

ICARE News!

Inyo County Animal Resources & Education

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

Fairy Tale Ending for Two Homeless Dogs

Once upon a time there were two very lonely dogs who needed homes and could only dream of love and affection. The first dog, Pepper, a beautiful blue merle Australian Shepherd/Border Collie mix, was turned over to the Inyo County Animal Shelter in Big Pine last May. From the moment she arrived, it was clear Pepper was terrified of everyone—she tried desperately to disappear into the back of her kennel. Five days later the other dog, MacDougall, a Terrier/Lab mix, was brought in accused of killing a chicken. He was also very afraid of people, especially men, and cowered whenever a hand was raised or any sudden movement made around him. Little did either of these dogs know that their destinies would be intertwined in the weeks ahead.

One day after seeing one of ICARE's puppies from the Animal Shelter in Bishop's Pet Friendly store, Bill Michael, Director of Museum and Library Services for Inyo County, called his good friend, Diane Hurlburt, the Mono County Library Director, to tell her about the little puppy he had seen. Diane had an older dog named Lazlo and had been thinking of adding a younger dog to the family.

Diane visited the pup and wanted to know more about him, so she contacted Lisa Schade of ICARE to find out what kind of dog he was going to be. After talking awhile, Lisa learned that Diane and Lazlo were very active, liked to hike and generally spend lots of time outside. Lisa thought about poor Pepper at the Animal Shelter and felt that, instead of



Diane Hurlburt and Bill Michael with their canine menagerie

the Pet Friendly puppy, maybe Pepper would be more suitable for Diane. Lisa suggested that Diane at least go meet Pepper. So, Diane did go to Big Pine and was introduced to the shy little dog. Diane quickly realized this sweet and sensitive dog needed her and would fit in well with her and Lazlo. Diane says, "Pepper has turned out to be the most wonderful companion and I love her dearly. I only wish I had more hands and arms to hold and pet both of my dogs."

Diane started calling her Princess Pepperpaw because she spent the first month or so hating to get her paws wet (she wouldn't even walk on grass!). Now she loves to hike, wade in creeks and get her paws thoroughly muddy.

When Diane met Pepper at the Shelter, she also met MacDougall and thought he was a wonderful dog. She felt so bad leaving him behind that she was determined to help find him a home. She told everyone she could about the lovable MacDougall.

This is where Bill Michael re-enters the story. Bill had been planning to get another dog in the Fall when his oldest son, Daniel, and his niece, Danielle, would be leaving for college. That would leave just Bill, his 13-year old son,

Phillip, and their 9-year old Siberian Husky at home. Bill ran into Diane a couple of weeks later at the Jazz Jubilee in Mammoth where she was passing around a photo of MacDougall to promote his adoption. Bill trusted Diane's instincts about dogs and the face in the photo told him that MacDougall was indeed a character. Bill had a feeling there must be something special about the dog. So, he and Phillip went to the Animal Shelter to meet MacDougall. Bill says, "The minute I saw my son with that dog, I knew we had to add him to our family."

MacDougall arrived at the Shelter scared and insecure, but while there, he learned that people can be kind. Bill says the biggest change he has seen in MacDougall since his adoption

is his new trust in people. When he first came home, he was afraid to come in the house, afraid to walk down the hall, afraid to take a treat out of Bill's hand. Now he is very sociable, always wanting to be touched. Bill says MacDougall and his Husky, Tommy Moe, have become

good buddies, too, wrestling for hours at a time. MacDougall's happy nature is contagious and never fails to cheer you up. Bill adds that MacDougall and Pepper get to see a lot of each other because he and

Diane take the dogs on frequent hikes.

Bill helped Diane find Pepper and Diane helped Bill find MacDougall. What a wonderful ending for two formerly sad and neglected dogs whose dreams finally came true. 🐾



Pepper



MacDougall

ABOUT ICARE

ICARE 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;
- Promotes adoptions from our local Animal Shelter; and
- Improves living conditions for homeless pets at the Inyo County Animal Shelter.

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MEMBERSHIP

Only \$15 per year

NEWSLETTER

Design & photos by:



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Message from the President, Ted Schade:

Your Donor Dollars Benefit Pets



What is in the best interest of the animals? That's the bottom line when the ICARE Board contemplates any expenditure decisions.

ICARE receives no grant monies or government funding and is completely supported by your donations. We value your continued belief in our mission, which allows us to operate a Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, promote the adoption of Shelter animals, and educate the public about companion animal welfare issues.

The chart shows how your donor dollars were spent in 2002. Our total program budget was \$38,287. The Spay/Neuter Program accounted for 66%. A total of 447 cats and dogs were sterilized last year at a cost of \$25,578 (about \$57 per animal). Since the inception of the Spay/Neuter Program five years ago, over 2,100 cats and dogs have been spayed and neutered. This has prevented the birth of hundreds of unwanted litters (see "More Good News" page 3).

Our Education Program includes classroom presentations and our quarterly newsletters, which enlighten the public about the local pet overpopulation challenge and the need for loving

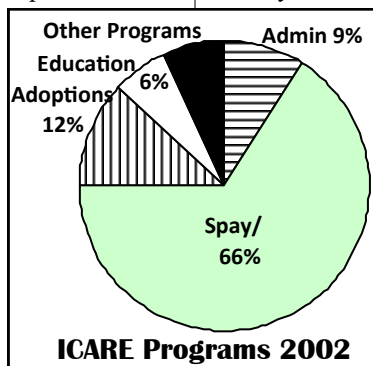
homes for all of our pets. This program accounted for 6% (\$2,303) of expenditures.

Our off-site Shelter Animal Adoption Program at Pet Friendly has been in operation since July 2000 and has found homes for 141 Shelter cats and dogs. Adoption costs in 2002 were 12% (\$4,548) of our program budget.

Other expenditures, like a new computer at the Animal Shelter, the ICARE Pet Contest at the Tri-County Fair and training for Inyo County and ICARE personnel accounted for 7% (\$2,582) of our program budget.

Administrative costs accounted for just 9% (\$3,276) of our program budget. Because ICARE has no paid employees, **we are able to direct over 90% of your donations to the programs that benefit the animals**—that's a claim the national humane charities are unable to make.

Thank you for helping make 2002 another great year for the Eastern Sierra's dogs and cats in need. We look forward to your partnership in the coming year. Thank you! 🐾



Thank you for your donations:

John & Christine Almeida, Natalie Bailey, Rae Barnes, Jackie Beck, Paul Broward, Andy & Dick Cheeseman, Diana Cunningham, Roger DeHart, Tom & Betty Dews, Cathy George, Gary Gillespie, Girl Scout Troop 122, Patty Greenland, Irvin & Maisie Hall, Carroll & Vern Hambleton, Marilyn Hayden, Betty Heimforth, Jim Henry, Robert & Charlotte Hering, Bobby & Chuck Hoeberg, George & Diane Hoffman, Joan Hugelman, Rosalie Hughes, Robin & Chris Johnston, Janelle Kent, Doris Kuhns, Sam Lacatus, Keith & Donna Leavitt, Jeanne Lehman, Ron & Joan Lewis, T.J. & Connie Marker, Sandy Mayo, Roberta McIntosh, Sandy Miller, Sally Millner, Warren & Ruth Morefield, Al Morgan, Patricia & Edward Nahin, Jim & Kris Nelson, Tom & Vicki Pauley, Arlene & Carl Pearce, Mark & Jan Peterson, Iris Pope, Mark Daniel & Denyse Racine, Glenn & Janie Reeves, Ralph & Dorothy Rickords, Julie Roberts, Charlotte Rodrigues, George & Marie Rohan, Paula Sam, Jeffrey & Molly Scott, Spellbinder Books, Pam St. Jean, John & Carol Symons, Fred & Fay Thompson, Lenore Thompson, Darryl & Sonia Truelsen, Dale & Helen Trust, Jon Vento, Joe & Betty Jo Zappia

Special donations in Memory:

♥ Lois Alexander for Chris ♥ Rex & Mary Allen for Jim Ellis ♥ Ed & Myrle Baker for Ruth Morgan ♥ Bob & Nancy Bay for Byron Tockey ♥ Don & Debbie Becker for Hunter ♥ Herb & Peg Brons for Angel ♥ Mike & Sheri Bryant for Byron Tockey ♥ Don & Audrey Chapdelaine for Kitty ♥ Helen Charlton for Mr. Higgins ♥ Shelley & Ross Corner for Joe Cartwright ♥ Jack & Jeanie Daugherty for Fawn ♥ Dave Didion for Toenapaw ♥ Melinda Douglass, Tim Plummer & Vicki Waggoner for Virginia Cashore ♥ L.E. Dunlap for Byron Tockey ♥ Bonni Forbes for all my fur kids past & present ♥ Jim & Rita Greenleaf for "All the pets we've loved and lost." ♥ Holly Kimball for Nicholas—"For 14 years you were the heartbeat at my feet." ♥ Kristine & Bruce MacDonald for our cat, Sissy ♥ Richard Martinez for my wife, Dorothy ♥ Jim Nettleton for Teddy ♥ Vic & Jane Paul for our cat, Smokey ♥ Robert Schaubmayer for my wife, Petra ♥ Jeanette & Joanne Schneider for Teddi Bear ♥ Mary Scronce for Joe Miller, Rita Stanek, Lillian Nelson, Byron Tockey & Neil Beaman ♥ Ib & Katrin Sorensen for our dog, Willy ♥ Jeri Stout for our dog, Mitts ♥ Mike & Terri Sutton for Winter ♥ Wes & Betty Ulrich for Lonesome & Callie ♥ Kneif & Lionel for Beauty ♥ Andy Zack for my cat, Ago ♥

In Honor:

♥ Bob & Pat Brown-Berry for Lovie, our ICARE cat ♥ Shirley & Bob Bement for Rusty & Rosie ♥ Jane Burbank for Nita Lindsey ♥ Jim & Sherry Dodson for our beloved Tenaya ♥ Elizabeth Fleming for Toby, my Yellow Lab ♥ Debbie Lake for my gentle giant, Sprocket ♥ Lois Lannan for Virginia Koegel's birthday ♥ Thomas Mallonee for Tom & Nancy Mallonee & Eric Mallonee ♥ Anne Miller for Clare & Mike McCurry ♥ Jim Nettleton for Ted & Lisa Schade and Charlotte Rodrigues for all they do for animals ♥ Ann Zack for Tom & Kathryn Zack and their cats ♥

Tenaya



Bay Area Rolls Out Red Carpet for Inyo's Shelter Animals



Linda Bigham (left) fostered Shelter pups until their departure

position—they could actually help relieve the burden from overcrowded animal shelters in other communities by taking homeless pets in. To that end, the Marin Humane Society developed the Pet Partnership Program, which imports adoptable animals to their area and, at the same time, saves animals that may be running out of time in other shelters.

Inyo County was approved for Marin's Program in January and the Humane Society of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa also agreed to accept adoptable animals

from Inyo County. To date, ten Inyo County Shelter puppies have been transported to the Bay Area by volunteer drivers, including Stacie Badgett, Jeanette Pontacq and Andrea Zack (shown at right).

We were also fortunate that Linda Bigham volunteered to foster five Shelter puppies for almost two weeks until they left on their long journey. Having the Lab mix pups in foster care was deeply appreciated because it freed up valuable kennel space at the Inyo County Animal Shelter for other homeless animals.

The Marin/Sonoma adoption programs are a great resource for our homeless pets. The adoptees will receive excellent care in these top quality shelters until they are placed in loving homes. Of course, they will be spayed or neutered before they join their new families.

The biggest challenge to this program is getting the animals from Big Pine all the way to Novato and Santa Rosa. We are developing a list of volunteers who travel to the Bay Area and would like to take along some precious cargo. If you are



Andrea Zack transported 8 Shelter pups to the Bay Area

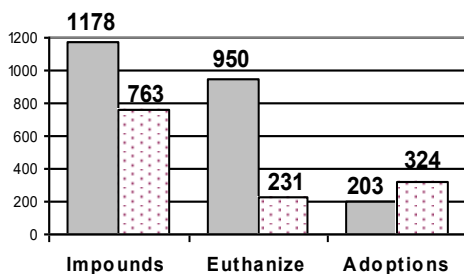
interested in being a transport volunteer, please call Lisa at 760-872-3802. 🐾

When Jeanette Pontacq of Point Reyes Station, on the coast north of San Francisco, contacted ICARE this past November to tell us about a wonderful opportunity for Inyo County's Shelter animals, we were all ears! Jeanette, an avid hiker and regular visitor to the Eastern Sierra, told us there was a greater demand for adoptable animals in Marin County than was locally available. Their community had done such an outstanding job of reducing their pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs over the past several years that they found themselves in a unique

More Good News for Eastern Sierra Dogs and Cats

Life is definitely getting better for cats and dogs of the Eastern Sierra. The graph below (based on data provided by Inyo County Animal Control) indicates that, while 950 cats and dogs were put to sleep at the Big Pine Animal Shelter in 1997, in 2002 that number nose-

1997 vs. 2002 Animal Shelter Statistics



dived to just 231. **That's a 76% decrease in the number of animals put to sleep in five years!** Also, the number of animals coming in to the shelter decreased 35% and, more good news—**adoptions**

increased an astounding 60%.

One of the main reasons for this awesome turn-around is ICARE's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, which has spayed/neutered over 2,100 cats and dogs in the last five years. Hundreds of unwanted litters were prevented from being born; litters that could have gone on to produce litters of their own. ICARE advocates the *preventative approach* to pet population control; (spaying and neutering)—not euthanasia!

Another reason for the brighter outlook is our Shelter Animal Adoption Program at Pet Friendly (137 East Line Street in Bishop). 54 cats and dogs were adopted from the store in 2002. That's 17% of the total number of animals



Justin Black and Elizabeth Castle adore their adopted dog, Dylan

adopted from the Shelter last year. Store owner, Allison David, does *not* sell cats or dogs, but makes room for Shelter animals.

The news will be even better in the coming year thanks to Inyo County Animal Control's progressive and proactive new policy of spaying/neutering each pet before it leaves the Shelter. This is a positive step toward ending

pet overpopulation.

Community support is vital to the success of all of these programs. You are making life better for the animals! 🐾

🐾 Thank You 🐾
from STITCH!



Stitch is the brave Yellow Labrador Retriever who was found in late November very near death from wounds he endured during an attack by other dogs. After laying helpless for several days, he was finally spotted and rushed to the Bishop Vet Hospital where it took over 100 stitches to sew him up. He was hospitalized for ten days then turned over to the Inyo County Animal Shelter in Big Pine. His owner never claimed him and he was

adopted by a lovely family. The **Stitch Fund** was established to cover his vet bills, which have been paid. Donations sent to the Stitch Fund will now be used to provide emergency vet care for other Shelter animals in need. Thank you! ~

STITCH FUND DONORS

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PLEASE SEND ME: _____ RAFFLE TICKETS @ \$10 EACH OR 3/\$25

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Mail check (before April 5th) to:
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ICARE

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BOARD MEETINGS

ICARE meets the first Wednesday of the month
at 7 pm in County Bldg., 207 South Street, Bishop

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These folks really are making a



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