

Linnea

Continued from Page A1

On May 30, 2008, Joseph Curl burglarized Dick's home and sexually assaulted and strangled her before setting her house on fire in an attempt to cover up evidence.

At the time, Linnea was a semester away from graduating from Front Range Community College and was taking the initial steps to apply to CSU's business school. Like many her age, Linnea wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do with her life, her family said. But she was kind and loving to friends, family and animals.

Opal Dick said the pet walk and adopt-a-thon is a way for her daughter's loving nature to still have an impact on the community even after death.

"This allows her to have a voice and still contribute to society even after her death," Opal Dick said. "She was a daughter and sister who was ever so loving and so considerate."

And as Gilva said, planning the event has aided the healing process because "being able to do something positive has helped." "That I know in my heart is



Linnea Dick's parents, Don, left, Opal Dick, middle, and her sister, Andrea Gilva, pose for a portrait Friday with Linnea's animals at the family's residence in Fort Collins.

Michael G. Seamans/The Coloradoan

Linnea is smiling about this event," Opal Dick said. "She's had a hand in this. As we make decisions, she helps guide us."

The event focuses on loving family, friends and animals, something for which Linnea had a propensity, her family said.

Linnea loved animals and sharing them with her family. She would take in stray animals and cared deeply for her Chihuahua, Lage. Once when forced to leave Lage with her mother for a period of days, she left a set of "Golden Rules" to follow. After instructions to prevent

the Chihuahua from urinating inside the house and causing other cleanup projects, the final rule helps sum up Linnea's loving nature: "Let him kiss you."

Linnea's kindness extended to other animals as well, including cats, lizards, fish and turtles.

A story about how Linnea took in one of her four cats exemplifies why her family chose to have proceeds from the June 6 event benefit local animal charities.

Gilva said a cat Linnea named Big Kitty used to wander near her home, so Linnea

Linnea Memorial Pet Walk and Adopt-a-thon

- > **What:** In memory of pet lover and animal advocate Linnea Dick, the event supports animal welfare through a pet walk, Chihuahua race, adoptable animals, agility demonstrations, pet product sales and educational tents about pet care and training. Proceeds will be distributed to local animal charities.
- > **When:** Registration begins at 8 a.m. June 6. The pet walk begins at 9 a.m., and activities last until noon.
- > **Where:** Spring Canyon Community Park
- > **How to register:** Online at www.linneamemorial.org/ registration. Information for mail-in and drop-off registration is also available at the Web site.
- > **Cost:** Pre-registration prices are \$20 per person and \$15 per person for a family of three or more. On-site registration prices are \$25 per person and \$20 per person in a family of three or more.

Event helps family's healing

Linnea Dick inspires loved ones to plan memorial pet walk, adopt-a-thon June 6

BY NATE TAYLOR

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When Andrea Gilva's 20-year-old sister, Linnea Dick, was murdered a year ago Saturday, she said she lost trust in people.

Page A2

Pet walk and adopt-a-thon details

But since January, when she started to plan a memorial pet walk and adoption in honor of her fallen sister, Gilva said her faith in humanity has begun to be restored.

"You begin not to trust anyone, and there are days that I still feel that way," said Gilva, who has been planning the memorial event scheduled for June 6 with friends and family. "But I wouldn't be as far along in the healing process if I wasn't doing the walk. This has reminded me there are good people in the world ... people like Linnea."

Gilva and her mother, Opal Dick, said they wanted Linnea's life to have more meaning than the events surrounding her death.

placed a found-animal advertisement and had a collar made with her cell phone number asking the cat's owner to call her. When no one called, Linnea took in Big Kitty and later gave the feline to her father as a gift.

"She loved animals, and they knew it," said Rose Carroll, Linnea's aunt. "She had that touch."

Carroll is a co-founder of Animal Rescue Connection, the lead sponsor of the event, and said donations and proceeds from T-shirt, pet tag and ornament sales will go toward

helping special-needs animals. "We hope the community comes and supports the family," Carroll said. "It's a fun day, and we want the community to have an enjoyable, positive, fun-loving day with animals."

One aspect of the memorial event Gilva and Opal Dick said will be particularly special to them is a Chihuahua race, which is something Linnea had planned to do with Lage before she died.

"We just continue to try and do things in her memory," Opal Dick said.