

Kindred Spirits

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

WINTER
NEWSLETTER
2018

Dear Friends,
As we look

15 Years of Caring for Old Animals

back on a busy summer where many old animals found sanctuary and their final home at Kindred Spirits, we seek to be a change agent in “Wellness While Ageing” and see many amazing end of life stories unfold.

Rosina's Story

Rosina is a plucky little Australian Cattle Dog who has been with us for about a year here at the Sanctuary. She's a loyal old girl who adores her human friends. When Rosina suddenly presented with an inability to move her back leg, our sanctuary veterinarian, Dr. Maryanne Schadler advised that we take her in for treatment right away. Upon arrival at Smith Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Kathy Dobesh evaluated Rosina's condition with a physical exam and x-rays and determined that Rosina had a serious case of hip dysplasia (possibly a reoccurrence of an old injury). In preparation for resetting the hip, Rosina was medicated for post-op pain and potential infection. Despite her age, Rosina is full of vitality and was at low risk of serious complications from anesthesia. Dr. Kathy and her team were able to reposition Rosina's hip joint successfully and when she woke up, she was a bit groggy, but her hip was intact. Rosina is back home with us at the Sanctuary now, receiving nursing care and lots of love. Although her road to recovery will be long, we are so happy to report that Rosina is back on all four of her feet, being monitored carefully by all of our caregivers. ***“Thanks Dr. Kathy, for your expert care! I have no more pain and I'm all smiles and wagging tails again!”-Rosina***



Our Mission

Kindred Spirits is dedicated to providing End of Life and Hospice care for older, unwanted dogs, horses and poultry in a sanctuary setting.

As change agents, we seek to educate and inspire pet owners to keep their old animals in their homes.

the Summer. Since then we've been settling into the peaceful rhythms of daily life and enjoying the abundance of natural beauty that the sanctuary provides for all the living creatures who inhabit our community. In the mornings I awake to the sounds of the roosters signaling the arrival of the sun, and say hello to my horse neighbors,

Annabelle and Moonspirit. We

all share a back patio fence and enjoy gazing out toward the sunset together in

the evenings. Since spending this extra time together, the horses have become very affectionate and interested in me when I'm working around them on a shift. Moonspirit will no longer step out to the arena until she's had her back scratch and hug around the neck, for which she angles herself toward me waiting. Not one to be left out,



Annabelle has started to demand the same treatment by tossing her head in my direction and waiting to walk out until I've given her a proper hello. I feel honored that they have come to trust my presence, and the sense of peace I derive from seeing them every morning is a blessing I carry with me throughout the whole day.

—Montana

The colors of Autumn illuminate our sanctuary and I reflect back on a Summer with many visitors interested in learning about our Wellness Care Program. Here we recognize that at the very heart of our work is our caring relationship with the natural world that nurtures and sustains us all. Especially at this season we ask everyone to be mindful of the plight of all animals. I give heartfelt thanks to our staff and volunteers who give loving care to our senior residents, and to our generous donors who make it all possible.

With Gratitude, and warm wishes for a Happy Healthy Holiday Season, ~Ulla and all the Animals



Sanctuary Life

After the past few years working and volunteering at the sanctuary, I have now also experienced the unique opportunity of living here as an on-site animal caregiver. My two dachshunds and I moved in during

Recent Events



We celebrated *15 years of Caring for Old Animals* at our Annual Art Show Fundraiser this year with over 200 guests in attendance! With big smiles and wagging tails, senior dogs Polli and Juniper led visitors on tours to find art in unexpected places. Guests also enjoyed

delicious vegan refreshments.

We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the artists who donated their work in support of our old animals, to our on site artists: Dan DiMaria, Kimberly B. Gray, Dirk Wales, Karla Harby, and Martha Reich Braden who gave our guests a truly unique and memorable experience, and to the dedicated ABQ Animal Welfare Hospice Foster Volunteers who work as allies in our mission for caring for old animals. Everyone who participated in this year's event contributed to its huge success, helping us raise much needed funds for the upcoming winter and giving our old animals a presence and a voice.

Foster Program

As a volunteer and Foster Mom for Kindred Spirits, I have learned that this place is much more than just a peaceful sanctuary.

Ulla has created a complete, holistic Wellness Care Program in which the animals in the Sanctuary's care flourish. When I became a foster for giant dogs, I learned to prepare KSAS "Salvador's Stew." The newest mostly-vegetarian version is a big hit. My dogs love it when they can smell a fresh batch in the slow cooker.

One day I was assigned to learn the routine for the care of horses. With an elderly horse of my own I was eager to learn KS' nutritional regime. I had been trying a variety of feeds and supplements, but nothing was improving my horse's health. Within 10 days of Kindred Spirits regime he was full of vitality running towards me with beautiful sparkly eyes. It really was quite



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MELVILLE HANKINS
FAMILY FOUNDATION

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

incredible. By simply giving of my time and energy I have learned and received much more in return. Each moment spent at Kindred Spirits is very special and precious.

-Suzanne

Volunteer Stories

Save the Date! Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 8
3:30pm to 6:30pm

4:30 pm: Tour
5:30 pm sharp:
Meditation and
Tree Lighting



Since the time **Esther** arrived at Kindred Spirits, she has always enjoyed being on the go. On one particular day, I remember seeing Esther waiting excitedly

in the open KS van, ready to travel to her next new adventure. The look of excitement as she sat waiting patiently and wondering where her next trip would take her is something that will

always put a smile on my face. -Aurelia

Archie came to the Sanctuary after being rescued from a very traumatic life. He was used as a bait bird in cock fights and therefore had very strong defenses and little to no trust with humans. After he endured an injury that left him basically helpless, I was able to spend a lot of time holding him, hand feeding him, and administering care. We bonded and I feel blessed by the experience. He made a choice –to trust someone and allow himself to be loved –it would be a better world if more humans did the same. -Kendi



Polli has been here for 5 years and is 19 years old!



She's an elder who is totally blind but is in great shape and makes her way around the Sanctuary like a pro. Even though she can't see, she always recognizes me. She hears me coming towards her and, with a big smile and wagging tail,

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

she eagerly awaits her Charlie Bear Treats. Pure Love! -Lois

As a volunteer for over a year, one very special dog I've spent a lot of time with is **Snuggles**; a big-hearted boy with a gentle, sweet soul. If you have visited this summer, you've likely seen him blissfully sunning himself in the driveway, awaiting visitors. Snuggles epitomizes the abiding spirit of the sanctuary with his peaceful nature, tenderness, and love for all creatures—for well over a year, he has been our feral cat, Amiga's, best *amigo*. —Rick



back. I hope that when his time comes I can hold him as he crosses the rainbow bridge. It's a difficult thing for any of us here to do, but I feel it's the least I can do to honor his life and his passing. —Sue



In Loving Memory

"When animals enter our life, we start on a journey, with adventure, learning, and love. The animals reach deep into us and change us in ways that can hardly be described. We grow in love. 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 being. What an honor they give us when they walk a part of our lives with us. —Barbara Janelle



Josie is a big old girl who had a rugged, unsocialized life before coming to Kindred Spirits. She was very shy so Ulla put her out in the Brothers' Yard where she could feel safe but still be closely cared for. About a week later

Sugarbear, a little old red-furred boy who loves people, arrived. Sugarbear went to live with Josie and happily greeted all who came near. Josie watched and realized that nothing terrible was happening as a result of his friendliness, and started staying where she was despite the closeness of things on two legs. Now she accepts hugs and Charlie Bears, and even offers a kiss or two. —Karen

Save the Date!
Valentine's Day Party
 Saturday, Feb. 9
 1pm to 3:30pm
 Tour at 1:30pm
 Vegan Refreshments
Bring a friend!

This summer we said goodbye to our dear **Timmie**, a little brown dachshund who made a big impression on everyone he met. Timmie had been at the sanctuary for a while before I started, and came to us without any teeth. He was one of the first dogs I learned



Leo is a tiny old Chihuahua with a presence so big that he could be a St. Bernard. He came to us as a very frightened little doggie, unsure about his new home. He has won the hearts of all of us as he has summoned his courage to make new friends and become the office manager of the Sanctuary. When held, Leo gets about as close to Heaven as he can get on this Earth. We are truly blessed to be allowed to love the pure innocence that is found in all the precious animals at Kindred Spirits, and we are doubly blessed that they love us in return. —Mary Ann



how to hand-feed, and although he had some trouble coordinating himself to eat, he absolutely had a voracious appetite. I always looked forward to helping him enjoy his meals and giving him belly rubs afterwards outside in the sunshine. When he wasn't rolling around in a bed scratching his back ecstatically, he could often be found snuggled up with another dog taking a nap. He is missed by all his canine companions and human friends, but we're grateful for the sweet times he shared with us while at the sanctuary. —Montana



As I got to know **Leo**, an old little Chihuahua, I've found that he loves ear and back rubs. He follows me around wherever I go and waits at the door until I come back. Leo has some age-related health issues and as I go on vacation I wonder if he will be there when I get



Colores was our colorful guidance rooster. He welcomed new, often scared and traumatized poultry friends into the yard. Through his kindness and mentorship, he helped them integrate into their new community and feel safe and cared for. Colores was an expert grasshopper catcher in his youth and, in his later years, he loved to roost on the perch next to the Buddha. He is missed by the whole community.

—Ulla



Experience a day at the Sanctuary through these photos - and please come visit us in person soon!







