

- Happy Tails of families who have adopted from CCHS
- Importance of Spaying and Neutering your pet and keeping them current on HW preventative
- The story of Cole and how you can help
- Helpful training pointers from Tammy Mills

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Paw Print



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SPRING, 2010

My Journey to Rescue...

and the Evolution of CCHS ~ by Molly Peterson (President)

It all started one sunny day in California 10 years ago. I went to get a cat for our apartment in college and came home eight hours later with a sick puppy and I had signed up to join a rescue group. The shelter was in deplorable conditions with dogs packed in small dog runs, stepping on each others toes because the space was so tight. New dogs were shuffled in with dogs that had already established residency... while the sick, injured and abused were being dragged down the cold cement floor to meet their fate.

A Dalmatian recently gave birth to 8 puppies and her carcass of a body lie still on the floor with puppies fighting for a spot to eat. She had nothing but a bowl of water and an old towel to lay her head on so I spent the next hour trying to

talk my roommates into letting us take her and her babies in... while arguing with the shelter staff to get her food. I was told the same line with every person that I met... "We feed them all twice a day." When asked why they were not able to feed her any more they said, "We have a



2006, Molly Peterson and Boudreaux. Boudreaux was Molly's first foster in TX. He was a victim of Katrina and was adopted by her tenant.

budget and that's all we're allowed to give." Finally a young man in the back, whom I beat into submission, gave me a bowl of food for her! It felt like I was carrying food for the Queen as I carefully walked back to the mom and her babies, making certain not to spill a morsel. She was so weak that she was barely able to raise her head to eat. I laid some kibble on the floor by her mouth and I will never forget how softly she licked each morsel off the floor... then ever so gently leaned over and ate every last bite of food. Her tail lightly tapped the cement floor in her faintest expression of happiness and gratitude.

In my search for help with the Dalmatian, I met a couple of ladies taking pictures of dogs in the runs. They told me all about (continued on page 2...)

Her Fate is Sealed ~ by Cheryl Brown (Foster/Volunteer)

We called her Gabrielle, Gabby for short. She was picked up as a stray by a local animal shelter, just a rack of bones, with only skin covering her small frame. We thought she was a starved puppy, but after many months of discovery by veterinarians, it was found that Gabby was actually suffering

from a terrible disease called Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI). With a special diet and enzymes, Gabby blossomed into a plump, beautiful girl. As it turned out she was actually about a year old rather than a 4 month old puppy. We assume in her previous life her people didn't know how to

help her as EPI is not a common disease, and not all vets readily diagnose the disease. Therefore, she literally starved for the entire beginning of her life. It is unsure how she survived but she is absolutely a fighter. She stayed in foster care for a very (continued on page 3)

CCHS Statistics:

Dogs/puppies adopted from January 2010-March 2010: 106

My Journey to Rescue...and the Evolution of CCHS (story continued...)



Pictured above is Charlie (age, 10.5 years old). Taken in March 2010 by Diane Theis.

(...continued from page 1) this “rescue” group they were a part of and how they help to get the word out about dogs in need at the LA shelters. What? I had never heard of such a thing! How wonderful... exciting, and powerful it felt to be able to learn of this thing called “rescue!” I no longer felt as helpless and frustrated as I had only minutes ago. There was something I *could* do about this problem... and from there forward I was bound and determined to make it my goal to help as much as I could.

As quickly as that thought entered my mind, I was asked to step out of the way so they could get a dog out of the run that I was blocking. They yanked her by the scruff of her neck and lassoed her with a slip lead as the other dogs charged at her. She was just a puppy and was so scared it was palpable. He drug her out of the run, locked the gate behind him and regained composure for the walk to the icy chamber in the back of the building. As I watched him walk away, with the puppy sliding on

the floor, her head hanging down and her chocolate brown eyes gazed over her shoulder at me as if to say good-bye. She looked so defeated. How could a three month old puppy have suffered so much abuse and neglect?

I yelled at him to stop and ran down the hall after them. There it was again... that tail softly tapping the cement. She raised her head and those sweet chocolate (continued on page 3...)

“In 6 years, one un-spayed dog and her offspring can reproduce 67,000 dogs.” ~ Spay USA



Picture above is of Cole. 1 year old boxer mix.

Cole in Your Stocking? by Molly Peterson

Late one night, five puppies were dumped on a country road. The people who found them contacted several rescue groups in a frenzy to find a place to take them. They were able to get a hold of a CCHS volunteer who quickly picked them up and got them to safety.

They are now a year old and Cole is the only one who has not found his forever home yet. Cole weighs 55 lbs and is full grown. He is a very sweet natured doggie who is great with kids, cats, and dogs. He is housebroken and crate trained too! One of Cole's

front legs is longer than the other which causes him to have arthritis in his arm. He will need to have surgery on his arm--CCHS will pay for this surgery--we just need a home that is willing and able to see him through his recovery and rehab. He also has hip dysplasia and will need to have hip surgery too. CCHS will also pay for this surgery, we are just waiting on a home with the time to help rehabilitate him. The front leg and hip dysplasia are of *no* consequence to Cole at this point

in his life. He jumps on his foster mom's bed to snuggle and it is pretty far off the ground. Cole also enjoys lounging on the sofa with anyone. He is a very special boy looking for a special family to call his own!

He has been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and dewormed. He is current on HW preventative and ready a forever home!

Complete an online application today if you would like to adopt Cole at

www.collincountyhumanesociety.org/

Tammy's Tips by Tammy Mills

1) The crate set-up for your puppy will depend on how many hours the puppy will spend alone in it. This will determine whether you will crate the puppy or if you will need puppy pads/turf, etc with an open crate in a small area. How long a puppy can “hold it” depends on their age... the number of months they are, plus one. For example: if the puppy is 2 months old it *may* be possible for them to “hold it” for three hours.

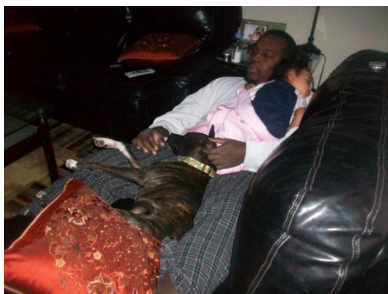
2) You should also introduce puppies to their crates slowly, do *not* shove them into it and expect them to like it. Teaching them to love their crate is a process.

3) You should always be patient with your puppy. Remember they are just babies and it takes patience, just like having a new baby or toddler in the house. Make sure your puppy is getting plenty of exercise and never keep any dog in a crate excessively.



Two boxer buddies work it out themselves! Who needs a trainer when they can train themselves? I do!

Her Fate is Sealed (story continued)



Picture to left is of Gabby with her forever family, The Gravleys.

She loves everyone!! She is especially fond of the fosters two year old son who he shares his cheerio's with. But the day finally came when a family wanted Gabby as their very own!! A wonderful family with the mom working as a vet technician. Her job is to take care of the special needs of her clients so this was a perfect fit. Best of all she has two human children of her very own to spend hours and hours entertaining. We want to thank them from the bottom

(...continued from page 1) long time as most families are unsure or are uneasy with how to handle a special needs canine family member. But Gabby spent many months surrounded by the love of three small children all under four years of age, two feline companions, and several canine

of our hearts for opening their home to a very special girl we call Gabrielle.



Picture above is of Gabby posing for the camera in her new home.

"Over \$2 Billion is spent annually by local governments to shelters and destroy 8-10 million adoptable dogs and cats due to a shortage of homes." ~Business Wire Features

My Journey to Rescue... and the Evolution of CCHS (story continued...)

(...continued from page 2) brown eyes looked up as a stream of green snot dripped from her nose. How could I resist?! "I'll take her," I said. The man holding her leash looked at me as if I had just begged for garbage from a trash can. "She's sick... and there are lots of other dogs that need homes," is all he could mutter to me as he turned to walk away. I grabbed the leash and thanked him for his time... as "I would take it from here."

On the car ride home I ran a few

names by her... and got nothing back. Then I asked her if she liked the name Charleston... "Charlie" I said, and she promptly puked all over the front seat of my car, so Charlie it was! I brought her home where she laid on my couch for a month and barely moved. She had pneumonia so bad that the prognosis was grim. I couldn't let her die... I owed it to her... I owed it to the Dalmation mom and her babies that I couldn't save... I owed it to all the other dogs and puppies that are in the shelter

day. I felt in some small way that if she could make it... that there was hope for the others as well. On week four, I got up to leave for class, Charlie jumped off the couch and pranced over to the door! I was so happy that I set my bag down, gave her a big hug and decided to take the rest of the day off so I could spend time with Charlie! I knew at that point that she was going to make it... we were going to make it. I spent the rest of the day following through with my promise to the dogs at the shelter. (continued on page 7)

"She's sick... and there are lots of other dogs that need homes."

"Purebreds' account for 30% of the dogs in shelters." Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science

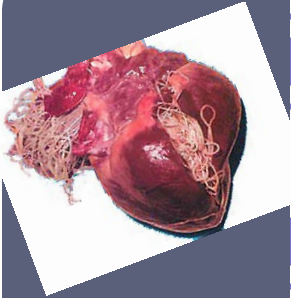
More Tammy's Tips by Tammy Mills

- 4) Always either crate your puppy where it can be watched *all* the time those first few weeks. You don't want to give them free reign in the house until you know they can be trusted. Tie them to your belt loop if you have to so that you can watch them all the time.
- 5) Puppies should be on a regular feeding schedule. This helps to know when the puppy is going to need to go potty.



Proud mother lab looks on as her babies eat in unison.

- 6) If you catch your puppy "in the act" do not scream or punish the dog; just make a noise like clapping or saying "uh uh"... just enough to distract them. Then pick them up and take them outside to the potty area. Do not *ever* rub the puppy's nose in it or punish them. This will only make things worse and could lead to your puppy eating poop. (yuck!!)
- 7) Praise, praise, praise your puppy when they do go potty in the designated area.



"The average lifespan of heartworms in untreated pets is 6-7 years in dogs and 2-3 years in cats."

~ Dr. Foster and Smith Education Staff

"One of the biggest reasons people don't spay/neuter their pet is that they may, in the future, want to raise and sell pet babies."



Picture above is of Dede Whitcombe and Heather Edstrom at a CCHS Social

Spay, Neuter, Heartworms...Oh My!

Having spent more than a year volunteering directly with dogs and working with other animals for years, I've learned an important lesson. Caring for your dog by spaying/neutering and using heartworm prevention is essential. More than thousands of healthy pets of all shapes, sizes, and colors are killed each year by being abused and abandoned. Some people have different views on spaying/neutering their pet, but in today's world, it has evolved into a safe and effective surgery to protect your pet's life and control our pet population. Benefits include lowering the risk of testicular or ovarian cancers, reducing the risk of tumors and hernias, which in dogs can be very costly and fatal. It also significantly lowers our local pet population. Neutering a male dog can help their temperament by reducing their aggressions. They, too, are less likely to mark their

territory. Spaying in females has the same effects in temperament as does neutering in males. One of the biggest reasons people don't spay/neuter their pet is that they may, in the future, want to raise and sell pet babies. That may seem like a great way to make money, but it can turn into a dreadful event that only trained, knowledgeable, and responsible breeders know well. In the end, the cost of raising the litter will most likely consume the majority of your "profit." If everyone in our community would take the responsibility by spaying/neutering their pet, we at CCHS will achieve one of our biggest goals, which is to educate people about spaying and neutering.

As for heartworm prevention, I was extremely stunned when I learned that most people are not aware of the severity of the fatal heartworm epidemic. This outbreak is widespread, and

it will become more problematic if the issue is not taken care of. Heartworms are spaghetti-like parasites spread by mosquitoes. They grow, replicate and live in the lungs and heart. This parasite is extremely dangerous to dogs, and other animals as well. If we don't either prevent or get monthly heartworm check-ups for our pets, they could die without treatment. There are many different, successful, monthly preventatives your dog can take to avert this parasite. Consider discussing the topic further with your veterinarian.

Remember, when you adopt, buy, or rescue a dog, or any other animal, they need to be treated the same way as children. Teach them; keep them safe, healthy, and happy. If everyone treated their pets this way, the future of dogs and other pets would look much brighter.

*~by Kevin Olney
(CCHS F&M Coordinator)*

CCHS or is it CCAS? by Dede Whitcombe (Volunteer/Foster)

Many confuse Collin County Humane Society with Collin County Animal Services. CCAS was established three years ago as a stray hold facility only to house the stray animals of Collin County. Before CCAS was built, the SPCA of McKinney had this daunting task and it was just too much for such a growing area. CCAS was built under contract with the SPCA to house these animals and the SPCA is supposed to pull all

adoptable animals once their stray hold is finished. Now, not even the SPCA can possibly house this many animals as the area continues to grow at the pace it is. CCAS now allows adoptions directly from their shelter. They do not charge an adoption fee, however you must prepay at the SPCA of McKinney to have the animal altered. Once that is done, CCAS will deliver the animal to the SPCA vet clinic and you pick up your new

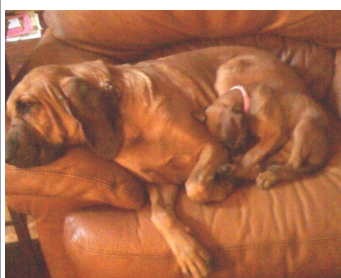
baby the next day! The SPCA can also perform other vet services at that time, like needed vaccinations, heartworms and a fecal test. CCAS accommodates 13 cities, that is a lot of doggies coming in the door. The shelter is heavily dependent on the SPCA and other rescues pulling doggies to keep their euthanasia rates down. However, my hopes are that more and more will rescue directly from city and county shelters!

COLLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

First Quarter Report
Spring 2010

Happy Tails Highlights

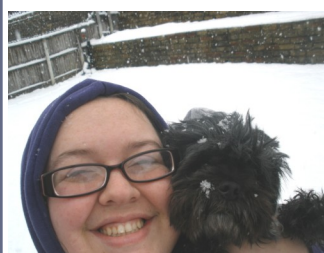
**SARAH BELLE
ADOPTED MARCH
BY THE VALENCIES**



**EVA
ADOPTED DEC
BY THE MONSONS**



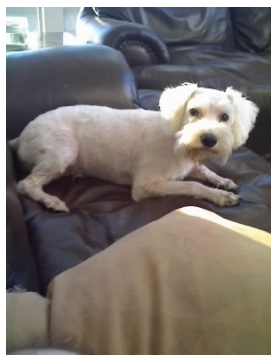
**ROSIE
ADOPTED JANUARY
BY THE TAYLORS**



**GEORGIA
ADOPTED MARCH
BY THE NUTTERS**



**DELILAH
ADOPTED MARCH
BY THE PAXTONS**



**BUGATTI & ALPHA R
ADOPTED MARCH
BY THE KANSKIS**



**DOLCE
ADOPTED MARCH
BY THE HOCKADAYS**



**SARAH
ADOPTED FEB
BY THE GANNONS**



**GINGER & FENDER
ADOPTED JAN
BY THE BLANTONS**



**MAGGIE MAY
ADOPTED JAN
BY THE NUEBAUERS**



**MADONNA
ADOPTED JAN
BY DELAUNAYS**



**HURLEY GIRL &
DOMINO
ADOPTED JAN
BY KELLI & CHUCK**



*Please help our cause by joining our
Membership Program!*



Complete the application below and mail to

PO Box 2733 McKinney, TX 75070

Or visit our website and complete an online registration form today!

Name: _____ Reminders via: ☐ Mail or ☐ Email

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Tail Wagger	<input type="checkbox"/> Puppy Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Canine Crusader
\$10 per month	\$25 per month	\$50 per month	\$75 per month

-Please make checks payable to: CCHS

-Please ask us about Auto-Payment options -or- Why not pay annually!

-Membership benefits include: Quarterly Newsletter, Entry in Annual Giveaway, & more to come!

Method of Payment

☐ Check

☐ Bill Me

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ Paypal

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____

Exp. date _____



Phone: 641-715-3900

Fax: 866-803-5997

E-mail:

contact@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org

Collin County Humane Society

PO Box 2733

McKinney, TX 75070



*"I am only one... but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I
can do something; and because I
cannot do everything, I will not
refuse to do something I can do."
~Edward Everett Hale*



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Helping Save Lives One Dog at a Time

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My Journey to Rescue...and the evolution of CCHS (story continued)

(...continued from page 3) promise to the dogs at the shelter. I emailed the rescue group that I met at the shelter and got to work formulating a plan of action to cover the shelters in my area of town. Once Charlie was all better, I took in my first foster puppies and haven't stopped since!

It was January 2008 when I decided that it was time that I start working on a plan to start a new rescue group in the DFW area. I had been a part of four rescue groups from CA to TX since 2000. I learned many great techniques and saw wonderful qualities within each group. I felt it would be very powerful to take a little part of each group and make one *amazing* rescue program! Kind of like genetic selection, that is used when breeding for the "Best in Show."

I must say... what an amazing journey the past two years have been! We grew from a group with a couple of volunteers and an idea... to an organization with over 60 volunteers, 30+ fosters, and over 1200 dogs that have

been rescued and re-homed! And if I do say so myself... *the* best ran group in the DFW area! CCHS is "The Best in Show." My hats off to you all... the fosters, the helpers, the adopters... *this* would not be possible without your dedication. *This* would not be functional without your love for animals. CCHS would not exist if it wasn't for the common bond that holds us all together. My hats off to you all and I hope 2010 brings us all the joy and success... and more, that was achieved in the years prior!

You might be wondering whatever became of Charlie... Well I'll tell you! Charlie is a beautiful 90lbs, 10 1/2 year old spoiled rotten doggie... who is the picture of health! She goes for at least two walks (or runs a day) and lives with my parents in Arizona. They took her in after my neighbor complained about my having a dog. You might recall at the beginning of the article I talked about going to get a cat. Well, we were not allowed to have dogs at our apartment so that was why the cat was my original plan (hence my being a stickler for getting proof of pet deposit

from renters). I was able to smuggle puppy fosters in and out but as Charlie grew... she wasn't as easy to hide from neighbors and the leasing office. We were given a "three day notice to move out or get rid of the dog." My parents met me in Blyth and took in sweet Charlie. I had one of my baby fosters in the car too, and my dad was pretty upset when he thought I was giving him that puppy too! I told him, "Oh no, she's just a foster, I have a home for her." An eye roll, and a head nod, and we were off! I cried the whole way home but knew she was in good hands. Nine and a half years later... she is my dad's best buddy. Charlie truly was my very first foster and has had the most amazing happy ending that I could have asked for! Oh, my parents have the patience of a Saint and Charlie is their mascot.

Molly Peterson
President/Director CCHS