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Intermountain COMPANION

Spring 2014 Edition

Memoir of a Dog Walker and Foster Mom...

In the biting cold of the winter months, it takes a dedicated volunteer to lace up treaded boots, bundle up in copious amounts of layers, and brave the fierce winds to walk the dogs of IMHS. It is a challenge that I am happy to take on. The joy and excitement in the eyes of a shelter dog, at the opportunity to romp and play outside, far outweighs the extra preparations taken by a dog walker. A blissful dog rolling, and biting at the fresh snow is enough to make anyone smile, but I cherish these moments. When the dog returns to the safety and warmth of their kennel with a freshly stuffed Kong or new bone, or returns to their friends in the play yard, you can see some of their anxiety dwindle and they remain happier and healthier. There is no greater moment for a volunteer than to see how their efforts have paid off, to see a dog's face soften, to know that they have felt much deserved love and kindness. One of the many reasons I volunteer at IMHS is for this reason, this moment when you realize you have made a real difference in the life of a



Tigger was depressed and didn't like his new home.

shelter dog while they wait for the stars to align and the perfect family to take them home.

All of our animals are anxiously awaiting the security and peace of mind that comes with a forever home. IMHS works tirelessly to seek these opportunities for all of our animals and while they wait, we strive to make the most of their time with us, providing them with veterinary care, training, and kindness. In some cases though, no amount of exercise and care, can ease the minds of some of

Continued on page 3

SILVER & SCOUT

When Silver and Scout arrived at IMHS as unclaimed strays from Park County Animal Control, the IMHS team was saddened that these big senior dogs, obviously deeply bonded brothers, had found themselves homeless. Although both dogs were micro-chipped, all attempts to reach the previous owners had been unsuccessful.

The staff was determined to re-home the large white German Shepherd/husky mix dogs together. Knowing it would be a challenge to find the right home willing to adopt two large, senior dogs together, the IMHS team set about right away on a mission to market them in Pet of the Week ads, on Facebook, and on local web sites.

To enhance their comfort and adoptability, the animal enrichment team got busy scrubbing Silver and Scout's thick coats, which were caked in mud and filth. After a good bath and brush-out, their white coats shined and the boys perked up with a sparkle in their eyes, delighted to be clean at last!

Two months after they arrived at the shelter, the IMHS team's wish came true for Silver and Scout when these two "lost boys" finally found their home—together!



INTERMOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY

serves animals and people by offering programs that promote animal health and responsible pet-stewardship, and foster compassion towards animals.

IMHS is nonprofit organization established in 1982.

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Conifer, CO 80433
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Fax 303-838-4419
www.imhs.org



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Like us on Facebook! Visit our page at Intermountain Humane Society. Albums are updated frequently to feature animals available for adoption...you can help the animals by sharing our news and "Adoptables" albums with your FB friends!



Help!

I lost my pet!

Unfortunately, many of us have experienced this terrifying and heart breaking scenario. IMHS is here to help, we would like to walk you through the Do's and Don'ts of Found and Lost animals.

If you have found an animal: Check and post on social media sites, there are many people that will post in the Lost and Found pet sections of these websites. Check the animal for any identification tags, if the animal is not wearing one... take them to your nearest shelter or veterinarian and have them scanned for a microchip. If you cannot keep the animal at your property, either call animal control or drop the animal off at your nearest shelter. If you want to keep the animal, post signs in veterinary clinics, pet stores, and on street corners, post a Found listing for social media sites, and most importantly call and fill out a Found report with your closest animal control facility. (Many people don't know but you can be charged with harboring a stray if you do not follow correct steps in attempting to reunite the animal with its original owner) If someone calls trying to claim the stray you found, make sure they are able to provide a positive ID before relinquishing them, for example a picture, or a description of special markings or colors.

If you have lost an animal: Call animal control and fill out a lost report, if the animal has a microchip, call the chip company and report the animal lost too. Make sure all your contact information is up to date. Notify surrounding veterinary clinics and pet stores, post flyers (many humane organizations suggest adding that your pet is on time sensitive medications... this is to help deter someone from not returning your animal), and make a posting on social media sites too. It is not recommended to leave food and water out for your pet; this could attract wild animals and put your pet at a higher risk.

At IMHS, our vision is to:

- Serve, educate and inspire the community to advance the welfare of animals and elevate their value in society.
- Safeguard, rescue, shelter, adopt out and advocate for animals in need.
- Act as a lifeline to underserved regional shelters.
- Maintain our 100% placement rate for adoptable animals.
- Reduce dog and cat overpopulation through spay, neuter and education.

IMHS Shelter Adoption Hours

Open daily 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed on major holidays.

Can't come to the shelter? ADOPT offsite!

Lovable IMHS felines are available for adoption 7 days/week at several Denver-area PetSmart and Petco locations. Visit IMHS.org for details!

IMHS Second Chance Thrift Shop Hours

Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Closed Mondays.

EVERYDAY HEROES NEEDED!

IMHS Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight:

VETERINARIANS-

IMHS seeks to add more volunteer veterinarians to the treatment and surgery team. Veterinary professionals may email Carrie David, Shelter Director, for more information at carrie.david@imhs.org

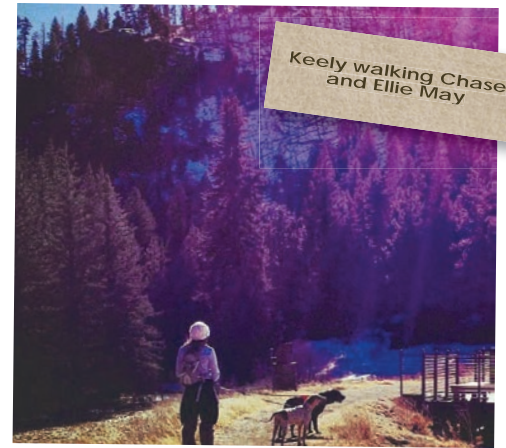
DOG WALKERS NEEDED!

Position Summary:

Volunteers sought to assist with walking our dogs in both mornings and evenings. Many times our staff will leave in the early afternoon/evening and so night dog walkers are perfect for giving our pooches a final potty break before bedtime.

Qualifications:

Commitment to a minimum of one shift each week, volunteers must be comfortable to walk dogs of all sizes and be able to handle them safely. Please call the shelter at 303-838-2668 or visit IMHS.org to apply on-line.



our shelter dogs or cats. When this happens, these animals wait for their forever homes in foster care.

As a dog walker turned “foster mom,” I have quickly realized that I act as a bridge between what was and what can be. While I spend my weekends providing enrichment for dogs, I spend my weekdays caring for kittens and cats in my home. I was recently given the opportunity to welcome a senior cat named Tigger into my home. Tigger was surrendered to the shelter in November and we soon realized that he wasn’t cut out for shelter life. He became depressed and fatigued, not wanting to eat or drink normally; I welcomed him into my house until he was more stable. In a matter of days, Tigger settled in and felt right at home, eating and drinking normally, playing and cuddling just as every cat deserves. As the weeks passed, Tigger’s personality was given the chance to shine through. He became an integral part of my routine and daily life, bringing humor and light to each day. After some extensive dental work and some searching for the perfect home, Tigger will soon be welcomed into the lives of a new family but this time for forever. While I am sad to no longer be greeted each day by a brassy Bengal meow, I am happy that I could be the bridge for Tigger; that I could open my heart and make him whole again.

Whether braving the cold or opening my doors for the animals of IMHS, I am grateful to provide even the smallest comforts of a short walk or a warm bed. I am certain that these things make a tremendous difference for the animals and I know truly that I have been given much in return.

CHEW ON THIS!

Barn Homes Needed - IMHS is always seeking safe barn homes for cats who are feral, particularly unsocial, house-soilers or who otherwise don’t fit into a traditional indoor-placement program. If you have a comfortable barn or horse stable that provides ample protection from the elements, and can responsibly care for a cat (or two!) in need of barn home placement, please contact the shelter at 303-838-2668 or email us at info@IMHS.org.

IMHS to open Kyjen Corner - The Kyjen Company has graciously sponsored three new kennels for our dogs! The Kyjen Corner includes a beautiful painted mural by our very own Lori Lombardi, three new kennels that help reduce stress, and tons of Kyjen products to help keep our pups busy and happy! We encourage you, if you haven’t already, to come in and check it out!

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE WAGS & PURRRS BOARD



Evelyn being cute in her temporary IMHS home.

Evelyn

Evelyn, a young and shy domestic short hair mix, arrived at IMHS in May of 2013 from a transferring shelter that was overburdened with cats. Evelyn was a extremely frightened and took her several months to warm up to staff and volunteers, we knew because of her fearfulness she would be hard to place in a home—but we were up for the challenge! Evelyn’s picture was taken and ads were placed on multiple web sites, online bulletin boards, and she was featured as Pet of the Week in the local newspapers. We hoped that soon some lucky adopter would take notice of this scared, shy, and very sensitive girl and give her a forever home. On February 6, 2014, that wish came true. The whole team at IMHS celebrated Evelyn’s happy ending when her adoption to the Stockton family was finalized. After almost a year of life as a shelter cat, Evelyn was finally home!

To help cats like Evelyn find homes, LIKE us on Facebook and share our “Adoptables” albums with your FB friends!



HOSS: at IMHS
7 MONTHS & 1 DAY



KIKI: at IMHS
31 DAYS



BELLA: at IMHS
3 MONTHS



LIONEL: at IMHS
22 DAYS



LUCAS: at IMHS
1 MONTH



SCAMP: at IMHS
7 MONTHS & 1 DAY



ABIGAIL: at IMHS
3 MONTHS



2013 IMHS Adoption Desk Snapshots:
Going Into Their Forever Homes...



BEETHOVEN: at IMHS
21 DAYS



HOPE: at IMHS
3 MONTHS & 5 DAYS



GABBY: at IMHS
9 MONTHS & 25 DAYS



FAITH: at IMHS
3 MONTHS, 16 DAYS



TOBY: at IMHS
1 MONTH & 16 DAYS



9 NEWS STAR - CHASE:
at IMHS
9 MONTHS & 25 DAYS



GIA: at IMHS
1 MONTH & 2 DAYS



ANNABELLE: at IMHS
1 MONTH & 1 DAY



STANLEY: at IMHS
2 MONTHS & 24 DAYS



SHELBY: at IMHS
6 MONTHS & 10 DAYS



GATOR: at IMHS
10 DAYS



MUNCHKIN: at IMHS
3 MONTHS & 14 DAYS

Tail-wags and Purrs go out to the following for their extraordinary kindness and support of IMHS:

IMHS would like to thank the following donors to our 2013 Silent Auction at the St. Bernard Level (\$250 – \$499):

Alpen Way Chalet Inn

Anytime Fitness

Canine Solutions

Hair, etc.

Hotel Teatro

Lone Rock Veterinary Hospital

Cindy Myer

Precious Memories Pet Cemetery

Sit.Stay.Fetch!

West Ranch Dental Center, Dr.

Kenneth Lahr

Steve Wood, Potter

Special Thanks goes out to our Great Dane donors of the 2013 Silent Auction (over \$500)

Mountain Canine College

email: mtncanine@gmail.com

web: mountaincaninecollege.com

phone: (303) 679-3535



Your Gift Makes a Difference to the Animals!

TO MAKE A DONATION TO IMHS:

Visit our website at IMHS.org or mail your check to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Your gift is 100% tax-deductible and your support for our work is enormously appreciated!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Press Release: Music Calms the Beast

IMHS begins classical music therapy for their sheltered pets

IMHS staff says shelters can place a lot of stress on dogs and cats and several studies have shown the calming effect of music. A study in October 2012 by a researcher from Colorado State University showed that dogs in shelters are less likely to bark and more likely to sleep when classical music is playing.

Intermountain Humane Society has started this practice and we already are seeing a difference! Kennel anxiety has lowered significantly and barrier aggression is at a minimum too.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact the shelter at 303-838-2668 or email us at info@imhs.org.

Peanut Butter and Banana Dog Treat Recipe

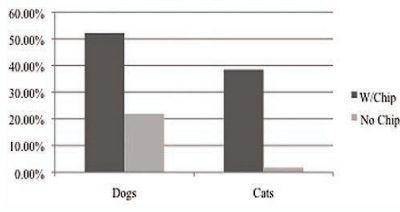
Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup Peanut Butter
- 1/2 cup mashed banana
- 1 tablespoon Honey
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten, for brushing

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Lightly grease a baking sheet.
2. Stir together the egg, peanut butter, banana, and honey in a medium bowl; blend thoroughly. Stir in the flour and wheat germ; mix well. Turn dough out onto a floured board and roll to 1/4 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes with a cookie cutter, place on prepared baking sheet, and brush tops with egg white.
3. Bake biscuits in preheated oven until dried and golden brown, about 30 minutes, depending on size. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack.

Median Return-to-Owner Rates at Participating Shelters



MICROCHIPS

Why they are important and how they save lives!

What is a microchip? A microchip is a small device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted between the shoulder

blades of an animal that is linked to an animal specific code. Contrary to popular belief, microchips do not act as a GPS for your lost pet. Instead, the animal specific code is linked to your name and contact information, so when an animal is scanned, they can access all your information including alternative contacts to help reunite you to your pet.

Why are they important? Microchips are a permanent form of identification. When your pet is lost there is a good chance that he/she could lose their collar with their tags... If your pet is micro-chipped, it will allow you a secondary form of identification to ensure your animal is returned. Microchips are also used by many enforcement agencies to confirm ownership of dogs that were stolen.

When I was an animal control officer, I remember a family coming to our shelter and owner surrendering their lab named Charlie that they had for three years. They were requesting euthanasia because they were moving and felt that no one could be a better owner to him and didn't want him to be depressed. I declined the euthanasia because the lab was happy and healthy and I knew he had a very high chance of being adopted. When shelter staff took him into the intake room, they found a microchip. We asked the family if they knew the animal had a chip and they said no, they had found him as a stray a few years back and since he was a purebred, decided to keep him.

When I called the microchip company they gave me all the contact information for the previous owner and I prayed that they had kept their phone numbers current. The chip company also gave me the dog's original name, Dudley, which he still responded to. When I called the home phone number a little girl answered the phone, very politely she handed the phone to her mother. I wasn't sure how to approach the situation, so I started with a simple, "Hi there, this is Officer David from Animal Control, I have Dudley here at our facility..." She interrupted me before I could continue, "What? You have who??" "Dudley? A yellow lab... his microchip information is linked to this number?" I replied. All of a sudden she broke down sobbing... After a few minutes of her trying to gain her composure she told me that Dudley had escaped out the back gate three years ago because the pool cleaners hadn't shut the door all the way. They put signs up everywhere, made reports with animal control, and blasted Craigslist and Facebook but never heard anything back.

When the family arrived at the shelter you could tell they were nervous, the daughter was hugging her dad's leg so tight it was probably numb. When I brought Dudley around the corner he froze, the little girl, now brave enough to break from the grip of her daddy's leg, took a few steps forward and very quietly whispered his name. Dudley immediately recognized the family and began barking and jumping, his tail was wagging so hard he was knocking paperwork off the counters! They all collapsed around him petting, kissing, hugging, and crying. After three years, they were finally reunited... and his microchip was how he was able to go home.

Microchips are a life-line for lost pets; the story of Dudley happens more often that you would think. When you find a lost pet, please don't assume he doesn't have a home... exhaust your resources trying to find the owner before deciding to keep him for yourself. (

Graphic courtesy of ©2001 - 2014 Medill Reports - Chicago, Northwestern University. A publication of the Medill School.

IMHS WISH LIST



The shelter uses the following items often and has an ongoing need for the supplies listed. Your donation of the items listed below is tax-deductible. IMHS relies solely on donations and the generosity of the community in order to fulfill our mission. Heartfelt thanks for your compassion and support!

Canned cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Dry cat and dog food, puppy/kitten and adult formulas

Baby food, chicken or turkey formulas

Peanut Butter

Clay non-clumping cat litter

Pellet cat litter (Good Mews, Feline Pine, or wood stove pellets)

Hand Sanitizer

Bleach

Laundry Detergent

Dish liquid soap

Paper towels

Ziplock baggies

Distilled water by the gallon

30- and 45- gallon trash bags

Rubber gloves

Copy paper

Business envelopes

1st Class postage stamps

Help Us Save More Animals Than Ever This Year!

Support our ambitious plans to expand our programs and services this year by making your tax-deductible gift to IMHS online at www.imhs.org or select from any of the funds below and mail in the reply form to IMHS, PO Box 1250, Conifer, CO 80433. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Yes! I Want to Support the Life-Saving Efforts of IMHS! Here's my contribution of \$ _____

Enclose Check or Visa/Mastercard (circle one) Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Your Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Contact me about volunteer opportunities: Yes No

Specially Designated Funds

- Rescue the Rescuers** — Your support of this fund helps with the most urgent operating needs of the IMHS shelter.
- 'Fix 'Em Up' Spay and Neuter Program** — These essential funds guarantee that all animals coming in to the IMHS system are sterilized prior to adoption. This policy is strictly enforced by IMHS and is central to our efforts to combat pet overpopulation.
- 'Home Away From Home' Foster Program** — IMHS relies upon the assistance of approved foster families to house and care for many of the pets in our system. While foster families freely give love, shelter and basic training to these pets, IMHS is responsible for their food, bedding and veterinary care. Your contribution to this program will help cover these costs.
- 'STOP' Shelter-Transfer-Outreach-Program** — IMHS is actively committed to the rescue and care of animals from underserved shelters in our region. As a prime destination shelter, IMHS acts as a lifeline for animals who may otherwise be destined for euthanasia. Your contribution to the STOP program supports our rescue efforts and ensures that all these pets are afforded the full IMHS standard of care.
- 'Go Dog Go' Project** — Contribute "gas money" for the IMHS van to transport pets in the STOP program as well as on routine trips to/from the vet or to offsite adoption locations, etc. This fund also covers maintenance costs for the van.
- 'SNAP' Special-Needs-Assistance-Program** — Funds from this program help specific animals requiring non-routine veterinary care (e.g., extraordinary treatments or surgeries extending beyond spay/neuter or routine vaccinations).
- 'Raising the Walls' Fund** — Contribute to the future of IMHS through this restricted fund created to finance the establishment of a new animal care facility.
- Sponsor a Cage** — Help shelter residents during their time at IMHS by covering the cost of care for a specified period of time. A special message, dedication, and/or recognition certificate is posted on a shelter animal's cage for the length of your sponsorship period.

www.imhs.org



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Conifer, Colorado 80433

Intermountain
HUMAN SOCIETY

