

ICARE News!

Inyo County Animal Resources & Education

Dedicated to the welfare of the Eastern Sierra's companion animals

Big Pine Shelter Dogs Have a New Friend



Charlotte prepares to walk a new arrival

Life can be very stressful for residents at the Big Pine Animal Shelter, particularly the dogs. Suddenly they are thrust into an unfamiliar environment, surrounded by barking dogs and living in a kennel. Whether they were picked up stray or abandoned by their former families, they all just want to go home. The stress of waiting day after day for a family that will not be returning for them takes a heartbreaking emotional toll.

But now the dogs have a friend in Charlotte Rodrigues, the volunteer dog walker/trainer, who helps make life bearable for the canine Shelter residents. She spends at least one day a week walking each dog so they can get some fresh air and exercise and learn good manners. Each session ends with a walk up a ramp into the back of Charlotte's truck where the dogs are brushed, given treats, lots of love and taught some basic commands, such as sit and stay.

Since many of the dogs that end up at the Animal Shelter have never received any training, Charlotte's goal is to make them more adoptable and appealing to the public through love and training. Charlotte says, "Dogs respond best to positive reinforcement, not reprimands, just distracting them when they do something inappropriate like jumping up on you." She continues, "It is the best feeling to see a dog improve and learn so quickly. Many have never been on a leash before. Any bit of training makes them more adoptable. They are so happy to get out and they really want to please you. They are eager learners and dog treats really help, too."

Charlotte is a civil engineer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) and has been employed by them for 18 years. She transferred from their Los Angeles office to Bishop last March. Her own pets include three dogs (a Shepherd/Golden Retriever mix, an Australian Shepherd mix and a Yellow Labrador Retriever) and one cat.

While living in Los Angeles, Charlotte took several classes in working with elephants and exotic animals with retired TV/movie animal trainer, Ralph Helfer. He owned and trained Gentle Ben, Clarence the cross-eyed lion and Clyde the orangutan. Charlotte traveled twice to Africa on tour with Helfer. After her first trip in 1998, Charlotte began volunteering at the Nature of Wildworks, a wildlife sanctuary in Topanga, run by Mollie Hogan. Retired zoo animals and injured

or confiscated exotic pets, including mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, servals, a wolf, owls, kinkajous and snakes, to name a few, are permanently homed here. Most of the animals can be handled and are taken into schools for educational purposes.

Having been so involved with animals in Los Angeles, Charlotte missed the interaction, so she contacted Animal Control and volunteered to walk the Shelter dogs. Shelter Manager, Allison David, says, "The dogs are much calmer, happier and well adjusted since Charlotte began visiting the Shelter." Of course, Charlotte admits her biggest reward is seeing the dogs go home with



Logan eagerly climbs ramp for grooming and hugs

their new adoptive family.

Charlotte wants to urge everyone to at least visit the Animal Shelter and tell their friends about the animals they've seen there. She would also encourage

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 our newsletter, newspaper articles and classroom presentations;
- Provides financial aid to those in need for companion animal spay/neuter surgeries;
- Encourages adoptions from our local Animal Shelter; and
- Improves living conditions for the cats and dogs at the Inyo County Animal Shelter.

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CONTACT I CARE

Mail: P.O. Box 76

Bishop, CA 93515

Phone: 760-872-3802

E-mail:

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Only \$15 per year

NEWSLETTER

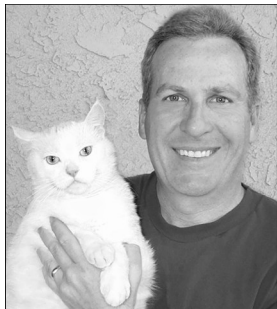
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Message from the President, Ted Schade:

Give Yourself a Pat on the Back!



I was amazed and touched by the incredible turnout we had for our fundraising dinner on April 13. When we first had the idea for a dinner six years ago, we worried that we were throwing a party and no one would come. Well, this year about 650 of you showed up and helped us raise much-needed funding for our spay/neuter, adoption and animal welfare education programs. Putting on a fundraiser this large took a lot of planning and organizing—it also involved the help and support of over 150 people. This includes those that actually helped at the dinner, as well as the people and businesses that donated money, food and gifts. All the hard work resulted in \$20,000 raised—by far our best effort to date.

To put the \$20,000 in perspective, it might help to see a recap of how donations were spent last year. \$19,686 was spent on our Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, while the Shelter Animal Rescue and Adoption Program costs were \$3,012. Our Education Program accounted for \$2,205 and

administrative costs were \$2,581. That's a grand total of \$27,484 spent last year.

You can see that, while the \$20,000 raised at this year's dinner will help tremendously in the coming year, we still rely on your continued donations and memberships to make up the difference to fund all of our very worthwhile companion animal programs.

It's nice to have the dinner behind us so we can concentrate on helping people and their pets. But, before we move on, I want to thank everyone who helped, from the prize donors and food preparation crew to the 4-H kids that helped set up and serve. But most of all, I thank all of you who continue to support I CARE and the important work we do. I CARE is a local organization, run and supported by local people, solving local problems. All the money we raise comes from the community and all the work we do is performed by unpaid volunteers. I am proud of our little organization and think we are an outstanding example of what can be done on a community level by people who want to help make a difference. Thank you all so much. 🐾

Thank you for your monetary donations:

Richard & Mary Arlen, Ed & Myrle Baker, Susan & George Batchelder, Jacki Jo Beck, Dottie Bennett, Karen Bright, Mike & Karen Brorson, Paul Broward, Caltrans employees, Campy & Ski Camphausen, Jena Erickson, Stella Fleming, Darcy Bauer, Cathy George, Amy & Rick Gorges, Carroll & Vern Hambleton, Helen Hansen, Donna Hardy, Jim Henry, George & Diane Hoffman, Bill & Peggy Horn, Joan Hugelman, Susan & Woody Jackson, Janelle Kent, Jane Kenyon, Erika Kroenlein, Julie Laughon, Sandy Mayo, Cathy McCay-Powell, Patricia Mitchell, Al & Ruth Morgan, Lee & Happy Nelson, Alice Nicoll, Matthew Ono, Gerald & Irene Opre, Jacque Osborn, Cheryl Perez, Mark & Jan Peterson, Charlotte Rodriguez, George & Marie Rohan, Paula Sam, Bob & Yvonne Schade, Robert & Petra Schaubmayer, Jeffrey & Mollie Scott, Nick & Jean Sprague, Bill & Diann Stever, Fred & Fay Thompson, Rosemarie Thornton, Dar & Toni Tockey, Darryl & Sonia Truelsen Gary & Betty Williamson, Rick & Sharon Wuester, Vivian Yoder

Special donations in Memory:

♥ Russ Adams for Cricket ♥ Anne & Lynne Almeida & Mike Slates for Ryleigh, "He was special" ♥ Jeff & Chris Anderson for Adie Conway's dog Maggie ♥ Pat Bramhall for Willie & John ♥ Diane Crowl for my cat, Serenity ♥ Dolores Cundiff for Adeline Herrmann & Elmer Bente ♥ Adrian Sears & Nancy Fong for Kilo our Malamute ♥ Bob & Gail Gribben for B.K., our cat and Sandy, our Yellow Lab ♥ Wyman & Cindy Hawkins for Linda Scrugham's dog Megan ♥ Heidi, in loving memory of my daddy, Bert Leithold ♥ High Sierra Bird Society for Douglas J. Tockey, Sr. ♥ Mundo & Louise Huarte for our dog, Griz ♥ Rosalie Hughes for Jess Hughes ♥ Nita Lindsey for Miranda, Alex & Squeaky "We miss you" ♥ Thelma McCorkle for Kent Lamanske ♥ Bonnie McMillan for Mr. Mac ♥ Bill & Vivian Mitchel for Morrows' Shep and Woods' Hannah ♥ Phyllis Mottola for Alice's cat, Cindy ♥ Arlene & Carl Pearce for our pet, Inyo ♥ Mark & Jan Petersen for Maggie ♥ Christine Ray for Bert Leithold ♥ Ken & Janet Reeling for Dixie Durell & Bert Leithold ♥ Dr. James & Anita Richardson for Kilo ♥ Ralph & Dot Rickords for Dixie Durell ♥ Ted & Lisa Schade for Bert Leithold ♥ Steve & Mary Scronce for Elmer Bente, Eleanor Bethel & Russ Harrison ♥ Amy & Tom Stephenson for Kriska ♥ Gary & Betty Williamson for Elmer Bente ♥ Eileen Winterbourne for Merlin the cat ♥ Alice Wolfson for my cat, Cindy ♥ Ann Zack for Blanco, a great horse ♥ SS for Dusty "who will remain forever in our hearts" ♥

Ryleigh



In Honor:

♥ Vera Ferrante for Auggie, "just because he's a sweetie of a dog" ♥ Jackey Harris for everyone who adopts their pets from the Animal Shelter ♥ Bob & Glenda Newcomer for Amber ♥ Glenna Stansifer for "our girls", Silk & Satin ♥ Carolyn & Bill Tachovsky for Duke the Lab adopted from the Big Pine Animal Shelter ♥

This Shelter Kitty is "Cute as a Button"



Becky and Sassy

Just three days after Christmas, Becky Vanwey walked into the Pet Friendly store in Bishop and met a little gray and white fuzzball of a

kitty who had been rescued from the Big Pine Animal Shelter through I CARE's Rescue and Adoption Program. Should she or shouldn't she?

Becky and her husband, Jim, had unexpectedly lost their young cat, Gabby, to feline leukemia just six weeks earlier. Becky missed Gabby very much and couldn't resist cuddling the little kitty waiting to be adopted, but she really wasn't looking for another cat. At least that's what she thought. Before she knew it, she was filling out the adoption application and, soon, she was taking

home her new kitten.

Jennifer Allred, owner of Pet Friendly, cautioned her that this skinny little cat could be quite the talker. The Vanweys named their new pet Sassy and were initially concerned because she was such a poor eater and was very noisy. After about two weeks in her new home, Sassy threw up a big button. From that day on, she began eating like a horse and now hardly makes a sound. Becky believes the button in was the reason she meowed so much at the pet store.

Sassy had another strange behavior that puzzled the Vanweys—her odd habit of sitting under the tree precisely where Gabby, is buried.

Jerry is a retired Department of Water and Power hydrographer. Becky is a personal assistant to business consultant, author and public speaker Loyd Smigel. Jerry and Becky live on an 11-acre ranch



Becky and Jim Vanwey with Gus, Sassy and Annie

in Round Valley with their two Golden Retrievers, 12-year old Gus and 8-year old Annie. Sassy has no fear of the dogs and lays right next to them on the lawn. Of course, these dogs don't have a mean bone in their body and welcomed her from the very beginning.

Becky says, "I think Sassy is the best of all our past cats combined and Jerry loves

I CARE's 6th Annual Dinner Helps Cats and Dogs in Need

A record-breaking \$20,000 was raised on April 13th for companion animal welfare programs in the Eastern Sierra. Since I CARE receives no government funding or grant monies, this annual fundraiser is crucial to the continued success of our: Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, Classroom Education Program, continued improvements to the Animal Shelter in Big Pine, and our Shelter Rescue and Adoption Program at Pet Friendly.

We were very pleased that **Union Bank of California** sponsored this year's dinner with a gift of \$2,500.

The evening was a lot of fun with about 650 animal lovers coming out to enjoy an incredible meal prepared by **Norm and Mel Matoza** and their faithful BBQ crew. **Denise Cook** of Lone Pine made the tossed green salad. Dinner was served by a terrific group of 4-



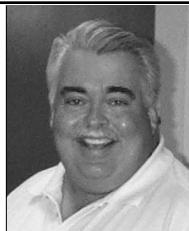
Melody and Norm Matoza

H volunteers from the Inyo and Mono chapters.

John Dailey was the entertaining emcee and auctioneer. Valuable door prizes were given away throughout the evening while a silent auction was underway. **Stan Smith's** 50/50 Crew collected \$3,000 from the crowd, which I CARE split with winner, **Don Harris**.

Several auction items were graciously donated, including a La-Z-Boy recliner and table lamp valued at over \$500 from **Fendon's Furniture**. A limited edition photograph of "Split Rock and Cloud" was donated by **Mountain Light Gallery's Galen and Barbara Rowell**. **Bob Hurd** of Nature at Hand donated a handcrafted cedar-lined oak blanket chest which brought in the highest bid of the evening at \$600!

Other auction items included original watercolors by **Jeffrey Scott** and **Bob Unkrich**, as well as a wolf pastel by **Dr. Kathleen Sexton**. A scenic



John Dailey

photo by **Stephen Ingram** and wildlife photos by **Edward Nahin** and **Lila Bauter** were popular items. **Simpson's Discount Tire** donated \$300 worth of tires and local quilter **Kim Sepsey** donated an elaborate and beautiful quilt wall hanging.

The evening concluded with a drawing for the grand prize trip valued at \$2,000. The trip was sponsored by **Agrarian Research** of Bishop. The trip winner was **Spike Jackson** of Big Pine.

We want to thank everyone who



4-H volunteers serve desserts

helped make the dinner such a huge success, including donors, diners, artists and ticket sellers. An amazing group of folks came together to make a difference for the Eastern Sierra's cats and dogs in need. We are blessed to live in a loving community that takes care of one another. 🐾


I CARE T-Shirts

 are just \$15 at SPELLBINDER
 BOOKS
 124 South Main, Bishop



Want to help end pet overpopulation in the eastern Sierra and get a 100% cotton T-shirt, too? We have three great designs. Proceeds go directly into I CARE's Spay/Neuter Fund which makes spaying and neutering affordable for everyone! Prevention is the answer. 

SKUNK SPRAY REMEDY

Clip and save. This stuff really works!

-  1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
-  1/4 cup baking soda
-  1 teaspoon dog shampoo or dish soap



Combine all ingredients in a bucket. Wear old clothes and rubber gloves so you don't end up smelling skunky, too. First, soak your pet with warm water, then apply mixture liberally with a sponge taking care to keep out of pet's eyes. Work solution into the fur and leave on for 3 to 4 minutes. Finish by rinsing thoroughly. Discard any leftover solution.

As with any de-skunker, it's most effective when applied as soon as possible after skunking occurs. The longer you wait, the more difficult the odor is to remove. Even this recipe will only make a dent if you wait 24 hours or more. Plan ahead—make sure all ingredients are in the house in case

I CARE
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BOARD MEETINGS

I CARE meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in County Bldg., 207 South Street, Bishop

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Honey says "Don't breed for greed!
 Spay and neuter all of your pets."



PLEASE RECYCLE & EDUCATE –
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