



# COTTONWOOD TAILS



Vol. 2 No. 5

October-November 2013

## Water, Water Everywhere The 100 year Flood in Boulder

By Penny Vardell

The floods at the beginning of September were devastating to the area. Cottonwood Kennels was spared the worst part of it by being on fairly high ground. But the rain did saturate the area.

Cottonwood put together an evacuation plan on the first day of the event in case it became necessary to get the little guys out to safety.

Working with area humane societies and others, we planned for the worst and hoped for the best. Every eventuality was taken into consideration. As it turned out, other than the constant pouring rain, operations went mostly as normal.

The event was especially hard on our pets as they were limited to time spent outdoors. As pet owners we had the added stress of keeping our 4 legged children safe.

Many people and facilities stepped up to help. There were countless stories of love and devotion taking over. The humane societies as well as others took in countless evacuees.

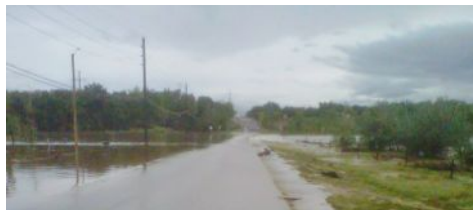
Another great part of the story was the fact that not only did the helicopters and rescue crews evacuate people, they evacuated their pets.



Flooding of Boulder Creek about a mile west of us. Somewhere under that is the bike path

A lesson learned from Katrina made a lot of difference in people's as well as pet's lives. No one, big or small left behind. Those rescuers and the community all made sure our small furry family members were safe and cared for.

We here at the kennel were on alert around the clock to make sure our little guys were safe, dry and warm. Several of our staff were unable to get home, so we had them stay here to make sure they were safe also.



Flooding about a mile behind us on 75th street closing off the road for several days.

We offered free boarding times and deep discounts to those evacuees who had no place for their little guys to go. Many are still with us as homes and lives are rebuilt.

Boulder and the surrounding area have been very kind to Cottonwood Kennels over the years and we always try to give back.

Those little furry guys and gals are what we are all about. Their safety, happiness and security are not just job one here, it is our love.

See the related story in Purrs from the Cattery by our cat lady Connie Duras on some of our flood victims who are still with us as of this writing.

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**Our congratulations to Rhonda and Nathan on their marriage.**

**September 28, 2013**



***May the roads always be high and life always be good.***

***We love you guys !!***

***Cottonwood Kennels***

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## Front Office Report

By Rhonda Beitzel

Kennel Manager



On October the 13th, Twisted Pines Brewery hosted an event for the 'Service Dogs for Kids Academy'. It was an event that offered fun and awareness about the program.

On the menu were delicious foods and an offering of local beers. The Kiwanis Club of the Foothills sponsors this amazing program. They describe it as 'A program to support adults in our community to train alert service dogs for their special child.'

We were able to spend a day with some fantastic people and these very amazing specialized dogs. They are trained for silent disabilities such as diabetes, seizures and extreme allergies.

There is a growing need for these dogs. They can alert parents and guardians of seizures, diabetic episodes or dangerous allergens in the air. These dogs can sell for as much as \$15,000 commercially.

The Kiwanis Club invites selected families in need to enroll in the academy. The families receive a 7 week old puppy at no cost, then attend classes to raise and train the puppy for each family's individual needs.

As you might imagine, the cost for the training and puppy is considerable. However, the Kiwanis Club is able to get donations to support this cause and spare the families this expense.

If you are interested in knowing more about this event, or would like to donate to this cause, go to the Kiwanis website at <http://foothillskiwanis.org/AlertDogsForKids>.

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7275 Valmont Road

## Fostering

By Krystle Aaraas

A couple of weeks ago I was running through my Facebook newsfeed, and I came across Summit Dog Rescues' post. There was the face of the beautiful Prana and she had 18 minutes to live



Krystle shows Prana off to perspective forever owner Jenny Lyons.

The rescue needed the commitment of a foster home to arrange her transfer from Texas, and to pull her from the euthanasia list. One look in her eyes and I knew, we were going to have a new dog in our home.

Fostering is one of the most rewarding experiences. My maternal instincts kick in and I am compelled with loving my foster dog and bringing her health up to par.

Prana has wiggled her way into a very special place in our family and we love getting to know her quirks. Prana is looking for a human companion and loves all animals and people.

A friend of mine said, "Prana, she must be expensive like the brand Prada." I responded, "She's more than expensive, she's priceless."

See Us  ON Facebook

Boulder, Colorado

## Longmont Humane's 'Strut Your Mutt' Fun and Successful

Longmont Humane Society held their 'Strut Your Mutt' event a little late this year due to the rain and flooding in September. The event was held at the Boulder Valley Fairgrounds in Longmont.



'Hey Lady' performing onstage

The walk/run part of the event had to be cancelled due to flood damage to Rogers Grove and the St. Vrain Greenway. However, the event went off well with over 30 vendors taking part in the annual fundraiser.

Cottonwood Kennels was among the vendors who came out to help in the effort. Cottonwood gave away over a hundred free daycare passes along with a barrel full of doggy toys, bones and treats.

Despite the cold wet morning temperatures and cancellation of the walk/run, several hundred people showed up with their pets to enjoy what became a spectacular day.



Penny, Krystle and Rhonda anticipate a fun day amongst the doggies.

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## Purrs from the Cattery

By Connie Duras

Ten flood cats were safe and dry in the Cattery.

Romeo is a sweet and lively guy who enjoys playing with toys and watching the birds. He would stop for a few quick pets and then zoom away.



Romeo lounges amongst the plants

Autumn, a charming calico girl is fascinated by the chickens and sheep in the pasture. She enjoyed rocking in the rocking chair and receiving lots of love.



Autumn relaxes on the scratching pole

Chester is a fluffy black guy and was the oldest of the bunch at seventeen years. His first stay was in 2006. He loves rolling in cat nip, taking sun baths, and getting lots of love.



Chester enjoys a roll in the catnip

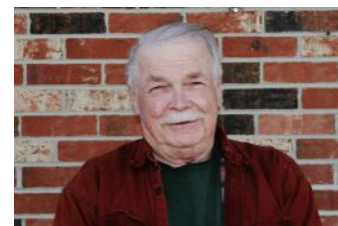
As the Queen of procrastinators I know thinking about and making a disaster plan for a family is hard, so turn this into a fun family day. A disaster plan to keep your four legged friends safe should start with a container.

The container should be large enough to keep at least two weeks of food and water. There should be a cat pan and litter. Also keep first aid supplies, first aid book and a copy of their vaccination records.

You can rotate food and water every month. Keep their carrier with the disaster container. Talk to friends and family about staying with them.

## Mikes Canine Culinary Corner

By Mike Thorpe



### DOG PRETZELS

- 1 cup Water
- 2 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 ¼ cups Whole Wheat Flour
- 1 ½ cups Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- ½ Cup Flax Seed
- 1 ½ tsp Rapid or Instant Yeast

### WASH

1 Egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water.

### TOPPING

Flax seeds optional

Mix all the ingredients until they are a firm round ball, about 5-15 minutes. Add flour and liquid if necessary. Roll out the dough on a board lightly dusted with corn meal. Dough should be about ¼ inch thick. Cut out treats with a cookie cutter or roll into ropes and form pretzels. Place them on a nonstick cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 40-50 minutes. Turn oven off.....for soft pretzels remove from oven and store on a wire rack until cool. For HARD pretzels leave in the oven (turned off) for 2-4 hours before storing in an air tight container



## Cottonwood Welcomes New Family Members

Several of our staff have recently adopted new pets. It is a credit to our crew that they adopt the little ones who otherwise would go unwanted, or worse.

**First** I will tell you about Gitana. Keri McKelvy, who most of you will recognize, and a golden retriever fanatic, found Gitana at the Longmont Humane Society.

Keri had been looking for that right fit for over 2 years when she found the match she was looking for. She said she had been looking for a golden with just the right 'feeling'. She felt it immediately with Gitana.



Keri and her new girl Gitana

Keri tells us that Gitana, or Love as she calls her for short, is about 8 years old. She cannot imagine how anyone could give her up. But Keri is glad to fill that space in her life.

"She is a great snuggle buddy" says Keri and always has a smile on her face". Except when I dress her in one of my hoodies". "She knows every trick in the book too." She also likes to play fetch and go for walks.

**Then** there's Kyleigh Morgan and her new little one, Sage. Sage is a three year old Jack Russell terrier that came to Kyleigh when the family who had her decided she wasn't right for them.

Sage came to Kyleigh back in August. She was the shy submissive type at first who urinated every time she met someone. Since then, with a little work, Kyleigh has broken Sage out of that shell.

Now Sage has several acres to explore and hike in. She also loves wrestling with her Belgian Shepherd roommate, Ying Yang. Kyleigh says she is so smart and sweet and melts everyone's heart.



Kyleigh and Sage relaxing at home

Her other favorite things are eating, sleeping and cuddling with mom and dad. "We just love her".

**Next** on our tour of new kennel parents is play group captain, Pilar Heffelfinger. She drove all the way to Virginia to collect her new love.

Her new baby goes by the name of Padre Pancakes, aka 'PP'. She says the little 3 to 4 year old Chihuahua mix (or All American Mutt) is a wonder.

Pilar first met PP back in April during a trip home to Virginia. The little guy had been found on the roadside locked in a crate with no hope of escape.

His rescuer happened to a family friend notorious for adopting roadside strays and dogs displaced by natural disasters. She brought him home and helped him to heal up.



Pilar and Padre Pancakes

Pilar fell in love at first sight during her visit last spring. She vowed then to get him back to Colorado. He just loves playing with toys, spinning in circles and grabbing Pilars hand with his for a head rub.

Pilar says they are working on basic commands such as sit and stay and walking on a leash. She says he even loves his crate and runs in willingly. She says he is a full fledged 'Road Warrior' now after the long cross country trip. "He adopted me, not me him" she says.

We at the kennel are proud of our new "parents" and know they are well equipped to take care of their new little ones.

## Notes From Playgroup

By Pilar Heffelfinger  
Playgroup Captain



Never fear, but winter is here. In typical Colorado fashion, the weather is very unpredictable. As always, we try our best to accommodate and stay flexible so the

dogs can have fun, but safe activities during their playtime.

The small dogs have two play areas devoted to them. The one you see on entering the kennel in the front and another on the back of the building. The rear play yard allows access to the large indoor small dog kenneling room that we call the "Blaze."



The girls and pups playing in the Blaze

Being as the little guys are more susceptible to the cold, we will play them there on colder days to allow the them to wander inside to the heated area through the open door when they are feeling a little uncomfortable outdoors.

On really cold days and snowy days, we all stay inside the Blaze. We have play structures, toys and lots of people/dog interaction inside, just like we do in the main play yard out front.

The large dogs continue their play outside as usual, unless the weather is very bad. They are brought in for breaks from the cold from time to time. Each dog is evaluated depending on breed, fur length and activity level.

When the weather is just unbearable outside, the dogs will be kept inside in kennels with exercise time in the individual exercise yards during their day.

It is advisable to bring your dogs coat in with them. We do have a supply of coats we will put on them if we think they need it. We also have a fashionable supply of dog coats for sale in the lobby if you would like to get one for your dog.



Full coats help the dogs stay warmer

We here at Cottonwood Kennels know that just like people, the dogs have much more fun outside. As such, we like to make sure their play times include as much outdoor time as possible.

However, we look at safety and comfort first and foremost. Dogs will tell you with their eyes if they are comfortable or not, so we pay a lot of attention to what they are saying as they look at us.

## Meet the Cottonwood Family

By Penny Vardell

Ashley Shaner is one of our newer employees, beginning here back in March. She and boyfriend Mike (who works here also, moved to Colorado from San Francisco with their dog Ze'ev.

They decided on Colorado because of it's beauty and lifestyle options. Ashley loves to bike and hike and just spend time with her dog.

Ashley is a quick learner and you can find her everywhere about the kennel from the front desk to the play groups.



Ashley and Ze'ev enjoy a day out at the Strut Your Mutt event in Longmont

While in San Francisco, Ashley worked with Greenpeace as part of the contingency that ousted KFC from the Indonesian rain forest.

She worked on several other projects with the organization too, including work to get Chicken of the Sea to use more humane practices, raising money through activism to support scientists studying the problems at sea, and pushing for Apple computer to use more renewable energy sources.

Ashley's great attitude and extra effort work ethic make her a perfect match for Cottonwood. We love having people who can see and correct problems before they happen. Thanks for being part of the crew Ashley !!

## Our Barnyard Friends

A big part of having a barnyard is feeding the animals who live in it. Most of the food they need is available free from nature most of the year.

But here in Colorado where the ground is covered in white a good part of the time and the cold makes that food unavailable, then we must step in to help.



A truckload of chicken food, Lay crumbles and seed scratch to keep the hens laying

We always have at least 2 months of chicken feed and a whole winter of hay for the sheep put away in the barn for those hard winter times.

We mix 1 bag of crumbles to 2 bags of scratch to keep those chickens happy during those lean times and good dry hay for the wooly guys and girls when the grass goes on vacation.



They don't just tend to the dogs and cats. The kennel crew loading 140 bales of hay into the top of the barn in preparation for winter.

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## Your Pets Horoscope

By Madame Neah



**Aries (3/21-4/19)** The foliage and flurries have made you extra adventurous lately. Suppress the urge to explore long enough to convince your owners you respect the leash, and you may find yourself without it soon.

**Taurus (4/20-5/20)** You are feeling very outgoing. Take advantage of all the simple pleasures. You are never too old to play. Go jump in the leaves. Run around with your family.

**Gemini (5/21-6/20)** With the cold weather coming, you may feel lonely and blue. Talk to your family about adopting or fostering a friend, canine or feline. It will bring play, companionship and sunshine into your cold winter days.

**Cancer (6/21-7/22)** Your intelligence and reliability have made you a charm to train and an easy dog to go for long hikes with. As the winter approaches, remember to remain conservative.

**Leo (7/23-8/22)** Take care of yourself, it is time for a spa day. A good grooming with your favorite shampoo and conditioner will make you feel brand new. Don't forget the pedicure !!

**Virgo (8/23-9/22)** It is time to make your list for Santa. Ask for new winter fashions to keep you warm in the upcoming snow. Look for exciting toys to keep you in shape mentally and physically.

**Libra (9/23-10/22)** As the holidays approach you are thinking more of the family time ahead, than the toys you will receive. Enjoy the change in seasons and always remember what is truly important; belly rubs and head scratches.

**Scorpio (10/23-11/22)** You are very curious. Beware of the dangers this time of the year brings. One of your favorite activities, getting in the trash, can make you ill. Resist temptation and steer clear of those turkey bones and chocolate.

**Sagittarius (11/22-12/21)** Although things may seem chaotic around you, it is important to stay close to your family. Take every opportunity to snuggle, give a warm lick on the face and go out for a peaceful walk.

**Capricorn (12/22-1/19)** Remain disciplined, and do not give in to pessimistic feelings. I predict you will learn fantastic new tricks, and take your owner for many walks during this wonderful holiday season.

**Aquarius (1/20-2/18)** The holidays make this the perfect time for getting together with friends. Get on your nice new jacket and visit all your friends at the dog park Happy reunions !!

**Pisces (2/19-3/20)** This is the time to be thankful. Remember you have your paws planted firmly on the ground and a wonderful family who loves you. Spend some time with them playing outdoors in the snow.

# Happy Holidays

From All of Us at

# Cottonwood Kennels



See Us  ON Facebook

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