! Last year's inaugural winning ticket was worth over \$5,500. Joyce Webb was the lucky winner last year. She generously donated her winnings back to the HSPS animal shelter.

One lucky human will claim the winner's share and the shelter dogs and cats get the rest – that's a meow-wow woofin' good deal! Raffle tickets go on sale early June, so watch for more information (see above).





IN MEMORY OF...

Ashley (dog) and Oscar (cat) from John and Helen Richardson

Bruiser (cat) from Marc and Susan Yalom

Buffett (cat) from Paula Liermann

Chickie (cat) from Christine Benson

Louie (cat) from Sally and Herbert Rode

Mazzy (cat) from Allison and Benjamin Qualls

Logan, always in our hearts, 2009-2018 from Karla and Phil Rosenstein

Nikki (cat) from Doug Kimbrough

Wyoming (cat) from James and Zoe Lloyd

Shadow and Katie (cats) from Dean and Susan Dussell

Abby (dog) from Aaron and Leila Wilson

Blondie (dog) from Jan and Claud Hardie

Brandy (dog) from Barbara and Blair Ball

Daisy (dog) from Lyn Drysburgh; Elizabeth and Vossa Leach

Earl (dog) from Jim Lochhead

Emmy (dog) from Charles and Lisa Cox

Fergus (dog) from Lesa and Ted Oyler

Jake (dog) from Carol and Warren Darrow

Missy (dog) from Marge and Don Jones

Pochetta (dog) from Judy Showalter

Ranger (dog) from Warren Strickland

Sugar (dog) from M'Liss Arnold

White Socks (dog) from Michael Fikani

Yeti (dog) from Mark and Pam Kircher

Zach (dog) from Thomas and Nancy Maxwell

Bo and Bailee (dogs) from Aubrie Limebrook

Brandy and Ginger (dogs) from Jane and Gerald Manzanares

Lady, Chelsea, Hamilton (dogs) from Mary Ann Limmer

Mollie and Mac (dogs) from Keith and Jo Ellen Anderson

Spur and Lily (dogs) from Ernest and Vivian Schladoer

Kinikini (dog) and Midnight (mule) from Kathleen Daniel

My dear friend, Steve Hebert, December 7, 2017 from Thomas and Elizabeth Griffin

Pasha (cat) 1999-2016 from Edward Spinelli

Bobby Bergman from Barbara Bergman

Lola, our beloved rescue St. Bernard from Warren Bowland

Blaze from Laurel Nason

Honey Bump from William and Margaret Darling

May Callahan from Robert Obenour

Vida, Starzie, Isa, Louie and Henri (dogs and cats) from Beverly Sondag

Kaiya, beloved dog of John and Eileen Costa from Bonni and John DeMarco

Zia, beloved dog of Bard Crehan from Rick and Janet Santopietro

Domino from Larry Crowe

Dottie from Patrick and Ann Malloy

Shadow Dussell from Pam and Gary Hopkins

Scout and Ella from Jim Denvir and Barbara Parada

Balko, beloved dog of Joelle and Kirk England, from Krista and James Miner

Austin Tennyson, beloved dog of Evelyn from Linda and Duncan Lawrie

Pepper, beloved English Lab of the Baxt Family from Mike Grimm and Lynn Anthony

Snafu, beloved dog of Jim Farris from Janice Green

Heidi, beloved dog of Patricia and Marion Francis from Sandy and Gerry Cepon

Phyllis Gibson from Ruth Blanchard

Lucy, our beloved granddog, from Dennis and Pam Andrews

Lily, beloved dog of Brenda Honeman from Nita Niece

Hunter, beloved cat of Shirley Keno from Shirley Keno

Our son, Bobby Taylor II from Steve and Beverly Sutterfield

Richard L. Isaacs from Charles and Lisa Flagg

My beloved husband, Michael Jaworskyj from Diana Von Der Muhll Jaworskyj

Ed and Ginny Kaumeyer from Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey

Reggie Lawrie from Norma Harman; Nita Niece

Lily from Laura and Ross Isaacson

Boo, best friend and companion of Mamie Lynch, from Barbara and Don Rosner

Lulu, beloved dog of Susi Mays from Krista and James Miner

Jackie McGuire from Ronald and Judith Taufen

Mickey from Terry and Andrea Wyatt

Maise, the dog who walked 1,000 miles from Linda and Duncan Lawrie

Letha, Ziggy and Olivia from Donnie and Doug Gooch

Pete Primeaux from Owen and Donna Taylor

Annie, the Pug from Rick and Julie Jacobsen

J and J Ramsberg from Kenneth Rogers

Ollie Schwartz, beloved dog of Steve and Robbie from Linda and Duncan Lawrie; Cheryl L. Smith

Santana from Larry Schwartz

Bonnie Jean, beloved dog of Mary Ann and Bill Sayre from Barbara and Don Rosner; Jim and Beverly Smith

Carole Shewbridge from Tim Dippel

Pete, beloved dog of Tony and Suzanne Shideler from Tony and Suzanne Shideler

Clare Skaggs from Christina Easterling; Winnie Plager

Rollo, beloved cat of Susan Smith from Barbara and Don Rosner

Pam Spaulding from Kenneth Rogers

Our beloved Siberian Husky, Sugar from Steve and Beverly Sutterfield

Mike Tennyson from Gary and Becky Anderson; Linda Brady; Sandra Brundage; Frank and Kelly Chiado; Bruce and Vickie Davies; Linda and Duncan Lawrie; Gene and Kay Lunceford; Barbara Moore; PCPMG Consulting LLC; Robert and Linda Riek; Margo Rivers; Thomas Scott; Evelyn Tennyson; Rhonda and Bill Webb

Rocco, beloved dog of Joan Ward from Steve and Joyce Ryan

Sandy, beloved dog of Fred and Carolyn Whitten from Sue Ford; Tom and Kelly Musselman

Joan and Harry Young from Christine Young

IN HONOR OF...

Allly and Jake (cats) from Elmer and Peggy White

Aspen (dog) from Susan and Tracy Childs

Athena, adopted from HSPS in June 2015 from Dink

and Randy Hoffman

Our boy, Happy (adopted from HSPS in April 2017) from Dick and Carol Vogel

Our granddaughter, Kristin Albers, from Thomas and Mary McConnell

Sue Fager and Ally from Heather Devaughn

Kim Dilione, for dedication and love of all animals, from John and Joyce Webb

Mrs. Gale Kohlhausen, for the animals from Jocelyne Tufts

Athena from Jean Zirnheld

Tony Hairston's Birthday from Cher Logsdon

Cody Cannon from Madelaine Cox

Maise Casias from Irvin and Andrea Casias

Toots, beloved boxer of Carolyn Coggins, from Beth and K.C. Coggins

Bob Crowe from Larry Crowe

My mother, Nancy Cusack from Kris Cusack

Jane Debry from Lee Riley

Jeff and Adelaide Greer from Lee Riley

Merry Christmas to Andy Guinn from Deborah Hayward

Merry Christmas to Randy and Terry Guyll from David and LuAnn Martinez

Abbie (adopted July 30, 2016 from HSPS) from Pat Rustad

Veronique Jerrel King from Susanne and Wayne Pippenger

Maggie, Scout (formerly Little Bit) and Carmella Lovebird from Sandy and Gerry Cepon

Nathan McDonald from Ceil and Fred Reese

Darcy, adopted June 20, 2010 by Sarah Menapace-Walker from Sarah Menapace-Walker

Sadie (formerly Mia) from Tom and Debbie Bentley

Mollie from John and Rebecca Campbell

Tippie and Penny from Mary Cooper

Tamura Peterson from Lee Riley

Kalei Pitcher from Lee Riley

Sydonia Poenisch from South Texas Money Management, LTD

The Wilger Family and Lucy and Puzzle from Tom and Gayle Broadbent

Nancy Ray from Allen and Marie Layton

Ryan Rechner from Leo and Candy Rechner

Lauren, for a speedy recovery from Arlene Don

Rick Reeve from Cathy Beener

Lee Riley from Loretta Conder

Shadow from Cheryl Prestianni

Tony and Suzanne Shideler from Lee Riley

Brian and Joy Sinnott from Christine Sinnott

Mike Stoll from Rosalie Martin

Jewel and Theodore from Mark and Catherine Zaharko

Hey Toots from Kristina Coggins

Jesse and Alice Tuten from Robert and Nancy Tuten

The Wednesday Dog Walkers from Gale and Jack Kohlhausen

MEMORIAL BRICKS

"Logan, always in our hearts, 2009-2018" from Karla and Phil Rosenstein

"In Loving Memory of Mike Tennyson" from Linda Brady

"Joan and Harry Young" from Christine Young

"We miss you Mike Tennyson from Gene & Kay Lunceford" from Gene and Kay Lunceford

"Thanks HSPS for giving me a loving home in my last years" from Lesa and Ted Oyler



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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Animal Shelter

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(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

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