



# Tracks

Spring 2014



The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

## Events:

**May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Tulsa Music Festival  
Supporting the Tulsa SPCA  
*Guthrie Green*

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Tulsa SPCA Paws & Pictures  
*Admiral Twin Drive In*

**July 30<sup>th</sup>**

Bark In The Park  
Supporting the Tulsa SPCA  
*Drillers Stadium*

**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

Tulsa SPCA Bingo Bash  
*OU Founders Hall (43<sup>rd</sup> & Yale)*

**We speak for those who  
cannot speak for themselves.**

The Tulsa SPCA's mission is to promote a quality life for domestic animals who provide companionship to people in the greater Tulsa area through rescue, rehabilitation, education, advocacy and community service.



[tulaspca.org](http://tulaspca.org)  
(918) 428-7722



Tulsa-SPCA



@Tulsa\_SPCA

## ADOPTING AN OLDER PET: THE BENEFITS ADD UP

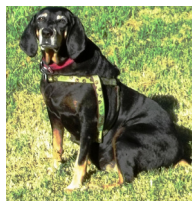
By D'Ann Berson, Community Service Coordinator, Tulsa SPCA

People familiar with the world of rescue groups and shelters know well the heartbreak of seeing elderly pets surrendered by owners. It is apparent these were once valued and belonged to a loving home and caring family, but now have little chance of finding a new place.

Dogs, depending on breed, would be seen as old and often overlooked at six to eight years, while cats are senior at age 10. These pets are usually the first to go to the euthanasia chamber when space must be made for puppies, kittens and younger adult pets.

Opening your heart to an older pet has many seldom considered benefits. Among the first is that you are truly saving a life. Many people shy away from older pets fearing the pain of losing one too soon. And this may be true, but adopting older pets gives them true "golden years". Their loyalty and adoration to their new owner, after feeling confused and anxious, takes the place of the years of dealing with potty and manners training, not to mention missing out on chewed up shoes and furniture. Older pets become your lifelong friend and are excellent companions for everyone, especially older people.

Two recent Tulsa SPCA examples are Gretchen, a black and tan Coon Hound who will be 14 years old in October. She was returned to the shelter after many years, was reclaimed and shortly returned again. Jasmine, a 10-year-old Golden Retriever, was also adopted years ago as a puppy. She was returned because her owners could no longer keep her. In both cases family fortunes changed and pets had to be re-homed.



A Tulsa SPCA volunteer met Gretchen on her second return and visited regularly with her for several months. The mutual love became a permanent arrangement. One look at the two, older pet and retired new owner, and there is no question this is a match for life. Both enjoy walking, and Gretchen can be seen taking a romp in the yard before collapsing in the yard for a nap. Despite the grey, there is still a hint of puppy in her and both her and her new owner are happy and content.

The Tulsa SPCA Staff immediately fell under Jasmine's gentle mannered spell, but recognized the huge challenge of finding a place for the now fragile and sad-appearing elderly pet. Along came an adopter that had seen Jasmine's picture on the Tulsa SPCA website and felt that "no dog that sweet looking should have to die in a shelter." That household had recently lost one older dog and the other two older pets were grieving. Jasmine is now happy with two new friends, fits in the family beautifully and the new owner reports that Jasmine sometimes smiles and wags her tail. "She is such a sweet ol' Girl."

Shelters, pounds and rescue groups usually have a number of senior pets whose lives and futures may unnecessarily be reduced. Adopters with an open heart for senior pets understand that time together may be shorter, but this fact makes the time more precious and enjoyable. It can be spent together in happy activity rather than kitty or puppy training and clean up.

In the words of a senior pet owner,

**"OLDER PETS ROCK!"**

# A Letter From Mindy...



**I'd like to introduce myself to our wonderful supporters. My name is Mindy Tiner, and I'm so excited to be the new Executive Director at the Tulsa SPCA.**

When the opportunity to work at the Tulsa SPCA arose, I was thrilled. It isn't often you get to go to work and make a difference in the lives of so many.

The animals we care for have no one else. We bring them in, address their medical needs, show them the love they so desperately want and connect them with the families who need them in their lives. Not only are we helping these wonderful, furry little members of our society, we're helping their human caretakers also. Did you know that according to the Center for Disease Control

pets can decrease your blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels and feelings of loneliness, in addition to increasing your opportunities for exercise and socialization? Did you know that after only a short time with your pet the level of cortisol (a hormone associated with stress) drops and the production of serotonin (associated with happiness and contentment) increases? What a great place to work!



Although I grew up in the Baltimore / DC area, my family and I moved to the Tulsa area after my time in the United States Army. The community and the people here are among the most generous and caring that I have encountered anywhere in the country. After we moved here, I enrolled at the University of Tulsa and graduated in 1999 with a BA degree in Organizational Communications.

I worked at the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits as the Associate Director in Tulsa for a couple of years then spent a short period working at an executive coaching firm. For the last 12 years I was the Executive Director at Neighbors Along the Line, a basic needs agency in Northwest Tulsa. I hope to use my experience in areas such as fundraising, marketing, organizational communication and nonprofit management at the Tulsa SPCA and to build on the wonderful traditions of the last 100 years.

I hope each and every one of you has an enjoyable summer! Please come by and see us!

Mindy

At the moment, our household consists of me, my husband Kenny, my son Bailey, my daughter Gracie, our dogs Missy (adopted from the Tulsa SPCA) and Star and cats Oreo, Sweetie Pie and Princess. We also have an adult son Pete, and a grandson, Cayden who live nearby.



# MAC Make Over

By Jessica Luong

The Tulsa SPCA is a proud ASPCA recipient of a grant totaling \$2,500 that was used towards re-wrapping the Mobile Adoption Center (MAC). Our MAC has been hard at work, making its way throughout the Tulsa community and showcasing the shelter's pets for over a decade. The MAC helps make matching people and their future pets even more convenient and places even more orphaned dogs and cats with new families.

The amazing volunteers at the Tulsa SPCA also gave an additional \$700 to make sure the MAC got the new look it deserves for all the hard work it has done over the years. Thank you so much to the ASPCA and our volunteers for making this happen.

If you have not had the chance to see the new MAC on the road, go to <http://tulaspca.org/calendar-of-events> to see the MAC schedule and plan your next visit!



## Tulsa SPCA's Karen Dunn Receives ASPCA Scholarship - *Dunn will attend the HSUS Animal Care Expo*

The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has announced that director of operations Karen Dunn has received a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for a scholarship to attend the Human Society of the United States Animal Care Expo in May.

**"I am honored to be chosen as a recipient of the ASPCA Julie Morris Scholarship to attend the HSUS Animal Care Expo in May 2014," said Dunn. "I am excited to have the opportunity to network with other rescue professionals. It will allow me to gain valuable information to share with our staff and to consider possible improvements we might implement in our daily operations".**

The HSUS Animal Care Expo takes place May 20-23 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Animal Care Expo is the largest international education conference in the fields of animal care, control, rescue, and emergency services. Expo offers an unparalleled opportunity to recharge, learn new skills and strategies, and network with animal welfare professionals from around the world.

The Tulsa SPCA celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2013 and provides shelter, health care and nutrition to animals in Tulsa and the surrounding area. As the only shelter in Tulsa with a cruelty investigator, the Tulsa SPCA is called upon to not only aid in finding forever homes for homeless animals, but also for rescuing those who have suffered neglect and abuse.

The Tulsa SPCA operates on the generosity of individuals and corporations via private donations.



# Planned Giving Partnership

The Tulsa SPCA was established in 1913, and for over 100 years has provided a safe haven for abandoned, abused or neglected animals. We continue this dedication with an animal cruelty investigative department, adoption services and a wellness clinic. Additionally, we promote a stronger quality of life for domestic animals in our communities, through ongoing rescue services, rehabilitation, education, advocacy, community service and outreach.

Perhaps your beloved family pets – possibly adopted from us - have offered love and companionship that enriched your life immeasurably. If you would like to help us continue to serve animals over the next 100 years, please consider leaving a legacy through a charitable bequest in your will or living trust. You can honor your pets and help ensure that the Tulsa SPCA maintains its mission to rescue, rehabilitate and provide shelter to companion animals in need.

These planned gifts provide the resources to create extraordinary opportunities to ensure the future of charitable organizations like ours. Fortunately, through our partnership with the Tulsa Community Foundation,

financial advice and direction is provided at no charge to you, to better understand the benefits of planning, as well as designating assets to Tulsa SPCA.

For additional information about how your thoughtful act can make a significant impact in support of the mission of Tulsa SPCA, please contact our Executive Director, Mindy Tiner.

[mtiner@tulsaspcaspa.org](mailto:mtiner@tulsaspcaspa.org) or 918.428.7722, ext. 27



## “The Beatles Bunch” – formerly the Tulsa SPCA Huskies

By Stacy Robinson

In December 2013, just before Tulsa’s first winter storm of the season, a go ahead was given by the Texas Husky Rescue (THR) to transfer the Tulsa SPCA Huskies to its facility just outside Dallas, Texas. Once the huskies arrived, the THR would begin the search for foster families and begin more specialized training with the dogs. Our cruelty investigator, Tim Geen, along with the THR’s Co-founder, Cate Connors, worked out all the transfer details for the huskies’ journey to Dallas. Once they arrived in Dallas, all were renamed something to do with the Beatles, leading to their new name “The Beatles Bunch”.

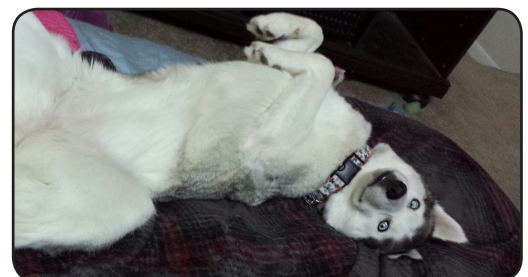


All dogs are now in foster homes and are making great progress. The THR has even set up a foster resource

network that allows them to get together for play dates. Two of the huskies, Penny Lane and Eleanor (formerly Sitka and Alaska), are in foster homes with an owner who is a certified trainer. They also receive help from an animal behaviorist who specializes in training fearful and un-socialized dogs.

Some of the other dogs are now able to go out with their fosters for daily walks and are learning to enjoy a good “dog” life surrounded by loving people. The dogs are even sleeping in bed with their foster parents. Some are walking up to people and licking their hands and even running towards the door, tails wagging, when they hear a knock or the doorbell ring.

Lucy (formerly Yukon), is the first husky to be adopted from the group. THR hopes to have all the other huskies ready for adoption within the next few months.





# Volunteer and Staff Appreciation

The Tulsa SPCA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Luncheon was held at the Campbell Hotel Sunday, March 9, to bring together and celebrate those on a common goal - to help those who cannot speak for themselves. Volunteers and staff were treated to food, games, awards and entertainment.

The Tulsa SPCA staff even did a dance number to show their appreciation and support for the volunteers. For those who could not make it to the event, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and our deep appreciation for everything you do for the Tulsa SPCA.



Dessert!

Please help us congratulate these individuals for their outstanding work at the Tulsa SPCA.

**Milly Finley Volunteer of the Year Award**  
John Horky

**MAC Drivers**  
Jim Hunter  
Kathy Hunter  
Trey Troutt  
Abby Lehman  
Deborah Stanley

**Clinic Assistant**  
Jim Hunter  
John Horky

**MEOW Award**  
Carol Evans  
Megan Mondragon

**Youth Volunteer**  
Olivia Shuyler

**TU Student Award**  
Mark Fraser  
Emily Weber

**PAL Award**  
D'Ann Berson

**K9 Social Club**  
Linda Warwick  
Irene Warwick  
Janet Muldowney

**Foster Of The Year**  
Linda Swain

**BINGO Bash Committee**  
Louise Rose  
Abby Lehman  
Deborah Stanley  
Dana Kastelic  
Becky Robbins

**Interim Director - Farewell Gift & Thanks**  
Michael Turner

**Open Paw Award**  
Trey Troutt

## Volunteer Recognition Story

Volunteers at Tulsa SPCA fill many roles and allow the ability to provide extra programs, pet care and training otherwise not possible. John Horky came to the Tulsa SPCA in May 2012, found an array of needs to be filled, and jumped full force into learning the Pet Handling Training required for walking and exercising the dogs.

John had arrived hoping to fill a void left by the recent deaths of two very close friends and soon realized the therapeutic benefits of volunteering, sensing a big lift in spirits with each trip to the shelter. Soon he was involved in many other activities such as manning the front desk for the Public Shot Clinic, providing customer service and computer skills, showing the pets for adoption each weekend from the MAC (Mobile Adoption Center) and soon becoming one of the MAC drivers in charge of assigned outings, pets and volunteers.

When animal handling assistance is needed for school educational programs, visits to nursing homes or adult day cares (PAL program) or

community requests, John steps forward. It is all about the pets and helping them find loving homes.

Pets are very personal to John whose life from age two was shared with a cocker spaniel friend and companion until age 12. He feels that each pet is a unique being, should have a name, and be valued by his or her family. Pets are not an "IT" and such labeling is a PET Peeve. One of the hardest things about volunteering for John, although he has pets of his own at home, is leaving the shelter after each visit and leaving those pets behind. He is comforted by knowing the careful screening process the Tulsa SPCA uses to place each pet with the best possible family to provide the home and care the pet deserves. One of John's goals as a volunteer is to help people learn the joy of pets.

John was recently awarded the Tulsa SPCA Milly Finley Volunteer of the Year award.

Tulsa SPCA volunteer  
John Horky





# A Volunteer Cat Tale

When Carol Evans retired, she began looking for activities she might enjoy. She came across a special offer from the Tulsa SPCA that included free yoga lessons in exchange for volunteer hours given to the shelter. Intrigued by this idea and being an animal lover, Carol attended a volunteer orientation and found herself in an Open Paw dog training session that taught her how to handle and walk the dogs at the Tulsa SPCA. Good exercise, a chance to meet new friends with shared interests and a spirit of adventure were in sight.

Carol enjoyed walking the dogs, but soon discovered the Colony Cat Room, and as a cat owner for many years, grew interested in felines need for attention. "Cats and kitties need friends and attention," explained Carol, who has become a recognized and frequent visitor to the Tulsa SPCA cat room. Prior to Carol taking interest in helping visitors find the perfect cat to add to their family, volunteers were scarce as they didn't understand a cat's need for interaction with humans. But now, when Carol, or any volunteer appears in the colony, it is apparent the cats are happier and more social.

When Carol first started volunteering in the cat room, staff members, especially new ones, were puzzled and would cautiously look in to see Carol in earnest talks with the cats. It soon became obvious many of the cats were responding in a positive manner and some problem behaviors were becoming less noticeable.

Carol's first experience and success came early in her visits with a cat named Kitty Kitty Bam Bam. This particular cat did not enjoy being held, was not sociable with people, and scratched and tried to bite anyone who tried to interact. It was a concern that this cat might not be adoptable. With Carol's help and persistence, Kitty Kitty Bam Bam became a warm and loving cat and has since found her forever home. This success is testament that cats can be socially trained to become friendly, sociable animals that make wonderful pets, regardless of the condition in which they arrived at the shelter.

Carol continues to take "breaks" by walking some of the smaller dogs for a change in pace and the benefit of exercise, but her true talent is found in the cat room. Working with cats takes time and patience, and Carol has both!



## Happy Tails

A year ago, Ann Minkler and her husband had to put their Siamese cat to sleep due to cancer and liver problems. At the time, her husband was 70 years-old and she was 69. After seeing a cute little tabby cat named Adam on the Tulsa SPCA website, they immediately wanted to adopt him.

He had been in the clinic for sniffles when they went to see him. After meeting Adam, Ann fell in love and took him home with his antibiotics. She was very impressed with the special cat room at the Tulsa SPCA and all its ledges, furniture and cleanliness.

Ann and her husband re-named Adam to Billie Bob in honor of their friend who was visiting from Boulder, Colo., and helped Ann pick the cat out. Billie Bob is very smart and knows at least four words, he plays hide and seek, is not afraid of company and is affectionate. He isn't into sitting on laps yet, but still plays like a kitten. Good thing the TV room is full of cat toys!

Ann and her family love Billie Bob so much. All of her life,

Ann had Siamese and Burmese cats until the little domestic Tabby stole her heart. Ever since adopting him, Ann says Billie Bob "has changed their lives."



# Bingo Bash 2014

The date's been set and plans are under way for Bingo Bash 2014. Bingo games, silent auction and door prize drawings will be featured in the evening's entertainment, along with the increasingly popular wine and restaurant pulls. A variety of tempting food offerings and a cash bar will round out the festivities. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 20, and plan to join us for an evening of fun and games – all to benefit the Tulsa SPCA Auxiliary.

This year's event will take place at the OU Founders Hall, 43rd & Yale, and seating will once again be limited. If you would like to be contacted when tickets are available, please call Becky Robbins at 918-625-3980 or Dana Kastelic at 918-625-4584. Or visit the Tulsa SPCA website...event details will be posted within a few weeks.



## Can't make it to BINGO BASH but want to be part of our fundraiser?

We're searching for items to use in our silent auction and the wine and restaurant pulls. Contact Becky or Dana at the phone numbers above to donate or for more information.

# POSH For Paws

The second annual Posh For Paws event took place on January 28 and raised over \$600 for the Tulsa SPCA's general operating fund. Posh Style, located at 5952 S. Lewis Ave., hosted the event and donated all ticket sales back to the shelter.

By purchasing a ticket to the event, attendees were given a \$25 voucher towards certain items in the store. In addition, they could "adopt" a dog or cat for the night for a small fee and receive another 10% off their purchase.

Posh provided light appetizers and wine for their patrons, and Terry Walker, volunteer manager at the Tulsa SPCA, brought along Big Daddy and Charlie who entertained the shoppers throughout the evening.

The Tulsa SPCA wants to thank Posh Style for their generous support and hopes to continue the event in the years to come!



Board member Liz Kritikos with volunteer manager, Terry Walker and Posh owner, Susan Dittrich



Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2910 Mohawk Blvd • Tulsa, OK 74110-1419



**JUNE 19, 2014**  
**ADMIRAL TWIN DRIVE-IN**

**GATES OPEN at 7 PM | SHOWS BEGIN at 9 PM**

**TICKETS: Adults \$10, Kids \$5 (12 & under)**

Advance tickets and family ticket packages can be purchased online at [www.tulsaspca.org](http://www.tulsaspca.org)

Proceeds from ticket and concession sales will benefit operations at Tulsa SPCA

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

**918.428.7722 Ext. 22**  
**[ccausey@tulsaspca.org](mailto:ccausey@tulsaspca.org)**