



I CARE News!

Inyo County Animal Resources & Education

Dedicated to the welfare of Inyo County's companion animals

Good News for Inyo County's Cats and Dogs

Things are definitely looking up for cats and dogs in Inyo County! As can be seen from the graph below (based on statistics provided by Inyo County Animal Control), there were 950 cats and dogs put to sleep at the Big Pine



These pups were all adopted from the Big Pine Animal Shelter

Animal Shelter in 1997. But, in 2000 that number dropped to 400. **That's a 58% decrease in the number of animals put to sleep in just three years!** In addition, the number of animals coming in to the shelter has decreased 25% (from 1,178 to 888) and, more good news—adoptions are up 63% (from 203 to 332).

We believe the biggest reason for this dramatic turn-around is our Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program. Since its inception in 1997, over 1,100 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered. That represents the prevention of hundreds of unwanted litters that could have gone on to produce litters of their own. I CARE is dedicated to the *preventative approach* to population control; i.e., spaying and neutering — not euthanasia!

Of course, the Spay/Neuter Program would not be possible without the commitment of our very fine veterinarians at **Bishop Veterinary Hospital** and the **Sierra Veterinary Clinic**.

They perform the surgeries at discounted rates to make I CARE donor dollars go that much further. We are very grateful for

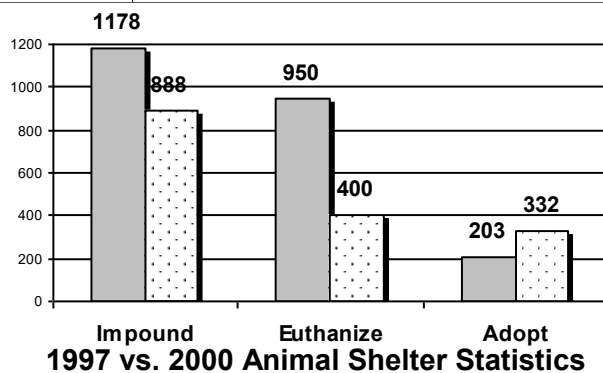
their unselfish support and enlightened attitude to solving this serious challenge.

And, without our members and donors, there would be no Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program at all. I CARE is a non-profit organization that has no paid employees and does not receive any government funding, so we rely entirely on the kindness of our donors to keep our programs in operation. Our members and donors are bright and caring individuals who are making a difference for our companion animals. We truly could not do it without you!

Other partners in our success include the local media: *The Inyo Register*, *The Sierra Reader*, USA Media, K-DAY Radio, KIBS/KBOV Radio and KTWY Radio who have graciously promoted our Spay/Neuter Program and other special events hosted by I CARE.

Finally, we owe special thanks to Jennifer Allred of the Pet Friendly Store who provides free space for Shelter animals in her store so they can find homes. 32 cats and dogs have been adopted from the store in six months.

Let's continue our efforts on behalf of the innocent cats and dogs until we can one day say that "no adoptable pet had to be put to sleep in Inyo County." 🐾



Lesley Booker adopted a new friend, "Mo"

"Adopt Me"

Adopt me not out of pity, but out of love—I will love you in return.

Adopt me not because of my past, but to change my future—I will overcome and enjoy life.

Adopt me not just to save me, but to give me a new life—I will honor your commitment.

Adopt me not because of what I am, but what I will become—I will blossom.

Adopt me not to revere yourself to others, but because you truly want me—I will not let you down.

Adopt me not to be chained or neglected, but to be your constant companion—I will stand by you.

Adopt me not to replace the one you've lost, but to sooth your spirit—I will cherish you.

Adopt me not to be your pet, but to be your friend—I will give you unconditional love all the days of my life.

by Terri Onorato

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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Cindy Wymore

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MEMBERSHIP

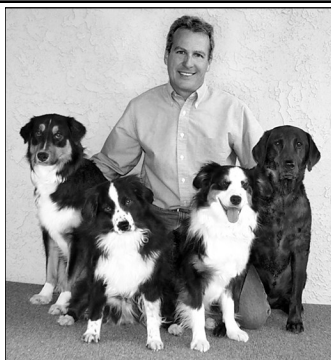
Only \$15 per year

NEWSLETTER

Des by:
Te le

Message from the President, Ted Schade:

Your Donations to I CARE are Spent Wisely



The I CARE Board takes our position as stewards of your donations very seriously. All expenditure decisions are carefully weighed with the bottom line being what is in the best interest of the animals.

It is your generosity that has allowed us to operate a successful Spay/Neuter Program, set up our Shelter Animal Adoption Program at Pet Friendly and continue to educate the public regarding companion animal welfare issues. I CARE is completely supported by your donations—we receive no government funding or outside grants.

The chart at right shows how your donations were spent in 2000 to improve the lives of Inyo County's companion animals.

As can be seen, 75% of our program budget went directly toward this year's main goal, spaying and neutering. We spent \$14,535 helping 228 cats and 207 dogs get spayed and neutered. Since the Spay/Neuter Program began in 1997, I CARE has helped over 1,100 cats and dogs. These surgeries have prevented the

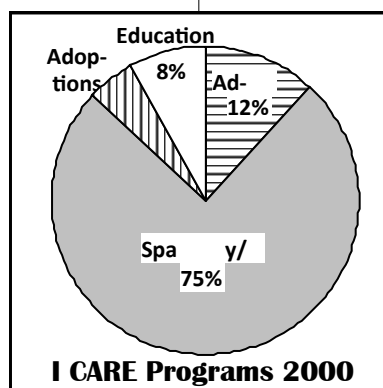
birth of thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Our Education Program includes classroom presentations and these newsletters. This program accounted for 8% (\$1,643) of our expenditures and is intended to enlighten Inyo County residents about the local pet overpopulation crisis and the need for loving homes for all of our pets.

Our new Shelter Animal Rescue and Adoption Program has only been in existence for six months, but has helped 32 Shelter animals (16 cats and 16 dogs) find wonderful homes. I CARE adopts these animals from our Animal Shelter and the staff of the Pet Friendly Store cares for them while they wait for new homes. Adoption costs were 5% (\$930) of our program budget.

Administrative costs accounted for 12% (\$2,228) of our program budget. Since I CARE has no paid employees or overhead, we are able to direct the lion's share of your donations to the programs that will most benefit the cats and dogs—a claim that the national humane charities can't make.

Thank you for helping make 2000 another great year for Inyo County's companion animals in need. We pray for your continued support in the coming new year. 🐾



Thank you for your donations:

Lois Alexander, Heidi Allan, Anne Almeida, Ed & Myrle Baker, Bishop Country Club, William Bjorklund, A.C. Eden, Mike & Nancy Finch, Stella Fleming, Diane Fortney, Cindy Gall, Cathy George, Margaret Gibford, Patty Greenland, Irvin & Maisie Hall, Jackey Harris, George & Diane Hoffman, Sandy & Gale Holbrook, Joan Hugelmann, Winter Kennedy, Erika Kroenlein, Doris Kuhns, Terry Lee, June McCracken, Cassandra McGill, Sandy Miller, Sally Millner, Irv & Sherry Moore, Shawn Morrison, Grace Naso, Valerie Naso, Mike & Liz O'Sullivan, Niley & Emily Paul, Vic & Jane Paul, Betty Penland, Cheryl Perez, Lisa Pintok, Calder Reid, Bill & Jean Rich, Toni Richards, Ralph & Dorothy Rickards, Ted & Lisa Schade, Gloria Roberts, Mary Scronce, June & Bernie Shaw, Nancy C. Smith, Jim Speer, Kay & Herm Spencer, Dean & Vicka Stout, Fred & Fay Thompson, Charles & Rosemarie Thornton, Dar & Toni Tockey, Wes & Betty Ulrich, Avery & Eric Wilmanns, Alice Wolfson, Kathleen Wonacott, Ann Wong, Susan & Bob Ziegler

Special donations in Memory:

♥ Dr. Jeanette Schneider for Bonnie & Pepper Spicer ♥ Gayle & George Todd for Bull, our best friend & greeter ♥ Ginny Bruce for Dash ♥ Cheryl Perez for Fester ♥ Missy Will for Johanna ♥ Lynn Doran for Noser ♥ Herb & Peg Brons for Angel ♥ Paul & Barbara Laughon for Ashlee - "We miss you!" ♥ Ken & Leslie Cleland for Bob Cashbaugh ♥ Wyman, Cindy & Patrick Hawkins for Callie - "She was pure gold." ♥ Dr. James Richardson for Malakai ♥ Jeri Stout for Mitts ♥ Carol Wells for Nutmeg ♥ Donna Dudley for Muffin ♥ Chet Bielewics for my wife, Rena ♥ Shelley & Ross Corner for Ty, Bubba & Gina ♥ Bonnie Reed for Princess, Sophie & Bee Bee ♥ Karen & Steve Ingram for Zephyr ♥ Wayne & Millie Winch for Zeus, one year gone ♥ Linda Gillespie for Vader & Stinky ♥



In Honor:

♥ Chris & Emily Nelson and Randi Pritchard for Ann Wong ♥ Toni Bayer for Jesse, the Golden Retriever with nine lives! ♥ Becky Parham for all loved pets everywhere ♥ Cathy McCay-Powell for Mel Matoza's birthday ♥ Annie & Bill Jenkins for Scooter & Tess ♥ Nancy Fong for marriage of Jim & Anita Richardson ♥ Sherrin Pratt for Thornburg's Sheltie, Ketchie ♥ Karen & Steve Ingram for Jasper ♥ Nancy & Joe Monaco for dear, sweet Holly ♥

Three Great Dogs — All from the Big Pine Animal Shelter



Marnie and Ralph Worthing with Dandy, Bubba and Tyrone

named him Bubba and he joined their older Springer Spaniel, Charlie, for an idyllic life of walks, treats and good times.

Sadly, Bubba had to say goodbye to his dear friend about a year and a half later when Charlie passed away. About three weeks passed before Ralph called the Animal Shelter to see if there were any candidates for the position of "Bubba buddy." As luck would have it, there was a nine month old buff Cocker Spaniel who needed a home and a friend, too. So, in June of 1999, Dandy was adopted and quickly became Bubba's pal and Ralph and Marnie's companion.

Funny how a family can grow one dog at a time. About three years ago, Ralph and Marnie Worthing saw a Scottish Terrier mix featured as the "Pet of the Week" in *The Inyo Register* and went straight to the Animal Shelter in Big Pine to claim him as their own. They

Even though they already had two wonderful dogs, Ralph and Marnie knew they could provide a home for at least one more homeless animal. So, in November of 2000, when they attended the Animal Shelter's Open House, they met and fell in love with another "Pet of

the Week," sweet Tyrone.

Tyrone is a handsome Poodle mix who fit in with Bubba and Dandy after just a brief adjustment period.



Marnie and Ralph with latest addition, Tyrone

Ralph says, "We've always adopted or rescued dogs and they've all been great." Marnie adds, "They give you so much joy and ask for so little in return."

Ralph and Marnie are committed to increasing adoptions at our local Animal Shelter through personal example, as well



Brownie Troop 122, in honor of Girl Scout founder and animal lover, Juliette Low's birthday, saved their weekly dues to purchase pet care packages for recent adopters of Shelter animals at the Pet Friendly pet store.

Brownies shown are: Aaltje Gillam, Rebecca Sonnenberg, Jessie Yoshioka, Brianna Hogue, Megan Watt, Kattarina Nisbeth, Rachael Golden, Janelle Freeman, Michelle Franks, and Annie Bell. Adopters from left to right are: Timothy Saulque with his mother, Christian Dunlap, and cat, Hidee; and Mike and Krista Cooper with their puppy, Lexis.

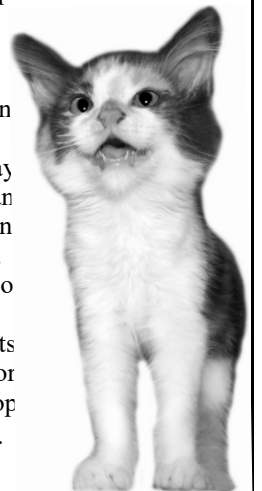
The animals were adopted through *I CARE's Shelter Animal Rescue and Adoption Program*. Thanks to Jennifer Allred, owner of Pet Friendly (who does *not* sell cats and dogs) for providing space and tender loving care for these Shelter animals. 🐾

Medi-Cal Patients' Cats Fixed Free

Attention Medi-Cal cardholding cat owners! Now you can have your cats spayed or neutered at no charge at the Bishop Veterinary Hospital in Bishop.

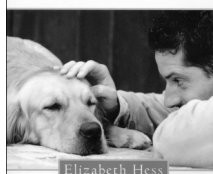
The Bishop Veterinary Hospital has received a Low Income Cat Altering Program (LCAP) Grant through the California Veterinary Medical Association that covers the cost of the surgery.

This program is a statewide effort to spay and neuter cats to improve their health and behavior and decrease the number of unwanted cats entering California's animal shelters. participate in this offer, cat owners need to present their California Medi-Cal card driver's license. There is a limit of three cats cardholder and clients are responsible for cost of vaccinations. Please call the Bishop Hospital at **873-5801** for more information.



LOST AND FOUND

DOGS, CATS, AND EVERYDAY HEROES
AT A COUNTRY ANIMAL SHELTER



Elizabeth Hess

I CARE highly recommends the touching book, "Lost and Found" by Elizabeth Hess. It is a profoundly moving account of dogs, cats and everyday heroes at a country animal shelter. A must read for animal lovers!

Copies are available at the Inyo County Library and Spellbinder Books in Bishop. 🐾

Fundraising Dinner April 7, 2001 Seeking Volunteers & Auction Items



I CARE is gearing up for our 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner to take place on Saturday, April 7 in the Charles Brown Auditorium and we need:

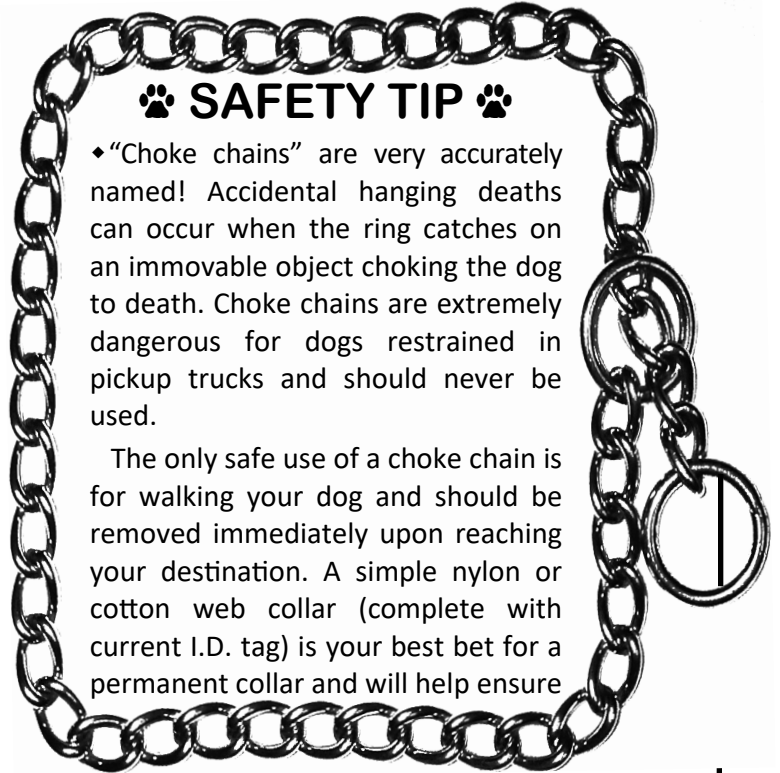
- ♦ Donations of auction items, such as original works of art and handcrafted items by local artists;
- ♦ Donations of other valuable items for silent auction;
- ♦ Volunteers to sell dinner and raffle tickets; and
- ♦ Volunteers to help the night of the dinner.

We're fortunate to live in a community with so many animal lovers and look forward to seeing you all at our fun-filled annual event. If you would like to help or have a

🐾 SAFETY TIP 🐾

♦ "Choke chains" are very accurately named! Accidental hanging deaths can occur when the ring catches on an immovable object choking the dog to death. Choke chains are extremely dangerous for dogs restrained in pickup trucks and should never be used.

The only safe use of a choke chain is for walking your dog and should be removed immediately upon reaching your destination. A simple nylon or cotton web collar (complete with current I.D. tag) is your best bet for a permanent collar and will help ensure



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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These folks really are making a



PLEASE RECYCLE & EDUCATE –
SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A FRIEND