



ICARE

News!



Inyo County Animal Resources & Education

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

Dog and Snowboarder Survive Avalanche

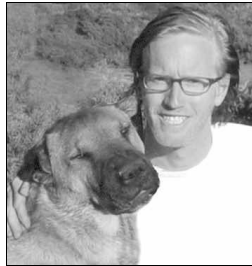
After our big storms in January, Mammoth Lakes resident, George Swiggum, his Inyo Shelter dog, Fred, and their friend, Jeremy Plum, headed for the Sherwin Ridge above Mammoth for an afternoon of back-country snowboarding. Their first run down the mountain was awesome and they had to have more. But, only a few feet into their second run, an avalanche



Fred truly is "man's best friend"

turned the beautiful powder-filled slope into a raging river of snow! George was pushed over 600 feet down the slope toward some trees. The next sound he heard was the crack of both femurs (thigh bones) snapping as he crashed into a tree at high speed with tons of snow propelling him forward.

Luckily, Jeremy and Fred had escaped the avalanche and quickly reached George, who was buried up to his chest. Jeremy dug George out, then descended the slope to call 911. Faithful Fred, stayed behind with George. "I knew I was in bad shape and getting worse with spasms sending waves of pain through my legs." Suddenly Fred



EMILY SUZUKI

started barking and miraculously George's two friends, Matt Hegeman and Aly Denk, skied up. They sacrificed a jacket and gloves and used their own bodies to keep George warm.

Three hours later, the "twak, twak, twak" of helicopter blades signaled the welcome arrival of a rescue helicopter from Fallon Naval Air Station that the Mono County Search and Rescue (SAR) team had requested. The SAR, accompanied by Jeremy and Mammoth

Mountain Ski Patrol personnel, began their hike to George. At an altitude of 9,000 feet, situated on a 60 to 70 degree slope and daylight fading, the rescue would be difficult. Hospital Corpsman, Scott Heintschel, reached George, who was semi-conscious and in shock. Scott, Matt and Aly rolled George onto a litter and he was hoisted up and into the helicopter. He was flown to the high

school where he was transferred to an ambulance and rushed to the hospital.

George's beloved dog, Fred, was frightened by the noise of the helicopter and no amount of coaxing could convince him to leave the area. With night coming, the rescue party had no choice but to leave Fred behind. The following day, a friend returned to the scene of the accident to retrieve George's gear. Imagine his amazement and joy to find Fred sitting next to the backpack waiting faithfully for his master to return. Now that's loyalty!

Flashback to last August—George is sitting in a coffee shop perusing the *Mammoth Times* newspaper when he spots Sharpei mix Fred's one-of-a-kind face in the "Pet of the Week" section. It had been five years since his old dog had passed away and George had been thinking more and more about adopting a new buddy. So he drove to the Shelter in Big Pine where he saw lots of great dogs, but he had come to meet Fred. The two took a walk around the Shelter to become better acquainted and George was impressed by Fred's calm, sweet demeanor. There was no question that this was the right dog for him and they have been inseparable ever since. The once homeless dog has shown loyalty beyond measure and is now helping George rehabilitate from his injuries. 🐾

ICARE Stitch Fund Rescues Shelter Cat



Tommy says "The ICARE Stitch Fund is a lifesaver!"

Sorry, we can't keep him any more. That's what Tom's owners said the day they brought their handsome 6-year old neutered male Siamese mix cat to Big Pine's Inyo County Animal Shelter in December. "He won't use his litter box," they explained.

Tom hadn't been at the Shelter long when the Shelter Manager spotted blood in his litter box. ICARE was contacted and agreed that the Stitch Fund could cover the cost of his veterinary visit. The fund pays medical expenses for injured or sick adoptable animals at the Inyo County Animal Shelter to give them the second chance they deserve.

Tom was transported to the Bishop Veterinary Hospital where he was diagnosed and treated for a condition of the urinary tract caused by sand-like material accumulating in the bladder and obstructing the passage of urine. He was prescribed antibiotics and special food with instructions to keep plenty of fresh drinking water available.

With a clean bill of health, the friendly cat was quickly adopted by Richard and Stephanie Simpson of Big Pine. He is now a spoiled indoor cat and their three children call him "Tommy." They are grateful that Animal Services and ICARE's Stitch Fund worked together to get Tommy the vet care he needed to become a cherished pet.

If you'd like to help other injured or ill Shelter animals, please send your lifesaving gift to the **ICARE Stitch Fund**; Box 76, Bishop, CA 93515. 🐾

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Lisa & Ted Schade

Message from the President, Ted Schade:

Your Donations to ICARE Really Help the Animals

The chart below shows how your donations to ICARE directly helped pets in need in 2004. ICARE receives no government funding. Our programs are supported by you—our members and donors. Your continued belief in our mission allows us to operate a successful Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, promote the adoption of Inyo County Shelter animals, and educate the public about responsible pet ownership.

Total program expenditures for 2004 were \$46,962 with the **Spay/Neuter Program** accounting for 77%. A total of 832 cats and dogs were sterilized last year at a cost of \$35,958 (about \$43 per animal). Since the inception of the Spay/Neuter Program in 1998, over 3,600 cats and dogs have been sterilized! This has prevented the birth of hundreds of unwanted litters and reduced Shelter impounds and euthanasias (see page 3).

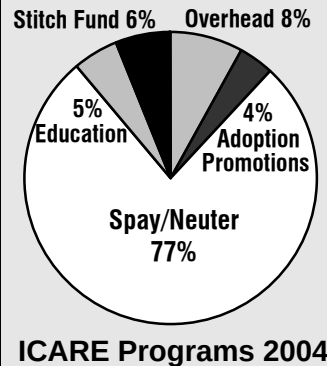
Our **Education Program** accounted for 5%

(\$2,254) of budget expenditures and provides sponsorship of classroom subscriptions to "KIND News" for local fifth/sixth grade classrooms, as well as our newsletters, which enlighten the public about local animal welfare issues and the need to find loving homes for all of our homeless pets.

Promotion of shelter animals for adoption in 2004 accounted for 4% (\$2,093) of our program budget. It would have been more if not for the generosity of the *Inyo Register*, *Sierra Reader*, *Mammoth Times*, KIBS (sponsored by Taco Bell), KSRW Radio, TV Channel 33 and Cebridge Channel 12 featuring "Shelter Pets of the Week" at no charge!

The **Stitch Fund** also funded vet care for several sick/injured Shelter animals in 2004 at a cost of \$2,685 or 6% of the budget (see Tommy's cover story). Two dogs had leg amputations, one puppy was treated for parvovirus and another for a gunshot wound.

Overhead costs of monthly telephone bills and office supplies accounted for just 8% (\$3,750) of our program budget. Because ICARE has no paid employees, **your donations go to programs that directly benefit the animals.** We doubt any other charities can top that! 



Janet York for Lionel the cat ♥ Joellin Bacon for Bob Gerster ♥ Ed & Myrle Baker for our cat Orphie ♥ Cheryl Barlow for Midnight the horse ♥ Hank & Mary Jane Bates for our dogs Bonnie & Clyde ♥ Beverly Cheeseboro for Maggie ♥ Ken & Leslie Cleland for Archie & Abbie ♥ Kathy & Jeff Cleland for our Charlie the Wonder Dog ♥ Don Constans for Pal ♥ Diana Cunningham for Kilo, Asa & Bear ♥ Bill Durbin for Virginia Kurtak ♥ Roger DeHart, Margie Fejfar & Glenna Stansifer for Patricia Hunter ♥ Nancy Fong for Inky ♥ Keri French for Mugsy and Keri French & Deb Shafer for Sprocket ♥ Bob & Gail Gribben for Cody ♥ Marvis Hamblin for Max ♥ Wayne & Gail Hayden for Zip ♥ Jim & Edna Horne for Bootsie ♥ Becky & Harry Hurdle for Abbie ♥ Sally Leeds for Keith Brownell ♥ Marty Leithold for Heidi ♥ Nita Lindsey for Squeaky ♥ Herb & Aletha London for Coco ♥ John & Donna Mackay for Jayne Dickson ♥ Mammoth Hospital for Sierra, Sophie & Mary ♥ Debbie Masters for Tessa ♥ Norm & Mel Matoza for Petra Schaubmayer ♥ Marshall Naiman for Frank Gosney ♥ Jim & Kris Nelson for Tess ♥ Bob & Glenda Newcomer for Amber & Judy Schade ♥ Gary & Reet Nickell for Crazy ♥ Bonnie Reed for Brandy ♥ Bill Rich for Jean & Scooby ♥ Ralph & Dot Rickards for Maggie ♥ Marjie & Ralph Robinson for Snow White ♥ Helene Rubenstein for Roxanne ♥ Robert Schaubmayer for Petra ♥ Mary Lou Sipherd for Amy Hughes ♥ Sue & Gary Stoutenberg for Nellie & Sasha ♥ Randy & Chris VanTassell for Sadie ♥ Ann & Dennis Wagoner for Zorro ♥ Leslie Whitmore for my mother ♥ Ann Zack for Max & Sterling



Cody Gribben



Amber Newcomer

Thank you for your Donations!

Donations of \$25 or more listed

Gary & Natalie Bailey, Jim & Rae Barnes, Jackie Jo Beck, Patsy Belinn, Vince & Jackie Billeci, Bill Bjorkland & Gayle Rosander, Frank & Tess Blackstone, Lesley Booker, Bob & JoAnn Brackett, Mike & Karen Brorson, Kathy Brown, Dave & Tina Bush, Cathy Caballero, Roberta Carlson, Nancy Cloud, Lupe Conner, Don Constans, Mary Crider, Mary Daniel-Grah, Donna Donald, Jim & Rita Greenleaf, Sam Grinnan, Sherry Grob, Carroll & Vern Hambleton, Scott & Misty Hanye, George & Diane Hoffman, M.C. Hubbard, Doris Ives, Jean Jarvis, Lisa & Julian Jimenez, Robin & Chris Johnston, Leah Kirk, Cheryl Knight, Erika Kroenlein, Phyllis Kruger, Terry Lee, Craig & Carmen London, Andrea Loven, D.J. Loyd, Joanie Lubeck, J. Bradley Materick, Cathy McCay-Powell, Kathie McFedries, Robert Meador, Shirley & Vince Montefusco, Pat & Ed Nahin, Alice Nicoll, Jim & Laura Paulus, Cheryl Perez, Mark & Jan Peterson, Janie Reeves, Nancy Richardson, Tae Sainte John, Paula Sam, Ted & Lisa Schade, Jeanette Schneider, Walt & Cassie Schober, Jeff & Mollie Scott, Jim & Andrea Shallcross, Bob & Marcella Siefken, Donna Smith, Virginia Smith, Peggy Steffen, Taco Bell, Fred Thompson, Ruby Tonkin, Wes & Betty Ulrich, Robert & Vickie Waggoner, Dick & Karen Warren, Jackie Willoughby, Sandy & Bob Winzenread, Kathy Zack, Harry & Patti Zappe, Zack Ziegler

Stitch Fund:

Beverly Cheeseboro, Aurora Eden, Diane Moore, Pat & Ed Nahin, Marvin & Rosalie Nelligan, Jeanene Ross, Jeanette Schneider, Greg & Jennifer Taylor, Darryl & Sonia Truelsen, Jenny Wilson

Memorial donations:

♥ Anne Stanley, Joe Stanley, Diana Cunningham. Ken Reed, Ted & Lisa Schade, Deanna Ing-Campbell & Jeanne Walter for Bill Stanley ♥ Judy Clay, Jane Ellen Curry, John & Susan Gonzales, Joyce & Kneif Wilson &

Honorarium donations:

♥ Richard Bustos for Charlotte Rodrigues ♥ Diana Cunningham for Abigail ♥ Jim Henry for Dr. Kathleen Sexton ♥ Sandy & Gale Holbrook for Officer David Alexander & Symons Ambulance EMT's ♥ Karen & Steve Ingram for Jasper ♥ June Lang for Jingle Belle's 11th birthday ♥ Marty Leithold for Molly ♥ Terri Parks for Ann Wong ♥ Carol & Frank Santone for Rags ♥ Nancy Wallan for Pat Nahin's birthday ♥ Carol Wells for Gimpy ♥ Gary & Betty Williamson for all pets at Christmas ♥ Ann Zack for Tom & Kathryn Zack's birthdays ♥

Another Great Year for Eastern Sierra Pets

This past year was another winner for cats and dogs of the Eastern Sierra! Inyo County Animal Shelter adoptions were way up, impounds were down and, most importantly, euthanasias were low. As shown on the graph below (stats provided by Inyo County Animal Control), 970 cats and dogs were put to sleep at the Inyo County Animal Shelter in 1996—the year before ICARE was



Crystal was adopted by the Blackstones

founded. But, by the end of 2004 that number dropped to 103. We believe one is too many, but an **89% decrease in the number of animals put to sleep** is good news! In addition, the number of **animals impounded at the Shelter decreased 50%** (from 1,164 in 1996 to 591 in 2004) and there's more great news—**adoptions were up an incredible 246%** (from 82 in 1996 to 284 in 2004).

We believe this dramatic turn-around is due to ICARE's Spay/Neuter Program. Seven years ago we began offering low cost spay/neuter surgeries to pet owners in need and, since then, **over 3,600 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered.**

That's hundreds of unwanted litters that weren't born that could have gone on to produce litters of their own. ICARE advocates the preventative approach (spaying/neutering) to pet overpopulation.

Of course, the Spay/Neuter Program would not be nearly as successful without the **Bishop Veterinary Hospital and Sierra Veterinary Clinic**

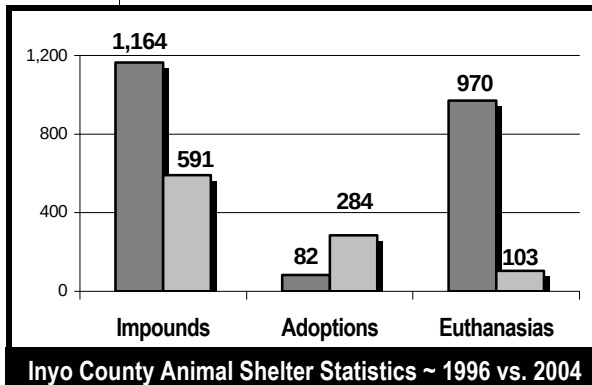
discounting the cost of the surgeries, which stretches our donor dollars that much further. And, let's not forget, without the support of our members and donors there would be no Spay/Neuter Program at all. Your donations allow us to subsidize the cost of the sterilization surgeries.

ICARE is a non-profit organization with no paid employees, no office rental (office space is donated by Ted and Lisa Schade) and we receive no government funding. We rely on the kindness of our

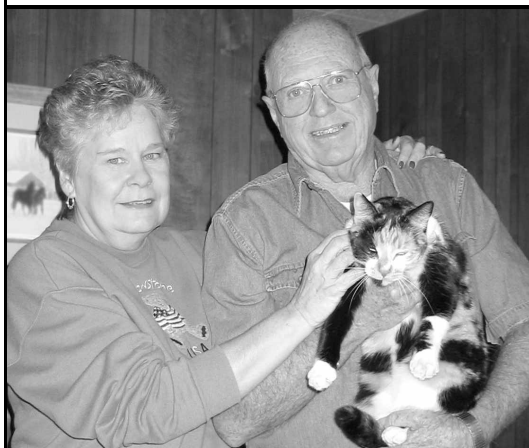
members and supporters to keep each of our animal welfare programs going strong.

Other valued partners in our success include Inyo County Animal Services staff, all the folks who adopt shelter pets and the local media: *Inyo Register*, *Mammoth Times*, *The Sierra Reader*, Cebridge Connections, KSRW Radio/TV, and KIBS/KBOV Radio who generously promote Inyo County Shelter animals available for adoption. They have saved the lives of countless homeless animals.

We can all be proud of the strides made these past few years for companion animals in need. Let's continue the compassionate work we've begun for cats and dogs until one day we can say that "no adoptable pet had to be put to sleep in the Eastern Sierra." Together we can make the dream a reality. 🐾



Purr-serverance Pays Off for Abigail and her Adopters



Donna and John Mackay with their Shelter cat, Abigail

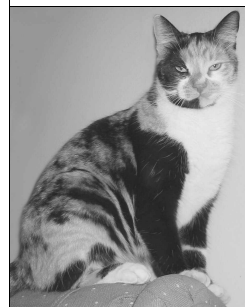
Once you've owned a Calico, it seems you always have a soft spot for them. At least that was the case for Donna Mackay of Bishop who had a Calico cat twenty years ago. She had asked to be notified if one came into the Inyo County Animal Shelter and it wasn't long before she was invited to

come and meet the newest arrival. She was a scrawny mama-cat who had just weaned her kittens and was a bit worse for wear. Donna's heart immediately went out to her. So she and her husband, John, adopted the little Calico and named her Abigail.

They already had a 10-year old cat, Samantha, at home and proceeded with caution when introducing the new cat, keeping the two separated for several days before introducing them. It was clear their shy, older cat ("declawed in the days before we knew better," Donna says) was intimidated by the scrappy street-smart interloper.

John and Donna admit they endured several nerve-racking weeks of Abigail chasing and intimidating their dear old Samantha. There were many days they were ready to give up and return Abigail to the Shelter. One day, desperate for an answer, Donna called ICARE and was reassured that, if given time, almost all

cats will learn to live in harmony and encouraged the Mackays to hang in there a while longer. Sure enough, Abigail did become calmer day by day. Now, believe it or not, both cats can actually be found lying peacefully together on the bed!



Abigail is a real beauty

John and Donna think Abigail had a tough life before arriving at the Shelter, which may have made her more defensive, but they believe nearly all cats can become good pets with patient and understanding owners. It helps if the owners have a genuine love of cats and all their characteristics, including their quirks. The Mackays say the reward is giving a formerly homeless cat a safe, loving home with people who treasure her. 🐾

You Are Invited

Catered by:



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9th Annual Fundraising Dinner Saturday 🐾 April 16 🐾 6:00 pm Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop

Please join us for a grilled steak dinner (or meatless dinner) catered by Whiskey Creek and sponsored by Union Bank. There will be door prizes, an auction, and a Raffle for choice of two get-aways or a Zuma Scooter (see coupon on right).

Proceeds benefit: ICARE's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, Education Program and Shelter adoption promotion

Dinner Tickets: Adults - \$12 🐾 Children under 12 - \$6

Tickets on sale at the following locations:

Spellbinder Books, Bee Gee Beauty Supply or
Mountain High Video or call ICARE at 760-872-3802



ICARE



2005 Fundraising Raffle

WIN YOUR CHOICE OF A \$2,000 PRIZE OR \$1,000 CASH!

Drawing to be held **April 16, 2005** at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Winner need not be present to win.



Yamaha
Zuma Scooter



4-Days at Double
Eagle Resort in
June Lake



7-Day Alaskan Cruise

***Raffle Tickets: \$10 each or 3/\$25**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____ CHECK PAYABLE TO ICARE

***Dinner tickets are sold separately (see ad on left)**

Complete form & return w/check (before April 5th)
to: **ICARE ❖ P.O. BOX 76 ❖ BISHOP, CA 93515**

ICARE

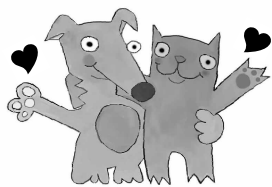
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and save a Life!**



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on County Road
in Big Pine**

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