



# ICARE

# News!

Inyo County Animal Resources & Education

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

## ICARE Stitch Fund helps Pup go from "Flopsy" to "Dash"

One ... two .... three .... oh wait, four. I thought I was seeing things last October as I drove past an abandoned house in Bishop. But, no, there they were, four little black fluffball puppies waddling around and getting too close to the road. I pulled over to check them out. They were pretty scared, so I set out some food and, one by one, they came over for a nibble. All except one little guy. He was having trouble getting up and, then when he did, he kind of hopped with his back legs together. It was pretty clear something was wrong.

I knocked on the neighbor's door and learned that the mama dog was half wild, but was being fed. This was probably her fourth or fifth litter because no one could catch her to get her spayed. I asked if I could take the puppies and place them in foster care until they found homes. He said a couple of pups from this litter had already been hit and killed, so please take them quick!

I gathered them up and took them straight home where they were bathed and got a good going over. Nancy Smith, from Inyo County Animal Services, came by to assign I.D. numbers and vaccinate them. She took a



One big happy family — Brenda, Dash, Phill, Reymond and Dezert

believed he had been hit by a car when he was 4-6 weeks old, which cracked his left femoral head (hip joint). Dr. Talbot recommended waiting to do surgery until the pup was a little bigger to see if it might heal on its own. The three other puppies were quickly adopted, but more time would be needed to find a special home for Flopsy, who had already suffered greatly during his short life.

In the meantime, my husband, Ted, and I were determined to make sure Flopsy's mama didn't have any more puppies. So, with the help of the neighbor and a few treats, a humane trap was set and, "Bam!", mama dog was on her way to the vet's office to be spayed. She is doing well and is no longer burdened by unwanted puppies.

The perfect adoptive family was soon found for Flopsy. In November Phill and Brenda Kiddoo and their two sons, Reymond and Dezert, saw Flopsy's picture in the *Inyo Register*. They had been talking about getting a dog since

moving into their new home that spring and were overjoyed to adopt Flopsy. They re-named him "Dash" after the speedy character in the animated movie "The Incredibles." It was just wishful thinking at that point, but a name he would eventually live up to.

The adoption agreement provided that ICARE's Stitch Fund would pay for Dash's hip surgery should he need it during his first year. By January, Dash was still experiencing lameness, so he was x-rayed by Dr. Kathleen Sexton of the Sierra Veterinary Clinic. She recommended removal of the cracked femoral head to improve range of motion. The surgery took place and, over the next few weeks, Dash recovered. Everyone crossed their fingers for the ability to run like a normal dog. The surgery would give Dash a puppy's stride improved and soon he was joining the family for longer walks.

Phill is an endurance runner and had dreamed of having a canine running buddy, but says he would have loved Dash even if he had never been able to run. But now Dash is the fastest runner in the family. Phill adds, "Dash is with us during all the good times we have. He is part of those experiences and they wouldn't be what they are if he wasn't part of them. He's been on multiple family road trips, backpacking trips, day hikes and mountain runs. And he goes along with the boys when they explore down by the canal."

The Kiddoo family is grateful to ICARE for rescuing Dash and giving them the opportunity to enjoy life with this terrific dog. He truly is a fortunate dog who was given a second chance by a dedicated, loving family.

If you'd like to help other injured or ill Shelter animals, send donations to ICARE's Stitch Fund at Box 76, Bishop, CA 93515. 🐾 ~ Lisa Schade



Flopsy just one day after being rescued

Close look at the little one with the weak back legs and suggested he be examined by a veterinarian.

The next day the pup, now known as "Flopsy" for his bunny-hop gait, was taken to the Bishop Vet Hospital where he was x-rayed. Dr. Tom Talbot

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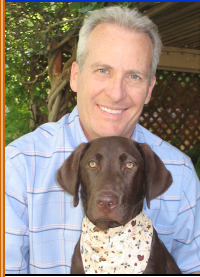
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**NEWSLETTER**

Design & photos by:

Lisa & Ted Schade

Message from the President, Ted Schade:

**Training is the Key to Happy Dogs**

The messages you so often hear from ICARE are “spay and neuter your pets” and “adopt your pets from the Animal Shelter.” These are important messages and the community has responded. Since starting our Spay/Neuter and Adoption Promotion

Programs in 1998, over 2,100 cats and dogs have been adopted from the Inyo County Animal Shelter and ICARE has helped over 4,500 pets with low-cost spay/neuter surgeries.

But, if our goal is to end the needless euthanasia of adoptable animals, then we need to make sure all pets stay in loving homes. There is nothing more discouraging than seeing pets turned in to the shelter for correctable behavior problems. This means the pet was either ill-suited for the home in the first place or, more often than not, that the pet did not receive the training it needed to become a welcome “pack member.”

That is why ICARE is now committed to ensuring that all adopted dogs and puppies get the training they need to become good family members (see page 3). Because dogs are more prone than cats to be turned over to the shelter for behavior problems, we are subsidizing the cost of

behavior training for every dog adopted from the Inyo County and Mono County Animal Shelters.

Time after time we see dogs surrendered by their owners because they jump fences, bark, aren't housetrained or jump up on people. The excuses are endless. But we've seen those same dogs, with just a little bit of training by the shelter staff and volunteer dogwalkers, quickly learn what is expected of them and actually thrive on the learning process. None of these dogs are born knowing good manners—they must be taught.

Training techniques have improved over the last decade. Professional trainers have developed lots of fast, easy ways to teach basic obedience commands. I know this firsthand. In June, my wife, Lisa, and I adopted our first puppy in twelve years—a Chocolate Lab from the Inyo Shelter we named “Beans” (see photo above). We enrolled in Anne Parkes' Puppy Pre-School and, in no time, our 4-month old pup learned all of the basic commands and is starting Puppy Kindergarten to learn even more. It's fun for him and us!

So, in addition to ICARE's normal mantras of “spay/neuter” and “adopt from the Shelter,” we are adding “teach good behavior.” It is only by addressing all of these issues that ICARE and our supporters will be truly successful in improving the welfare of the Eastern Sierra's pets. 🐾

**Thank you for your Donations:** [\$25 or more listed]

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## Dog Rescued in Nick of Time!



Jesse Steele with his adopted pal, Cap

**P**oor Cap! The friendly Shepherd mix was picked up stray at the Bishop Rite Aid in September 2004 and was one of the sweetest dogs the Animal Shelter had cared for in a long time. Over the next six months he was featured several times as the "Pet of the Week" in the *Inyo Register* and was

continually featured on KSRW TV Channel 33 and USA Media Channel 12. You would have thought he was invisible for the lack of interest shown in this great little guy. The Shelter staff couldn't understand why no one could see what a doll Cap was. He was even taken to Mammoth Lakes for an off-site adoption event where the on-duty veterinarian declared Cap "the best of the bunch." And yet no one was offering him a home.

Just when it looked like time was running out for Cap, a very cool thing happened. Jesse Steele of Bishop was working as a film editor and reporter for KSRW TV and kept seeing Cap's photo scroll by as a featured Shelter pet. He felt as if Cap was calling out to him "Hey, adopt me!" The truth is Jesse was looking for a canine hiking buddy.

Jesse visited the Inyo County Animal Shelter in Big Pine to meet the dog he believes fate brought into his life. The two bonded instantly and neither one has looked back since. Jesse says Cap is one of the smartest dogs he's ever known and they are the best of buds. He figures Cap must have just been waiting for him to come along because they are such a perfect match. Now Jesse tells everyone to adopt their pets from the Shelter. 🐾

## Did You Know ...



**T**wo cats are better than one? It's true! Two or more cats are able to enjoy their true social nature and their relationship with each other.

When only one cat has been adopted, it is more likely that it will be returned for behavior problems.

Cats with a feline playmate tend to be more socially well-adjusted avoiding issues such as biting, hissing, being frightened and hiding from strangers.

Cats are less likely to ruin furniture out of boredom and much less likely to gain weight if they have a playmate.

If you must work long hours or travel occasionally, two or more cats will keep each other company and they'll both be more tranquil.

A feline companion will help your cat remain more playful and youthful into his or her later years.

Caring for two cats is no more difficult than caring for one and you don't need additional space for a second cat.

But, best of all, if you adopt two cats, you save two lives, instead of just one. 🐾

## Adopted Shelter Dogs Go to the Head of the Class

**B**arking, chewing, biting. These are among the top reasons given by owners surrendering their dogs to animal shelters in our community and across the country. While pet overpopulation certainly contributes to the number of both cats and dogs that end up in shelters, the main reason dogs are surrendered (about two million per year) is for behavioral issues. According to the Humane Society of the United States, more than half the dogs surrendered are six months to three years old. These dogs were often acquired as puppies and never received any training.

Now ICARE has a solution to our local challenge. To improve the odds for dogs surrendered to Inyo County and Mono County Animal Shelters, ICARE is offering adopters discounts for obedience classes. We like to think of it as Pet

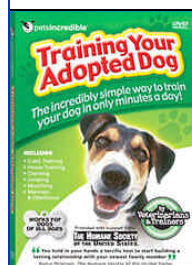


Insurance, because we believe it will insure a dog's lifelong place in its home. We are grateful to Angie Tapley of A.T. a Boy Dog Training (937-5772) and Anne Parkes (934-9900) of Happy Tails Dog Training for working with ICARE by reducing the cost of dog and puppy classes for adopters in the Eastern Sierra.

Angie Tapley says, "Dogs with behavior problems are no different than any other untrained dogs I work with. They all come to me with normal dog issues—running off, jumping up on

people, leash pulling, hyperactivity, shyness, etc. The only difference with the dogs I see is their owners. These dedicated people simply did not give up on their dogs and worked on each issue as it arose." Training is also lots of fun and builds a loving friendship with your dog.

In addition to reducing the cost of obedience classes for adopters, ICARE wants everyone who adopts a dog or puppy from the Inyo County Animal Shelter to have a free *Training Your Adopted Dog* DVD. It's just another tool to help the adopter and his new pet speak the same language. Anyone else wishing to receive this informative DVD, may make a donation to ICARE. 🐾



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Shirt back

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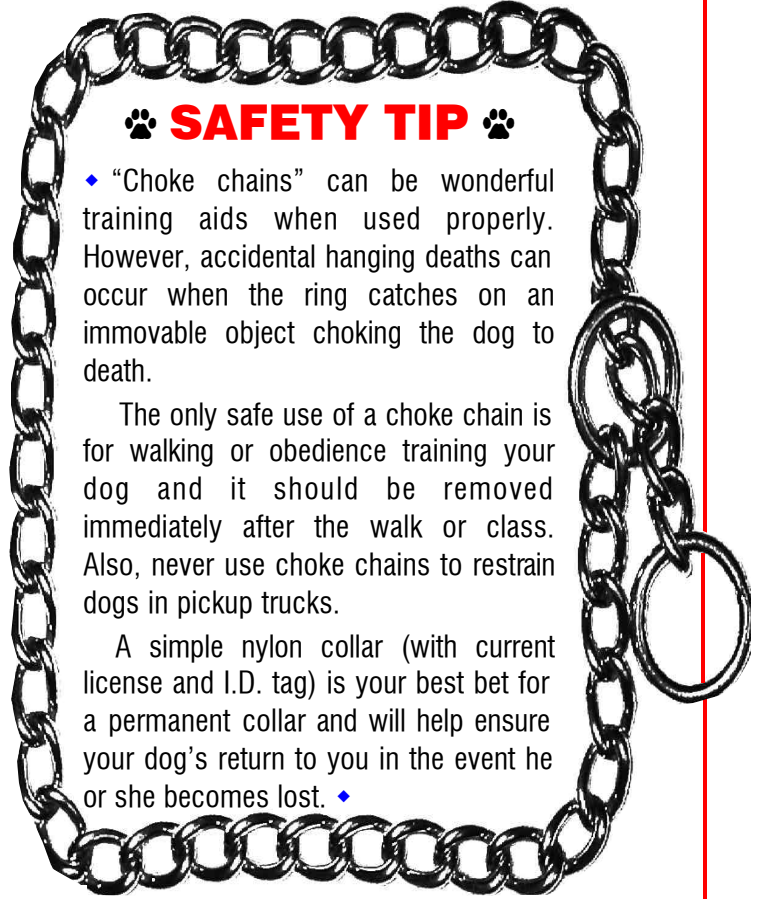
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### 🐾 SAFETY TIP 🐾

♦ "Choke chains" can be wonderful training aids when used properly. However, accidental hanging deaths can occur when the ring catches on an immovable object choking the dog to death.

The only safe use of a choke chain is for walking or obedience training your dog and it should be removed immediately after the walk or class. Also, never use choke chains to restrain dogs in pickup trucks.

A simple nylon collar (with current license and I.D. tag) is your best bet for a permanent collar and will help ensure your dog's return to you in the event he or she becomes lost. ♦



## ICARE

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🐾 Web site: [www.InyoPets.org](http://www.InyoPets.org) 🐾

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