

Pet News

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

April-May-June 2018

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

May 6 – 12, 2018

is

Be Kind to Animals Week

Think Kind – Be Kind . . . to all animals. This should be our motto this week, and every day throughout the year.

Report suspected animal abuse

Adopt a pet from a shelter or rescue group

Volunteer at your local shelter

Spay or neuter your pets

Spend quality time with your pet

Take care of your pet (vaccinations, feed, water, shelter)

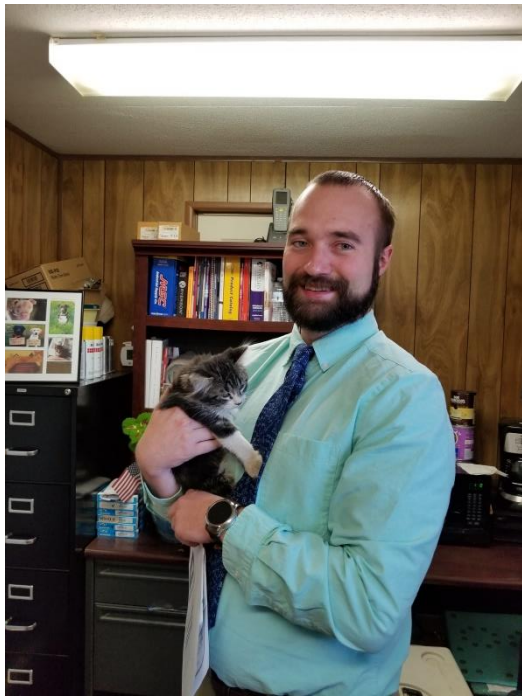
Appreciate wildlife



The Kindest Way

"How much further along would we be if men showed some concern for other forms of life and renounced all the evils they inflict on so many living creatures from sheer thoughtlessness." – Albert Schweitzer

Here are our first adoptions of 2018. . .



← Austin, who lives in Delta and teaches math at the high school, fell in love with little “Ryder’s” photo and adopted him the day after his profile was posted online from Chris, who fosters animals at her home in Paonia. Austin has had cats in his life before, and decided it was time to open his heart to another one – so Ryder was adopted on January 3rd. Thank you, Austin!

The very next day, Maggie drove from Grand Junction and met with Chris to check out “Brewster,” and he was just what she was looking for. Maggie actually adopted Brewster for her parents, who also have a young Golden Retriever that he can play with – what a good home and great adoption! →



Oops – here’s a December 2017 adoption that we missed . . . and a special one too

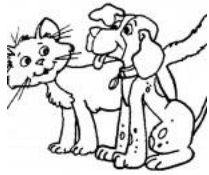


← Dakota, and her husband, Jonathan (who actually picked out the kitten), opened their hearts to this special needs kitten, “Munchkin,” who has sight and hearing impairments. This little guy will now live in Clifton, Colo. with his new family and be well-cared for and loved, living in a safe environment. Thank you both!

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is April 30

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), 6.5 million pets enter the US. Shelters annually; 3.2 million are adopted, and the rest are claimed by their owners or euthanized. *Remember, don't shop for a pet - ADOPT!*

More January adoptions . . .

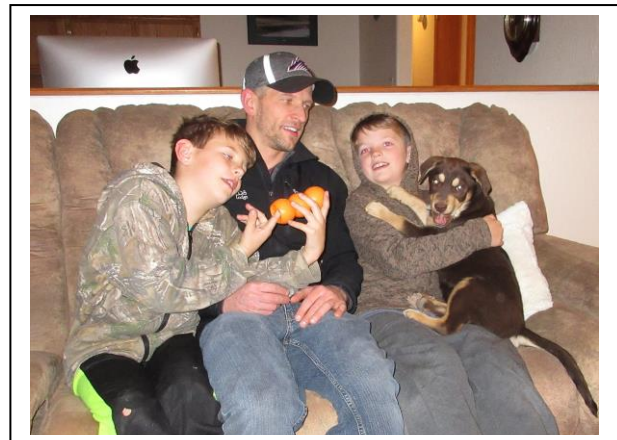


"B.J." will quickly have to adapt to being a snow dog, as he now lives with Ryan and his two sons, James and Holden, in Edwards, CO. Ryan told our foster parent, Carol, that he had a Kelpie before and was thrilled to again have a Kelpie mix in their family. We're sure that B.J. is also thrilled to have two boys to hang out with at his new home. Great adoption! →



← *It was a total surprise to Annika and Destiny when their mom made arrangements with Chris (DCHS Paonia facility) to bring a delightful surprise to their home on Jan. 10 – a new kitten! Now little "Monkey" will have two kids to play with in addition to a forever home. That's the way to start out the New Year. Thank you, Tiffany!*

Here's an update from Monkey's family showing how she has settled in – great!



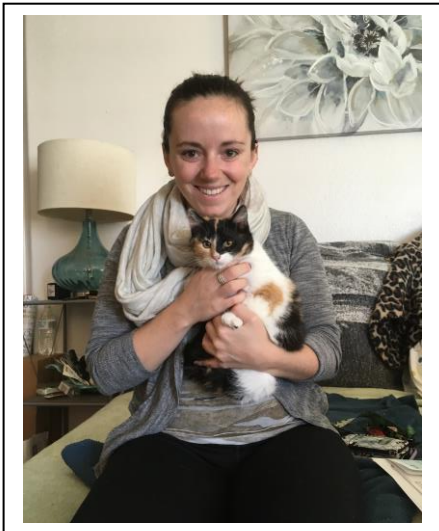
← *Jim and Connie of Paonia wanted another dog to keep their fluffball, Markie, company, and they decided that "Chester," a Border Collie mix, would fill the bill. Chester came into our rescue group suffering from a gunshot wound, but now he will have the best outlook on life with Jim, Connie, and Markie and an entire acre of fenced-in property on which to run. You can tell by his smile that he's already a happy boy!*

No matter why it hurts, dogs make you feel better

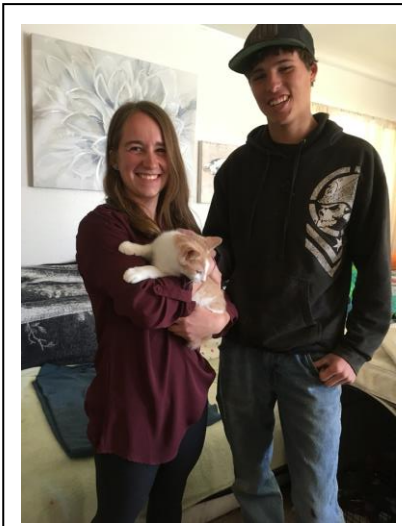
... January adoptions, cont'd ...



← Carol, at our foster facility in Crawford, named this little guy “Sasquatch” because his rear paws each had six toes! Deryk and Crystal of Grand Junction, Colorado didn’t care about the toes – they just fell in love with him. On the day they adopted him, he got a bath, a trip to Petsmart for toys and a new bed, and got to meet their 9-year-old son & 15-year-old daughter (see pic below). His new name is now “Rolo” as their children figured his coloring was like the candy. We have a feeling Rolo will be spoiled and loved, all at the same time. What a wonderful home! ↓



← Quincy, our newest foster gal in Delta, adopted out “Pebbles,” this tri-color kitty to Samantha on January 13. It sure looks like one happy adoption, and now both of them can enjoy each other’s company at Samantha’s home in Glenwood Springs, Colo.



← Quincy definitely had a good adoption month in January. Amber and her friend came from Gunnison, Colo. to adopt this handsome yellow and white boy on January 22. This kitty’s name was “Tinker,” but did Amber keep that name? Perhaps she’ll let us know what his name is now and send us an update on how he is doing. Thanks for making the long drive to adopt this sweet boy!



We think the cat is winning....



← “Flynn” found his perfect home with Chuck, who lives in Crawford, Colo., very close to our foster mom, Carol. Chuck wanted a companion dog and one who had the herding instinct for work at his ranch. Flynn fit both of those requirements and was more than eager to leave with Chuck for future adventures. He’ll have other dogs to play with, goats to herd, and a great forever home with Chuck.

“Kenyon (nka Kip)” was supposed to be picked up a week earlier, but her new owner, who lives in Colorado Springs, CO, was delayed by a snowstorm. That’s okay – Kip waited patiently and was TWICE as happy to see Tracy (left) and her friend, Meg, arrive on Jan. 26 to pick her up. Tracy runs 6 miles 2x a day, and Kip will be her new running partner – plus she will get to go to work with her – what a great life for Kip!

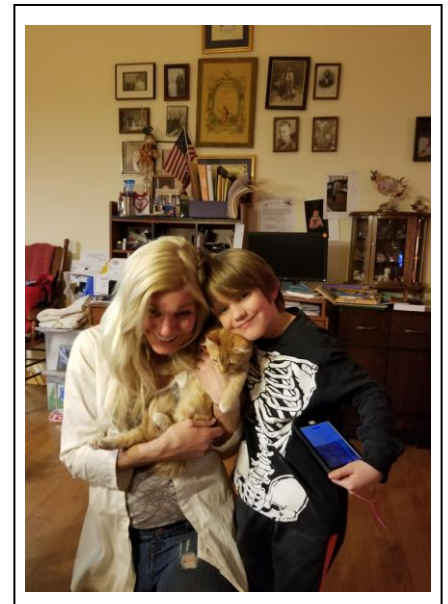
See what we mean? Kip was SO happy to be with her Mom – she couldn’t get close enough & kisses were abundant . . . →



← Valene and her son, Jack, adopted “Tonka” from Quincy at the end of January. This kitten will have a happy forever family with the both of them in Ridgway, Colo. As a side note, this is Quincy’s third adoption for the month of January – way to go, Quincy! . . . and thank you, Valene and Jack, for adopting a rescue cat!

February had this wonderful adoption!

Jordan (mom) and Ethan drove over from Snowmass on Feb. 18 to adopt “Starsky” from Chris at our Paonia foster home. Ethan spotted a photo online of this kitty playing in a box, and it was love at first sight. Since their family had lost their family cat a few months ago, their replacement kitty had to be just the right cat – and it turned out Starsky was purr-fect! →



When Your Dog's Poop Looks Like This, Visit Your Vet -

excerpts from article written by Dr. Karen Becker and published in healthypets.mercola.com

This topic is a rather unpleasant but important one: assessing your dog's poop for signs of a health problem.

Since our canine companions can't tell us when they have cramps, a tummy ache, or some other digestive upset, it's up to us to stay alert for signs of trouble. One of the best ways to do this is to monitor not only what goes into your dog, but also what comes out of him.

What's 'Normal' Poop for Your Dog?

Generally speaking, a healthy canine stool is moist and firm, and has a mild odor.



Healthy Dog Stool

Dogs fed processed kibble typically produce large quantities of voluminous poop for several reasons. First, most kibble manufacturers add unnaturally high amounts of fiber (beet pulp, soybean, and rice hulls, as well as "cellulose," otherwise known as wood fiber, or sawdust). The normal fiber content of the ancestral diet is between 4 and 6 percent. The fiber content of many dry foods is greater than 15 percent, and most "diet" or "lite" foods contain more than 28 percent fiber.

Dogs eating kibble also produce a stinkier poop because their bodies aren't designed to absorb certain nutrients in those diets (for example, grain and other starches, including the unnaturally high potato and pea content found in many "grain free" foods).



Stool of Kibble-Fed Dog

Raw fed dogs, on the other hand, tend to produce significantly less poop that is also smaller in size, firmer, and significantly less stinky. Dogs eating a high mineral raw food diet will produce poo that turns a much lighter color within 24 hours and disintegrates very quickly.

Dogs eating raw foods that could be too high in calcium or bone pass white, chalky feces, and may suffer from obstipation.

Regardless of your dog's diet, it's important to know what her poop looks and smells like normally so that you'll be immediately aware of any changes in frequency, consistency, size, color, or smell.

One of the most obvious signs of a potential health problem in dogs is diarrhea, and diarrhea can have different characteristics depending on its cause.

Types of Dog Diarrhea

In the following situations, unless the problem clears up on its own within a day or so, it is recommended making an appointment with your veterinarian.

- A soft stool with no visible blood or mucous might indicate either a dietary change or indiscriminate eating. However, it can also signal the presence of an intestinal parasite such as giardia.



Soft Stool



Excess fat in Stool



Watery stool



Stool with Mucus

Soft Stool

- A greasy-looking gray stool can be a sign of too much fat in your dog's diet, which can trigger [pancreatitis](#), which is inflammation of the pancreas that can range from very mild to life threatening.

Excess Fat in Stool (Steatorrhea)

- A black, tarry stool typically indicates the presence of old blood somewhere in the dog's digestive system. It can be a sign of injury to the GI tract from indiscriminate eating, and it can also be a sign of a very serious disease such as cancer.

- Watery diarrhea can be a sign of stress or a viral (e.g., parvovirus) or parasitic infection and can lead very quickly to dehydration, especially in puppies.

Watery Stool

- A soft stool containing or coated with mucous may indicate the presence of parvovirus or parasites.

Stool with Mucus

- A soft or watery stool with visible worms, eggs, or other uninvited guests is a clear indication of a [parasite infestation](#).

- Firm, soft, or runny poop containing blood or blood clots is almost always a sign of a serious health problem requiring immediate attention. Fresh blood indicates current bleeding, typically from the large intestine or the anus or anal glands. There could be a perforation of the intestinal wall from something the dog ingested, or from the eruption of a tumor or ulcer.

When to Call the Vet

Most healthy dogs experience an occasional episode of loose stool or diarrhea that resolves within 12 to 24 hours. The underlying issue in most of these cases is indiscriminate eating or stress. However, any dog has the potential to become very ill from chronic bouts of diarrhea.

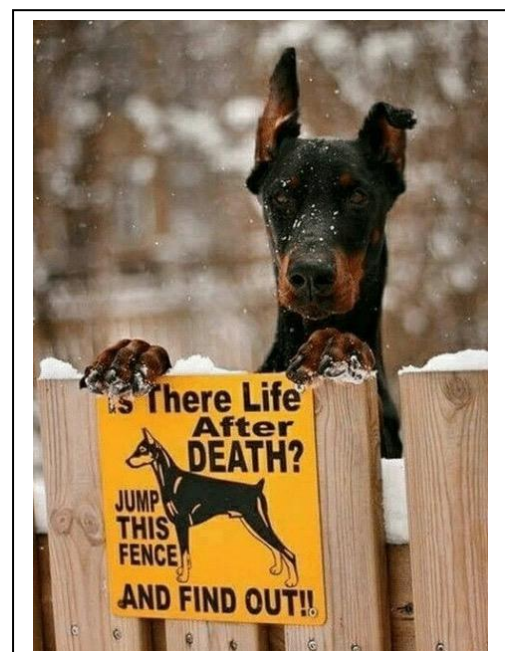
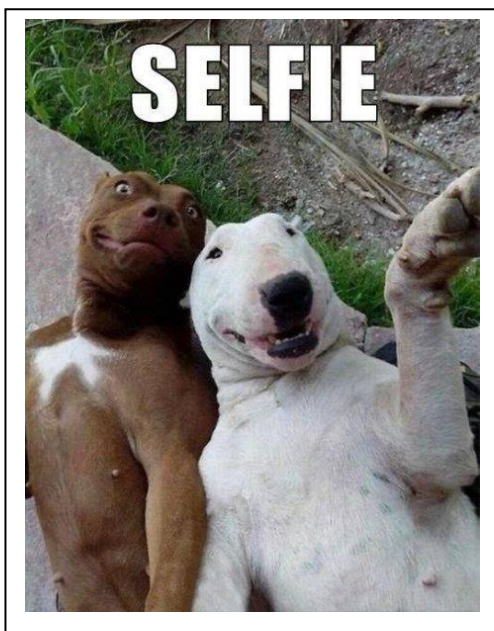
If your dog seems fine after a bout of diarrhea -- meaning she's acting normal, with normal energy -- it's safe to simply keep an eye on her to insure her stool returns to normal within a day or so.

But if you notice she's also sluggish, running a fever or feels warm to the touch, or there's a change in her behavior, you should contact your veterinarian.

If you see blood in your pet's stool or she's weak or shows other signs of debilitation along with the diarrhea, you should make an appointment with the vet.

If your dog seems fine but is experiencing recurrent bouts of diarrhea, it's time for a checkup.

It's important to bring a sample of your dog's stool to your appointment, even if it's watery. Use a plastic baggie and shovel a bit in there to take with you. This will help your vet identify potential underlying causes for the diarrhea.



Summer will be here before you know it – watch for these doggie hazards in your own backyard

1. The Sun

Everybody loves a sunny day, including your dog. But you wouldn't let your kids play outside in bright sunlight all day with no protection. And you shouldn't let your dog do so, either. Dogs are susceptible to heat stroke and heat exhaustion. These conditions can have fatal consequences. So it's important to provide plenty of shade (and fresh water) when your dog is playing outside. And believe it or not, dogs can get sunburned. Canines can also [develop skin cancer](#). Again, make sure your yard has shady areas where your dog can get out of the sun.



2. Your grill or fire pit

You wouldn't fire up the grill or start a bonfire in the backyard if you weren't confident any small children in the vicinity would stay at a safe distance. So you should also proceed cautiously if you have a dog in your backyard. A grill with burgers or hot dogs on it will probably smell pretty tempting to your dog. So you'll need to keep a close eye to protect him from getting burned. The same goes for a fire pit. In addition, particles in wood smoke can get in their eyes and respiratory system. You know the dangers. But your dog doesn't.

3. Fertilizers or Herbicides

A good fertilizer helps your lawn and all of the other plants in your backyard grow, but most types of fertilizer pose at least some level of danger to your dog. Most fertilizers contain nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in concentrations strong enough to cause gastrointestinal irritation in your dog. Nitrogen can even burn the pads of your dog's paws. Some fertilizer manufacturers offer products that are "safe" for dogs. But even those products can still contain compounds that will hurt your dog. You should keep your dog off treated grass.

Herbicides, or the chemicals you use to kill weeds and control unwanted plants in your yard, can be extremely dangerous to your dog. Herbicides have been linked to lymphatic cancer in dogs, and the chemicals also increase your dog's risk of developing bladder cancer. Plus, your dog can track the chemicals into your house, where you and your children can come into contact with them.

4. Flowers, fruits and vegetables

Every gardener who's also a dog lover knows some plants are dangerous to dogs. You can check out the ASPCA's extensive list for the details. Some common plants to watch out for? American holly, azaleas, begonias, boxwood, buttercups, chrysanthemums, daffodils, dahlias, daisies, elephant ears, and English ivy all make the list, to name a few. Many of the plants in your vegetable garden can also hurt your dog. The AKC notes the [green parts of a tomato plant](#) are poisonous to dogs. And according to the AKC's list of toxic plants, apple and cherry trees, chives, fig trees, garlic, grapefruit trees, leeks, lemon trees, mint, onions, orange trees, peach trees, rhubarb, sweet peas, and tarragon can also poison your dog. Make sure when you plant fruits and veggies for human consumption, you confirm they won't hurt your dog.

ADOPTIONS RE-VISITED

If you are a regular reader of our newsletter, by now you should know that we LOVE hearing from our past adopters, telling us how their pets are doing and sending us photos so we can see the wonderful lives our rescued animals have now. Here are a few updates we'd like to share . . .



↑ *This is “Cookie,” an Olde English Bulldogge who was adopted by Tanner and Madison of Denver, Colo. on October 17, 2017. Here is the note Carol (former foster parent of Cookie) received from her owners at the end of December:*

“We wanted to send you an update on Cookie. She is doing absolutely wonderful. She goes to the dog park every day and plays so good with all of the dogs. You were right, she wasn’t aggressive, just lonely. She follows her big brother everywhere and they can’t get enough of each other. We can’t imagine our lives without Cookie anymore. She is so wonderful and is loving life! Thank you for all you do for animals and we hope this update gives you a little feedback for how much you changed our life for the better!”

What a terrific adoption ! Cookie got the best home ever !

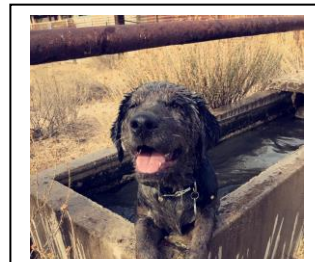
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← *Little “Arlo” (forefront) was a Christmas adoption and now realizes that he will have the best New Year ever. After Mikaela and Alex picked up their puppy at the end of December, they drove straight thru to their home in Flagstaff, AZ. They said that Arlo was a good traveler, and as you can see by the photo, he and Daisy have become best buds.*

Thank you both for adopting this special pup!

Arlo & Daisy having a day of fun and play with their new friend at the family ranch in Globe, AZ →





Resting after a hard day of playing

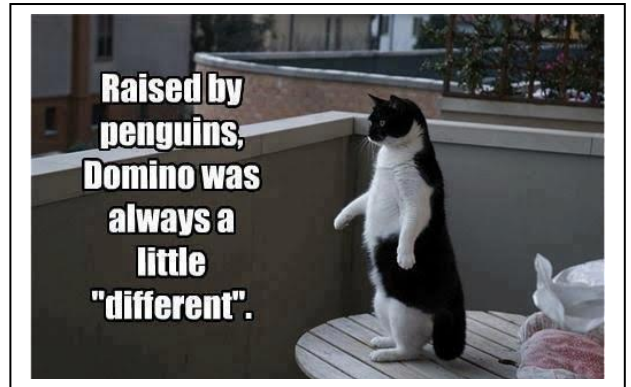
Kristi & David of Fruita, Colo. adopted these two pups in November, 2017 – one boy (aka Lancelot) and one girl (aka Kyla). As you can tell from the photos, they are growing into beautiful dogs – and their owners tell us they are so
← much fun! →



At 16 weeks of age – waiting for treats



← “Moose” and “Tortie” were adopted by two young boys, Max and Sam, of Paonia, Colo. back in October 2017. These kittens are living the good life snuggled in their cat bed. What a terrific home they have!



* * * * *

These puppies arrived in mid-February . . .

These four Blue Heeler/Border Collie pups (1 boy, 3 girls) were brought to Carol at our Crawford foster facility on Feb. 12 – their mother had been hit by a car and killed that same day. It wasn't easy, but eventually Carol was able to convince the 2-week-old pups that her bottle was just as good as nursing from their mom. Nursing eventually led to gruel (softened kibble), and then to solid kibble, so the pups remained healthy and gained weight steadily until they were ready for adoption.



Feb. 12 – 1st day in foster care

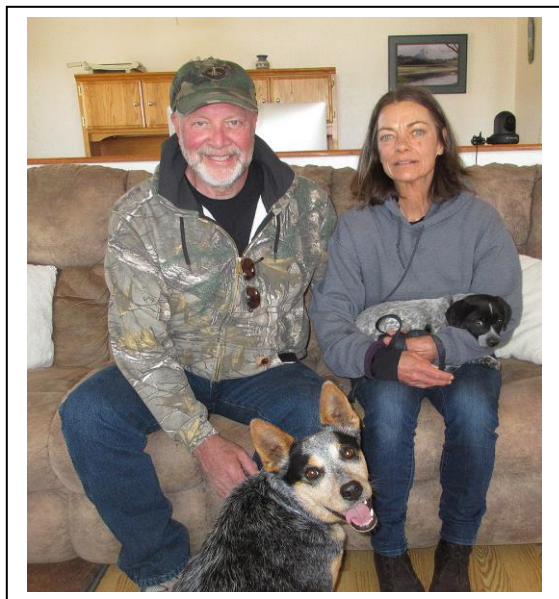


Their first taste of gruel



This pup really likes gruel!

and left for new homes in March

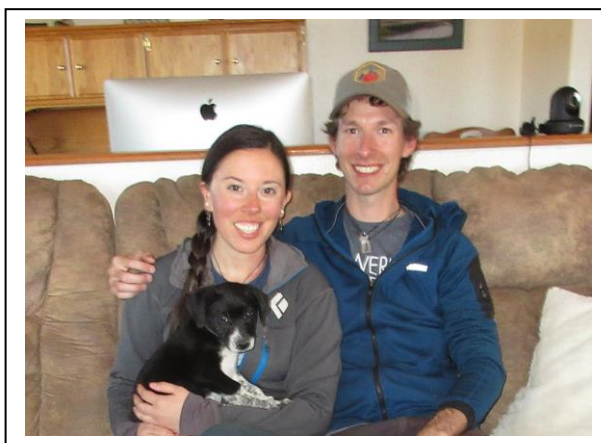


← Becky and Todd, of Delta, are return adopters and chose to adopt the only male pup in the group – he was quite a chunk and weighed in only the day before at 11 lbs! They obviously like the cattle dog breeds as Lena (lower part of photo) was also adopted from Carol in 2016. This little puppy will have a great home!



Brianne lives in Montrose with her fluffy → poodle, Eddy, but thought that she needed a friend to play with – problem solved – she adopted this little pup – one big happy family! Brianne's mom, Lark, came along for the ride because someone had to hold the puppy!

This puppy was next to be adopted and she'll now live in Carbondale, Colo. and can look forward to a number of fabulous adventures. Both Christina and Brian actively participate in hiking, biking, camping and climbing and plan on taking their little pup along with them. They both work in outdoor equipment stores, and Brian is able to bring their pup to work with him – this little girl better start resting up now. →



Yael, pictured here with her mother, Yedida, was the first one to reserve her puppy, "Darcy," from the litter but weather circumstances prevented her family from picking her up until March 20. Yael's twin brother was also getting his own puppy, but it was located in Durango so it took a while to coordinate picking up the puppies on the same day. Yael is happy now with Darcy and the two of them can play on the family's 40 acres. →



Yes, we love to help our community, and here are the statistics

During the 2017 year, we took in *139 animals (103 dogs and 36 cats)*. The disposition of those animals was as follows:

Adopted out: 84 dogs and 22 cats

Returned to owner: 14 dogs

Transfers to other local rescue groups: 4 dogs

We know that the figures don't add up to 139 animals, but you have to figure that we still had animals leftover from 2017 available for adoption. All these animals found new homes through the hard work, caring attitude, and loving nature of the six foster parents (*yes, only 6*) who volunteer with the Delta County Humane Society.

In addition, our rescue group provides spay/neuter coupons to those qualifying low-income residents in Delta County. In 2017, through the use of our coupons, we monetarily assisted in the neuter of 22 male cats, spay of 41 female cats, neuter of 44 male dogs, and spay of 43 female dogs. Our feral cat team also trapped 23 female cats and 14 male cats that were sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to their feeding areas. *That's the way to lower pet overpopulation!*

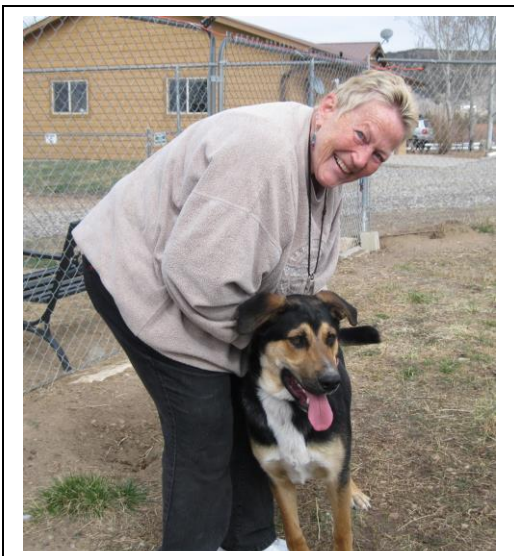


Chinese Year of the Dog

Dog / 狗 (gǒu)

💡 2018 is the Year of the Dog according to the Chinese zodiac. This is a Year of Earth Dog, starting from Feb. 16, 2018 ([Chinese New Year](#)) and lasting to Feb. 4, 2019.

. . . and here's our last adoption in March – and by far, the quickest one !



← Pictured here is one of the quickest adoptions ever in the history of DCHS. “Tank” had to be given up by his original family because the landlord said “no dogs” – so Carol (Crawford DCHS) picked up Tank on the morning of March 22, and called Dr. Vincent’s office at 1:30pm to make arrangements for a neuter operation. At 2:30pm Inez (pictured) and her friend, Ellen, stopped in at Dr. Vincent’s to inquire about getting either a German Shepherd or Rottweiler as a service dog. At 3:30pm Inez was already at Carol’s place to meet Tank. Inez LOVES big dogs and needed one big enough to carry doggie saddlebags – Tank is only 7 months old and certainly fits the bill as a BIG dog. And get this – Inez’s former service dog was named Tank – we certainly think this match was meant to be!

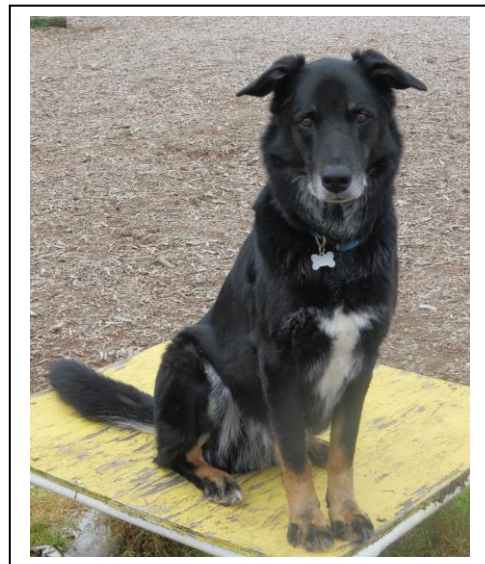
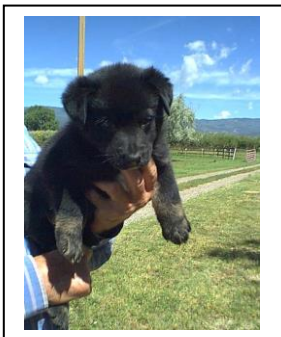
My Friend, My Companion & Protector, My Everything as told by Judy Weir

Who knew, 12.5 years ago, that a little ball of fluff would become a major part of my life. His mother, pregnant at the time, arrived at our foster home in Cedaredge, Colo. and gave birth to eight beautiful puppies while in our care. In time, after the pups were weaned and the mother spayed – all were put up for adoption. Seven of the pups were quickly adopted and even the mother was adopted, but that left one remaining black puppy with muddy brown feet. He was the one who didn't wish to play with the other pups, the one that went off on his own, but would come when we called to him. My husband, Bill, and I decided that since he was the last puppy left up for adoption, that we would adopt him ourselves – it was a sign that he should be in our lives. Bill named the pup “Ranger,” – short for the Lone Ranger since he preferred to be on his own most of the time.

Ranger was part German Shepherd and part Australian Shepherd and grew into a 75-lb. guard dog. It was his job to announce any visitors and protect us against possible harm, and he was good at intimidating strangers with his bark and his size. A simple flash of his big, white teeth usually set strangers back on their heels until properly introduced – little did they know that if you had a treat in your hand Ranger became a marshmallow that would stick to your side.

My husband unexpectedly passed away when Ranger was 1.5 years old. Not only did Ranger step up to the plate in his guard dog capacity, but he was the one that allowed me to cry into his fur at night while I was grieving the loss of my husband. He stayed by my side and was my protector and my friend. Ranger and I took walks together every day, a vacation together every year, and he always made sure that I never felt alone in life. He tolerated the other 3 dogs I owned, but considered me his closet pal and confidant. All 4 dogs and I moved out to Oregon so it was a long road trip for all of us; however, I never had to worry on the trip because Ranger warned anyone that was within 5 feet of our car or motel room that they were getting too close. I never had to invest in a home security system – I had Ranger. He was never the cute or friendly dog that everyone loved. He took his guard dog status very seriously and I always felt that I was the main concern in his life.

Ranger left this planet on March 5, 2018 and I miss him terribly. He was one of those dogs that comes along once in your life and you will never forget him. Ranger stole my heart when he was born and took a piece of it with him when he left this world. Thank you for allowing me to tell his story and pay tribute to a four-legged friend that loved me unconditionally. I truly hope that all dog lovers have a friend like Ranger in their lives.



**You have a
Great Day!**



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.)

(-----)

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**