

# Pet News

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

January – March 2019

Web Sites: [www.deltacountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.deltacountyhumanesociety.org) or [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

**HAPPY  
NEW**



**YEAR !!**

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

Alpine Fence  
Altrusa International  
Amazon.com  
Animal Assistance Foundation

Black Canyon Animal Sanctuary  
City Market  
Colorado PAdopt-A-Pet.com  
Pet Overpopulation Fund  
County of Delta, Colorado  
Dave McKean Estate  
Delta Ace Hardware

Delta County Independent  
Ms. Alves 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Class at Garnet Mesa Elem.  
Feral cat trappers – Fran G. & Melissa H.  
Feral cat colony caretakers  
Tails Adoption Center

PetSmart Charities  
The Center for Mental Health  
Rusty B.  
sPaw Groomer  
Kats Grooming  
Sisson Feed  
ReMAX Today - Delta

Wal-Mart Supercenter – Delta  
Tractor Supply Company  
Dr. James Black  
Second Edition  
Kong Company

Heirlooms for Hospice  
High Country Shopper  
Pedigree Foundation  
Petfinder.com  
1-800-PetMeds

Marquerite S.  
Tryon Family  
Tempe B.  
Christina B.

John H.  
Dolores B.  
Jean H.  
Vivian G.  
Stacy G.  
Tara I.

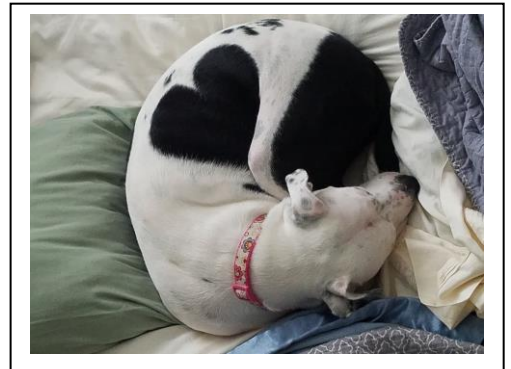
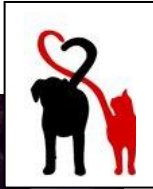
Helen J.  
Karen B.  
Karen H.  
Vivian G.  
Marci and Wade L  
Candice M.  
Lynn C.  
Lavonne S.  
Patty F.  
Yvonne R.  
Lue S.  
Garry & Margaret S.  
Denis & Beth S.

. . . and we love our wonderful foster  
parents: Carol, Joan, Kathie, Jackie, Chris and Quincy!!  
– and our phone volunteers who respond to all your  
messages – Sharon and Edna !!



## Valentine's Day Cuties

*Here are a few companion pets willing to share their special "heart" markings with you . . . .*



### Animal Valentine Jokes

Q. What did the boy bird say to the girl bird on Valentine's Day?

A. Let me call you Tweet heart!

Q. What did the boy cat say to the girl cat on Valentine's Day?

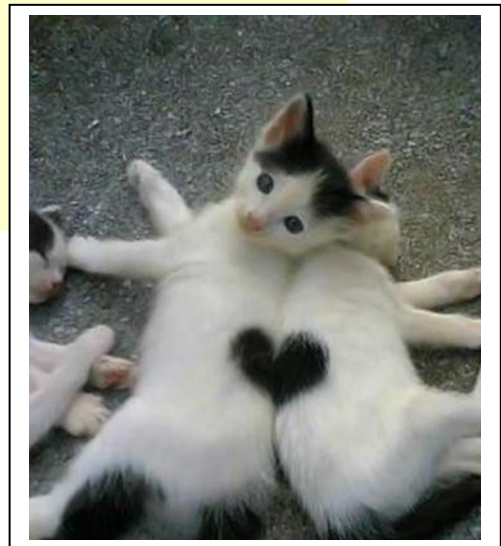
A. You're purrr-fect for me!

Q: What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

A: Can I hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand?

Q: What did one snake say to the other snake?

A: Give me a little hug and a hiss, honey.



**Spay Day is February 26, 2019**  
**Please – Prevent a Litter – Spay or Neuter your Critter**

**Benefits about Spaying and Neutering your Companion Pet:**

- In males, neutering reduces the risk of prostate cancer and eliminates the risk of testicular cancer.
- In females, spaying reduces the risk of breast cancer and eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer in female dogs.
- It's good for pet owners –
  - Spayed or neutered pets are typically better behaved and tend to be more calm and affectionate.
  - Male cats are less likely to spray urine to mark their territory.
  - Eliminates female pets' heat cycle, preventing bleeding, as well as crying and nervousness.
  - Spaying keeps unwelcome animals away.
- It's the right thing to do –
  - Spaying and neutering pets significantly decreases the homeless pet population.
  - Shelters are already full of homeless animals – they simply cannot provide a permanent home for every stray pet. The ASPCA calculates that 6.5 million companion animals enter shelters every year !



**FACTS:** An unspayed female dog, her mate, and all of their puppies, if none of them are ever neutered or spayed, will produce this additional amount of dogs in the following years:

1 year: <b>16</b>	2 years: <b>128</b>	3 years: <b>512</b>
4 years: <b>2,048</b>	5 years: <b>12,288</b>	6 years: <b>67,000</b>

Yes, the statistics are overwhelming. And scary. Yet, if each one of us who has a companion pet would be responsible, and ensure that our pet(s) would be spayed or neutered, we could put a serious dent in the pet overpopulation in our country, and in turn, less shelter animals would have to be euthanized.

**DO THE RIGHT THING – SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS**



... and we would like to send Happy Flowers and Best Wishes to our own spay and neuter coordinator, Renee' Eaton, who is now finally back home from the hospital. Renee' had to undergo quite a serious operation in Denver, but we are glad to say that she is feeling much better and on the mend. Welcome home, Renee' !!



*Adoptions in December - it was a good month for new homes for our rescue animals . . .*



← Reece and Sabrina, of Hotchkiss, Colo., adopted “Wiggles” on December 8 from Chris, our foster mom in Paonia. Wiggles will have to warm up to living with four dogs in his new household, but since his foster home had dogs, we feel he will adjust nicely – he’s going to have a great life with new owners who open their hearts to so many animals. Thank you both!



← Brad and Ximena, of Aspen, Colo. recently lost a young kitten to cancer and their remaining kitten was having a hard time adjusting to being the only cat. They decided that he needed a new sister and “Stinky” fit the bill, so she was adopted from Chris on December 9. Brad and Ximena love cats and there was mention that there might be a catio built for their two felines in the near future. Great home!



← Kyle drove over on Sunday, Dec. 16, from Telluride, Colo. to adopt “Freckles” from Chris. His girlfriend, Sara, loves the tuxedo look on cats and he was going to have the kitten stay with a friend overnight and surprise her with Freckles on Monday, when they both had the day off work together.

However, Kyle couldn’t hold off with the surprise for even a day. Here is Sara with their new kitten who is now named “Una.” Since she will be the only animal in their household, you can bet she’s going to receive a lot of attention. A wonderful adoption! →





← Bob and Aimee of Grand Junction, Colo., along with their 13-year-old son, Bobby, all made a family decision on Dec. 18 to adopt sweet “Daisy” from Carol at our Crawford facility. Of course, their other dog, Buster the Boxer, had to give his approval also, but that turned out to be a “no-brainer” as the two dogs did very well together. Daisy got the perfect home for the holidays and forever. Thank you all for taking Daisy into your hearts and home!

Aimee was kind enough to send us this photo just 3 days after adopting “Daisy” to show us what good friends she is with Buster already – here they are just “chillin’ in the yard.” →



### ***City Market Community Rewards Program***

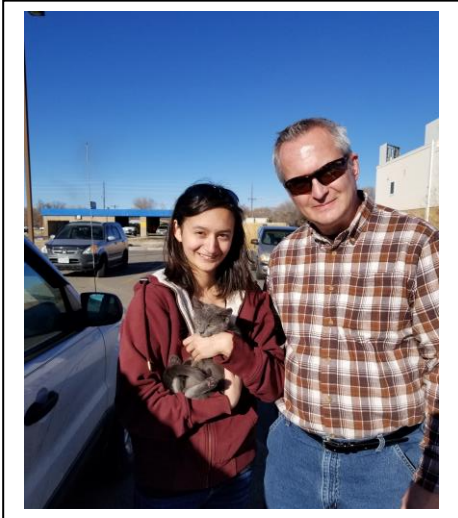
*If you shop at a City Market store in Delta County, you could help us by signing up with their Community Rewards program – you will still receive your rewards points on your account, but in addition, our rescue group will also receive a percentage of your purchase. Please log on the link shown below, sign up for a Rewards account, and select Delta County Humane Society as your nonprofit choice. Thank you !!*

<https://www.citymarket.com/topic/city-market-community-rewards>

*Also, if you already have a Rewards account with City Market, you may need to renew it – at that time you can change your nonprofit selection to, or remain with, our rescue group. We would greatly appreciate it.*



## *December Adoptions continued . . . . .*



← This adoption took decision (Madison really wanted “Kingston”), and determination (her dad, Steve, was willing to drive from Greeley to Grand Junction, Colo.) – and perseverance (because they hit bad weather along the Interstate and even came to a complete standstill because of a car accident on Vail Pass. Our foster mom, Chris, drove from Paonia to Grand Junction to meet them and finalize the adoption. The only thing that mattered to Kingston, among all those possible deterrents, was that he now had a forever home and was one happy kitty. Kingston thanks the both of you for choosing to adopt him (along with the toys & litter box you brought along), and DCHS thanks you for adopting a rescue cat – yea!



← “Joey” looks pretty good in this adoption photo, but had a rough beginning in life. Born as a feral, he was captured by our foster mom, Quincy. Chris, foster mom in Paonia, then took responsibility for him and had numerous trips to the vet because his eyes were infected. Once he became healthy and put up for adoption, Stephanie made the long drive from Crested Butte to see him. Although she was certain that Joey would go home with her, she took video of him and sent it to her husband, Patrick, at his work so he could approve. No problem there. Now Joey is living the good life with his new parents, including two dogs and another cat to keep him company. A very happy ending for Joey!



← Debbie, who lives in Delta and who lost her 4-footed best friend recently, decided to return to Carol’s foster care facility to see if she could find another friend. It turned out to be a Christmas miracle, because when Debbie looked at the dogs in Carol’s care, this girl came over and laid her head on Debbie’s lap, as if to say “please take me home.” So, on December 26, Debbie came and picked up her new dog, now named “Sweetie Pie.” It looks like the New Year will be full of adventures for these two. Congratulations!

**“If having a soul means being able to feel love, loyalty and gratitude,  
then animals are better off than a lot of humans.”**

**- James Herriot**

# 8 Early Warning Signs of Canine Cancer that Dog Owners Can't Ignore

Author: *Elisabeth Geier* – distributed by *Rover.com*

Nobody wants to think about the “C-word,” but unfortunately, cancer is the leading cause of natural death among dogs. According to veterinary oncologist Dave Ruslander, 50% of dogs over age 10 will develop a form of cancer.

As the body ages, it becomes more vulnerable to disease. Learn the **early signs of canine cancer** to keep your dog as healthy as possible for as long as possible—in addition to providing a wholesome diet, age-appropriate exercise, and mental stimulation, like interesting puzzle toys and new experiences.

## **Tumors, mysterious swellings, and unusual growths**

Although it's probably the first symptom you think of when you hear the word “cancer,” tumors are not always cancerous. As dogs age, they are more likely to develop fatty deposits and other benign lumps. But some growths can be malignant, and tumors can signal skin cancer, mammary cancer, and other types of disease.

You can perform a monthly “lump check” to keep track of your dog's lumps and bumps. This is especially important for older dogs who develop benign growths all the time. With practice, you'll probably learn to tell the difference between a benign fatty deposit and a more concerning growth. But if a new lump or bump develops, it's a good idea to check with your expert veterinarian just in case.

## **Wounds that won't heal**

Like tumors, persistent wounds can be signs of abnormal cell growth in your dog's system. Typically, a small wound or lesion should heal over time, with visible signs of healing (i.e. scabbing and skin and hair regrowth). If your pet has a recurring lesion or wound that just won't heal, it's time to see the vet.

## **Sudden lameness**

“Lameness” is a change in your dog's regular gait. It may present as tenderness and subtle pain, limping or favoring a limb, or in severe cases, the inability to place any weight on the limb. Basically, lameness = pain, and can be an indication of bone cancer, particularly in older dogs. You don't need to panic about every little hitch in your dog's step (particularly if they're an older dog with arthritis), but sudden, persistent lameness should be evaluated by a vet.

## **Rapid, unexplained weight loss or gain**

Weight loss is a particularly common sign of canine cancer, and may indicate a gastrointestinal tumor that is otherwise undetectable from the outside. If your dog starts losing weight rapidly, whether their appetite changes or stays the same, get to the vet ASAP.

Sudden weight gain or bloating can also be a sign of cancer. If your dog maintains their regular appetite but seems to gain weight quickly, it's time for a check-up.

## **Abnormal discharge or bleeding**

Abnormal discharge or bleeding anywhere on the body is cause for concern, but this dog cancer symptom is most visible on the face. Funky eye discharge or a sudden bloody nose can indicate certain types of eye and skin cancers. Similarly, sores and bleeding in the mouth can be a sign of oral tumors, which often go undetected because people assume the discharge and odor is a normal sign of aging. While bad breath is common in older dogs, *unusual* odor, discharge or bleeding is cause for concern.

## Lethargy

Old dogs slow down. It's an unfortunate but unavoidable fact of doggy life. However, a sudden, unexplained lack of energy—lethargy—can be a sign of illness or disease.

Lethargy is different from plain old tiredness in that it alters your dog's enthusiasm level. They may suddenly lose interest in a favorite toy or activity, or fail to get up and greet you when you come home from work. Other signs of lethargy may include excessive sleep and delayed responses to visual and auditory stimuli.

Lethargy is a general symptom of a broad range of issues, so it doesn't automatically signal cancer. But if your dog is suddenly a lot less active than usual, something could be going on.

## Unusual poop

You know your dog, and you see her "output" every day. You probably have a sense of the difference between normal poop, somebody-got-into-the-cat-food-again poop, and something more concerning. Persistent diarrhea, hardened stools, and straining can all be symptoms of illness.

If you're concerned about something in your dog's output, don't hesitate to call the vet. In particular, watch for black, tarry stools, which can indicate ulcers, a symptom of mast cell tumors.

## Difficulty breathing or going to the bathroom

One of the most common (and alarming) signs of illness or injury is when normal bodily functions become labored or painful. If your dog is having trouble breathing, straining to go to the bathroom, or otherwise seems to be uncomfortable in the course of normal activities, don't hesitate to have her checked out. Sudden, extreme discomfort or pain are important warning signs.

\* \* \* \* \*



Thank  
You!

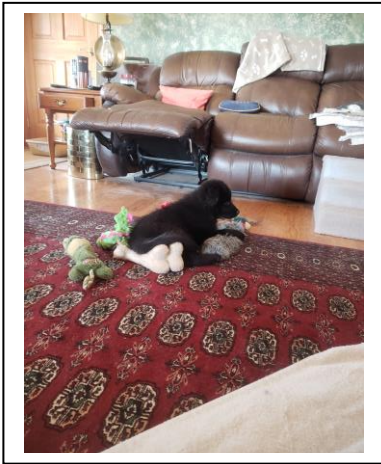


Not only are Connie & Jim, of Paonia (pictured below), wonderful people who adopted their dog, Andy, from DCHS in January 2018, but Connie also takes the time to sew together "blankies" for our rescue animals. That way they can go to their new home with a familiar smell on one special blankie. Thank you, Connie, for the new supply of soft blankies we received from you in December !





## *We LOVE hearing from previous adopters . . . .*



← Jessica, of Montrose, Colo. adopted her little girl last November & wanted to share photos of how well she is adjusting. Her new name is Karigan, and her new (very large) friend is Guppy. From the looks of things, Karigan loves her new home, all her toys, and her new best friend. Thanks, Jessica, for sending us these photos to show what a loving home your pup has now.



Karigan and Guppy



← Here we have “Ruger” in her graduation cap, along with her owner, Jim of Grand Junction, Colo., holding Ruger’s Certification of Completion for her first level of obedience training. Among Ruger’s accomplished commands are “sit, lay down, leave it, shake hands, give me 5, heel, stay (for 5 min.), this way, and come here.”

Ruger was one scared dog when she arrived at our Crawford foster care facility, but Jim had the love and patience to persevere in winning her trust. Jim adopted his best friend on August 24, and in only 4 months has bonded with Ruger and convinced her that being a trained, obedient dog was the way to go – however, we also know that Jim loves Ruger very much and has told us that she is a “gem of a dog.” Congratulations to both Jim and Ruger!

On a personal note, if you remember last month’s newsletter, you will recall that Carol, one of our own foster moms, adopted this little girl in November from a litter of pups she was fostering. Her name here is “Tink the Elf.” Tink had a tough time at the beginning of her life with digestive issues, but after surgery on her stomach and all the lovin’ she gets from Carol, she is blossoming into a beautiful dog and now weighs 20 lbs.! →



....More “pup-dates”....



*“Kali”*

← These two pups were adopted by Lisa and her husband, of Delta, Colo. on October 21. She sent us these photos of “Kali” and “Sampson” in December to show us how wonderful they look. Lisa said Sampson has grown to 24 lbs. and Kali is at 22 lbs. We were thrilled to see how beautiful they look now, and happy that they both have such a great home! →



*“Sampson”*

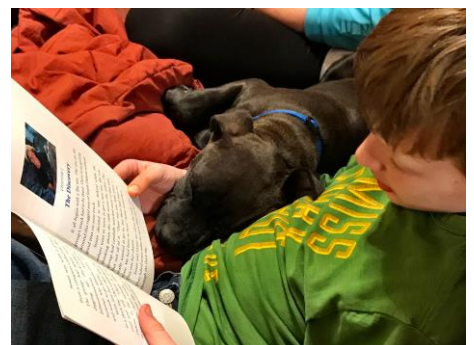


← Look who’s back – it’s “Henry” again. You might remember him from our last issue when we showed him in all his Halloween costumes. Now he’s sporting his very dapper Santa suit that he wore for the December 2018 holiday season. You wear it very well, Henry! Thanks, Desirae, for sharing with us.

... and you’ve seen “Arlo” before on our Pupdate page, but we couldn’t pass up showing how he was so excited to help put the lights on the family tree. Arlo lives in Flagstaff, AZ with his folks, Alex and Mikaela, and his BFF, “Daisy.” →



← Jody and Mary of Fruita, Colo. wrote to tell us how smart their puppy is – his name is now “Griz (short for Grizzly)” and he already knows how to sit, lie down, walk nicely on a leash, and go to the door when he needs to go outside. Of course, there are other important things like learning how to play fetch and help his brother to read . . . → Griz has grown to 22 lbs. since his adoption in December and looks wonderful!



"Rescue animals aren't broken, they've simply experienced more life than other animals. If they were human, we would call them wise. They would be the ones with tales to tell and stories to write, the ones dealt a bad hand who responded with courage. Don't pity them. Do something. Help to rescue. Donate. Volunteer. Foster. Adopt. And be proud to have their greatness by your side."

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*  
*DELTA, CO 81416*

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE HOMELESS ANIMALS  
OF DELTA COUNTY