



PAW PRINTS

Finney County Humane Society

February 2005

P. O. Box 2031 • Garden City, KS 67846 • 620-275-5651

'THE MAN IN MY LIFE'

by Peggy Serry



Editor's Note: Peggy Serry, a mobility-handicapped Garden City High School teacher, sometimes uses a Service Dog to help her in her daily life. A few months ago she lost her dog Springer, and made a contribution in his name to the Finney County Humane Society. This is her story of that special relationship.

Springer was my Service Dog for 11 years, and my main companion for 12 and a half years. As a Service Dog, he went everywhere with me: to stores, medical offices, restaurants, etc. We traveled all over the western United States and took a road trip to Alaska. We even flew on a few airplanes. When Springer first came to town, there was an article about us in The Telegram and in the Sugar Beet (high school newspaper), as we had to teach people about Service Dogs,

and "what was that dog doing in the store?" Springer and I even gave a short presentation/demonstration for the Finney County Humane Society.

Springer accompanied me to my classroom where I teach at Garden City High School. He attended faculty meetings (and yawned when he was bored!). He had his own school ID. For 11 years he had his picture, along with mine, in the school yearbook.

I never knew anyone who was as excited to go to school everyday! When he was not on duty, he slept on his pillow by my desk or sometimes he walked up and down the rows of desks, deciding to sit down by some particular student, who beamed at being chosen. The student would let their arms drop over the sides of their desk in order to touch his hair as he walked by. Of

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Auction List Grows

A 4-foot Mickey Mouse, an autographed Kansas University basketball and a day with a television reporter are on the growing list of donated items and personal services in support of the Finney County Humane Society's 1st Annual Auction, Dance and Membership Drive, according to the project organizer.

Kay Gillespie said area businesses, craftsmen and artists have been generous in their support of the Valentine's Day fund-raiser at the Garden City Elks Lodge. Activities start at 7 p.m. and end at Midnight, with Super Hits 96 radio disk jockey Steve Brown providing the music.

Tickets to the February 12 community event can be obtained for a \$5 donation at the door or in advance from FCHS board members. There will be a cash bar offered by the Lodge.

Gillespie said donated items and services are still being accepted, and they are tax deductible. She can be contacted at (620) 2786-6537.

The event will feature live and silent auctions. Local auctioneer Larry Johnston will help move some of the donated items from display tables into the arms of attendees. The un-finished list of original artwork, home-made crafts, retail items and personal services include the following:

- Autographed Kansas University basketball
- Autographed Kansas State football
- Framed watercolor painting of horse by Margaret Crowley

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Glenda Hopkins

It's 2005, and my time as President has come to an end. I can finally take the time to stop and look back on what the FCHS accomplished in 2004.

I'm proud, and each and every member should also be proud of the accomplishment of our society. The FCHS provided 243 vouchers, of \$25 each, to help Finney County residents defray the cost of spaying or neutering their pet. Additionally, funds were provided to put the "Kind News" newsletters into every 3rd grade class in the country, and it will also be started in 1st and 2nd grades.

Our humane society worked at continuing a good public image, and towards becoming more visible in the community, with a booth at the country fair and by participating in three city parades.

We worked to promote cooperation between our society, the Garden City Police Department and the animal control shelter. Representatives of our board had monthly meetings with responsible officers. With their help, we investigated complaints of cruelty/neglect to horses. Two of these complaints resulted in convictions and jail time for owners. And we had a success story with Woody, a horse that we confiscated in a previous year. Woody went to a rescue in Ohio, and is having a wonderful life after almost starving to death.

The 2nd Annual Pitch For Pets Softball Tournament was a successful fund-raiser in 2004. Thanks again to all the sponsors, players and volunteers.

FCHS volunteers continued to work hard last year to promote adoption of shelter animals by taken them to WalMart on Saturdays, spotlighting pets on KUPK-TV's Pet Pals, talking with Bobby Wild on Q-97 radio, showcasing adoptable pets in the Garden City Telegram and featuring pictures of pets on the society's web site at www.finneycohs.org.

Hundreds of dogs were given a second chance at life when they were transported to various rescue facilities throughout Kansas and Colorado. Most were taken to Denver's Dumb Friend's League in our Hound Hauler van.

Some truly dedicated volunteers opened their homes and hearts to become foster homes. The care givers took animals that weren't ready for adoption, and through love and hard work, produced animals that could trust once again. The animals once again have eyes bright and hopeful future.

2004 was a good year, but with your help, 2005 can be even better. Please give of your time and money to help the animals and support the FCHS.

VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Nancy Garhart

Our Annual General Membership Meeting was held the evening of January 13, 2005, at the Garden City Community College's Student Union. After a buffet dinner, two recently elected board members were introduced. They were voted on by ballot mailed to all FCHS members. One was a board member who's term had expired and the other was new to the board.

Glenda Hopkins has been on the board for 5 years, the last two as President. She and her husband Daryl have 2 dogs, homing pigeons and a cat or two.

New to the society and the board is Pat Hass. He and his wife Chris, and daughter Sara, have always had pets in their home. He is also a shelter animal foster parent.

On January 17th, during the monthly FCHS board of director's meeting, new officers were elected. Erin Dehn, western Kansas reporter for KAKE and KUPK-TV, was elevated from her position as Secretary to that of Vice President. During the same process, I accepted the President's position, with Glenda Hopkins, who had been President, agreeing to take over the vacated duties of the Secretary. Kay Gillespie held her position as Treasurer.

Congratulations to those elected to more challenging roles in our worthwhile organization, and a heart-felt THANK YOU to our out-going President Glenda Hopkins.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Garhart, President
Erin Dehn, V. President
Kay Gillespie, Treasurer
Glenda Hopkins, Secretary
James Arwine
Dr. Kent Garhart, Ph.D.
Pat Hass
Mark Morell
Dr. Rodney York, DVM
EDITORIAL STAFF
James Arwine, Editor
Mary and Elissa Shortridge, Graphics/Layout
Petersen Printing, Production

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course, if any student tried to sneak some food or snack into the classroom by hiding it in their backpack, Springer al-

ways sniffed them out.

I lightened up the rule about not petting a Service Dog, and Springer took on a dual role as Therapy Dog, as well as Service Dog. I used Springer to teach the students how to care for and treat a dog with kindness. I used Springer to show the students how to teach a dog manners (and tricks). As mobility was my handicap, I chose responsible students to take Springer outside for a walk when he needed a break. They were proud to be the ones I trusted.

Doing hall-duty, I observed tough gang-types, who would not speak to me, stop and kneel down to pet or speak to my dog. Because of Springer, I met and befriended a number of kids I would not have known otherwise. Many students came into my room to visit Springer. Teachers often stopped by my room for what one teacher called his "dog fix". Some of the school staff even kept dog biscuits in their desk drawers!

As I am a single person, Springer was my "main man", my companion, confidante, and even by bed partner. It was such a comfort to me, on those rough days, to be able to put my arms around Springer and bury my face in his fur.

Springer and I spent every summer in the mountains and he loved those lakes and rivers. He died in those mountains, in the cabin that I've been building. He sat up and looked at me one last time before he slumped back and crossed over to "another place". He is buried under a limber pine, surrounded by aspens. The rocks piled over his grave were placed there by many of those whose lives he touched.

Yes, Springer touched so many

lives and many people feel his loss. For me, it has been the greatest loss. But I am thankful, so grateful that he shared those 12 and a half years with me.



Auction—cont. from pg. 1

- Framed photo of parrot from Dr. Stewart
- Rustic wood bench by Pat Keeny
- 3-D wall hanging of Coronado
- Pottery and wood cut prints from Jim Mathews
- Framed patriotic glass panel from Picture This
- Metal stake sunflower
- Ceramic pitcher and vase by Brian McCallum
- Framed stamps
- Hand-made quilts
- Doilies made by Karen Sue
- Church bird house
- Original paintings by Evelyn Shrader
- Crystal chandelier
- C.S.I. tv show mugs
- Items from Will and Grace tv show
- 4ft. Mickey Mouse
- Dinner for two with wine at Southwind
- Jewelry
- Italian charm bracelets and key chains
- Stained glass classes with Rowena Turner
- Tour of Zoo guided by Dan Baffa
- Day with a canine officer
- Day with Erin Dehn of KAKE-TV
- Family Zoo membership
- Body massage from Floating Cloud Salon
- College memorabilia from RT's Sporting Goods
- George Foreman grills
- Stuffed owl
- Large dog bed from WalMart
- Large flower arrangements from Super Store
- Mantel clock
- Space-saver radio/cd player
- 50 pound beef bundle from Reeve Cattle Co.
- 12-volt rechargeable drill, stud finder and swing set hardware from Home Depot
- Quality boots worth \$80 from Crazy House
- Stenographer's chair from Today's Office Furniture
- Miscellaneous knick-knacks and collectibles

A Place For Dogs To Play

By Erin Dehn

Some Garden City residents are giving a whole new meaning to child-play. A group of dog owners have been working since last summer to create a place for their dogs to play in Garden City.

"This ability to socialize with other dogs and burn off excess energy can be benefit to the dogs, it's owners and the city," park proponent Andrea Smith said. "A well socialized dog has fewer behavior problems."

A dog park is an open area where dogs can play under the supervision of their owners. While some residents are concerned a dog park will be nothing more than a smelly plot of land with lots of barking, Smith says it's just the opposite. Dogs at dog parks are generally well-behaved because they're socialized with other animals. And, owners are responsible to pick up after their pets.

"I moved from a farm in Missouri, with plenty of room for my dogs to run, to Garden City where all they have is my back yard and an occasional walk on the lead," Smith said.

She says dogs need to exercise and companionship just like humans. And dogs aren't the only ones who will benefit from the park.

"This will give dog lovers a chance to congregate and discuss issues they may be facing, and share advice," Smith said.

The group has petitions around town trying to garner more support for the project. Location seems to be the biggest setback.

"We have a couple of ideas for location, but as far as when it will happen, only time will tell," Smith said.

Area citizens interested in the dog park are encouraged to contact Smith at (620) 271-7492.

Hernandez Receives Disaster Response Training

Animal Control Officer Julie Hernandez received special training in animal disaster response and cruelty investigation at a 3-day session conducted by Code 3 Associates, in Manhattan, during late October and early November.

Code 3 Associates is a non-profit organization, based in Colorado, that is made up of experienced public safety and animal welfare professional who work in partnership with law enforcement and other emergency response organizations to provide updated training and hands-on animal rescue and relief during disasters. They responded recently to the disaster in Florida when the state was hit by a rash of hurricanes.

Hernandez said Code 3 has a Mobile Command center that is staffed by a team of trained personnel that responds to natural and man-made disasters in the United States and Canada. The Center, pulled by a semi-truck, consists of two trailers containing a surgical suite, portable corrals, 125 cages for small animals, beds for nine people, and enough food and water for humans and animals for one week.

Even though disaster preparedness and response is needed, Hernandez said the most worthwhile course offerings were ones that she could readily apply here in Garden City. "Animals cruelty investigation training and disease transmission awareness were probably the most useful".

She said there are 150 transmittable disease that man can get from animals. Salmonella tops the list. How to recognize, treat and try to prevent such disease from spreading was discussed. Cleanliness and

disinfectants are key factors.

Attendees also learned about bio-security for farms. The potential use of anthrax by bio-terrorists and how such agents as Anthrax can quickly affect animals and man were a topic of discussion.

Hernandez, who is scheduled to attend five more days of training in February, would like to see others who work with animals have the opportunity to attend the courses. Her training was funded in part by the Garden City Police Department and the Finney County Humane Society.

Tips For Finding A Lost Pet

When your beloved dog or cat strays from home, it can be a traumatic experience for both of you. The Humane Society of the United States offers the following tips to help you find your pet.

File a lost-pet report with every shelter within a sixty-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible. If there is no shelter in your community, contact the local police department. Provide these agencies with an accurate description and a recent photograph of your pet. Notify the police if you believe your pet was stolen.

Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. (Early morning and evenings are the best times to look for a lost pet. Ask neighbors, letter carriers, and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and how you can be reached if your pet is found.

Post signs at grocery stores, community center, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, and other locations. Also, place advertisements in newspapers and radio stations. Many provide this service free of charge. Always include your pet's

sex, age, weight, breed, color and any special markings. When describing your pet, leave out one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.

When talking to a stranger who claims to have found your pet, ask him to describe the pet thoroughly before you offer any information. If he does not include the identifying characteristics that you left out of the advertisements, he may not really have your pet. Be particularly wary of people who insist that you give or wire them money for the return of your pet.

Don't give up your search. Animals who have been lost for months have been reunited with their owners.

And remember that a pet—even an indoor pet—has a better chance of being returned if they always wear a collar and an ID tag with your name, address and telephone number. In some areas, permanent methods of identification, such as microchips, are available.

P U P P Y P O W E R

The strong and mysterious bond between humans and dogs goes back at 15,000 years, yet researchers continue to find new and surprising things about it. For example, earlier this year researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia discovered that the simple act of petting a dog raises the levels of feel-good hormones such as serotonin in both dog owners and non-pet owners. Put this research to good use says Better Homes and Gardens. If someone in your family is having a hard day, seek out a dog. If you don't own one, drop in on a friend who does. Or volunteer to walk a pooch at the local animal shelter.





ADOPTION COSTS

To adopt from the Garden City/Finney County Animal Shelter you must go to the shelter and prepay the costs of a spay or neuter for the animal and the cost of a rabies vaccination. Plus, pay an adoption fee and the costs of a city or county tag if you live within Finney County.

The total cost will include:

1. Prepaying for a spay or neuter. (Even though you pre-pay at the shelter, you may use the veterinarian of your choice).
2. Prepaying for a rabies vaccination. (Even though you pre-pay at the shelter, you may use the veterinarian of your choice).
3. The first vaccination for the animal. (Which will be given to the animal before you take it home).
4. Worming.
5. Adoption fee.
6. City or county tag.

For dogs the total cost would be \$107 for a female and \$87 for a male.

For cats the total cost would be \$97 for a female and \$67 for a male.

After you have your newly adopted animal spayed or neutered, you can send a copy of the vet's receipt to the Finney County Humane Society and we will send you \$25.

Please remember that the Finney County Humane Society is completely separate from the Garden City/Finney County Animal Control Shelter. The FCHS and its volunteers work with the shelter to help get animals adopted instead of euthanized.



Looking cozy and comfortable under a school desk, Springer had a unique job in life. Find out more about him and his partner in our front page feature story.

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**Fi. Co. 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