



For Pets' Sake Humane Society

The Companion

JULY 2022

Supporting Planned Pethood: Volunteers working to improve the lives of companion animals in Montezuma & Dolores Counties, Colorado

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facebook page.**

It's Membership Drive Time Again!

Each year in early June, we send out membership packets, and request your continued support. This year your membership is **more important** than ever. With your support FPS has made it through several difficult years. We know it has been hard on all of us, but it has been especially hard on the animals. Many pets could not get to a vet, and now there are unwanted puppies and kittens. Many animals were adopted to provide companionship during quarantine, and then abandoned when life returned to "normal."

Now we are all being hit by economic stress. FPS feels this stress in many ways. Demands for pet food, both owned and feral, have gone up considerably as people are unable to afford the cost of feeding their animals. Meanwhile our food costs are going up as well. So far this year we have fostered 86 kittens, compared to last year's same-period number of 57, and there are currently 11 litters on the foster waiting list. The feral cat program is moving along at high speed, having trapped and spayed or neutered 221 cats to date this year, compared to 121 this time last year. The FPS dog program had barely re-booted last year and to date this year 42 dogs and puppies have found their forever homes (see the article in this newsletter).

You, as a member, are connected to every one of these animals because your caring and support make the work of FPS possible. One person can't possibly pay what it takes to assist all of the local pets in need, but when we put our individual donations together we really can make a difference.

One way we keep you up to date as a member is the newsletter. It's our way to keep you involved in the stories of the animals you have helped. You can also learn about events and activities that are important to you, and opportunities for you to volunteer and get involved even more in the FPS mission.

Be sure to remember your furry friend(s). You can honor your best friend(s) with a Pet Membership, or you can highlight your business with a Business Membership. The membership form also has ways to sign up for volunteer opportunities (bake sales and the yard sale are coming up) and additional ways to help with important FPS programs, such as Feral Cat, Fosters In Need Now, Immediate Care, or by helping assure FPS' sustainability through the Endowment Fund.

Once a year, we ask you to join us. If you have not received your membership packet in the mail, please call 970-565-7387, or go to the FPS website, www.forpetsakehs.org where you may renew your membership on line. Please be as generous as you can because the animals need us more than ever now.

Together, we can do so much more. Please renew your membership today.



The Story of Stark and Cowboy

As told by Debbie Davis, FPS Dog Program Coordinator

FPS was contacted in May by a family that lived in a rural area with two adult dogs that needed to be re-homed. Both were neutered males and had lived with the family for years. Stark is a 5 year-old Lab mix, and Cowboy is a 7 year-old Aussie/Heeler. My heart always sinks a little when we get this type of call because finding rescue partner placement for large, older dogs who are a bonded pair, is always challenging. The family wanted to re-home them because Stark was so friendly that he would find his way over to neighboring farms and even busy roads looking for attention from people, and Cowboy would follow him. The family did not have a fenced yard, so to keep them safe, the two dogs were relegated to a very small dog run. The family had very young children and not much time to spend with the boys, so they were on their own a lot. I went out to meet them and they were both so sweet and friendly, did great with other dogs, and ignored the family cats. They were just too friendly for their own good! Their vaccinations had expired, so FPS was able to get them current at a local vet in preparation for transfer to a rescue partner. We sent their story out, along with a few photos and video to rescues and shelters in other parts of Colorado. Ellen at Telluride Humane Society was the first to respond, saying she wanted to help these two boys. She shared them on her Facebook page, and offered to have Cowboy and Stark meet potential adopters during a puppy adoption event in Telluride the following weekend. While scrambling to find a transporter willing to take them to Telluride, as well as hang out for a few hours during the event, Joe and Suzanne Butterfield stepped up almost immediately. A family from Grand Junction saw Ellen's Facebook post, and made plans to attend the event in hopes of fostering at least one of the boys. Cowboy and Stark had been living mostly outside, and there was some concern they wouldn't present too well since they were kind of dirty and without the benefit of any type of grooming, especially alongside a bunch of cute 8-week-old puppies. Thankfully, it was love at first sight for the Grand Junction family, and once they met Stark and Cowboy and saw how bonded they were, they made the decision to foster both of them.

Fast forward a few weeks and the family can't imagine life without these two beautiful boys. They get to hang out in the house with the family, they are allowed on the furniture to cuddle, and they get to be with their people all the time. The family was so taken with the boys they made the decision to adopt them both! Now Stark and Cowboy are permanent members of their new family, and they get to stay together! It's a fairy tale ending for two sweet, older dogs with few options. The first picture is Cowboy and Stark in their pen when we first met them. The second photo is Stark and Cowboy today on the couch in their new home. Along with her new photo, their new owner sent the following message to Ellen:

"The boys are really doing well. They have settled in and we have a routine, which they know and keep me on now. We go for 3-5 mile walks everyday and they are so smart and well behaved."



I'm SO GLAD that we have Cowboy too. I took him for some extra grooming and they were separated for the first time for about three hours. When I brought Cowboy home, they carried on like they hadn't seen each other in years. I can't imagine not having them both now.

The only item: it makes me sad for them when we're walking and they see a parked truck; they sometimes run up to the back and want to jump in. I try to take them in the car when I'm going through a drive through (we'll do more during cooler weather) or sometimes to the dog park, so they can go for a ride (and play with other dogs a bit). They probably miss not being able to just roam free past more than our yard whenever they want. On the other hand, when I let them outside, I usually have to go outside and walk around with them to get them to empty their bladders. On that subject, I don't think I've visited our bathroom by myself since they've arrived. LOL We love these guys, Ellen. They have gotten to know all our neighbors' dogs, and some neighbors, and they are loved by everyone. Thank you for doing what you do!"

And Thank YOU for making it possible through YOUR support of FPS and the FPS Dog Program.



BERGEN SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC



Through our Colorado Pet Overpopulation Grant (CPOF), For Pets' Sake will underwrite 70 dogs fixed at the Bergen Spay/Neuter Clinic. The clinic will be held Sunday, July 10 through Thursday, July 14 at the Cortez Animal Shelter. The cost per animal is **\$45**, and **includes** spay/neuter, vaccinations, and a microchip. The balance of the actual cost is underwritten by our grant and Mile High Canine Rescue. This is a great opportunity for those who have been unable to get a spay/neuter appointment with a local vet. Appointments must be made online here: <https://bit.ly/3t6zerj>.

In addition to providing financial assistance to the clinic, FPS has been asked to reach out to our members to enlist volunteers. The Cortez Shelter is short-staffed and cannot assist with the clinic, and many volunteers are needed to make the clinic happen. Clinic hours are 7-5, each day, and any time segment you can volunteer will be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed for intake/discharge, recovery, laundry, as runners, cleaning surgical instruments, and even photography. Help is also needed for set up on the afternoon of July 8, and breakdown late afternoon on July 14. If you are interested in volunteering please call Kristin at: 303-867-2247, or email her at kristin@bergenspayandneuter.org. A light breakfast and hearty lunch are provided to all volunteers.

You may wonder, What about cats? Based on availability, spay/neuter will also be offered for cats on Thursday, July 14. You will need to make an appointment online. The FPS grant will help to underwrite cats as well.

This is a great opportunity to help animals in our area live a longer and healthier life. Please spread the word to those who will benefit from this clinic, and please sign up to volunteer. Thank YOU.

FPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PENNIES FOR PETS: Coming up on July 2nd at the Farmers Market Community Booth. Be part of the tradition. Bring in the heavy metal and the dollars too. No amount is too small or too large. FPS members look forward to seeing **YOU** at the booth on Saturday.

YARD SALE: It's coming up! Start saving all those special items. We will be taking early donations, so watch the Newsletter for more details. Yard Sale dates are September 21-24, in the Beef Barn at the Fairgrounds.

BOARD MEETINGS: July 21 and August 18, 2022

Meetings are held at a Board member's home at 6:30 pm, so please call 565-PETS and leave a message for directions if you would like to attend a meeting. Members are always welcome!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Bring your favorite picnic dish to share and join FPS for our annual membership meeting. Meet your Board members. Learn all that has happened over the year. Find out why your membership is so important. Drinks will be provided. See you at the picnic pavilion in City Park on August 21 at 1 pm. Please join us.

BAKE SALES ARE BACK!!! FPS has dates confirmed for Halloween and Christmas Bake Sales at City Market. All our wonderful bakers will once again be able to wow us with their goodies. Be sure to save the dates: October 29 for the Halloween sale, and December 17 for the Christmas sale. Items available from 9 am till we run out, which could be really quick after such a long hiatus.



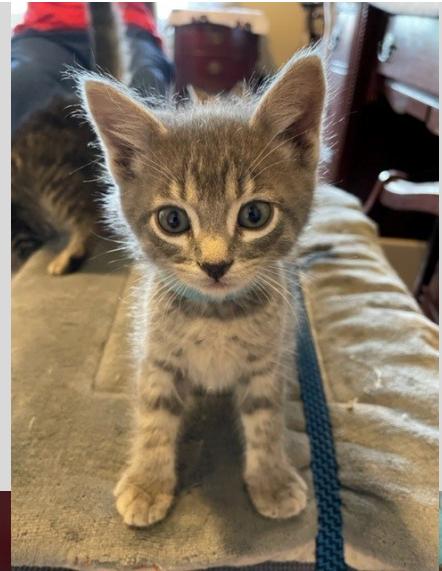
KITTEN SPONSORS

In our April Newsletter we asked for YOUR help to cover kitten medical costs. Ten generous members answered the call. Your help is much appreciated by both the kittens and FPS.

Here is the list of kitten sponsors, and of course we had to add in a lot of cute kitten pictures.



Sadie Pace
Mary Shultz
Silvia Lowe
Rachel Ficken
Jewell Fugate
Gina Morris
Liz Markum
Rhonda Binkly
Gail Binkly
Vickie Duncan



Summer is an important time to consider pet safety. You may remember much of this page from last July's For Pets' Sake newsletter. We feel it contains some important and timely information, so here it is again...

HAZARDS of SUMMER



FLEAS, TICKS & CHEATGRASS : Keep your pets well-groomed and be on the lookout for excessive scratching or licking which may indicate problems. Topical flea and tick medication can be costly but important for your pets' comfort and health. Avoid cheatgrass by keeping your pets away from dry grassy areas. These troublesome barbed seed pods can be found anywhere on the body, working their way through skin, causing serious infection and requiring Veterinary care ASAP!



FIREWORKS & THUNDER: Keep your pets away from Fireworks! Pets can become frightened and disoriented by this noisy summer activity. Animal shelters around the nation report a dramatic increase in lost pets July 4th. Summer storms also bring loud and scary thunder. Keep your pets leashed or better yet, bring them safely indoors.

For Pets' Sake sells Thundershirts for \$40, with \$20 going directly to our organization. Thundershirts work by hugging the body, and this physically calms most dogs and cats. They are guaranteed to reduce the symptoms of anxiety or your money back.

Relax and call (970) 565-PETS to order one today!



Heat & Hot Cars: Protect your pets from the dangers of summer weather. High temperatures put your pet at risk for heat stroke, which can become deadly very quickly.

Never leave your pet in a parked car, even if the day doesn't seem that warm. On an 85 degree day the temperature inside a car – *even with the windows cracked* – can rocket to 102 degrees within just 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120!



Make sure your pet is wearing a Collar and I.D. Tag

All pets, even those kept indoors full-time, should always wear collars with identification tags. Better yet, MICROCHIP! Indoor only pets can become so frightened by fireworks or storms that they take desperate measures to escape the noise, including breaking through windows or screen doors.

KEEP COOL & have FUN this SUMMER!



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS, AND TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

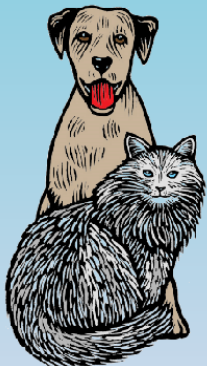
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