



CARE is a Non-Profit Organization
Specializing in the Rescue and Placement
of Homeless Dogs and Cats

SPRING
Newsletter 2002

***THE STORY OF “JAZZ” -
NOW HE’S PLAYING A DIFFERENT TUNE!***

Dear CARE,

We’ve had Jazz in our family for 2 weeks now and it’s been GREAT! He’s the most wonderful dog ever and we haven’t experienced any bad behavior from him at all. No backyard trench digging, no chewing up stuff, no house potty accidents, and barking is minimal-he’s just a happy guy who’s active and cooperative in his ongoing training. Jazz is also great with kids, especially our 4-year old daughter. We all LOVE him so much!

Jazz’s lifestyle consists of morning walks and backyard fetches before breakfast. During the day, Jazz is not home alone for long periods because our schedules are flexible. In the evening, it’s jogging and backyard play before dinner. Jazz also loves his grooming time. At night, he sleeps in his kennel safely in the family room but loves waking up at 5:30 am!

Over the long weekend we took him on a family campout to Lake San Antonio and he had a blast! I took him on several long walks; he went swimming and played with another dog. He received lots of attention and everyone at the campgrounds commented on my “beautiful, handsome dog.”

We had our first vet appointment last week for a heartworm test and first Lyme disease vaccination. The vet said he’s a little under weight, but it’s okay-he’s still adjusting to his new home. Other than that, Jazz had an excellent bill of health!

I cannot believe what this dog has brought to our family and especially to me. We have really bonded; Jazz and I are pals for life! I’ll always keep in touch and hope to see you in the neighborhood! Again, thanks for letting us adopt Jazz as part of our family!

Sincerely, Cheryl Cardamon



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“Licking” Pet Overpopulation

Great News! After years of campaigning by national and local animal welfare organizations as well as concerned citizens throughout the country, the *United States Postal Service* has announced it will begin issuing two new “Spay & Neuter Your Pet” stamps in September 2002! The stamps were the brainchild of the *Prevent a Litter Coalition (PaLC)*. The post office gave the green light and will be coordinating with *PaLC* in a series of promotional tie-ins and public awareness events to maximize the stamps’ message while promoting its use in mailboxes throughout the country.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.carepets.org

See photos and read profiles on our animals available for adoption. Our website is updated every week!

If you don’t have internet access, you can always reach us the old fashioned way by leaving a message on either of our phone lines:
Dogline at 408-227-CARE (2273) or
Catline at 408-929-CATS (2287)

About this publication:

CARE’s newsletter is published three times yearly and is distributed to CARE members, advertisers, sponsors and animal adopters in good standing. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter, please email: RRAning@aol.com or Mich2501@aol.com for pricing information.

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What’s the Best Way to Adopt and Introduce a Puppy or Kitten to Children?

CARE strongly recommends waiting until children are mature enough to take on the responsibilities of caring for a companion animal. Many are too young to understand that a puppy or kitten is not a toy. We encourage you to visit our CARE Adoption Center or your local shelter as a family to allow your children to become involved in the pet selection process.

Let the kids interact with the litter of puppies or kittens you’re considering for adoption and carefully watch how the animals respond to them. If possible, show the children the mother, her litter and all the siblings. Explain that once adopted, your family will become the young animal’s entire world. This will give the kids a sense of the huge responsibility they will have to their new family member.

Next, don’t do anything on impulse. Take a step back for a day to discuss the adoption and how it will effect your family. Ask an adoption counselor for literature about welcoming a new puppy or kitten into your lives. Talk about the particular pet that caught your family’s eye and gauge your children’s responses making sure they understand and are committed to the caretaking job ahead—a commitment that can last up to 20 years. The idea is to directly involve the kids in the adoption process so they will have better follow-through in the weeks, months and years ahead. By involving the children in the pet adoption decision process, chances are greater that your new family member and kids will be friends for life.

Studies have shown that sharing their lives with, and taking responsibility for a family pet gives children a sense of duty, responsibility and commitment while building character. These valuable qualities will stay with children not only in their formative years but also for years to come as they mature into adulthood.

Why Does My Pet Enjoy Munching on Grass and Other Greens?

Settling an upset tummy, or helping displace bothersome hairballs are just a few reasons. Your pet needs fresh greens in his or her diet on a regular basis. Many pet-parents provide fresh greens and even grow small bowls of oat and wheat grass (available at pet stores) for their special companions. Veggies are also a special treat and unlike many of us, many pets even love broccoli!

FYI: It’s perfectly fine (and often encouraged) to give dried catnip leaves to your cat as a special treat. Besides providing you with entertainment, eating these “greens” helps with digestion and the expelling of hairballs.

HOW TO TELL IF YOUR CAT IS OVERWEIGHT :-)

- * Watching her tummy sway from side to side as she trots down the hallway reminds you that your health club payment is overdue.
- * Visitors to your house constantly mistake her for a bean bag chair.
- * She waits for the third bowl of food before getting finicky.
- * There are fewer calls to the fire department, but there is a sudden upsurge in broken branches throughout the neighborhood.
- * After a fifteen-month gestation period, there are still no kittens!
- * It’s no longer safe to lift him without someone spotting you.
- * His ample tummy keeps your hardwood floors freshly buffed.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

**** MARTHA TURNER ****
from Jan Blakeslee



**** ANGELO MATTHEWS, my late husband ****
from Melissa King

IN HONOR OF:

**** JANET SWANSON ****
from Daniel and Karen Swanson



**** My Little Dog, "MOLLY" ****
from D. Maggetti



HELPFUL TIPS IF YOU ARE ADOPTING AN OLDER DOG

A dog is considered to be senior, or as we like to say, "golden," once he or she reaches the age of seven years. Our CARE foster homes are quite pampering when we accept older, more senior dogs; therefore, we have special advice for those caring humans willing to open their hearts and homes to an older rescue dog. Regardless of age, most dogs want to know four things: Where's the couch, where's the yard, where's the water bowl and when do we eat. With these four criteria in mind, here's some specific advice for guardians of senior pooches when extending their quality of life is the name of the game:

1. Always provide the best quality food possible, preferably one containing no by-products or preservatives. **Rescue Remedy** (available at most health food stores), is also recommended to help with any stress that may arise from your senior dog moving into a new home environment after adoption.
2. Give your newcomer a special place with his or her own new, comfy bedding so they'll know they're in their new home.
3. Exercise your 7-10 year old dog as much as is comfortable for him, but don't push your 10 to 12 year old senior to keep up with younger dogs. On longer walks, have plenty of rest periods and always check with your vet before long journeys.
4. Regular vet checks are very important for your senior pet. Keep an eye on your pet. Stay ahead with preventative tooth care and supplements to help keep joints supple and strong. Be observant of your dog's gait, hips, heart, teeth and eyesight. If you notice limping, stiffness, or clumsiness while walking, schedule an appointment with your vet as soon as possible. There is now a myriad of new treatments and oral medications available to relieve your pet's discomfort and improve his quality of life.
5. Be patient. It may take awhile for your new friend to learn new routines and it may be that you have to learn a few routines yourself! You may be surprised to see an older dog trotting out old tricks and games after settling into his new home and surroundings. This will be an adjustment period for both of you, but always remember you saved a life!

YES! I would like to support your Dog Adoption Program!

YES! I would like to support your Cat Adoption Program!

Please apply my donation to your General Fund in support of CARE's cat & dog adoption programs.

YES! I WANT TO VOLUNTEER! Send me more information!

Please check whichever box(es) apply and include this coupon with your tax-deductible donation.

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YOUR PET'S HEALTH PAGE



Understanding Your Cat's Silent Body Language

Yes, cats can talk. Anyone who lives with and loves their feline companion can tell you they even have a "language" all their own. A majority of the time cats communicate a variety of things without even uttering a single sound. This is the silent world of cat body language. Take a few minutes to have your own private conversation with your cat. The sound of your voice will help your cat become responsive and friendly not only to you, but also to others who come in contact with "Fluffy."

TAIL

A cat whose tail suddenly becomes busy is not feeling peaceful.

When the tail is flying high, "all is terrific."

When it is at half- mast, "all is not terrific."

When it is dropped low, "I'm very unhappy."

When it twitches back and forth, "back off!"

When the tip twitches, "I'm self-conscious."

When it's bushy, "I'm angry!"

TONGUE

Embarrassment: Rapid, non-stop licking.

Boredom: Constant, deep, intense licks.

Nervousness: Short, shallow, licks.

Affection: The cat licks you; a great time to train!

EARS

Ears alert/straight up: Ready for fun and affection!

Ears flat out sideways: "What's up?"

Ears downward: "I'm defensive. Watch out!"

Ears down and back: "I'm furious. Watch out!"

PAWS

Paw kneading: "I'm content."

Paw hugs: "I love you."

Paw nagging: "Hurry up!"

Paw blows: "A fight!"

EYES

Eyes wide open and looking at you: "I'm listening."

Eyes half closed: "I'm sleepy and very relaxed."

Eye pupils in slits: "I'm feeling alert and confident."

Bug-eyed: "I'm frightened...be careful!"

Blinking and winking: "I'm talking to you, I like you."

Eyes clouded: "I'm ill." Or "I'm relaxed."

Eyes staring: "Stay away." A stare is a challenge.

Dental Care: Part of Your Pet's Health Routine

Your pet's teeth are just as important as your own. Like any dedicated pet caretaker, you love having your dog or cat snuggle up close to you. But ugggh...who could love that horrible breath? Don't let a whiff of halitosis come between you and your cat or dog because help is available.

Bad breath is often one of the first signs that your pet may need dental attention. Left untreated, your pet's dental problems can lead to more serious diseases throughout their body. Fortunately, many pet parents are just learning how important regular teeth cleanings and general oral care can be to the overall health and well being of their furry friends. If your pet displays any of the below symptoms, please visit your veterinarian.

Danger Signs of Dental Trouble

- Bad Breath
- Yellow or brown stains, signaling the buildup of plaque and tartar
- Bleeding or inflamed gums
- Missing or broken teeth
- Pawing at the face or mouth
- A change of eating or chewing habits
- Overall depression or malaise
- Lumps on the gums or in the mouth

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“DEAR C.A.R.E.”

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CARDS AND LETTERS COMING!

CARE takes great pride when we receive heartfelt updates from our previous adopters. Reading and sharing your stories of hope and success help to uplift our spirits at times when our labor of love for the animals we rescue can be a difficult and trying experience. Not all pictures can be included and some stories may be edited for space. Thank you for continuing to support CARE!!



Cuddles, Cozy and Velvet: Thank You for Saving Them Just for Us!

Dear CARE,

We would like to send these photos of our sweet little girls, Cuddles and Cozy, who we adopted in February 2000 from CARE. We adopted a total of three cats in 2000 (Velvet joined

our family in January, 2000). We love them all dearly.

With Purrs of Thanks, Bob & Carol McLean
(Pictured is “Cozy”, 12/00)

Finster and Tasha: Their love is the Center of our Lives

Dear CARE,

Finster, once known as Max the K-Mart parking lot kitten, wanted us to send his special foster mom, Debbie Free, a Christmas card featuring his beaming little kitty face!



Finster is doing GREAT! He and Tasha (our CARE doggy) are best buddies and we're happy to say their relationship REALLY worked out! We know how much you doted over Max and the early love you gave him shines through in his disposition today. God bless you!!! Jim and I also wanted to let you know we've decided that CARE should be our designated charity for this Christmas year. Our pets are literally at the center of our lives and bring us pure joy on a daily basis.

Wishing you a truly Happy Holiday!

Jim and Rose Harden
(Finster and Tasha too!)

**CARE thanks the Harden family for generously choosing to support our life saving efforts!*

Copper's Loving Heart

Dear CARE,

About 1½ years ago, we adopted Copper from CARE. Since then, he has brought joy to our family and we just wanted to keep you up to date about him. Because of Copper's horrible experience as a bait dog for dog fighting before being rescued by CARE, he's still afraid of dogs and sometimes he can be unfriendly towards them. However, Copper is very friendly with people, especially children.



Copper is such a happy and personable dog. My husband and I always tell people that Copper is our “other son” and our son, Alex, calls Copper his “little brother.” We are very happy and feel very lucky that Copper is now part of our family.

Best Wishes,
The Lee Family

Worth the Wait


Dear Sharon & CARE,

We want to thank you so much for calling us about our new little boy [once he became available for adoption]. He is so good and we love him already and are so glad we waited until we found the best companion dog for us! We renamed him Riley. Please thank LeeAnn again!



Take Care & Thanks Again, David & Evelyn Bartels

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Open 24 hours on weekends and major holidays**

“DEAR C.A.R.E. (continued).....”

Cherry's Story...A Star is Born!



Dear CARE,

We thought we should give you an update on Cherry, our sweet and adorable part Pomeranian we adopted last June. My daughter simply adores her and they are such great friends! Cherry never barks and she's always thrilled to see us when we come home and when we take her out of her crate in the morning. Everyone who has met Cherry has fallen in love with her and I frequently hear the comment, "I want to find a dog just like her!" I always make sure to tell them that I adopted her after CARE volunteers rescued her.

Cherry has also become a star! My daughter was recently in the play, *The Wizard of Oz*. At first, they were using the director's dog as Toto, but the dog was having anxiety problems. One day, I brought Cherry with me to a rehearsal and soon, the whole cast had surrounded us. The next day, the director asked if they could use Cherry as Toto in the play. Turns out, Cherry was a natural! She loved all the attention and interaction with everyone! Although she got a little tired by the end of her performances, she still had plenty of kisses for us on the way home.

Thanks for hooking us up with such a great dog! Cherry is a wonderful addition to our family. ~ Julie Yamamoto

C.A.R.E. encourages your patronage of the advertisers and supporters in our newsletter!

TOP 10 REASONS DOGS ARE BETTER THAN KIDS

- 10 Dogs never resist a nap.
- 9 No "Generation Gap."
- 8 Often wag their tails after getting shots.
- 7 Dogs never pester you about getting a kid.
- 6 Dogs don't care if the mashed potatoes have touched the peas and carrots.
- 5 It doesn't take 45 minutes to get a dog ready to go outside in winter.
- 4 It only takes a biscuit to get their attention.
- 3 Average cost of sending a dog to school: \$42.00;
Average cost of sending a kid to school \$103,000.
- 2 Dogs are housebroken by the time they are 12 weeks old.
- 1 Your dog is not embarrassed if you sing in public.

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“SWEET PEA”... 26 POUNDS OF LOVE!

Ken Becker and Nancy Luter had been volunteering at CARE for just two weeks when Margie Doyle, a long-time CARE dog foster mom, brought a small, scruffy, off-white bundle of fur she thought resembled a dog to our CARE Adoption Center. Both Ken and Nancy’s hearts sank as they listened to Margie tell this little one’s sad story.



This scruffy bundle of fur (eventually named “Sweet Pea”) was found on a ranch located in the farmlands of Livermore. She had been wandering aimlessly in a barn desperately searching for food. Margie explained that the coat on this little dog was so matted and covered in flea dirt, her eyes were almost completely shut. Fortunately, the ranch owner placed a call to CARE asking for help and if we had room in our foster program to accept this homeless dog.

After hearing the rancher’s phone message, Margie decided to open her heart and home to “just one more” foster dog and quickly drove to the Livermore ranch. An exam by a CARE veterinarian later that afternoon determined Sweet Pea’s age between 7-8 years old. Sadly, Sweet Pea was also diagnosed with hearing problems and possibly cataracts.

That evening, Margie visited the CARE Center during adoption hours with Sweet Pea to evaluate how well Sweet Pea socialized alongside other dogs and humans. Margie also felt this would be a good opportunity for Sweet Pea to receive much-needed attention and TLC from other CARE volunteers present at the adoption fair. But when Margie placed her in a kennel, Sweet Pea turned her back on everyone letting us know she didn’t want any part of being left alone in a strange cage after what she had been through. Fortunately, both Nancy and Ken noticed Sweet Pea’s sadness and quickly scooped her up to be held in their arms for the next two hours.

After the adoption fair, Nancy and Ken reluctantly returned their newly found furry bundle back to her foster mom Margie and went home... all the while with Sweet Pea on their mind and tugging at their hearts. Her story of survival coupled with the worry of whether she’d find a loving, permanent home that would look past her age and physical problems kept both Nancy and Ken awake and wondering.

Then, in the middle of the night and after much discussion and soul-searching, their questions and concerns were answered. By morning, Ken and Nancy called Margie to begin the interview process of adopting Sweet Pea! By Saturday evening, after meeting their soft bundle of fluff only 24 hours earlier, Sweet Pea became nestled into Ken and Nancy’s lives as their newest family member! By Monday, it was off to the groomer and although Sweet Pea went in looking like a disheveled fur-ball of dirt and fleas, she left looking like a Princess—and she knew it!

Three years later, Ken and Nancy are proud to say that that Sweet Pea “runs the house”. Fortunately, it was determined Sweet Pea did not have cataracts at all - her tear ducts were simply not producing enough moisture making her eyes red,

condition and has a little arthritis, Ken and Nancy feel lucky to have her in their lives. “Sweet Pea has the biggest heart a 26 pound dog could ever have and we thank Margie and CARE for rescuing our tiny bundle of fur. CARE took in Sweet Pea and gave her another chance at life. She deserved it just like all the other dogs and cats of all ages that CARE accepts. Thank you for being there for the animals.”

CARE IS GRATEFUL TO BOTH KEN AND NANCY FOR THEIR ANIMAL-LOVING SPIRIT AS BOTH VOLUNTEERS AND CARE ADOPTERS!



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CARE's 2001 Adoption Numbers:

Kittens/Cats: 141

Puppies/Dogs: 308

Thank you CARE volunteers and adopters for saving 449 lives in 2001!

WE'RE HAVING A GARAGE AND YARD SALE!!

Come join us soon for a day of fun and great bargains as CARE holds our first garage and yard sale fundraiser in San Jose! Please visit our CARE website for more information as it becomes available.



Santa Paws Fundraiser

CARE warmly thanks KEN BECKER and NANCY LUTER along with their helper elves and Campbell's PETSMART for once again hosting our **SANTA PAWS PHOTO FUNDRAISER** last December. The event was fun, successful (total raised \$210), and put all who participated in the holiday spirit!

*How can you look at those dear little faces
and not feel a tug at your heart? All they
want is someone to love them, and give them a
brand new start. It's our job to help them,
wherever they roam. A puppy, just starting
life, or an old soul on his way home.*

*My Friends the Animals
By Mary E. Buford*

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