

Dog’s survival the work of many hearts, hands

SADIE, from Page 8a

who had called the university to alert them of her arrival. When they reached the hospital, she said, she was greeted by three people who came out with a gurney.

A team of veterinarians checked out Sadie that night and determined they could help her. Fairbanks did not want to put Sadie through painful procedures, but doctors reassured here that they could control her pain.

“I will not let her suffer,” she told the doctors. “and I do not want her to be in a lot of pain. I want her to be like a normal dog.”

The team started by shaving Sadie from her nose to her tail, exposing the burns that covered her back. Doctors estimated that burns covered 40 percent of her body.

Even with the extensive injuries, Fairbanks said, no one ever suggested putting Sadie to sleep. She said Sadie’s back was covered with thick black leathery dead skin that they had to remove before they could treat the burn.

They used hydrotherapy, submerging her in a whirlpool to debride, or remove, the dead tissue.

After the treatment, her doctors would wrap Sadie in bandages from head to foot to keep the wound free from infection.

“They did that every day for weeks,” Fairbanks said, adding that the treatment took about 1 1/2 hours a day. When Sadie wasn’t undergoing the hydrotherapy and wrapping, she said, they tried to manage her pain.

“I was convinced,” Fairbanks said, “that she was not in a lot of pain.”

While in the hospital, Sadie still wasn’t eating well and had to be fitted with a feeding tube. Even forced, the dog still lost a lot of weight.

Fairbanks tried to visit often, and her daughter Stephanie, who was in her first year at K-State, made several visits to the animal hospital.

When Fairbanks wasn’t there, she knew Sadie was in good hands with her assigned senior student, first Aubrey Alfaro, then Jerry Smith and last Danielle Pokorny. The students, she said, were required to call their dogs’ families every day to report progress.

“They never missed a day,” she said. “I got a call every single day.”

When the dead skin was removed, six weeks after she was admitted, Sadie got to go back home for a time to let the wounds heal before surgery.

Fairbanks said she was nervous about caring for her dog, but got detailed instructions.

She learned to give Sadie tube feedings and antibiotic shots. She also learned how to keep the large wound clean with more hydro-

Sadie’s ordeal

Sadie the dog has fully recovered from a fire that almost took her life. Here's what it took:

- 60 days in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Kansas State University
 - 36 days in the intensive care unit at the hospital
 - 19 doctors to care for her
 - 17 students to help.
 - 29 hydrotherapy sessions at the hospital.
 - 5 surgeries
 - 18 hours and 40 minutes in surgery
 - 30 prescriptions
 - 7 hospital services, including soft tissue surgery, internal medicine, an-esthesia, radiology, laboratory, dispensary and dermatology
- Information from the Fall 2004 edition of the Animal Life, a Kansas State University magazine.*

therapy at home.

“I’d never even given a shot,” she said, “I thought ... how am I going to do this?”

Fairbanks said every day, she turned her daughter’s downstairs bathroom into a sterile environment, washed Sadie in pure water and then wrapped the dog in bandages covered with pure, unprocessed honey to speed healing.

Sadie went back to Manhattan on Feb. 3 for back surgery.

Fairbanks said the doctors considered several treatments, but decided to stretch the skin to close the wound. They made several slits along the burn, she said, and then the doctors stretched the skin together and stapled it along the line. Then, to loosen the skin, they made circular incisions along both sides of the closure.

“I thought, ‘Is she ever going to be the same?’” Fairbanks said.

Sadie went home again after the surgery and then returned for a final surgery, on her head, on April 6, 2004.

Fairbanks said even though much of her treatment must have hurt her, Sadie never fought anything.

“She had to have some sort of will to live through that,” she said. “Any other dog would have died from the stress”

Although she has completely healed today, Fairbanks said, she will always have the scars.

“I was never worried about how she looked cosmetically,” she said, noting that Sadie almost always wears a T-shirt or jacket.

She said the clothes protect the scars from sun exposure, keep her warm in places she is still missing hair and help cut down on the shock factor when they go on walks.

“We just turn all the mirrors around,” Fairbanks laughed, “and call her ‘pretty dog.’”

Recently Sadie went back to Oakley for a checkup, and Dr. Swartz gave her a clean bill of health.

She said they were worried about some internal problems, scaring on Sadie’s lungs and heart complica-

tions, but she checks out just fine.

Dr. Swartz keeps in touch with the doctors at the university, updating them on the dog’s progress.

Today, Sadie’s care includes keeping the scars healthy.

“Annette’s been very good about keeping them protected from the sun,” Dr. Swartz said.

Sadie wears T-shirts and has a specially made jacket originally

Fairbanks family loves their pets

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

It didn’t take a tragedy for the Fairbanks family to know they love animals.

Although Jerry and Annette Fairbanks demonstrated endless devotion to their dog Sadie after she was burned in a kennel fire last year, the family has always loved their pets.

Annette Fairbanks said while growing up, her children, David, Christi and Stephanie, always kept pets.

“We’ve always had a family dog,” Fairbanks said, “and the kids have all had pets growing up.”

Picking out the perfect dog, in Sadie’s case, was easy for the family.

Fairbanks said since she works at home for a title insurance company,

she needed the companionship of a dog.

To find a new dog, she took Stephanie to a private breeder about four years ago to pick out a Labrador. She said they went into the breeder’s back yard and started to choose from a large selection of puppies.

Instead of playing, like the other dogs, Sadie came right up to Stephanie, sat down and looked up at her. She said they couldn’t resist the adorable dog and so they took her home.

“Sadie kind of picked us out,” she said.

The now 4-year-old yellow lab was caught in a kennel fire when the Fairbankses went out of town. Sadie suffered burns on 40 percent of her body and needed treatment from the

Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Kansas State University.

Stephanie, a student at the university, visited the dog while she was in the hospital and reported back to her mom.

The family cared for the dog after surgery and nursed her back to health.

Today, Sadie is full of energy and Fairbanks said she acts the same as before the fire.

After all they went through with her recovery, Fairbanks said, Sadie now has the run of the house.

“She’s so spoiled,” she said.

“After what she’s been through, I have a hard time not spoiling her.”

Sadie does, however, have to share some of the family’s attention with their cat, Patches.

at how well Sadie recovered.

“They called her their miracle dog,” she said. “It just shows that if you have a good spirit and a will to live, everything can be OK.”

Worship warms the heart



Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Small Group Ministries
Wednesday: Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
1st & 3rd Sunday: 4 pm

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister:
Youth Minister:
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children’s Classes: 7 pm

Word of Life

Joursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Service Schedule:
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids’ Church: 10:30 am
First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

Pleasant Home Church

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694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Glenn Hermanson
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: John Park Winkler

Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men’s and Women’s Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
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Kanorado

United Methodist

Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: John Meckling
Fifth & Center • 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
9:15 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Bible study 7 p.m.
Call church for information
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969
Sr. Warden for emergencies
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 890-6423
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Christian eduction/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

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