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Waggin' Tales

January-February 2014

Paws Rescue celebrates its 10 year anniversary by continuing to make a difference for homeless animals: On July 3, 2004, Paws Rescue was established when it rescued its first homeless dog. "We'd talked about it for a few weeks and were definitely working toward starting a rescue, but getting a call from the pound about a neglected Cocker Spaniel that needed help immediately moved us from planning to execution just like that," Bobbie Galford, Paws Rescue cofounder and board member said. "I'm a planner at heart, so I was ready to do this according to a documented plan and schedule, but saving lives sort of got in the way of my business plan and milestones," she laughed. "Interestingly enough, that has been the status quo for Paws Rescue since that adorable Cocker Spaniel, Morgan, became Paws Rescue's very first rescue in July nearly ten years ago."



The concept for Paws Rescue started when three animal welfare advocates, Debbie Freeman, Leigh Conerly and Bobbie Galford, who had all been working independently to save animals in the Vicksburg-Warren County community, got together to see if it was possible to do more by working together. All three had been volunteers at one time or another at the local shelter and just believed that more animals could be saved than were being adopted. "We were all three probably a little naïve about the enormity of the local homeless animal problem when we got started," Galford said. "And that is probably

a good thing because we all really believed we could make a difference and save animals and I think realizing the magnitude of the problem may have initially hindered our enthusiasm and belief that we could do something about it," she said. "We just knew there had to be a more humane way and a no-kill methodology to attack the homeless animal issue locally."

"Initially, we got together to discuss how we wanted to do this and then started researching as much as possible about how to establish a non-profit rescue, IRS and state rules and regulations, and other shelter and rescue guidelines, operating procedure and bylaws," Leigh Conerly, Paws Rescue co-founder and current president said. "But rescuing Morgan from the pound is really what solidified Paws Rescue," she said. "He was just heartbreaking – so incredibly sweet, but so scared and neglected. He was just so matted and dirty and in serious need of some TLC, which he received right away. He had to be neutered and treated for heartworms and other parasites. We had no source of funding since we had not really set up or registered the organization, so we just ended up paying for his care out of our pockets. We named this amazing dog Morgan in honor of my mother who was a huge animal lover and is the reason I'm still rescuing dogs and cats today."

Over the next year, Paws Rescue became a 501c3 non-profit and a registered Mississippi charity. We worked hard to educate the public on the establishment of the rescue, the need to spay and neuter animals and about the no-kill philosophy. In 2006, Paws Rescue started a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program for feral cats and began applying for grants. Each year, Paws Rescue, with the help of many volunteers and numerous board members, has saved more animals than the year before and has become a significant benefit to the community. Although Freeman left the organization in 2006 to start a poodle rescue and has since passed away, Conerly and Galford continue to be in the forefront of the Paws Rescue mission. They are joined on that journey by current board members Beth Brown, Dedra Henley and Jeanne Simmons Kelley and numerous volunteers and foster parents.

"We've been so incredibly fortunate to have the community support our efforts through their volunteerism, donations and fostering and adopting animals from Paws Rescue," Conerly said. "We do now actually realize all of the work that needs to be done on behalf of homeless animals and although some days it seems like a never-ending up-hill battle, we also know that we have made and continue to make a huge difference to rescued pets every single day. We have a terrific group of board members and volunteers and we're ready to save more lives over the next ten years, although I know all of us wish there were no homeless, abused or neglected animals and that our jobs were no longer necessary."

Thanks and Appreciation

Paws Rescue gives a big Paws Up to:

Thanks to Tractor Supply for the amazing food donation (and thank you Sammy, Chad and Dedra for picking it up) and for allowing Paws Rescue to participate in the Love Your Pet Event Feb 15. Puddin' especially loved meeting the children!



To PetSense for helping Paws Rescue save so many furry felines! We also appreciate PetSense for hosting Paws Rescue's National Day of Service! We appreciate all of those who volunteered to come help socialize, play and love on the kitties and get their crates clean and nice!



**For all of Paws Rescue's amazing foster families! Fostering saves lives!
For the commitment, hard work and dedication of Paws Rescue board members.
For everyone who has helped Paws Rescue reach 10 years of saving animals!**



Thanks and much appreciation to all of the wonderful individuals and business who contribute each month with financial or food donations. Thanks to our volunteers, foster homes and adopters and a special thanks to those businesses who allow Paws Rescue to have donation cans there!

Paws Rescue -- Pets of the Month



Murphy



Jersey

Murphy was found lying in the middle of the median on the highway. He had been hit by a vehicle and left to die. The guy who stopped to check on him, said when he got close to him, he started to wag his tail. That was Murphy's way of telling him, "THANK YOU," for stopping to help me. He was taken to the vet and evaluated. His pelvis had been broken and he could not walk. Murphy is continuing to improve, but it is going to take some time. Murphy also has been diagnosed with heartworms but will be treated prior to adoption.

Jersey is a beautiful black and white cat with lots and lots of personality!! She loves to cuddle -- she is definitely a lap cat! Jersey is also very playful and enjoys games with her foster family and likes to play hide and chase with their cat. Jersey has been spayed and vaccinated and is a healthy, beautiful girl who now just needs to be adopted into a home of her very own!

For more information about adopting Murphy, Jersey or any other Paws Rescue pet, contact Leigh at Leigh@pawsrescuepets.org or phone 601-529-1535. All pets are vaccinated and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. The adoption fee for cats and kittens is \$25.00 and for dogs and puppies the adoption fee is \$100.00. Paws Rescue conducts home visits and checks veterinarian references before finalizing all adoptions.

Featuring Paws Rescue's Happy Tails Adoptions:



Godiva



Jerry



Sadie



Townsend



Lulu



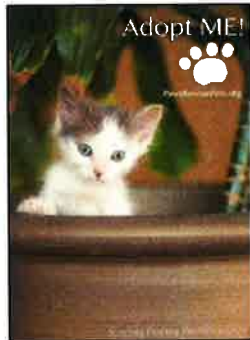
Jesse



Sandy



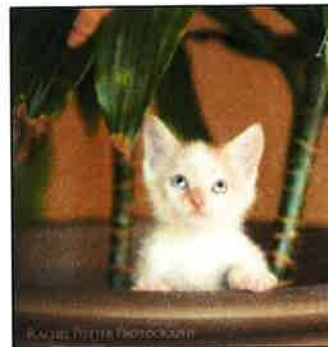
Zip



Hardy



Clyde



Sand



Bella



Domino



Daisy



Luna



Madra



Oakley



Priscilla



Faith



Oreo



Tippy

These pets have found wonderful new homes! Thanks to our fabulous adopters and foster homes for saving their lives! Wouldn't you like to save the life of a loving dog or cat by adopting a Paws Rescue pet? Give us a call and we can help you find a great addition to your family or take a look at our webpage -- <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/MS65.html>!

**Opt to Adopt
and
Save a Life!**

Where are they now? Many formerly homeless pets have gone on, through Paws Rescue's loving care, to find health, happiness and a place to call home. Paws Rescue is printing this segment to highlight some of our rags to riches stories through the years. If you've adopted a pet from Paws Rescue and would like to provide an update and new photos for the newsletter, please contact Bobbie Galford at bjgalford@comcast.net.

Trixie Rescue by Paws Rescue in 2005 Adopted in 2006



2005



2014

Trixie, a Rat Terrier, came to Paws Rescue in February 2005 from another rescue in Texas. She was significantly overweight and although Paws Rescue never got the full story of Trixie's past, one thing was sure, she didn't really trust humans. She desperately wanted to love and be loved, but she was terrified of anyone touching her head. She was also food aggressive and wouldn't hesitate to bite if she felt threatened. Because of that trait, a Paws Rescue board member adopted Trixie and worked tirelessly to gain her trust. Trixie is now approximately 12-15 years old and finally learned that she can trust humans. She now loves to be petted, take daily walks, and to sun herself. Through years of hard work, Trixie lost half of her body weight and is finally to an appropriate weight for a dog her size, but not before being diagnosed with diabetes. She receives special food and insulin injections twice daily. And although her senior years have also robbed her of her sight and hearing, she can still smell her breakfast and dinner and likes to make some noise if it happens to be late! Trixie also still loves to play with her canine siblings and steal the cat's food any chance she gets! Trixie is definitely a "happy ever after" story and a complete blessing to her adopted family.

Volunteer Spotlight: Carolyn Irons



Name and Hometown: Caroline Irons, Florence, MS

Occupation: Energy Supply Coordinator

Hobbies: Scrapbooking, woodworking, crafting, and spending time with my family, friends and my critters.

Pets: Felix, Chiweenie, 14 years old; Lulu, MinPin, 6+ years old (adopted from CARA); Bonnie Belle, Beagle mix, 5 + years old (adopted from Paws Rescue); Cleo, Lab mix, 5 months old (Paw Rescue foster dog); Taz, Orange tabby, 10 years old; Jacie, Paint Horse, 8 years old; Sugar, Quarter Horse, 19 years old; and Popcorn, Quarter Horse, 16 years.

Why do you volunteer for Paws Rescue: I've always been called Ellie Mae which is because of my love for animals. I have such a soft heart for them and want them all to have a wonderful, safe, loving home. If I can help in any way to make that happen then count me in!!! Paws Rescue is the real hero in all of this though -- I'm just glad to be able to help with what I can!

What you do for Paws Rescue: I adopt, foster, donate and help with fundraising activities.

Most memorable volunteer experience with Paws Rescue: I stopped by Leigh Conerly's one day to drop off some cat food for the feral cats and she was tending to the dogs she was fostering. I got to meet Eclipse!! She is so beautiful and full of life!! We took her outside and she ran around with so much joy. I'd throw the ball for her to play with and you could see how happy that made her. I would love to adopt Eclipse but I have small, older dogs and I don't think it would work out due to her size. I think of Eclipse often and pray she finds a loving home, where she can be spoiled rotten!

Is there anything else you'd like readers to know: 1) Please spay and neuter your pets! There are too many homeless animals as it is! 2) Adopt from a shelter . . . make a pet's day and give them the life they deserve! 3) Donate, donate, donate . . . your time, pet food, money, treats, anything that will help homeless pets.

The Face of Rescue

All of the dogs and cats rescued by Paws Rescue are in need of some kind of assistance. Some have simply wandered away from home and need a little help reconnecting with owners. Others need to be rehomed when their families can no longer care for them for various reasons. And many have been abused, neglected or simply on their own for so long they are sick, starving and sometimes suffering greatly from injuries and illnesses. Regardless of their condition or circumstances, they ALL matter to Paws Rescue board members, volunteers and supporters, and we do whatever we need to do to save them. Many just need some love, patience and attention to heal a broken soul. Others need extensive medical care. Sadly, the majority need both. Paws Rescue is committed to saving and healing both the visible and invisible scars of misery these helpless animals endure. Please look within your heart and help our efforts. There are numerous ways to assist. Financial donations are always in need for veterinarian care of our rescues. Donations of dry dog and cat food help us feed not only our rescued pets, but feral cat colonies and we also share food with those who are in need. By giving food to those who are having a bit of a hard time, more dogs and cats are able to stay with the families who love them. Volunteering to help with fundraising events, transport and administrative help, as well as sharing our animal stories through your social media pages broadens our reach and ability to better communicate our mission and needs. Fostering a pet in need allows us to save one more. And adopting a rescued pet allows us to save two more – the one who finally found the perfect home and the one who will now have a foster home because of the adoption.

Meet Cinda and her NINE (yes nine!) puppies!



Cinda is a beautiful yellow Lab who found herself homeless and with child (actually with children and lots of them!). She desperately looked for a safe, warm place to have her babies and fortunately for her and all NINE of her bundles of joy, a Good Samaritan stepped up to help this beautiful girl until a solution could be found. That solution was Paws Rescue! Paws Rescue and one of our amazing foster homes is now responsible for Cinda and ALL of her babies until they are ready for new homes! They will all be vaccinated and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. That is a LOT of surgeries and it will be expensive.

Paws Rescue made the commitment to help Cinda and her precious family but we need your help!

There is no time like the present to recommit to Paws Rescue's Spay-Neuter program by sending a donation to help get this pups ready for their forever family! Please send your check to Paws Rescue, PO Box 13, Redwood, MS 39156. Please indicate on the check "Spay-Neuter" program.

UPCOMING EVENTS & Other Paws Rescue Information:

Paws Rescue's 10th Anniversary: Paws Rescue will celebrate its 10th year anniversary in 2014! Stay tuned for our year-long life-saving celebration event schedule!

H&R Block Benefit for Paws Rescue: H&R Block on Indiana Avenue in Vicksburg will host a bake sale Saturday, March 8 from 11 am until 2 pm to benefit Paws Rescue. Paws Rescue dogs Murphy and Mary Carson will be in attendance to meet and greet their adoring public! Please come by to thanks to H&R Block for supporting Paws Rescue and to make a purchase a baked good to help homeless animals!

Riverfest – Paws Rescue will have a booth at Riverfest Saturday, April 26 in downtown Vicksburg. Please stop by to show your support and visit with a few of our rescued animals!

Dry Cat Food Desperately Needed: Paws Rescue is currently caring for several extremely large feral cat colonies. All of the cats have been vaccinated and have also been or soon will be spayed and neutered to ensure the colonies don't get any larger, but we are in desperate need of dry cat food to feed all of these untamed furries. If you can donate a bag on a monthly basis or even donate just one bag, these outdoor cats and Paws Rescue caretakers would surely appreciate it. For more information or to drop off or have someone pick up cat food, contact Leigh at 601-529-1535 or Dianne at 601-883-9913.

Homes/barns needed for outdoor cats: A feral cat will keep your barn rodent free for the price of daily cat food, and you'll be helping to save a life! We have several beautiful, healthy, neutered and vaccinated feral cats that are looking for outdoor homes with a barn, shed, or other shelter. If you would like to adopt a barn cat (or several) e-mail us at [Leigh@pawsrescuepets@org](mailto:Leigh@pawsrescuepets.org) or call 601-529-1535.

Yes! I want to help homeless pets.

My donation to assist with the medical costs of rescued pets cared for by Paws Rescue is enclosed. (Please send to Paws Rescue, PO Box 13, Redwood, MS 39156.) You can also donate or sponsor individual Paws Rescue pets online at <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/MS65.html> Paws Rescue is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible.

_____ \$10.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00

_____ I would like to be contacted about volunteering for Paws Rescue.

_____ I would like more information about fostering a rescued pet.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

In Loving Memory
Of

Mary Vincent

from

*Mr. & Mrs. Harold Blue
Ms. Leslie Silver
Bob & Fran Bernard
Tracey Chaney
Claudette Doiron
Linda Hadala
Jane Smith*

Ruth Bass

from

*Jackie McKay
Debra Tompkins
Professional Grant Management Services*

Cara Davis

from

JB & Georgeanna Brandt

Wimpy Thomas

from

Allison Ameen

Louise Larsen

from

Sentel Office (Dorothy Fenwick)

Kenny Wayne Channell

from

Allison Ameen

Rae Saget

from

*Lynne Abraham
Alex Shiers
Beth Ridley
Mitte Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Gilman
Bobby & Natalie Bailess*

Howard Lee

from

*Nila D. Anderson
Emily Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Farrell
Wendy Warren
Tracy & David Chaney
Mary Trochessett
Mack & Joann McCarthy
Kathy Stimac
Ed & Wanda Eady
Vicksburg Guides Association*

Iris Mangrum

from

Allison Ameen

Nora Ainsworth

from

Marie Alexander

Helen Hebert

from

*WIC Westminster Presbyterian
Page & Anne Greenwood*

Kim Stribling

from

Allison Ameen

In Loving Memory
Of

Little Sister

Beloved Pet of
Cynthia Freeny
from
Maureen Corcoran

Lexie

Beloved Pet of
Donna Waddell
from
Donna Waddle

Kacie

Beloved Pet of
Kimberley Mansfield
from
Kimberley Mansfield

Snoopy

Beloved Pet of
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lee
from
Tracey Chaney

Buddy

Beloved Pet of
Kim Brown
from
Allison Ameen
Debra Tompkins

Reese

Beloved Pet of
Leigh Conerly
from
Bobbie Galford

Roscoe

Beloved Pet of
Linda Polk
from
Linda Polk