An Unexpected Companion

At only three years old, Khaleesi Rose already had the odds stacked against her. For her, being in public places was a terrifying experience.

Imagine you’re sitting in a very over lit restaurant. The lights are so bright your eyes hurt. You are having a difficult time understanding what’s happening around you so you get scared.

Imagine all the sounds of people, the TVs, the vehicles on the street outside becoming so loud you can’t hear yourself think. Everything sounds like nails on a chalkboard. The noise is physically painful for you.

Now imagine your clothes start to itch and you can’t take them off. Your shoes feel too tight. You feel like you might suffocate. You start to panic and your heart starts beating and hurting. You can’t breath and you can’t calm yourself down.

You open your mouth to scream but no words come out. Everyone is looking at you now. They keep asking “what’s wrong? what do you need?” but you’re unable to get the words out so you just sit there scared and crying, unable to stop. Someone touches your shoulder to calm you down and it feels like fire on your skin.

This is what autism feels like...

*(story continued inside)*
An Unexpected Companion (continued)

Story provided by Carrie Turnbow and Jed Pilant

Even at home Khaleesi Rose began to seclude herself. Her only way of communication seemed to be through yelling or overstimulated tantrums.

Rose's Mom and Dad started researching ways to help their daughter, and themselves. They spoke to doctors, therapists and school teachers as they worked hard to understand their daughter and how they could help her in any way possible.

During a visit to Texas, family gathered to see Rose and her brother, but with all the people around, panic set in. Rose laid on the floor, covered her ears and began screaming, as her parents began to cry because no matter what they did, nothing helped.

Her mom couldn't hug Rose or she would scream louder. She couldn't talk to her or she would cover her ears. The look of terror and helplessness in Rose's eyes broke her mother's heart. Rose was begging for her mom's help with her eyes, but there was nothing her mom could do, except sit next to her and try to reassure her that everything was going to be ok.

The room cleared down the hall a massive, white, drooling American Bully walked over to Rose. Even for an adult, an American Bully can seem intimidating. So I imagined how worried Rose's parents were when this big, intimidating dog walked straight to Rose.

He looked at Rose for a moment and then plopped his large body down next to her. Rose wrapped her arms around his neck, pulled him close and he just laid there as she squeezed him tight and stroked his ears. The calmness that swept over Rose was incredible. "It was incredible to watch this dog sense what Rose needed and provide her with something she so desperately needed in that moment", said Rose's mom. "Her calm and I knew then, we needed to begin our search..."

After contacting a doctor, several therapists, and more than five organizations, they determined that because of the severity of Rose's autism, which can become crippling, a service dog that can sense Rose's triggers would be best. Rose's mom said, "we knew after speaking to several professionals that we wanted to adopt. They gave us several criteria that the dog had to meet in order to become a service animal..."

The kennel opened, and they brought her back. The dog covered her ears and began to shut down. We opened the kennel and she let him pet him for a moment, but then backed out of the kennel. Rose was scared, I could sense it.

I rubbed Rose's back and she leaned against the kennel with her ears covered. She looked down the rows of kennels and saw a medium-sized Pharaoh Hound, tan in color, who was sitting as close to the door as possible, whimpering and staring at my daughter. Rose pointed to this animal she had never met and said "my puppy".

I asked the kind young lady helping us if we could see her and she said yes, of course, but she warned us that this dog could be a little rambunctious. She had come in to the shelter as a stray, so she had little back story.

As the kennel door opened, my daughter stuck out her hands to this strange dog and then hugged her neck. The dog allowed Rose to hug her, and then licked her face.

I asked to take her to the dog park so I could get a better feel for the dog. As I watched Rose and the dog run around and play with each other, I had a sense that this might be the perfect fit.

A few moments later Rose's dad and brother, Damian, joined us in the dog park. Damian fell walking in and immediately this dog ran over to check on him. She sat and
patiently waited for him to stand up, then nudged his hand with her head.

Rose had climbed up on one of the obstacles set up in the dog park and got too scared to get down. She screamed and began crying. The dog ran as fast as she could over to her little human, nudged her and let my daughter wrap her arms around her neck and ease her off of the obstacle. My husband and I knew then that this was our dog, who we named 'Baby'.

After three weeks of visiting Baby at the shelter, Rose's parents were ready to bring her home. As our shelter staff knows, it can take time for an animal to acclimate and adjust to a new home, especially after spending ample time at a shelter. But not for Baby. Baby instantly began doing the job she was intended for. She shadowed Rose, laying next to her and rushing to her side when she noticed Rose needed her.

Rose's parents began training her on simple commands before sending her to a training facility for her more intense service animal training. Within a week, Baby had learned sit, stay, lie down, leave it, drop it, come and rest. She also learned that when Rose says 'Baby here', Baby is to immediately go to Rose and sit next to her.

"Baby had incredible intuition", said Rose's mother. "We were very impressed that a stray was so smart and would learn new things the first time it was presented to her." After weeks of intense training with wonderful trainers, Baby has become Rose's official Service Dog.

"The purpose of this story is to hopefully inspire more people to adopt not shop," said Rose's mom. "Shelter animals are not useless, no good, damaged, unusable animals. If you can be patient, you will find the perfect fit for your needs. A diamond in the rough, so to speak."

Baby is such an asset to Rose's family simply by being their daughter's "safe place". And we are so grateful to this family for providing Baby with purpose in a loving, forever home.

**A Second Chance for Shadow the Cat**

Shadow was found in a ditch cold and all alone at just a few months old.

After getting a thorough vet exam and spending some time at the shelter under the supervision of our expert staff, Shadow went to a foster home where she was able to cuddle with other cats and kittens.

At first, Shadow had a tough time. She was small, underweight and lethargic due to an infection. After being treated, Shadow started to gain plenty of energy. She started getting into lots of trouble running around, climbing on beds and knocking all kinds of items off of counters and dressers...just as a kitten should do!

Thanks to her wonderful foster family, Shadow has been growing into a strong, healthy and adoptable cat. She has been trained to wear a harness and walk on a leash, play with toys, and have her nails trimmed. She loves to be held, cuddle under the covers and be carried around.

Every cat like Shadow deserves a second chance at a better life. We are so grateful to the kind folks who found and brought Shadow in to the shelter, and to her foster family who loved and cared for her until she was adopted.
**Special Mention**

January 17th, 2022 – In loving memory of Betty White from all of us, celebrating her would be 100th Birthday

**In Memory Of**

Our fabulous veterinarian Dr. Polly Thibault, who has been a blessing to Mike & me, from Penny Kiley

Linda King & Susan Mercer from Jeff & Jan Hester

Buckley, my 15 year old cat, from Scott Goodman

Begie Glatz from Gwendolyn Glatz

Missy, from Victoria Lazell

Heidi, sweetest cat ever from Susan Mercer

Darcy Cat, from Sarah Walker

Robson Reyes from Gale Klothagen

Jean Carson from Gale Klothagen

Gracie Burke from Linda & Robert Burke

Alex Davis from Sandra & Don Dillon

Lisa Cowell from Marie & Robert Hernandez

Stormy Shear from Carole & David Shear

Pandora from Donna Williams

Missy from Victoria Lazell

Allie – our beautiful girl we adopted over 10 years ago from Pagosa from Laura Colby

Rusty and Berry Jones from Coye Jones

Karma, Blue, Scooter & CC from Marianne Kivi

Ranch Ladies from Bernie & Elizabeth Garcia

Hags & Zach from Richard Hess

Ed & Ginny Kaumeyer from Cheryl Kaumeyer-Wethy

Ron Mears from Sam Cassidy

Carol Sheeplin from Tim Dippel

Ally, Bailey & Woody from D J Matthews

Buddy & Velocity from Randy & Jo Ann Senzig

Princess from Therese & Rob Barcocker

Mike Ward from Chris & Barbara Johnson

John Graves from Ann Graves

The Pagosa Pups Play Group on Antelope Ave from Patrick & Deborah Donovan

Maggie from Thomas & Gayle Broadbent

Chloe from Susan Vandenberg

Penny from Nancy & Richard Yoemans

Family from Sandra Thomas & Max Barden

Patsy Kissack from Lana & Toby Summers

Lynne Myers from Alice Myers

Sherlon Russell from Edwin & Cheryl Hall

Nadja Lifte from Duane & Chrystie Lifte

Phoebe & her mum Eowana

Scientific Name from Christine Young

Merry Myers from Grant Myers

My Parents from Stacy Menges

My dog Sean from Patricia Brown

Vickie Ferguson from Sharon Pfeffer

Carol Stewart from Shabah & Christine Sharry

Rick & Lauren Zak from Arlene Don

Maise Casias from Irvin Casias

Kristen & Tyler Albers from Thomas McConnell

Jack and Geraldine Crouch from Rhonda Young

Frances Martinez from Thomas Martinez

Pat McKenzie from Donna Fisher

Matt: Hissey from Sue McAvoy

Roy Boy from Anita Holton

Amber from Barbara Kenner

Barley Jones from Raymond & Nancy Bush

Diane Fleming from Scott & Suzanne Holmgren

Jalet from Eowana Jordan & Leroy Krieg

Pat McKenzie from Elizabeth Bruce & Brian Patton

Brynnlee from Elka Riehmiiter

My big brother, Jim Kelley from VeAnn Kelley

Ed and Ginny Kaumeyer from Linda Kauymeyer

Taylor from Mary Gary

Mater from Christine Sullivan

Bo, Duke & Blist from Terence & Aubie Linnebrook

Dosa from Laverne & Donald Chung

Trudy Tillyan from Nancy Tillyan

Mase Casias from Irvin Casias

Jessie from Judy Johnston

Spud from Joyce Givan

Peter Van Harenke from Jo Ann & Karin Hoen

Gilbert & Veda Robinson from Shannon Smith

Champ, Cinnamon, & Bowser from D J Matthews

Beau and the Beloved Dog from Ann Graves

Art Buckley, and Kate from Thomas & Gayle Broadbent

Buckey Boy from Rod Marler

Jalet, the Beloved Siberian Terrier from Christyne Young

Maddie from Karen Littlejohn

Ashley & Oscar from John & Helen Richardson

Jackie McGuffie from Ronald & Judith Tafel

Mose – beloved poodle of Donny Lohman from David & Carolyn Pinto

Melissa & Mac Anderson from Keith & Jo Ellen Anderson

Nancy Cusack from Anna Cusack

Coleen, Beloved Cat of Kati & Kate from Mary Lou Hudson

Sweet Pea from Teri Ranken

Tango, Blue & Beau from Lark Bucqueaug

Bodie from Cynda Green

Becky & Lumi from David & Edith Blake

Orange Coleman from Victoria & Paul Coleman

Brootle & Cyp from Roger & Judy Puryear

Shadow from Stephanie Boucher

Sampson from Susan Snyder

Clarke Skaggs & Chris Switch from Winfred Plager

Blaze from Michael Neals

Tanner, best pup ever from Claudia Howley

Pat McKenzie from Michael Hardy

Archie. Our lovable man-cat from David Minor

Pat White from Lynn & Melody Munyan

My precious boy, Ozzie from Jacqueline Sitts

Shane Greenberg from Mark Guettig & Judy Greenberg

**Memorial Bricks**

In Memory of Nolan Olsen from Susan & Lynn Welsford

In Memory of Snowball “Cutest Little Thing”-1/6/2007 -11/26/2021 from Sherry Trujillo

In Memory of our Beloved Lady Stormie USA from Ruben & Lena Mesa

In Memory of Pat McKenzie from Elizabeth Bruce

Sweet Douglass from Julie Nelson

Fond Memories of Pat McKenzie from Anne Plachy
Barkus Parade and Penguin Plunge a Great Success!

We just want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone and every pet that joined us for our 6th Annual Barkus Parade! We are also incredibly appreciative of our brave (and maybe a little crazy??) Penguin Plungers who helped raise a record-breaking $4,490 in support of our animal shelter. Thank you to everyone who joined, participated and donated - we can't do what we do without you!

On January 22, dozens of dogs showed up in their best costumes to strut their stuff through downtown to raise awareness for our organization. The Barkus Parade was once again organized and sponsored by our generous partners at The Lost Cajun, thank you for your ongoing support! "Best Dressed" went to Barley in his adorable and colorful llama herder costume. icing on the cake - Barley is a senior dog who was recently adopted from our shelter by a loving local family.

After the parade, five daring plungers were cheered on by hundreds of spectators as a part of the Annual Pagosa Springs Penguin Plunge, where individuals are encouraged to jump into the freezing San Juan River to raise funds in support of their favorite charities. This year, Pat, Robyn, Amber, Grace and Briana braved the cold waters of the San Juan River to generate much-needed funds that will help us continue to provide quality care and shelter to our community's animals in need. We are so grateful for all you do for our organization and animals. A special thanks to Pat for his 6th year plunging on behalf of HSPS!

Community partners, donors, volunteers and supporters are the backbone of our organization. Thank you so much for once again showing up to support the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs!
Humane Society of Pagosa Springs
Administration Office
279 Pagosa Street • P.O. Box 2230
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(970) 264-5549
www.humanesociety.biz
hsadmin@humanesociety.biz
hsdirector@humanesociety.biz

Animal Shelter
465 Cloman Boulevard, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Mon-Sat 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Sun 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
(970) 731-4771 | sheltermanager@humanesociety.biz

Humane Society Thrift Store
279 Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Mon-Sat 9:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.
(970) 264-6424 | hsthriftstore@humanesociety.biz

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SATURDAY, APRIL 2 FROM 3-5PM
AT THE PLPOA CLUBHOUSE
230 PORT AVE, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147

Every spring, our shelter is overwhelmed with kittens and puppies in need of care until they are ready for adoption. We hope to see you at our 1st Annual Animal Shelter Baby Shower to support your local Humane Society and the upcoming puppy and kitten season. Light snacks, drinks, games and more will be provided!

ENTRY FEE: $25 TICKET PRICE
Limited number of tickets available!
Visit www.hspagosa.org or call 970-264-5549 to purchase your ticket today!

BUY TICKETS AND PURCHASE BABY SHOWER GIFTS AT WWW.HSPAGOSA.ORG