



Volume 1 Issue 4

June, 2008

Under the Wing

The Newsletter

Saving Millie

I'll admit it, I felt like I was starting to run out of steam. Requests for our help are way up and let's just say that our funding hasn't exactly followed suit.

So I wasn't surprised when I got an email one evening about an adult dog at a pound that gasses. The story was a familiar one, run of the mill mix, tan in color, sweet temperament, rather depressed, no prospects for adoption and no time left.

There was one thing that was a bit unusual. Millie was huge. Now, being a woman of substance myself, I don't throw that term around. She was carrying about 112 pounds on a frame built for 45.

The extra weight and her lack of activity had taken it's tole. Despite being 4 years old, she could only walk about 10 feet before having to lay down and take a break. In short, it was going to take a miracle for this dog to get out of the pound alive.



Then it started to happened. Two people we don't even know covered her pull fee. Another stranger offered to go pick her up. Two angels in Akron, Linda and Joan, came forward with an offer to foster her for a few days at their home, a kind of doggy triage that houses animals in desperate need of rescue while more long term arrangements are being made with other organizations.

It took two volunteers sacrificing most of a Sunday and plenty of gas to go down and do the temperament test.

It took our friends at NEPRC and their willingness to provide the foster care. It took Joan and Linda's vet who gave us a discount for the tests needed to find if there was a medical basis for her weight.

Then at about 7:00pm on a Wed. night in June it all came together.

Linda and Joan drove her all the way up from Akron. The dog that less then a week ago could only walk 10 feet gallantly made her way from the parking lot, through the gate, up a flight of steps and straight into the reception area of the prison.

I wish you could have all seen

An unhappy Millie at the pound.



Millie relaxing at Linda and Joan's place.

her. We offered her a chance to rest but it was clear that she knew we had a mission and that she wasn't going to let us down. Her breathing was labored and she was a bit shaky on the steps but she kept going. It was amazing. Every few steps she'd look over at Linda, Joan and I for encouragement with nothing short of complete love and joy.

The staff at NEPRC greeted her enthusiastically and her handlers came up to get her. As we were leaving we turned around and saw her wagging her tail as a number of inmates greeted her with pets and attention.

Millie's story has just begun. Her low thyroid caused part of this problem, medication will fix that. Sadly, Millie's previous life involved being on a chain outside with table scraps as her main comfort and companion.

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So far this year we have...

- Saved 17 animals facing euthanasia at public shelters.
- Provided Emergency Care to 10 animals, temporarily separated from their families due to illness and domestic violence
- Helped 19 stray/ relinquished animals find another chance at their own happily ever afters.



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Now instead of just people food there will be lots of pets, belly rubs, hugs, kisses and attention.

Exercise will come in the form of frequent small walks and romps with her new canine friend Daisy. She will get to play and enjoy being a dog again.



Millie smiles for the camera!

We are in need of some funding for Millie to help with the cost of her care. We'd like to be able to provide her with a bed that will prevent her body heat from radiating back at her during the hot summer months.

Millie will also require continued monitoring by a vet to make sure her thyroid levels are returning to normal.

In addition to the thyroid pills, Millie needs to take arthritis medication until her weight comes down to lessen the pain and swelling in her joints.

At the time of this writing, just a week after leaving the pound, Millie has already managed to loose three pounds.

Millie will eventually be placed up for adoption. But you can help today. **Every donation makes a difference.**

Support Millie!

Under the Wing

Attention: Team Millie
25935 Detroit Road #247
Westlake Ohio 44145
emilyerbs@gmail.com
216 881-6007

Great Puppy Rescue



Littermates Tucker, Houston and Phineas enjoy a brief break from rough housing.

There were some snags along the way—Houston required emergency surgery for an intestinal issue, Lilly had a horrible case of coccidia, Dexter came down with some nasty parasites and both Tucker and Petey narrowly escaped succumbing to a nasty virus.

But together we pulled them all through. In fact, consistent with our new policy, every single one of them has already been spayed or neutered, ensuring they will never play a part in the problem of overpopulation.

Consumers in the Personal Social & Community Services program at Vocational Guidance Services got a chance to visit with many of the puppies and a great time was had by all.



Top: Zerelda relaxing at VGS after spending the day visiting with the PSC consumers at VGS.

Bottom: Belle, (right) now Penne and new sister/best friend ever Hope.

Thanks to your generous support the Great Puppy Rescue was a success! As a direct result of your support Belle (now Penne), Ella, Houston (now Nicky), Jessie (now Dexter), Phineas (now Petey) Tucker, and Zerelda (now Lilly), were rescued and have each found wonderful families.



Special Thanks To All Those Responsible For This Rescue Including:

Bonnie A., Dave R., Diane S., Donald B., Ginny S., Jan G., Jeannie E., Jennifer E., Jennifer R., John, Danielle & Deborah E., Kelli, Kevin & Marti ., Lauren S., Linda C., Lynette., Mark B., Martha M., Maryann K., Melanie R., NEPRC, Nicole Marie D., Pam & John C., Robin S., Rose Mary, Terra & Dave D., Tom B., Valerie E., and Wendy & Linda of Rainbow Vet Clinic



Breed Specific Legislation

The odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 600,000 in the USA. Comparatively speaking you are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than you are to be killed by a dog of any breed. When you further break down the odds of being attacked and killed by a Pit Bull the odds are in your favor – approximately 1 in 145,000,000.” - APBR via BestFriends

First they came for the Pit Bulls, I didn't speak out.

- Hey, those dogs are vicious anyway.

(According to the Humane Society of the United States genetics play a **considerably** smaller role in whether or not a bite occurs then factors such as whether the animal is spayed or neutered, properly socialized, supervised, humanely trained and safely confined.)

Then they came for the “Pit Bull Like” Dogs including Mastiffs, American Bull Dogs, and Any Mix that resembles them but I did not speak out.

- If the experts think they are dangerous they must be.

(... the negligence of human guardians was a higher risk factor than the breed of the dog. Learned breed-specific legislation is not the way to tackle the issue of dog bites,” - Dr. Julie Gilchrist of the CDC Injury Center in Atlanta, Georgia.)

Then they came for the Rottweiler's, the Dobermans and the Akitas but I still did not speak out.

- I just don't want anyone to get hurt. If outlawing certain breeds won't work what will?

(The most effective dangerous dog laws are those that place the legal responsibility for a dog's actions on the owner rather than on the dog. The best laws hold the owner accountable for the bite victim's pain and suffering, and mandate certain corrective actions such as spay/neuter and proper confinement of the dog.)

And when they came for my Golden Retriever, Labrador, Basset Hound or Boxer, law had been set and precedence established. There was no way left to stop it.

A study performed by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the CDC, and the Humane Society of the United States, analyzed dog bite statistics from the last 20 years and found that the statistics don't show that any breeds are inherently more dangerous than others. The study showed that the most popular large breed dogs at any one time were consistently on the list of breeds that bit fatally. — HealthyPet.com

Based on the poem by
Pastor Martin Niemöller
adapted by Emily Erbs

**Speak Out Against Breed Specific
Legislation in Your Community!**

...breeds that are not bred for aggression, including golden retrievers, cocker spaniels, and Yorkshire Terriers, have been involved in fatal attacks. - HealthyPet.com

Under the Wing

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 #247
 Westlake, OH 44145
 Phone: 216 881-6007
 Website: www.vgsjob.org/utw.htm
 Email: underthewing@hotmail.com

**Under the Wing is a
 501c3 Organization!**

We have the referrals, now we just need the funding! Please consider joining our fundraising and marketing committee to join the fun and make a difference.

Or, if you would prefer, make a donation or buy us some stuff we need! Our wish list is accessible from the link on our website (www.vgsjob.org/utw.htm) or by visiting:

<http://www.findgift.com> and search for Under the Wing.

For more information on giving or volunteering, please contact our Treasurer, Pam Caulkins at caulkinspd@hotmail.com or call our President, Emily Erbs at 216 881-6007.

Foster Homes Needed!

Many people shy away from becoming a foster parent for Under the Wing because they worry about how difficult it will be when the animal finds a permanent home or returns to his or her original owners.

But for most that is not the case. In fact, most people find it to be such a rewarding experience that they can't believe they waited so long to give it a try!

Under the Wing works hard to match the animal in need of foster placement with the lifestyle, personality and preferences of the family they will be living with and we currently are not working with animals that have aggression issues.

Since we do not operate a physical shelter, we are forced to turn away animals regularly since our existing foster sites and homes fill up quickly. But you can change that!

Under the Wing picks up the tab for:

- Medical Care
- Food
- Some Treats and Toys
- Litter
- Crates if Needed

You can even specify what type of animal you'd like to work with (Under the Wing works with cats, dogs, birds, rodents and reptiles). All you have to do is supply the love!

Don't wait any longer! Contact Emily Erbs at 216 881-6007 or by email at emilyerbs@gmail.com for information!



Phineas was a timid fellow at first, but it didn't take long for the Dahlhausen family to change all that. Foster parents Terra, Dave, canine foster siblings Lilly and Romeo helped help him become the confident and happy fellow he is today.

Donations Needed

Please contact our treasurer Pam at Pam@underthewing.org or by mail at 25935 Detroit Road, #247, Westlake Ohio 44145 for more information on giving or to make a donation. Please make checks payable to Under the Wing.



Jenny Fur,
 Feral Colony

Donation Form					
Name: (as you would like to be listed)					
Street Address:					
City:	State:			Zip Code:	
Email Address:		Phone Number (optional):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Top Dog \$1000.00 +	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat's Pajamas \$300.00 - \$999.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canine Crusader \$50.00 - \$299.00
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Friend of Felines \$1.00 - \$50.00
In Remembrance If you are making this donation as a tribute to an animal or person, please check the box and a member of the UTW team will contact you for more information:					<input type="checkbox"/>
In Honor If you are making this donation as a gift to another animal or person, please check the box and a member of the UTW team will contact you for more information:					<input type="checkbox"/>
We Promise! Your information will never be shared or sold! No junk mail, spam or sales calls will originate as a result of your generosity!					