

Pet News



Delta County Humane Society
PO Box 1111 Delta, Colorado 81416
(970) 874-2149

January 2016

Web Sites: www.deltacountyhumanesociety.org or www.petfinder.com

All of the volunteers here at Delta County Humane Society want to wish you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR and thank all of our adopters and donors who love their animals and help support our rescue organization !!**

In addition, we would like to send out special thank yous to the following parties – those people who help us to make what we do possible . . .

Veterinarians:	Gretta Carmichael, DVM	William Houseweart, DVM
	Allan Dorr, DVM	Clark Martin, DVM
	Jeff Hirsch, DVM	Susan Raymond, DVM
	Susie Hirsch, DVM	Dick Steele, DVM
	Norman Vincent, DVM	

Adopt-A-Pet.com	Feral cat colony caretakers	Helen J.
Alpine Fence	Heirlooms for Hospice	Karen B.
Altrusa International	High Country Shopper	Karen H.
Amazon.com	Pedigree Foundation	Vivian G.
Animal Assistance Foundation	Petfinder.com	Marci and Wade L
Black Canyon Animal Sanctuary	1-800-PetMeds	Annellen R.
City Market	PetSmart Charities	Candice M.
Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund	ReMax Today – Food Drive	Gretchen H.
County of Delta, Colorado	sPaw Groomer	Allison G.
Delta Ace Hardware	Kats Grooming	Lynn and Webb C.
Delta County Independent	Sisson Feed	Lavonne S.
Dollar Store – Delta	Wal-Mart Supercenter – Delta	Patty F.
Feral cat trappers – Fran G. & Melissa H.	Tractor Supply Company	
	Dr. James Black	
	Second Edition	

. . . . and to our beloved foster parents: Carol N., Kathie, Joan, Chris, Carol L., Miranda, Jackie, Mary and Kitt !!

. . . and thank you to all of you who had your animals spayed or neutered – you are our heroes !!

Learn the Signs that Tell You when Your Dog Is Cold!

Knowing when your dog is cold is important to keeping them comfortable and healthy in the winter months. Here are definite signs that your dog is cold:

- **Hunched and Bunched**
Like us, when dogs are trying to conserve body heat they scrunch up their bodies. They pull their head down, their tail under and they arch their backs. Get them inside where it is warm immediately!
- **Shaking**
Like us, dogs tremble and shiver in an effort to get warmer. Some small dogs tremble when nervous as well, so know your dog. But if your dog doesn't normally shake and he is shaking and it's cold? Assume he **IS** cold. When in doubt, assume he is cold.
- **Lifting One Paw Then Another**
Cold dogs stand on three feet then shift to lift another paw off the ground. This can also be a sign that salt is stinging their feet. Either way, they are uncomfortable.
- **Doesn't Stretch**
Because they are trying to conserve body heat, they don't stretch when they get up from sleeping or come out of a dog house.

It is 100% up to us to keep our dogs safe and comfortable year round. If your dog must stay outside in cold weather than get them an **insulated dog house** that is up to the task! Do not rely on dog coats or sweaters for outside dogs as they can slip off or get wet. Both are fine for outside walks and indoor comfort.

A good rule of thumb to assist you and your dog is to remember "If it's too cold for you to stay outside, then it's too cold for your dog."

Rules to live by if you have an outside pet

Protect your dog from winter cold. Dogs get cold in the winter just like we do, especially short-haired and small dogs. Dogs can even get hypothermia and frostbite.

If you can't bring the dog inside in cold weather, fill doghouses with hay or cedar chips to help your dog retain body heat. (Cedar chips are preferable because they are less likely to rot and don't contain mites.) You can get cedar shavings and hay at farm supply, hardware, discount, and home improvement stores. If you use hay and it gets wet and soggy, spread it in the sun on a sunny day to dry it out.

- To keep cold air from blowing through the doghouse, the door should be covered with a plastic flap. You can use a car mat, a piece of plastic carpet runner, or even a piece of carpet.
- Dogs need more food in winter, as keeping warm consumes calories. Check your dog's water bowl daily to be sure it isn't frozen — Or buy a heated bucket: cost approximately \$40-\$60.

SUGGESTION FOR INEXPENSIVE DOGHOUSE: Buy 6 to 8 bales of straw or hay (depending on size of dog), one sheet of plywood, and several rocks or concrete blocks. Put the straw or hay in a U-shape (behind a wall or at least out of prevailing wind), place the plywood on top of the straw or hay, & place the rocks on top of the plywood. You instantly have a warm place for your pet for a cost of probably not more than \$50.

NOTE: It is against Colorado State Laws for a dog to be kept outside without food, liquid water, or adequate shelter. A city/county official is required to investigate the situation if a dog's owner/guardian is breaking this animal cruelty law. In Delta County, you can call the Sheriff's Department to report any animal abuse violations. Ask for the investigating officer to report back to you within two days; then you are assured that your call has been investigated.

Let's look at some of last year's year-end adoptions . . .



← Michael and Tammy adopted “Abby” at the end of November. They live in Grand Junction and have 3 children who were “begging” their parents for a dog. In a family of five, Abby will certainly receive all the love and attention she deserves.

“Princess Leah” was adopted by Heather of Aspen, Colo. - both owner and cat are in love. The photo definitely shows a “purrfect match.” →



← Cliff and July of Battlement Mesa, Colo. saw that “Kiaya” would be the perfect companion for Cliff on the days July went to work – lots of trails by their house for daily walks too. Thank you both for adopting this special girl.

PLEASE NOTE: - yes, the following paragraph is a repeat from our last newsletter in December, 2015, but we thought it was worth repeating. We would appreciate your giving it a try for the next year.

You may already be aware of this way to help your favorite non-profit group (hopefully us), but the next time you shop at Amazon, you can designate the Delta County Humane Society as your non-profit of choice. It's easy! Just bookmark this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0924097> - click on it and change your choice of donation to the Delta County Humane Society. All future eligible purchases that you then make through Amazon.com will automatically give .05% of your purchase to our organization – at no additional cost to you. This is called the *AmazonSmile* program. Ask your family and friends to bookmark this link too so all their eligible shopping will benefit Delta County Humane Society. Thank you, thank you!!

Teach Your Dog To Stay

By Dogtime on October 29, 2015

The simple act of holding still is a huge challenge for some dogs, especially wriggly young pups. To teach a rock-solid stay, start small and make it easy for your dog to get it right. For an energetic young puppy, that may mean half-second stays. That's fine—from half a second you can build to one second, then two, and on from there. Many short, successful stays are better for your dog's obedience skills than a long stay that ends with a wandering dog and a frustrated owner.



How to teach “stay”

- Start in a spot that's familiar to your dog, without any tempting distractions around. **Keep your dog focused on you** by standing right in front of her, giving her your full attention, and looking her in the eye. With a treat in your hand, ask your dog to [sit](#) or lie [down](#).
- If your dog holds the position for a second or two, **praise her** and give her a [treat](#).
- Repeat the process, this time making your dog **hold the position** for a few seconds longer before you give her the treat.
- Once your dog is responding reliably, **add the verbal cue**. Ask your dog to sit or lie down, then tell her “stay,” holding your hand out with your palm toward her nose in the “stop” position. If she holds the position for a second or two, praise her and offer a treat. Repeat the sequence, gradually tacking on a second or so each time to ask for a longer stay.

If it's not working

The moment your dog breaks the stay, say “SIT! Stay” or “DOWN! Stay,” depending on which position she was originally in. Then try again for a shorter stay.

If you've been practicing for a while and your dog knows the stay command, you can make your voice sharp, like a reprimand, when she's moving out of position. But don't punish: by the time you catch up with your dog, she's already broken the stay, and she'll associate the punishment with what she was doing at the moment you punished her—allowing you to catch her—not with breaking the stay. That's not what you want.

Advanced “stay”

Once your dog has the hang of the “stay” command, you can slowly make it more challenging. Stand a foot away from your dog when you ask her to stay, then two feet away, and keep increasing the distance. Ask her to stay when your back is turned; when there's another person or dog in the distance, then fairly close by, then right next to your dog; when you're bouncing a ball; when there's kibble scattered around her; and so on.

Add a new challenge only if your dog is responding reliably. If your dog ever breaks a stay, take away a challenge—make the stay shorter, remove the distractions, or stand closer to her—and try again.

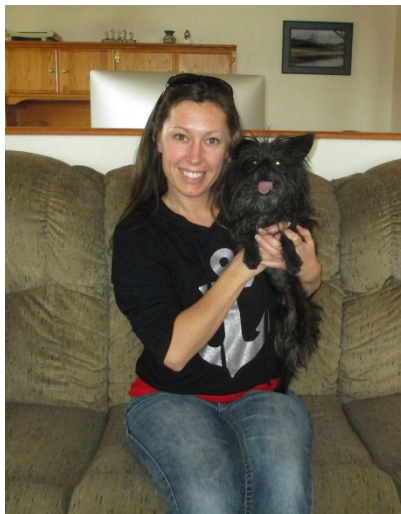
Did you know? . . . dogs can eat Tuna

Tuna is a classic cat snack. If you've ever owned a cat, chances are you're familiar with the experience of cracking open a can of white albacore only for your feline friend to come running to the kitchen from wherever she was in the house. But despite stereotypes, tuna need not be a cat-only treat. Dogs can eat tuna, too! And it's healthy, boasting protein, vitamins and omega-3 fatty acids.

This picture says it all – “A Hug is the Best Thing Ever” – for both people and animals



More adoptions in December . . .



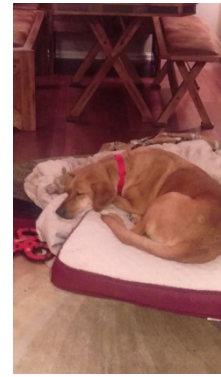
← “Thumper” was adopted by Michael & her family (husband, Brian, and 8 & 12 year old girls, Zoei and Mylee). This dog is a busy little guy and now he will have a family of four to keep him very busy.

“Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet.”

— Colette



← James & Cindy of Grand Junction knew immediately that dear, sweet Hannah (kna Zoe) would fit into their lives. As you can tell from the photo on the right, she has acclimated to her new surroundings with ease.



“Sami” and “Elsa” can look forward to a very happy new year with these two sisters, Olivia and Kiera of Austin, Colorado. Each girl picked out her own kitten and did a darn good job of it. Thank you both for adopting rescue kittens!



“CATS ARE LIKE POTATO CHIPS – YOU CAN’T HAVE JUST ONE.”

We had a flurry of adoption activity just before Christmas . . .



← Ryan and Gen adopted “Hudson” while their two young boys were visiting their grandparents. The family has been without a dog for a year now, so those boys were getting a big surprise when they got home – the best kind of surprise ever!



← Maxine of Grand Junction, Colorado decided to make an adoption thru Delta County Humane Society and keep it in the family. She adopted “Taylor” from our Crawford foster home in December, and her brother adopted a pup from the same foster facility two years ago. Thanks so much!



← Barb (& her husband, Eric) wanted a black & white kitten and found the perfect one at our Paonia foster home with Chris. “Alfie” will now be known as Oreo. She will enjoy the luxuries of an inside home along with the resident cat, Pumpkin. Such a great adoption!

. . . . and one more after Christmas

“Fred” was adopted by Cindy and her older dog only 5 days before the end of 2015. He looks forward to a good life in Cedaredge with his new family in 2016, and for many years to come. →



Another dog hero . . . a favor returned . . . “Dog Keeps Lost Boy Warm”



A dog in North Dakota is being hailed as a hero for sticking with a 3-year-old boy when he wandered off on his family’s 10-acre farm. The boy, Carson Urness, and his dog disappeared at around 7:30 pm Monday after his mom let him out to play. Not long after, Courtney Urness realized Carson and Cooper were missing. When she and her husband couldn’t find Carson in a frantic search, they called authorities for help. They quickly started an aerial and ground search with the help of 200 neighbors. At around 2:30 am, the temperature had dropped to 40 degrees and

organizers were about to call the search off for the night when a four-wheeler doing one last sweep of the farm saw Cooper stick his head out of the tall grass in the middle of a field about a mile from the house. They found the dog laying on the boy. Carson told his mother, “Mom, I was really scared but Cooper laid on me, he kept me warm.” Cooper might have been returning a favor for the Urness family. They rescued him when they found him as a puppy wandering by the side of the road three years ago.



The Delta County Humane Society is a non-profit organization. This means all of your donations of money and materials are tax deductible. The organization is not funded by your government tax dollars. This is why YOUR membership and donations are so very vital to us. As many of you are aware, we have only a small force of volunteers who care for the abandoned and unwanted animals in their homes until they can be provided with a permanent and suitable home. If you are concerned with the well-being of our animals and would like to help financially with a membership or donation, please fill out this form and return it with your check. If you have material items with a value, please call our office (970-874-2149) and leave a message. (We are always in need of blankets, towels, dog houses and runs, pet food, carriers, collars, leashes, food bowls, large food storage containers, wire fencing, etc.)

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MEMBERSHIP: \$10 (annual) \$20 (supporting) \$100 (lifetime)

MEMBERSHIP: \$_____ DONATION: \$_____ PHONE: _____

GYPSY FUND DONATION \$_____ (feral cats)

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MAIL TO:

DELTA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1111
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THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE HOMELESS ANIMALS
OF DELTA COUNTY