



ICARE News!

Inyo County Animal Resources & Education
Dedicated to the welfare of the Eastern Sierra's companion animals

Adoption Day at Bishop Plaza

The Bishop Plaza merchants hosted a sidewalk sale this winter and invited the Inyo County Animal Shelter and I CARE to bring a few cats and dogs to the event



Jan Gnass adopted this well behaved dog

to find new homes.

The sidewalk extravaganza was made possible by all the Bishop Plaza merchants, but especially Jana Owens of Cellular One, Becky Parham of Bee Gee Beauty, Becky's family who served hot dogs and sodas all day (proceeds were donated to I CARE), and Inyo County Animal Control who transported the animals to and from the Plaza, as well as provided staff to handle any off-site adoptions.

Lots of shoppers came by to visit the critters and were pleasantly surprised to learn that our Animal Shelter has a great selection of very adoptable animals.

Although only one adoption took place that day, if you ask Jan's Springer Spaniel, Chambers, he'll tell you it made all the difference in the world for him! 🐾

Meet I CARE's Classroom Education Team



Lynne Almeida with her dog, Amy, and Anne Almeida with her dog, Kaeleigh

telephone interviews with pet adopters to learn how their pets have changed their lives. They also wrote letters to the mayor and governor to ask what they are doing to help animals.

Anne Almeida was an elementary school teacher for 21 years and is a natural for I CARE's education team. Lynne co-owns Spellbinder Books in Bishop and also teaches dog obedience when time permits. Anne and Lynne are deeply

When Lynne and Anne Almeida walk into the classroom with I CARE's canine ambassador, Kaeleigh, the children are all ears! This mother/daughter team has been sharing lessons about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering your pets for three years now.

This semester the sixth graders in Mrs. White's class at Home Street Middle School in Bishop participated in five weekly sessions ranging from special guest speakers to a field trip to Pet Friendly. Dr. Kristen Mason of Bishop Veterinary Hospital spoke to the class about proper pet care and the importance of regular check-ups.

When the class visited the Pet Friendly pet store they learned that Pet Friendly does not sell cats and dogs, but has them available for adoption from the Animal Shelter, because there are too many pets born and not enough homes for them all.

Other lessons involved conducting

committed to improving the lives of animals.

I CARE's education program goes beyond the care and training necessary for pet ownership. Lessons on respect, responsibility, love and compassion toward animals transfer to all areas of a child's life. Children who learn and



Lynne discusses responsible pet ownership with Julie White's sixth graders

practice being kind, gentle and generous with pets naturally extend those qualities to people as well. It is our hope that one day these children can live in a world where euthanasia of companion animals is no longer a necessity. 🐾 ~ Lisa Schade

ABOUT I CARE

I CARE is a nonprofit organization that:

- Is dedicated to the welfare of companion animals;
- Raises public awareness of the pet overpopulation crisis and other animal welfare issues through newspaper articles and classroom presentations;
- Provides financial aid for companion animal spay/neuter surgeries for those in need;
- Encourages adoptions at our local Animal Shelter; and
- Improves living conditions for the cats and dogs at the Inyo County Animal Shelter.

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Message from the President, Ted Schade:

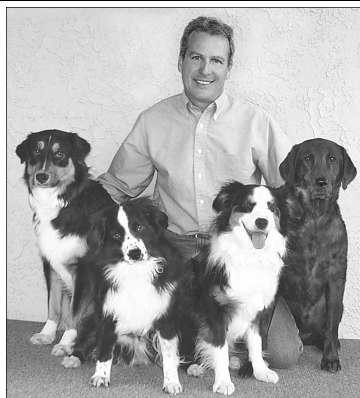
Education is Key to Animal Welfare's Future

Humane education is a process that encourages compassion and respect for people and animals. The dictionary defines compassion as a "feeling for another's hardship that leads to help." It is I CARE's goal to instill compassion for both people and animals through our humane education efforts. This is especially applicable to our education efforts in the classroom.

I CARE's most successful outreach is our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program. We have subsidized

1,400 sterilization surgeries in the last 3-1/2 years. However, we are finding that one of the obstacles to greater participation in our spay/neuter program is that many people don't seem to fully grasp the need to spay and neuter their pets or the

consequences of not fixing their animals. Despite all of our education efforts (newsletter, newspaper articles, etc.), some people do not believe that the birth of unwanted litters will result in the death of Shelter animals. What many people may not realize is there are only so many homes in Inyo



County and, for each of their home-bred puppies/kitties that finds a home, there is one less home for the animals awaiting adoption at our Animal Shelter. And animals that aren't adopted are euthanized—it's that simple and that tragic.

There needs to be a greater understanding of the urgency to spay and neuter our pets to prevent unwanted litters. This is why education is vital to overcoming the pet over-

population crisis and why our classroom programs are so important.

Studies suggest there is a strong correlation between childhood cruelty to animals and future antisocial and aggressive behavior. By starting early and repeating the message often, we hope to develop an enlightened generation that has empathy and respect for all living things.

You can help us continue the education process at home by continuing to set an example of humanity towards animals and people. Let's work together for a kinder future. 🐾

"To educate our people, and especially our children, to humane attitudes and actions toward living things is to preserve and strengthen our national heritage and the moral values we champion in the world."

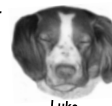
John F. Kennedy

Thank you for your donations:

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Special donations in Memory:

♥ KJ Allen for Abbey ♥ Stacie Badgett for my kitty, Chloe ♥ Tom, Jerrie & Kyle Bayer for our Siamese cat, Tucson ♥ Paul Broward for my black Lab, Belle ♥ Shelley & Ross Corner for Jessie ♥ Dolores Cundiff for Darlene Ferber ♥ Roy & Jane Gillam for Calli, "a beloved friend whose memory lives on." ♥ Jim & Rita Greenleaf for Nancy Whitmore and her dog, Hank ♥ Bob & Gail Gribben for Barney, a wonderful cat ♥ Jim & Edna Horne for our beloved cat, Betsy ♥ Panda Kilminster for Lottie Joel—"We miss you scruffy butt." and Rosa Mae, our sweet Lab ♥ Al & Ruth Morgan for our cat, Midge ♥ Patricia & Edward Nahin for Maggie & Muffy ♥ Gary & Kim Nyberg for Claire Montgonery—"She loved all animals." ♥ Tim & Kay Proffitt for our pound puppy, Luke ♥ Ken & Janet Reeling and Vida Thompson for YoYo ♥ Dr. James Richardson & Anita Revilla for Lois Alexander's dog, Calli ♥ Jim & Andrea Shallcross for our Cocker, Alfie ♥ Glenna Stansifer for our girls, Silk & Satin ♥ Alice Wolfson for Rudy, "He was a fine cat."



In Honor:

♥ Sandy & Gale Holbrook for Dr. Sexton ♥ Herb & Aleta London for Dr. Craig London ♥ Joy Wilson for my wonderful pup, Chloe, who blesses my life ♥ Cindy Allen of Subway for I CARE's great work ♥ Ann Zack for our dog, Betsy ♥

Further Adventures of Gimpy, the Animal Shelter Mascot



Carol Wells has found a new friend in Gimpy

the Animal Shelter where he won the hearts of the Animal Control staff and was made the official Shelter mascot.

Things could have gone on like this for many, many years, but Gimpy developed an allergy to something in the Shelter environment. A plea for an adoptive home was posted in Gimpy's column in the I CARE newsletter.

Unaware of Gimpy's plight, Carol Wells visited the Animal Shelter in November "just to look." Nutmeg, her adopted cat of fourteen years, died in August and Carol was considering a new feline companion.

As soon as Carol entered the Shelter, she met the gregarious Gimpy who immediately begged to be held and, once in her arms, accompanied Carol as she made her way to the cat room. All the while, he wrapped his paws around her neck and refused to be ignored. Needless to say, he made it difficult to even

consider any of the other cats and she asked if he was available for adoption.

The Shelter Manager responded that, as a matter of fact, he did need a home and explained his circumstances. So, Carol



Gimpy is living the good life!

began adoption procedures that very day never suspecting for a moment she was adopting a local celebrity.

Carol says Gimpy sleeps with her every night and wakes her every morning meowing for his breakfast, then insisting she turn on the faucet so he can play in the water and get a good, long drink. The two enjoy watching videos together and Carol says he is quite the character, but

Remember our old pal, Gimpy? He was the Big Pine Animal Shelter mascot for the past four years. He originally ended up there after he was hit by a car on Dixon Lane, then was attacked by dogs as he was dragging himself to safety. A good Samaritan brought him to

Fifth Annual I CARE Fundraising Dinner Keeps the Ball Rolling

About 700 loyal supporters came out to enjoy the fifth annual I CARE fundraising dinner on April 7th graciously catered by **Norm and Mel Matoza** and their BBQ crew, with **Denise Cook** providing the tossed salad. Dinner was served by **4-H volunteers** from several local chapters.



I CARE supporters line up for dinner

John Dailey was our very entertaining emcee and auctioneer. Valuable door prizes were given away throughout the evening while a silent auction took place. I CARE's 50/50 Crew led by **Stan Smith** included **Chuck and Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Jim and Joni Ferrell, Bobby Hoyle, Dr. Dick Kessner and Kaitlin Orr**. They collected \$2,590 from the crowd, which I CARE split with the lucky winner, **Karen Bright**.

Several outstanding items were

donated for auction, including a La-Z-Boy recliner from **Fendon's Furniture** going to **Lily Brooks**. A framed and matted photograph of an Alaskan Brown Bear donated by **Galen and Barbara Rowell** netted the highest bid of the evening at \$775. **Bob Hurd** of Nature at Hand's cedar-lined oak blanket chest topped out at \$500. Bidding for the quilt wall hanging by **Kim Sepsey** was fast-paced reaching a final bid of \$410 by **Brian Lamb**.

The evening ended with a drawing for the grand prize trip. Raffle tickets for a trip for two to Cancun/Cozumel; a Mexican Riviera cruise; or a Montana fishing/rafting trip were sold before and at the dinner. The trip was sponsored by **Agrarian Research and Management** of Bishop with travel arrangements by **Carlson Wagonlit**. The trip prize winner was **Diane Bowman** of

Bishop.

About \$14,000 was raised for companion animal welfare programs in the Eastern Sierra. Since we receive no government funding or grant monies, this money is crucial in the coming year to fund the: Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program,

Classroom Education Program, continued improvements to our Animal Shelter in Big Pine, and our Shelter Rescue and Adoption Program at Pet Friendly.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of the

many animal lovers who send in their membership dues and donations, as well as attend the dinner every year. You are



Norm Matoza, master chef

Offers you can't refuse...

🐾 **Medi-Cal Patients' Cats Fixed Free** – Medi-Cal card-holders are eligible to get their cats spayed or neutered for free at the Bishop Veterinary Hospital in Bishop. The hospital has received a grant through the California Veterinary Medical Association that covers the cost of the surgery. To learn more about this offer, please call the **Bishop Vet Hospital** at **873-5801**.

🐾 **Feral (Wild) Cat Trap, Neuter and Release Program** – The Bishop Veterinary Hospital has received a grant that covers the cost of sterilizing wild (feral) cats. The cats must be returned to their original territory. For more information on sterilizing wild cats, please call the **Bishop Vet Hospital** at **873-5801**. If you need a trap, call **I CARE** at **872-3802**.

🐾 **ICARE's Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program** – ICARE has a low-cost program to help offset the cost of spay and neuter surgeries by about two-thirds with the client paying only one-third. If you need help getting your cat or dog fixed, please call **I CARE** at **872-3802**.

🐾 **ICARE's Shelter Rescue and Adoption Program Update** – Since last July, when ICARE began rescuing cats and dogs from the **Big Pine Animal Shelter** and featuring them at **Pet Friendly** in Bishop, a total of 39 animals (20 cats and 19 dogs) have been adopted. That's about four pets per month who got a second chance. Please adopt your next

Pupils Present Pennies for Pets



There sure are a lot of animal lovers in Mrs. Pachucki's third grade class at Elm Street School in Bishop! They saved up their spare change all school year and recently donated \$37.51 to I CARE to help cats and dogs in need. The class also got to meet I CARE's canine ambassador, Kaeleigh, (seen in front row) and watch a video about proper pet care, including how to prevent pet overpopulation by spaying or neutering our pets. It's nice to know the next

BOARD MEETINGS

I CARE meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Bishop High School Library

I CARE

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I CARE's Spring Newsletter is



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