



## Chris & Ommie & Ava



Karen Cain recently received a text from Street friends Ommie & Chris (both artists) and their pup, Ava. Ommie and Chris decided to leave Santa Fe this summer after being viciously attacked on the Street. Leaving to find a new start somewhere else that felt safer.

**"Update:** We are in Kansas now. I wish I could say doing well, but we are still unhoused and starting back at square one on our quest for housing. The one thing that makes the struggle bearable, and gives me strength to fight another day, is knowing I fight not for me but that entire ragamuffin family in that picture above. A family that would have been scattered and lost if not for you my dear. We love and miss you so much. We will have our happy ending someday I know. . .and all this struggle is to help us be able to appreciate and protect it when it comes. We can never thank you enough for all you have done for us. We pray this finds you well, and well blessed always, and in all ways,

**You are a rock,** a constant in a never-ending flow of change trauma and unknowns we always know you are a phone call or text away with your support loving words and most importantly your willingness to listen help and take action all with your Southern charm, as sweet as a big ole glass of sweet tea.

**We love you** and hope our paths cross again. We will have a happily-ever-after and want you there to celebrate it with us. We are still creating art. I've gone from cactuses to sunflowers in my painting from desert to plains lol

**Don't forget to take care of "Karen".** . . you're no good to anyone dead, dear, and contrary to some thinking we need rest before our death. I always said I'll rest when I'm dead. I wish had taken more time to just breathe and be in the moment. I feel I would have made better decisions and possibly not be where we are today if I had. Just know, even if our phone is stolen, lost, or broken, I will always reach back out when the means are in place.

**We will hopefully be inside soon . . .** until we get the affordable housing, which they say is only a few months here, we will make do. Mainly getting our documents in line seems to be the holdup at the moment. We truly are starting back at square one.

**We spent everything on travel** and getting camping gear together this month and for a dental emergency Chris had recently. Thank God for our art and people dumb enough to buy it lol . . . talk to you soon. *Be blessed always, and in all ways."*

*Sometimes Love Has No Address*

Street Stories





# Dot & Crissy

When an emergency or injury happens to any animal it's a devastating moment. But when it happens to a companion animal of a Street family, it is terrifying! That's why SHAP can be called any time, day or night, to help an animal in dire circumstances.

### **Karen Cain's account of the terrible emergency Street ordeal of Crissy and her beloved pup Dot:**

I had just arrived home around 5 pm after a long October day when I got a phone call from a good Samaritan--reaching out for help for Crissy and her beloved pup Dot. With screams in the background, he told me Dot had been stabbed, and I needed to get over there now. Dot was bleeding badly and needed to go to the hospital. When I asked what had happened, a frantic Crissy jumped on the call, and said "please, please, come now!"

As I jumped back in the SHAP truck, I asked for their location and got there quickly. After getting Dot and Crissy in the truck, we sped off to Smith Veterinary Hospital, but found they weren't open for urgent care! So, we sped off again to Roadrunner Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital in Aldgodones. Since Dot was bleeding so badly, we were not sure she was going to make it but kept praying for her. On the entire trip, Crissy was pressing hard on Dot's wounds to keep her alive -- there was one wound in her neck and one in her side. It felt like one of the longest rides of my life!

I called ahead to tell Roadrunner we were on our way with a seriously injured dog who had been stabbed. Then, on the road, we got caught up in the middle of an accident! Traffic was backed up. Finally, after 25 minutes, traffic cleared, and we sped away to Roadrunner again--still not sure if we would make it in time. When we finally got there, the staff rushed out to get Dot - she was spurting blood from her neck as they rushed her in for triage.



Dot's mom Crissy stood terrified and covered in blood -- so afraid that Dot was not going to make it. Soon the doctor came out to tell us that they must get the bleeding stopped ASAP. They'll have to do a blood transfusion because Dot had already lost so much blood. The vet said when the transfusion is done and the bleeding subsides, they can determine the severity of her injuries. I gave the OK for it to be done and said SHAP would cover the costs. Since Dot is only 3 years old, she had youth on her side (and lots of love around her).

We called Dr. Kelsey Dobesh at Smith Vet to discuss Dot's condition, and we all decided surgery was needed for Dot now. If the damage was somewhat limited, she could survive. Soon it was discovered that Dot had a severed jugular vein, but it could be repaired! Soon, the vet fixed up Dot's neck wound, as well as the deep wound on her side. Drainage tubes were placed in Dot's neck and side, and she was put on several medications. By late night, Dot was eating and alert! Her blood count was good! The next morning, we transferred Dot to Smith Vet in Santa Fe to continue her recuperation.

If we had not gotten Dot to the emergency vet just in the nick of time, she would not have made it. Dot had been stabbed with a fireplace poker in both her neck and side while her guardian Crissy was hit with the poker while trying to protect Dot.

So much gratitude to the fantastic vets at Roadrunner, a valued SHAP partner when emergencies strike. Also, thanks to all the super vets at Smith Veterinary Hospital where Dot recuperated for a week after surgery. They've been our main program clinic for 25 years! We couldn't do our work without them!

Dot went in to get her sutures removed on November 29--a post-Thanksgiving week blessing. Precious Dot is now reunited with her loving family and doing well! **Sending out a heartfelt thanks to the Donors giving generously to our Vet Fund this year to help in emergency care situations!**

Life on the Street



## Polly and Shadow



My name is Polly Rudolph and I have a precious, cute-as-a-button toy poodle named Shadow. He brings me such joy. If I did not have him, I'm not sure if I would have made it through the terrible ordeal, I went through exactly one year ago around Thanksgiving 2022.

And that brings me to Street Homeless Animal Project! And the wonderful love and attention from Karen Cain. Without SHAP, Shadow would not have had dog food, a coat, medical treatment, or a stroller (because he has a hard time walking during to his arthritis and splenectomy). He has no teeth and is just a wonderful companion.

Last year our apartment was condemned, and we were given just two days before Thanksgiving to vacate. We had nowhere to go. We were now homeless, and my car was towed by the city of Española, and my employer had passed on. It was not a good time.

I was fortunate that I got to Consuelo's Place. It is a good shelter. Then, with the help of Life Link and Lara Yoder, we found housing. I am now working, and Shadow is doing great!

SHAP has been a blessing -- thanks to the people that run it like Karen and Peggy, but, also to its donors and the people who help fund it. I was never homeless before, and if you've never been there, it's a very unstable place mentally and physically.

I almost gave Shadow up for adoption because I felt I wasn't a good doggie mom having nowhere to go or not knowing what tomorrow would bring. I have Karen to thank for so much support and love this year. Some gifts are priceless, and you can't buy them. SHAP has truly taught me that *Sometimes Love Has No Address*.

**God Bless SHAP, and I am so grateful that they are there in times of need to help and support in times of need.**



# In Memory of Billy Wade Harris

## Tribute to SHAP Street Friend, Billy, and his Lettie Blu



A member of SHAP's Street family, Billy Wade Harris (age 59), passed away suddenly on February 2, 2023, while staying at the Coyote South Motel. SHAP had arranged temporary lodging for the ailing Billy, and his pup Lettie Blu (to recover after her recent spay at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter).

In the last two weeks of Billy's life, Karen Cain and SHAP had been checking in on and helping both Billy and Lettie with food and supplies almost every day. Karen even shared a long phone conversation with Billy in the morning before his collapse that same afternoon.

Billy was in and out of the hospital in his final days, but finally succumbed to his illness. On the day he fell gravely ill, Coyote South called for an ambulance, but sadly, Billy later died at the hospital. Precious Lettie was taken into care from the motel by Santa Fe County Animal Control and delivered safely to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.

The Shelter cared for Lettie until SHAP arranged for her to be privately boarded by the fantastic Santa Fe Tails (at no cost). Soon, Billy's family in Michigan made it to New Mexico to settle Billy's affairs and meet Lettie. They all fell in love with the pup when they met her and agreed Lettie must return to Michigan with them. Billy loved Lettie so much, and now his family will continue to love her. His pup Lettie Blu was Billy's only family in Santa Fe, and now she's part of Billy's Michigan family . . . in the place where he was born, raised, and loved.

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