

ABRN News

working together to re-home purebred dogs since 1989

Hail to the Chief

Martha Smith · A Caring & Effective Advocate

Martha Smith has been president of All Breed Rescue Network (ABRN) for nearly ten years and has done hands-on rescue for many more. Many of you know Martha personally, and many others know her only by speaking to her on the telephone, usually providing assistance in a dog rescue situation. Her knowledge, experience, and willingness to help is always reassuring and, in many cases, invaluable. But did you know that Martha also represents All Breed Rescue Network by serving on numerous other important Boards and committees? Here's a partial rundown:

- ▣ President of Westie Rescue, re-homing West Highland White Terriers surrendered by their owners, abandoned in shelters, or removed from puppy mills.
- ▣ Shelter Liaison, Denver Municipal Animal Shelter. She also spends a great deal of time at the Denver Dumb Friends League.
- ▣ Board member, Pet Overpopulation Fund. This position is appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Donations to this fund can be made on the Colorado State income tax return. The Fund's goal is to eliminate euthanasia of dogs and cats in Colorado that result from random breeding.
- ▣ Advisory Committee member, Pet Animal Care & Facilities Act (PACFA) - also an appointment by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Martha represents the private rescue point of view on the committee. This Act gives the Colorado Department of Agriculture the responsibility to inspect, license, and discipline all pet care facilities.
- ▣ President, Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies (CFAWA). ABRN is a member, and Martha is the delegated representative. CFAWA is a

voluntary association of animal care and control agencies, large and small, public and private, throughout Colorado. This is an advocacy group for the protection of companion animals, wildlife, and livestock in Colorado.

- ▣ Martha represents ABRN on the Metro Shelter Alliance.
- ▣ Martha participates in a numerous workshops throughout the year. One significant one was on April 4th with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) called "Working Together Works" achieving collaboration among animal welfare groups. Another was HSUS's "Compassion Fatigue" workshop.

The dog rescue community in general and ABRN in particular are fortunate to have Martha Smith at the helm. Without her compassion and dedication, some legislation pertaining to animal cruelty would not exist. Maintaining a network of over 100 purebred rescue groups, with over 100 different personalities, is a difficult task. Some days are very hard, but she doesn't give up or walk away. She provides encouragement for the rest of us to hang in there on the bad days - and we all have them. On behalf of the animals who benefit from her tireless efforts and cannot speak for themselves and on behalf of all of us who rely on her guidance, thanks, Martha. We tip our hats to you. √



Without her compassion and dedication, some legislation pertaining to animal cruelty would not exist.

ABRN Board Members

President: Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Vice President: Linda Thompson (719) 784-6666
Treasurer: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526
Secretary: Jeanne Phipers (303) 985-2811
Member-at-Large: Karen Brown (303) 841-6052

ABRN HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Susan Brown	Susan Lummanick
Eve Marshall	Peggy Shifflet
Rhonda Teeter	Holly Wolfe

STAY IN TOUCH!

Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website? Jenni McKernan is the liaison with ABRN's Webmaster Becky Hahn. Contact Jenni at (303) 783-5772 or at colosheltierescue@prodigy.net to highlight a rescue dog on the website. Please follow up with Jenni when that dog has been adopted. Also call her to add or delete names or phone numbers. If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please call Linda Thompson at (719) 784-6666. Linda will notify the hotline volunteers. We need you to stay in touch! And besides, we love hearing from you.



ABRN Shelter Liaison List

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO):
Vickie Dery (720) 329-0368 or (303) 766-4313

Aurora Animal Care Center (Aurora, CO):
Kristin Bedford (303) 369-8170 (mailbox #3)

Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO)
Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Back-up contact: Laurie Janak (303) 332-9977

Denver Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO)
Laurie Janak (303) 332-9977
Back-up contact: Deb Castro (303) 220-7536

DDFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO)
Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Back-up contact: Kitty Korth (303) 617-8316

Humane Society of Weld County (Greeley, Co)
Volunteer needed. If interested contact Linda Thompson (719) 784-6666

Mesa County Animal Shelter & Roice-Hurst Humane Society (Mesa County Humane) (Grand Junction, CO)
Ken Cox (970) 243-4567

Table Mountain Animal Care Center (Golden, CO)
Cindy Freeding (303) 424-6892
Back-up contact: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526

ABRN News published quarterly. Susan Brown, Editor; Debbie Davis, Designer. Please send newsletter submissions to Susan Brown at mollybrown11@comcast.net or call (303) 695-1999. Please include photos if available. If sending digital photos, please set your camera at the highest resolution (300 dpi at about 3x4" needed). Regular snapshots preferred.

Breed Rescue: How to start and Run a Successful Program, by Sheila Webster Bonham.

Whether you're interested in starting a breed rescue program or are already running one, this book is for you. Ms. Bonham has chapters on getting organized, finding, training, and managing volunteers, foster care for rescued dogs, financial and material support, networking, health screening, temperament and behavior, placing rescued dogs, and much more. Recommended! √

surf These websites

- ☐ www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com - Our website will give you the names and phone numbers of all the purebred rescue groups on All Breed's approved list. Check out the featured dogs available for adoption, special stories, and more.
- ☐ www.ddfl.org - Denver Dumb Friends League - an excellent resource for information on behavioral problems, reporting animal cruelty or neglect cases in Denver, dealing with the loss of a pet, and much more.
- ☐ www.hsus.org - Humane Society of the United States - information on pet care, issues affecting our pets, news and events, help with behavioral problems, and more.
- ☐ www.skyark.org - Sky Ark Inc. - arranges free air transportation for injured or sick animals or birds in need of health care, service animals and rescued animals from shelters. There is not a fee, donations are accepted, and their requirements and prerequisites must be met.
- ☐ www.purina.com - Purina - click on Pet Institute to download many useful Pet Health & Wellness Guides.
- ☐ www.centralpets.com/cards/ - A fun site to send free animal-related e-cards. √

Safe Harbor Lab Rescue - A Success Story

Ask any Labrador owner and they'll tell you - Labrador Retrievers are just about the best dogs on earth. They're smart, athletic, loving, energetic, loyal, eager to please, make great family dogs, and are often used as service dogs. In fact, they're the most popular breed in the United States. Therein lies the problem. The more popular the dog, the greater the volume of dogs bred irresponsibly, and the more in need of rescue that breed of dog is. On any given day in the Denver newspaper, you'll see ads for hundreds of Labrador puppies from backyard breeders, high-volume commercial breeders and a few responsible breeders. Labs can be fairly high maintenance dogs. They need regular exercise, training, and lots of attention—things that many people don't have the time, energy, or inclination to give. When that "must-have" puppy becomes a big, strong, untrained, exuberant Labrador and starts knocking over the children, it's the dog that gets the boot.

Lab Rescue Was Born

In May of 2002, Leslie Brown and Lauren Immel realized that many wonderful Labs were making one-way trips to animal shelters and recognized the need for a Lab rescue group. Thanks to a helping hand from Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies and one or two volunteers, Safe Harbor Lab Rescue was formed and is going strong. Kristy Gaffron joined the board as Intake Coordinator and handles the often-difficult job of bringing in Labs from shelters and directly from owners. In the first year of operation, over 100 dogs were re-homed and a dedicated corps of approximately fifty volunteers joined in to tackle this major undertaking. In July, 2003, Leslie retired from her job of 25 years to work full-time in her unpaid but, for her, more fulfilling task of doing Lab rescue. Lauren left the corporate world and now works in a veterinary hospital.

The Safe Harbor volunteers have approached the challenge of Lab rescue with a passion and an enviable pool of administrative and organizational skills. Probably the most effective tool they use to accommodate hundreds of inquiries a week is the Internet. Their website www.SafeHarborLabRescue.org minimizes time-consuming phone calls and helps people prospectively match their needs with the profiles of available dogs (up to a dozen at a time!). With the core volunteer group on varying work and sleep schedules, e-mail is the communication tool of choice and keeps everyone on the same page with daily changes in the status of available dogs, dogs in need of rescue, health status of their Labs and general moral support. They have had success raising funds for special cases via the site which gets over 17,000 visits a month.

Getting a start on a high-volume breed rescue is risky business without some financial support. In the beginning one special-needs Lab could wipe out the finances and long-term viability of the organization. Safe Harbor came up with a business model that keeps their fixed costs covered no matter what. But it was the generosity of Alameda East Veterinary Hospital that allowed them to build their financial reserves so that they would not have to say no to dogs in need of special care. In their first year Safe Harbor saved Cricket with pneumonia; Aries with a severe anemic condition (prayers still needed, please); two blind Labs; and Goldie, a victim of severe trauma. Next Lab in need of support: Henry, a youngster in need of a hip replacement.

Safe Harbor received sage advice in its earliest days. Lack of funds, fosters or volunteers is not the greatest threat to a high volume rescue. It's burnout. Here are some aphorisms they live by:

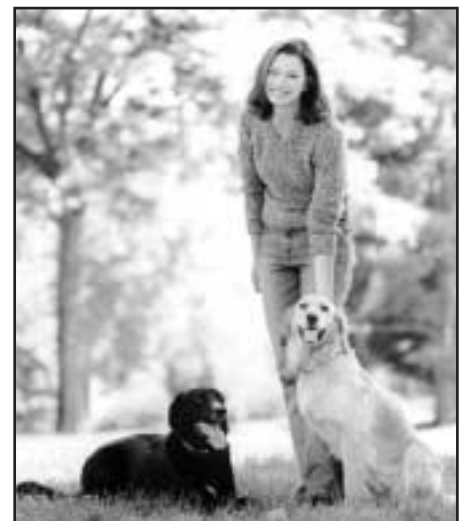
- ☐ You can't save 'em all—not yet, anyway
- ☐ The hard part of Rescue is cleaning up the messes left by others
- ☐ This is supposed to be fun!

Safe Harbor is focusing on managing its growth in the early years so that the organization has staying power. Next year they will give more dedication to formal fundraising. As the Safe Harbor team learns and matures, they hope to make a meaningful contribution to the community on the education front. To the Safe Harbor Lab Rescue, their work ends when the need for rescue is gone. In the meantime, the rewards of re-homing Labs to qualified, loving homes sustains them.

If you'd like to help place more loveable Labradors, please visit www.safeharborlabrescue.org, e-mail them at info@safeharborlabrescue.org or call (303) 464-7777. √



President Leslie Brown with adorable Lab puppies



Lauren Immel with her duo, Abby and Tabitha

Many Thanks

from Martha Smith, President



Hundreds of people volunteer countless hours in our dog rescue world. It would be impossible to say thank you to all of them. Former Board members Robin Lacy and Jenni McKernan have been invaluable. Former newsletter editor Pat Kilpatrick did a great job organizing the Rescue Showcase sponsored by the Plum Creek Kennel Club for the past couple of years. Webmaster Becki Hahn provides us with a wonderful and much-visited website. Current Board members, hotline volunteers, shelter liaisons – we value you all. Thanks to Susan Brown and Debbie Davis for

all the work involved in doing this newsletter. Lots of people manned booths at various events to raise awareness about purebred rescue groups. Every rescue group is comprised of people without whom many dogs would be lost – people who transport dogs, foster dogs, groom dogs, make phone calls, address envelopes, attend workshops, compile databases, appear on TV segments such as Petline 9 – veterinarians who assist us, animal shelters who work with us, and on and on.. We can't list everyone by name and know we're leaving out some very important people. But you know who you are, and to all of you, we say thank you for everything you are doing for the dogs. It's a tough job. Well done! √

Denver #1 Pet Healthiest City

On May 20, 2003, the Purina Pet Institute announced Denver as the #1 Pet Healthiest City in the U.S. Researchers analyzed 30 criteria to make this determination, including:

- ▢ Obesity: analysis of the body condition of America's cats and dogs;
- ▢ Preventative Care: including dental cleaning, vaccinations, and the incidence of spaying and neutering;
- ▢ Health: veterinarian-to-pet ratios, presence of accredited veterinary hospitals and environmental factors such as watershed and air quality. They even looked at the number of cigarette smokers in each city; second-hand

smoke hurts our pets, too;

- ▢ Legislation: presence of appropriate rabies vaccination requirements, animal cruelty legislation, pet identification/licensing requirements;
- ▢ Services: number of certified shelters and average annual pet-related expenditures.

Although Denver's dogs and cats took top marks for being spayed or neutered and for being at their ideal body weight, the Institute expressed concern about the nationwide problem of pet obesity. Dan Christian, DVM, executive director of the Institute, indicated that "Just as in humans, preventative care and obesity are health issues that have important implications for our pets. And just as in humans, we need to ensure that our pets get regular exercise and are not overfed. Overall, it's a great time to be a pet in America."

Mayor Wellington Webb accepted the "Wagging Tail" award on behalf of the city, as well as a check for \$10,000. Mayor Webb said the money would be used by the Parks Department to support its off-leash dog park pilot program. Mayor Webb thanked All Breed Rescue Network, as well as the Denver Dumb Friends League and Denver Municipal Animal Shelter for their part in making this award possible. A wonderful array of purebred and mixed breed dogs were on hand to enjoy the festivities. ABRN was represented by Maggie Rice of the Borzoi Welfare Collective, Peggy Shifflet and Susan Melton of Colorado Basenji Rescue with "Jabari" and Susan Brown, ABRN newsletter editor. √



Wendy, Maggie, and Barbara of Borzoi Rescue, Susan with ABRN, and Peggy with Basenji Rescue after hearing Mayor Webb accept the Wagging Tail award.

Jabari's story

Once upon a time (in 1990) a Basenji was adopted from a local animal shelter. Twelve years later the same dog, now an aging Basenji, was picked up by Animal Control in deplorable condition. He had been neglected, starved, and repeatedly shot in the head by the owner with a BB gun. To compound the horror of this action, it was done in front of a child, resulting in both animal abuse and child abuse charges against the owner. The dog weighed only 14 pounds, less than half the average weight of a healthy Basenji.

Martha Smith and Peggy Shifflet worked to have the dog released from the shelter, although this was an active abuse case, and have him admitted to Harrison Memorial Hospital for extensive medical care. After about a week in the hospital, Peggy fostered him for several months, and the dog thrived with her nurturing and tender loving care. She found a wonderful home for him with a lady named Susan Melton. Susan had never owned a Basenji before, but she saw the dog on the Basenji website (www.coloradobasenjirescue.org) and called Peggy. Thus ensued a thorough screening process by Peggy.

Susan adopted him and re-named him "Jabari" – an Egyptian word for "brave" – which he reportedly has been throughout his ordeal. His residual problems include loss

of hearing, poor eyesight, loss of numerous teeth, very poor balance, and some incontinence problems. Susan is very understanding and patient with him and has given him a loving, permanent home. He now weighs 25 pounds. He is still thin, but healthier.

Peggy said, "I could not have found a better owner for him. Susan is an angel. Despite Jabari's advanced age and physical ailments, he enjoys life, is very social, loves walks, and is crazy about Susan's cat. They are inseparable. The abuse took its toll on him, but his spirit is strong."

What Susan says is, "Peggy was the person who was able to discern a spark and will to live in Jabari. When she got him, he was a walking skeleton. Some people would have put him down at that point, but Peggy saw something in him that was worth rescuing. And we are very thankful that she did. We treasure him." And the dog will live happily ever after. √



Jabari enjoying a walk in the park

Life With Huskies

Nancy McCullough

We were a happy family with a 12-year-old mutt and two old cats. Then we got into the foster dog business, and our lives have never been the same. After fostering Lucy for over 12 weeks, with a 3-week unsuccessful adoption in the middle, we adopted her ourselves. Tasha is our current foster dog. She's about our 12th. We've had scratched doors, torn quilts, accidents galore, ripped drapes, and destroyed moldings. Nevertheless, we are still fostering with a smile for Polaris Siberian Husky Rescue.

This is an example of the kind of thing that can happen when you live with huskies. Recently my husband noticed a gray-haired carcass on the living room floor. He thought Lucy, the hunter, had dispatched one of our cats. Up until now, she has caught both a duck and a squirrel. Then he heard a dog commotion in the basement. Thinking the two huskies were engaged in a fight (Lucy also fights), he bounded to the basement. There he found the three dogs facing it off with a momma raccoon and a baby. The dead

body in the living room was not a cat, but a baby raccoon (probably done in by Lucy). Lucy and Tasha were covered with soot from looking up the fireplace chimney.

I got the dogs upstairs, and we called animal control. They told us to put ammonia in the fireplace, which we did, and about midnight, my daughter saw the raccoon family walking down the street away from our house, no doubt hoping to find safer accommodations. Our basement carpet was covered with soot. We put a cap in our chimney to block the entrance. We were wondering why Lucy was suddenly spending so much time in the basement. We thought it was to stay cool.

With huskies, the fun never ends. √



FAQ'S About ABRN

Q. What is ABRN?

A. All Breed Rescue Network is a 501-C-3 nonprofit corporation that is a coalition of over 100 volunteer purebred rescue groups and individuals whose mission it is to find loving, responsible, permanent homes for purebred dogs, as well as to provide breed education.

Q. Why purebred dogs?

A. Different breeds of dogs have different temperaments and care needs. A home appropriate for a Chihuahua, for instance, may not be appropriate for a Malamute. The purebred rescue groups are comprised of people who are knowledgeable about their breed, love their breed, and are qualified to find suitable homes for their breed.

shelters. Animal control agencies impound dogs found running at large, as well as dogs suffering from neglect or cruelty at the hands of their owners. ABRN has people who volunteer as shelter liaisons, who walk through shelters on a weekly basis and alert the rescue groups about specific dogs. Frequently, shelter personnel call the rescue groups directly, also. This has the benefit of reducing the overall shelter population and giving the remaining dogs a better chance of being adopted.

Q. How does a rescue group get on ABRN's official list?

A. An interested person or group needs to contact ABRN's Vice President, Linda Thompson. Linda sends out a letter spelling out the requirements for inclusion, as well as a new listing application. Among other things, ABRN requires groups to return phone calls in a timely manner; that dogs be placed with a contract specifying the level of care and providing for returning the dog if the adopter can no longer care for it; and that all animals be spayed or neutered before placement. It is also understood that the rescue groups disclose information known about the health and temperament of the dog and that the rescue group not place a dog with a known aggression problem. A new group is evaluated for a period of time before being placed on the official list.

Q. What does an ABRN rescue group expect from a potential adopter?

A. A potential adopter is expected to make the dog a part of the family's life, house the dog indoors, provide the dog with a securely fenced yard, identification, and health care, provide references, sign an adoption agreement, agree to a follow-up home visit, never allow the dog to ride in an open truck bed, and return the dog to the rescue group if they are unable to keep it.

Q. How can I help?

A. ABRN is always in need of financial support to help with veterinary, housing, training, and administrative costs like postage and long-distance phone calls. Donations are tax deductible. If you're knowledgeable about dogs, consider being a foster home for rescue dogs. We are often in need of people to serve as shelter liaisons. We can use help keeping our rescue list current, making phone calls, and helping us with our mailings, the newsletter, and miscellaneous other tasks, such as transporting dogs. If you know anyone who is looking for a dog, encourage them to contact ABRN. If you have **any** other skills you feel could benefit ABRN, please call the hotline and leave your name and number. We will gladly call you. ✓

Q. How would I find a rescue group for a particular breed of dog?

A. The most current list of groups affiliated with All Breed can be found on our website: www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com. Or call the hotline number at 303-989-7808.

Q. Who answers the phone when people call the hotline?

A. There are currently six volunteers who rotate the task of returning calls to the hotline. Each volunteer handles all calls that come in to the hotline for a week, then it's turned over to the next volunteer until their turn arises again.

Q. What kind of calls come in to the hotline and how many are there?

A. The calls generally fall into two categories – calls from people who are unable to keep their dogs and need to have them re-homed – and calls from people looking to adopt a purebred dog from a rescue group. Fortunately, there are more calls from the second group, as there can be anywhere from 50 to 100 calls each week.

Q. Where do the rescue dogs come from?

Many owners surrender their dogs directly to the rescue groups. Many owners take their dogs to animal



sadie: Before being adopted



sadie: After being adopted

Microchip - small but Mighty

We've all heard stories of dogs being reunited with their owners after months, or even years, after being separated from their owners. The most dramatic stories concern dogs that wind up in other states and are still returned to joyful owners after being identified by an implanted microchip. Yet surprisingly, a recent New York Times article stated that "only 4.7 million, or fewer than 4 percent, of the 130 million dogs and cats in the United States have microchip implants."

Universal scanners

Many of us were reluctant to have microchips implanted into our pets because for years there was no industry standard for pet microchips – one scanner could only read certain microchips, not all of them. That problem has been largely solved. Universal scanners are now in place in many shelters and veterinary clinics. Some of us thought the procedure might be too complicated, expensive, or painful for our pets. The truth of the matter is that implanting a microchip is a quick, relatively simple, affordable procedure that is equivalent in discomfort to other injections. The cost of a microchip varies from \$15 to \$60 per pet.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted with a needle under the skin at the scruff of

the neck. The chips contain a code which can be read by central databases containing the owners' information. After having the chip implanted, the pet owner mails information to a registry and is responsible for keeping the information up-to-date. Dog collars and tags can easily be removed or lost. Tattoos are painful, difficult to read, and can rub off after awhile. Microchips provide a means of permanent identification.



Teddy Bear the Westie

It Wouldn't happen to me

Some people think their dogs could never be lost or stolen, so why bother? Stuff happens. Gates are left open, dogs escape during thunderstorms, are stolen, or become lost during hailstorms, tornados, forest fires, or a fun day at the dog park. One large registry, the American Kennel Club's Companion Animal Recovery program, has been recovering nearly 4,000 animals a month. One of them could be yours. One of them could be the next dog you acquire as a rescue dog. Microchips are the best way to identify pets and save pet owners a lot of grief. What are you waiting for? Consult your veterinarian for costs and to answer any questions you might have about the procedure. √

ABRN at Furry Scurry

May 3rd was a special day for All Breed Rescue Network, Inc. (ABRN). Following heavy snowstorms, that Saturday was a beautiful Colorado spring day. What made it even more special was that, for the first time in the Furry Scurry's history, ABRN was invited to join in the festivities by the Denver Dumb Friends League. Held annually at Washington Park, the Furry Scurry is a major fund raising event for DDFL and enjoys extraordinary community participation. Some 14 different breeds of dogs and their ABRN owners took part in a "Meet the Breeds" presentation. Furry Scurry participants were able to see and gather information about the different breeds of dogs and learn about ABRN. ABRN participants, who love nothing more than to talk about their breed of dog, talked about the history of their breed, temperament, personality, nutrition, care needs, and compatibility with children and adults.

DDFL is one of the most established, recognized, and respected animal welfare organizations in Colorado. In addition to being lots of fun, this event was another

example of the strong and effective working relationship between ABRN and DDFL. And as always, effective partnerships between ABRN and other organizations with a similar mission serves to benefit the animals, and that's what it's all about. A special thank you to Don and Sally Gilman of Scottish Terrier Rescue and all the ABRN members who participated with their dogs. All of you represented ABRN admirably. We look forward to being a part of next year's Furry Scurry. √



Name This Newsletter

We hope you like the new design of this newsletter but it needs a catchy name! Submit your ideas to Susan Brown at mollybrown11@attbi.com or call her at 303-695-1999. Winner gets our thanks, your name in the next newsletter, and we will publish a photo and story of a rescue dog of your choosing. ✓

Like to Help?

Please help rescue dogs where most needed with a tax deductible donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

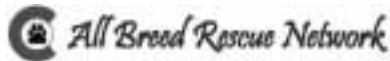
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Would you like your newsletters delivered: Regular Postal Mail or E-mail

Please mail to: All Breed Rescue Network, P.O. Box 150803, Lakewood, CO 80215-0803.

Thank you for your support!



All Breed Rescue Network
P.O. Box 150803
Lakewood, CO 80215-0803

Inside...

- 1 | **ABRN's President**
- 2 | **Who's Who**
- 4 | **Breed Rescue: Labs**
- 6 | **FAQs**