

FALL 2009

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STRAY RESCUE OF SAINT LOUIS
RESCUE NEWS
 Devoted to the welfare of animals everywhere

STRAY RESCUE OF SAINT LOUIS



Another four months have come and gone and Stray Rescue continues to feed and rescue the strays as fast as resources allow. Stray Rescue wouldn't exist without each one of you. Although we may have never met, I find comfort in knowing so many people love the dog and cats and partner with us to give them a second chance.

I want to extend my thanks to everyone who has helped us this year as well as those of who have been with us for many years. We hosted a few wonderful fundraising events since the last newsletter - Arf Noveau, Don't Dump the Dog book signing and our annual golf tournament. I deeply appreciate everyone who came to one or more of these events. I love meeting supporters and being around dog and cat people. You are my kind of folks!

With the holiday approaching, I hope all of you will consider a year end gift. The enclosed tribute envelope is a great way to save a stray in 'honor of' or 'in memory of' someone special or as a gift for the holiday season. Our 2010 calendar is extraordinary as well so maybe consider purchasing one as a holiday gift for your fellow animal loving friends and family. A recession doesn't stop the stray dog and cat epidemic and part of the solution to ending this crisis is you. From my heart to yours, have a wonderful holiday and thank you for being part of the Stray Rescue family.

WOOF!
Randy Grim
 Founder/Director

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING ...

After months of regrouping ... A NEW Design team is working with us ... we are ready to start work on Phase One, the "Life Phase" of the new center. This phase will include the Veterinarian Clinic along with kennels for the dogs in need of medical treatment. This stage will also allow the Stray Rescue staff to operate from the new building to better control the operations of SR along with managing the center. We are excited that we are finally beginning construction of the center, and we need your help to continue to build and finish this wonderful project!

It's not too late to truly show your support and be a part of the Stray Rescue family. There are many areas of the center that still are available for naming rights - dogs apartments, classrooms, a library, or you and your family or company can donate to help finish the construction of the center. We really need your help.

If you would like more information on the building, please email Kathleen England at kathleeneng@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Also, when we finally hit phase 3, those of you kind enough to buy a memorial brick will get to see they too will have a forever home at Stray Rescue. The bricks are still for sale. If interested, please contact Kelly at Kelly_strayrescue@charter.net or call 314-651-7126.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Still Volunteering After All These Years



Ramona Rossman

You never know where inspiration will strike. After seeing Randy Grim on television several times, Ramona Rossman felt compelled to act. She found Randy one day, in the middle of a rescue. "He was a bit distracted," she remembered, "but he seemed so sincere, I just had to do something." That "something" was stepping forward as a volunteer. Nine

years later, Ramona is a fixture at Stray Rescue, including working tirelessly behind the scenes at many fundraisers and fostering puppy litters.

As a nine-year veteran of the Stray Rescue trenches, there isn't much Ramona hasn't experienced. Her first assignment was the Saturday morning shift at the 18th Street shelter, a routine she maintained for five years. "I loved being with the dogs and puppies and didn't mind the time I spent there. I would often still be in the shelter when the noon shift would show up, just playing, petting and talking with everyone."

It's this creative drive and passion for animals that led Ramona to the development of the Arf Nouveau Art Show fundraiser. "I saw that a group was doing this in California. They were only focusing on art by the animals; I saw an opportunity to partner with local artists to create beautiful pieces that focus on Stray Rescue animals," she recalled. This fundraiser has been a hit with the St. Louis community since year one and continues to grow in size and scope.

Over the years, she's fostered and adopted several Stray Rescue dogs and puppies, preferring to work with the more challenging ferals. "I love working with the feral dogs. Trust is usually their biggest issue and it can take a long time before

Continued on page 3



CORN MAZE AMAZES

Stray Rescue wishes to thank Carol and Dale Boggs for choosing Stray Rescue as the beneficiary of their Corn Maze event at Golfport. Every weekend during October people enjoyed navigating their two corn mazes, straw maze and a game of mini putt golf. The largest corn maze was super cool because they had the Stray Rescue logo carved into it. We all think that was really awesome!



Chill

Chill is a stray dog that we watched for months but sadly were not able to rescue until recently. The stray problem is such an epidemic, numbering in the thousands, so we are forced to triage our rescues. Dogs that look like they can hang on are left behind, while those who have little time left are the ones we try to rescue. Why? The lack of space at the shelter and the lack of funding for medical care are the main reasons why we must triage.

Man can be downright evil and cruel at times. One such person felt it necessary to crush and mutilate parts of Chill's body and cut off one foot. Horrified best describes what we felt when Donna spotted her pulling her body across the ground. Her disfigured body made it impossible for her to scavenge for food or keep up with her pack of dogs that provided a sense of security and well being. For the month prior to rescue, we wondered where she was but now we know, she was unable to move. She was dying.

With urgency and two broken hearts, Chill's and my own, I rushed her to Veterinary Specialty Services for emergency care. What was left of this poor dog was a skeletal body from starvation, mange and barely any hair. Her flea infestation, the worst I have seen in 20 years, covered her eyes and gave the illusion of hair but her body frame was virtually hairless. With infections inside the bones of both legs, the severity of her wounds and severe anemia from the fleas, I braced my heart for the worst case scenario-euthanasia. After four days of touch and go, VSS called to tell me that Chill had stabilized. She would need to recover for many weeks or months before any additional surgeries could be considered as she was too fragile.

Now living with me, Chill's transformation of a once beaten down soul has begun. She is my little shadow. She has doubled her weight, and sports a beautiful coat of hair. But most of all she is happy. My pack at home knows when Dad brings home a sick kid, all have to be vital in making the new one feel safe and loved. Rosebud, my feral kid, taught Chill the joys of tug of war with a rope toy and the fun of a squeaky toy. She is on the mend both physically and emotionally.

Every morning I have to unwrap and rewrap her mangled legs and feet. It amazes me that she can give love to people knowing all the pain and suffering that she endured. On October 16th, she had her first surgery. Her "good" leg had the infected toes amputated which has left her foot resembling that of a chicken and she was spayed. The next surgery will be a full amputation on her "bad" leg below the ankle. As if on cue from the Dog Gods, a wonderful donor who owns a prosthetic company has offered to fit Chill with a new leg! Next comes some major rehabilitation. I predict after that, the day I have waited for since I held her dying in my arms will come, and Chill will be able to run!

I am forever grateful to everyone who sent in a gift in support of Chill. Over \$4300 has come in so far and Chill sends her appreciation to all of you, especially her "aunt" who sent a most generous gift. Welcome to your new home Chill, my home. Woof, Randy

ART SHOW

Over 800 people attended our 4th annual Arf Noveau Art Show on the evening of July 25. Over 35 local artists and 40 Stray Rescue dogs and cats created an awesome piece of art that was auctioned off at the end of the evening. This show is one of our most important fundraisers of the year and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and to those who purchased a piece of art as well.

We are especially grateful for our sponsors for this event: Barbara Strum, Purina, Carol House Furniture, Luvy Duvy's Cafe, Chippewa Animal Hospital, Four Muddy Paws, National City Private Bank, Metro East Industries, Inc. and Animal Care Service, Inc. Without their support, many more strays would not be saved and found a loving home. Please patronize these companies who care about animals!



WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD SOLUTIONS

Wolfgang's Pet Stop - How a Heartfelt Passion Turned a Dream into a Reality

It's always a given that bringing a new dog or puppy into your life will change you. In the case of Beth and Paul Ruppel, adopting Wolfgang from Stray Rescue changed not only their lives, but their careers, too.

Beth, a fourth-grade teacher at the time of Wolfgang's adoption in late 2002, was already a passionate advocate for adopting versus buying companion animals. A bad experience with another shelter, including the loss of that first puppy to parvo, still didn't dissuade this animal lover from her mission to adopt.

While searching for another shelter, she and Paul came across Stray Rescue. Intrigued by the goals of the organization, they decided to investigate the possibility of adopting from Stray Rescue. Still smarting from their previous encounter with the other shelter, they were a bit wary. "Jennifer, the Stray Rescue volunteer we met first, was very helpful. She really knew the dogs and puppies and zeroed in on the type of dog we were hoping to bring into our household," said Beth.

In short order, several puppies and dogs were identified as potential candidates. "We were slated to meet another dog at an adoption event; but the minute we met Wolfgang, Paul and I knew he was 'the one.'" The adoption was completed, and Wolfgang was theirs. But once home, the all-too familiar signs of parvo manifested in Wolfgang. "I was devastated all over again," Beth remembered. "I wasn't sure I could stand losing another puppy to this disease." A trip to the vet's confirmed their fears and Wolfgang stayed behind for treatment. Since parvo is difficult for puppies to recover from, the prognosis was bleak. Several days later, however, the Ruppel's received the call they'd hoped for: Wolfgang could come home Christmas Day.



Wolfgang and Beth Ruppel

"The amazing thing about Wolfgang's illness, other than the fact that he survived, is how Stray Rescue stepped in to pay the vet bills and monitor his - and our - progress through the ordeal. I was blown away," Beth said. So impressed was Beth by the experience, she created a class project for her fourth graders to gather supplies for Stray Rescue. It was also during this time that the seeds of her next project - to bring a pet boutique to the Central West End - were planted.

Wolfgang's offers a select variety of natural and holistic dog and cat foods and treats. Being a teacher helps Beth in her new role as nutrition educator for her customers. "Nutrition is so important for our animals, but many people don't take or have the time to think about it," she explained. "I love the chance to teach people how to read pet food labels, and understand what's going into the foods we sell, versus other foods you can buy that may be less expensive, but don't provide the nutritional content our animals truly need."

Beth admits, though, that her favorite part about running Wolfgang's are the adoption days. "I love having dogs on the sidewalk so people can walk by and meet them directly," she said smiling. "Those cute faces and wagging tails really get people's attention. I don't know how many dogs we've adopted out from our events, but I know they go over well!" Adoption events are another way Beth can use her teacher training - helping people unfamiliar with shelter dogs or who seem intent on "buying" a purebred dog to see the heart, love and personality these formerly unwanted dogs possess. "I can't get everyone to agree with me, but it's rewarding to talk with someone who is willing to take a second look and consider a shelter dog" added Beth. Wolfgang's hosts Stray Rescue adoption events on the second Saturday of each month.

DOG TRIVIA: DID YOU KNOW?

The number one breed in the UK, Canada and the USA is the Labrador Retriever
Pekingese dogs were carried in their owner's sleeves in Ancient China.

The first animal domesticated by man was the dog.

The first animal in space was a Russian dog named Laika.

Puppies have only 28 teeth while adult dogs have 42 teeth.

A dog's sweat glands are in their feet.

The number one health problem with dogs in the US is being overweight.

The first animal named to the hall of fame was Lassie.

At least 13 dogs perished with the Titanic.

Dogs are not color blind.

Poodles were originally trimmed so that they could swim better. The tufts were left because they were thought to keep their joints warm.

There are over 800 different kinds of dogs.



Still Volunteering (continued from page 1)

they 'get it.' But once they understand that people are okay, it's amazing to see how happy they can be."

This one-time accountant has chucked the corporate life for one that allows her independence and the ability to create her own schedule. Her business, *Paws Around Town*, caters to the needs of dogs and cats living in the mid-county corridor. She no longer spends her days creating spreadsheets and balancing ledgers. Instead, she cares for her four-legged clients through feeding, walking, playing and whatever else their guardians believe they need. While the work is demanding and never ending, she enthused, "It is hard work and I don't really get any days off, but I love what I do."

While Ramona loves dogs, she has a soft spot in her heart for cats, too. Before she left her former employer, she "adopted" a colony of feral cats living on the streets near her job. She joined forces with a couple that had been feeding the cats and took it upon herself to trap them and have them spayed or neutered. She still visits the cats several times a week to help with their care and feeding.

After nine years, Ramona can't imagine not being involved with Stray Rescue. When asked why she's lasted this long and still has such a strong passion for the work, she responded, "The thought of a dog living on the streets starving fuels me. I'm only one person, but I feel I'm making a difference."

Would you like to become a Stray Rescue volunteer?
To find out about volunteer opportunities, visit www.strayrescue.org
to fill out our volunteer application form or call 314-771-6121.

FROM OMAN TO STRAY RESCUE: CARLOS THE PIT BULL GETS A NEW LEASH ON LIFE IN THE U.S.

Carlos is the first dog that Stray Rescue has taken in from outside the United States. Although Stray Rescue is flooded with requests on a daily basis, on occasion there is that special dog that you just have to save regardless. Carlos is that dog. Here is his story written by a volunteer at Best Friends, the animal sanctuary in Utah that contacted Randy about helping Carlos.

He was just two-years-old, but had already been through a couple surgeries and improper cropping of his ears with rope. Just when there was hope his forever home had been found, he was returned with scars indicating he had been used in dogfights.

Lucky for Carlos, he had a guardian angel watching out for him. Paola Arango, a caring rescuer in Oman who has been re-homing dogs for three years, contacted Best Friends and pleaded for help from abroad to give this special dog the life he deserved.

Paola explained why she felt compelled to help Carlos. "He never demanded anything from me and he was always grateful for so little. He is so powerful and still possesses so much humility. He grew on me and his happiness became vital to my own; his happiness meant that I could finally forgive myself." She is thankful she did not listen to the many people who told her to give up Carlos.

Carlos arrived at Stray Rescue of St. Louis in September, and Randy Grim, the group's founder and director, played an integral role in rescuing Carlos.

The big goofy dog has already captured the hearts of many staff members and volunteers. Given his rough start in life, he is still very timid and afraid of his own shadow, but is starting to find happiness. It will take time and love for him to realize that people are not the enemy; to begin to trust, perhaps for the first time in his life.

Carlos will spend some time at the shelter before going into a foster home. After spending the last year without much human contact, he is fearful around people. Living at the shelter will expose him to many different people during the socialization process.

Back in Oman, Carlos seemed to have a special connection with female dogs, so Randy quickly introduced him to Ovaltine, a recently rescued mama dog. It was



Carlos

love at first sight (or sniff) for Carlos. Randy describes Ovaltine's personality as "... one of those rare rescue types that you don't [often] see. She must have channeled her "inner Lassie" for she is the closest thing to the perfect dog I have ever met. My idea was to let Carlos meet her and see if it changed his depressed, scared demeanor....and boy did it."

Although Ovaltine is easily adoptable, she has another purpose in life right now - to help Carlos come out of his shell by acting as his therapy dog. Said Randy, "they both now live in the shelter office (which is huge) and it is really a

romance....everyone started to cry. They play and just love each other."

Carlos' journey started with one caring person, but it took an army of many dedicated people behind the scenes to make his rescue happen.

Transporting a dog from Oman, a small country in the Middle East, to middle America is no easy feat. A coordinated effort of filling out the right paperwork, navigating airline regulations and U.S. Customs requirements, planning the logistics and relying on many individuals to do their role made this story a success.

His trip itinerary reads like a game of hopscotch across the Atlantic Ocean, where three was the magic number. Three continents, three countries, and three airports later, Carlos completed his 30-hour journey by air - getting his passport stamped along the way in Muscat, Oman, Amsterdam and Memphis. A 300-mile road trip to from Memphis to St. Louis is all that stood in his way to his new life. Gaynell Gallagher, a Stray Rescue board member stepped in to fulfill this final leg.

I found myself wondering why I cared so much for a dog I had never met. One look into his sad, deserted eyes was all it took for me to become attached. I guess I realize, as so many animal lovers do, that every animal on this earth deserves a chance to live a life free of pain and suffering. In many instances, humans have caused the pain and it is up to us to be a solution to the problem. I realized it does not matter whether the animal lives in my neighborhood or on the other side of the world, each one is special and worth saving.

Carlos is more than 10,000 miles away from where he first started, and it took almost one year of planning and 40 hours of traveling to make it to the beginning of his new life.

Carlos didn't just hit a homerun in life - he hit a grand slam.

2010 Calendar!

Our 2010 calendar is now available. Order forms can be printed from the website or you can send a check for \$18, which includes shipping, along with a note, and we will mail it to you. They can also be purchased at Four Muddy Paws, Three Dog Bakery, Wolfgang's Pet Stop, Treats Unleashed and Whole Foods Markets in Brentwood and Town & Country. Call 314-771-6121 for more information.

HEALTHY AGING: Focus on your Pet's Brain

Today, more dogs and cats are living well into their elder years. This means that, like grandma and grandpa, pets are more likely to suffer from a kind of dementia called cognitive dysfunction syndrome, or CDS.

CDS is a progressive disease of the brain in older dogs and cats and results in impairment in pet's memory, learning, perception, or awareness. Signs that your pet may have CDS are the following: disorientation, changes in interactions with humans and pets, sleep-wake cycle changes, house soiling and altered activity levels.

Guardians should look for signs like increased anxiety, loss of previously learned skills such as housetraining, nocturnal anxiety, altered appetite, changes in grooming (usually a decrease), and decreased responses to stimuli. In felines, the disease starts much later than in dogs. Dogs may exhibit symptoms at age seven while cats typically do not until 12-15 years of age. Cats may also

display a desire for more attention, become more jealous, be more irritable, be less mentally alert, and have altered sleep cycles.

If your pet exhibits one or more of these signs, talk to your veterinarian as your pet could have CDS or another ailment. There are a number of diseases such as organ disease, endocrine problems, hyperthyroidism and other brain diseases that can also cause similar symptoms. CDS is a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning that your veterinarian will have to rule out other diseases first.

There is no cure for CDS, but there are treatments. New drugs and new uses for existing drugs have evolved rapidly. Ask your veterinarian about the best treatment for your pet. Environmental enrichment such as exercise and toys and retraining for lost behaviors like house-training are important. Just as in humans, the 'use it or lose it' theory applies to pets.



Lonely Hearts Club

Bill was rescued from a very bad situation. It's obvious by his scars that he was used as a bait dog. But that hasn't stopped him from being one of the friendliest dogs we've ever rescued. He loves dogs, cats and ALL people. He's just an all-around great dog.



Bill



Lincoln

Lincoln was found near our shelter looking for a helping hand. Luckily one of the volunteers was able to coax him to the shelter. Scared and confused it took Lincoln several weeks before he would trust us. He's now a happy, friendly, playful boy who deserves a loving home.

Millie was basically a walking skeleton when found. Since her rescue she has put on some much needed weight and is happy to be off the streets. Millie loves people and gets along with other dogs, however, she needs to be in a cat free home. Millie would really love a family she can call her own.



Millie

Don't Dump the Dog

Randy's third book, *Don't Dump the Dog* debuted on August 1 and is now available in book stores nationwide as well as from Stray Rescue. In true Stray Rescue style, we celebrated this grand occasion. We are deeply grateful for all the Stray Rescue supporters who came to the afternoon book signing and an evening party. It was great to see so many of you join in our celebration. Even Rick Ankiel stopped by to lend his support! Jill Michelle Melan of Mad TV provided the entertainment for evening. We are very appreciative of our sponsors which made this special event possible. They include Robert and Barbara Bagby, People's National Bank, Purina, Moto Museum and Companion Animal Alliance.

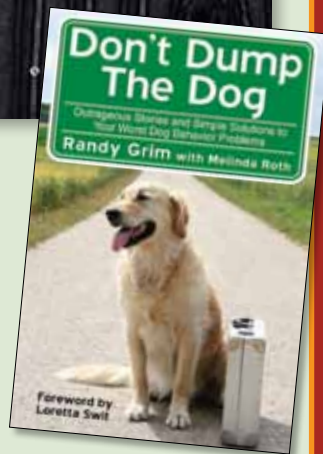


Randy Grim and Rick Ankiel at the Book Signing for *Don't Dump the Dog*

Did you know that approximately six to eight million pets are turned into shelters every year with approximately 50 percent of these pets being euthanized? Over the past 15 years, Randy and Stray Rescue, like all other animal welfare shelters, have heard every reason as to why someone surrenders the family pet to a shelter. While some reasons are unavoidable, many times it is because of a behavioral problem that could be corrected by the guardian and thus, save the life of their dog. Using humor to highlight the reasons and excuses people give, Randy

offers his solution to each problem as well as the advice of a professional in his new book. *Don't Dump the Dog* is guaranteed to make you laugh and realize how we humans need a just a bit of training too, in order to decrease the unnecessary euthanization of wonderful pets.

If you would like to purchase the book from Stray Rescue, please print the order form from www.strayrescue.org, send in a check for \$20 with a note for the soft cover version or call 314-771-6121 for more information.



TRIBUTES TO STRAY RESCUE FROM
MARCH - JUNE 2009

Tributes are a wonderful way to acknowledge the memory of a beloved person or pet as well as honor those who mean so much to you. Tribute forms can be printed from Stray Rescue's Web site - www.strayrescue.org and click on the 'How to Help' tab, then 'Donate to Stray Rescue' link.



IN MEMORY OF

- Goldie Bohlman**
Elizabeth Bohlman
- Ron Wohsen**
Mary and John Layton
- Dee Dee Cardwell**
Bob Bante
Amanda Bentrup-Loos
Julie Blow
George and Jo Ann Raterman
- Betty Jane Williams**
Lee Hunter
- Joey Dornfeld**
Marianne and gang
Rania Karim
- Ophelia Junger**
Mom and Athena
- Kora**
Charley Cromeans
- Willy**
Bob Speckert & Carole Cooper
- Kathleen Hardin**
Richard and Sharon Ethridge
James and Dorothy Hubel
Donald and Patricia Morrison
Julie and Rick Waller
Jacqueline Crotty
Joseph McCormick
Steve Best
- Terry Gerwitz**
Friends at Protective
- Winston**
Rich and Kath McFall
- Linda Roy**
Maria and John Crawford
- Rosie**
Susan Strauss
- Special Dog Sopot**
Jane and Mark Ginsberg
- Boone**
Joan and Arnie Jacobson
- Sega**
Vivian Feagan
- Daisy**
Terry and Mark Philipp
- Tinker**
Victoria Cernich
- Louis Elkins**
Norma Elkins
- Wags Elkins**
Norma Elkins
- Girl Paletta**
Norma Elkins
- Charlie Bannister**
Specialty Pharmacy
- Bailey Keiser**
Patti and Rick Wecke
- Ginger**
Susan Davidson
- Tommy Patches**
Cheryl Zabel
- Aubrey Nicole**
Cheryl Zabel
- Ellie**
Tina and Stan
- Robert Sears and Benny**
Averil Galloway
- Molly**
Susan Cottrell
- Candy Marie**
Virginia D'Andrea
- Lily Ann Wymer**
Sara Wymer
- Sushi & Cinder**
Ian and Lori Montgomery
- Veda Browne**
Jill Wellman
Chris Adler
Laura Waldmann
Amy Loone
Scott Mayer
- Jasmine**
Patti Wecke & Dawn Kelly
- Oliver**
Eddie Manoojian
- Klondike, Ivan, Emery**
Maria and Paul Rector
- Terry Meyer and Edna**
Geri King
- Willie**
David Nemerov & Diane Weber
- Sydney**
Nina Powers
- Joe Merrell**
Terry Merrell
- Mary Bet Eachenseer**
Lisabeth and Michael Danna
- Fran Naber**
Robert and Elizabeth Wernig
David and Cathy Naber
Fred Weber, Inc.
Paul and Lynda Rueff
Wm. & Lucille Kinder
Ed Haessig
- Terry King**
James King
- Roslyn Schulte**
Friends at Mo. Dept. of Revenue
- Judith Jackson**
MJ and Dad
- Coco**
Rae Padfield
Deb Dotson
- Mike Roberts**
The Wagner, Henning,
Diedrich Families
- Riggins**
Gail Baird
- Traveler & Hunter**
Gary and Pam Sides
- William Dean**
Mr. and Mrs. James Pierce
- Pearl Mueller**
The Raccagno Family
Brad Martin
Jennifer Martin
Andrew, Ben and Thomas
Angel Raccagno
Brian Moore & Maggie May
- Noelle Wilson**
The Port Family
- AJ Doyle**
Rob Wright and Lindsey Mizell
Chloe and Stella
- Bloss Martin**
Shirley Martin
- Taz**
Bob Meyer
- Little Grunt**
Gerald and Joanne Cope
- Jake Santos**
Amdocs co-workers
- K.D.**
Nancy Ferrell
- Thomas Stoops**
Roberta Lawson
- Bentley**
Madeleine Schmitt
- Slu**
Terri and Mark Philipp
- Kathy Lewis**
Terri and Mary Gallinger
Anita and Alan Seikert
Judy Fauch
Matthew Unterreiner
India Stevens
Michele Ruesler
The Lewis Family
April and Rick Moro
Janet Meyer and Bill Latz
Robert Miller
Sharon Jacobs
- Poco Voellinger**
Phil and Rosilee Trotta
- Molly Weissenbach**
Dennis and Peggy Goethe
- Barney and Clyde**
Tom and Michi Muchisky
- Lexie**
Donna Hartmann
- Sam**
Jerry Wise
- Frank Dover**
Lupe Morales
- Tori Smith**
Mark, Cathy, Curt, Aaron
- Terry King**
Donna Mueller
- Ozark**
Loretta Pulliam
- Lody Sigoloff**
Specialty Pharmacy
- Peachy Cobillas**
Peg Tyler
- Joyce**
Karen Hanna
- Amy Metzger**
Diane Metzger
- Matthew Quigley**
Robert & Judith Quigley
- Tiny**
Joy Lee
- Simon**
George and Mary Ann Tasch
- Gene Greer**
Jeanette Bruske
- Buddy**
Patricia Brueggeman
- Cinnamon**
Rosemary Cavallo
- Frank Danna**
Patricia Danna
- Duke Harte**
James Harte
- Tank Cella**
The Bradbury Family
- Bear Johnson**
Renee and Sarah Hirschfeld
- Elizabeth Kirk**
Sally Muehleisen
Donnie Jo Bild
Jim Mahfood
Mike Schicker
Don Wade
Charla Richardson
Debra Strauss
Linda Chandler
Karen Gist
- Bud Sitton**
Martha Faris
Mr. and Mrs. Langenhorst
Jessica Hawkins & Jeff Kleine
Debra and Jeremy Young
Pat and Dale Bremerkamp
Patt Holt Singers
- Mary Knubley**
Technisonic Studios
- Charlie**
Joyce Salemon
- Bertha May Meyers**
Rosemarie Garcia
- Rose Becherer**
Jim Milligan
Sue Spring
Johnny and Joey
- Fred Winters**
Ebbie Boom
- Shelby**
Pam Capp
- Sampson and Caesar Brown**
Specialty Pharmacy
- Sandy Ambos**
Nikki and Keith Freber
- Buster**
Pat and Al Reinhardt
- Wicket**
Dennis and Marilyn Casey
- Slu Maschek**
Erin Davidson
- Fuzzy**
Bob and Barb Brasses
- Roadie Fybo**
Karen Bradbury
- Gordon McCandless**
Drs. Terry and Jeanne Rohen
- Cathy Watts**
Tom and Chris Counts
- Cletis Elledge**
Sandy Geissler
- Richard Selby**
The Parker Family
- Mr. Pugsley**
Jill and Gary Lewis
- Clancy**
Donald Walter
- Steven Denney**
Jean Roither
- Penelope**
Kathleen Morrison
- Mr. Bojangles**
The Pet Studio
- Virginia Smith**
Rosalie Flood
- Rose Ann Pruess**
Susan Leudde & Lacy
- All my dogs**
Leota Nickels
- Cobi**
Tim and Jan Cerny
- Roxy Siteman**
Nancy, Scooby and Lucy Berg
- John Pahlmann**
Sherry Gilbert
- Danny Long**
Sandy Geissler
- Edna Safron**
Dolores O'Leary
- Mike Riley**
Chas. Middlekauff
- Mittens Hicks**
Specialty Pharmacy
- Davy Gunn**
Bob and Barb Niebrugge
- Skippy Ferguson**
Ann Winklemann
- Steven Farrow**
Rob, Gayle, Griffin, Lainey & Daisy
- Casey**
David Nemerov & Diane Weber
- Joseph Hensley**
Janice and George Hartman
- Duke**
David and Patricia Lindsey
- Dawn Gilbert**
Judy Finnegan
- Rosie O'Shaughnessy**
Marian Watson
- Ron Ortyl**
Gayle Wambergue
Alberta Ortyl
Gayle Ortyl
Pat Ortyl
- Whisky, Maggie, Ginger, Paco**
Louis Ranzini
- Spot, Toby and Scout**
Emery Saladin
- Laci**
LaVerne Wiest
- Hugo I, Hugo II, Lucy**
Don Daugherty
- Marian Stillman**
Nick and Susan Cassimatis
- Angel**
Linda Landzettel
- Sam**
Judy Ugalde
- John O'Connor**
Jim and Sue Taylor
- Elly**
Beverly Rennich
- Baby**
Joan Zacheis
- Dennis Kannady**
Kelly Kannady
- Tiffany**
Barb and Harry Schukar
- Jeanette Beckman**
Craig and Sonia Wagner
Donna Robinson
John Junger
Don, Kathleen and Mike
Marianne Junger
- Missy Vogelsang**
Marianne and gang
- Marjorie Fitzgerald**
Jim and Sue Taylor
- Rinty and Kootchy**
Frances Dohr
- Lilly**
Lynne Cobb-Burch
- Mike Chuckroy**
Ruth Timming
- Bascomb Mothers**
Dale and Laurie Dendtler
- Susy**
Marie McGeehan & Matt Connelly
- Cutie**
Susan Davidson
- Maxie and Hampton**
Debby Stahi & Joe Erlanger
- Dave Joyce**
Randy and Debbie Schulman
- Gloria Jean Goldfried**
Jean and Jerry Schneider
- All the wonderful dogs**
Karen and John Finch
- Abby**
Cindy and Ted Hoffman
- Hannah Blumoff**
Marilyn Blumoff
- Kora**
Marianne Cromers
- Jane Johnson**
Deb and Rex Rice
- Fred Sweeney**
Linda Nine
- Ginger**
Jan and Tim Cerny
- Mary Dolan**
Friends at Grace Hill
- Spirit**
Joann Radil
- Bernard Dixon**
Specialty Pharmacy
- Casey Rossfeld**
The Miceli Family
- Genevieve McCormack**
Dariene Sosnoff
- Wolf**
David Nemerov and Diane Weber
- Dolly**
Margie
- Kristi**
Margie
- Bailey**
Margie
- Bonnie**
Sue and Kitties
- Terry King**
Alice Peterson
- Billie**
Cindy Daly
- Molly Miller**
Sharon and Irv Steinberg
- Ellie**
Debra Houghton
- Katerina**
Janet Spinaio
- Bingo Sherman**
Ann Mandelstamm
- Sierra Trotta**
Mary DeMierre
Barbara
- Rudy Wilson**
Carol Sullivan
Susan McManus
- Joyce Goldak**
Betty Altmether
- Baylor Bear**
Jill Weinreich
- Francisco Martin**
Nick and Jayme Martin
- Sammi Joe Lopez**
Frank and Mayne Lopez
- Mandy Alagna**
Pamela Cullums
Diana Coleman
Tiffany Gemmill
- Misty Zammito**
Dee
- Melba Kern**
Ray and Marilyn Lauf
David Neuner
Donna and Rick Dockins
Beth and Patrick Blechle
- Norman Mueller**
Glady's Otto
Gus and Arlene Sohn
Huber, Ring, Helm & Co.
Deloris Miller
- Vivien Thies**
Peggy Abendschien

TRIBUTES TO STRAY RESCUE FROM
MARCH - JUNE 2009



Remus

IN HONOR OF

Bob and Joyce Synder

James and Patricia Duban

Judy Headley

Doris Wilner

St. Charles Animal Hospital

Ann Winkelmann

Connor

Kay and Marty Koeller

Nancy Jones

Shirley Moelling

Rhea Ann Hogan

Debbie Bentele

Naomi B.

Steve and Caroline Chamberlin

Trudy Brown

The Valenti Family

LaVona Jordan

Rick Jordan

Emily Tochtrop

The Mackie Family

Dawn Harrod

Dave Murnin

Laurie Phillips

Mike and Sheila Hunsicker

Gail Bertke

Florence Zuzenak

Nancy Smith

Harriet Glazer

Cathy Champ

Tom and Holly Taylor

Scott Bernstein

Jill Weinreich

Kelly Weygandt

Pam Davis

Tessie Bunny

Cheryl Zabel

Kristi and Ryan Luecke

Ron Hurst

Maggie, Lola, Susie & Joey

Ron and Donna Wekerle

Max

Sasi White

Our Wedding Guests

Kacy and Christopher Wagner

John Miller

Jon Schmuke & Maryanne Dersch

Debbie Rohrich-Tyler

Jon Schmuke & Maryanne Dersch

Virginia Martin

Robert Forstot & Tammy Martin

Sunny Baker

Jason & Cara Baker

Joel Anderson

Sigma-Aldrich

Bailey

Michelle Kraus

David Weinreich

Jen and Scott Bernstein

Doc

Dan Curran

Mike Hayduk

Claudia Hayduk

Michelle Thomas

Yvonne Marty

Bowser

Beverly Rennich

Mojito

Nicole Savage

Bonnie Boime

Melody and Irv Boime

Carmella

Sue Slattery

Kitty

Georgene Gann

Maggie May Johnson

Renee and Sarah Hirschfield

Bella

Marion

J Girls

Sylvia Lincoln

Cathy and Mike Ciaramitaro

Barbara Jungenberg

Mendenhall Family

John and Susan Mendenhall

Rich LoRusso

Jan and Dave

Helena Servis

Tom and Kathy Jadlo

Brett Ferrari and Richard Smith

George Bassman

Kirsten and Eric Carlton

Carol and Rosemary Wieners

Josh Linneman

Amanda Burke

Elizabeth McLarty

Your Friends and Family

Cloe

James Aubuchon

Pooky

Marilyn Harris

Lynn White

Helena and David Servis

Sheryl & Ryan Chromak

Sally and Laney Patton

Art and Linda Smith

Lauren Smith

John and Sharon Jacobs

Marty Bravo

Jeannette Nissenbaum

RESCUE DOGS MAKE THE BEST PETS

Valerie met Belle for the first time back in June, after receiving an email from Stray Rescue about two pups that were at Chippewa Animal Hospital and in pretty bad shape. Belle was around four or five years old and found in an abandoned warehouse in the city. She was extremely malnourished, had a



Belle - before

several broken ribs and terrible case of mange that left her with just a few patches of hair. Her skin condition was so poor that she was covered in sores and scabs that would break open when she moved, which meant she had to stay wrapped in a towel when held. Valerie fell in love with her and immediately knew she was meant to foster Belle.

Once released from the hospital, Valerie brought Belle home. A few days later, Valerie's sister, Andi, came over with her dog Molly to meet Belle. Molly was rescued from a puppy mill and she too had lost all of her hair from neglect and malnutrition. Molly fully recovered physically, but not emotionally, because she was scared of everything.

Initially, Molly was skeptical of Belle, so Belle was kept separated from her while she started to gain her health. However it didn't take long before Valerie and Andi noticed that Belle and Molly would sit and stare at each other, tails wagging through the baby gate. After removing the baby gate, both sisters were thrilled that they instantly became best friends! It

was amazing. Molly, who had never been comfortable around other dogs, was coming out of her shell thanks to Belle! Andi reports that Belle has helped Molly in every way that she and her husband had tried and failed for years. This sweet, adorable little girl, who had been through more than they could ever imagine, not only recovered from her traumatic experience, but was now helping to heal their little Molly.

It soon became apparent that Molly and Belle were inseparable, so Andi and her husband decided to adopt Belle from Stray Rescue. Andi noted their family wouldn't be complete without her.



Belle - after

Belle was initially renamed Patches because of her hair loss but then became the more feminine sounding Patchesse. Patchesse aka Belle is the most affectionate and loving dog, and nothing makes her happier than human affection and interaction. She even prefers kisses and cuddles over treats. Rescue dogs do make the best pets!

ARE YOU SMART ENOUGH TO HELP THE STRAYS?

Mark your calendars for **January 2, 2010** for a truly fabulous trivia night fundraiser for the benefit of Stray Rescue as well as Animal Care and Control aka the city pound. The Millennium Hotel is opening its doors to help the animals at 6pm with the game starting at 7pm. Beer, soda and water is free and you are welcomed to bring your own snacks. There will be lots of prizes, surprise grab bags, mulligans and a silent auction as well. Mike Carbery will emcee the event and other local celebs will attend as well. See www.strayrescue.org and click on the event calendar for more details. Tickets are \$25 per person and each table seats 10 - but you do not need to buy a full table. You can reserve your seat by sending a check with note to Stray Rescue. To purchase your tickets online, please go to www.blacktie-stlouis.com/rsvp and enter event code: SRtrivia (All one word, not case sensitive).

LEAVE A LIVING LEGACY

Remembering Stray Rescue in your will or estate planning will help ensure that we continue to grow and expand. Planned gifts leave behind a living legacy of compassion, as your gift will be helping to end the suffering for many animals. These gifts not only help the animals, but also can help you meet your financial, tax and estate planning goals. Consulting an attorney who specializes in estate planning may be of great assistance to you. When remembering Stray Rescue, please make sure to use the following language in your will or estate plans:

**Stray Rescue of Saint Louis
1463 S. 18th Street
St. Louis, MO 63104
Tax ID # 43-1823801**

Thank you for considering Stray Rescue in your will or estate planning. For more information, see our Web site at:
www.strayrescue.org/donate.html

Rescue News is produced 3 times a year by: Stray Rescue of Saint Louis, 1463 S. 18th Street, St. Louis, MO 63104, Phone: 314-771-6121; Web site: www.strayrescue.org

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Mission Statement: Stray Rescue's sole purpose is to rescue stray animals in need of medical attention, restore them to health, and place them in loving adoptive homes.

Virtually all of the pets we save have been abused and neglected. They've been dumped on highways and remote country roads, or abandoned in public parks, empty houses and dark alleys. We've even saved dogs left chained behind buildings after their families had moved away.

Rescued animals often make the best pets. Pets from Stray Rescue seem to understand that they have a second lease on life. In return for a little affection and attention, these remarkable animals reward their new guardians with a love and loyalty unmatched anywhere.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 5 — Holiday Gala

December 11 — Book Signing Warson Woods Antiques

January 2 — New Year for the Strays Trivia Night

Please see our event calendar on www.strayrescue.org for more information and more events as they develop.

Remember, you can meet our dogs available for adoption every weekend at local PetsMart stores. Check the event calendar on our Web site for locations and times.

A PAWS FOR THANKS

Thanksgiving is the time of year when I reflect on all the good things "dog" in life. I appreciate how much Stray Rescue has grown and accomplished by saving so many – one at a time – giving them a new beginning. I can't help but be in awe and feel so very thankful for every supporter and donor who has partnered with Stray Rescue to over one thousand lives. The recession has been very humbling to all of us and most of all, the companion animals that have been dumped on the street, left at a shelter or behind in an empty home. Of the 20 years that I have been on the streets feeding and rescuing, I have seen a dramatic upturn in the number of strays this year. Because of the Michael Vicks of the world to foreclosed homes with dogs and cats trapped inside, our budget and volunteers have been stretched to the max.

Yet, I truly believe the power of compassion is stronger than the economic crisis because you have been there for the strays all year long. New volunteers show up weekly and unsolicited donations of supplies appear on our doorstep regularly. I extend my thanks to everyone who has given a financial gift, donated shelter supplies, held a benefit for us and who have adopted a dog or cat from Stray Rescue. You have my upmost respect for loving the companion animals so much. If I could clone our donors and volunteers, I would in a heartbeat.

As one example, so far in 2009 we have saved over 40 pregnant dogs and over 400 puppies from the streets and rescued over 1,200 animals, some close to dying, all suffering for sure. Living on the street is very difficult and traumatic for the strays. The number of dogs currently available for adoption exceeds 300 and over 100 for cats, which is more than any previous year. But Stray Rescue continues the fight using our motto as a mantra "Where compassion rules."

Seeing different parts of the St. Louis community rally to our side is inspiring. For instance, Charter Communications airs our PSA at no cost to Stray Rescue as well as airing available pets for adoption on their new program, Paws on Demand. Finding a new family member while watching TV is a very cool concept. We all think every stray is a star and deserving of their 15 minutes of fame! As you can see, many good things are happening but we still need your help.

Our new building, which has been empty while we are working to obtain funding to build our forever dream home, is now becoming full of activity. We do not have all the funding to complete the facility, but we have begun on the first phase and are calling it the "Life Phase." This initial phase will result in our own veterinarian clinic; the life support for the sick and injured, which is the vast majority of our rescues. The number of severely injured and abused dogs has dramatically increased this year as well, which has increased our veterinary expenses. One month of medical expenses can exceed \$100,000, a number that reflects the cruelty of the streets.

Although the quantity of gifts coming in has steady in 2009, we have noticed a decline in the amounts being given in the second half of this year. A fear of a downturn in our economy is any charity's worst nightmare and mirrors the moment in time after 9/11.

With your love of the animals and compassion that exudes from your continuous support, please consider giving an extra special year end gift using the envelope enclosed so we can end 2009 on strong footing and kick off the New Year by rescuing as many strays during the winter cold spell as possible. I need your help to ensure rescuing these innocent beings can become recession proof. Thank you for always being there for us and for the strays, you are the unsung heroes!

Woof, Randy



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St. Louis, MO 63104

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