

# ‘Miracle dog’ survives fire

SADIE, from Page 1a

“The building was completely disintegrated,” he said.

He said the building had been used for breeding dogs for almost 20 years and the electricity was all in conduits. He said the licensed boarding facility was regularly inspected, too.

Fairbanks said that night, the wind was from the northwest and Sadie was in the cage that was farthest to the south.

“Sadie was the worst burned,” she said. “We think she got the brunt of the heat.”

“It was a real windy night in November,” Bentzinger said.

The kennel had indoor rooms that were heated and air conditioned, he said, and the dogs had access to the outside through automated doors. He believes none of the dogs would have survived if they hadn’t be able to escape to the covered outside area.

“That big roof outside,” he said, “I think that’s what deflected the heat.”

Dr. Gary Smith at the Prairieland Animal Clinic in Goodland was the first to see the dogs and he said none of them had visible burns. Since the burns were caused by heat, he said, some of the sores surfaced over time.

“As far as having places that were burnt,” Smith said of his first encounter with the dogs, “you didn’t see any.”

He said Sadie was acting hurt and in shock, so he took her back to the clinic. The other dogs were checked and then released to their owners.

Smith said he hooked Sadie up to antibiotics, oxygen and gave her pain medication. He said they did blood work on the dog and put her in the bath first thing.

“I give him credit,” Fairbanks said, “for basically saving her life right from the start.”

She said Sadie seemed to be in shock and while in the clinic, she refused to eat and would urinate black from the smoke inhalation.

After almost a week, she was not getting better. Fairbanks said Smith decided Sadie was probably just depressed and sent her home.

Looking for a second opinion, Fairbanks took the dog to Dr. Tammy Swartz, a 1999 Kansas State University graduate, at the Oakley Veterinary Service.

“I just wanted someone else to look at her,” she said. “(Sadie’s) part of the family.”

Dr. Swartz said she started by treating the two visible burn spots on the dog. She said through the treatment, they noticed Sadie’s hair was hiding a lot of her burns.

Since the largest burns were not caused by direct contact with the fire, Dr. Swartz said, the hair was not singed, but the skin underneath had died.

“It was a horrible, horrible burn on her back,” said Fairbanks as she examined a photograph. “It was like a bad, bad sunburn covered up by hair.”

After hooking Sadie up with fluids and antibiotics Dr. Swartz did blood work and discovered some internal problems. She said that was when she decided to call the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at Kansas State University in Manhattan for help.

“We just don’t have a 24-hour ICU (intensive care unit),” she said, adding that Sadie needed extensive reconstructive surgery and the isolation available at the hospital. “I send dogs to K-State all the time.”

The hospital was willing to take on the case, and Fairbanks said she would take her to K-State that day. She said they loaded the patient up in the back of her car with an IV rig and everything.

“It looked like a mobile MASH unit,” she recalled with a laugh.

On the drive to the university, Fairbanks said, she got several check-up calls from Dr. Swartz,

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Aubrey Alfaro (right), one of the senior students assigned to care of Sadie, helped to calm her through a hydrotherapy session. Students and doctors went through 29 hydrotherapy sessions with Sadie as they removed the burned, dead skin from her back. Sadie was wrapped from head to tail in bandages after every session.

Photos provided by Annette Fairbanks

## Cost of saving a pet can soar

The cost of losing a companion, a beloved pet, can be pretty high, but the cost of saving an animal that is sick or injured can soar, too.

Annette Fairbanks went down that road with her dog Sadie who was burned in a kennel fire. Sadie suffered burns on 40 percent of her body and required surgery, special therapy and a long stay in the K-State veterinary hospital.

“It was very expensive,” said Fairbanks, adding that she didn’t feel comfortable talking about the details. Making a decision that many couldn’t afford, she said she took Sadie to the vet when they found her after the fire and started treatment before they knew how extensive her injuries were.

Sadie ended up going from the Prairieland Animal Clinic in Goodland to Oakley Veterinary Service and then on to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the Kansas State University.

“It really snowballed,” Fairbanks said, “but you do what you have to do.”

The dog was admitted to the university hospital, where she stayed for 60 days. Sadie was in the intensive care unit for 36 days and she underwent 29 hydrotherapy sessions, water therapy to remove dead skin from her burns before they could be treated. She had five surgeries and required services from seven branches of the hospital.

Fairbanks said the bills kept piling

up until she and her husband Jerry finally went and took out a loan.

“It would be a definite hardship for anyone,” she said, adding that once the treatments started, they felt like they couldn’t just quit.

Not only did Sadie’s treatment cost the Fairbankses financially, but emotionally, too. Fairbanks devoted her time to Sadie, performing hydrotherapy in their home after she was released. She worried about the treatments, Sadie’s surgeries and her pain level.

Seeing Sadie healthy, Fairbanks said it was worth all the expense.

“The main concern was just getting her healthy,” she said. “She leads a pretty normal life. She’s happy.”

## Kennel fire in 2003 hurt five dogs

By Kathryn Burke

*The Goodland Star-News*

A kennel fire on Nov. 22, 2003, took the life of one dog and injured four, including the Fairbanks family’s Sadie.

Harley, a 4-year-old golden haired German shepherd-golden retriever mix, died 10 days after the fire from injuries.

“I fell in love with that dog,” said Harley’s owner, Christie Rasure. “They become like family members.”

She said the family kept Harley as a foster dog for the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter. Rasure, a self-professed cat lover, said Harley had helped her get over a fear of dogs.

“I miss Harley,” she said, “because he was my companion and he was my protector.”

The Rasures had left Harley and Max, their 10-year-old black German shepherd foster dog, at the 4-B Boarding Kennel, just west of Goodland, when they went out of town for a convention in Kansas City, Kan. When they returned three days later, they discovered their dogs had been in the kennel fire.

Harley had just gone through a procedure to treat the burns, she

said, when he died from complications.

“Harley would not have made it as long as he did if it wasn’t for the care Dennis and Dorothy (Bentzinger, owners of the 4-B Boarding Kennel) gave him,” Rasure said. “That shows how much care they give them.”

Max had a few burns, she said, but with his thick coat, they are still discovering more marks. She said they treat the burns with cream, and Max seems to have fully recovered from the ordeal.

Two more dogs, Jacks and Sophie, owned by Deborah and Terry Martin, were victims in the kennel fire.

“It was awful,” said Mrs. Martin. Both dogs were initially treated and then released. Sophie, a 4-year-old medium mixed breed dog, only had minor wounds but, Martin said, she was traumatized by the fire. Burns on Jacks, a 4-year-old black lab, surfaced over the next couple of weeks.

Like Sadie, Jacks needed hydrotherapy on the serious burns on his back, shoulders and leg.

Martin said Terry took several trips to the Oakley Veterinary Ser-

vice for medication and treatment for Jacks. The dog even spent three days in Oakley where he was given more intense hydrotherapy, strong pain relievers and antibiotics.

She said Terry turned a large downstairs shower into their hydrotherapy station to clean Jacks’ wounds.

“It was a lot of work,” Martin said, “and a lot of time.”

Although Jacks’ injuries were not as severe as Sadie’s, Martin said he still has places that will not grow hair. She said Jacks didn’t fully recover until spring last year, but he acts fine today.

“It’s just unbelievable,” Martin said, “what they can pull through with love.”

The three families, the Fairbankses, Rasures and Martins, have spent a lot of time together through the dogs’ healing.

“I check in with Annette (Fairbanks) often,” Martin said, “to see how Sadie is doing. Jerry and Annette have just been great.”

Rasure says she sometimes has trouble seeing Sadie because it reminds her of Harley.

“Every time I see Sadie,” she said, “I cry because I want Harley back.”

Colby Community College — Goodland Outreach							
Spring 2005							
<b>Goodland Enrollment:</b>							
Wednesday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00-4:30 p.m. MT; Northwest Kansas Technical College Murray Center							
Wednesday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. MT, at the Goodland High School Cafeteria							
<b>Note:</b> Please register in advance for ITV classes so textbooks and handouts can be made available.							
Course Number	Course Name	Instructor	CR	Tuition + Fees	Place	Time	Start Date
<b>MONDAY</b>							
EN 176	English Composition I	L. VanLoenen	3	\$171	GHS - 226	6:00-9:00 pm	1/10
ML 237	Spanish Composition & Conversation --- ITV	Susan Hall	3	\$171	Murray Center	6:00-9:00 pm	1/24
<b>TUESDAY</b>							
ED 177	Foundations of Modern Education --- ITV	C. May	3	\$186	Murray Center	5:30-8:30 pm	1/18
EN 108	Personal & Technical Writing	L. Rossbach	3	\$171	Murray Center	5:30-8:30 pm	1/11
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>							
PH 103	Earth Science	D. Friedrichs	5	\$325	GHS Tech.Bldg.	6:00-9:00 pm	1/12
PH 103L	Earth Science Lab	D. Friedrichs	0	\$0	GHS Tech.Bldg.	6:00-9:00 pm	1/12
HE 101	Basic Nutrition --- ITV	J. Thyfault	3	\$186	Murray Center	6:00-9:00 pm	1/12
<b>THURSDAY</b>							
HI 177	American History 1865 to Present	R. Walz	3	\$171	Murray Center	3:30 pm	1/20
ED 129	Advanced Signing Exact English	M. Fisher Haskins	2	\$114	GHS ITV Room	5:00-7:00 pm	1/20
<b>MONDAY / WEDNESDAY</b>							
PI 276	Introduction to Ethics --- ITV	M. McVay	3	\$186	Murray Center	3:00-4:30 pm	1/12
AL 105	Nurse Aide I	S. Pearson	2	\$114	Good Sam	6:00-10:00 pm	3/2
AL 106	Nurse Aide II	S. Pearson	3	\$171	Good Sam	6:00-10:00 pm	3/2
<b>MONDAY / THURSDAY</b>							
MA 169 B	Survey of Mathematics	J. Oesterreich	3	\$171	Murray Center	4:35	1/6
<b>MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / THURSDAY</b>							
BA 177	Human Relations	S. Calliham	3	\$171	Murray Center	3:35-4:30 pm	1/6
MA 178	College Algebra	J. Oesterreich	3	\$171	Murray Center	2:35-3:30 pm	1/6
MA 169 A	Survey of Mathematics	J. Oesterreich	3	\$171	Murray Center	3:35-4:30 pm	1/6
PS 176	General Psychology	S. Calliham	3	\$171	Murray Center	2:35-3:30 pm	1/6
<b>MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / SATURDAY</b>							
AL 110	Medication Aide	S. Pearson	4	\$228	Good Sam	6pm MW 10am S	2/2
<b>WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY / SATURDAY</b>							
PE 177	Personal & Community Health	J. Helmut	3	\$171	Murray Center	4:00-6:00 pm WF 8:00am-12:00 S	1/5
<b>FRIDAY/SATURDAY</b>							
SP 106	Interpersonal Communications --- ITV (Meets 3 weekends of April 8-9, 15-16, 22-23)	S. Calliham	3	\$171	Murray Center	5:00-10:00 pm F 8am - 5 pm S	4/8
PS 225	Death & Dying	Staff	1	\$67	Murray Center	TBA	TBA
PS 111	Cults	Staff	1	\$67	Murray Center	TBA	TBA
PS 162	Topics in Applied Psychology - Sports Psychology	Staff	1	\$67	Murray Center	TBA	TBA
<b>TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)</b>							
EN 177	English Composition II	L. VanLoenen	3	\$171	GHS - 226	TBA	TBA
AR 123	Intro. to Crafts (Stained Glass)	C. Kickler	3	\$171	TBA	TBA	TBA
	G.E.D. / Adult Basic Education	Staff	NC		Murray Center	TBA	TBA
<b>DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES AT GHS</b>							
EN 177 A	English Composition II	L. Van Loenen	3	\$171	GHS-226	1:58-3:20 Black	1/18
EN 177 B	English Composition II	L. Van Loenen	3	\$171	GHS-226	12:33-1:55 Gold	1/18
EN 177 C	English Composition II	L. Van Loenen	3	\$171	GHS-226	1:58-3:20 Gold	1/18
MA 178 A	College Algebra	J. Elliott	3	\$171	GHS - 222	7:50-9:12 Gold	1/18
MA 178 B	College Algebra	J. Elliott	3	\$171	GHS - 222	12:33-1:55 Black	1/18
Tuition indicated is for Kansas residents only. Refer to tuition note below for non-resident rates.							
Tuition is \$57.00 per credit hour for Kansas residents; \$99.00 per credit hour for non-residents; \$70.00 per credit hour for special non-residents. Some classes have additional fees. Special non-residents are any residents of Colorado and Nebraska.							
There is a single \$5.00 per semester Tech Fee assessed to each student.							
ITV classes require pre-registration and have an additional \$5.00 per credit hour fee. Contact Sharon Hall							
A Colby Community College counselor will be available at both enrollments to answer questions on financial aid, graduation requirements, and career options.							
For additional information contact: Sharon Hall (785) 899-5930							
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