



Paw Press

Newsletter of the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs



Spring 2017

From Shelter to Service

by Mike Stoll

Over the past 12 months 384 dogs and cats were adopted from the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) animal shelter, an average of more than one every day! Animals arrive at the shelter for a variety of reasons and every shelter adoption brings hope of a new start and renewed opportunity for a loving home and a quality life.

What follows is a story of a less typical adoption, one intended to meet some very specific, and challenging, individual needs.

When the shelter staff received an email in early March that began, *"My name is Joan and this is not a typical adoption"*, they were intrigued. She was inquiring about Max, a dog that had entered the shelter in February, and wondered if he was still available. Joan, it turned out, is a certified animal safety representative in the film and television division of American Humane, and she had been tasked with finding dogs for a special program. American Humane was launching a new service dog training and placement program designed to help military veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Joan was searching for just 5 shelter dogs to comprise the initial training class.

The qualifying criteria for program dogs were extensive (based, among other things, on age, calm demeanor, health and conformation, receptivity to training, affinity to people, and lack of aggression), and after researching over 1,000 dogs online Max had sparked Joan's interest. Joan was sent information and videos of

Max (the HSPS staff records video of the standardized SAFER behavior assessment for every shelter dog), and many questions were asked and answered. Ultimately, Joan forwarded Max's information to Amy, American Humane's national director for military affairs. Amy emailed the shelter to say, "Max looks wonderful!" Since she is located in Denver, Amy drove to Pagosa Springs to meet Max in person, did some additional testing, and confirmed he was an excellent candidate for the new training program. After having his hips and elbows x-rayed to make sure he was in tip-top shape, Max was officially transferred to American Humane and drove to Denver with Amy to begin his special adoption training.

Even though Max was now in American Humane's care, HSPS's involvement in his journey did not end. Since Max needed to get from Denver to Baltimore for training, Kim, our shelter behavior assessment and transfer coordinator, contacted an over-the-road truck driver based in Denver who had previously transported dogs across country for HSPS. Tom, the trucker, was happy to give Max a lift and even stopped off in Oklahoma to pick up Louie, another of the original 5 dogs enlisted in the new program. Amy contacted the shelter with an update from Tom, who said the trip east was great and Max and Louie had been wonderful road companions. As Amy related, *"Tom said when he would stop along the road to rest, he'd recline his seat and Max would nap*

with his head on Tom's shoulder. Such a sweet boy!"

Max, now known as Oliver, is currently living in Baltimore with Louie and their trainer. They, along with the 3 other members of the program's first class, will undergo extensive service dog training over the next few months to learn specific tasks tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans with PTS or TBI. If all goes well, graduation will be in June, and then Max will have the opportunity to be adopted by a deserving veteran.



Continued on next page...

From Shelter to Service... *continued from page 1*

Since Max left on his journey we've gotten updates from Joan and Amy, and a *thank you* from the president of American Humane, and have been able to follow Max on American Humane's Facebook page. It's very gratifying for everyone at HSPS to know that one of our shelter *kids* was among the chosen few embarking, as American Humane puts it, on a transformation into a highly-trained lifeline for a struggling veteran. Kudos to our shelter staff for caring for and enriching Max during his time in the shelter. They encouraged his awesome inner-dog to shine through and helped him on the path that will lead from shelter to service.

Max's adventure puts me in mind of Dr. Seuss's wonderful last book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* It's a book that's often given as a gift to new graduates, encouraging them to stay open to the many and varied, and sometimes unexpected, opportunities of life. Who knew that a shelter dog from Pagosa Springs, Colorado would embark on one of the grandest dog adventures of all, serving as a companion and potential life-saver for a military veteran faced with severe challenges? Oh, think of the possible places the two will go together that neither, alone, would experience otherwise. Bon voyage, Max, and best of life to you and your future adopter!

A postscript: Amy recently contacted the HSPS shelter to say that American Humane is recruiting dogs for the second



Max on his way to Denver with Amy

class in the PTS/TBI service dog program. Did we have any possible candidates?

The shelter sent her information and a video of Mack, a recent addition to the shelter, and the initial evaluation looked positive. Here's hoping that Mack ultimately finds himself in a similar life-changing adventure as Max has.

That American Humane, the oldest and best known humane organization in the US, would seek a continued working relationship with HSPS on this exciting new service program is a distinct credit to our shelter staff and their commitment to do the best for the animals in their care. Well done!

Wish List, Special Edition: *Big Wheels Keep On Rollin'*

We've run out of time. Spit, bailing wire and duct tape simply aren't getting the job done any longer. We have to replace our ancient shelter van.

The current shelter vehicle is a 1999 Chevy cargo van that is used nearly every day of the week, year-round. The van is the primary transport for shelter animals travelling to-and-from veterinarian offices for spay/neuter surgery or needed medical treatment and for making regular trips around town to pick up shelter supplies, like food and cat litter, from local vendors. The van has been used to transport animals to out of town adoption rendezvous and to transfer animals between our shelter and other transfer partners throughout Colorado. Simply put, the van is essential to caring for animals in the shelter and for getting them out of the shelter and into homes.

Replacing the current shelter van is a top priority for 2017. The van is no longer used for travel outside of Pagosa Springs because of its increasing miles and decreasing reliability. It's important that our staff and animals be able to travel more reliably around town, and it's critical for the continued success of our transfer program that we have dependable transportation.

We're in the market for a 4WD or AWD cargo van; pre-owned with lower miles and in great operating condition would be just dandy. Our goal is to find a replacement vehicle by early September, shortly after the annual Auction for the Animals. If you, or anyone you know, have a vehicle that might meet our needs, let's talk! Or, if you know someone who trades in new or used vans that would be willing to help a non-profit, we would welcome an introduction. For more information please contact Mike or Sandy in the administration office, 970-264-5549 or hsdirector@humanesociety.biz.



From the American Humane website, the first class of five service dogs: Max is far right



Editor's note: The following story was shared with us by a family that has adopted a cat and two dogs from the HSPS shelter over the past 2 years. It is a beautiful compliment to the *From Shelter to Service* article on page 1. Names have been withheld for privacy.

Our Son's Journey of Joy

We moved to Colorado with a promise to our son, who has Autism and Cerebral Palsy, that we would get a dog when we had our own home with a fenced yard. With the home purchased and moved in, the search began for a canine companion with several dead ends and a huge disappointment from a rescue; promises made and revoked.

Heartbreak and sadness from our disappointment led us to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs to see what might be available for adoption in the German Shepard, Golden Retriever type of dog. It was an extremely busy day at the shelter, so we went into the cat room to say hello and went home with Missy, our precious cream Siamese addition to our family. Before we left we told the shelter to please be on the lookout for a young dog, too.

As Christmas time drew near, Missy modeled her new collar and elf hat, and we absolutely had to share a photo with the shelter. Ah, the wonderful, amazing shelter staff sent back a picture of a round fluffy German Shepard-looking baby cradled in the arms of a staff member with the question: "Are you still looking for a puppy?"

The surprise for our son's Christmas! With only one day until Christmas we battled

snowy roads and winter weather to reach the shelter. When we arrived, shelter staff brought out Ginger, our little ball of fluff, dancing joy, to greet us with sweet puppy kisses and puppy breath!

Our son was stunned, to say the least, when we arrived home with his long-awaited puppy. He stood and stared at Ginger, not knowing what to do. Being told she was his, he started to cry and sat down to hold her. Ah, the journey of joy beginning. Puppy kisses and our son's kisses mixed with tears of great joy.

Even a year later our son reads to Ginger every day and sleeping buddies they will stay. She is being trained as a therapy dog for our son to calm and help comfort him with the devotion that only comes from his companion and friend Ginger. Our Golden Shepard!

Because our son isn't as active as Ginger needs, we recently returned to the HSPS shelter and adopted another German Shepherd-mix puppy, Saffron, as a baby sister and playmate. Ginger, Saffron and our son are just the best snuggle buddies, and the *spice girls* are story-listening pals that have fulfilled our son's journey of hope to one day be filled with the joy that only a special friend like Ginger could do!



This issue of the *Paw Press* is dedicated to the memory of Rex Shurtleff. He had been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors and a tireless volunteer and supporter of HSPS for almost 25 years.



Custom Pet ID Tags Available at the Shelter

The HSPS animal shelter can now make metal pet ID tags while you wait. The cost of each tag is \$7 and only takes a few minutes to engrave. Choose from a variety of shapes, sizes and colors for dog or cat collars. The tags can be engraved on either one or both sides with whatever information you need, such as the pet's name, address and phone number. You can even include a catchy phrase like, "I'm lost! Please call my mom!"

In addition to making ID tags, the machine will be used to engrave a pet's name on a brass plate that will adhere to a wooden urn as part of HSPS's upgraded cremation service. For more on that service, please see the pet cremation article in this newsletter.





Pet Cremation Services

Emotional bonds with our pets are among the strongest we'll ever experience. Pets are family members, and sometimes best friends, that bring us unconditional love. It is always hard when a pet passes away. Many pet owners find that having their pet's remains cremated is a dignified, respectful way to handle end-of-life care that brings closure and peace of mind.

HSPS has provided a pet cremation service to the local community since 2000. We recently replaced our aging equipment with a new, modern and more efficient cremation unit that will help us provide even better service to our community pet owners. The equipment is installed in a new building, constructed specifically for that purpose, on the animal shelter grounds.

There are several cremation options:

Private Cremation – During a private cremation your pet is by itself in the cremation chamber. You are guaranteed that the cremation remains you receive are entirely your pet's.

Communal Cremation – During a communal cremation your pet may be placed in the cremation chamber with one or more other pets in separate spaces. There may be some commingling of cremation remains. This is a more economical cremation option.

Interment in the Serenity Garden - If you do not wish to have cremation remains returned to you, your pet's ashes will be placed in our Serenity Garden at the animal shelter. The public is always welcome to visit the garden.

For complete information on our pet cremation services, please visit our website www.humanesociety.biz or call the shelter at 970-731-4771.

The Truth About Euthanasia Statistics at HSPS

There is a persistent mistaken belief among some community members that HSPS euthanizes a large number of shelter animals. Even though it is not true, we know the belief persists because we hear it repeated often enough. One might assume that part of the reason for this mistaken belief is that HSPS operates a pet crematorium – the logic evidently being that the primary purpose for the crematorium is to take care of large numbers of euthanized shelter animals.

Let's set the record straight. Over the past three years 1,801 dogs and cats entered the HSPS animal shelter. During that same time period, seven shelter animals were euthanized; two dogs and five cats. In each case, the reason for the euthanasia was to end pain and suffering. Of those animals euthanized, five ranged in age from 12 to 15 years; some were blind and deaf and all were suffering some degree of pain and

organ failure associated with old age. Of the other two animals, one was struck by a car before being brought to the shelter and had suffered multiple severe injuries, and the other was a trapped feral cat in extremely poor health with numerous severe abscesses and systemic infection.

It's also important to know that HSPS never euthanizes animals to create space in the shelter. Nor is there a time limit on how long an animal can stay at the shelter.

Our community can be proud of these statistics and of the compassionate care that animals receive at the HSPS shelter. If you happen to hear someone passing along misinformation about HSPS, please help to set the record straight. For more information on the topic of shelter euthanasia, the public is welcome to contact HSPS Executive Director Mike Stoll at hsdirector@humanesociety.biz or 970-264-5549.

Art in Action!

Local artist and long-time HSPS supporter, Paula Miller, will host a series of abstract art workshops to benefit four local non-profits, including HSPS. Each three-hour workshop will include a little history of abstract art, some technique instruction, and a lot of time to play and paint anything you wish to paint!

The next workshop will be on June 24 and 25 at the Gainstorming Center. The cost is \$60/ person. Fifty percent of your registration fee will be donated to the organization of your choice. Fee includes all supplies (canvas, 50+ paints, textures, brushes, tools) and delicious treats prepared by local chefs. More details to follow. For more information, contact Paula at paula@paulajomiller.com





IN MEMORY OF...

Pasha (1999-2016) from Edward Spinelli
 BamBam (cat) from Cheryl L. Smith
 Chloe (dog) and Vanna (cat) from Ted and Kathy Fink
 Cosmo (cat) from Natalie and James Kingston
 Dashed (cat) from Ray and Jo Ann Laird
 Lady Burrows (cat) from Michael Burrows
 Pho (cat) from Barbara Sanborn and Ranza Boggess
 Sammy (cat) from Arlene Flynn and Gordon Sandberg
 Snowy (cat) from David and Lili Pearson
 Toby (cat) from Roberta Maleski
 Tommy (cat) from Phil and Pat Evans
 Annie (dog) from Pamela Spaulding
 Beaumont (dog) from Ann Graves
 Brandy (dog) from Barbara and Blair Ball
 Buddy (dog) from Larry Brainerd
 Daisy Mae (dog) from Elizabeth and Vossa Leach
 Dusty (dog) from Jaye Duncan
 Fergus (dog) from Lesa and Ted Oylor
 Gypsy (dog) from Marcia Jarvis and Ron Tinsley
 Honey (dog) from Candyce Coombes
 Jessie (dog) from Will Dunbar and Nancy Cole
 Lexy (dog) from Susan K. VanDenBerg
 Louie (dog) from Beverly Sondag
 Mickey (dog) from Fred and Mary Webb
 Millie (dog) from Jack and May Latson
 QBALL (dog) from Leona Burch
 Spot (dog) from William and Elaine Blaylock
 Star (dog) from James Smith
 Trek (dog) from LuAnn Baker
 Tucker (dog) from Martha Harris
 Bert and Ernie (dogs) from Miles and Connie Davidson
 Cappy and Opie (dogs) from Julie Wilhelm
 Daisy and Ginger (dogs) from Charlotte and Mark Westby
 Barney (our nephew), beloved dog of Sharon Abra from Linda Langner
 Asti, beloved dog of Tracy and Rick Allen from Robert and Thelma Smith
 Rocky, beloved dog of John and Elizabeth Andreas from Linda and Duncan Lawrie
 A loving dog, Auggie from Joan and Ted Klein
 Sean and Beau from Thomas and Elizabeth Griffin
 T.J., aka Black Dog, beloved dog of the Bowers from Krista and James Miner
 Dogs, Ginger and Brandy from Jane and Gerald Manzanares
 Cassie from William and Patricia Curtis
 Ismael "Cass" and Pauline Castillo from Dave and Sandy

Fileman
 Sammy, beloved cat from Arlene Flynn and Gordon Sandberg
 My cats from Brigitte V. Friesl
 Charlie from Christopher Wardle
 Tikaani, beloved dog of Kim and Art Dilione from Nita Niece; John and Joyce Webb; Linda and Duncan Lawrie
 Claudia, beloved dog of Colleen and Arthur Don from Arlene Don
 Earl, beloved dog of Robbie and Steve Schwartz from Cheryl L. Smith
 Darryl Ebersole from Gina Bayles
 Mellow, beloved dog of Dana and Dennis Ford from Nita Niece
 Phyllis Gibson from Ruth Blanchard; Eldon and Rosina Johnson
 Ginger from Jane and Gerald Manzanares
 'Lil Girl from Louise Bailey
 McKinney, beloved dog of Lynn Anthony and Mike Grimm
 Lily, precious dog of Carolyn Halls from Marilyn M. Smith
 Terry Hershey from Richard Stilwell and Kerry McCarthy-Stilwell
 Our cat, Hollis from Coye and Priscilla Jones
 Norma Johnson from Eldon and Rosina Johnson
 Bennie, best buddy ever (HSPS Hurricane Katrina dog) from Scott and Daphne White
 Ed and Ginny Kaumeyer from Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethey
 My dear brother, Jim Kelley from Ve Ann Kelley
 Chama, beloved dog of Penny Kipley from Laren and Terry Traver
 Soprano, beloved cat of Mr. and Mrs. Frankie LaGioia from John and Alice Farley
 Ron Ledbetter from Terry and Andrea Wyatt
 our beloved cat, Scooter from Laren and Terry Traver
 Carlo and Liza from Greg and Deborah Schulte
 Our dog, Lulu from Robert and Betty Clouse
 beloved Labs, Chloe, Cinder and Maddie from Donna Cole
 Daisy Mae from Betty and Wilson Gibbons
 Our beloved dogs, Taz and Maggie from Mike Stoll and Anne Lincoln
 Jackie McGuire from Ronald and Judith Taufen
 Dodger, beloved dog of Traci Moriarty from Linda and Duncan Lawrie
 All of our beloved dogs and cats (too many to name) from Rod and Lou Ann Marler
 Ashley and Oscar from John and Helen Richarson
 Sabrina, beloved cat of Bob and Barbara Rawlings from Linda and Duncan Lawrie
 Cleo, beloved dog of Richard and Cathy Roberts from Carol Blechschmidt
 Rudy Sapper from Anne Hickman
 Carlo, beloved cat of Deborah and Greg Schulte from Teresa and John Huft
 William "Rex" Shurtleff from Annette and Stephen Bowman; Jean and James Carson; Marilyn Falvey; Pat French; Linda and Duncan Lawrie; Judith A. Meyer; Barbara and Don Rosner
 Clare Skaggs from Christina Easterling; Winnie Plager
 "Wild Bill" Smith from Walter and Pamela McKee
 Rocky, beloved cat of Susan Smith from Barbara and Don Rosner

Bjorn, beloved dog of Marilyn Krings and Josie Snow from Rick and Janet Santopietro
 My husband's cat, Static from Leona Jurkiewicz
 Catie, beloved dog of Wayne Strauss from Linda and Duncan Lawrie
 Our beloved cat, Tory from Carla Evans and Monk Tarbell
 Trixie from Christine Benson
 Walker from Gary and Paula Liermann
 Prince, my beloved dog from Helen White
 Kenneth Youker from Patricia and Jerry Roads
 Wally, beloved dog of Lauren and Rick Zak from San Juan Veterinary Hospital

IN HONOR OF...

Blossom (cat) from Winnie Plager
 KoKo (dog) from Sally and Herbert Rode
 Our Ramone, adopted from HSPS in 2015 from Bernard and Ethel Kolbor
 Joey, our border collie, adopted from HSPS 3/14 from Vincent Fayad
 Kristen Albers from Thomas and Mary McConnell
 Our beautiful granddaughter, Alice from Robert and Nancy Tuten
 Mrs. Gale Kohlhagen, for the animals from Jocelyne Tufts
 Aspen from Susan and Tracy Childs; David and LuAnn Martinez
 Athena from Dink and Randy Hoffman
 Louise Bailey from Donna Brombacher; Beth Hobensack
 Betty Braham from Barbara Sanborn and Ranza Boggess
 Maisie Casias from Irvin and Andrea Casias
 Mary Kay Frost from Julie Wilhelm
 Little Girl from LuAnn Baker
 Rocky Grace from Alison Grace
 John Graves from Ann Graves
 Dr. Jeffrey Levison from Marilyn McCann
 Luna from Bill and Barbara Ayer
 Jan Cunningham and Sean McAllister from Kathleen and Ronald Thomte
 Cameron Olson from Ceil and Fred Reese
 Patrick White (Penguin Plunge) from Teresa Grella; Ernie Amos; Sandy and Gerry Cepon; Lynn and Melody Munyon; Helen White; Karen White
 Mike Ashley, Gavin and Shayden Riggs from Roxanne Maki and Robert Wallace
 Lucas Robbins from Elisabeth Rimann
 Mary Ann Sayre from Jim and Beverly Smith
 Carole Shewbridge from Tim Dippel
 Sophie from Patsy and Jerry Kissick
 Honey and Star from Kenneth Rogers
 Swishy from Betty and Wilson Gibbons
 My niece, Alice Tuten from Joel Tuten
 John Duvall, who transported our Ruby to us from Philip and Melissa Carkoski
 Leslie and Art Wilkinson from Sharon and Paul Becker

MEMORIAL BRICKS

"A Loving Dog, Auggie" from Joan and Ted Klein
 "In Memory of Darryl Ebersole, Dedicated Transport Volunteer" from his HSPS family
 "In Loving Memory of Earl" from Cheryl L. Smith



Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Administration Office: 279 Pagosa Street
P.O. Box 2230 • Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(970) 264-5549 • Fax (970) 264-5593
www.humanesociety.biz
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz
hsdirector@humanesociety.biz

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PAGOSA SPRINGS
CO 81147
PERMIT NO. 7

PRSRT STD

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

Lauren Wolan-Zak – President
Gerry Cepon – Vice President
Robbie Schwartz – Treasurer
Shirley Keno – Secretary
Jan Karn – Board Member
Leslie Sargeant – Board Member
Diane Maun – Board Member

Mike Stoll – Executive Director

Decadent and Sweet Success

HSPS hosted the annual Chocolate Auction fundraiser on March 18 with 160 auction-goers enjoying a catered meal and fine beverages, fun festivities like the balloon pop, and an entertaining live auction featuring more than 30 decadent and creative desserts. *The auction was a grand success, raising enough funds to pay for food and vaccines for the 600+ dogs and cats that will enter the animal shelter during the next 12 months.*

From all of us at HSPS, here's wishing a very warm and fuzzy dog and cat thank-you to all the chocolatiers, restaurants and gourmet bakers who donated desserts, to all our auction sponsors for financial support and prize sponsors who donated for the balloon pop, and to all the attendees and volunteers who made the event so successful and enjoyable. The shelter animals are the real winners, and for that we are truly grateful!



Food for a year and our vaccines, too! Thanks!

Auction for the Animals: Save the Date

The 23rd annual Auction for the Animals is slated for August 25th at the Ross Aragon Community Center in downtown Pagosa Springs. It's a fun evening filled with good food and beverages, great company, and fabulous silent and live auction items. For information on donating to the auction please contact the administration office at 970-264-5549 or hsadmin@humanesociety.biz and watch for more auction updates at www.humanesociety.biz .

