

The ARF Report

Volume 3, No. 1

Winter 2005

Life for Pets...Pets for Life

Animal Rescue Foundation of Colorado • www.arf-colorado.com • Phone 970/963-4562, fax 970/963-4715

ARF Update

It is hard to believe a whole year has passed and how much we have accomplished! ARF has now rescued over 200 animals in the past three years. Our group of volunteers has grown as has our recognition in the community. This has resulted in an increased ability to save animals – with more volunteer and financial resources we can accomplish so much more.

We kicked off the year with our 105 in '05 fundraiser. Various people pledge a dollar amount per animal adopted this year, with our goal being to adopt out 105 animals this year. We secured \$50 in total pledges per animal and, with a matching pledge, will raise \$100 per animal adopted out. This compares to our medical, boarding and other costs of about \$250 on average per animal. Adoption fees cover only part of the cost, and these pledges will help to cover more. It isn't too late to add your pledge – we would love to raise at least \$105 for each of the 105 animals we hope to adopt out. We are up to 97 so far year to date. We will roll out our official 2006 pledge program soon!

Our pet of the week program continues to be an important and successful event for us each week at RJ Paddywacks, in El Jebel. The pet is featured in a weekly newspaper ad and radio announcement. Many locals tell us they look each week to see our latest and greatest pet and root for it to be adopted. Many are. We have been lucky enough to secure another ad sponsor for a weekly ad featuring many more of our adoptables. This allows us to showcase up to 9 animals per week and has helped increase our visibility and adoptions. We hope to secure more sponsors to increase our advertising presence.

Many of our adoptions continue to be from our listings on www.petfinder.com. This online gathering of pet lovers is an incredible tool for expanding our reach. Many of our animals wind up in homes hundreds of miles away – from Grand Junction to Denver and beyond. We have even sent a few dogs to homes in Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming!

We have many interesting articles for you to read. Please be sure to check out "Camp Bogey" where Bill Lukes discusses the rewards of fostering. Foster homes allow us to not only expand our limited space to save animals, but gives us a much keener perspective on an animal's behavior, personality, likes, dislikes, fears and social skills. We have a one on one opportunity to work through issues, socialize, desensitize and build on Lisa Johnson's wonderful training. And no, the foster home doesn't wind up adopting them all. Sometimes we certainly get tempted, but the regular fosters all agree that you get beyond that quickly as you realize how much more adoptable it makes an animal to be in a foster program and makes you determined to see them through to a

great home – thus making room for you to take in another and do it all over again!

You will also enjoy checking out Bogey's picks of our latest adoptables as well as hearing back from some of our alumni! We know you like to keep track of our animals, and hope to report back to you sooner on more of them!

Until then, have a happy and healthy Holiday and here is to a new year of saving more lives!

Enjoy!

Peggy Corcillo

THANK YOU!

Eagle Scout Kyle Zajac and members of Boy Scout Troop #242, relatives and friends spent over 500 man hours to build a new roof structure for an outdoor play yard for the ARF dogs at the Alpine Meadows Kennel. Kyle, from RJ Paddywacks, worked hard securing donated building and roofing material as well as gravel and equipment to complete the project. The results are impressive and prove a welcome respite from summer sun and thunderstorms as well as the winter elements for the ARF dogs. A huge thanks to Kyle and all the others who helped him with this ambitious project.





Once Upon A Time...

One of the most frequent questions people ask us is...

Where is our shelter located?

The response?

We wish we had one.

However, if you want to ask us...

Where do we keep our animals?

Then the answer is...

Alpine Meadows Ranch and Kennels

(formerly Bode's Kennels).

Ollie Bode leases dog runs to the Animal Rescue Foundation for our animals. Not only does she devote an entire building to the dogs, the cats are able to share space with her boarding felines. Lucky for us, that is not all Ollie does for ARF. She also provides an extremely generous discount that makes this all possible. She makes sure the dogs are exercised, fed, given medication when needed, and she helps with transporting them to the vet when necessary. On top of the day to day "doggie chores," Ollie shows the animals to potential homes, makes sure they all feel loved and cared for and treats them as her own. In fact if we added up the hours she spends helping the ARF animals and the donated discount, Ollie is one of our most important volunteers and benefactors.



We often get a lot of questions about ARF – who we are, how we got started and how we operate.

Sammy started it all. I had never had a dog before and knew little about them. We weren't even looking for a dog... I was shopping for a bike! Dave suggested that we just peek in at the pet store and play with the puppies. (Note: at the time, not being a dog person, I had absolutely no idea about the horrors of puppy mills that feed the pet shops. Had I known about puppy mills and the plight of the 4-5 million homeless animals put down in shelters each year, I never would have bought a dog. But I like to think that in this case, a lot of good came from buying a puppy mill dog at a pet shop, I just won't do it again!). I digress. There she was, the cutest little yellow lab hiding under the shelves. I held her, left, and never bought the bike. I could not leave her there for long though and went back the next week to get Sammy.

I had no idea what it was to own a dog, let alone a puppy. There were definitely some tense moments as I learned the damage they can do, but we loved her unconditionally as she did us. We spoiled her, walked her three times a day and took her to play with other dogs at the park. All of a sudden, our life revolved around her.

At a dog event in a local park, I stopped to chat with a local rescue group in Connecticut and offered to volunteer. I quickly became chief dog walker. In fact, I was the only dog walker except for Saturdays. At the time, the group did not have a shelter and boarded the dogs in a kennel. If I didn't show up to walk the dogs, they spent literally 24 hours in a kennel. I could not bear to think of that.

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Happy Tails

These lucky "dawgs" found their forever homes with the help of the Animal Rescue Foundation's dedicated volunteers. Thank you so much for all your time and hard work!



Chance

He's really settled in and made himself at home now...behaving more like an Aussie every day. We're enjoying him greatly!!



Mulligan

We are a match made in heaven! Thank you for rescuing my new best friend!!

Nigel has every quality you would want a dog to have and not one bad habit...what a gentleman



Nigel



Dikos

"Luckily no one snatched him up (as pet of the week). We love him! He has blossomed as one of the most loved "wonder mutts" in all of Vail. We rave about your organization in Carbondale to anyone contemplating dog-parenting. Thank you again for all of your hard work. We will forever be grateful!!"



Zeke the Wonder Mutt

"I have been asking for a long time just for the right dog to show up at the right time. She could not be more perfect. She is smart, sweet, good and likes to have fun. A heart felt thanks for all the work that you do for the animals."



Lady



25 pound Dikos adores hikes with her new 100 pound housemate, Arkos.



For information on fostering an animal please contact Peggy Corcillo at 970.963.4562



Aspen

"We all know that these dogs have wonderful souls, and they have a unique opportunity because of ARF"



(continued from page 2)

Soon, I was walking every dog, every day. I would spend hours walking the same circuit. In short, I was addicted.

A few years later, we moved to Colorado. It wasn't long before I found out about Bode's Kennel. Ollie Bode always had a few rescue dogs there and it was situated right on a hiking trail. Before long, Sammy, Rafter and I were sharing a few hikes a week with the rescue dogs. Some of those dogs were there for months and months, with no one even knowing they were there. I decided I had to get more involved. After talking with a few of the existing local rescues and attending a conference for rescue groups, I started the Animal Rescue Foundation. We applied for 501(c)3 non profit status and began taking in dogs in November of 2002. It was just my husband, Dave, and I. But even with our limited resources, we started making a difference right away. The animals were put on www.petfinder.com for all to see. We began the pet of the week program and got the pet store to sponsor a weekly ad in the paper featuring an animal which we still bring to the store once a week. It was successful from the start. We found not only homes for the animals, but donors, volunteers and foster homes. Things began to snowball and although we are still a small group of about a dozen dedicated volunteers, in just over three years, we have adopted out just over 200 animals. It is still small, but we are making a difference. To those 200 animals, we were the difference between life and death.

The demands never end. We take not only local animals, but animals from all over the state and region. We have taken animals from as far away as southern New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah. We have found animals homes in all parts of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. The calls and emails come in all the time with groups desperate to get a dog or dogs out to a no kill rescue. Sometimes we have room. Often we don't – and I take the dog anyway! I monitor web sites and find animals that I know I can easily adopt out if I just have the time and space. Sometimes I get to them fast enough. Sometimes I pull off minor miracles – adopting out old dogs, or better yet two old dogs together. Pulling 5 dogs at a time (when I have room for about two) and getting them homes so fast, we barely knew we were over booked. Sometimes I am not so lucky and it breaks my heart to see the animal disappear off the web site and not make it to the "Happy Tails" list. Sometimes it is really, really hard. Sometimes the euphoria is incredible. But always I keep at it because I know the consequences if I don't. Luckily, I have more and more resources to rely on. Very dedicated volunteers who step up to the plate and help out in so many ways – volunteering, fostering, driving and training, to name a few.

People ask me how I have time to do it. I ask them how I could not. Really, there is no question. Clearly, they haven't met the animals that I have. Some people appease themselves by thinking that the animals in most of these shelters are "bad" or "unadoptable". Yes, some of them have issues. But this doesn't mean that there aren't incredible animals there including purebreds (in fact it is believed that about 25% of dogs in shelters are pure bred) if you consider those dogs to be somehow better. Many are puppies. And yes, they don't necessarily make it out of there alive either. It is all a numbers game. Most are very, very sweet, happy and friendly. Some are so mistreated it is heartbreaking.

There are still 4-5 million pets per year who don't make it out of the shelter system alive. But each day, we are cutting down on that number. I pray that I see the day that no adoptable animal is put down for lack of space. I beg you to help in any way that you can. Whether you have a dime, a dollar or a lot more, an hour a year to help, an hour a month, week or day, it all adds up to saving more lives.

May you find peace and happiness this holiday season. May more and more animals find homes.

Thank you Joe!



If we get these animals from all over the state, you may wonder how we get them to us. The answer is Joe. We found Joe through a network of rescues helping some border collie mixes from New Mexico get out of a particularly bad shelter. I agreed to take them, and Joe agreed to drive them all the way to us here from Boulder, CO, almost four hours away. Thus began our relationship with our most regular transporter and dedicated volunteer, Joe Duray-Bito.

Joe will drive anywhere in the state on short notice. He is more dependable than the mail carrier. Through rain and sleet and snow, over mountain passes and through construction delays and snowstorms in June, Joe picks the dogs up and delivers them to us. Sometimes he spends 8-10 hours in the car. Always he has a strong bond with his passengers by the time he arrives.

Joe has made it a regular route to go pick up his passengers from various shelters on the first Friday of the month and drive them out to the mountains. He brings them to the kennel where he then takes them and the rest of our crew out into the play yard for exercise and training. Saturday morning he is back at the kennel to pick up the animals headed to our Saturday adoption event that we hold the first weekend of each month. He helps out all day Saturday before heading back almost four hours to his home in Boulder.

Often we call on Joe at other times to bring animals nearer or to us as well. Many, many of the animals we have rescued owe their lives to Joe and his willingness to bring them to safety.



Camp Bogey

One of my favorite aspects of volunteering with ARF is simply the opportunity for my dog Bogey and myself to spend time with the dogs that are looked after by ARF until they find their true home. Bogey never had a real home as a puppy; he spent his first seven months in a shelter near Grand Junction with some 50 other dogs and, I think partly as a result of that, he seems to really enjoy the company of other dogs and loves going out with "his pack".

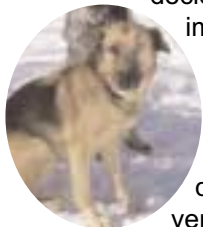
I have grown quite attached to many of these dogs, and many have become *serious* playmates of Bogey's during their time with ARF. Rather than wishing I could provide them with a permanent home, I've been trying to give them some time away from our shelter facilities at Bode's Kennels, sometimes for a camping trip, sometimes for a few days or a week living with Bogey and myself in Snowmass.

Teddy started it all...Teddy is a small black Border collie mix that I became attached to at my first adoption day event with ARF. A few days later I made up a reason to bring him home "just for awhile", and he never went back. Teddy ended up being adopted by a family right in our neighborhood; I still see him several times a week and he and Bogey have been playmates ever since they met.



Then there was Faith, another border collie mix (there's a trend here) who spent a week playing in the snow with Bo and who found her new owners while the three of us were walking through the Snowmass Mall. Then Flora, who pounced on Bo at every opportunity, unconcerned that she was half his size. And Reba. And Abby. Each of them was great to have live with us for awhile, and each has gone to a good home with good people to look after them.

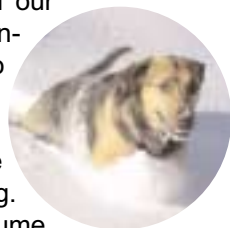
And then, late last winter, Molly came into our lives. Molly is a very gentle and sweet German shepherd who came to ARF with bad injuries to one eye and an ear. I don't think that I will ever forget the first time that I saw her, kind of hiding in one of our crates at an adoption day, newly rescued from dog pound death row. We all loved Molly and she clearly needed some extra attention, so I decided to bring her home for awhile. Molly



immediately decided that the only suitable place to sleep in my house was wrapped around my head on the bed pillows like a cat, and that became her habit. She became part of our household very quickly. Soon thereafter, ARF and the very dedicated vets at the Aspen Animal Hospital made possible a surgery to fix her injury and what followed just seemed to be a miracle. Molly became happier, more playful, and more alive with every passing

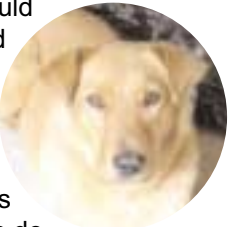
day; she stayed with us during March and became an accomplished cross country ski companion until being adopted by a very wonderful couple that – literally – fell in love with her at first sight. Bo and I stop by to visit Molly and her new family whenever we can.

During our time volunteering, I've found that the behavior and personalities of most of our rescued dogs changes with human contact and also, I think, from exposure to a trained and happy pet, one who no longer has to think about where his next meal is coming from, or where he might be waking up tomorrow morning.



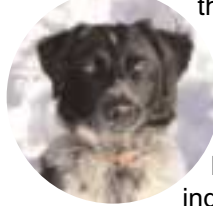
I have seen rescued dogs either resume or learn the types of behaviors that we associate with good pets with even the smallest exposure to 'normal life', and many times that we take a dog or dogs out on a hike even once or twice, I can see that their stress level goes down markedly, their level of attentiveness goes up, and that they are becoming more adoptable with even a relatively small amount of time out of the kennel cages.

Because of the positive influence that my dog has had on our visitors, really showing them good behaviors, the "rules of the house", and so forth by example much more effectively and quickly than I could ever teach them in our short time together, this ongoing adventure became "Camp Bogey", a place where they could have a little break from the turmoil and uncertainty that rescued dogs have experienced in the process of finding their way to ARF and to new owners.



We try to bring home a dog whenever time and suitable canine personalities permit, and during that time they get to do all our usual outdoor things, go to work with Bogey and me every day, learn or re-learn the skills and traits that will ultimately make them more adoptable and speed up the process of fitting into their new home, and basically just have a more normal pet life for awhile. I intentionally try to expose each camper to all kinds of situations – new people, children, walking on a leash, walking off leash, traffic noise, walking around town, crowds at the ski areas, bicycles, that sort of thing.

At first I thought that it would be too hard to bring a dog home and then have it leave right about the time that we kind of get used to it being around, have all the kinks worked out, and start regarding them as part of daily life, part of the family. Maybe that's why I started



thinking of it as "Camp Bogey"... a place where each dog could have good experiences that would help ensure a successful adoption, a time that has to be finite but that is no less fun because of it, and that can be repeated indefinitely. Underlying it all, however,

they're just a lot of fun to have around and Bogey loves having another dog to play with and hang with when I have to do people things.

– Bill Lukes

Bogey's Picks

There may not be time for these great pets to find their forever homes for this Christmas, but you can make 2006 the year they finally come home to stay!



Jesse (above) and Missy (at right) are lifelong pals looking for a home together. Jesse is a mellow, well-mannered, border collie mix, around 7 years old, who asks for nothing more than a little love. Missy is so sweet and eager to please it's hard to believe she's spent her whole life chained in a backyard!



Rudy is a gorgeous 1 year old Collie/Golden mix. He loves to run and to play with other dogs and would really enjoy an active, yet fairly quiet home.



A healthy, loving guy, abandoned in his senior years, Grey is looking for a new retirement home.



Cowboy is an athletic, long legged 1 year old Black Lab mix. He's perfectly trained, eager to learn, loyal, and ready to join in all your athletic pursuits.



Gus is a 1 year old Blue Heeler mix who's just bubbling over with enthusiasm. All he really wants to do is play with you!



Cozy's brother got adopted and now he's all alone. This big guy is a bit shy at first, but he warms up fast.



Ebony is a 3 year old black lab mix who gets along great with people, cats, and male dogs she knows but really does not like female rivals.



Tasha is a bright, sensitive 4 year old Flat Coat Retriever/Chow mix with a gleaming black coat and a heart that's just aching to be loved. Will you be her one and only?



Reno wants to go running with you! This handsome, athletic young guy will do great in a quiet home with lots of love.



Bernard is a quiet, loving orange tabby who'd like a home all his own. No other cats, please.

Will you be an ARF Angel?

We need your help!

Our organization is all volunteer and we need all the help we can get!

Whether you send us a few dollars, or a few hundred, you'll know your donation is making a real difference to abandoned dogs and cats here in our valley. Simply mail this form with your check or money order payable to Animal Rescue Foundation of Colorado. ARF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible.



YES, I'll help!

___ My donation of \$_____ is enclosed. (Please make check payable to Animal Rescue Foundation of Colorado)

___ I'd like to be an ARF volunteer.

Your name

Street address

City, State, Zip

Daytime phone number

Evening phone number

e-mail address

Please fill out and mail this form to:

Animal Rescue Foundation of Col Colorado
1459 County Road 102, Carbondale, CO 81623

- \$5 will board one dog for a day
- \$35 will provide one cat with necessary vaccinations.
- \$50 buys a dog its freedom from Death Row.
- \$85 will pay the adoption fee for a family who offer a loving home but don't have money to spare.
- \$100 to \$150 will neuter or spay one dog.
- \$500 will support one dog until a home can be found for him or her.
- \$1000 boards six dogs for a month.
- \$1800 would make one kennel available for homeless dogs all year.
- \$10,000 will save the lives of 40 dogs.
- \$1,000,000 will buy us a local boarding kennel so we can save 300 or more lives every year.

Special thanks to William Lukes + Associates, Architecture for printing this newsletter.

Animal Rescue Foundation of Colorado
1459 County Road 102, Carbondale, CO 81623
Phone (970) 963 4562 • email info@arf-colorado.com