YARD SALE

Saturday, September 18, 2010 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

> 3131 East Evans Avenue Denver, Colorado 80210

Our spring Yard Sale was rained out and the shelter lost important revenue because of it. Please help make this one a big success.

We need donations, especially of furniture and other large, eye-catching items, but all items are welcome. And we need shoppers!



You may drop off items onto the shelter's porch beginning Labor Day Weekend. Or contact Eluise at eluise@dim.com

Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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AHA AND ASPCA MAKE HISTORY: CAT SEIZURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Imagine wall-to-wall cats in a warehouse-sized space. Imagine many of those wall-to-wall cats with eye infections and other health problems. Imagine wall-to-wall cats neglected in unsanitary conditions. Kris Field did not have to imagine this—she was part of the American Humane Association's Red Star Animal Emergency Services team that rescued these 387 cats. Kris left Denver on Tuesday, June 22, on this secret mission that few knew about beforehand.



Cutie pie kitten Ashe, being syringe fed by Kris, who was instrumental in helping this kitten survive. Kris tried to bring him home with her, but the airlines required that cats be at least 8 weeks old and vaccinated, and Ashe was neither. Photo courtesy of American Humane Association.

The seizure began when complaints about Animal Friends of Elk and Cameron Counties Sanctuary were received by the Elk County Humane Society, which in turn contacted the ASPCA. Animal Friends used a commercial building in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, where it managed a "sanctuary" for cats. Animal Friends officially surrendered the cats to Elk County Humane Society on the first day of the seizure.

The seizure was handled by the ASPCA out of New York; Kris's AHA team had the honor of providing the sheltering component. It all went smoothly thanks to the outstanding planning of both the AHA and the ASPCA, who along with the Elk County Humane Society and medical teams from the University of

Pennsylvania and the University of Florida took part. PetSmart Charities, Inc. provided \$60,000 in supplies and equipment for this massive undertaking, the largest cat seizure ever in that part of the country. There were more than 50 responders involved.

The first task after all the teams and their specialty trucks were gathered in secret was to set up a temporary shelter at the local fairgrounds (a warehouse-sized building) and assemble carriers and black wire cages, one for each cat. Can you picture almost 400 cages stacked up in a warehouse? 400 cat carriers lined up?



This newsletter is a periodic publication of Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization 3131 East Evans Street

Denver, Colorado 80210

(303) 759-2855

Editor: Eluise Marvin, eluise@dim.com



Two of the animal transport trailers and supply/equipment trucks. Photo by Kris Field.

Can you picture the manpower and resources necessary to transport carriers from trucks to the sanctuary, load a cat in to each one and take them to the temporary shelter? And do that hundreds of times? Carriers were handed off the truck in a long bucket-brigade style line. Triage on every cat was done by Dr. Melinda Merck, Senior Director of Veterinary Forensic Sciences for the ASPCA, and doctors, veterinary students and veterinary technicians from the two Universities and the ASPCA. Each cat was tested and evaluated and then put in its own wire cage. Eventually, cats would be spayed or neutered as necessary.

Most of the cats would ultimately make a full recovery. Each had to be adopted, transported or euthanized because the temporary shelter was just that—temporary. The teams went in, performed triage, sheltered, fed and treated each cat, and then it was time to move them out. Volunteers had homes and jobs to return to and staff had to prepare for the next emergency deployment.

An adopt-a-thon over the July Fourth holiday found homes for 132 cats, a tremendous success. Seven cats had found homes even before then. The remaining 248 cats were sent to shelters that had space available around the eastern United States.

Kris and her teammates worked many hours daily in humid heat, sleeping at a nearby motel. This first team's tour of duty ended after one week, and Kris returned to Denver on June 29.



Carriers! Photo by Kris Field.



The ASPCA's fully equipped "Mobile Animal Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit," a specially-designed vehicle outfitted with state-of-the-art forensics tools as well as medical equipment designed for animal patients. Photo by Kris Field.



The warehouse staging area in the temporary shelter before it fills up with cages, and cats. Photo by Kris Field.



The day before the seizure, these empty carriers would stack up to the roof and fill the trailer. Photo by Kris Field.



Kris Field (right) with one of her heroes, Dr. Melinda Merck, a nationally renowned animal forensic specialist. Photo by AHA volunteer.

A second team of volunteers came on June 28 and worked in the shelter, prepared for the adopt-a-thon and then transported the cats to permanent shelters.

The little kitten in the picture with Kris on the first page was adopted and here he is below with his human brother Mitchell. Word has it that Ashe is very active, bold and demanding. And he plays non stop. He's obviously a hit with Mitchell.



Mitchell Smith with Ashe, who has grown a lot just one month later. Photo by JoAnne Belmore-Smith.



The cardboard boxes containing each cage became shields between cages after they were assembled on site. These particular cages were dedicated to those cats to be isolated from the general group. Photo by Kris Field.



Tracy Reis, Program Manager, Animal Emergency Services, kissing Ashe goodbye as he leaves the AHA shelter for his foster (now forever) home. Photo by Mike Bizelli.

[Editor's Note: Here's an update on Ashe from his new mom, Julie Smith, in her email to Kris.]

He is doing well. However, Ashe is first and foremost a hunter. He doesn't spend any time sitting around purring and asking to be petted. ANY movement of any kind is a signal to get in crouch position and POUNCE. And since he has no fear, he pounces on everything: feet, legs, hands, backs, faces, the two dogs, and even our other cat. And he doesn't let go right away, or stay away when scolded or sprayed with a water bottle. One younger son has even come to me, begging me to not keep him because he can't stand being attacked non-stop by this furball with sharp teeth and claws. But that said, we are keeping him.

The few times he has purred have been late at night when he has curled up with me, or my daughter Camille, and he kneads our arms or sides and tries vainly to nurse. That's when we get to see the real Ashe. The vulnerable Ashe, who wasn't able to be with his mother for as long as he should have. The Ashe who wants to be loved but doesn't seem to know how to ask for it in a non-violent way. But just this weekend, Mitchell came up to me all excited. He said "Mom, Ashe let me hold him, and he purred, and he didn't bite me at all!" So we know the good cat is in there, maybe he just needed time to feel safe and secure! I'm sorry this is not a more lovey, dovey story. But maybe Ashe represents these cats perfectly. They come from bad situations and have to learn to trust again and, most importantly, love again! Thank you for all you did in this rescue and for all cats everyday!

[Note from Kris: Many kittens go through the "terrible twos" and a severe biting stage but, thankfully, they outgrow it, so Ashe's story of attacking and biting is not unique.]

Kris Sends Extra Thank Yous to These Standout People Involved in the AHA Cat Seizure

Several-paw salute to JoAnne Belmore-Smith for your bravery and determination. Without you, this Pennsylvania rescue would never have happened! You are awesome!

Huge Double Paw Salute to Dr. Kate Knutson and her dynamite tech, Liza Krauter, who were there every second, even after hours, for me and the tiny babies whose lives we were trying to save. You guys were my rock. Thank you for your kindness, medical expertise and, above all, your compassion. You were our angels in blue.

Big Paw Salute to our friends at American Human Association, Diane Robinson and Tracy Reis, who every year do a fabulous job on behalf of the animals!

And last but never least, thank you to all of the fabulous volunteers and deployed staff who pulled this together. You guys outshine the moon, the sun and the stars. It was an honor to work with you.

REFLECTIONS ON ADOPTIONS

[Editor's Note: The following is extracted from an exchange of emails between Kris and her friend Barbara concerning Ashe's adoption. This is the kitten Kris wanted to bring back with her from the Pennsylvania seizure but the airlines said "no." This is what Barnwater Cats is all about:]

Kris Writes: I am so glad he has found his forever home. I just wish that forever home could have been mine. Every cat I have came to me because they were abused or did not get adopted or something like that. The rescues I wanted to keep, well, it never worked out that I actually GOT to keep them. I guess that's God's plan and I am ok with it, I just sometimes wish it were otherwise.

Barbara's Response: The reason that you have never been able to keep the kitties you have wanted to is all too clear to me. It is the reason, the core, the heart of what you do . . . and God's plan: the ones you want are the ones that others also fall in love with for all the same reasons . . . We take the downtrodden, the medically challenged, the "not so pretty," the attitude affected, the "rejects" of society's view of what "perfect" should be, and give them all the love and care that they SO deserve. Is it fair? Don't know. Do we get what WE want, not always. But more importantly, they get what THEY want and NEED so badly. And in the end, that's what WE really want anyway, to be loved and deeply appreciated by the animals we rescue and provide for. So, my thought is, everything happens the way of God's plan. He has given you the heart of a Lion to help these poor little souls, and trusts you with that gift. You have given so much more than you'll ever receive, but we all know that's NOT why we do this. It's a Calling, if you will. And His gift to us. Even the heartbreak goes with the packaging. NEVER think for a moment that what you do isn't the Greatest thing on this Earth, Kris, cause you are a Savior for the kitties! And I am damned proud to call you my friend!

By Barbara Arenal, passionate volunteer for AHA and HEART, and her dog Cheetos, a Katrina dog who was recently diagnosed with heartworm.



WHAT DOES KRIS DO ALL DAY?

A small sampling of the emails that consume Kris's days. She answers every one and acts as a clearinghouse among shelters and rescue groups:

August 5: The caretaker of property where feral cats are has said she will not put out food or water any more. Chloe has trapped 5 of the cats and is looking for a location to re-house them. Apparently, a new neighbor is a threat to the cats. This sets off a string of emails and phone calls as Kris attempts to help.

August 7: Holly writes: my father said he had spoken to you earlier about finding a home for the cat he has. I would take him in a heartbeat but unfortunately my husband is allergic to cats . . . so I am trying to help him find the cat a home as well. He is sooooo sweet and loving . . .

Kris has been working with Judy in Wyoming, who is dying of cancer, to help her place her 10 cats and rescued dogs. Kris puts Judy's animals on her Facebook page, two at a time. Her cats are all ages, mostly

young. Some of her animals have found homes, but they know something is up and stick to Judy like glue. If you can help, please contact Judy at wyomingfurkids@gmail.com.

August 11: There are two male cats that were abandoned that need homes. Both need to be neutered. One lives in Wash Park between Corona, Ogden and Virginia. He is a young male, gray and white that is too sweet and trusting of strangers to be living in the alley. He followed me home and I feed him. I picked him up and he purred purred purred. He has been crying in the alley. The other male lives off of Colfax and my friend believes he was an abandoned pet . . . [Editor's Note: Kris reports that the friendly cat has been trapped, neutered and now living with someone. Kris continues to try to help with the Colfax cat.]

August 15: One of our Good Sam members said there is a feral mama cat and four kittens in her neighbor's backyard. She thinks the kittens are between four and six weeks old. It's in Aurora just east of Havana off Iliff. The lady asking for help is Arlene . . . at 303-369-5841.

August 15: Stephanie just called. She found an approximate 3-week old kitten abandoned by his feral mama last night. She knows how to bottle feed and has been doing everything she should, but she is wondering if there are any volunteers who would be willing to take on the little guy . . . Please call Stephanie directly at 303-906-0949 if anyone can help!

AND . . .

COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

After many years of emergency response training classes and exercises, Kris is now a part of a team for the State of Colorado that is prepared to respond to any emergency, in or out of the state. This team is made up of professionals (veterinarians, vet techs, police officers, animal control officers, etc.) and paraprofessionals. The mission of the VMRC is "to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers." Bottom line, being credentialed means that Kris can be deployed at any time for any local or national animal-related emergencies, from house fires to nuclear attacks.

Congratulations, Kris!

Hi Everyone,

This is Honeybear speaking, Head of Disaster Preparation and Response, writing to you from the BCRO Command Center. I will be handling all of our disaster and emergency updates and information in future newsletters.



I have been training all year and I got credentialed in first aid, AED, pet first aid and CPR. I hope you will do the same. The American Red Cross, Mile High Chapter, is located at 444 Sherman Street and their phone number is: 303-722-7474. Upcoming Pet First Aid classes at that location are scheduled for:

September 15, 6-10 pm October 14, 6-10 pm November 23, 6-10 pm December 14, 6-10 pm

CS CS IN MEMORIAM CS CS CS

On the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I would like to remember all of the animals, the humans, the saviors, the innocents, the pets and the heroes who gave or lost their lives, August 29, 2005.

May the angels never leave this devastated area that now barely sustains the beautiful birds and turtles and fish and other living things through the haze of chemicals and oil spills. May we forever protect with every ounce of courage we have whatever is left of our beautiful wetlands.

Kris Field Executive Director Barnwater Cats Rescue Organization

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE SHELTER

\$50+ Benefactors: Justin Loerwald, Eileen Robinson, Julie Hickox, Vivian Burnham, Diana Whelen.

\$100+ Benefactors: Barbara Johnson, Julie Hulstein, Dena Culver, Dawn Brandenburg, Ann Martinez.

A BIG THANKS to Lois Eckhoff and Debbie West for their outstanding financial contribution, making it possible for BCRO to get much needed snow removal equipment.

\$200+ Benefactors: Barbara Walker, Betty Patnoi, Bryce Hunt, John and Sandra Russell-Owens, Gay Dickerson and Kerry O'Gorman, Jean VanLoan, Tana Pittman.



Timmie, up for adoption at BCRO. Photo by Kris Field

\$1,000+ Benefactors: Mary Ray and Eluise Marvin.

BIG THANKS to Warren Connors and Liz Drennen for their \$500+ huge donations to the BCRO medical fund.

THANK YOU to Animal Assistance Foundation for its \$2,500 Service Grant that allowed BCRO to medically treat 21 cats and kittens during the 2009-2010 grant year. A big thank you to David Gies, Executive Director, and Joan Casey, Program Director. Beyond the obvious costs of cat food and litter are the other costs BCRO incurs on behalf of the cats. No other shelter takes better care of a cat's health than BCRO. Here's some of what that grant money helped pay for: vet exams, fecal tests, blood panels, ultra sound test, spays and neutering, dental exams, baby food, prescriptions, leukemia/aids tests and vaccinations.

EVERYONE NEEDS A JESSE CAT

Jesse was rescued by Gay Dickerson in August 2003 and brought to BCRO where he remained until his adoption in 2005. Since then, Gay has been an outstanding addition to the feline rescue world, a wonderful trapper, a great foster home and certainly an invaluable volunteer at our yearly fundraisers, Kitty Christmas and the bi-annual yard sales.

Skip forward two years, to 2005 when Annette and her husband Mike came to meet Jesse. Since Mike was not crazy about cats, Jesse of course went right to him and rubbed against his legs and feet. For Annette, it was already all over from the moment she saw Jesse's photo! Handsome, sweet Jesse with his gentle disposition, who had by then been in the shelter two full years, unadopted. Thanks to Annette and Mike for being such great kitty parents.

[Editor's Note: Annette Stearman became a friend and BCRO volunteer because of Jesse, one of Kris's favorite cats of all time. In Annette's own words, here's how Jesse came into their life.]

Once, while watching a lion trainer on TV, I remembered him relating that with each verbal command he gave he also had a specific nonverbal sign. When I hold out my arms and say "love," my loving big red tabby cat Jesse comes to me for his very tender moments. He touches my mouth with his head when I point to my lips for a kiss.

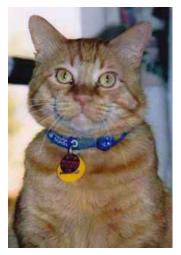
It wasn't always this cozy. When Jesse came home to us, he had to learn to rely on us and to believe we would meet his needs. I sat with him every day while he ate.

When I got him from Barnwater Cats, I had told Kris I wanted "one more last cat." My older blind female was so sad when we had to relinquish my



Jesse, Photo by Annette Stearman.

soul mate Willy to cat heaven. Wow, can I really read felines. She wanted nothing to do with her frisky new friend. They stayed at paw's length for months. Jesse tried like a teenager to make a cool move on her. Eventually he made progress and she has softened. They are like an old couple: they get close when it's cold.



Jesse, Photo by Kris Field

My first impression of my new boy was not favorable. When my husband and I went looking for a replacement friend, I envisioned another petite furball. When we entered this sparkling clean shelter, I could hear a thundering herd approaching. About five cats came to greet us. We were told that there was a special male that needed a forever home. When I saw these happy, healthy cats approach, I said to myself, "Do not let Mr. Right be that big red one." I could barely pick him up. Good thing our travel crates are dog size.

All my reservations ended when we got home. He has never in all the years we have had him put his claws out or shown any aggressive behavior. His potty manners are impeccable. We discovered he probably has food allergies. We think imported food was making him sick and now we are more careful about where the food is made. I can't believe my good luck getting him into my life. It is impossible to replace an old, dear friend, but I now have a new love. The fact of shelter life is adoption for the lucky ones. Kris is a good match-maker.

Love from, Jesse, Espanola, Mike and Annette

UPDATE ON SAGE AND BLUE

[Editor's Note: You may remember that these are the two surviving kittens out of a litter of five born to Mama Cass, the cat who attacked Kris earlier this year. Here's an April 8 email from their new dad Terry Browning:]



Lazies Photo by Terry Browning

The kittens are doing great. They are getting their "team" hunting skills honed with the weather change and the introduction of the occasional spider. It is so cool to watch them circle something and then pounce!

As you may remember, I had started removing wall paper in my house. Well, I finally got further than the patch you all saw when you brought the kittens. I've been keeping the ladder in my kitchen during the project.

I got up one morning and couldn't find the kittens right away. Figuring they were in the basement, I walked into the kitchen only to come eye to eye with the two sitting on the ladder's paint tray looking like they were kids caught with their hands in the cookie jar.



The Discovery of Shoelaces Photo by Terry Browning



NEW ARRIVALS AT RAINBOW BRIDGE

Fidel, beloved Chihuahua pet of Dr. Erica Rambus, April 16, 2010 **Nikita**, beloved dog of Rhonda, Kelly and Morgan Green, June 3, 2010 **Sophia**, beloved cat of Chuck and Justin Loerwald, July 4, 2010

Sophia Loerwald, by Justin Loerwald

In Justin's own words: Sophia was a very special kitty who came into our lives February 1997. There will never be a cat quite like her. I felt I needed to adopt Sophia from the Denver Dumb Friends League when I noticed she had 6 feet and a very deformed tail. I'm sure it was due to possible inbreeding since she was part Siamese. She was always a good topic of conversation with other "cat people" and we will miss her great personality. Due to complications with asthma, thyroid condition and diabetes, she passed away on July 4th.

Nikita, by Rhonda Green

In April 1998, a sweet 7-month old pup entered my life. She had no tags, no collar, no microchip. She was a stray and didn't even know how to go for a walk. We named her Nikita and kept her as we suspected someone dumped her, because she was pregnant as well. We made the choice to have her pregnancy terminated for two reasons: first, the pups would be hard to find homes for, and we all know there are enough unwanted animals out there, but more importantly, Nikita may not have survived giving birth at such a young age; she still had puppy fur herself.

The adorable Chow mix made her home in my heart. There were times in my life that she and I lived alone. We had each other and that was all we needed. We took walks and played, and she always made me feel safe. She developed a thyroid condition, which I medicated religiously. When she was six years old, her years were starting to show, so I adopted a younger male Siberian Husky (Ivan) to keep her young, then later another male (Chinook) to entertain the first. As the years passed, Nikita lost her vision,

but the "boys" never challenged her alpha position in our "pack." When I married, she accepted my husband Kelly as her Dad and he played with her, too. Later on when our daughter was born, she was very maternal and protective of the baby. She wouldn't let the "boys" get too close to the baby, and even whined when the baby cried. Even blind in her later years, she still led a quality life filled with love and walks until her body couldn't go so far anymore.

On the 29th of May, a Saturday evening, Nikita fell and let out a cry. I took her to an emergency clinic, where she was diagnosed with a torn knee ligament, and she was sent home with medicine for her pain. Through the weekend, we carried her outside and helped her relieve herself, and brought food and water to her as she rested. We knew she was not comfortable, but we did not want to make any decisions until



Nikita, 2005, in Rhonda's favorite photo of her. Photo by Rhonda Green.

we had a clear understanding of what lav ahead regarding surgery. We felt we needed all the information possible, because Nikita still seemed to have the will to live. She ate heartily and even tried to get up to greet me when I came home from an errand. The following Wednesday, we took her to see a surgeon. who took further x-rays that showed a fracture in her femur, and the surgeon explained to us that this was caused by bone cancer. My heart sank. This type of cancer is very aggressive and spreads quickly. She would have only 2 to 4 weeks to live. If it hadn't spread, fighting the cancer would involve leg amputation and chemotherapy. I would not put my elderly dog through that, so we didn't bother to find out if it was in her lungs, because it didn't matter. We would have to end her pain, but not at that moment; we took our beloved family member home.

Nikita was medicated, so she was somewhat comfortable, and though I hated to make her wait, Thursday, June 3rd, was the soonest appointment at our home that we could get. I wanted this to happen at home, where she was most comfortable, and comforted. Plus, our other dogs needed to be present to help them understand her passing and why she will no longer be with us. Dr. Jason Cordeiro came to our home and was wonderful. He was very compassionate and kind and did not rush us at all. He made all of our dogs comfortable, especially Nikita.

I seasoned and grilled a steak for Nikita earlier that day - rare - cut it up for her and sat with her while she enjoyed it. I held her, stroked her, and talked to her until she breathed her last breath. It is my opinion that it is both an honor and an obligation to be there for your furry family member in their last moments. I cried for me, but felt relief and peace for her - no more pain in a body that could keep going no longer. Afterward, her face looked so peaceful and like a puppy again. That is the image I will take with me. I will remember our time together with joy. For now however, my sadness and grief of not seeing her again are extremely painful. I miss her face, her soft fur, her smell, her kisses. But I know we did the right thing for her, I know she was hurting, but is perfect now. And I know she'll be waiting for me on the other side, because God created <u>all</u> creatures, so he must take them <u>all</u> back. Later that evening, I swear I saw shapes in the clouds that looked like her...

Nikita was 12 years and 9 months old. I spent 12 years and 2 months with her. Not nearly long enough, but then, it never is.

DID YOU KNOW...

That the shelter sells new and nearly new books on Half.com? Go to www.half.com to look for books sold by eluise. If you are already registered on eBay, you're all set for Half.com as it is a sister company to eBay. Kris strongly urged me to check out this site for inexpensive books, DVDs and CDs, and now it is one of my major sources for books and DVDs. Some new and like-new paperbacks sell for as little as 75¢ plus about \$3 for shipping. And if you buy from me, the money goes straight to the cat shelter!

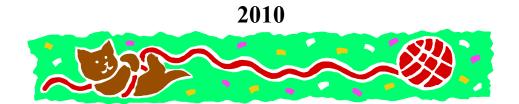
That Kris has for sale three 31-piece Red Cross auto safety kits, \$45 each.

That BCRO sells cat beds—over 40 different sizes, colors, types and materials are available. Most are about \$35—buy two and get a 10% discount. If you call ahead for a visit, Kris will happily show you not just cat beds, but top quality scratching posts and other essential and not-so-essential cat related items.

That the shelter has prints by Martin LaBorde donated to BCRO by B.E.E. Galleries of New Orleans. Each print is signed by the artist and sells for hundreds of dollars at the Galleries. To help out the shelter's budget, these prints are being offered for only \$30 each, plus actual shipping cost (or you can pick it up yourself at the shelter). **Just contact Eluise at eluise@dim.com to place your order.**



BARNWATER CATS RESCUE ORGANIZATION ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Saturday	Sunday
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

November 27	November 28
December 4	December 5
December 11	December 12

Get your Christmas shopping finished early and help a great cause!! Barnwater Cats is hosting their annual holiday shopping event. New merchandise only shop our wonderful array of fine chocolates and imported cookies, jewelry, framed pictures, glassware, CD's, books, clothing, artwork and other collectibles!

All proceeds will benefit injured, abused and homeless kitties and help them find good health and loving homes....

Happy Holidays...we hope to see you soon.



3131 East Evans * Denver, Colorado * 80210 (NW corner of Adams and Evans, one block east of St. Paul)

