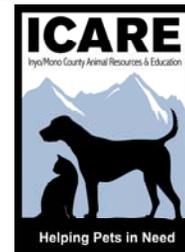


# ICARE

Inyo/MonoCounty Animal Resources & Education

Dedicated to the welfare of the Eastern Sierra's companion animals



## Helping Pets in Need for Over 20 Years!

Okay, we're going to toot our own horn! We are very proud of the amazing difference we have made for companion animals of the Eastern Sierra these past twenty years. ICARE (Inyo/Mono County Animal Resources and Education) is a 501(c)3 non-profit animal welfare organization founded in November 1996. ICARE is all-volunteer and



The brand new County Animal Shelter in Big Pine, California

dedicated to providing assistance to Inyo/Mono County residents and their pets. We have no paid employees, no rented office space and we receive no government funding. This means that more than 90 percent of donations received go directly to our outreach programs.

We tackled our biggest project a couple of years ago. After an extensive two-year "Raise the Roof—a Cause for Paws" fundraising campaign, ICARE realized its original dream of replacing the 95 year-old dairy barn that Inyo County used as its animal shelter since the 1970's. The incredible outpouring of donations locally and from points far beyond totaled \$416,000! That amount was combined with Inyo County's contribution making it

possible to build a brand new \$800,000 Animal Shelter in Big Pine, California. The modern facility opened its doors in July 2015; it now provides a nicer experience for visitors and adopters, increases the shelter's capacity and, more importantly, improves living conditions for the resident homeless pets. Shelter Supervisor, Julie Richardson says "The new shelter is a healthier, happier place for the pets in our care."

In 2002, we established one of our favorite programs, the ICARE Stitch Fund, which provides veterinary care for ill or injured Inyo County Shelter animals.

Over 200 special needs shelter animals have received medical treatment at a total cost of \$95,000. Prior to the Stitch Fund, Inyo County oftentimes had to euthanize these animals due to budget constraints. We are committed to seeking financial support for this lifesaving program so all



The Stitch Fund helped "Delillah" the Persian and "Bugs" the Pug

Shelter animals with medical needs will always have the opportunity to be treated and find loving, adoptive homes. (See Dot's story on page 3.)

ICARE's most vital outreach program is our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program. We believe the most effective and humane solution to the pet overpopulation challenge is prevention through spaying and neutering all companion animals. ICARE funds an annual average of 700 low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs from Tecopa to Coleville. Since 1998 we have funded 13,000 spay/neuter surgeries at a total cost of \$554,000.

Making spay/neuter affordable for pet owners in need is ICARE's core mission and has dramatically improved the quality of life for the Eastern Sierra's pets.

The results of ICARE's efforts can be accurately measured by comparing the Animal Shelter's statistics from 20 years ago (1996) with its current numbers. Because our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

Program reduces the number of cats and dogs being born, the total yearly number of cats and dogs impounded (strays and owner turn-ins) has decreased by 53% (down from 1,164 to 536). Our shelter adoption promotion efforts have contributed to annual adoptions

skyrocketing from just 82 to 342 adoptions last year (a 417% increase!). But the number that really matters is how many shelter dogs and cats are euthanized each year. In 1996, the Inyo County Animal Shelter had to euthanize 970 animals due to an overwhelming influx of stray and abandoned pets, limited space in the old shelter and a lack of adoptive homes. The number of Shelter animals euthanized dropped to just 42

last year—that's a 96% reduction and the milestone we are proudest of. However, we believe that even one adoptable animal killed is one too many and we plan to continue our outreach programs to bring this number to zero. Working together is the only way to make the Eastern Sierra the greatest place to be a cat or a dog! None of this is possible without your faithful support.

To learn more about ICARE, visit us on-line at: [www.ICAREforPets.org](http://www.ICAREforPets.org). Your tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: ICARE, P.O. Box 76, Bishop, CA 93515 or feel free to call us at 760-872-3802. 🐾

**ICARE DIRECTORS**

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🐾 Ted Schade

*VICE PRESIDENT*

🐾 Mike Slates

*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

🐾 Lisa Schade

*BOARD MEMBERS:*

🐾 Lynne Almeida

🐾 Karen Cudney

🐾 Rose Kuljerich

🐾 Theona Wasson

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NEWSLETTER

Lisa & Ted Schade

Photos: Lisa Schade

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Message from the President, Ted Schade:

**The Hardest Thing We Do**



Twenty years ago, in November 1996, a small group of dedicated animal lovers met with staff from Inyo County Animal Services (ICAS) to brainstorm ways to improve the lives of Eastern Sierra pets. We also met with local veterinarians to enlist their help. We knew that joining forces with ICAS and veterinarians would be the key to successfully increasing the number of pets adopted and reducing pet overpopulation. These discussions were the foundation for our non-profit animal welfare organization, Inyo/Mono County Animal Resources and Education, aka ICARE.

We believe that only by addressing the root causes of animals entering shelters can we ensure that every animal has the opportunity to find a loving home, thereby ending euthanasia. In other words, spay and neuter as many pets as possible to stem the tide of unwanted puppies and kittens and promote pet adoptions from animal shelters.

We invited animal lovers like you to join us in helping pets in need and you responded big time! You helped build a brand new animal shelter, you fixed your pets, you adopted homeless dogs and cats from our animal shelters and you donated your hard-earned money to make it all happen.

This issue of the ICARE newsletter discusses

some of our many accomplishments: raising \$416,000 for the new Inyo County Animal Shelter in Big Pine, helping over 200 sick/injured shelter pets through our Stitch Fund. But, most importantly, we funded over 13,000 spay/neuter surgeries, including feral cats through our Trap, Neuter and Return Feral Cat Program and free spaying/neutering of Pit Bulls. Our efforts have **reduced euthanasias** at the Inyo County Animal Shelter by an incredible **96 percent**. This is a statistic we can all be proud of and a true measure of our unparalleled success.

The reality is that pets continue to be born every day and pet owners still need help with the cost of spay/neuter surgeries. And special needs animals show up at the animal shelter on a regular basis. That means ICARE continues to need the help of our faithful supporters. The hardest thing we do is ask for money. But, because we receive no government funding, we really do rely on your kindness and generosity to keep our companion animal welfare programs going. If you believe in our mission and want to make a difference for animals, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ICARE.

Thanks again for being part of the solution. With your backing, we intend to keep providing financial assistance to cats and dogs for another 20 years and more! 🐾

**Spotlight on ICARE Board Member, Lynne Almeida**



Lynne with one of her dogs, Calvin

that helps companion animals because she is not only a dog lover, she is also an agility dog trainer with four dogs of her own, each actively involved in the sport.

She has owned the venerable Spellbinder Books in Bishop, California since 2000 and decided she wanted to help pets in need by sponsoring an ICARE Benefit Shopping Day every December.

Spellbinder Books' faithful customers eagerly anticipate this special shopping day knowing their \$5 donation helps Shelter pets in need. In turn, they receive a very nice discount on many items throughout the store. That's a win-win!

It has become one of the store's most popular annual events with proceeds benefiting ICARE's Stitch Fund. To date, Spellbinder Books, with the community's support, has raised over \$23,000 for special needs Shelter animals.

Lynne says "It's a privilege to raise money to help the very neediest of our community's homeless pets." We couldn't agree more!

🐾 Visit the store at 124 So. Main in Bishop 🐾

**Happy Pet Fund**



In the Fall of 2006, ICARE collaborated with a thoughtful donor to create the "Pat Nahin Happy Pet Fund" that provides extras for Inyo County's Shelter pets, such as cat toys, dog toys and dog beds. This program has enriched the lives of our Shelter cats and dogs for eleven years. Pat Nahin's family continues to support the program and even made it possible for us to purchase new Kuranda dog beds for each of the dog kennels at the new Animal Shelter. These comfy, cot-like beds are a welcome place for the dogs and puppies to relax and get off the concrete floor. Life in a dog kennel or cat cage can be pretty stressful, but the Happy Pet Fund is making life a whole lot brighter for our very deserving Shelter animals. 🐾

When Lynne Almeida attended her first ICARE board meeting in January 1999, we wonder if she ever imagined she would still be a board member all these years later. She is a natural fit for an animal welfare group

## Catching up with Stitch Fund Star, Little Dot

**N**ever underestimate the determination and grit of a tiny pup with a will to survive. It's been nine years since ICARE got that phone call from Inyo County Animal



ICARE supporters came through for Dot who ended up having three surgeries in Reno over the next four months. Kindhearted volunteers transported her to and from her surgery appointments and, in between surgeries, Dot recovered at the home of ICARE founders, Ted and Lisa Schade. Her left leg was so badly damaged, it

all concerned. The past nine years have flown by with our dear Dot." Ted adds, "We cannot imagine life without this tough little monkey and hate to think what would have happened to her without the

Services (ICAS) asking if the ICARE Stitch Fund could help a 6-month old Chihuahua mix who had been hit by a car. The puppy, dubbed "Dot," had both of her back legs badly broken and required major corrective surgery. Of course, the answer was "Yes!"

The ICARE Stitch Fund was originally established out of necessity in 2002 when a stray Yellow Lab was found with severe injuries from an attack by other dogs. That sweet dog needed over 100 stitches earning him the name "Stitch." Since then, the Stitch Fund has helped over 200 ill or injured Inyo County Shelter animals receive lifesaving veterinary care.

never regained the ability to bend, giving her a hippety-hop gait that still turns heads to this day.

Dot fit right in with the Schades' other rescue dogs and quickly found her place in the pack. She was very happy to be part of this loving family.

The search for the perfect adoptive home had been ongoing, but there didn't seem to be much interest in a crippled Chihuahua who would limp the rest of her life. Then, after four months of foster care, Ted and Lisa decided that Dot had already found her forever home and officially adopted her for themselves.

Lisa says, "It was the best decision for



Stitch Fund and all the incredible volunteers who helped her on her journey." If you'd like to read more about Dot, **she has her own blog** on the ICARE web site: [www.ICAREforPets.org](http://www.ICAREforPets.org) 🐾

## Annual Pet Show is a Big Hit



**E**very Labor Day weekend, pet lovers look forward to the annual ICARE Pet Contest that takes place at the Tri-County Fair in Bishop, California.

ICARE has sponsored this just-for-fun event for 20 years and it has become a Fair favorite. Entry is free and first, second and third place prizes in seven different categories ensure there is something for everyone. Categories include Pet Most Like its Owner, Most

Talented Pet, Biggest Pet, Smallest Pet, Best-Dressed Pet, Cutest Pet and, our favorite, Outstanding Adopted Pet (adopted from the Inyo or Mono County Animal Shelters).

ICARE Board members host the contest acting as the judges' panel, official photographer and master of ceremonies. Shown above are the proud winners from last year's Pet Contest. It really is the Pet Event of the Year! 🐾

## Pet ID is Smart Idea

**O**ne of the most loving things you can do for your pets (besides spay or neuter them) is make sure they always wear a current easy-to-read identification tag. If your pet becomes lost, proper I.D. is its return ticket home. We suggest



including your pet's name, your home phone number, as well as your cell numbers, which are invaluable if you lose your pet while traveling.

You cannot believe the number of pets picked up stray wearing collars, *without I.D.* They end up at the Animal Shelter waiting for their owners. A tag, with up-to-date contact info, could reunite pet and owner much faster.

We recommend **Boomerang Tags**. They engrave both sides of the tag for most complete contact information. Visit: [www.BoomerangTags.com](http://www.BoomerangTags.com) 🐾

# ICARE

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## ICARE's Stitch Fund

helps ill or injured Shelter animals by  
providing them with the veterinary care  
they need to find loving homes.



**Linus** was running from fireworks when he was attacked by a pack of dogs. He was brought to the Animal Shelter and the ICARE Stitch Fund paid for the surgery to stitch his boo-boos at a cost of \$1,100. Before the Stitch Fund was established in 2002, special needs Shelter animals were often put to sleep for lack of funds. If you'd like to be a hero and help ill or injured Shelter animals, see below. ♥

♥ Yes, I would love to help special needs Shelter animals with my donation to the ICARE Stitch Fund!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to ICARE & send to:

**ICARE** 🐾 P.O. BOX 76 🐾 BISHOP, CA 93515

## Vinnie's Voice



**H**i! My name is Vinnie. I was turned over to the Inyo County Animal Shelter in January 2009 when I was seven years old. Apparently peeing on the carpet is some kind of crime. Sheesh! I've been the Shelter Mascot ever

since, hanging out in the Shelter office getting spoiled by staff and visitors alike (and I never had a single accident).

It hasn't all been fun and games, though. I've had some tough job assignments over the years. The first one was to keep the mouse population to a minimum, but I'm a lousy mouser, so that didn't really pan out. Another job I'm actually pretty good at is the on-site "cat scan" monitoring Shelter dogs' reactions to me, either negatively or positively. Many dogs and puppies have found the perfect home, with or without cats, thanks to my scanning talents.

The latest job, "kitty caretaker," evolved as I mellowed with age." Shelter staff began by bringing me an orphaned kitten or two and before I knew it, the mewing fuzzballs were crawling all over me seeking comfort from good ol' Grandpa Vinnie. I didn't know what I'd been missing! The truth is I get a big kick out of those little rascals, too.

Although it nearly broke my heart to be abandoned, I can now say the past nine years at the Animal Shelter have been some of my very happiest. Every single day is filled with love and companionship. What more could I want? 🐾