



PAW PRINTS

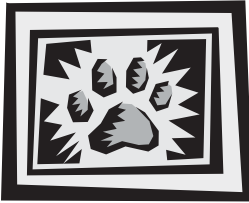
Finney County Humane Society

P.O. Box 2031 • Garden City, KS 67846 • 620-272-5651

Fall 2006

LUCKY

A True Story By Danna Jones



ACO Karen Wesley stopped me in the parking lot. Would I look at the little dog she picked up that morning? She had put him in the cat room in a small cage because he was injured. I went back to look at the dog. As soon as I walked up to his cage, he

hoisted himself up on his front legs and came up to the front of the cage to greet me and implored me to help him. I could see immediately that his rear end was not functioning properly. He could bear a little weight on his feet and could use them for balance, but they were just not following his instructions. I immediately called the shelter vet's office for an appointment.

The vet noted that he had good rectal tone, could wag his tail which he did constantly, and didn't appear to be in extreme pain....until she started moving her fingers along his spine. Then he gave a couple of tiny yelps to indicate that she had found the source of his trouble. I left him there to be x-rayed. In about an hour Dr. called back to the shelter to say that the dog had a couple of fractured vertebrae and might have a herniated disk. The Dr. was asked if the dog, by now named Lucky, should be euthanized. Dr. said no, that his injuries could be repaired if the owner wanted to take him to Kstate, and the dog was not in a great deal of distress. So, I went back to the vet's office and brought Lucky back to the shelter.

I slept little that night, waking up wracking my brain about how we could get him the care and treatment he needed for his injuries. I wrote an email to my fellow foster caretakers and HS board members asking them to please help me help this little guy. I knew that by the time any of us had spent the state mandated 3 days holding period with Lucky we would be unable to destroy him just because he was injured. In addition, the longer we waited to seek treatment, the less likely he would be to recover fully.

The next morning, Karen Casanova and I gave Lucky his first enema. Dr. had mentioned that he had a lot of impacted fecal matter and might need help to eliminate it since he might not have the neurological function to do it on his own. I took him outside and he peed and pooped on cue. He wanted to "run around", but since we didn't want him to injure himself further I gingerly picked him up and took him back to his quarters. We offered him some canned puppy food and he devoured it with gusto and wagged his tail for more! Karen gave him some pain medicine to help him relax and sleep and we left him alone until the end of the day when we repeated the process.

(continued on page 2)

Art, Food & Antiques

The FCHS will have a booth at the Antique and Craft show Oct. 28 & 29. We would appreciate donations of your art or craft work, any antiques you can part with and any scrumptious delight you might want to cook for us to sell.

We would like to know if you can donate something by the 16th of Oct. so that we can plan space for the items. Thank you!
Funds from this booth will go to the spay & neuter fund.
Call Nancy at 620-275-6364.

ANIMAL LEGISLATION

by John Doll

I read the last issue of the FCHS newsletter about the poor scores that our legislatures in Washington have received from the Humane Society of the U.S. and I find it to be appalling. No one from this state seems to be fighting for humane treatment of animals.

I realize that a lot of constituents in Kansas are farmers, feedlot owners, legitimate dog breeders, or they work in meat processing plants. Those constituents have nothing to be concerned about if they treat animals humanely. I understand some of those concerns because my family background is in running a feedlot. Most of the bills concerning animals are directed at trying to eliminate dog or cock fighting, puppy mills, or deliberate torturing of animals.

Some people are apathetic about these topics because they don't think that their everyday life is affected but, I know better. If you have an animal, there is always a chance that it could be stolen to be used as "bait" for training fighting dogs. Or, heaven forbid, your animal could be the one tortured and featured in the news. Puppies that come from "Puppy Mill" type breeders are often unhealthy and have congenital defects that become apparent later on in their life. Even if you don't have an animal, the people that torture animals, either outright or by running puppy mills, train fighting animals or attend and enjoy animal fighting, go on to be adults that do cruel things to other people. Some day, someone in your family will be adversely affected by one of these cruel people. And yes, these things all happen in Finney County. No place is safe from these terrible people.

My wife, Janet, and I are dedicated to fighting for humane treatment of animals and we support humane societies. We have raised our children, Hayley and Ethan, to be caring to animals. Our two dogs, Ralph and Louie, were adopted from the animal shelter here in Garden City. Our three cats, Leonard, Jack, and Chip adopted us and now run our household.

So please, vote for me for Congress and trust me to fight for what is best for you and for animals.

(continued from page 1: **Lucky**)

The second night at home I again tried to find a way to get Lucky to K-State. I put out an email plea and called people I knew trying to find Lucky a ride to Manhattan. During another sleepless night I decided that I would take him to Manhattan on Saturday if nothing else worked out. I went to the shelter at 8 AM on Friday because I knew the vet would be there. I asked Dr.Sells if he would call K-State to see if they would take him on Saturday because that was the first day I would be available to drive him. The K-State vets said they could take him on Saturday, but it would be better if he could come on Friday, and would also cost less. I had to go to work, but got on the phone and started calling people to see if anyone could make the trip to Manhattan that day. On my second call I got lucky and found Jim Arwine who was eager to help little Lucky. He had seen him the previous day at the shelter and agreed that he deserved a chance as he had a lot of will to survive and was adorable.

I called Dr. Sells' office and asked that he call K-State and alert them that Lucky was on his way. Jim picked Lucky up at the shelter within a few minutes and headed east. A few hours later Jim called me to report that they had arrived and that Lucky was being examined and that when the Dr. had finished his exam he would call me to see if I wanted him to proceed with the surgery and treatment.

Finally, the vet called. The news was not devastating...but the repair would be expensive, probably in the \$2500 range. I was already thinking \$1500 to \$2000. It was a lot of money...a lot of fundraising would be needed to replace the funds....a lot of spays/neuters/educational materials/drugs/fuel for transports/tires for the van/etc. could be obtained with that amount of money...but the good news was that Lucky had a 70% chance of a complete recovery with the surgery. He was doomed to death or paraplegia without it. Suddenly the money didn't matter. I told the Dr. to go ahead with the surgery, knowing that I might have to pay the bill myself if the treatment was not successful or the board declined to commit money to help cover the bill.

We received no news from K-State as to Lucky's condition all day Saturday. Another sleepless night ensued. Finally about noon on Sunday, a call came in reporting that Lucky was doing exceptionally well, that he was walking on all four limbs, eating well, going outside to urinate on his own and would be ready to come home perhaps as early as Tuesday! The operation was a complete success and Lucky would fulfill his destiny on all four legs! As further good news, a K-State vet tech that had assisted with Lucky's treatment and care wanted to adopt him and had called the shelter to make the arrangements. Lucky would not even have to make the long trip back to Garden City for his rehabilitation.

Fortunately, a patron who had seen Lucky paid for most of his medical expenses. However, no one knows when another dog in need will arrive on our doorstep. There are way too many dogs that we cannot help for one reason or another, and some injuries cannot be fixed, but we need to be prepared to help those we can. Help us be there for the next "Lucky" dog that needs our help. Earmark your donations for the "Lucky Dog" fund if that is specifically where you would like your donation to be spent.



The Very Best Pet Network (VBPN) is a group consisting of Purina, Wal-Mart, and the American Humane Association. These companies have gotten together to help shelter across the United States promote animal adoption. Each time this message appears in our newsletter or at one of our events, the animal shelter gets points from VBPN toward an end of the year prize.

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PAW PRINTS is published quarterly by the Finney County Humane Society, P.O. Box 2031, Garden City, KS 67846, (620) 272-5651. It supports the mission of the society to educate the community in the prevention of cruelty to animals, and to relieve suffering among animals.



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Welcome

from Nancy Garhart

Please welcome our new Board members Debi Deal and Helen Batchelder. These ladies have been giving extra time volunteering the past two years. The board voted for these ladies, from a ballot of five, to finish the terms left open. As president, I have appointed Glenda Hopkins to take the position of Vice-President to complete that vacancy.

Goodbye

We are sorry to say goodbye to two Board members this summer. Dr. Rodney York resigned because of family and work commitments. He will continue to support and advise us.

Another loss was our Vice-President, Erin Dehn. Erin took a new position in Wichita.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the people that have allowed us to set a change collection can at their business, and to those of you that have contributed. So far in 2006 we have collected

\$112.98 from the cans. The cans with the most contributions so far are from Wards, Hannas Corner, and Traditions.



MEMORIAL TO BOB PARK

Bob will be missed, not only by family and longtime friends, but by the volunteers with the FCHS. He was always there to lend a hand. He served as a reminder to others of how a grandfather should be. He showed love and affection to the animals and served as a role model to his grandchildren. A truly good human being.

The following is a list of those that donated in his honor:

Ray and Frances Knaus	Dighton SubArea
Tim Hutcheson	Rod or Jana Kennemer
Joe and Kathy Fleury	Craig Myers
	Marcelle Sloan



To Donate
Call 620-272-5651
or 620-275-6364

Don't forget to save your used inkjet and laser cartridges!

Parvo Clinic

Editorial by Glenda Hopkins

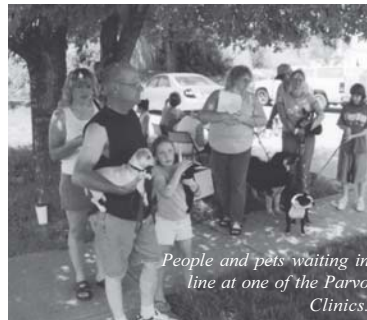
Early in 2006 the FCHS decided to try and find enough money to be able to offer a series of 2 free Parvo vaccinations for puppies. Puppies need a series of 3 shots. Dr. Kent Garhart wrote a grant application to the Western Kansas Community Foundation and that grant was approved.



Karen Casanova giving a Parvo shot while Doree Bates holds the puppy. Taken at one of the Parvo Clinics.

Our intention was to target puppies, up to one year old, of people that could not afford to take their puppy to a veterinarian. Puppies were targeted because they have the highest risk of catching this often fatal disease. We were very optimistic and thought that everyone would happily bring their pups for vaccinations now that the cost barrier was removed. We were excited to be able to have a chance to decrease the amount of parvo related deaths for 2006. We were going to save lives! We purchased vaccine for 250 dogs but we were hoping that we would need to purchase more.

We set a date and started to advertise. We made flyers and took them to most of the large retailers and to places where we felt our targeted population would see them. We set up public service announcements on most stations on the radio. The Garden City Telegram helped by putting the announcement in the Round-Up section. KUPK gave information to the public. We were all set.

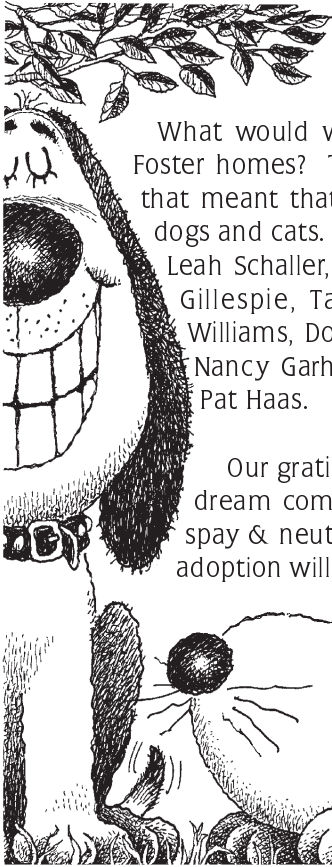


People and pets waiting in line at one of the Parvo Clinics.

The day of the shot clinic we set up and waited for all the people to flood in. When we closed, three hours later, we had only given 50 vaccinations. About half of those were to adult dogs, some almost 10 years old, that had never been vaccinated before. Time to regroup. We decided that we hadn't advertised enough. So, before the second clinic, we advertised even more. At the second clinic we vaccinated 46.

We are going to have a third clinic on September 9th. We have saved some lives by giving the Parvo shots. We would have loved to have been able to save even more.

Our conclusions from all of this is that we need to provide more education to the public about the deadly disease of Parvo, and that a large amount of the population in Finney County, that are dog owners, will not take the opportunity to prevent disease in their animals even if the vaccinations are free. Ignorance can be educated. Apathy is hard to overcome.



bits 'n pieces

What would we have done without our faithful Foster homes? The shelter was full all summer so that meant that fosters had to double up to save dogs and cats. Our gratitude goes to Danna Jones, Leah Schaller, Carol Hauschild, Christy Botts, Kay Gillespie, Tamra Eppinger, Mary Guy, Marge Williams, Doree Bates, Glenda Hopkins, Kent & Nancy Garhart, and our favorite puppy foster, Pat Haas.

Our gratitude to Dr. Robin Boos for making a dream come true. She will be giving time to spay & neuter some shelter cats so the cost of adoption will not be so high. This will be done in hopes that more cats will be adopted. We would also like to

thank Stacy Gordon, of Copeland Animals Hospital, Denver, Colorado and Dr. Joe Rainman of Garden City for donations for veterinarian equipment and supplies. Also Mark Morell and Arlie Defreese for cash contributions. Production Coatings, and Charles Keller of Garden City supplied special painting, plumbing and lighting for the room. Thank you so much. The shelter now has a small treatment room.

Our summer has certainly proven to be a busy one. We have done concession stands, Parvo clinics, a county fair booth, and of course working at the shelter, which is an ongoing endeavor. I believe that the fall will prove to be just about as busy. There will be another Parvo clinic on the 9th of September and a concession stand on the 23rd of September. We also hope to have several trips to Colorado to save more of our animals. Our calendar is also busy in October with a Flea Market on the 7th and the craft and antique show on the 28th and 29th. PLEASE make time to help with some of the upcoming events. We truly need YOUR help.

CLASSIFIED ADS: To help us defray the cost of postage for our newsletters, we have decided to sell space, the size of a regular sized business card, in our newsletter. For \$20 you can have your business card printed, place an ad for items for sale, use the space as a memorial to a lost pet or person, publicize an upcoming event for your business or organization, or just have your name listed. To place an ad, please contact the FCHS message machine at 620-272-5651.

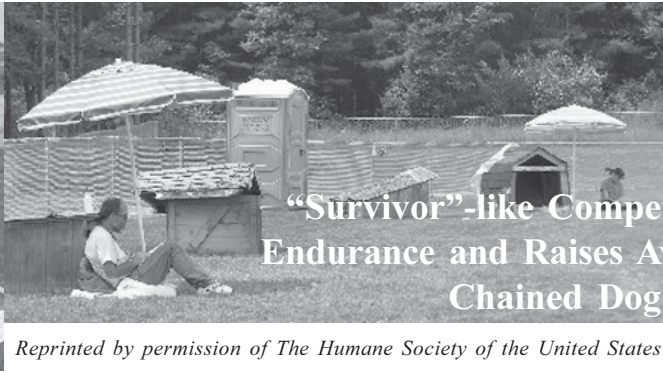
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Finney County Humane Society
P.O. Box 2031
Garden City, KS 67846



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To prevent cruelty to animals, to relieve suffering among animals, and to promote the extension of humane education



“Survivor”-like Competition Tests Endurance and Raises Awareness for Chained Dogs

By Rebecca Simmons

Reprinted by permission of The Humane Society of the United States

Intense boredom, acute loneliness and an overwhelming desire for freedom: This is a day in the life of a chained dog and, for up to 13 days, these were the conditions 11 people endured for the chance to win a new car. But even with their eyes on the prize, the contestants of the Dogs Deserve Better Chain Off competition couldn't help but develop an appreciation for the range of emotions and obstacles that chained dogs encounter.

Eleven men and women, 18 to 52, from six states converged on Mundys Corner, Pa. July 1 with the hope of becoming the first-ever Chain Off winner. Organized by Dogs Deserve Better, a non-profit organization that raises awareness for chained and penned dogs, the competition was designed to gain media attention for the issue and give participants the chance to understand the realities of living as a chained dog.

Participants were allowed only the bare essentials—water, food, a doghouse, sleeping bag, shade, plastic wrap to shield against rain, and access to a port-a-potty.

It didn't take long for contestants to begin dropping out, with one exiting the competition in the first few hours. Those who remained endured driving rain, cold, heat and humidity, and elimination-round challenges that included being blindfolded for an entire day to simulate the life of a blind, chained dog.

By day 13 the number of contestants had fallen from 11 to two, pitting the youngest contestant, Aija Gillman, a recent high school graduate, against the oldest, Don McKendree, the owner of a chained dog named Niki. The journey hadn't been easy for either of them.

A Day in the Life

On day three, Gillman reported in the journal that contestants were permitted to write in twice a day, “At this point I really do feel extreme empathy for animals kept like this ... there's nothing to do but pace, sit around, or sleep, all of which get old quite quickly.”

McKendree began to question his decisions to keep his dog Niki chained almost immediately. “If we love and call dogs our best friends, then why would we (or do we) chain them to [doghouses]?” he wrote the morning of the third day.

By day five, both finalists reported a deeper understanding of their canine counterparts.

“I think it's accurate to describe my mood as ‘frustrated,’” wrote Gillman. “I can understand why chained dogs are so defensive of their territory.”

“Last night was the roughest night—it seems when you get

wet and it continues to rain [there are] lots of mixed emotions,” wrote McKendree. “I could imagine the torture dogs must go through when people chain them outside I have been and done a lot of difficult things in my life, but being tied to a doghouse has got to be the roughest. Stripped of human communication ability sure puts things into the proper perspective. Let's unchain our dogs.”

And the Winner Is...

Neither Gillman nor McKendree was leaving the competition without a fight, so to determine the Chain Off winner, the two competed in a final round of challenges on the 13th day.

In the end, with only two points to spare, Gillman topped McKendree, 9-7, and became the winner of the first-ever Chain Off and owner of a new Chevy Aveo

“It was very emotional. I cried several different times—from happiness, freedom, shock of winning and relief. It was as though a burden had been lifted from my shoulders,” said Gillman. “You come to fully understand the isolation and misery that comes with being a chained dog by experiencing it firsthand. Yes, people can imagine how it must be, but to actually do it is something completely different; it really opened my eyes to exactly how much pain—both mental and physical—[chained dogs] endure.”

Another victory came when McKendree agreed to immediately go home and unchain his dog, Niki, after the contest.

Nowadays Niki lives inside with McKendree who, with the help of Dogs Deserve Better, erected a chain-link fence around his property and installed a doggie door so that Niki can go in or outdoors whenever she pleases.

“The most gratifying part of the contest, hands down, was to see Don's metamorphosis from one who didn't understand a dog's needs, to one who became determined to go home and take his dog off the chain,” says Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better. “[Niki] now has the most freedom possible and love from her family, and that is extremely gratifying!”

As the proverb goes, it's not until you walk a mile in another's shoes that you can truly understand that person's circumstances. As the contestants of the Chain Off now know, if only all owners of chained dogs could experience the boredom, loneliness, sadness and lack of freedom their pet experiences, the practice of chaining dogs would surely be a thing of the past.

Rebecca Simmons is the outreach communications coordinator for the Companion Animals section of The HSUS.

Foster Parent Feature

Carol Hauschild has a home filled with lots of love and wagging tails. And while the faces change, Hauschild said one thing remains the same.

"All those appreciative puppy kisses," she said, is what being a foster parent is about.

For several years Hauschild has opened her house and heart to homeless dogs and cats from the animal shelter. Many of them have never experienced unconditional human love, ample food, treats or toys.

"They haven't had a good life or they wouldn't have been there," she said.

Hauschild's story starts with Bailey, a little shepherd mix. When Hauschild first met Bailey, she had puncture wounds on her back and a broken leg.

"I'm thinking this poor puppy has been at the shelter too long," Hauschild said. "How do I get her out of here?"

Hauschild took Bailey home to help her heal. Years later, Bailey is still part of the family. Countless other animals have since enjoyed Hauschild hospitality while waiting to be adopted or taken to the Denver Dumb Friend's League. The Finney County Humane Society sends adoptable cats and dogs to the DDFL that would be euthanized in Finney County because of a lack of space and people looking to adopt. Hauschild admits it's hard to not keep them all.

"There are those animals you get more attached to than others and it's really hard to let them go," she said.

Hauschild spends several hours a day doing animal upkeep, not to mention time spent socializing with each cat and dog. Hauschild's husband, Darrel, plays a big role in making sure

each guest has a comfortable stay. That's despite the fact dogs have taken over his backyard.

And while being an animal foster parent is a difficult job, Hauschild said it's perhaps one of the most rewarding.

"Just knowing I saved a life."

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent contact the Finney County Humane Society.



These two male Dalmation Boys (named for their white with black spots) are energetic, sweet, and litterbox trained. Specially priced. Indoor only cats. To see them call Carol at 620-275-8943.

Marigold has been spayed. She is a mostly white calico female. She is an extremely loving cat. Good with other cats and tolerates dogs. Litterbox trained and is an indoor only cat. Her cost would be \$50 to help cover the cost of her spay surgery. Call Carol at 620-275-8943.



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We are in the process of updating our membership files and mailing labels. Please remember to renew your membership in our worthy organization.

Membership dues provide a large part of our operating and projects revenue. Not only does it help pay for fuel and maintenance for the Hound Hauler and medicine for sick animals, it also pays for printing and mailing of your Paw Prints newsletter.

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Thank You!