

GC Pet Pals Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Grand County Pet Pals will be held on April 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Granby Road and Bridge Building in Granby, Colorado. At this time, there will be an election for the Directors of the organization. All members who have paid their dues in the last year will be eligible to vote in the election. Existing board members up for re-election are:

Lisa Jonas- President
Petra Recor- Vice President
Motor Coulson- Treasurer
Silvina "Chivi" Nussbaum- Secretary
Lori Clement- Board Member

All members are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, we ask that you complete this proxy and return it to the address below prior to the time of the meeting.

Grand County Pet Pals is a Colorado 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization and our mailing address is:

Grand County Pet Pals
P.O. Box 1972 * Granby, CO 80446

PROXY FOR 2011 ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The undersigned member of Grand County Pet Pals hereby appoints

_____ as my proxy to cast the votes of the undersigned at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation on April 14, 2011. This Proxy shall be effective for this meeting only.

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Meeting location is the Granby Road and Bridge Building

The address is 469 E. Topaz. Turn at Columbine Café/Liquor Store, go past Remington's and take your next right. The parking lot is your next left before the gated area and gas pumps. Meeting room is upstairs.

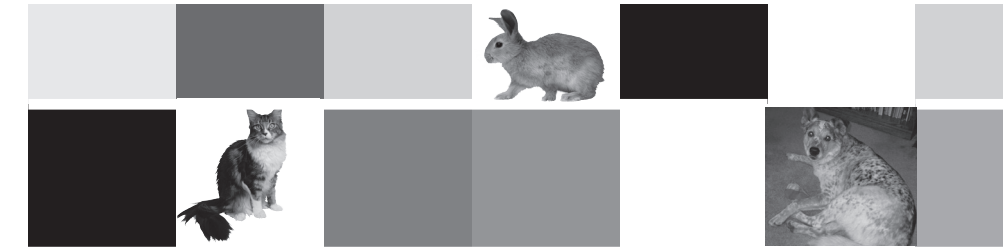
Mutterings

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL DOGGIE DRAG!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011
watch our web site for more details

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET?
Check out this helpful site
WWW.GOPETFRIENDLY.COM

Checkout Pat Postek's SIX TAILS books about strength, courage & character at amazon.com, barnes & noble and at www.sixtails.com



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GRAND COUNTY PET PALS

the SCOOP

PLEASE CONTACT LISA JONAS AT PRESIDENT@GCPETPALS.ORG or VISIT WWW.GCPETPALS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GRAND COUNTY PET PALS VOLUNTEER OR MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT FACEBOOK.COM/GCPETPALS



**Grand County
PET PALS**

P.O. Box 1972
Granby, CO 80446

Grand County Pet Pals Board

Lisa Jonas
President
Petra Recor
Vice President
Motor Coulson
Treasurer
Chivi Nussbaum
Secretary

Lori Clement
Board Member-Grants

Shelter Representatives

Mary Ann Kerstiens
Robbin Stapleton
Rich Rotter

Nonprofit Organization
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Read the Signals Dogs Send Us

by Suzie Royce Cruse

Most of us think we know how to approach a strange dog. Whether it is a new dog accompanied by a person we know or a dog walking around loose in the neighborhood. But do we really know how to read the signals dogs are sending?

When a stranger approaches my female dog Blue, she clearly gives signs that she is not interested in them. Many times, the person forces the issue and Blue will again, give off signals in dog speak, that she is leery. These signs are pretty obvious but we humans don't like to admit rejection. Here is what Blue does when approached by a stranger:

1. Standing a good distance away, not coming when summoned by stranger
2. Barking with tail stub NOT wagging
3. Circling with head held high
4. Backing away after human hand is offered (usually palm up – better if palm is down)
5. Barking and looking human in the eyes
6. Escalating barking and hopping near the person who is forcing confrontation (person usually is talking and moving toward her)
7. Blue is at her best when ignored and given space to visit on her own time



On the other end of the spectrum, my male dog Mojo is a love sponge through and through. He shows availability for interaction by:

1. Approaching person slowly
2. Head low, heading toward outstretched human hand
3. Tail is wagging
4. Very little eye contact at first but after petting commences, will gaze affectionately with head tilted
5. Showing satisfaction by sitting close to person
6. Rolling onto back, showing pink belly
7. Demand further attention by gently pawing at the person whence the petting may stop

I'm sure that most of us have experienced both types of dog/human interactions. To keep our relationships safe and pleasant:

- Teach children and adults to respect dogs (and all pets) by giving them space to approach or escape.
- Never teach children to run toward or away from dogs, even if the dog is their own
- Stand like a statue with hands in pockets if threatening dog approaches
- Tell dog "NO" firmly if danger seems imminent
- It is our responsibility to keep ourselves safe. Read the signs – they are there!



**Grand County
PET PALS**

gcpetpals.org

*Dedicated to the welfare of our pets
in Grand County Colorado*

NEAT QUOTE:

“A dog wags its tail with its heart”

Event Results that Warm the Heart

Satisfying Hunger

On December 18th, 2010 Grand County Pets Pals held a pet food drive at City Market. The food drive was to help the Grand County Animal shelter and Max's Full Belly Deli (Grand County's only pet food bank).

Locals and visitors alike showed an incredible amount of love for the animals of Grand County. Their purchases of food filled shopping carts like they were giant bowls of food. There were also generous donations of cat litter and money.

Max's Full Belly Deli last year alone distributed over 3,000 pounds of food to people for their pets. With the help of the Mountain Family Center distributing food on behalf of Max's over 220 people were able to receive food for their pets, bringing the total pounds of food distributed to over 3500.

Grand County Pet Pals would like to thank City Market for allowing us to have our food drive there. We would also like to thank everyone who donated to the event and thank those who gave up their Saturday to help feed the four legged members of our community.

Romping and a'Stumping at the Grand Lake Nordic Center

On February 12th, 2011, we held our 3rd annual Romp and Stomp for the first time at the Grand Lake Nordic Center. It was an incredibly beautiful day filled with sunshine, laughter and perfect snow condi-

tions. Thanks to the generous and kind, Janice Peck and her wonderful staff for allowing us to have our fund raising event there. We hope to be invited back!



We raised \$1,000 through registrations, donations and silent auction items. What a generous community we live in filled with wonderful people who support our mission of promoting responsible pet ownership.

We even were honored with

the presence of Freeta Goodhome, Grand County's Grand Dog and her people Francie and Jon DeVos. Thank you one and all!

Martin Buxbaum

Happy Tails: LEAVING LAS VEGAS

by Jeri Peirce

If dogs had thumbs, the two pit-bulls, Abbey and Gabe, would have been sticking theirs out that night as a plea for help along the interstate outside of Las Vegas. Both dogs were starving and had long, overgrown toenails as they wandered alongside the road. And then, along came Maya, their guardian angel.

Maya was traveling along that same interstate that night, on her way home to Grand Lake from a stay in California, when she spotted the two dogs along the highway. Although every inch of her little car was loaded with her possessions, including her own dog, she simply couldn't pass by those two wanderers who were in such danger of being hit. She called to them, and when they came running up to her car, she loaded them into the only space they would fit – the front passenger seat alongside her dog. And that's how Abbey and Gabe



arrived in Grand County. Maya's mother will tell you that Maya has always had a heart for

the down and out – both animals and people – so it was no surprise when she arrived home with her hitchhikers. The family fell in love with Abbey and Gabe, finding them well-behaved in the house and even good at walking on a leash. But it quickly became obvious that 3 dogs were just too much, and Maya sadly surrendered Abbey and Gabe to the Granby Animal Shelter in hopes they would find their happy, forever homes.

And no two dogs could have found happier forever homes! Fast forward to a loving home in Cincinnati, Ohio,

where Abbey can now be found living the good life with her new "pack," Joann and Steve Payne, their two standard poodles, Cyrano and Marius, and the boss of them all, the little Pekingese, Sasha, who was Steve and Joann's first rescue dog. Cincinnati? You see, the Paynes have a second home in Granby; and, when they come to Colorado for the summer, Joann devotes much of her time volunteering at the Granby shelter, where she quickly fell in love with Abbey.

Joann said that Abbey immediately won their hearts with her gentle demeanor, her love of people, and with the way she demonstrates such devotion. The Paynes began by fostering Abbey for the summer. As Joann says, she just has a face that screams "take me home!" Abbey took to the Payne pack instantly, without any issues at all; and, when it was time to return to Cincinnati, there was no question of

leaving her behind.

When asked about potential pit bull concerns, Joann pointed out that Ohio has horrible breed-specific discrimination laws. Having Abbey as part of their family has converted the Paynes, who now actively stand up for Abbey and for her breed by writing to their legislators and pushing for laws that eliminate discrimination against pit bulls in Ohio and in other states as well. For the Paynes, the bottom line is that the joy Abbey brings to their lives has made them pit bull rescuers and champions. As Joann puts it, "she makes us smile and returns so much love, it is heavenly!"

In the next issue of The Scoop, we'll visit Gabe, who has found his forever home nearby in Golden. It just goes to show that guardian angels are everywhere – even on the interstate outside of Las Vegas.

PLEASE SUPPORT PET PALS!

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law

**YES! I would like to join (or renew with!)
Grand County Pet Pals and help animals in our community.**

New Member **Renewal**

Lone Wolf (individual): **\$25.00**

Pack (family): **\$50.00**

Working Dog (business): **\$100.00**

Additional Contribution _____

I'm already a member but want to donate! _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Apt./Unit: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ I do not have email

Please mail check payable to:

Grand County Pet Pals
PO Box 1972
Granby, CO 80446

Please contact me for volunteer opportunities with:

Grand County Pet Pals

Grand County Animal Shelter

Considerations When Adopting a Pet

by Lisa Jonas; President GC Pet Pals

Volunteering at our local shelter is a fun and rewarding experience.

It's also sometimes heartbreaking. So many animals come through the door for reasons as varied as the breeds. Animals are relinquished due to the death or incarceration of their owner. Sometimes it's because their person had to move to less expensive housing where pets are not allowed. Often animals end up at the shelter due to divorce or because there is a new baby in the house and people "no longer have the time" to care for the pet(s).

Whatever the reason, circumstance or choice, in many instances the displacement of the animal from their familiar environment into the unfamiliar of shelter life can often be avoided with some serious considerations and planning.

Caring for an animal goes well beyond providing food, water & shelter. It takes research and careful planning to bring the right pet into your home and to make sure your lifestyle is the right one for your pet.

Some questions to ask yourself:

Why do you want a pet? Knowing why you want to bring a pet into your life will help you determine the species and characteristics of a particular breed or breed mix.

Are you ready for a long-term commitment? When making an animal a part of your life, you are committing to care for that animal for the rest of his or her life— that could mean 10 to 15 years for dogs and up to 20 for cats.

Can you afford to care for your pet's health and safety? There are annual costs beyond food, like regular veterinary care including vaccinations, toys and treats, litter for cats and beds for dogs, leashes, collars and identification tags and more.

Are you prepared to deal with an animal's health challenges? Sudden medical issues can crop up and may be a challenge time-wise and financially.

Is your living space adequate for an animal companion? If you live in an apartment will your dog have enough room? Does your landlord allow pets?

Death and disability. No one likes to think of their own demise but illness and accidents do happen and can affect your ability to care for your pets. Planning for the future care of your animal is important and should be a consideration when adopting. Many animals come into shelters across the U.S. because there was no plan in place with friends or family when the owners falls ill or dies.

At the risk of standing on my soap box, I get so frustrated at people treating animals as disposable. Pets are living, breathing beings who feel pain and loss. I personally see it when an animal is brought in to the shelter, especially ones coming from loving, comfortable homes. They are bewildered and confused by their sudden change in situation. And their body language and the sadness in their eyes are proof.

Animals bring us joy, comfort, companionship and love. It's imperative we return that devotion by being responsible pet owners. And being responsible requires consideration, planning, money, time and of course, love.

