

Kindred Spirits

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

WINTER
NEWSLETTER
2019

Dear Friends,

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

Polli's Story

I've been part of Polli's care team since August of 2014 and have witnessed her truly amazing journey of healing.

Five years ago, Polli, our now nineteen year old lab, came to Kindred Spirits in an extremely debilitated state, with conditions of deep depression and anger. Her muscles were atrophied, she had severe arthritis, and could barely walk. As an assistance dog in an inactive home, she was overweight and not socialized to the outside world at all.



Now, with loving, consistent care and excellent nutrition through Kindred Spirits' Wellness Care Program, Polli is thriving as “overseer of the sanctuary.” During her regular visits, our chiropractor, Dr. Sherry Gaber,

checks everyone for misalignments and it's so remarkable to see that Polli is the only one of all the dogs who clears without any kinks or tensions.

Polli frequently steps into the role of mentor to new dogs coming in who feel frightened and disoriented. We have often seen Polli gently nudge a newcomer and wag her tail, with a soft step in the right direction, as if to say “come, let's go to the barn. It's ok, you're safe here.” She inspires trust, confidence, and safety. She embodies the welcoming spirit of the sanctuary to all.

Over the last year Polli has become blind due to cataracts but is still trotting happily around the sanctuary where, from years of roaming about, she knows every inch.

Polli is a true example of how to maintain wellness and dignity in aging in spite of disabilities. She keeps active in her community and to everyone's continued surprise,



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.

she's always finding new and wildly unexpected hobbies and chew toys (such as large metal scissors and dismantling the contents of toolboxes). I'm amazed each time I open the gate to Kindred Spirits that she seems to be getting younger and younger and she exudes the vitality and joy of life as she ages. Polli says: “I hope you'll come visit me and see just what a nineteen year old pup can do!” -Dr. Mary Anne Schadler

Teo Update

Teo has started his journey of recovery and he wants to thank the many generous people who watched his video and were inspired by his plight. Teo's hooves are beginning to heal. He whinnies in the morning and can't wait for his breakfast – and any opportunity to search our pockets for treats! Teo is a



Teo's Sponsor, Patricia Ward

real love bug these days and when learning the stable routines, he takes his cues from his friend, Annabelle. Teo says “I'm so happy to be able to walk on my feet and feel safe being able to move away from things that scare me.”

See Teo's video at www.kindredspiritsnm.org

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. 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 and Healthy Holiday Season,
~Ulla and all the Animals



Art Show Fundraiser



This year was our most successful event yet and we were able to raise much needed funds for the upcoming winter. Visitors left feeling inspired to learn how to care for their own old animals. With big smiles and wagging tails, senior dogs Polli and Fluffy led visitors on tours to discover one of a kind art treasures in the barns and trees. Special thanks to

on site artists, Dan DiMaria and Carole Olsen, who created drawings and paintings on request right then and there, to Martha Reich Braden who serenaded our poultry yard with cello music, and to all those who help give our old animals a presence and a voice.

MELVILLE HANKINS
FAMILY FOUNDATION

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



In *Bart's* presence I feel a calm, an understanding of what it means to be a 'gentle giant'. Out in the yard we sniff the flowers together. I admire his calm approach to the 'newness' of the day and reflect on my own hurried morning. In his beautiful way of being he teaches me to be aware, kind, and to persevere. -Keri

Foster Program



I really enjoy being a foster parent of giant dogs for Kindred Spirits and I'm looking forward to fostering *Max*, a happy, senior rottweiler mix

who has special needs due to his size, age, and past injuries. Welcoming a foster into our home; watching them become part of our family is so rewarding. They teach us so many aspects of love and care that make each moment together precious. My husband and I can't wait to welcome *Max* home soon. -Suzanne

This Holiday Season:

For the friend who has everything:

Donate in their honor for a senior animal in need

Today I'm giving *Toast* a green tea body wrap. When he arrived, he only had patches of fur but

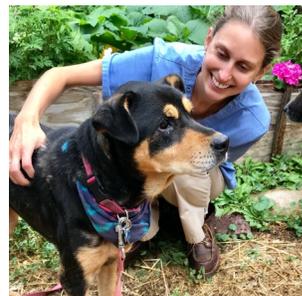
with some good home cooked meals and daily skin care, his fur is growing back and I can even see some brown colored fur! I love being a volunteer here. The animals ask for so little but

give so much in return. -Sue



Volunteer Stories

Sebastiana the turkey ruled her spacious coop with her hubby, Chief, and she lived a contented life. Then, one day, a Momma Hen with her three grown chicks moved in. *Sebastiana* thought this was outrageous! However, once she got to know them, *Sebastiana* came to terms with Momma Hen and her extended family and they now all live happily together. -Irina



and asks me for a big hug! -Becca

Esther is truly the sweetest little dog I've ever known. Her happy, gentle, and curious spirit warms my day and the constant pendulum swing of her tail is so uplifting. I feel so fortunate to have *Esther* as my office manager – in between her siesta naps, of course! -Lisa



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

Volunteer Stories

Bart, our elderly Saint Bernard, is the jolly gentle giant of the sanctuary. He loves horse cookies and will follow me through the barn in hopes of retrieving one from my pocket. A big grin spreads across his face as he trots alongside me, his silky coat catching in the breeze – I'm beginning to think he's part pony after all.

-*Montana*



Missy lived on the streets for a long time. She was terrified of people and would not let anyone near her. Soon after her arrival, thanks to our loving care and a community of her own kind, I could see her starting to

feel safe. Now I sit next to her as she lays blissfully in the sun and I feel such joy that she has come to trust me so much. -*Karen*

Forget Me Not

During my first week volunteering at Kindred Spirits, I didn't really know any of the senior animals yet until *Theodore* came up to say hello. He was so sweet and open and his greeting made me feel so welcome in his home. His offer of friendship meant so much to me and has stayed with me as one of my fondest memories. -*Tim*



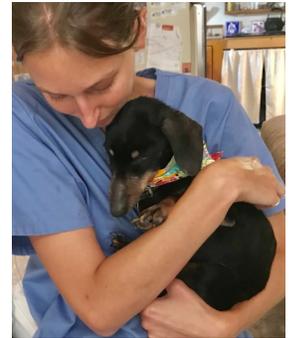
Little Dawg looked like the world's cutest fox. Even at fifteen years old, he would dance and wiggle around me in excitement when I'd come in each morning. His happiness would spread from his little feet to the tip of his nose and then to me and before I knew it, we'd be smiling together. -*Katie*



In Loving Memory

Whether they stay for a few years or just a few days, animals who come to Kindred Spirits find the peace and loving support to go to their Spirit Home when they are ready. It is an honor to help them through the final transition. Though I miss them every day, it is a blessing too. Now we have even more angels watching over us, and I often catch a fleeting glimpse of one of them out of the corner of my eye. ~*Ulla*

Fritz brought me a lot of joy. Maybe because, even as a nineteen year old dachshund, his zeal for life was so obvious. He loved exploring the yard while wagging his tail and cuddling under a pile of blankets. I miss him but I know he had a happy life and I know he was ready to cross over the Rainbow Bridge when he did. -*Becca*



Save the Date! Valentine's Day Party

Saturday, Feb. 8

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Tour at 1:30 pm

Vegan Refreshments

Bring a friend!

On a beautiful day in late August, *Moonspirit*, our thirty five year old Arabian mare,

was called back to her Spirit Home. *Moonspirit* was a wise and gentle friend to new horses and charmed all her caregivers with her nudges for frequent back scratches. She loved to frolic in the snow and bask under the light of a full moon – true to her name. We miss her dearly and we honor *Moonspirit's* memory in the daily loving care for each animal. -*Montana*



My little friend *Milo* crossed over the Rainbow Bridge this week. *Milo* was a little character with a big personality and it always made me laugh to see how much he loved eating apples. The second I picked up an apple I'd have his undivided attention. I will miss the brightness he brought to my day and all the joy that we shared. -*Sue*



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Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary
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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



• **Support KSAS: Shop at Albertsons and Smiths (Community Partner Program)—sign up in store and shop**

• **Support KSAS on Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019 : facebook.com/kindredspiritsanimalsanctuary**

• **AmazonSmile, supporting our senior animals every time you shop: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2377846>**

Our Wish List

- Nutrisource Dog Food
- Wild Fed Horse Feed
- Gift Cards: San Marcos Feed Store, The Critters and Me
- Arthritis Supplements
- Maintenance materials (fencing, straw bedding)
- Please include KSAS in your Will/Estate Plans

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

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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
- Computer Tech. Support

Please call 505-471-5366



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



See the Newsletter in Full Color at www.kindredspiritsnm.org





