

ABRN News

working together to re-home purebred dogs since 1989

HOTLINE: 303-989-7808 www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com

The Votes are In

Susan Brown

ABRN's annual membership dinner, meeting, and election was held on September 13, 2003. Along with the business meeting, the 75 attendees enjoyed food, fellowship and an informative program.

Four new board members were elected: Lauren Immel, Diane Leshner, John W. Martin, and Cynthia (Sandy) Moore. Martha Smith, President, welcomed the new board members, stating that the expansion of the board signals the beginning of ABRN's next growth phase. The new members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in many areas, which will help ABRN be more effective in fulfilling its mission of facilitating responsible dog rescue. In other business, Martha stressed the need for additional shelter liaisons. Rescue groups were encouraged to routinely peruse the shelters' websites to find specific breeds of dogs. There was a discussion of how to manage the increasing number of senior dogs coming into rescue. Martha was also pleased that the revamped quarterly newsletter has been so well received.

Featured speaker Dr. Keith Roehr, DVM, Director of the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA), discussed the Colorado Department of Agriculture's responsibility to inspect, license, and discipline all pet care facilities. Dr. Roehr also talked about the phenomenon of animal hoarding and why it is a form of cruelty. He stated that, "the animals are continually stimulated, there's never any downtime, and the animals suffer from poor living conditions, poor hygiene and poor supervision." He indicated that hoarders often collect other items, and allow the animals to eliminate indiscriminately, causing their food and water to become contaminated. Dog rescue groups face challenges when rescuing dogs removed from hoarding situations. Generally they are not housetrained or socialized, and often suffer from behavioral and health problems.



ABRN's Board: (back row) Lauren Immel, Diane Leshner, Martha Smith, Linda Thompson, John Martin

(front row) Sandy Moore, Karen Brown, Jeanne Phipers, Susan Lummanick

Dr. Roehr described the standards of care for licensed kennels. He compared facilities such as the Denver Dumb Friends League, which exceeds standards, with others who just meet them, and with those who don't meet them at all. He discussed breeders, saying they must be licensed in Colorado if they produce 3 litters, or 24 dogs, a year. Finally, he urged everyone to report and document instances of cruelty and things that "just aren't right" to PACFA at (303) 239-4166.

Participants spent time visiting with familiar people, getting to know new ones, and expounding upon the merits of the breeds they rescue.

Thanks to Kitty Korth, who planned the meeting, and to many others who helped to make the gathering a pleasurable and successful one.

The expansion of the board signals the beginning of ABRN's next growth phase.

Jitzu • Resting at Peace

Susan Brown

This is a true story about how Denver-area rescue people came through for a little dog in need. They were there at the beginning of his life – and they were there at the end. His name was Jitzu. His breed is uncertain, but he was probably a Lhasa Apso mix. Jitzu's story begins somewhere in the Caribbean. His first owner shipped him up here, where he had to be placed in quarantine for a period of time after entering the U.S. When he was about



Jitzu

two years old, his owner was forced to give him up. She was lucky enough to find Kaye Farmer Christiansen, who that year single-handedly placed over sixty dogs like Jitzu who, for one reason or another, needed someone like Kaye to find them new homes.

Kaye remembers that she had Jitzu for several weeks before finding a suitable home. It was worth the wait, however, because the older couple who adopted him clearly doted on him for 12 years. Sadly, in the summer of 2003, after prolonged illnesses and hospital stays, his owners died within a couple of months of each other. She was 75, and he was 77. During their battle for survival, they made provisions for Jitzu, or so they thought, by naming an individual who would take and care for him after their deaths. Phone calls to the named individual went unanswered. Out-of-state family members first thought they might take 14-year-old Jitzu, but later changed their minds.

A ray of hope was Eloise Burns, Jitzu's neighbor, friend, and part-time caretaker during his owners' illnesses. But Eloise's own dog indicated that adding Jitzu to the household on a permanent basis would not be possible. Eloise stated, "My neighbors pampered Jitzu just like their own child. They didn't have any children. He was so cute, lots of fun, and a joy to be around."

When almost out of options, someone found Nancy Beims, who has rescued Lhasa Apsos, Shih Tzus, Maltese, and small mixed breed dogs for four years. Nancy estimates she has rescued between 350 and 400 dogs. She agreed to take Jitzu, knowing he was almost certainly unadoptable, given his advanced age and the indication of some health problems.

When Jitzu left his home, Nancy recalls, much of his life force seemed to leave as well. "He appeared to be perfectly fine in his own house, but as soon as he left, he seemed to be depressed. He just lowered his head as we walked out to the car. He jumped in and just stood there. He wouldn't sit down, and he wouldn't lay down. He just didn't seem to have much will to live," said Nancy. He went to his new foster parent, Sharon Brendes, for a few days. She tried to give him as much love as possible, but it soon became apparent that Jitzu wasn't well.

Nancy took Jitzu to Harrison Memorial Hospital for a day of diagnostic tests, and when she picked him up, he was so exhausted he could hardly walk. Tests showed Jitzu had tumors on his lungs and pancreas, kidney stones, and an inguinal hernia. He returned to his foster home, where he slept on a special therapeutic pad and was given pain medications four times a day. Still, Jitzu was unable to get up without help, and each day he was a little worse. One of the few things he seemed to perk up for were treats of carrots and lettuce. Sharon said, "He ate them just like a rabbit. He loved carrots and lettuce. He just chomped them down."

After about three weeks the decision was made to euthanize Jitzu, as it was evident his quality of life had seriously deteriorated. Nancy held him in her arms as the final treatment option was administered. Nancy requested his ashes. Then, as if everything Kaye, Nancy, and Sharon had done for him wasn't remarkable enough, they took his ashes to the cemetery where the rest of his family already lay. Eloise was in attendance, as was Marnie Pepper, another foster parent. They made up a 4-car processional. A few words of farewell were uttered, and Jitzu's ashes were placed on the ground between the man and woman he loved most in the world, and without whom he could no longer live.

Thanks, Linda

Martha Smith, President

It would be impossible to thank all of the people we work with regularly who are involved with dog welfare and dog rescue. This newsletter wouldn't have room for all of the names. People who do dog rescue do it because they love dogs and are willing to devote a piece of their lives to this work. Some people devote part of their lives to All Breed Rescue Network, and I'd like to recognize just one of them.

After 10 years of devoted service on the Board, Linda Thompson resigned as Vice President of ABRN as of October 1. To say that she will be missed would be a vast understatement. Linda has been responsible for membership and for coordinating and training the hotline volunteers and rescue people who are part of All Breed's published list of rescue groups. She has been the liaison for existing rescue groups and has kept an accurate list of who's active and who's inactive so that hotline volunteers have current and accurate information to disseminate.

Linda has indicated that resigning was a "very hard thing for me to do, because ABRN is near and dear to my

heart". I know that Linda will still be involved with rescue. Her passion is Bullmastiffs. Nevertheless, losing her as a Board member is ABRN's loss. Not only has she been responsible for a number of significant aspects of our work, but she has personally been a right hand to me. I cannot tell you how many times I have counted on her, and she has not let me down. Her dedication and support of everything we hold dear have been unwavering. The hours she has spent working on our behalf cannot be measured.

On behalf of all of us involved with All Breed, Linda, you have been a treasure. Thank you.



Linda Thompson With Grady



Letters to Poodle Rescue

Jeanne,

Barley and I want to thank you for helping us find each other. We learn something new every day. He follows me around and is always playful. An old football and frisbee are his favorite toys. He even got in the shower with me last Friday. The companionship for both of us is priceless. Barley is sleeping now, by me! He so loves to play and be in my yard. He's still a kid 'cause everything goes in his mouth! I want to thank you with all my heart.

Kathy

Dear Jeanne,

Toby is just fine. He is perhaps the nicest little dog in Louisville. He loves to walk in the park across the street every chance he gets. Toby gets along very well with other dogs, and cats, and people just want to hug him. He loves to be on my lap, and I love to have him there. Jeanne, thank you again for the wonderful work you do, saving dogs like Toby.

Ann Henderson



Both of us love Snowball very much. He listens to both us and goes everywhere we go. He is really a little angel. He's not scared of my Scottie and loves to ride with me when I go out. I can go around a block, tell him to show me the way to go home, and he does. Thank you very much for letting us have him.

Beryl and Ann Fisher

Snowball says "me too"

Board Profiles

Karen Brown, Board Member-at-Large

Karen began rescuing Bouviers in 1983. In 1990 she helped rescue a large number of Bouviers from a Kansas puppy mill. She helped form the American Bouvier Rescue League for their National Club. Karen says, "A lifelong preoccupation and love for dogs led me to the Bouvier. I have been enamored since acquiring my first in 1984. She inspired my commitment to these wonderful animals. I bred my first litter in 1987, establishing B.Witchn Bouviers.



Karen Brown

I have proudly owned and bred three bitches that were top producers (from one litter each), and I bred and own the #7 Bouvier Bitch from the year 2000. I love showing my dogs and am deeply and equally committed to the rescue of my breed and others. Breeders can and should commit to the world of dogs by producing quality animals in the most conscientious manner, as well as showing even deeper commitment by aiding them when they are in need of rescue."

Karen plays an important role as ABRN's shelter liaison for the Denver Dumb Friends League's Buddy Center. "The Buddy Center has been open a little over a year, and Diane Sutherland and I have worked hard at establishing a good working relationship with the staff. We really enjoy working with them, as well as meeting with the breed rescue groups. It is rewarding to see so many animals getting a second chance in life as a result of so many people working together."



Jeanne Phipers & Skylar

Karen majored in zoology at Colorado State University. She has had a varied career, including corporate secretary for her family produce brokerage company. "In addition, my management skills were honed daily as a wife, mother of 12- and 24-year old sons, general lackey to my own four-legged bunch and miscellaneous fosters, and in the day to day operation of our family's ranch, the Song Dog Land and Cattle Company."

Susan Lummanick, Treasurer

Susan does Miniature Schnauzer rescue. She became involved with ABRN during a rescue effort from a puppy mill in Cortez about three years ago. Susan helped transport them to Denver and then fostered two of the Miniature Schnauzers. When the time came to find homes for the dogs, former Board member and Rat Terrier Rescue person Robin Lacey helped to place them in wonderful homes. Susan provided a foster home for Robin's rescue dogs for about a year. In the meantime, she began volunteering on the ABRN Hotline.

"It bothered me that ABRN didn't have anyone doing Miniature Schnauzer rescue, so I started doing rescue work about a year ago. While there are a lot of miniatures out there needing homes, there are also a lot of people out there who want to give them a good home. I am just a temporary stopover for dogs going to better homes," said Susan.

Susan lives with her own "select blends", Fuzzy, an 11-year-old Bouvier de Flanders mix, Emily, a 17-year-old Collie mix (see Emily's story on next page), and Wally, an 8-year-old Lab mix. "To support them, I work as a CFO for a small software firm and teach accounting at Johnson & Wales University," Susan states. She also has another important job as ABRN's backup shelter liaison at the Table Mountain Animal Shelter.

Jeanne Phipers, Secretary

Jeanne is a retired music teacher, having taught for 32 years in California and Colorado. Part of her teaching career included being an on-air television personality in southern California and on KRMA in Denver. She has had Poodles since 1965 and currently shows Standard Poodles under the kennel name Mountain Rose. "My love is for the standards. I like their size, their temperament, and their humorous nature," says Jeanne.

Jeanne is a member of the Columbine State Poodle Club and is President and Treasurer of Poodle Rescue of the Rockies, Inc., a non-profit organization formed in 2000. Jeanne has been rescuing all three varieties of Poodles for the past 7 years and does most of the work herself, averaging about 100 poodles placed a year. She has been an ABRN board member for several years. She also worked in the Jefferson County 4-H program in dog obedience and junior showmanship for about 5 years. Jeanne says, "I'm not one to let retirement slow me down - I'm always busy."

Look for profiles of the new Board members in our next issue.

Transitions

Linda Thompson, Ex-officio Board Member

Effective October 1st Linda Thompson, vice president of ABRN, resigned after 10 years of dedicated service. She will be greatly missed. Linda was born and raised on a family farm and has lived with animals her entire life. Her parents loved animals and were very compassionate to them. "I remember caring for and nursing back to health all kinds of animals - kittens, puppies, birds, pigs, calves - whatever needed care. The mantra I grew up with was: if you're going to have animals, you have to take care of them. That was never hard for me, since I love animals," says Linda.

Her first rescue was a Collie that had gotten lost on a fishing excursion. She acquired her first purebred dog, a Sheltie, in 1970. Since then she has become a trainer, has shown many dogs in obedience and conformation, bred a few litters, and rescued numerous animals. Linda was doing Bullmastiff rescue in the early '90s, when she

learned of a fledgling group being organized to coordinate breed-specific rescue. She went to an initial meeting of ABRN and shortly thereafter volunteered to be on the Board.

"I have served on the ABRN Board since 1993 and am honored to have been part of an organization with such high ideals, integrity and professionalism. ABRN has been true to its mission and has elevated the entire dog rescue community in this area to an enviable level of respect enjoyed by very few such groups in the country. Due to time constraints my rescue activities have been curtailed, but I continue to do what I can for Bullmastiff rescue," says Linda. She currently shares her home and life with her Bullmastiff, Grady, a mixed-breed rescue who came and stayed, Buddy, two Bullmastiff rescue dogs, and two old cats.



Retiring Board member
Linda Thompson

Emily, Rescued Just in Time

Susan Lummanick

I didn't know what happened. Gradually, my person did less and less. She didn't brush me or play with me any more, and we didn't go for our daily walks. She stayed in bed most of the time. Strange people came, but they didn't pay any attention to me. Then, one day they wouldn't let me see my person. Later I saw her bed and it was empty. My two doggie friends and I didn't know what was happening. I heard someone say that they didn't have any place for us and were going to take us to a shelter.

The next day, they put us all in the car. We like rides, but at the end of the ride, we didn't go home. Instead, we went to a very noisy place where there were strange smells and lots of dogs. They were all barking. We were separated and I was put in a big cage. I was very scared. The concrete floor was very hard on my 16 year old bones. The room was cold and I couldn't get out of the cage to sleep on my soft sofa anymore.

I didn't get to go outside very often, and I started to feel sick. I was sneezing a lot. I had big mats in my beautiful fur and no one petted me. I wanted to go back to my house with my person, but she never came. Everyone said I was too old.

One day a lady came walking past the cage. She said hello to me and petted me. She said, "Emily, I know just the person for you!" Later, both ladies came to see me. They took me to another room and petted me. They gave me treats and played with me. Then they took me outside for a walk. After a while, we got into a car and went for another ride.

When I got out of the car, the new lady took me into a house. She let me sleep on the sofa and on the bed with her. She fed me good food and took me outside to play. She brushed me and petted me, and gave me lots of treats. She said that I could stay as long as I wanted to. Now, a year and a half later, I'm still here! I love my new person, she loves me, and I am a happy collie dog again.



Susan Lummanick with her buddy Emily

Are you too judgmental?

Linda Thompson

When someone calls and wants to surrender a dog, what is your first thought? If you're like many of us, your first thought is, "Jerk, too uncaring or lazy to find a way to keep your dog." This reaction may come when you've had too many such calls, you're physically, mentally, and emotionally tired, your foster homes are full, and you have a waiting list of people wanting to surrender their dogs. A snap judgment is understandable, but we all have to guard against it. Negative thinking and negative comments turn people off and are counterproductive. Negative words may send the caller packing and leave the dog without a safety net.

I'll bet when you began rescuing dogs you had high ideals, and perhaps you believed you could solve all the homeless dog problems for your breed. If you did enough education, spayed and neutered every dog you could, and kept at it, there would eventually come a time when you would get fewer requests to take in homeless dogs. You might even put yourself out of business. After a period of time, reality set in and you began to realize that not only was the number of dogs not declining, it was actually increasing.

And the dreaded phone calls kept coming. But, isn't that why you started doing rescue in the first place? Can't you remember a time when you wished people would contact you before taking the dog to the shelter? Put yourself in their place. You may think it's impossible, that you'd never

give up your dog(s). But you can't be sure of that. You don't know what life may bring. If you were unable to care for your dogs, the right thing to do would be to find them homes. Of course, you and I would do that ourselves, making sure they had the perfect homes. But not everyone has the ability, resources, knowledge, or desire to do that.

I believe most people who make the effort to find a breed rescue group care more about their pets than you think. They could have taken the easy way out and taken the dog to the local shelter, or worse, dropped them onto the road. Instead, they took the effort to find you. Shouldn't we feel pleased, even honored, that they chose and entrusted us to care for the pet they couldn't keep?

It's hard to feel that way when you're overburdened with too many dogs. But all you have to say is, "I really appreciate your calling me to help with your dog. You made a good choice. Here are our options. . ." Tell the caller what you can do, not what you can't do. If your foster homes are full, say so. Tell them you'll put them on the waiting list, mail them information about how you work, what you can do and when, and perhaps offer suggestions for placing the dog themselves.

When you ask the caller questions, try to refrain from criticizing their answers. For instance, if they leave the dog outside all day, don't lecture them about the dangers of this practice. They didn't call you to be chastised and lectured. They called to find a vehicle for re-homing their dog and to avoid taking it to a shelter where euthanasia is always a possibility.

I'll grant you that some people who call are impossible, demanding that you "come pick up this dog right now." We've all heard that one. We've all had to deal with people who've known they would be moving for several weeks, but waited until the moving van is pulling up to call you. Yes, those types are jerks. But getting angry with them will not help the dog. That is why we do what we do - to help dogs. It's not your fault they waited until the 11th hour. Do the best you can and then let it go. Don't feel guilty, if you have to say no - it's not a four-letter word.

Dwelling on the negative attributes of people drains energy, a precious resource you need to continue helping dogs. Anger, criticism, and judgment can be a burden. Let that go, and you will discover that your mission of rescuing dogs will be a lot more pleasant for everyone concerned.



Pearl

ABRN Board Members

President: Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Treasurer: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526
Secretary: Jeanne Phipers (303) 985-2811
Member-at-Large: Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Member-at-Large: Lauren Immel (303) 765-0058
Member-at-Large: Diane Leshner (303) 680-6265
Member-at-Large: John W. Martin (303) 697-4667
Member-at-Large: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704

ABRN HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Michelle Bartz
Susan Brown
Dorothy Kent
Susan Lummanick
Peggy Shifflet
Holly Wolfe



Maui

STAY IN TOUCH!

Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website? Jenni McKernan is the liaison with ABRN's Webmaster Becky Hahn. Contact Jenni at (303) 783-5772 or at colosheltierescue@prodigy.net to highlight a rescue dog on the website. Please follow up with Jenni when that dog has been adopted. Also call her to add or delete names or phone numbers. If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please call the hotline: 303-989-7808. We need you to stay in touch! And besides, we love hearing from you.

ABRN shelter Liaison List

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO):
Amy Jones (303) 487-0930

Aurora Animal Care Center (Aurora, CO):
Volunteer needed. If interested contact Martha Smith (303) 338-0878

Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO):
Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Back-up contact: Laurie Janak (303) 332-9977

Denver Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO):
Volunteer needed. If interested contact Martha Smith (303) 338-0878

DDFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO):
Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Back-up contact: Kitty Korth (303) 617-8316

Humane Society of Weld County (Greeley, CO):
Volunteer needed. If interested contact Martha Smith (303) 338-0878

Larimer County Humane Society (Ft. Collins, CO):
Michelle Bartz (970) 407-9011 or (970) 988-5957

Mesa County Animal Shelter & Roice-Hurst Humane Society (Mesa County Humane) (Grand Junction, CO):
Ken Cox (970) 243-4567

Table Mountain Animal Care Center (Golden, CO):
Cindy Freeding (303) 424-6892
Back-up contact: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526



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Susan Brown, Editor; Debbie Davis, Designer.

Please send newsletter submissions to Susan Brown at mollybrown11@comcast.net or call (303) 695-1999. Please include photos if available. If sending digital photos, please set your camera at the highest resolution (300 dpi at about 3X4" needed). Regular snapshots preferred. Deadline for submissions for the next issue is November 10, 2003.

There's still time to submit ideas for a creative name for this newsletter. Submit ideas by October 31, 2003, to Susan Brown. Winner gets their name, a photo, and story of a rescue dog of their choosing in the next issue.

Like to Help?

Please help rescue dogs where most needed with a tax deductible donation.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____



Chaska

Please mail to: All Breed Rescue Network, P.O. Box 150803, Lakewood, CO 80215-0803.

Thank you for your support! If you would like to volunteer your services in any way to ABRN, please call our hotline at 303-989-7809.

Wanted • Shelter Liaison

Compassionate individual dedicated to the re-homing of animal shelter dogs. Requires a shelter walk-through at least once a week to identify dogs for potential breed rescue with follow-up telephone calls to appropriate rescue representatives. Must be good with people as well as dogs, since this unpaid volunteer position requires someone who can communicate effectively and network with shelter staff and rescue people. Breed identification skills helpful, but books and guidance are available. ABRN really needs additional people to perform this vital task. Rewards are measured in wagging tails. If interested, please call Martha Smith at (303) 338-0878.

Donate • Pet Overpopulation Fund

No one looks forward to filing their income tax returns. Yet the task can be a little less painful if you view it as an opportunity to donate to a cause in which we all strongly believe. The Pet Overpopulation Fund is a charitable fund created by the State of Colorado. The Fund's goal is to eliminate euthanasia of dogs and cats in Colorado that results from random breeding. The Fund subsidizes spay and neuter services and supports public education programs throughout the state. Remember that a fertile dog can produce 2 litters a year of 6 to 10 puppies per litter. In 6 years one female dog and her offspring could produce 67,000 dogs. With that in mind, next year please enter a generous donation amount on your Colorado income tax return and support this worthwhile endeavor. These are dollars well spent. Your donation could save a pet's life!



All Breed Rescue Network
P.O. Box 150803
Lakewood, CO 80215-0803

Inside...

- 1 | **The Votes are In**
 - 2 | **Recent Rescues**
 - 6 | **Too Judgmental?**
 - 7 | **Who's Who**
-