



Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Summer 2013

Entering the World of Dog at 64

by Janice Green

Adopting my first-ever dog at the age of 64 was daunting. Mind you, I spent two years pondering the possibility of entering World of Dog, having discussions with my remaining 8-year-old cat (Modi) and long-time dog-owner friends. But when HSPS's Liz Andreas, my trustworthy neighbor and chocolate-chip-pie-maker extraordinaire, casually uttered these words, "Janice, I have the perfect dog for you," my heart pounded knowing it was time to step up or shut up.

Meet Pasha (aka/Scooby at HSPS), my 44-pound cream-colored 2-year-old collaboration of lab/husky genes. In May 2012 he arrived at the animal shelter with no tag or chip, burrs snagged into his coat, pronounced ribs and a gentleman's disposition. He served as the office dog for three months before Liz made her matter-of-fact comment. Result? Pasha and I connected like Sears Snap-on tools.

Here I am, a few months on the other side of adopting my perfect dog, giving a novice's progress report. What have we learned so far?

Brevity. My life as an attorney/writer places a premium on words carefully sequenced, so reducing my vocabulary to one or two word commands has been a challenge. Pasha pays no attention to adjectives, adverbs or compound sentences.

Pride. That squishy sensation felt with only a thin layer of plastic separating my hand and Pasha's poop led to a Google search for doggy litter boxes, to no avail I might add. After recognizing undigested carrots and peas one morning, I realized that witnessing this most intimate act can give me vital information about Pasha's digestion and health. [Yes, I now puree his veggies!] I proudly carry recyclable poop bags that telegraph to my neighbors I am a responsible person.

Predictability. Pasha's life of change continued with me, but he rolled with the waves. He adjusted to my Pagosa cabin home during my remaining two weeks there, then a 2-day road trip, and now his second home in Austin with nary a glitch. But I managed to keep his *schedule* through these transitions, and he acclimated well.

Keep movin'. Often I've read that daily exercise avoids lots of canine (and human) behavioral and health problems. Our lengthy



Learning to love dog kisses

morning and evening walks, punctuated by vigorous play, have kept Pasha out of trouble—no house-training issues, no chewing or destructive activity. I must say that I love it when Pasha begins the day in Downward Dog Position then eases into Plank Position. I have no idea where he learned Yoga!

Praise. Licks and smiles and hugs are Pasha's positive reinforcements for me. In turn, his body wags and his head snuggles when I praise his responses. These gestures underscore our mutual admiration society that also provides boundaries for both of its citizens.

Heart grabbin' joy. I can tell that Pasha is contented and thankful we met, as am I. I can feel the expansion of our cross-species love that brings its own version of transcendence. He reminds me to pause and sniff the purple blooms of sage on our walks, his happy dances remind me what a wonderful day it's going to be as I grind my morning coffee, he licks my tears when I hear of a dear friend's terminal illness, and he snuggles encouragement as I struggle to find just the right words when I write. Plus, Pasha has respected Modi by not invading his space (such as my bed which I promised Modi he would not have to share....yet).

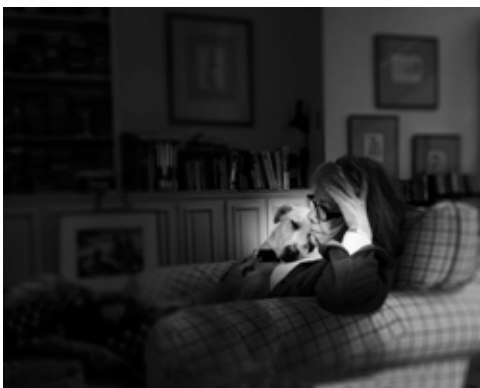
Simplicity of love. My relationship with Pasha reminds me of the simplicity of love, the essence of which comes in brief expressions—a kind word or glance, a frisky chin scratch or smile, a break in one's

Continued on next page

Entering the World of Dog (con't from page 1)

busy schedule to toss a toy or converse in softly-spoken words, a thoughtful appreciation that commemorates our companionship. We're learning to lean into each other, trusting that we'll always be the other's Chimney Rock.

One of the first books I read before I finally decided to adopt is titled *Love Has No Age Limit – Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home*. Never truer words have been spoken or written, except for Liz's opening salvo, "Janice, I have the perfect dog for you."



Janice and Pasha share a quiet moment

Director's Note: I remember the first time I met Scooby (now Pasha) and for a split second mistook those exposed canine teeth for a snarl. Then I realized his toothy grin was his way of saying, "Hi, I'm a lover not a fighter."

Scooby found his way into the hearts of all the shelter staff, as you can tell from the way they described him on our website: *Scooby is a sweet, shy young boy that 'smiles' at you with all his pearly whites. It's so endearing, you can't help but smile back. Good-natured, fun dog.*

Reading Janice Green's story of life with Pasha/Scooby is especially gratifying knowing that his mission to grin and spread more joy to the world has been completely successful and that one of our shelter citizens has introduced yet another human to the joy of life with a wonderful dog!

Auction for the Animals – Save the Date!

The 19th annual Auction for the Animals will serve up great food and beverages and lots of auction action on Friday, August 23rd at the Ross Aragon Community Center. It's a fun evening of socializing with friends and fellow animal lovers in support of a good cause. The Auction for the Animals is THE major fundraiser of the year, and the success of the evening can go a long way to support the animal shelter's efforts to create a safe haven for animals in need.



Last year's auction was a HUGE success with numerous unique and attractive items for bid. This year's Auction will provide a suitable encore. Among the auction items received so far are several resort packages, including 7-day stays in four different Caribbean resorts and Cabo, Mexico, a wine tasting tour of California wine country, a 2.3 acre parcel of land suitable for a vacation cabin or RV getaway spot near the Little Blanco River, a handcrafted Rio Grande style loom made by a New Mexico master weaver, original art work and much, much more.

The Auction for the Animals is a microcosm of volunteerism in action. From the hundreds of volunteer hours spent planning, organizing and preparing, to the unflagging energy and efforts of

our volunteer event staff, to the financial support volunteered during the silent and live auctions, this is an event that owes its success to the many volunteers and supporters of HSPS for which we are very grateful. A special thank you to all who have participated in past Auctions for the ongoing support. We hope to see many of our friends, and meet new friends as well, at this year's Auction for the Animals on August 23rd.

Did you know? HSPS does not receive funding from any national organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States, American Humane, ASPCA, or the United Way. Much of the revenue needed to keep the animal shelter running is raised through donations, memberships, thrift store sales and fundraisers like the Auction for the Animals.

Hot Car Safety

by Linda Lawrie, HSPS Volunteer and Board Member

Just a reminder that overheating can kill an animal. Never leave animals alone in a vehicle, even with the windows open. At just 70 degrees and above, it can become too hot to leave your pet in the car. With an outside temperature of 75, an enclosed car is 118 degrees. At 90 degrees, it gets up to 143 degrees inside your car!

Be alert to overheating symptoms. These include difficulty breathing, excessive panting, drooling, increased heart rate, weakness and even collapse. Protect your pets this summer!





Feral Cat Wrangling Revisited

by Mike Stoll, Executive Director

Feral cats, stray cats, free-roaming cats, community cats. By any name, they are cats that no one owns and for which no one typically claims responsibility. There is a sizeable population of free-roaming cats in the Pagosa area, perhaps 1,200 or more, and they contribute to a growing population by producing litters of unwanted kittens.

For the past decade, HSPS has successfully promoted spay/neuter as a way to alleviate local pet overpopulation. Through our Fix-It-Free and Spay Aid voucher programs we've helped numerous residents sterilize their pets. Since 2006, financial contributions from HSPS have covered some or all of the cost of over 1,400 spay or neuter surgeries for locally owned dogs and cats. During that same time period over 1,700 shelter dogs and cats have been spayed or neutered prior to being adopted.

Starting a feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program seemed a logical extension of our spay/neuter efforts and a humane way to address the growing population of free-roaming cats. Since our first large scale trapping in August 2011 we've trapped and sterilized over 350 cats through the TNR program. Every cat receives a medical exam and vaccinations as a part of the process, which enhances their odds for a healthier existence outdoors. For most of these cats it's probably the only time they'll receive veterinary care.

The TNR program is a prime example of the tremendous impact that volunteers have on what HSPS is able to accomplish. TNR requires a huge amount of detective work and labor in the field: identifying and tracking colonies, getting information from people in the neighborhoods where feral cats live, establishing feeding patterns and preparing for a major trapping, working well past dark to trap cats, returning cats to their original locations following recovery from surgery, and cleaning/sanitizing all the equipment used during the TNR.

We knew before we implemented the TNR program that shelter staff already had plenty to do keeping the shelter operational and would not be able to take on the work of TNR as well. HSPS pays the costs of surgeries, vaccines and equipment through grants, HSPS revenues and dedicated donations, but volunteers do 99 percent of the work. Without the dedication of the volunteers in the field who work directly with the cats throughout the year and those who roll up their sleeves and do the dirty work of

cleanup after every TNR event we would not be able to keep this program running. So, a well-deserved and very heartfelt thank you to Jinger, Karen, Kathy and ALL the other TNR volunteers!

If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the TNR program, call the HSPS animal shelter at 970-731-4771. If you would like to learn more about TNR or the other HSPS spay/neuter programs or you would like to make a donation, call the administration office at 970-264-5549. Thanks to our volunteers and supporters we are making a difference in the lives of free-roaming cats.

Did you know? Every cat sterilized in the TNR program has the top ¼" of the left ear *tipped* – clipped straight across – while under anesthetic. This has become the standard for recognizing a feral cat that has already been spayed or neutered. This visual cue allows trappers to quickly release an already sterilized cat that gets trapped again, and it helps with observing and identifying cats in the field as a part of ongoing TNR work.



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Did you know that if you shop online with Amazon, Overstock, Petco, L.L. Bean, REI, Sierra Trading Post or any of over 1,000 stores affiliated with iGive.com, ***a percentage of whatever you spend can be matched and donated to HSPS?*** All you have to do is register with iGive.com and it costs you nothing! To date, HSPS has received almost \$1,100 in iGive donations thanks to purchases made by our currently registered supporters.

iGive affiliate stores provide a broad range of goods and services, from clothing and household items to cellular and travel products. The amount that each company donates from your purchase varies; most offer a set percentage of the total sale, while others offer special one-time or per-transaction donation rates. In addition, most of the stores offer shoppers coupons or discount codes as part of their iGive listing.

How to Register with iGive

- Go to <http://www.iGive.com/HSPS>
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- Hit the "Register Now" button and you're done.

You will get an email confirming your registration and providing further information. Once you are registered, follow the step-by-step instructions to download and install the iGive browser button so that you will be automatically recognized as an iGive supporter whenever you shop on an affiliate website.

Volunteering Your Sticks and Bricks—Foster Homes Needed!

by Mike Stoll, Executive Director

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers without whose help we would be hard-pressed to accomplish all that we set out to do.

Our volunteers have never been reluctant to roll up their sleeves and make things happen. Yet, there is one area where our volunteer support is presently in short supply, and it's an area that can be among the most rewarding aspects of humane work: We need more foster homes to help create more positive options for shelter animals.

The animal shelter truly is a safe haven for animals in need, but it is not a substitute for a home environment. Living in the shelter can be a stressful experience for many animals. Foster homes are an important component, for some animals, the key component, in creating options to help them cope with the shelter environment. A foster home can be a temporary time-out and return to normalcy for an animal when no immediate prospects for an adoptive home are in sight and can provide relief for a dog or cat when the experience of life in the shelter becomes a bit overwhelming.

Foster homes can also benefit shelter staff when crowding becomes a reality. The expression "raining cats and dogs"

can seem too true at certain times of the year, especially when the kitten tsunami arrives in the spring or warm weather brings an influx of dogs exploring the wider world beyond their backyards. The option to place a few adoptable animals in foster homes for a day or a week may be all the relief the shelter needs until some adoptions occur or a transfer of animals to another shelter can be arranged.

Why foster for HSPS? The simple answer is that you would be helping animals in need. The shelter may need a temporary home for kittens, puppies or young dogs where they can benefit from social interaction with people. An animal receiving medical care may need a quiet place to recuperate. Senior dogs and cats seldom adapt well to shelter life and may need the comfort of a home until a rescue or more permanent placement can be found. Dogs with behaviors exacerbated by constant arousal in the shelter, barking, jumping, or acting aggressively toward other dogs, can calm down in a foster home and learn to break bad habits that might otherwise make adoption difficult.

Won't fostering an animal simply lead to adopting that animal? It can happen. After all, every animal being fostered is in search of a home, and if the animal and the foster home are a good match who's to say that it shouldn't become permanent?

But unless you're actively looking for a new member of your household the shelter staff would rather keep you as a foster home than add you to the list of new adoptive families. Good foster homes are often more difficult to find than good adoptive homes. Fostering requires a different mindset than adopting from the outset: adopting is a lifetime commitment, made for the long-term; fostering is a short-term commitment, with a clear end in sight. Fostering helps an animal through a difficult time with the goal of a better life and a good home down the road.

What's the next step? If you're ready to foster or want more information about what's involved in fostering before you decide, contact the animal shelter (970-731-4771 or sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz). Our shelter manager, Debbie Smith, will schedule a time to discuss the nuts and bolts of fostering with you. She'll help you decide if fostering is the right thing for you and, if so, what kind of foster situations might suit you best.

Fostering is not a full-time commitment. Whether you foster once, once a month, or once a year is up to you. Fostering may seem like a daunting task to some yet it's a very real way to make a difference in an animal's life. Fostering may not give the singular satisfaction of spending a lifetime with an animal but it can give the small, sweet satisfaction of giving an animal a second chance when they need it the most.

Did you know? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs does not euthanize animals based on length of stay or to create space in the animal shelter. In 2012, of 503 dogs and cats that entered the shelter only 9 were euthanized (and those were for untreatable, deteriorating medical conditions or severe aggression). While that statistic is very good, our average length of stay is too long: dogs were in the shelter an average of 48 days and cats an average of 86 days. Living in the animal shelter for three months or more can be very stressful and even physically and mentally damaging. For some animals struggling to cope, a foster home may offer a brief respite from shelter stress and help prevent the debilitating effects of kennel breakdown.



Can you lend a helping paw?

Our Wish List



- Bleach and other cleaning supplies
- New tires for the thrift store truck
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Puppy training pads (for puppies and to line cat traps for feral cat TNR)
- Wet cat and dog food for shelter animals and for the feral cat TNR program
- 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 adoptable cat room
- Dark colored blankets for camouflaging feral cat traps at night
- High-quality tasty dog training treats for the shelter dog enrichment program
- New Kuranda dog beds to replace worn and well-used beds
- Kongs and other indestructible dog toys to relieve kennel boredom
- Supply shed (new or used) to replace a dilapidated shed at the animal shelter
- Foster homes for kittens, puppies and adult animals needing a shelter break
- 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]

IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Bailey, from Donnie and Doug Gooch
 Bear, Pooter and Bart, from Barbara Carter
 Bennett Haynie, from Kennie Mackey
 Beverly, from James Hopson and Helen Crain
 Bevo, from Carrie Pickering
 Bonz – beloved dog to Robert Rambo, from Teresa and John Huft.
 Boo Pargin, from Chrysty Fortner
 Robert “Boo” Pargin, from Chris and Libby Long
 Boo Pargin, from Shauna and Dan Miller
 Robert “Boo” Pargin, from Carolyn Moran
 Robert “Boo” Pargin, from Patrick and Judy Shipp
 Boston Blackie, from Edward and Ethel Lane
 Caly Jones, from Coye and Priscilla Jones
 Carole Shewbridge, from Tim Dippel
 Chester - beloved boy of Patsy & Jim Harvey, from Marilynnette & Chris Cox
 Chico, from Jo Anne Canales
 Chimmy, from Rose Smith
 Chloe, from Ted and Kathy Fink
 Chubby Checker, from Brenda Rion
 Diesel, from Tom and Donna Pugh
 Dorothy Marie Garcia, from Alice Farley
 Echo, from Bob and Bonnie Hite
 Ezzie – beloved cat, from Kathryn Gervasi
 Harry Campbell – Gunn, from Jud Porter
 Jack, from Susan & John Dennis
 Jack Hummel, from William Morgan and Martha Forrest
 Jake, from Karen Bartholomew
 Janie Wormsbecker, from Linda Lawrie and Pam Skowronek
 Jasper – beloved cat, from Mary Lou Hudson
 Josephine Wolcheski who was comforted throughout by a boxer named Roxie, from James and Ione Adams
 Judy Dunn, from Louise Bailey
 Kenneth A Youker - Lover of all Animals, from Patricia and Jerry Roads
 Lili Gettig, from Rose and Robert Chacon
 Lizzie - rescue dog to Elizabeth Jones
 LoLo, from L Grant Lynd Living Trust
 Lucy – beloved dog of Diane and John Maun, from Annette Foor
 Lucy and Sam, from Linda Langner
 Madeline, from Julia and Paul McCormick
 Margaret & Frank Maleski and Amber & Yogi, from Roberta Maleski
 Marjorie Leonard – my mother and a lifelong animal lover, from Diane Lumbattis
 Marty and Dottie, from Patrick and Ann Malloy
 Me Too, from John and Cecilia Haviland
 Milo, from James and Maria Palmer
 Missy, from BT Saunders
 Misty – beloved cat, from Louie Byrn

Mittens – beloved cat, from Delores Poleski
 Molly – beloved cat of Bob and Carole Howard, from Ron and Sheila Hunkin
 Musical, from Malcolm and Charis Pond
 Norma Johnson and Phyllis Gibson, from Eldon and Rosina Johnson
 Porsche, from Robert Nemeth Hopkins
 Precious and Tess, from Connie Guido
 Puffus, from Kerry Howard
 Quincy & Jackie, from Mary Dorman and William Bales
 Rio and Robbie, from Martha and Roland Carlson
 Roofus – beloved dog to Janna Ranson, from Nancy and Michael Ray
 Ruby, from Debbie and Joe Hannigan
 Sissy, from Mary and Fred Webb
 Spot, from Bill and Elaine Blaylock
 Sugar, from Michael Fikani
 Sundance – beloved cat of Jim and Jean Carson, from Cherie and Ron Clodfelter
 Sunshine – beloved dog of Anthony and Kathy Steventon, from Duncan and Linda Lawrie
 Susan Sheridan who loved all animals, from Gerald Logan and Cher Logsdon
 Tosca, from Michael Lubin and Barbara Edidin
 Vera, from Victoria Diana
 Vittoria Periorid, from Beverly Stansell
 Wally & Abby, from Lannie Alexander and Steve Wirtz
 Willy, from Charles and Jane Day
 Winston, from Christine Benson
 Zoe, from Craig and Diana Smith

IN HONOR OF...

Beau, from Ted and Patsy Thurston
 Dana Hardy, from Beverly Sondag
 Don and Ann Cole, from Donna Cole
 Donnie Gooch, from Doug Gooch
 Evelyn and Holly Winterton, from Donna Frederick
 Jenny, from Victoria Diana
 Jim and Jean Carson, from V. Jean St. John
 Kathy Steventon, from Kelley Lombardo
 Mary Ann and Bill Sayre. Thank you for your generosity and kindness from Janet and Nick Grandinetti.
 Marge and Don Jones, from Jeana Enrietta
 Mickey and Charly, from Mary and Fred Webb
 Shelby - dog to my sister, from Jean and James Scott
 Sue – my cat, from Wilma Espoy
 Sue Glenn and Paul Treseler, from Kathleen and Kenneth Escobar
 Toby – my Pagosa cat, from Eva Manbeck
 Winston, from Linda Reed
 Wounded Warrior husband, from Catharine Edwards



Chocolate Auction 2013

This year's Chocolate Auction was a sweet success! Thanks to a host of volunteers we auctioned over 30 decadent delights following a tasty Italian dinner. The evening was made complete with checkered tablecloths and candelabras at our local Youth Center. HSPS is thankful for money raised which directly benefits our sheltered animals. Thank you to all who participated in this year's event.

Just in Time for Warm Weather

Introduced a year ago, our HSPS logo t-shirts have been a big hit. This spring we'll be offering ladies' cut shirts (shorter and trimmer) in addition to the standard, unisex t-shirts already in stock. We've ordered a rainbow of colors in sizes ranging from small to 2X so visit the Thrift Store and check them out!





Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

Humane Society Thrift Store

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

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Cowabunga, Dude! Intrepid Pagosa Penguins Took The Plunge!

Sporting drawn-on South Pacific-themed tattoos as talismans against the frigid waters of the San Juan River, intrepid volunteers Daniel Sloan and Josh Smith represented HSPS in the 4th annual Penguin Plunge fundraiser this past February 9th. Both plungers are students at Pagosa Springs High School and volunteer at the animal shelter walking dogs and helping with chores.

But jumping into the river in the dead of winter clad in nothing but shorts, grass skirts and their birthday skins took their volunteering to a whole new level! Amid falling snowflakes, a biting breeze, and the encouraging cheers of the bundled crowd, Daniel quickly dove in and demonstrated the submerge-and-survive technique while Josh splashed his way to the crest of Davy’s Wave and executed a spectacular dive into the pool below. As they exited the river they were greeted by applause, towels, and heartfelt thanks for their efforts which raised nearly \$1,600 for the dogs and cats of the animal shelter. Way to go Daniel and Josh!

