

# Friends of the Shelter Newsletter

Volume VIX



## **Dog Jog: Benefit for Animals – Fun for Everyone!**

About 250 people and 200 dogs completed either the 5K timed run or the 2-mile fun walk/run on Saturday April 23, 2005. The Dog Jog is a benefit for Friends of the Shelter. This year's run was dedicated to Ray Rogers, a long-time member of the Los Alamos community, who loved dogs and was a much-respected search dog handler with Mountain Canine Corps for many years. The weather was dry and cool in advance of the storm that dropped rain and snow on New Mexico on Sunday.

Of the 56 runners on the 5K course, the fastest was Dan Reese, running with his Australian Shepherd Dingo, who finished in 19:27. Second and third place finishers, also running with their dogs, were Duncan Hammon with Sadie and David Telles with

**Wildfire. Up-and-coming runners Alexander and Daniel Romero finished in the top ten in under 24 minutes.**

**The fastest woman on the 5K course was Amy Urbatsch, finishing in 23:21. Amy ran with Petey, an adoptable shelter dog, who tremendously enjoyed the experience. Second place female finisher was Shari Kelley, running with her blue heeler Phoenix, who was adopted at the Dog Jog several years ago. Third place woman was Deidre Witherell, running with her dog Thunder, who finished 12th overall.**

**The top finishers received their prizes at a post-race ceremony. Randomly chosen finishers on the 2-mile course also received prizes. Numerous prizes were also awarded to dogs in specific categories such as largest dog, smallest dog, and most spots. A popular category, most slobber, was hotly contested this year, but was ultimately won by Clancy, a black and tan coonhound owned by Joan Rogers.**

**A vast spectrum of dogdom was represented at this year's race. There were Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, pugs, and corgis, moving as fast as their little legs would take them. There were golden retrievers and labs of all colors trying to befriend one and all. There were Siberian huskies and Brittanys and Australian Shepherd dogs just trying to take it all in. A Great Pyrenees and a Newfoundland calmly surveyed the hoi polloi. And there were mutts of every shape and size, some of quite mysterious origin. Each dog that completed the run or walk received a toy or treat at the finish line. Dogs that had been adopted from a shelter or breed rescue organization received an additional goodie, as did dogs who are 10 years or older. All human participants received a t-shirt with this year's Dog Jog logo, designed by Aspen sixth grader Maria Musgrave.**

**As in past years, all dogs were remarkably well-behaved, despite being astounded by the sight of 200 or so members of their species. A good time was had by all, and over \$10000 was raised for Friends of the Shelter.**

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## Ozmeralda, Queen of the World



Ozzy came to Friends of the Shelter as a 3-week-old kitten on a cold November day in 2004. Even though she was tiny, frail, and hungry—and had badly ruffled, punk-rock fur—she had “attitude” from the moment she came into the house (a difficult feat for a “bottle baby.” Of course, at the time, we all thought she was a “he.” Given his arrogant attitude, one of the volunteers named the kitten “Chatsworth Osborne, Jr.” after the rich guy in the old Dobie Gillis show and used the nickname “Ozzy.” Much to our chagrin, about a month later, we discovered that Ozzy was a girl! Now what to do? We were all used to calling the kitten Ozzy, but that was a male name. Voila! She became “Ozmeralda” (think “Esmeralda with a twist)—a (more or less) girl’s name. Plus, we could keep the nickname! The “Queen of the World” was yet to come . . .

**As Ozzy got older, her view of herself became more and more “I am Queen and you—human and feline—are here to serve me.” She became possessor of all bed pillows, whether they were in use or not, and was skilled at giving me snotty looks at 2:00 a.m. when she had succeeded in slowly pushing me off my own pillow and I was protesting. She expected food and treats on demand and terrorized the larger cats into giving her what she wanted, be it food, a pillow, a lap, or whatever. She kept her rumpled fur, but her regal attitude forbade any comment on her permanent bad hair days. Ozzy sufficiently cowed one of my large male cats (at least 4 times her size!) that he would obediently allow her to practice her hunting skills on him. When Ozzy decided to tackle him, he’d fall down and let her sit on him and chew his neck, growling fiercely all the time. He never turned on her, but eventually stalked off dragging her with him if she wouldn’t let go.**



**Ozzy has stayed small but has kept her attitude. She was adopted by a family with young children, a dog, and another cat. She’s very patient with the children—and has been known to allow herself to be put in a baby carriage—has shown the dog his place, is making friends with the other cat, and is managing to train the adults in the house to share their pillows with her. Sadly, her rumpled, punk-rock fur has become sleek, soft, and smooth. Beautiful, yes, but far more ordinary than a cat with her personality deserves!**



## **My Kitten, Buddy the Dog**

*By JaNelle Haught*



***Buddy in “his” bed***



***Buddy and Sylvia***



***Buddy eats his dog food***

**In the fall of 2004, we adopted a small white kitten with three black spots named Norman. Norman came to us from his foster mom, joining our three dogs and two cats to live with us in Santa Fe.**

**The first week Norman spent with us, he hid. His favorite place to hide was behind the stereo. After the first week, however, we noticed some particular things about Norman. First, Norman**

preferred dog food to cat food, as well as dog toys to cat toys. When handing out dog treats, Norman would wait patiently with the dogs for his dog treat. We realized that instead of Norman sleeping with the cats, he preferred to sleep with the dogs on the dog bed! And it turns out that the three spots on Norman's back looked exactly like those found on Dalmatian dogs. As Norman was not responsive to his name, we renamed him: Buddy the Dog.

In addition to adopting Buddy, we also adopted his sister, Sylvia. Both Sylvia and Buddy have a unique marking of three short lines under their chin. Sylvia has none of the dog traits that Buddy does. She prefers cat food, cat toys and the cat bed.

Norman and Sylvia have been a part of our family for the past nine months. Although both Sylvia and Buddy are now cats, Buddy still prefers to run with the dogs!



## *JUNE IS NATIONAL ADOPT-A-SHELTER-CAT MONTH*

### **9 Ways to Welcome Home your New Cat**

Congratulations! You have just begun a relationship that's bound to be filled with fun and affection. By starting off on the right foot, you can cut short that rocky adjustment period most new relationships go through.

- **Go slowly at first.** A new cat may need seven to fourteen days to relax into her new environment. Save meet-and-greets with friends, neighbors and relatives until the cat is eating and eliminating on a normal schedule.
- **Offer her a safe place to hide while she gets her bearings.** She'll appreciate the chance to observe her new family's routine from a small, dark space or one high above the action.
- **Bring your new feline to a caring veterinarian for a wellness exam within one week after adoption.**
- **Provide the same diet she had at the shelter at least for the first week or two.** If you wish to switch to a different flavor or brand, slowly make the switch over one to

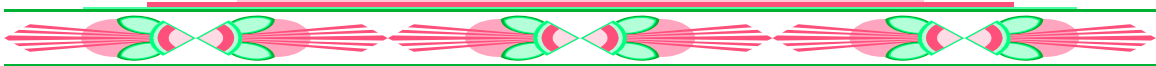
two weeks, starting with a quarter ration of the new food mixed into the old favorite. From there, up the ratio of new to old about 10% each day.

- **Set up a litter box in a quiet, low-traffic area.** Unsure of what litter to use? The majority of cats prefer fine grain clumping litter. Try that first unless the new adoptee is so young that she is in the litter-eating stage. Non-clumping litter is recommended for kittens under ten weeks of age.
- **Cats must scratch, so make sure to provide yours with a sturdy, rough-textured scratching post to save wear and tear on furniture.** Cat manicures every ten to fourteen days also help reduce damage.
- **Cat-proof your home before giving your new feline run of the house.** Put away harsh cleaning products, human medications and household poisons. Re-home any poisonous houseplants. And if the newcomer is a kitten, lock away any breakables and remember to keep the toilet lid down.
- **Once settled in, a young cat or kitten will be eager to play.** Stock up on interactive toys such as feather wands and kitty fishing poles to engage attention and direct energies toward a positive pursuit.
- **Ready a comfortable cat perch on a sunny window sill** - if it overlooks the birdfeeder, all the better! Observing live birds and squirrels beats out kitty videos any day.

Courtesy of



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(212) 876-7700  
[www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)



**To find out more information about animals available for adoption, call the Los Alamos Animal Shelter, 662-8179**

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**Volunteers who can help with cat adoption questions:**



**Mary Timmers 672-9276, Peter Roberts 662-2652**

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**Volunteers who can help with dog adoption questions or for  
information on volunteering:**

**Wendee Brunish 662-3252**



**Sally Wilkins 662-2773**

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**If you have questions or would like to make a donation:**

**Friends of the Shelter  
162 Chamisa St.  
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

**Or email:**

**[sitstaygooddog@earthlink.net](mailto:sitstaygooddog@earthlink.net)**

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# Visit our Web Store !

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We have t-shirts, baseball caps, dog shirts, hoodies, frisbees, aprons, greeting cards, lunch boxes and many other items. You can get one of our special designs or our unique Friends of the Shelter logo.  
(See samples below)



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