

Kindred Spirits

Animal Sanctuary
Eldercare & Hospice for Dogs, Horses, and Poultry

SUMMER
NEWSLETTER
2018

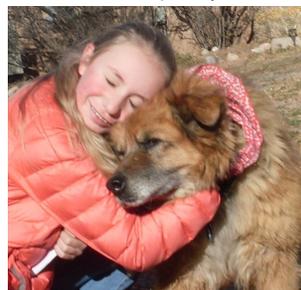
15 Years of Caring for Old Animals

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate our 15th year of caring for old animals, I'm reminded of how this work enriches and touches the lives of everyone who knows us. Most importantly, it's been an honor to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the animals we serve. Over time and through education, we have helped change public attitudes on how valuable and cherished these senior animal members are and how much we can learn from them. We thank you all for your support, love and generosity as we celebrate this remarkable milestone!



and thrive in this natural, nontoxic environment full of sights, sounds, and smells that tweak their senses. The program heals and strengthens animals' bodies and minds and gives them something to live for.



Juniper is a favorite example of how profound this healing can be. I was at the Sanctuary when she came in, so fearful she would not venture out from a dark corner beneath a table and physically compromised with severe hind limb disability. Over the years, and true healing does take time, she is now the one who noses her way through the crowd with strength and confidence to be sure to say "hello" and then, when I've run out of Charlie Bear treats, is perfectly at ease turning her back on me and happily going about her day.



From Dr. Mary Anne

Wow! On July 3, 2006 I made my very first entry in my veterinary records for Kindred Spirits. Now, 12 years later, I have so many warm memories of treasured learning experiences and good friends.

As a veterinarian with 34 years of experience (also a human being on this planet for 60+ years!), I have given a lot of thought to what really constitutes wellness, quality of life, and how to cultivate both. The Wellness Care Program at Kindred Spirits is a truly unique and in-depth protocol that enables and supports the healing process of these animals across species and through past traumas. Consistent care and predictable schedules offer safety as these animals gain strength. Wholesome nutrition and carefully considered treatments foster animals' healing potential and build mental, emotional, and physical vitality.



Over the years I have witnessed incredible transformations in animals that I would have said had only days, weeks or months to live - in misery. It is a joy and mystery to watch each animal make themselves at home, find their niche and special spaces,

Our Mission

Kindred Spirits is dedicated to providing end-of-life care for older, unwanted dogs, horses and poultry in a sanctuary setting. In addition, our educational programs focus on the beauty of animals as teachers of unconditional love. We believe this facilitates a better understanding and appreciation of our individual and collective aging processes where we feel privileged to return this love and care to these most vulnerable members in our community.

Kindred Spirits is about respecting our animal friends by caring for dogs, horses, and poultry as they traverse the final stages of their journeys. Respect, devotion, and unconditional love are the guiding principles here. Allowing and supporting dying and death is fulfilling a final obligation of love to each animal and to our commitment to each stage of life. They will be missed and remembered.

It has been rewarding to develop and work towards our mission and vision as change agents for the need for old animals to be valued and cared for in our society. We thank all our caregivers, staff, volunteers, and supporters near and far who share our commitment as activists and pioneers in this emerging field of animal End of Life and Hospice care. Our work in nurturing the souls of the animals connects us to our own soul's purpose. There's lots of work still to be done -let's get our next 15 years off to a great start!

~With Kindness and Compassion, Ulla and the Animals
Ulla Pedersen, RN, KSAS Founder and Executive Director

-Mary Anne Schadler, DVM



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Recent Events

On Mother's Day weekend this past May, we had a joyful celebration of our **15 years of caring for old animals** at our Spring Open House. Visitors got to meet our many happy and healthy senior animals, and enjoyed tours of the Sanctuary, sketches by the always popular Dan DiMaria, Laura Moore, teaching about Nutrition and as a cornerstone in senior Wellness, and Rae Sikora's presentation about Mother's Love and how it connects us all. Thank you to each of our expert presenters and the many visitors and generous supporters who made our Open House a great success!



Foster Program



Foster dog, Cooper, is an 136 lb cuddly lap dog!

Fostering big dogs for Kindred Spirits truly enriches our human and canine family. In exchange for providing a peaceful home environment, the dogs give much joy and love into our lives.

-Suzanne Brannan

Volunteer Stories

Lois: As a new volunteer, cutting fresh greens for the poultry, playing with the doggies, and grooming the horses is a treasured learning experience. I feel blessed serving these spirited old animals who didn't have the best beginning but will have the most wonderful ending.



is a day of fulfillment and joy.

Rick: Whether I'm feeding Annabelle and Moon Spirit, mucking stalls, watering our spirited poultry friends, or caring for the dogs, a day at Kindred Spirits with these beautiful elder



comes my scratch on her forehead.

Karen: When he first came to us, Jack was utterly bereft. A fluffy white armful of love and also blind, he lived his whole life with the same person until she died, in her mid-90s. Jack now happily explores his surroundings with his fellow "littles" and loves human attention and belly rubs.

Kendra: I've dated some turkeys in my day but none as good as Chief. He's my all time favorite turkey!



MELVILLE HANKINS
FAMILY FOUNDATION

We thank you for caring so deeply about our senior animals and for your generous support.

Maria: Thanks to Kindred Spirits, I appreciate the good quality of life an animal can have in their elder years when well cared for and loved. To be cared for in one's last years and moments is a real blessing.

Aurelia: My best buddies, Estrella and Gussie, always greet me with a wag of their tails and let me know how much I am loved by my two very special friends.



Sue: When Little Leo the Lionhearted arrived he trembled and cried at the slightest movement around him. We reached out to him very gently and with all his courage, he reached back. Now, whether he's napping blissfully



in the office or getting back rubs and ear scratches from our volunteers, Leo has found his forever home at Kindred Spirits and is a very happy little guy.

Montana: Annabelle the horse arrived with signs of hardship from her early life. With good nutrition she has gained weight and as she shed her dull coat this Spring, a vibrant, shiny chestnut color emerged. Where she once shied away from my touch, she now welcomes my scratch on her forehead.

*In honor of all animals and the environment, KSAS has made it a policy to serve only vegan refreshments at our special events...
Thank you from all the animals*

In Loving Memory

“... And upon their leaving, we are lost, devastated. Over time, we explore the story and see the meaning, and stand in awe of these remarkable beings. What an honor they give us when they walk a part of our lives with us” - Barbara Janelle

Max: I have been part of Max's life, a very senior Chihuahua, since I picked him up from a loving, suddenly disabled owner. We are so happy that KSAS was his safety net when his owner had to give him up. When it was time to say goodbye, I held Max as he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. -Sue



Adam had an age-related debility but was not ready to leave just yet. Adam's gentle spirit radiated joy as he basked in the friendship, love, and safety he had longed for. A few weeks later, his pain relieved and his journey complete he was called to his Spirit Home.



Blondie enjoyed her senior years gaining strength and confidence. In the company of her friends Moon Spirit and Annabelle, Blondie thrived and never missed a meal. And, as age caught up with her, she was called to her Spirit Home.



Mame came to us very old and withdrawn, seeking to hide in small, dark places. With lots of love and care, her personality began to shine with mischief as she walked her daily laps around the barns with Mariah, or trotted gleefully away when called in for siesta. She will be missed dearly.

Romy was the most courageous little old girl. Even though she was blind and frail, she was very sensitive to our voices and touch, and even though she was bigger than the other littles, she was very gentle. She will be missed by all, and we are grateful that we got to give her reason to wag her tail again.



Grammie and Snowball were both blind, old littles ones with hard lives behind them. They found comfort together as roommates and best friends. Now in their Spirit Home, they are still together.



Save the Date! **Annual Holiday Party**

Saturday, Dec. 8,
from 4 pm to 7 pm

4:30 pm: Tour

5:30 pm sharp:

Meditation and

Tree Lighting

Please bring a friend!



Mariah: My first memory of my time at Kindred Spirits is realizing that I had a friend in Mariah. She had an endearingly stubborn disposition and more determination in her right paw than many of us have in our whole bodies. She loved to be involved. Even with her slow, careful gait I could always be sure that when I looked down at my side, Mariah would be there looking up at me with the brightest eyes I'd ever seen. If ever there was a true incarnation of joy, it lived in Mariah. -Katie

Joey, a blind, talkative and inquisitive little old dachshund, brought endless humor and joy into our lives. He unexpectedly developed an acute, terminal condition. While waiting for the veterinarian, I held him close and I realized that Joey's parting gifts were the lessons of staying grounded, strong, and present with love and grace in the face of hardship. -Montana



Micah: The Sanctuary is filled with distinctive reminders of Micah's high level of ingenuity. Such as improvised Velcro latches on the refrigerator, to pillows on her favorite barnyard chair which she rearranged herself on every sunny day. I still see her image there, and I smile.



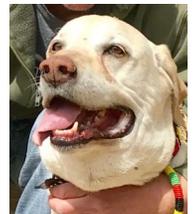
Joey was our assistant office manager and expert furniture mover looking for food. He taught us to face challenges and change positively. Silence settles where once roared a powerful being. He will be missed by all who knew him but his legacy will live on. Goodbye my dear Joey and say hello to all who have passed before you. -Keri Lee



Neisha was a very old pit bull girl, traumatized and frail. In the 3 short days she spent with us, she found comfort with a warm bed and food, in the company of people and her eyes filled with warmth. Neisha felt safe and loved. Her journey was complete.

Joey: I was deeply moved that the KSAS management compassionately assessed that it was time for Joey to cross the Rainbow Bridge and acted decisively for veterinary intervention. It is too quiet with you gone, Joey! - Maria

Huxley: Huxley's great big smile brightened the area for miles around. His heart was full of love and he couldn't wait for the next experience to share with a friend. Huxley brought endless joy, and left big paw prints in our hearts.



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Like us on Facebook! Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary

Kindred Spirits is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
 All donations are tax deductible.
 EIN # 52-2377846



www.kindredspiritsnm.org

Support KSAS: Shop at Albertsons and Smiths (Community Partner Program—call us for a key) and shop AmazonSmile, supporting our senior animals every time you shop: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2377846>

- Our Wish List**
- Nutrisource Dog Food
 - Victor Premium Horse Feed
 - Gift Cards: San Marcos Feed Store, Critters and Me
 - Arthritis Supplements
 - Maintenance materials (fence posts, wire, straw bedding)
 - Please include KSAS in your Will/Estate papers

- Paul's Plumbing
- KRQE TV
- Image Ratio
- Nan Hack, DVM
- Frost Foundation
- Dough Thal, DVM
- Gumbo Foundation
- Linda Tellington-Jones
- The Back Hoe Lady
- Audrey Shannon, DVM
- Smith Veterinary Hospital
- San Marcos Feed Store
- Mary Anne Schadler, DVM
- Advantage Construction Co.
- Honey Harris, KBAC 98.1
- Rae Sikora, Plant Peace Daily
- Melville Hankins Family Foundation
- Doris Goodwin Walbridge Foundation
- Laura Moore, The Critter & Me

Thank you to these supporters and the many others throughout the community!

- How You Can Help**
- Sponsor an old animal
 - Daily animal hospice and nursing care
 - In-home animal foster care
 - Facility maintenance
 - Grant writing
 - Newsletter writing
 - Event planning
 - Financial support is always helpful
- Please call 505-471-5366*