



BEST FRIENDS' NEWS

ANIMAL WELFARE & PROTECTION SOCIETY
COLORADO'S NO-KILL SHELTER

719-543-6464 • POST OFFICE BOX 11208 • PUEBLO, CO 81001 • April - May 2006
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Who's Who At The AWPS Shelter

Lola, a spayed Chow mix
2 years old

She came back to the shelter this past February. She has been in/out a couple of times because of owner situations; not her fault. Lola is an active little dog but has done extremely well with obedience training. She gets along with dogs and kids. She is housebroken.



Sienna, a spayed shepherd/boxer mix
2 years old

She was transferred to us from PAS in January when they picked her up with 6 3-week old puppies. Sienna is a curious, loving dog though she barks at some male people (not all!) She gets along with other dogs but we do not know about cats. She has had some training.

Our Mission

AWPS's mission is to take in lost or unwanted animals; to return lost ones to their owners whenever possible or after having them spayed or neutered, place them in good homes; and to educate the public about intelligent and humane treatment of animals.



Upcoming Events

On May 6 & 7, we will have a booth at a Home & Garden Show put on by **PEPPERS PLUS**, 2115 Santa Fe Drive. May 6 & 7.

Our Annual Plant Sale will be May 20. See Flyer.

We will have a raffle of garden items at both Peppers Plus and at the plant sale.

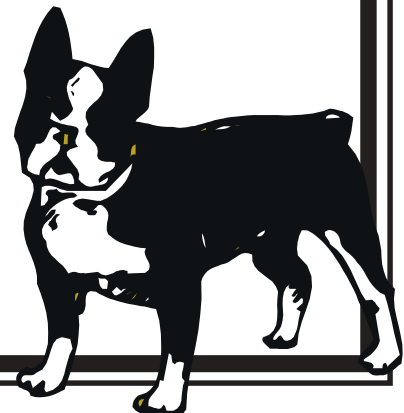
On June 3, we will have a booth at the 6th Annual Spirit Fest.

We are planning a garage sale for June so look for things to donate. There will be specific info in the May/June Newsletter.

Our Annual Golf Tournament will be September 23.

Wish List

Collars -all sizes, 30 & 13 gallon heavy duty trash bags, bleach, hose end garden sprayer, clear packaging tape (for broken food bags).



2006
**ANIMAL WELFARE &
PROTECTION SOCIETY**

BOARD

President - **Marilyn Thompson**
Vice President - **Chris Comins**
Treasurer - **Sandi Blatnik**
Secretary - **Sandra Young**

Jassy Anderson • Roland Bailey
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Linda Neilson • Becky Quirico
Jane Sawwell • Carol Warner

The Animal Welfare Shelter

3420 W. 8th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 543-6464
www.puebloawps.org

ADOPTION HOURS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Sunday
Closed Holidays & Bad Weather

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Dog Walks
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
OTHER
Anytime we are open.

Key Personnel

Shelter Staff
Don Apadoca
Brenda Bovill
John Komornic
Steve Pacheco

Best Friends' News is published every other month.
Where to write or call:
Animal Welfare & Protection Society
P.O. Box 11208
Pueblo, CO 81001
Shelter: (719) 543-6464
AWPS is a non-profit — no kill animal shelter

Shelter Happenings

by *Chris Comins, Shelter Director*

2005 shelter statistics: Intake - 211 dogs of which 49 were strays and 162 were turned in by owners. Outgo - 202 with 177 adoptions, 20 returned to owners and 5 deaths. This is the second year in a row that we have had over 200 dogs come in and go out.

We have started 2006 with a monthly increase of dogs coming in and going out. In January and February, we took in 49 dogs: 18 from owners, 10 were strays, 12 were transferred in from **Pueblo Animal Services** and 9 were born at the shelter (from a stray). 42 went out: 41 were adopted and 1 returned to its owner. Our goal is to continue to average over 20 adoptions per month.

Pueblo Animal Services and Animal Welfare continue to collaborate with animals being transferred to us whenever we have room. Already in March, we have received 6 dogs from PAS. We also are increasing our networking with other animal groups so we may transfer dogs to them. We only work with groups which will not euthanize adoptable dogs and which agree to bring a dog back to us if they are unable to find it a home. (See "Prison Dog" article.)

Oscar, an 8 month old boxer who came in as a stray, was incubating parvo. We discovered he had it on a Sunday. Thanks to **Best Friends Animal Hospital** for taking him in on that Sunday and treating him for 6 days. Parvo is expensive to treat and AWPS is grateful for the large discount given to us for his excellent care. Oscar was on hold to be adopted when he came down sick. He got visited during his recovery and is doing great in his new home.

Animal Welfare always gets veterinarian care for animals at the first sign of a problem. Vet care is our second biggest budget item and there is no way to tell what the actual yearly cost will be. We do not reject dogs just because they may need some vet care and, of course, some come in seemingly healthy but are incubating an illness. Without the generous discounts that **Pets & Friends Animal Hospital** and **Pueblo Small Animal Clinic** give us on an ongoing basis, AWPS would have to be more selective in taking in animals. We are grateful to be able to save many more wonderful dogs because of the dis-

counted vet care and the donations of our individual supporters.

Thanks to **Aspen Grooming** for free groomings. A dirty, stinky, Bear-coated Sharpei came back smelling great and looking sleek and handsome. He soon got a home. A really dirty and matted cockapoo could not believe how good she felt when all that hair was removed. She even was given a beautiful collar. She probably had not gotten much petting in her previous condition so she was really happy. She got adopted the next day.

Our dogs always enjoy getting out along the riverwalk. Thanks to the following dog walkers: **Bill & Shirley Hurley, Dave Johnson, Randy Roade, Ron Gisi, Kristen Reeve, Kathleen Spencer**, and the **Centennial Key Club**. We can always use more walkers.

Thanks to those of you who brought in items from the last wish list.

AWPS Dogs Go To Prison

We recently made contact with Debi Stevens who runs the Prison Dog Program. That program pairs up inmates and dogs. Inmates are screened before they are chosen to be trainers. The dog stays with the inmate 24/7 getting training. After the dog is thoroughly obedience trained (several weeks), it is either adopted out through an application process or, if it has the right characteristics, it might get more training to become a service dog.

Some of you may have seen a show on Animal Planet that followed dogs through the training. Since behavior is one of the main reasons given for people not keeping a dog, this program helps assure a dog will get a good, permanent home. It also helps the inmates who train them and affects in a positive way the atmosphere of the prison. Debi has already taken 3 of our adult dogs into the program. By the time you read this she will have taken 5 puppies and their mother. (We do not let them go before they are 8 weeks old.) By transferring dogs to this program and to other groups that share our philosophy, we will have room to bring in more dogs. The sooner we can find a dog a home, the more we can save.



Special Gifts Allow AWPS To Do More

Thanks to a financial gift from the estate of Walter Timme, Animal Welfare has been able to hire a part time dog trainer, Lynda Leech. Lynda works a few hours a week with both new intakes and with those that have been with us longer. Besides basic obedience and leash training, Lynda helps those shy and sometimes fearful dogs overcome those behaviors. They get the extra attention they need to bring out their better nature. The training, of course, makes them more adoptable. Here are two examples of how Lynda's work has helped.

The shelter took in 4 black lab mix puppies. They were about 3 months old but were shy, skittish and had never been on a leash. They were taken to PETS^{SMART} for an adoption day but none got adopted. Lynda started working with them and in no time they calmed down, learned fast and walked well on leash. The next PETS^{SMART} adoption day, they all got adopted. Ozzy, a large German Shepherd mix with us for over a year, was really liked by a woman and her husband but they were concerned that Ozzy might be too much for her to handle. Lynda worked with the woman and Ozzy together and Ozzy has bonded and is doing extremely well in his new forever home.

SPECIAL GIFTS through planned giving, whether given during a person's lifetime or after death, can make a big difference to a nonprofit like Animal Welfare which gets no government funding or taxpayer money, relying on individuals in order to achieve its mission. The competition for grants is enormous and impossible to count on for sustaining beneficial, long term special programs like training, wellness exams for new intakes, community spay/neuter programs, educational programs, etc. It is almost impossible to get grants for general operating expenses — vet care, utilities, supplies, payroll, etc. We are very grateful for people who choose Animal Welfare & Protection Society as the organization to receive memorial gifts or put us as recipients in a will.

The individual giving the gift can designate how the funds can be used and for what purpose or leave that to the AWPS Board of Directors to decide where the need is. We also welcome gifts of stock, bonds, land, other securities, vehicles, etc.

Life with Ripples and Waves

by Marilyn Thompson, President, AWPS Board of Directors

In life, there are times of calm waters without prospect of nary a ripple. Then, there are times when life splashes up as if there is a huge golden Labrador named "Gunner" in the pool making ocean-size waves. Wait a minute — that is exactly where my life is today.

I thought I would give an update on how "The Gunner" is doing. I adopted him this past November and life has been pretty much a blur since then - mostly because he moves at the speed of light or so it seems. Amazingly, The Gunner has calmed down considerably. He now sleeps beside our bed on his bed with only "soft, thunderous" snoring sounds coming from him. He has not totally destroyed everything which I consider a huge blessing given that his mouth could do incredible damage to anything. He walks calmly on a leash responding very well to commands of "sit,

stay, forward, and heel." This is in great part to Sandra and Clyde Young and their Saturday morning classes at Roncalli School. They know their stuff and are delighted to pass that knowledge and experience on to anyone who seeks it.

I do not know who brought Gunner to the shelter to give him up. I only know that I am truly thankful I have him in my life because he has brought laughter and joy to me. There is one event that Gunner truly loves. He absolutely loves my bike. I ride; he runs like the wind with his big tongue flopping happily in the breeze. Once we get back to the house, the follow-up event of washing his paws and everything else in close proximity to his water bucket is his next favorite sport.

One more ripple occurred more recently in my life - I am being deployed to Iraq for 6 months. My supportive and pooch-loving husband, Carl, is taking the reins of the care and feeding of our four devoted canines. Gunner will continue to be disciplined, loved, and immersed in our lives; Miss Ginny Whiskers, a spaniel mix rescued from six weeks of fending on her own, will continue to be pampered and all 50 pounds of her will try to sit in Carl's lap; Lanie, a border collie rescued from the highway who is so smart it is disconcerting, will keep watch for intruders to our family abode; and Cisco, a beautiful Golden Retriever also adopted from the AWPS shelter, will continue to sleep and snooze and beg Carl to throw his ball one more time.

I will return in October to pick up where I left off with the AWPS shelter and, hopefully, the board members. The AWPS board members are truly the most wonderful people a person could ever have the privilege of making their acquaintance. Their concern for animals is awesome. I thank each and every one of them for their time, dedication, and commitment to the dogs and, when the new shelter is built, to our feline friends.

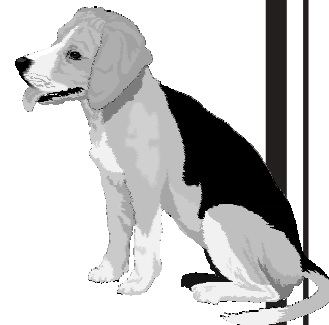
I thank each and every one of you for your continued support to this incredible organization which brings comfort, love, and hope to animals in desperate need.

AWPS Memberships

We appreciate the following individuals & businesses who have new or are renewing their memberships:

Anita Bandell
Dorothy Baxter
Barbara Bensik
Rollie and Kathy Clark
Beth Davis
Gold Dust Saloon
Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Gower
Peggy Greathouse
Michael & Betty Luxner
Ruth McDonald
Marian Mead
Sara Moyes
Ronald and Beverly Renoux
Duane and Gloria
Schreiber
Carole and Spencer Snow

Marilyn Thompson
Sadie Tishma
William and Phyllis
Valencia
Wilma Womack





Animal Welfare's
Eighteenth Annual

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20th

1836 Bonforte Blvd.

9am to 4pm



A Large Selection of

Hanging Baskets

Potted House Plants

Potted Patio Plants

Geraniums Plants

Petunias Plants

Annuals

Perennials

Vegetable Plants

Ceramic Pots

Garden Angels

And much more!

ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT OUR
"NO KILL"
SHELTER

*Come and see
our beautiful selections—
You'll be glad you did!*



Farewell to Zilla

by Sandy Vernon

My cat was beautiful, wise, and dangerous. I called her Godzilla.

She was the color of precious metal and stone - gold, copper, and polished onyx. The queen of cats and dogs and of mice and men, she was a dignified, brave and self-sufficient cat - the essence of primordial feline. Her hunting technique was quick and sure and void of mercy. Zill's large chartreuse eyes didn't miss a lick. Eyes that were large, and bright as a rising harvest moon, or tight snake like slits when she was feeling particularly ornery (which she often was). Her other end sported a twitching tail that betrayed her unstable disposition. She could not be handled uninvited without hissing and spatting, and if left unheeded, she would extract a donation of blood. Visits to our vet were special.

But she paced each morning, waiting impatiently for me to settle for meditation, and then lodge herself snugly into my lap, joining chant with silent purr. And many mornings, I awoke with a speckled paw on either side of my neck and a cold black nose pressed hard to my cheek. She demanded her loving - head scratching, ear rubbing, strokes along her freckled cheeks and under her tiny fuzzy chin. This free spirit, seven-pound mostly wild beast, truly knew she owned me. I let myself believe that she loved me too, in a way that cats maybe do.

Last summer slipped into the end of its season, and the pungent smells of fall hung in the mountain air. Zill wandered out to the haystack to search for a warm place to take her last long cat nap. She had been sick throughout the summer and hinted that she would be leaving, but I wouldn't come out of denial long enough to believe it. Amiga and I looked for her in the hay and through the woods, but she hid herself well. Maybe she made a bed in the camouflage of autumn colors where she could blend so completely. I will probably never know just where she chose to rest her little body and return to spirit world.

We got to be together through five moves, two dogs, and fourteen and a half years. In the beginning, I wasn't sure I could live with the craziness. Now, life is too quiet without her. No kitty thunder on the stairs or frantic pawing at the door to come in or go out. No one sitting on the keyboard of the computer when I'm trying to balance the books, no chewing on the end of my pen, or pestering me to make a lap to

curl up in. No little cat companion following my dog and me through the woods on adventures. The benevolent creator granted me a spectacular proud cat. It's kind of funny how life works. I got this difficult, contrary creature that turned into someone completely precious to me. She was a once in a lifetime cat. She taught me a lot about life, about surrendering, boundaries, patience, commitment, and now, in the end, about letting go.

I am grateful for my gift of Godzilla, one wonderfully cantankerous cat. I sure hope there's a kitty heaven. And if there is, I hope they let her in. But wherever she is now, I'm sure she's running the show.

(Editor's note: Long time supporter, Sadie Tishma, asked if we would do a cat article. AWPS is looking forward to the day we can take in and adopt out cats again. If any of you have a pet story to share send it to us and we will consider putting it in the newsletter when we have room.)

"In Recognition with our Sincere Thanks"

Harry Amick	Dog food pick-up & delivery
Sandra Bradley, CPA & Staff	Ongoing bookwork
Carolyn Christopher	Dog food pick-up & delivery
Tim Clark	Shelter supplies
Fabian Floral, Marlene Stiles	Pet carrier, collars and harnesses
Rebecca Todero Goodman	Bleach, dog food & office supplies
Bill & Shirley Hurley	Medicine, gloves, bleach, glucosamine, sprayer & packaging tape
Cindy Jorgenson	Medicine, treats, dog food & collar
Jerry Litvack	Dog food pick-up & delivery
Butch & Rene Loveall	Small animal cage
PDQ Printers	Newsletter discount
Pets & Friends	Dog food
Erin Ragulsky	Typesetting discount
Carla Ross	Shelter supplies
Judy Ross	Shelter supplies
Jeff & Lachelle Sawvell	Dog food, bleach and paper towels
Target Distribution Center	Pet products
Yvonne Van Brakel	Shelter supplies
Wal-Mart	Dog food
Michael Williams	Dog food & treats



In Memoriam

**In Loving Memory of Alta Reitz,
daughter of Karen Reitz.**

Donation received from Cheryl

In Memory of Edward J. Mohar.

Donation received from Barbara J. Beatty

In Loving Memory of Eunice Larson.

Donation received from The Bunco Gals

**In Loving Memory of Myrtle Christoff, beloved
mother of Cathy Piquette.**

Donation received from Sandra and Clyde Young

**In Loving Memory of Ethel Peters,
mother of Sharon Jobes.**

Donation received from Doug and Jane Sawvell

In Loving Memory of Eleanor "Lou" Smith

Donation received from Glacier Construction Company
and Exquisite Taste

In Loving Memory of Erna Guyer.

Donations received from
Beverly Kachel and Wilma Callan

In Loving Memory of Jo Shisler.

Donation received from Mr. and Mrs. Chip DeLuca

In Loving Memory of Nancy Hansen.

Donations received from Grover L. Hopkins and
Andrew L. Garduno

Pet Memorials and Dedications

**In Memory of Benson,
rescued and loved by Rock and Joyce Dolak.**

Donation received from Sandra & Clyde Young

**In Memory of Bubbles,
beloved 4-legged companion of Tracy Ianne.**

Donation received from Sandra & Clyde Young

**In Memory of Rudy,
faithful companion of Jerry and Yvonne Cantrell.**

Donation received from Doug & Jane Sawvell

**Goodby Little Lady Bug. She was a Peke-Pom Mix
that Tami Stephens rescued from the Dog Pound.**

Donation received from Glenna Beck

**In Memory of Sammy,
beloved dog of Marilyn Thompson.**

Donations received from
Sandra & Clyde Young and Chris Comins

In memory of Tid Bit, Becky Quirco's Bichon Frise.

Donation received from Chris Comins

**In Memory of my handsomm Truffles, the most
loving and loyal Chow-Chow I've ever known.**

Donation received from Lee Liljegen

**In Loving Memory of Truffles, loyal, furry friend and
companion to Lee Liljegen.**

Donation received from Colleen Liljegen

**In Fond Memory of Truffles,
beloved dog of Lee Liljegen.**

Donations received from Doug and Jane Sawvell,
Sandra & Clyde Young and Chris Comins

AWPS IS GRATEFUL

to the following businesses which have
cash collection boxes. Every penny
collected works for animals.

Animal Kingdom Grooming

Barking Beauties

BigR

Camera Craft

Fox's Garden Supply

Gold Dust Saloon

Mesa Liquors

The Pantry Restaurant

Pets & Friends Animal Hospital

Pet Paradise



Thank You for Your Contributions

As always, our monetary needs to care for injured, neglected, abandoned and abused animals continues. We are truly grateful to the following individuals & organizations for their continued support:

Rose Allard
Joyce & Roger Allen
Bob & Patti Anaya
Coleen & Donald Anaya
George & Isabella Baca
Alana Baldwin
June & Ted Bamber
Frank Bauman
Dorothy & Michael Baxter
Barbara Bensik
Cindy Bilger
Sandra Bradley
Frances Burns
Barbara & Warren Carere
Sandra Cook
Selma Copp
Lila Cosby
Janice Crump
Audrey Davis
Clara M. Di Chellis
Rhoda M. Dye
Robert Egan
Nada & Gertrude Filangi
Meg Gacnik
Tressa Garza
Rebecca & Jerry Goodman
Marilyn & Ansel Gower
Peggy Greathouse
Lois & John Harder
Ken & Gina Hayworth

Francis "Ted" Hedges
Robert & Lena Hench
Anna Marie Hernandez
Sandra Hunter
Arlene & Russell Ianne
Frances & Anthony Ingo
Ardyth Johnson
Linda & David Johnson
Paula & Mike Johnson
C.W. Keithley
Kelly S. Kirkland
Shirley & John Knafelc
Pat & Donald Kochan
Corinne Koehler
Daniel & Janet Kralik
Carol & N.A. Kuhns
Cleopatra Lopez
Michael & Betty Luxner
Linda Martin
Steve McLaughlin
Ruth McDonald
Bob & Claudette Milisavljevich
Charles Miller
Elizabeth Moulder
Patricia & R. Dewayne Noell
Bob & Kathie Panariso
James & Jodie Papish
Shirley Parr
Lorraine Pundt
Lewis & Peggy Quigley

Cynthia Rains
Barbara & J.A. Rankins
Beverly & Ronald Renoux
Marilyn Rhoades
Carla Ross
Linda Kay Samec
Gene & Mary Ann Sell
Jerry Sell
Wanda Silsby
Spanglers Home Fashion
Pete Spangler
Kathleen Spencer
Gloria & Verle Steele
Deborah Storey
Margaret & Leonard Stringer
Patricia Stuart
Maureen Sullivan
The Monticello Group, Inc.
Jolene Thomas
Rudy & Barbara Trontell
Prosperita Trujillo
Robert & Jane Trunk
Lois Tyler
Phyllis & William Valencia
Willa Van Zandt
Carol Warner
Betty Williams
Joan Williams
Kathy Zerfas

Canine Companion Saves Lives

by Jane E. Sawwell

One day last fall, I received a phone call from one of Animal Welfare's supporters, Rachel Delinger of Williamsburg, CO. She asked me if we trained our dogs to warn people of the danger and presence of a nearby rattlesnake. I said, "No, dogs just seem to have a built in sense of smell, hearing and sight for detecting wild animals or things that might potentially harm them or their caregivers whom they want to protect."

Rachel then told me, "I heard "Ruby", my 6 year old Welsh Corgie that I adopted from Animal Welfare, out in the backyard, barking hysterically." Rachel then climbed the stairs from her basement apartment, and as she approached the door, she heard a terrible noise and couldn't figure out what it was. Ruby continued to bark ever so persistent, and as Rachel looked out the window, she saw a 3 foot rattlesnake just 2 feet outside the door. The snake was coiled up and ready to strike and if she or "Odie", her 16 year old Pomeranian, had stepped out of the door, they both may have been struck. Ruby continued to bark wildly in the dark, from across the yard, warning Rachel and Odie of the danger that was present.

Rachel said, "Thank God for "Ruby", or Odie and I may have been killed. She saved our lives and I thank her for that. I love my pets so much, I could not live without them!"

WARNING for Pet Safety at Easter

- 1-Be aware that many plants, including Easter lilies, are poisonous and can be fatal if eaten by animals.
- 2-Chocolate is toxic to cats and dogs.
- 3-Plastic grass used for decoration, can get caught in the intestines and require surgery to remove if eaten.



Yes!

I will support Animal Welfare & Protection Society and help to give homeless animals a second lease on life. Members receive a membership card and newsletters. *(Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible.)*

My **MEMBERSHIP** dues are enclosed. ____ New ____ Renewal
____ \$15 Senior/Student ____ \$25 Individual ____ \$50 Family
____ \$100 Benefactor ____ \$250 or more Guardian Angel

Here is my **DONATION** to be used for:
\$ ____ current shelter operations.
\$ ____ the Emergency Vet Care program for injured or sick animals unable to receive vet care without help.

Here is an additional donation to be used for the **NEW SHELTER**: \$ ____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Names to appear on card(s): _____ # cards: _____

Return to: Animal Welfare & Protection Society • P.O. Box 11208 • Pueblo, CO 81001