



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006

JANUARY / FEBRUARY
2006 ACTIVITY
REPORT:

Dogs/puppies adopted: 42
Cats/Kittens adopted: 19
Lost cats: 12
Found cats: 6
Resolved: 4

euthanized. They contacted us for help with the then one week old puppies, and as usual, help arrived! (Bless all of you who responded!)

Sharon Ryan, bravely volunteered to take on 5 (which turned into 6!) of them, and what follows is a little about her adventure in Puppy-Land.

Here they are at 12 days old:

EARS NEW LOOK:

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Suzie deDisse for designing this beautiful new EARS logo. Big improvement Suzie, nice work!

WONDERFUL PUPPIES STORY:

In mid-February, I sent out an email asking for help to foster a litter of 8 puppies. A kind veterinary hospital had contacted us, a man had brought in the fatally-ill Mom dog with the puppies, wanting them all



I next got a report from her on Feb. 27th that said:

“life is good... we went to a 6 hour feeding schedule about 5 days ago and I load them up at night so I get about 7 hours of sleep. They are all between 2 and 3 pounds, they have teeth and are starting to play and bark. They all walk well and are starting to investigate past their comfort space by their box. They can definitely cry. We have a vet appointment on Tuesday for their first worming. We are also going to start weaning them off formula and onto puppy food. We have had two approved families and I think the rest will go fast. Actually I don't think we would mind if it takes a bit longer then 8 weeks to place them. We get them for the really fun and cute time. They certainly bring a lot of laughter to our house. They are getting more playful with our 3 yr lab Ruby and it is cute to watch her tolerate them crawling and chewing all over her.
Sharon”

On March 26th, I got the following pictures and note:



“Could you send the word out that we have a pen now if anyone would need it for fostering purposes. We took a roll of vinyl as the floor and then took plywood to make the walls. It is a 4x 8 x 2 ft high pen. We had it in our living room and it worked great for the puppies. So if anyone ever needs to use it.... they can just give me a call..

Sharon
PS.. all puppies have homes and will be going to their homes by Tuesday..”

Big, big thanks to you Sharon, for taking on these little ones and giving them such a great start in the world after their very sad beginning. If anyone is interested in the pen she mentioned, you can contact Sharon at (303) 679-8751.

* * * * *

THE ANIMAL EMERGENCY TEAM NEEDS MORE MEMBERS

by Suzie deDisse

If there were an emergency of any duration, The Animal Emergency Team does not have enough volunteers to staff a temporary animal shelter 24 hours a day.

The Animal Emergency Team will, under the direction of Jefferson County Animal Control, establish a temporary shelter at a Red Cross shelter to care for the pets belonging to people who have been evacuated and are staying at the Red Cross site. Our shelter would be an alternative to having pets living in hot vehicles in order for their owners to keep them from harm's way.

Training courses are offered, most of which are optional. There is no need to know pet first aid; a vet or vet tech will be on duty at the shelter. A sheriff's officer will be on duty for night shifts. Red Cross will provide the meals, and Animal Control officers will be in and out of the facility. We have the supplies to care for 35 animals, and access to more if there is a need.

We only need you!

If you are interested in joining the AET, or know someone who might be, please get in touch with Suzie deDisse, (303) 674-4121, or c1suzie2@comcast.net for more Information. The AET does not require membership in both our organizations.

WE DON'T NEED A HORSE TRAILER

but we do need a small trailer that would hold about 250 cubic feet, that is enclosed and in good condition, to store and transport the supplies for the Animal Emergency Team's temporary shelter. We can provide a tax receipt and undying gratitude! Contact Suzie deDisse, (information above).

Thank you!!!

* * * * *

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We have three new volunteers that I'd like to welcome, **Patty Esperance, Pat Nichols and Theresa Gray**. They are much-needed telephone volunteers, and ladies, we sure appreciate you, welcome and THANK YOU for all you do!

* * * * *

"The great thing about bumper stickers is they give proud parents a chance to boast about their children. The driver of the pickup in front of me was no different. His bumper sticker crowed "My Australian Cattle Dog Is Smarter Than Your Honor Student".

Stewart Beucker

* * * * *

VET APPRECIATION DAY

Every year on Valentine's Day, a group of industrious EAPL Egg Salad Sandwich Elves meet and create egg salad sandwiches and other wonderful goodies for delivery to

our local dedicated veterinarians and their staff, to show our appreciation. About a million eggs are boiled and peeled (can you imagine that chore??) The sandwiches are made and wrapped, and everything is set out on tables - potato chips, pickles, a dessert, some candies, etc. Everything is placed into paper bags and then the bags decorated with all manner of festive ribbons and wishes for a happy Valentine's Day. They are then delivered right before lunchtime. It is a huge effort, but the Elves don't let that bother them, they have fun anyway. At last, here is a picture of some of them. Thank you Elves, for all your hard work!



From left to right, bottom row: Ginny Reiss, Colleen Taylor, Karen MacFarquhar, Glenda Smith, Maria Gallegos, Jackie Bell. Top row: Marian Reeves and that's Isobel McQuiston you can barely see behind Jackie.

* * * * *

EARS Spotlights Anna Gerstenkorn **By Edgar Allen Paw**

It all started with a Q-tip...not the cotton swab...the kitten! Andra Gerstenkorn, better known as Gert, wanted to adopt him & called the E.A.P.L. When she learned he was no longer available, she offered to volunteer instead. "The rest," Gert says, "is history."

For three years she has been chauffeuring cats to & from Dr. Van's clinic in Denver when needed. Most of Gert's League time is spent working in the cat room, which always includes kissing each & every cat there, even if they don't like it! Clearly a "cat person," she giggles when she tells how she even got her brother, a "dog person," to occasionally help out there too.

Gert enjoys sharing the story of Whiskers, a sweet kitty abandoned behind Chow Down in a filthy crate. When she found him, she cleaned him up, fed him & helped make him feel warm, comfortable & loved in the cat room ...with many welcoming kisses, of course!

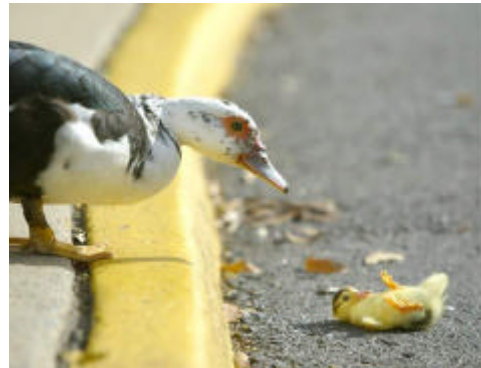
Gert wishes she could do more, but as she admits, "my 'real job' interferes with my volunteering!" She is a property accountant/specialist with the Bureau of Land Management, where she gets to do quite a bit of traveling. Although she loves Colorado, Gert's favorite work destination is Alaska. On her last trip she saw three grizzly bears in their natural habitat! She feels so lucky to have a wonderful career doing what she believes in.

Kansas State & Emporia State Universities are where Gert earned three college degrees. She was born & raised in a "booming metropolis" called Athol (population 50!) in North Central Kansas. "Growing up we had many pets," she explains. "My mom was strictly against animals in the house, but sometimes the cats came in for milk. Stray dogs would come from miles around to locate me, & after feeding them bread & lunch meat, they normally stayed." At one point Gert & her family had three dogs, two rabbits & thirty cats! Wild critters that needed care were not to be ignored by Gert either. She has also been known to rescue injured squirrels, starving foxes & nests of baby birds too... "anything that needed saving."

Currently Gert's household consists of what she calls "the world's most spoiled ex-Tom cats, Bear & Tigger." Bear is described as a very cantankerous eleven year old black long-haired boy, & Tigger as a sweet & gregarious red tabby. Gert tells how the six year old is her "in-house entertainment. Tigger showers with me every day, waits on the bath mat to be towel dried & then holds up his paws for lotion...seriously!"

Each of us in the League seriously agree that we appreciate our Gert. She's genuine, generous, & she's great! She has shared how blessed she feels to work with such an amazingly big-hearted & caring group of people. We thank you, Anna Gerstenkorn, for all you do for the E.A.P.L..

* * * * *



* * * * *

HANNAH'S BAKE SALE

Last January, we were contacted by a 9 year old girl named Hannah Wood, she wanted to know what she could do to help the animals. She proposed a bake sale at her school with the proceeds to be donated to us and after getting a go, she started organizing!

The sale was held on February 8th, at King-Murphy Elementary School, and this little girl generated the whopping sum of \$185 ! And this

was with sales mostly to the other kids! She also put up a poster board with pictures of the animals that were available for adoption, and that generated some calls to the League. Hannah said in an email to me that she was going to try to get her Mom to "let me have one - (or two, or seven, or twelve!)"

This is one amazing little girl with a heart of gold, I sure hope she stays in the area when she grows up, because I want her to be an EAPL volunteer! Here's a picture of Hannah, after presenting her check to volunteer Deb Hundemer, and accepting our Certificate of Appreciation.



* * * * *

PAWFEST

To celebrate EAPL's upcoming 25th anniversary, we're putting on a really fun event that you won't want to miss. It's called Pawfest, and it will be Saturday June 24th, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in Heritage Grove Park, by the museum. We hope for a good turnout, and we do need volunteers - if you can help please contact **Marge North** at (303) 670-4484. We will be inviting everyone who has adopted a dog

through us in the last year or so. There will be fly ball, agility, K-9 Police Dogs, the Code 3 Mobile Command Vehicle (more on that later) and we'll possibly have a maze.

There will be a dog/person look-alike contest, a costume contest for dogs and we'd love to have a Frisbee demonstration - if you know of a dog that could do one of these for us, please let us know! It doesn't work for cats to come, so for them there will be a cat photo contest.

Please plan on coming, tell anyone you know that has adopted from us recently to come and bring their new dog! And don't forget to volunteer to help if you can!

* * * * *

IT WAS MEANT TO BE:

I spoke recently with Carol Goldstein, who told me the most wonderful story. Last September, Carol was in Chow Down to buy food, and noticed the group of four very tiny kittens in the cage. There were 2 black and 2 tabbies, and she zeroed in on one of the tabbies, named Zipper- he had a middle toe missing, just like the Star Trek Mr. Spock "live long and prosper" hand sign! It reminded Carol of a cat she had long ago, he had the same toe missing, and she wished she could adopt Zipper that very day. But she was still grieving for a cat who had recently passed away and didn't feel like she was ready to adopt another cat just yet.

But, as the title says, it was meant to be. Several months later she was in the cat room, and there Zipper was again! Due to a series of events, he had not been available for adoption during that time, and had just put into the cat room recently.

So, Carol adopted him, and Zipper, now known as Bodhi Spencer Spock and called Bodhi, has joined Ernie (who was also adopted from us, previously named Nacho) where they live in harmony. Ernie really loves Bodhi they are most often seen together. Bodhi also gets along with Greycie the Greyhound and Allie, a female

kitty. Thank you Carol, for making it possible for Bodhi to indeed, "live long and prosper".



Bodhi



Best buddies - Bodhi and Ernie
For more of Carol's great pictures, see page 9

* * * * *

I came across this on my computer recently, I had forgotten I wrote it. Our kitty, Kofi was then 10 months old.

KITTY LOVE
by Linda Hauser
2-14-96

It's special, this kitty love.

We're learning about each other, Kofi and I
What's OK, what's not.
I don't touch his ears, and he doesn't bite me.
Well, not very much,
kitten memories can be short.

He gets to sleep on my pillow, in my hair,
in exchange for putting me to sleep
by softly purring near my ear.
Warm kitten breath
and soft warm paws on my neck.
It's quite wonderful.

He's learned that Michael is the Play Guy
and I am for Cuddles.
He loves play time, and endures Cuddles.

His choices are unpredictable.
I pay \$4.95 at the pet store for a cat toy
which he abandons in a flash for
a piece of a carrot found on the kitchen floor.

He has chosen a cardboard box as his home
moved in, like a hermit crab.
He keeps things there - some his, some mine.

He is forgiving, doesn't hold it against me
when I don't see him, and step on a paw
with my big feet.
They must seem huge to him.

He doesn't seem to mind the disparity in our
sizes, or that I am mostly hairless.
He's even interested in the way my breath smells
in the morning.

He knows it's his job to greet me at the door,
and he does - if he's not busy doing something
like napping, or chewing a book.

We interest each other, Kofi and I.

We'll go through life together,
His, unfortunately,
probably shorter than mine.

But what a time we will have.

* * * * *

CODE 3 COMMAND VEHICLE:

Previously I mentioned the Code 3 Mobile
Command Vehicle - be sure and go see this if
you're at Pawfest - from what I've read, it's
amazing. On their website, it's described as
follows: "BART (Big Animal Rescue Truck)
was designed with one goal in mind: to
support and extend the ability of any
agency or organization to effectively
accomplish its mission in disaster or
emergency." If you'd like to know more, (and
it's very interesting) visit their website at
<http://host147.ipowerweb.com/~code3ass/mcv.html>

* * * * *

WARNING: COCOA MULCH

I want to thank **Cindy Clark** for forwarding on the following information regarding a garden product called *Cocoa Mulch*. There is further information about it on the Snopes Urban Legends page, which does indeed verify that it is true. Here's the website if you'd like to read more:

<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoa.htm>



Yesterday, one of our clients experienced a tragedy and wanted me to pass a special message along to all of my dog loving friends and family. I was hoping you could forward this to your contact list. My client was the doting owner of two young lab/golden retriever mixes. Over the weekend, they purchased Cocoa Mulch from Target to use in their garden.

They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. They set the bag in their yard. Their dog Calypso, decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat so she broke into it and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical of her when she would get into something she shouldn't have gotten in to.

She was not acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure

and died instantly. Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company's website, this product is **HIGHLY toxic to dogs**. Denise (Calypso's mom) wanted me to pass this information along so no one had to experience the same tragedy she went through.

In Loving Memory of Calypso. Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that "It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it." True information about the mulch can be found here - <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoa.htm>

This site gives the following information: Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called "Theobromine". It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Just a word of caution ? check what you are using in your gardens and be aware of what your gardeners are using in your gardens. Theobromine is the ingredient that is used to make all chocolate ? especially dark or baker's chocolate ? which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline.

A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine. Please click here to email the manufacturer and request that accurate information about this product be posted on the packaging to avoid further tragedy. And please include Calypso's family in

your prayers. Such tragedy is shocking, made so much worse by the fact that it could have been avoided had the manufacturers taken some responsibility for their product.

**Thank You.
Cherri White**

Maya

www.windowofthesky.com

www.coldmountainakitas.com

* * * * *

ABOVE AND BEYOND:

This month's award goes to **Bev and Kerry Endsley**, who got up in the middle of the night to go help round up 16 bunnies that had been dumped at Lair Of the Bear. In only one week, Bev and Kerry had seen to it that all of them had been spayed/neutered, fairly well litter-box trained, and 5 of them adopted out! 6 of them are on our website, and around May 1st, Jill's babies will be ready for adoption. What a huge undertaking, thank you so much Bev and Kerry, for your unceasing willingness to get involved and help bunnies in any way you can. You are amazing!

For those of you who do not happen to know this, Bev is an incredible artist. She has done, among other things, beautiful paintings of rabbits. If you'd like to see them, here's her website:

<http://www.beverlyendsley.com>



Bev and friend

* * * * *

Speaking of bunnies, this is the time of year that Bev and Kerry do everything they can to remind people to Make Theirs Chocolate! What follows is their advice:

**A BUNNY FOR EASTER?
MAKE MINE CHOCOLATE!!!**

This time each year, the adorable baby bunnies in pet stores charm hundreds of people. Why not buy one? They are cute and cuddly, will be a great way to teach small children responsibility and how much trouble could they be? WRONG!

The very sad truth is that these little bunnies are WAY too young to be away from their Moms and litter- mates and are often in poor health. By purchasing a bunny, you are simply encouraging this inhumane activity to continue. There are also a few facts that you should consider:

1. Yes, they are cute and cuddly, but in about 3 or 4 months you will discover that s/he has a mind of his own. At this age, males need to be neutered or they will begin to spray and might even get a little aggressive. At 6 months, females need to be spayed to prevent uterine cancer and calm the every 30 day nesting frenzy. At this age they are often dumped or let go to live in the wild. **THEY WILL NOT SURVIVE.**
2. Rabbits are a poor choice of companion for a young child. The skeletal structure of a rabbit is very delicate and a child can easily injure the rabbit by picking him up improperly. This may also cause the child to get scratched.
3. The new bunny requires fresh hay and water at all times, and a salad and pellets daily. As a prey animal, the best place for them (and you) is inside your home. They need to have their litter box cleaned regularly and their nails clipped approx. every 6 wks. This is way too much responsibility for a young child.

- Left outside they are open to all types of dangers and can quickly become another chore. Inside, they quickly become a cherished family member.

Knowing all of this, why would anyone want a bunny? BECAUSE THEY ARE WONDERFUL COMPANIONS! So, don't buy one for Easter, **ADOPT ONE FOR LIFE**. You can start learning about rabbits by checking out the House Rabbit Society web site – www.coloradohrs.com. My favorite informational book is the "House Rabbit Handbook – How to Live with an Urban Rabbit" by Marinell Harriman. Remember, rabbits mate for life so a neutered pair is the best way to go. Children can be properly supervised and **together** you can care for the bunnies and share a wonderful experience. The joy and laughter that you will received from these little furry companions will out weight any of the extra effort that proper bunny care requires.

* * * * *

CAT ROOM MEWS

by Ginny Reiss

Spring has finally sprung in the cat room! The back door is open and the cats are enjoying sitting in the sun and feeling those warm breezes tickle their whiskers. No doubt we're going to have more cold weather but this has been a nice respite for our furry friends.

We are fast approaching kitten season. If you might have an interest in becoming a foster home for kittens before they are old enough to be adopted we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ginny at vandmreiss@aol.com or Teresa at fordedit@aol.com to get more details.

Please stop by and meet the cats we have for adoption now. We have quite a diverse group with us - from our 2 young, spunky and beautiful Maine Coon cats to our oldest orange and white resident who regally oversees what all the youngsters are doing!

Happy Spring!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our very talented friend and clay artist **Gail Frasier**, there was a very nice article and picture of her in the Rocky Mountain News recently. Her work can be seen across the country, but will also be presented in four prestigious area shows. Here's a list:

- * The Northern Colorado Artist Association's 15th National Exhibition at the Lincoln Center in Ft. Collins, April 8 - May 13th.
- * The invitational exhibit "The Nature of Things and Things in Nature" presented by the Art Students' League of Denver, 200 Grant St. May 5 - June 23
- * Evergreen Art Center's Invitational Clay & Fiber/New Directions that runs from June 1 - July 30 at the Evergreen Arts Center, 32003 Ellingwood Trail in Evergreen.
- * Loveland Sculpture in the Park 2006, Aug. 11 - 13th in Loveland

You can also see some of her absolutely incredible work at www.gailfrasier.com.

* * * * *

In the previous article I wrote about Bodhie, I included 2 of the pictures that Carol sent me. But she also sent others of her furry family, and they are such incredibly good pictures, I decided to include them here for you to enjoy as well. I told her that she should submit them to cat calendars and cat food companies, they are exceptional, don't you agree?



Allie



Ernie and Bodhie

Of course I cannot put out a newsletter at Easter time and not include this picture that absolutely cracks me up:



A Happy Spring to all!

Linda Hauser



Greycie Mariah (rescued from the Seabrook NH track)



Ernie
