



# ICARE News!

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

## I CARE Helping Pets on Indian Reservations



I CARE's mascot, Kaeleigh, visits children in Toiyabe's summer program

**R**ecently, I CARE's Education Team was invited to talk to the Native American children attending the Toiyabe Indian Health Project's summer program. The children got to meet little Kaeleigh, our canine ambassador, and watch a video about responsible pet care, including the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

Native American culture has traditionally professed a deep reverence for life. Since I CARE is dedicated to improving the lives of companion animals, we are pleased to announce a new program, **Help End Pet Overpopulation on our Indian Reservation**. We are offering extra low-cost spaying and neutering for cats and dogs of Eastern Sierra tribal residents. I CARE will subsidize the cost of the surgery in conjunction with the Bishop Veterinary Hospital and Sierra Veterinary Clinic discounting their regular fees. Tribal residents will only pay **\$5 for cats and \$10 for dogs**. The surgeries normally range from \$45 to \$89, so this is a substantial savings.

We believe that preventing the litters from being born in the first place is far more humane than allowing unwanted

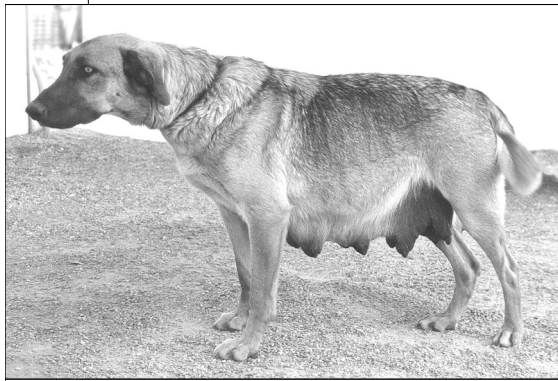
animals to be born to face an uncertain future. Many pets die or are seriously injured when hit by cars. Most dogs hit by cars are males in pursuit of a female dog in heat, so both male and female pets should be fixed.

Tribal residents who have participated in I CARE's spay/neuter specials in the past say their pets are calmer and better behaved.

It's true! Spayed and neutered pets do make happier and healthier companions. They are less likely to bite, to spray or mark their territory, or to roam and fight. Spayed female

cats and dogs do not suffer from uterine or ovarian cancer and have a much smaller incidence of breast cancer.

Neutered male dogs and cats have a lower rate of prostate cancer. Contrary to popular belief, sterilized pets do not become fat and lazy. This only happens if



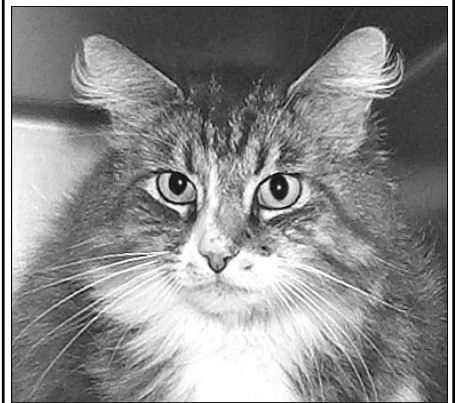
We can make sad scenes like this a thing of the past

pets are given too much to eat and don't get enough exercise.

Please call I CARE at **872-3802**. We'll arrange for your pet's surgery. 🐾

## One Year of "Pet Friendly" Adoptions

**O**ne year can sure make a big difference! At least it has for the Shelter animals lucky enough to be featured in Jennifer and Todd Allred's store, **Pet Friendly** at



Serena was Pet #52 adopted from Pet Friendly

137 East Line Street in Bishop.

July marked the one year anniversary of **I CARE's Shelter Animal Rescue and Adoption Program** at Pet Friendly. During that time we have found loving homes for 52 cats and dogs from the Big Pine Animal Shelter. That's one per week!

Due to the pet overpopulation crisis, Pet Friendly does *not* sell cats and dogs, but does sell exotic birds, reptiles, hamsters and rabbits. They also offer toys, treats, leashes, beds and all-natural food for your pets at great prices. Pet Friendly believes in saving the lives of Shelter animals and decided early on they would make room to display these homeless critters.

While awaiting adoption, Jennifer and her crew provide the animals with the very best of care. The animals are vet checked and vaccinated; cats are tested for feline leukemia. Of course, every pet is also spayed or neutered before going to their new home.

If you don't see the pet you're looking for at Pet Friendly, we strongly urge you to visit our Animal Shelter in Big Pine. 🐾

## 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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### MEMBERSHIP

Only \$15 per year

### NEWSLETTER

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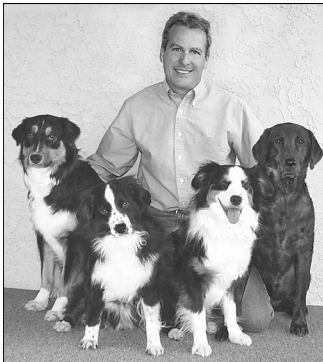
Message from the President, Ted Schade:

## Three Things We Can All Do to Help

Over the last five years, I CARE, with the help of our many supporters in the eastern Sierra, has made great strides in increasing the number of pets adopted from our Animal Shelter and in reducing the number of dogs and cats that have to be euthanized each year. We have accomplished this by promoting the many wonderful pets available at the Big Pine Shelter and through our push to spay and neuter our pets, which reduces the number of animals born.

But, there are still far too many animals being destroyed. Last year, 400 cats and dogs had to be euthanized and it looks like about the same number will lose their lives this year. I CARE can only do so much on its own. We need all of you to help us meet our goal of reducing the number of adoptable animals killed to zero. You can help us accomplish our goal by doing three things:

**1. Spay and Neuter All Your Pets.** There is no reason to have a pet that is not fixed. Don't think that it is everyone else's un-neutered pet that causes the problem—it could be yours! Besides, neutered pets are better pets. They are better



behaved, they have less medical problems and they stay at home. Also, there is no reason to wait to have your puppy or kitten fixed. Ask your vet about the great results they are having fixing puppies and kittens as early as eight weeks of age.

There is also no excuse for not being able to afford the surgery. I CARE has assistance programs for everyone, including our

newest program to assist Indian Reservation residents.

**2. Adopt All Your Pets from the Shelter.** Each newsletter profiles just one of the many great pets adopted from the Big Pine Animal Shelter. Cats or dogs, big or small, young or old—the selection is great. You may have to wait a little while to find the perfect pet, but the wait is worth it, plus you will prevent a death and bring a wonderful new friend into your life.

**3. Tell All Your Friends.** Although this newsletter is read by hundreds of I CARE supporters, thousands of eastern Sierra pet owners do not know how important steps 1 and 2 are. Please, tell everyone you know with unfixed pets how important spaying and neutering is and tell them

## Thank you for your donations:

Ed & Myrle Baker, Dottie Bentley, Karen Bright, Ginny Bruce, Nancy Cloud, Debbie Franks, John & Trudy Frederickson, Cindy Gall, Cathy George, Margaret Gibford, Amy & Rick Gorges, Scott Hanye, Wayne & Gail Hayden, George & Diane Hoffman, Joan Hugelman, Erika Kroenlein, Bernice Lager, Terry Lee, Jeanne Lehman, Barbi McCoy, Gerald & Irene Opre, Mike & Liz O'Sullivan, Niley & Emily Paul, Vic & Jane Paul, Cheryl Perez, Iris Pope, George & Marie Rohan, Walter & Cassie Schober, Fred & Fay Thompson, Lenore Thompson, Darryl & Sonia Truelsen, Wes & Betty Ulrich, Kathleen Wonacott, Ann Wong

## Special donations in Memory:

♥ Linda Arnold, Jane Fisher & Les Gurr for Jack Clay ♥ Don Constans for my cat, Tommy ♥ Dolores Cundiff for Elenore Kate Taylor ♥ Roger DeHart for mom, "who taught me to respect all animals" ♥ Hayley Dondero for my Grandpa Richie ♥ Jena Erickson for my wonderful rat, Scamper ♥ Sybil Gibbons for my husband, Buck ♥ Scott Hanye for my dog, ♥ Barbra & Gordon Hauser for our Schnauzer, Arnie "he loved people" ♥ The Hawkins family for the Pratts' Sheltie, Shocka ♥ Don & Denise Hayden for "the old phat dog", Maggie ♥ Millie Heavener for the Ohmer's pet, Divot ♥ Sandy & Gale Holbrook for Robert Fernandez ♥ Lois Lannan for my good old dog, Nick ♥ Nita Lindsey for Alexandria Starr ♥ Patricia & Edward Nahin for our dear Candy ♥ Susan & Larry Pruce for "all the ones we miss" ♥ Janie Reeves for Bubba ♥ Ted & Lisa Schade for our much-missed cat, Butch ♥ Stan & Barb Smith for our cat, Bo ♥ Dar & Toni Tockey for Dee Simpson ♥ Eileen Wagner for Andy Anderson ♥ Dick & Karen Warren for Rex & Muffin ♥ Dan & Leslie Whitmore for Nancy Whitmore ♥ Mark & Julie Zela for Dawn Zanotto ♥



## In Honor:

♥ Jackey Harris for Drs. Talbot & Lind ♥ The Hawkins family for Dr. Tom Talbot & staff ♥ Virginia Koegel for Lois Lannan's birthday ♥ Bert, Marty & Heidi Leithold for Ted & Lisa Schade ♥ Thelma McCorkle for my sister, Lois Lannan's birthday ♥ Mike & Clare McCurry for our pound dog and pal, Maggie ♥ Dick & Karen Warren for the staff at Bishop Veterinary Hospital ♥

## Couple Sings Praises of Adopting Adult Shelter Animals



Karen and Steve Ingram with the very grateful Jasper

**H**e was the "Pet of the Week" in the *Inyo Register* last August and was described as "a very mellow 7-month old male Yellow Labrador." That's when Lynnette Royce called her sister, Karen Ferrell-Ingram, to tell her about this special dog.

Karen and her husband, Steve, lost their five year old Rottweiler mix, Zephyr, to cancer eight months earlier. Time had helped heal their broken hearts and now they were ready to hear the clickity-clack

of puppy paws in their home once again.

They decided that, after they returned from a trip to Alaska, they would take the puppy plunge. In fact, they spent part of the trip visualizing their dream dog and were very excited about having a new companion.

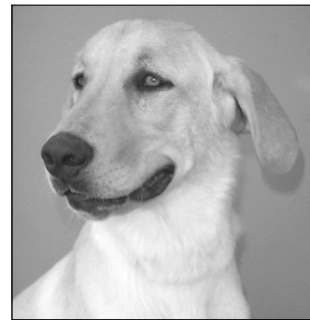
They had asked the Animal Shelter

to place them on a waiting list for a Labrador puppy. It never occurred to them to consider an adult dog. But, when they heard about "The Sundance Kid" as he was dubbed in the newspaper, their interest was piqued enough to drive to the Animal Shelter in Big Pine that very day.

Karen says, "Within thirty seconds of meeting the Yellow Lab, I was a goner. It took Steve about two and a half minutes, because he's more practical. But there

was no question in our minds—this was our dog! We originally envisioned ourselves with a little female puppy, but here we end up with this big, goofy boy dog we named "Jasper." Now we are big believers in adopting adult dogs because they are much easier than puppies. Jasper was already housetrained, so we didn't have to go through that messy phase."

Jasper landed at the Animal Shelter after he had been running stray for two to three weeks before Animal Control could pick him up. His sweet, loving and silly



Jasper's Pet of the Week photo

personality made him an immediate hit with the Shelter staff. Only the perfect home would do for this dog. And that's exactly what he got when Steve

and Karen adopted him. Jasper is a very spoiled member of the family. Would you believe he sleeps on his very own futon?

Steve is a botanist and gifted nature writer and photographer who takes

## Too Many Litters—Not Enough Homes for Them All

**T**o prevent the inundation of unwanted litters at the Big Pine Animal Shelter this Summer, I CARE offered Free Spays for 90 Days during March, April and May. The response was phenomenal—**215 cats and dogs were sterilized**. That equals many hundreds of litters that won't be born to face an uncertain future.

The staff at the Inyo County Animal Shelter are heartbroken by the countless number of puppies and kittens that are turned in because their owners did not or could not find homes for them. Unfortunately, their chances aren't much better at the Shelter. The truth is, when the next litter arrives, a kennel or cage will have to be made available by euthanizing the current occupants—unless they're adopted, of course. Imagine having to make these decisions on a daily basis and you begin to understand how you could become



Unwanted kittens at the Animal Shelter—Sadly, not all will find homes

intolerant of people who don't spay or neuter their pets.

### COMMON EXCUSES FOR NOT SPAYING AND NEUTERING:

- ***I don't want my pet to get fat.*** Too much food and not enough exercise make animals fat. Neutering does not.
- ***It's not my problem—I've got a male.*** It takes two to tango and to breed. One un-neutered male can be responsible for dozens of offspring in a single year.

• ***I want my kids to witness the miracle of birth.*** Unless you're also prepared to show the consequences of breeding—unwanted animals being put to death—this lesson is irresponsible, selfish and cruel.

• ***She's a purebred with papers.*** About one-fourth of the dogs put to sleep in most shelters are purebreds. Purebreds and their pure and mixed-breed offspring also suffer from overpopulation and contribute to it.

• ***I already have homes lined up for all of them!*** If each of the eight great homes ready to welcome your dog or cat's offspring would instead adopt

from the Animal Shelter they could save the lives of eight animals who may otherwise be put to death. For every terrific family wanting a companion, the perfect animal is already waiting at the Animal Shelter.

If you've been putting off your pet's spay or neuter surgery, I CARE has a year-round **Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program** that makes it affordable for those in need of financial assistance. Call I CARE today at **872-3802**. It's easy! 🐾

## FRIENDS OF I CARE

Would you like to receive e-mail updates on I CARE happenings in between our quarterly newsletter? How about action alerts on what I CARE is up to or the featured Pets of the Week at our Animal Shelter in Big Pine? You can receive news updates via e-mail. We do not provide our mailing list to any companies or individuals. Our computer is protected from viruses through daily virus checks. You can be sure our e-mails are bug-free and just plain good fun!

If you would like to receive occasional e-mail from I CARE, just e-mail us at:

**I CARE T-Shirts now on sale at SPELLBINDER BOOKS**  
124 South Main  
Bishop, California

**Want to help end pet overpopulation in the eastern Sierra and get a 100% cotton T-shirt, too? We have three new designs, all with the I CARE logo, just \$15 each. Proceeds go directly into I CARE's Spay/Neuter Fund which makes spaying and neutering affordable for everyone. 🐾**

### ADOPT A PET



### WANTED:



GOOD HOMES.

A PET FOR EVERY HEART AND HOME



## I CARE

POST OFFICE BOX 76  
BISHOP, CA 93515-0076

### BOARD MEETINGS

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

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I CARE's Summer Newsletter is



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