

CGPD kennel gives dogs a second chance



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Currently, the lone occupant at the kennels is an unnamed female mixed breed taken in July 4 and still looking for her owner.

By Caitlyn May
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The dog kennel, operated by the Cottage Grove Police Department and housed at public works, is mostly empty. And that's a good thing. It means that the stats the department reported are also anecdotally true; since the kennel's founding in 2015, pet/owner reunification has jumped from 62 percent to well over 90 percent.

So, on Monday, July 16, when all but one of the four kennels was empty, it was good news — except for the dog in kennel number 2.

Officers don't know her name. She wasn't wearing a collar when she was picked up July 4 in Bohemia Park but it's hard to believe she doesn't have a family.

Her blue-gray eyes jump out from her white fur and her tail has a band of brown that appears more like a blur as she wags it happily. She doesn't jump against the kennel door but she wiggles and worms against it, hoping for a pet and though her pant can be attributed to the

heat, it's more like a smile.

"She's sweet," Captain Conrad Gagner said, offering his hand to the lost dog. He's tracked down a family that may be interested in adopting her, but he hasn't heard back yet. Five years ago, the dog would have already been at First Avenue Shelter in Eugene and would have been part of the \$11,000 a month the department spent on lodging and transportation costs before the kennel in Cottage Grove was built.

In April of 2015, CGPD executed a search warrant on a marijuana grow operation and seized a generator. It was commercial-grade and expensive, according to Gagner, but the department made a trade. It gave the generator to public works and in exchange, public works built the dog kennel.

"Before we got the kennel, we would transport them to Forest Valley," Gagner said. The shelter charged the department for lodging and, if no owner was found after three days, the animals would be shipped to First

Avenue Animal Shelter in Eugene and the department would get a bill for the vaccinations issued to the animals on intake.

"It's saving us so much money, having the kennel," Gagner said.

It's also saving heartbreak. Gagner doesn't have his own Facebook page but he's learned to use the CGPD's social media outlet, which was created out of a need to raise awareness for the kennel. And it's working.

"It's gotten to the point where if someone's dog is missing they'll have people tell them, did you check with the police," Gagner said.

But it's those dogs, the five or six percent, that aren't reunited with their families that Gagner says, breaks his heart.

"It's heartbreaking when people, out of ignorance, I guess, don't think, or don't know this exists, they don't know what to do," he said. "They lose their dog and are sad and sort of say, 'that's too bad.' They don't think to call the police."

The local Brewers Guild, however, has called the police and continuously so since 2015. The group raised funds to update

and weatherize the kennels and built a storage shed on the property. Dogs have heating pads in the winter, protection from the sun in the summer and their own houses. The group also gets food donations, enough to feed the dogs housed throughout the year, though some also come into the police department.

"It's sort of sad because people will bring in the food after their dog passes," Gagner said.

He's also seen dogs stay in the kennel because their families think they can't afford to get them out. However, the CPGD waives fees for any family experiencing financial hardship and according to Gagner, will not deny a dog the chance to go home based on a family's inability to pay.

"We can keep them indefinitely," Gagner said. "But, I hate to see them in there that long."

CGPD posts information about dogs they've impounded on their Facebook page and individuals can call the non-emergency line to inquire about their missing dogs at 541- 942-9145. The CGPD kennel also adopts dogs out and does not charge an adoption fee.



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

The Peace Maker

Carol, who lives in Israel, and I became email pals 22 years ago after she read my Angel Scribe writings online. This year, Skype made it paws-ible for Carol, her new dog, Boodi, and me to "meet"

Last August, Carol left her French bulldog, Sunny, with a paw-fessional dog sitter when she went on vacation. Unbeknownst to Carol, what happened to her beloved dog had also happened to other canines in the sitter's care. When the sun was at its hottest, the sitter took dogs for a walk and Sunny dropped dead from heat exhaustion.

"On my return, without my furry friend waiting for me, I sunk into a deep depression," admitted Carol. "I had Sunny for eight years and was inconsolable. A month passed and my friend, Ariel, was so worried that he said, 'You need another dog to lift your depression.'"

"He has the gift of seeing energies," said Carol, "and added, 'I want to make sure that you get the right dog for you.'"

And when they drove to an animal shelter, the first dog they saw "was not the right dog," said Carol. "Then the staff came out with this huge four-year-old, German Shepherd/Husky mix."

Ariel joyfully exclaimed, "This is the dog! He is intelligent and your dog."

Carol was shocked. Boodi had been in the shelter for six months and no one wanted him. "I thought we came for a small dog like Sunny. But this one was huge," recalled Carol. "But I trusted Ariel, so Boodi came home with me."

And Ariel was right. "This wonderful rescue is the most amazing dog I have ever had," said Carol. "He is gentle, calm, loves people and especially children; and he rescued me from depression. Our hearts are so connected."

Carol and Boodi live in Western Galilee, Northern Israel, in Kfar Vradim, which means "Village of Roses." They



Carol's rescue dog, Boodi, keeps the peace in an Israel dog park.

are 20 minutes from the Mediterranean Ocean and the scenic area has a mixture of Arab, Druze and Jewish towns.

"When we go to the dog park, everyone loves Boodi. He is famous there as a peacemaker. People comment on his amazing natural instinct to stop conflicts," said Carol.

When Boodi is not playing with his dog friends, he sits near me until he sees other dogs playing too "ruff" or barking aggressively at each other. He gets up, trots over to the dogs and separates them by barking and pushing them aside. Once things are calm, he comes back and sits down beside me to supervise the dog park! If he sees another altercation, he trots over and breaks it up.

"After I adopted Boodi, when my 75-year-old friend, who volunteers at the dog shelter, saw him with me she was so happy," said Carol. "I know your dog! I was hoping he would find a good home. He is so friendly. He is the best dog," my friend said. And I agree!"

Carol feeds five feral cats and one has adopted her. He sits close to me on a patio chair. For some reason, Boodi accepts this feline and welcomes him but not the other four. He chases the other ferals away; but this one cat, he treats like family. I will keep you posted on how their friendship develops here in Israel.

"This big loving dog filled the hole in my heart. He keeps me healthy and active with three daily walks and I have met wonderful people at the dog park because of him. We truly rescued each other," said Carol.

TIPS:

Prevent what happened to your dog by learning from Sunny's death.

Remember: Walking dogs + Summer heat = Burned feet.

Two rules to prevent injuries to your dog's paws on hot pavement.

- 1.) If the pavement is too hot for your bare feet, it will burn your dog's paws.
- 2.) Use the five second rule. Hold the back of your hand to the pavement and if your skin burns, then the pavement will burn your dog.

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at angelscribe@msn.com or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales. Adopt loving pets online at www.PetFinder.com. For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.

6-day

weather forecast

THURSDAY

85° | 52°

Sunny

FRIDAY

86° | 52°

Sunny

SATURDAY

88° | 54°

Sunny

SUNDAY

92° | 57°

Sunny

MONDAY

93° | 57°

Sunny

TUESDAY

94° | 56°

Sunny

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