



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

SPRING Newsletter 2001

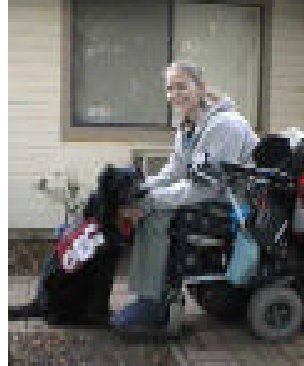
Chimette & Karyn: A Very Special C.A.R.E. Success Story

By Karyn LaGrange

For nearly four years, my life has been shared with a magnificent assistance dog named Chimette, a beautiful border collie mix. I had been on a waiting list for about eight years with an organization that trains assistance dogs for the disabled before adopting Chimette at 6 months of age from C.A.R.E. on June 4, 1997. The independence I have now achieved through our partnership has made every moment and dollar spent on this endeavor seem insignificant compared to what Chimette's companionship has given me in return.

My life before adopting Chimette was very different. I have multiple disabilities that encompass mobility, visual and hearing issues along with chemical sensitivities. Though many disabled people are happy to accept assistance from others, independence from human help was my goal. At the time of his adoption, Chimette had a significant amount of "baggage" but when he began to emerge from his shell, I finally realized what a gem I had landed! Though he still has some unresolved issues and has developed canine epilepsy and hip dysplasia, I would not trade what he has given me for anything.

I discovered how remarkable Chimette is after only three months together when his insistence alerted me to a malfunctioning doorbell signal device that was smoking dangerously. Soon, he began alerting me to the telephone and front door on his own, eliminating my need for these signaling devices. It's natural for most dogs to alert their owners to the front door, but somehow Met also sensed my need for him to alert me to the phone when it rang. Today, Met is my signal to sounds unheard.



More times than I can count, Met has instinctively intervened to provide me with the assistance he felt I needed. When Met was still quite young, he prevented me from falling off the sidewalk curbs due to my failing vision by refusing to walk past the point of danger. By doing this, Met redirected me towards safety. Fine tuning Met's instincts, along with training his non-instinctual skills, has given me the independence I had only dreamed of.

Today, if I drop items, need to pay a cashier, become disoriented due to my visual loss or just need a friend- it's Met who I can lean upon. He is an extension of me. I no longer have to worry about not hearing the door or phone, falling off curbs or crossing busy streets. No longer do I have to grab a cumbersome reaching device when I drop things, or ask strangers for their assistance. I no longer fumble through change at the register and worry when coins spill to the floor or struggle to remove my shoes, socks or pants when my body refuses to cooperate. I no longer worry about these things because I now have a wonderful partner who jumps to the task whenever needed! Chimette certainly fills the shoes of his nickname because he certainly has "Met" all my needs! Thank you C.A.R.E. for bringing such a special partner into my life.

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C.A.R.E. RECEIVES HELPFUL GRANT

Purrs and howls of appreciation are extended to C.A.R.E. members **Gina Aning and Sue McGinness** for collaborating to write, research and submit an excellent grant proposal to the **Gladys W. Sargent Foundation** on behalf of C.A.R.E. We are proud to announce that in January, C.A.R.E. received a substantial grant from this foundation, making it possible for us to save many more lives.

Our outgoing president, **Sharon Clifford**, had these supportive words: "To say the least, this grant was a nice surprise to end my year as your President. From the bottom of my heart, I am proud of each and every one of you. Your commitment to our animals is beyond belief!"

C.A.R.E. ON PETPOURRI

C.A.R.E. was recently given the opportunity of appearing on **KTEH's Petpourri** show hosted by George Sampson to speak about the life-saving work we do for our community. The airing of this broadcast will be repeated several times throughout the year and will help increase the South Bay's awareness of C.A.R.E. and lead to more animals finding loving homes. C.A.R.E. extends our thanks to KTEH, the staff of *Petpourri* and Mr. Sampson for giving us this opportunity.

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 our Dogline at 408-227-CARE (2273) or Catline at 408-929-CATS (2287)

SANTA- PAWS

On December 10th, C.A.R.E. held our first "Have Your Pet's Picture Taken With Santa" fund-raiser at **PetsMart** in Campbell. This was truly a fun event where pets had their chance to take a photo with Santa, lay on his lap and bark or meow their holiday gift requests!

Here's how the day unfolded as told by Santa himself, **Ken Becker**...

Dog volunteer coordinator **Sue McGinness** was scouring the C.A.R.E. roster looking for someone to play dress up for our Santa-Paws Photo Fund-raiser. Since I'm one of a few male C.A.R.E. volunteers who fit the bill, I didn't have much choice!

The big day finally arrived and I was getting nervous as my wife, **Nancy Luter**, dressed me in my big and bulky Santa outfit. What if the dogs didn't like me, I wondered? Well, no turning back now—there was already a line of pet-parents and their pooches waiting for their moment in the spotlight with Santa.

All went well and things were pretty calm for the first hour then Zena, a beautiful 115-pound mastiff, came trotting in alongside her owner. Soon after, a magnificent (and huge!) St. Bernard sauntered in followed by a great dane that came up clear past my shoulders! It was quite a fun (and busy) day posing for over 35 photos!

C.A.R.E. thanks Ken Becker, Nancy Luter, their helpful elves and PetsMart for graciously extending themselves to make this fundraiser a success!

In Remembrance



We in the animal welfare community were deeply saddened and extremely disturbed by the recent dog attack and subsequent death of a young San Francisco resident in January. Since this attack, there have been numerous reports by the media of other dog bite and attack stories, causing a decrease in dog adoptions (especially large breed) at shelters and an increase in dog surrenders to humane societies and rescue organizations.

Many owners, expressing a sudden fear of their dogs to their family, friends and neighbors, are simply reacting in fear and concern. Hopefully, the widespread discussion this attack has provoked will result in education that will promote responsible animal guardianship.

C.A.R.E. expresses our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Diane Whipple and hope the lessons learned from this tragedy will not be forgotten.

OOPS! WE GOOFED!

Our sincere apologies to the following Dog Walk Sponsors and contributor, as we accidentally omitted them from our last newsletter:

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**** Sole Lodge ****
**** Martha R. Turner ****
**** Donna Andrews ****



IN HONOR OF:

**** A dear friend, Virginia Prejean, a life-long
advocate & volunteer for the animals ****
**** Dixie ****

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WHY RESCUE?

*I looked at all the caged animals in the
shelter...the cast-offs of human
society. I saw in their eyes love and hope, fear
and dread, sadness, and
betrayal. And I was angry.*

*“God,” I said, “this is terrible! Why don’t you
do something?”
God was silent for a moment, and then spoke
softly, “I have done
something,” was the reply. “I created you.”*

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HEALTH CORNER

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM SPRING GARDENING



Spring will soon be here and that means people are hard at work in their yards and gardens now so they can soon enjoy delicious tomatoes, beautiful blooming gardens and deep-green lawns.

However, this is also a time for you to be aware of the potential harm flower bulbs, weed killers, insecticides and fertilizers may present to your companion animal.

Flower bulbs are inviting in your pet's eyes and make an ideal ball for fetching or gnawing. Unfortunately, flower bulbs—just about every kind—are also poisonous to your pet, so if you plan to garden flower bulbs this season, make sure they are secure from your companion animals. This can be done with chicken wire over and around the bulb bed. If your pet happens to ingest flower bulbs, your animal must see your vet for treatment right away. Make sure you're aware of the type of bulb ingested, since antidotes vary from one type of bulb to another.

For pet owners who want to spruce up their yards, weed killers and fertilizers should be used with caution. Due to the dangers of these chemicals, many gardeners with pets choose to use elbow grease instead of herbicides to battle their dandelions. For those who opt to use traditional lawn care products, reading labels carefully and using products properly is the key to keeping pets safe.

Problems usually arise when people apply lawn care or gardening products incorrectly or when a pet is accidentally sprayed or allowed on a freshly sprayed lawn too soon. With many yard products, any direct exposure to your pet can be dangerous. If you find your pet rolling or walking in a recently sprayed area or have sprayed him by accident, immediately wash the substance off with mild dish soap and contact your veterinarian.

Insecticides tend to be more toxic to pets than herbicides or fertilizers. Insecticides for use in the garden, especially those for roses and snails, can be very toxic. Gardeners need to be especially careful with these products around all animals. Be sure to store all fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and snail bait where pets cannot gain access. Keep all products in their original containers and make sure labels are intact and readable before using them. Then, always read the label and follow directions exactly. Finally, make sure a treated lawn is completely dry after waiting the maximum period recommended on the label.

To be extra safe, consider watering down the lawn after application and letting it dry before allowing pets into the treated area.

If you notice your pet acting strangely, stumbling, salivating, vomiting or having seizures—especially if you have recently applied a lawn care product, call your veterinarian or the

National Animal Poison Control Center

(1-888-4 ANI-HELP)

immediately. Don't forget to have the product in hand so you can discuss which chemical your pet may have been exposed to. Your pets will thank you for following the instructions and using common sense when using gardening care products!

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PETS IN POLITICS: GOVERNOR DAVIS SIGNS AB 860

California Governor Gray Davis recently signed Assembly Bill 860 into law. AB 860 states that future lease agreements cannot prohibit homeowners from keeping a companion animal in a mobile home park. It further states that new or amended governing documents for condominiums must allow owners to have a companion animal, with reasonable restrictions.

This legislation will help rescue organization like C.A.R.E. find homes for more animals and will permit more seniors to keep their companion animals when moving out of single family homes. We thank Governor Davis for signing this important legislation.

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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) reports that dog bites occur in nearly 2 percent of the U.S. population, and most of those cases involved children. It's a good idea not to allow children to walk the family dog until they are physically strong enough and emotionally mature enough to understand a dog's behavior. Very young children should never be left alone with a dog.

Teaching children how to act around animals is a key to prevention and many local humane societies can provide useful information for teaching children about pet safety. Here are some tips for kids:

· *Don't tease dogs behind fences or if they are confined in a yard.*

· *Don't approach a dog running loose, and tell an adult if you see a loose dog.*

· *If approached by a loose dog you are not familiar with - don't run away; instead, stand still and quiet if a strange dog comes near.*

· *Don't bother a dog while it is eating or sleeping.*

· *Only pet a dog after you ask the owner if it is okay; then let the dog sniff your hand first before petting the dog.*

Besides requiring dog owners to keep their pets controlled on a leash to prevent bites, laws assign liability to owners when bites do occur. Often, the pet owner will be held strictly liable for any injury or damage a pet inflicts upon another person, whether or not the owner is to "blame." That's why pet owners might want to make sure their homeowner's insurance covers injury due to dog (or cat) bites.

Most dog bites come from male, unneutered dogs that tend to be more territorial and aggressive, so spay and neuter your pets and encourage others to do the same. If your dog ever snarls or snaps at a person, seek the help of your veterinarian or give C.A.R.E. or your local humane society a call for a list of qualified trainers to nip any signs of aggression in the bud.

Common sense can go a long way in preventing dog bites, so always obey leash and rabies license laws. Make sure your dog sports a C.A.R.E. or other form of identification tags to aid his homecoming should he become lost.

Companion animals add tremendous joy and happiness to our lives, but while most people consider their animals as part of the family, the law often sees them as property. As we have recently seen, it becomes complicated if your animal

bites or attacks someone, so follow your local laws and ordinances, know your responsibilities as a pet guardian and encourage others to do the same.

To learn more about local laws and how to prevent dog bites, contact your veterinarian, local humane society or the volunteers at C.A.R.E.

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Top 10 Reasons a Dog is Better Than A Spouse

10. Loves it when you leave your clothes all over the floor.
9. Anyone can get a good-looking dog.
8. Thinks you sing great.
7. Manages to look "cute and goofy" when drooling.
6. The later you are, the more excited your dog is to see you.
5. Never needs to examine the relationship.
4. Agrees that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
3. Finds you even more interesting when you don't shower.
2. A dog's parents never visit.

... and the #1 reason a dog is better than a spouse...

Doesn't want to know about every other dog you ever had!

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“CALLIE” FINDS THE PERFECT HOME



(L-R)

Cassie,
Shawna,
& Callie

As a CARE volunteer and foster parent, you are always looking out for the best interest of your foster dog or cat. You want to find him or her the best possible home and make sure that it will be a perfect “match”. Callie is a sweet female 2-year-old mastiff-mix. Her foster mom (**Sharon Clifford**) acquired her in June 2000. She had multiple wounds on her paws, a skin condition where she licked and scratched all the time, and she also had “doggy acne”. She was never socialized around other people so she did not do very well around humans at first. She loved playing with other dogs and was very curious about cats; people were another story. After taking Callie to numerous obedience classes and working with her around several different men, women, children and other dogs, she finally came around. On top of that, Callie’s medical conditions healed very quickly, also putting her in much happier spirits.

After 5 months of bringing her to pet faires, posting her information on the C.A.R.E. website and spreading the news about her by word of mouth, Sharon finally received an email from Shawna Cullen, who at the time, resided in Southern California. Shawna showed tremendous interest in Callie and practically fell in love with her over the Internet! This would be the 2nd dog at home for Shawna. After all, Shawna rescued her first dog, Cassie, from another animal rescue group here in the Bay Area!

After several conversations on the phone and via email, Sharon knew this was the “perfect match” and that it was time for Shawna, Cassie and Callie to finally meet. Last November, they met halfway in San Luis Obispo at a city park and introduced the dogs to each other, while Callie also got to know Shawna pretty well too. After about an hour or so of talking and socializing, the difficult part came for Sharon – letting go and seeing Callie drive off to experience life with her new mom. But at the same time, it was one of the most rewarding experiences seeing her go to a new home too!

Once arriving in the San Diego area, Callie quickly got used to being around a swimming pool and the beach and also got along very well with her new “sister” Cassie. Shawna realized the dogs shared the same birthday month, so to celebrate she threw a doggy birthday party with the works! Soon, Callie became spoiled rotten! They have all since moved to Colorado and Shawna, Cassie, and Callie are currently enjoying the snow and winter weather very much. All of us at C.A.R.E. sincerely wish Shawna and her two “kids” the best in their new home in Colorado!

It’s a wonderful, heartwarming experience when we work very hard rehabilitating the dogs and cats we foster, then finally seeing them get adopted into the perfect homes. However, our work is never done – once one goes out, another comes in. Such is the life of an animal rescue volunteer.

BASIA

My husband and I began looking for another cat a few months after we put our sweet J.D. to sleep due to cancer. We felt the time was right and wanted to get a new friend for our other cat, Buster. After hearing about C.A.R.E. from the Santa Clara Humane Society, we decided to visit the C.A.R.E. Adoption Center. When I first met Basia and took her out of her cage, she immediately curled up in my arms; we knew she was the one!

We’d forgotten just how much energy a little kitten has! She’s a constant whirlwind and very much a comedian. We just celebrated Basia’s first birthday and the first anniversary of her adoption. She and Buster have become friends, although Buster wasn’t quite sure what to make of her at first.

The adoption process at C.A.R.E. was very easy and uncomplicated. The best part was being able to speak directly to her foster mom, **Paula Zimmer**, to learn about Basia’s history.

*Thanks so much,
Patricia and Jeff Adams*



**WITH KITTEN SEASON NOW HERE,
CONSIDER TAKING OUR C.A.R.E. QUIZ
TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE READY
TO ADOPT:**

Spring has sprung and a new crop of kittens will soon arrive into our C.A.R.E. cat foster home program for eventual adoption into loving homes. Adopting a kitten or cat means signing on for a lifetime of affection—and responsible care. Are you prepared? We recommend you ask yourself the following questions before visiting a shelter or rescue group to adopt:

- 1) **Is my family and am I ready to make a long-term commitment?** Adopting a cat (or any animal) means being responsible for its health and happiness throughout its life span. This responsibility should take the relationship through normal life changes, such as moving. Remember: Cats can now live up to 20 years or more!!
- 2) **Can I afford the cost?** The cost of a kitten/cat includes more than the adoption fee. Remember to figure in the costs of food, litter, basic and emergency veterinary care and general supplies such as bowls, brushes and toys.
- 3) **Is everyone in my household in favor of adopting a cat or kitten?** Since companion animals are members of the family, we strongly encourage all family members to be present at the time of adoption. Before adopting, it should be agreed that one adult in the home should be designated as primary caretaker to avoid the cat's needs being lost in the shuffle of busy schedules. Also, make sure your landlord allows pets prior to bringing any new animal home. This authorization should be in writing and brought with you at the time of adoption.
- 4) **Do I have at least one hour a day to devote to loving and caring for my cat/kitten?** Although more independent than dogs, cats thrive on companionship. If your cat will be alone during the day, to provide company for him and to bring more love into your life, consider adopting two cats.
- 5) **Am I ready to assume the daily responsibilities of caring for a cat/kitten?** All cats require daily care, such as litter box cleaning, feeding and exercise through play (especially kittens). In addition, most need regular grooming and dental care.
- 6) **Am I willing to learn basic cat behavior and training?** Understanding cat behavior will help you train them to use a cat scratching post instead of furniture and their litterbox consistently.

If you honestly answered YES to all these questions, you're probably ready to adopt. If you have reservations, consider waiting until you, your circumstances, or both change. Taking time to carefully consider whether to adopt a companion animal will save you and more importantly, the animal from the heartache and stress of having to be returned.

**C.A.R.E'S PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS!**

Congratulations to the following winners who entered our photo contest mentioned in the last newsletter:



1st Place - "Cozy"
submitted by Carol McLean



2nd Place - "Keisha"
submitted by Gina Aning



**3rd Place -
"Sweet Pea"**
submitted by Ken Becker
& Nancy Luter

CAT LORE *(contributed by many)*

- "Dogs have owners, cats have staff."
- "There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."
- "Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."
- "Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."
- "In a cat's eye, all things belong to cats."
- "As every cat owner knows, nobody owns a cat."
- "One cat just leads to another."
- "Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later."
- "Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia."
- "People who hate cats will come back as mice in their next life."
- "There are many intelligent species in the universe. They are all owned by cats."
- "I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior."

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SPARKY

It hadn't been long since our family dog, Emily, had passed away and we didn't know whether another dog could fill the hole her departure left in our home and hearts. We knew of the good work C.A.R.E. was doing to bring people and pets together, and decided to start our search there. The sign on the cage said "Sparky". Still, it was our first day of searching, so it seemed unlikely we would find the right dog right away. We decided to go out to dinner to discuss the pros and cons of adopting, but all we could do was talk about Sparky. By the 3rd stoplight, our family agreed Sparky had the qualities that would make him a good "fit" in our home. We turned the car around and headed back to the C.A.R.E. Center. After another visit with Sparky and his kind C.A.R.E. foster parents, we knew he was the dog for us. I have never been so pleased with the results of trusting my heart and not my head! It's been a year since we became Sparky's "pack". He has accepted our friends into his circle and has made our home more complete than I thought possible. Thank you C.A.R.E. for bringing Sparky and our family together.

- Chris and Lisa Frye



KELSEY

Kelsey, one of six pups born to two mixed-breed dogs, was born December 21, 1996 and I adopted her from C.A.R.E. in March 1997. Kelsey was very lucky to have had **Chris Smythe** as her C.A.R.E. foster mom because she had to be watched closely as one of her littermates had tested positive for the Parvo virus. Fortunately, after re-testing all the puppies, it was determined they were healthy. Chris had named Kelsey "Foo-Foo" and had warned me that Kelsey would be very shy. But with training to help socialize her, Kelsey is doing just fine. I have continued her training and we even do agility practice to help build her confidence! Kelsey has also earned her "Canine Good Citizenship Certificate"! Kelsey is an active, energetic, twenty-two pound affectionate "little girl" with an impish little face, snuggly personality and long, soft fur. She gets along well with other dogs and even cats. Kelsey has been a **WONDERFUL** companion!

THANKS C.A.R.E.! Lisa White

