

to the RESCUE

ABRN News

WORKING TOGETHER TO RE-HOME PUREBRED DOGS SINCE 1989

Acting Locally

Martha Smith, President

When I visit with my father in Iowa, we often watch Animal Cops together. At the end of one of the segments when the ASPCA made its plea for donations, Daddy jumped up and said he would send them a check. I was struck then that as worthy a cause as the New York ASPCA is, the animals in Sioux City need help, too; and even though they aren't on television, the Siouxland Humane Society deserved his support. The difference was that the ASPCA asked.

So now I am asking. All Breed Rescue Network depends upon donations for its continued existence. We have been reluctant to sell advertising in our newsletters because we did not want to appear to be endorsing products or individuals. We have not partnered with some of the other companies that our member groups have so as not to compete with them for fundraising. We have kept our membership fees as low as possible so that our members can devote their resources to the direct care of the dogs. But we do have operating expenses, and we need your help. Like a preacher once said, the good news is that there is plenty of money available. The bad news is that it's out there in your pockets.

There are many worthy organizations asking for you to donate to them. Why would you choose to donate to us? All Breed Rescue Network has been in existence for nearly two decades and has provided a valuable service to the community. If you are reading this newsletter, you have given out All Breed's phone number to someone you know. Many of you have given out our phone number many, many times, both to people who needed to surrender a purebred dog or to people who were interested in adopting a purebred dog. You knew that the

dog surrendered to an ABRN-affiliated group would be given the best chance of being adopted into a permanent, loving home that would be suitable for that breed. And you knew that by telling someone about All Breed as a resource for adopting a dog, you would be saving them the potential heartache of buying a puppy mill dog from a pet store. You also knew that someone wanting a dog who would talk to one of our rescue groups would be given good information about the breed in which they were interested. You knew that Border Collie Rescue would not adopt out a dog to someone who'd be better suited to a Pekinese.

We work with the shelters to help place those dogs that do not react well in the shelter environment. The animal welfare community knows that they can safely release animals to groups on our list. We work with owners to help them understand the cute puppy that grew into an unruly adolescent. Often, we spend time giving people permission to let their old, ill animals go.

It costs money to print and mail this newsletter. It costs money to return several hundred phone calls a month to area codes all over the state of Colorado and sometimes out-of-state. It costs money to pay the veterinary bills of the special needs dogs that we take on as special projects when there is no rescue group for that dog. And occasionally we can help pay veterinary bills for rescue groups who are



Martha Smith

Like a preacher once said,
the good news is that there is
plenty of money available.

The bad news is that
it's out there in your pockets.

continued on page 8

Spotlight on the Hotline

Jacky Eckard, Hotline Volunteer

Where can someone turn when looking for a purebred dog? Where can they turn when they need to re-home a pet when family circumstances change? Every week sixty to over one hundred people call the All Breed Rescue Network Hotline (303-989-7808) for assistance. The reasons for the calls are varied, but each is personally and promptly answered by one of ABRN's trained, dedicated, well-informed Hotline volunteers.



Maui the Golden Retriever

Members of the public may call the Hotline twenty four hours a day and leave as detailed a message as they wish. Calls are retrieved by a volunteer throughout the day and answered as quickly as possible. Frequently someone is looking for a companion of a particular breed and is referred to one of over 100 rescue organizations affiliated with ABRN.

Those calling to re-home purebred dogs are also referred to our rescue

groups. In addition, shelters call regarding dogs in need, members of the public call regarding lost dogs, found dogs, animal cruelty concerns, municipal ordinances, support groups for terminally ill dogs, and to invite ABRN to participate in community events. Local news channels, as well as good Samaritans who have found bedraggled strays call the Hotline for information.

When a caller needs assistance with a mixed breed or one for whom we have no rescue, they are referred to local shelters with ample resources that are doing an exemplary job of re-homing dogs or whose standards exceed the basic standards set by the State. In addition, they are referred to the appropriate AKC breed rescue organization, information that can also be found through a link on the ABRN website, www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com. Petfinder.com is also mentioned as a possible resource to adopters when appropriate.

Behavior issues are frequently cited as a reason for re-homing a dog. To furnish an alternative to surrendering their pet, Hotline volunteers provide referrals to several area trainers and behaviorists. Other calls for re-homing

assistance come from people with old or ill dogs. Often they are reluctant to take an old or special needs dog to a shelter, knowing few people may consider adopting their pet. Many of our rescues do a wonderful job with older or physically challenged dogs, but their resources are limited.

Sometimes the reasons for surrender are quite astonishing, as when a caller wanted to re-home an Alaskan Malamute because she grew "too big". Regardless of the nature of the call, volunteers patiently listen and provide what assistance and education they can.

Some callers looking for a dog are well informed and know exactly what they want. However, volunteers also handle calls from less-informed people who are interested in adopting a dog and want to make an appropriate choice for their family. Volunteers provide names of contacts for different breeds and suggest books or other resources to help the caller educate himself before choosing a dog to bring into their family. In addition, volunteers try to let people know that, if their heart is set on acquiring a puppy, to never buy a puppy from a pet store or from dubious sources advertised in the newspaper.

Whether providing help with a re-homing issue, breed referral or general education on pet ownership, volunteers are often rewarded with heartfelt thanks from callers.

Years ago when the Hotline first started, Carolyn Janak handled all calls single-handedly. However, as ABRN and the volume of calls grew, the task became more than a single person could handle. A group of volunteers was recruited that now rotate weekly to handle the multitude of calls. New volunteers are always welcome. Hotline Coordinator Susan Brown provides materials and training, and Board members, rescue people affiliated with ABRN, and other ABRN volunteers are happy to provide additional support.

The Hotline is a valuable resource fairly unique to a city the size of Denver. This wonderful link between the public and rescue community has made a positive difference in many lives, both canine and human.

Editor's Note: If you are knowledgeable about dogs and are interested in becoming a hotline volunteer, please call Susan Brown at (719) 748-5777 or e-mail mollybrown@pcisys.net. Volunteers work from home and respond to calls daily, at times convenient to them. Volunteers work on a rotation schedule, currently one out of eleven weeks.

The Sunshine Quilt

Jennifer Munch, Pueblo Collie/Sheltie Rescue

Chris Doviak, a volunteer with Pueblo Collie/Sheltie Rescue, is making strides against the greed of puppy mills by sewing quilt square after quilt square.

Chris was devastated in June when her beloved rescue sheltie Sunshine died of bladder cancer brought on by a lifetime of neglect at an Ozarks puppy mill. But she decided to turn her grief into something positive. She decided to strike a blow against puppy mills and make a visual image to support rescue dogs. Chris had the idea to sew a quilt, and asked for folks to send her the names of their beloved pets, which she would write on the rainbow-colored quilt squares. PC/SR is asking for \$5 for each pet's name submitted. Funds will be used to pay vet bills for rescue dogs, some of which come from puppy mills every year.

Sunshine's Quilt is currently a work in progress, and it is possible more than one quilt will be needed to accommodate all the names of the dogs and cats.

PC/SR will ask for the quilt to be displayed either at a vet's office or a pet store, or it may be just travel from location to location, as well as be used at public events for PC/SR. There will be literature alongside the quilt with information about Sunshine, dog rescue and the horrors of puppy mills.

Sunshine came to PC/SR in November 2003 as one of four dogs that had been given up by a Missouri puppy mill that bred shelties (the owner was "done" with them). All four dogs were in terrible condition: one was Stage II heartworm positive; one had a bad ear infection; one had a mammary tumor; but Sunshine was the worst of all. Volunteers were not even sure she could be saved. Her coat was thickly matted. She appeared to be blind and deaf because she was so oblivious to other dogs and to humans. She had a large abscess on her back that would have killed her if left untreated. And she looked more like 14 years old than 8 (as her papers stated.) She appeared to be the picture of abject misery. But worst of all was her mouth. Her teeth were so rotten and the periodontal disease so advanced that her mouth was actually black. Dr. Patti Canchola of Best Friends Animal Hospital in Pueblo West said it was the worst mouth

she had ever treated—and she pulled all but one tooth!

It is believed that Sunshine's years of neglect and particularly the periodontal disease led to her untimely death in June. The bacteria from her mouth seeped into her system and affected vital organs, and possibly led to the bladder cancer.



Chris Doviak with quilt

Sunshine was not exactly a pretty picture back in November 2003, but Chris Doviak still came forward and offered to help this poor little dog. She gave Sunshine a wonderful life for eight months. Sunshine finally had good food, a loving home, a secure environment, doggie siblings and a nice grassy yard where the sun could warm her face. Every night before she went to bed, Chris would sing to her rescue sheltie, "You Are My Sunshine."

Wherever Sunshine's quilt is displayed, PC/SR will have a little story about her. Hopefully, folks will stop and think about where those cute, little puppies at the pet shops come from (from the miserable existence of dogs like Sunshine in USDA farms/puppy mills). We hope her quilt will educate folks, and that Sunshine's legacy will continue to shine.



Sunshine

"Dogs are a mirror of our own humanity, patience, discipline and commitment. We often blame them for the problems they have, from aggression to barking, but they are usually our fault. We don't know enough about dogs to train them well, and we scold, shock and blame them for our own mistakes or ignorance. I measure my own humanity - my struggles with anger, patience, and frustration - against the progress of the dogs. You cannot herd sheep with a border collie if you do not learn patience, and anger management. It simply cannot be done. So the better they do, the better I do. I think this is true of dogs and dog training in general. The better we are, the better they do. It is our responsibility, not theirs."

Jon Katz, author of 13 books, talking about his new book, "THE DOGS OF BEDLAM FARM, An Adventure with Sixteen Sheep, Three Dogs, Two Donkeys, and Me" (Villard Books; 2004).

Little Pet Shop of Horrors

Kim Cole, Hotline Volunteer

While in high school I took a job at a pet shop to earn money and work with animals. After a year I became so heartbroken and disgusted, I had to leave. As the months progressed I was exposed to more and more horrific ordeals. At first it seemed like a nice, small little pet shop with about 7 puppies for sale at a time. I was told all the puppies came from breeders who couldn't sell them, even though most of them were just turning 8 weeks old. I



Max the Pom

I loved playing with the puppies on my lunch break - I felt so bad for them cooped up in their kennels. By playing with them, I mean taking them out and holding them. I wasn't allowed to put them on the ground unless a person wanted to buy them and was looking at them. When small dogs like Yorkies or Chihuahuas would come in, the employees would put them in the pockets of their smocks and walk around with them.

I remember when a younger employee took out a Miniature Pinscher and put the puppy in his pocket. The puppy fell out of his pocket and onto his face while the employee was on a step stool cleaning a fish tank. The pup was having problems focusing his eyes; they looked like they were rolling around in his head. The owner of the shop took the pup in the back and put him in a kennel by himself. The next day when I came in, I asked how the pup was doing and the owner said, "it was sent back to the breeder". I later learned from another employee that "sent back to the breeder" meant it was sent back to the breeder to be put to sleep. They did this often with puppies that weren't purchased after several months or were injured or had health problems.

Every day I washed my hands at least 20 times, because all of the pups had kennel cough and worms. Every single puppy was on medication of some kind. When people came in to buy them, the medication wasn't mentioned, so of course it was obviously stopped being administered after they went home with the buyer. The puppies were never given a bath. Being in such small kennels, the pups often stepped, rolled in, or even slept in their own feces. When that happened, it was simply wiped off. They were sprayed with perfume if they smelled. We weren't allowed to bathe them because it took too much time and they would be away from public view for too long. In one year, I gave about 4 baths - to a Maltese whose fur was stained from diarrhea, 2 puppies with ringworm who needed medicated baths, and a Sheltie who was given a bath only because the potential buyers insisted upon it or they wouldn't buy her. Sadly, in that one year I was the only employee who gave baths to the puppies.

On hot days when there was no air conditioning the panting dogs were given giant ice cubes to lick. On cold days they were given one old baby blanket to share between 3-4 dogs. Any heaters we had were used for employees. Any tiny dogs like Chihuahuas that were brought in were usually sent back if not purchased within 2 days because they were hypoglycemic. Any rabies or other vaccinations were given by an employee. I don't think the dogs ever saw a real veterinarian.

One day, we got in an adorable Pekingese. I saw him when he came in, and he had big bright eyes, and a typical Pekingese snort. When the girl handed him to me, I noticed something very odd. I was holding a dog that felt like he was bent in half. I set him down on the ground and saw what I was feeling. His spine was so crooked that his head was facing his rear. He was shaped like the letter "C". I told the manager on duty about the dog and she said, "Oh, he's fine, take him in," and she approved him. I watched the dog all day. He was very skinny and had trouble eating hard kibble, so I was soaking the kibble in warm water to make it soft. The cute Pekingese snort became a loud, constant honking sound, and I soon realized that his lungs were so compressed in his crooked body that he couldn't breathe right. I spoke with the owner the next day when he came in. He said, "put him in the back and he'll be sent back to the breeder." The manager that approved him came to me later that day and yelled at me. "Why did you say anything? Some idiot would

Little Pet Shop of Horrors...cont.

have walked in here and bought him and he would have had a home! Now he is going to be put to sleep!" The little Pekingese stayed in a kennel all by himself in the back for 2 months. I spent all of my free time and lunch breaks hand feeding him (he couldn't bend his neck to get into the dog dish) and giving him his special diet of soft kibble and canned food (which I had to pay for). I called him Modo (after Quasimodo, Hunchback Of Notre Dame. Before we opened each day the puppies were let loose to roam the store (their only exercise, which lasted 20 minutes). Once I let my little Modo out to run (or wobble), and I was written up. The rule was dogs in the back were not to be seen by anyone. I was only allowed to let him run in the room the size of a small walk-in closet.

Towards the end of the 2 months Modo spent at the pet shop, he couldn't walk or stand. I came in to work one morning, and he was gone. I was too afraid to ask where he was, because I already knew. I had asked the owner if I could buy him for a cheaper price (he was priced at \$500) so that I could take him to a vet and see if there was anything that could have been done for him. The owner said I could buy him for \$250, the price he paid the breeder for him. Being 17 years old and still living at home, that was impossible. I put my two weeks notice in several days after Modo left. The pet shop closed down due to the bad economy several months later.

People often buy puppies from pet stores because they look so pathetic that people want to get them out of there and give them a good home. That is not the solution to the problem - it only perpetuates it. These puppies come from commercial breeders who are only interested in profit. No reputable breeder would ever sell puppies to a pet store. People who buy from a pet shop are funding them and enabling them to buy and sell more puppies. Well-meaning people who are buying these puppies are paying an exorbitant price for dogs that often have genetic and health problems that result in a lot of heartache and medical expenses. I urge everyone to not

buy food or pet supplies from pet shops that sell dogs and cats. There are plenty of pet supply stores that sell higher quality food only and no animals. Even for people who want a smaller pet, a pet store isn't the only option. There are hamsters, reptiles, rabbits, and birds that need homes, too. Along with lots of cats and dogs, they are available in animal shelters and rescue groups.

Editor's note: The Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) gives the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture the responsibility to inspect, license and discipline all pet care facilities in the state. PACFA is committed to making sure pet care facilities meet minimum standards that include sanitation, nutrition, humane care, and medical treatment. Anyone witnessing substandard conditions at a pet store or commercial breeding facility can call PACFA at 303-239-4161 with the details.



Chaco the sheltie



Turner the Borzoi and
Vudu the Min Pin

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

--Roger Caras

A CAIRN RESCUE • The Crack Babies

By Ann Brodie, Cairn Terrier Rescue

Mary Lou Wilde got the call. Three Cairn Terriers had been picked up during a crack house raid - two females and a male. Ages? No one knew. Spayed or neutered? No one knew. Temperament problems? No one knew. Another challenge with the usual concerns about behavior, appearance, and who could foster them, was what were the chances for adoption? Would there be special problems because of their background? The Colorado Cairn rescue team was alerted and advised to check their lists for potential adoptive parents.

We picked the babies up at a home in Englewood, Colorado. The lady of the house said there was no paperwork, but their names were Holly, Tinker, and Riley. She said she worked closely with law enforcement, and they called her occasionally to foster in situations of this sort. She added that these dogs would never go back to their original owners, who were in jail and would be for some time. She then chronicled her experience with the trio.



Cairn Terrier

Due to their original condition, they had been bathed twice, preferred the inside to the outside of the house, seemed to be housetrained and were very loving, good dogs. The females appeared devoted to each other and might be mother and daughter. They were very feminine, closely resembled the Cairn Standard and had obviously had at least one litter each. The assumption was made that the male was probably the stud dog with the females being used for breeding. The male was not neutered. He was also very overweight. He was the average height for a Cairn but weighed 25 pounds! All three were very well

behaved and nice dogs. We decided the larger of the females was Holly, the smaller, Tinker; and the male, Riley.

We went to our local rescue veterinarian in Elizabeth, Colorado. It was determined the girls had not been spayed

and were probably between 2 to 4 four years old. The male was closer to 4 to 6 years. Their overall health was good, and there were no apparent signs of abuse. These dogs appeared to be confident, loving, easily fed and handled, and couch potatoes. We made an appointment for spay/neuter early the next week and took them home to be groomed and further evaluated.

They settled in at their foster home, sharing a yard to run in, a garage for shelter, and a large crate for their bed. They were exceptionally calm on the grooming table and turned out to be incredibly attractive examples of the breed compared to many of the previous rescues. While they were obviously not used to walking on lead, they adapted well, not fighting it or refusing to walk.

When they were taken in for the spay/neuter, the veterinarian was surprised to see their silk purse appearance compared to their previous sow's ear look. He said they did not look like the same dogs.

They came home after their surgery, convalesced quickly, and were soon running around the yard, enjoying human contact and attention and loving. When the weather turned cold, they were taken into the small back porch of the foster home. They quickly learned how to use the doggie door and never had an accident in the house or in the garage for that matter.

Our lists of potential adopters did not turn up any takers, so ads were run on the Internet. When the advertisement for Holly and Tinker was published on www. Petfinder.com, the request was made that they stay together. The first callers came over to see "the girls". It was love at first sight, and that day they went to their new home. The new owners have since e-mailed that the girls sometimes sleep together and sometimes use their own beds. They still prefer being in the house to spending much time outside.

An interested party called about Riley a couple of days later. They had a 9-year-old boy and wanted to come over and see how the two got along. The mother and 9 year-old son came right over. Riley was outside taking a walk when the car drove up. He ran towards the car and that was that. Boy and dog seemed to enjoy an immediate mutual attraction. Everything else panned out, and the adoption contract was signed. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all rescues turned out this well?

ABRN Board Members

President: Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Vice President: Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Treasurer: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526
Secretary: Jeanne Phipers (303) 985-2811
Member-at-Large: Rosa Delacruz (303) 722-4005
Member-at-Large: Bonnie Guzman (303) 733-4220
Member-at-Large: Diane Leshar (303) 680-6265
Member-at-Large: John W. Martin (303) 697-4667
Member-at-Large: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704

ABRN HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Susan Brown, Hotline Coordinator (719) 748-5777
Lisa Adams
Kim Cole
Jacky Eckard
Nancy Gregory
Dorothy Kent
Peggy Shifflet
Holly Wolfe
Michelle Bartz
Jordan DiMarco
Carol Farina
Lu Horner
Susan Lummanick
Lois Williams

STAY IN TOUCH!

Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website, www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com? Jenni McKernan is the liaison with the Webmaster, Becki 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. If you are interested in being on our rescue referral list or if you are on the list and have changes you need to make, please contact Bonnie Guzman at (303) 733-4220 or terrierlv@comcast.net. If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please contact the hotline coordinator, Susan Brown, at (719) 748-5777 or mollybrown@pcsys.net. We need you to stay in touch – and besides, we enjoy hearing from you!



Eddie

ABRN shelter Liaison List

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO):
Amy Jones (303) 487-0930
Aurora Animal Care Center (Aurora, CO):
None at this time.
Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO):
Laurie Van Wickler (303) 746-1570
Bonnie Guzman (303) 733-4220
Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO):
Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704
DFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO):
Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Diane Sutherland (720) 876-0945
Humane Society of Boulder Valley (Boulder, CO)
Hilary Lane (303) 926-9535 home or (720) 406-7065 work
Humane Society of Weld County (Greeley, CO)
None at this time.
Larimer County Humane Society (Ft. Collins, CO):
Michelle Bartz (970) 407-9011 or (970) 566-3614
Longmont Humane Society (Longmont, CO):
Neil Davis (303) 485-6159
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):
Susan Lummanick (303) 462-8788 or (303) 948-2526
Nancy Larrew (303) 932-0461
Janet Nelson (303) 466-2459

To The Rescue, ABRN News, published quarterly.
Susan Brown, Editor, Debbie Davis, Designer.

To submit articles for the newsletter, please call Susan Brown at (719) 748-5777 or e-mail mollybrown@pcsys.net. Photographs of rescued dogs are always welcome. If photos are digital, 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 Nov 25, 2004.

Like to Help?

Please help rescue dogs where most needed with a tax deductible donation.
A donation of just \$10 will fund the printing and mailing of your newsletter for one year.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

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

Thank you for your support!

Acting Locally...cont from page 1

running low on funds or have extraordinary expenses. We operate with an amazing array of volunteers who serve on the board and as shelters liaisons, answer the hotline, produce and mail this newsletter, transport animals, and a myriad other tasks. Untold thousands of hours of unpaid labor have been donated. Yet we still need money if we are to continue to do what we do for the community and for the dogs. For the sake of the thousands of dogs we have helped place and for the thousands we plan to help in the future, please take a moment now to write a check and mail it to us in the enclosed envelope. We appreciate whatever you can do so that we can continue to be there for you.

And by the way, the man who taught me to think globally and act locally did send checks to both humane societies.



Otis the Pug and Sarah the Westie



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

Inside...

- 1 | **Acting Locally**
 - 2 | **The Hotline**
 - 3 | **Sunshine Quilt**
 - 7 | **Who's Who**
-