



# Paw Print

## 'TIS THE SEASON... FOR ABANDONING YOUR PET

by Molly Peterson (CCHS President / Director)

Holiday cheer, spending time with family, beautiful decorations, and packed malls are the first things that most people think of this time of year. Outside of the rose colored glasses of the holiday season, some face anxiety about the overwhelming to do list, while others have extreme depression over the absence of loved ones. Adding to this plight is this pain that thousands of once beloved household pets face when they wind up homeless for the holidays. While the economy is a common and convenient excuse, the truth is that "Fido" has become an inconvenience. After all, who has time to walk a dog let alone train it with the

overwhelming list of things to do?

The Collin County Humane Society is a non-profit dog rescue group that helps take in owner surrendered dogs as well as dogs that are going to be put to sleep at local shelters. Most of the dogs in the CCHS adoption program are pulled from local shelters (Animal Control Facilities) and taken into our foster homes where we have them fully vetted while we search for forever homes. Animal control facilities are set up to house lost pets, so when a stray animal is brought in to the shelter, there is a six day hold period during which the

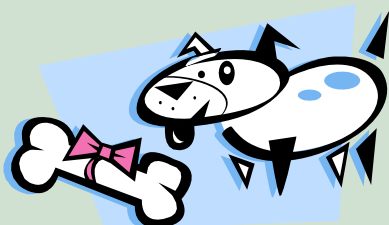
owner has time to reclaim their pet. It is important to know that when dogs are surrendered by their **owner** to shelters, there is no hold period - the dog is up for immediate euthanasia. And that is where rescue groups like the Collin County Humane Society come into play.

Thus far in 2010, CCHS has taken in 18 litters of puppies or pregnant dogs for a total of 144 unwanted puppies that were owner surrendered either directly to CCHS or to a shelter where they were up for immediate euthanasia. CCHS took in an additional 36 dogs in 2010 (and growing) that

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2011 Gala Sponsors and Donations Needed—page 6
- Grayson's Letter to Santa—page 2
- Upcoming Events—page 12



## A PUPPY MILL BROUGHT ME TO CCHS

by Ashley Pickering (CCHS Advisory Board / Mentor / Foster)

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On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 I was watching the news. There was a story about puppy mills here in Texas. There was a large rescue effort going on at a mill near the Metroplex area. I distinctly remember looking at my own dogs and thinking how lucky they were and how much I absolutely adored them. My stomach turned at the images I saw and all I could think was that I wanted to help; I wanted to make a difference

for those dogs and the thousands out there like them. Little did I know how my life would change on that day!

About an hour later, I was completing and submitting an application to foster with Collin County Humane Society. Let me just clarify that I take my dogs to the vet as much as some people take their kids to the pediatrician – with that being said, I got a response from

Molly Peterson within a couple hours asking for some clarification on a couple of items. After those items were clarified, she called me and asked me if I would be willing to take in a puppy mill dog! WHAT THE WHAT??! How could I say no?

A day and a half later, I was the very proud foster of Justin - a horribly dirty, completely unsocialized,

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## A MOTHER'S LOVE

by Molly Peterson (CCHS President/Director)

For those of us in rescue, a drive down the road can turn into a life-saving adventure at any given time. The story of Zeus and Sarafina is one of those cases that shows the lengths that some will go to... all in a day's work!

It had been a long day and Stephanie Mosby was on her way home to take care of her family and fur kids. Looking ahead, she saw a dead dog on the side of the road, what appeared to be a lion cub <<eye rub>> stuck in a fence and *maybe* another dog nearby <<jaw drops>>. It was hard to tell going 65mph, so in that moment Mosby had two choices; she could go home and ignore what could potentially be a long and arduous attempt to free a wild cub and

save a dog, or she could circle *all* the way back around the freeway and spend the next hour working to save a life... or two.

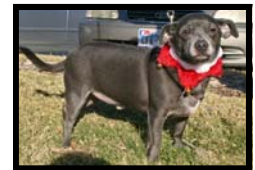
This is the moment that separates true rescuers from the rest of the world. Mosby took option two and as her car circled back to the east-bound service road, the news was bittersweet. Good news was that there was not a cub tangled in the fence. The bad news was the animal in the fence was a Great Pyrenees puppy and there was indeed a dog nearby that was frantically running around between the dead dog and her injured puppy. It was evident that she was the mom of these babies. Just moments earlier she had tragically

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{ Looking ahead, she saw a dead dog on the side of the road, what appeared to be a Lion cub <<eye rub>> stuck in a fence and maybe another dog nearby <<jaw drops>>. }

Dear Santa,

My name is Grayson and I have only one wish. I would really like to have my own home for the holidays this year. You see, they say I am a special dog. But I just have a little tic because I recovered from a doggie disease called Distemper. It doesn't make me a bad dog though. Please Santa, send me my own home for Christmas.



Love,  
Grayson

Grayson is a 4 year old Terrier mix

## HAPPY WIFE MEANS A HAPPY HOME by Chris Pickering

"You are truly a patient man." "Doesn't it bother you?" "This must get on your nerves." These are just some of the many comments I hear regularly by those that discover what we do and how much we do it.

What I am referring to is being the husband of a Collin County Humane Society foster.

Let me be clear, right off the bat. When your significant other comes to you with the idea of being a foster and that they will take care of everything, don't believe for one min-

ute you will not be directly involved. All the time. If you value your relationship with your significant other, be prepared to help. If you value your sanity, be prepared to be patient. If you have a love for animals, be prepared to fall in love... a lot.

I made the silly mistake of thinking that with a stay-at-home wife, two girls in middle school and me with a demanding full time job, I would be hands off. I mean, I had to be. There is no way I could find the time or energy to put into taking care of a houseful of dogs on top of our own 4.

Now a year and a half into this, I am the co-keeper of this zoo.

I will no longer refer to this endeavor as my wife's, this is our journey, as is everything else in our lives. I resigned myself to that fact long ago. And while she conducts all of the clerical work, and has all the people skills, I am the assistant. The assistant that wrangles puppies, controls giant Anatolian Shepherds and Great Danes, moves the heavy stuff, shuttles our fur-less pets (the kids) to their needed events when the queen is in dispose, and yes, cleans up from time to



Chris with a foster puppy

time when the dogs make a mess.

Yes, due to my love for animals, I let them roam free in the house a lot, once they are getting good on the potty training. However, I will need to invest in a carpenter before we move out to replace the

(Continued on page 9)



## THE 2 THOUSAND DOLLAR DOG

by Gloria Meyer (CCHS Foster)

In the 20+ years I have been involved in animal rescue I have fostered many very sick dogs and cats. When I saw in Rosie's foster needed post that she was good with cats, I thought "this is a dog I can help". What I did not expect was the challenge that came with Rosie.

Rosie is a three year old beautiful Basset Hound who was found as a stray by a kind family that took her in, had her spayed and vaccinated, and gave her all the care and love they could. However, Rosie needed more extensive medical care than the family, who was experiencing health issues of their own, could afford. So they contacted CCHS for help. Thankfully they did because poor Rosie was in critical condition with a severe hookworm infestation, so bad that they were destroying her intestines and causing Rosie to have terrible diarrhea and vomiting. So Rosie was not able to get any nutrition from the food she ate and she was at least 10 lbs underweight; nothing but skin covering bones. She was also very anemic with blood test results in the danger zone.

Rosie was immediately taken to Parker Animal and Bird Clinic where she was put on several medications and a diet of boiled chicken and rice for seven days so that her intestines could begin to heal. Despite the medications and diet, Rosie's health did not improve and within the first week she was at my house we made several trips to PABC, a scary late night trip to the animal emergency clinic for intensive fluid therapy due to severe dehydration that came on very suddenly and then another overnight stay at PABC for more fluids and a barium enema to coat her intestines so they would have time to repair.

More changes in medications and a new diet plan began to make a difference in dear Rosie. As I sit here and type this, I am looking at a much different Rosie than the Rosie I first met. The Rosie I met six weeks ago had pretty much given up on life; after all, who wants a life where you feel miserable every single day. The Rosie that is sleeping in the chair next to me today has a sparkle in her eye, a jump in her step and the beginning of a fat tummy. The ribs that were once so prominently showing are beginning to have some fat around them and the bony backbone is slowly disappearing.

(Continued on page 10)

*Rosie with ribs protruding*



*Rosie on the path to recovery*



Residents Lucian and Melvin with pets Jake (Golden Lab) and Astro (Black and Tan Shepherd)

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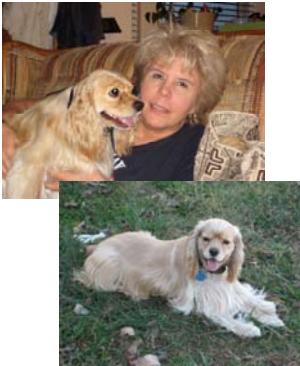
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# Happy Tails

**KIRBY  
ADOPTED BY  
LETTY CLANTON**



**DELILAH  
ADOPTED BY THE  
ARNOLDS**



**ANDY  
ADOPTED  
BY THE GILLS**



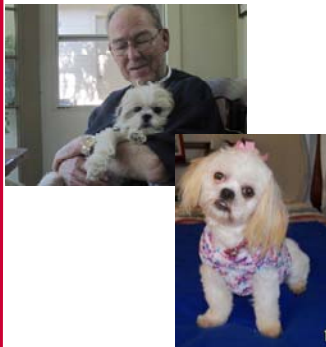
**LILY ADOPTED  
BY LISA MASSEY**



**AUBREY AND WINN  
DIXIE ADOPTED BY  
THE STAMPERS**



**MILEY AND  
MUFFIN  
ADOPTED BY THE  
GRIFFINS**



**PEPPER ADOPTED  
BY LIZETTE  
BLONDET SWAIN**



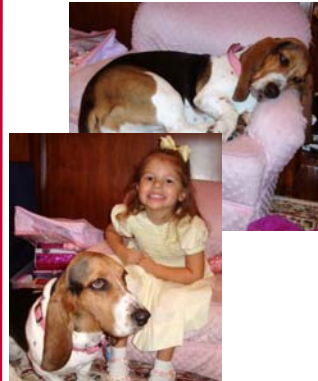
**BAILEY ADOPTED  
BY THE  
WILLIAMS  
FAMILY**



**LUCY ADOPTED BY  
THE HATCHERS**



**JOSEY ADOPTED BY  
THE PRINCES**



**PUMPKIN ADOPTED  
BY THE WILIFORDS**



**LACY ADOPTED  
BY THE  
DAVIS FAMILY**



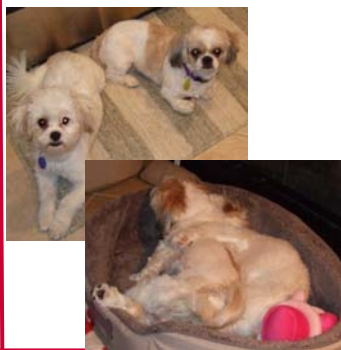
Winter





# More Happy Tails

**SKEETER WITH  
SISTER PEARL  
ADOPTED BY THE  
SHAWS**



**TANNER  
ADOPTED BY THE  
SHUPPS**



**SULLY  
ADOPTED BY THE  
BULLOCKS**



**CASH ADOPTED  
BY THE HAMBYS**



Winter

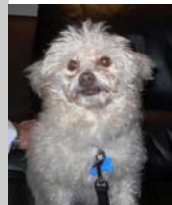
**SAMMY AND  
BUDDY ADOPTED  
BY  
JAMES GRIFFIS &  
EMMA GRIFFIS**



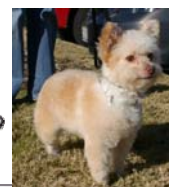
**RANGER  
ADOPTED BY THE  
SANTILLANS**



*Thank You A&B Kennel Club for transforming  
Harvey!*



*Before*



*After*

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## YOU WANT TO COME HERE? HOME VISITS AND PET MEETINGS....WHY DO WE DO THIS?

By Tressa Broadhead, CCHS Vice President

My husband thought I was crazy. Why would I have to visit the home of someone wanting to adopt my foster? When we first started fostering, he felt like so many of the potential adopters that I have come across. "Tressa...This is kind of nuts! There are hundreds of homeless dogs and they want to adopt one. What's next...background checks?" he exclaimed. I smirked and giggled as I walked off. Little did he know I was already Googling the names of my applicants to see what I would find on their Facebook page.

You may have wondered yourself as you went through the adoption process....Why did they need to come visit my home? What did they think they would find, and what were they looking for? Some have felt it was an intrusion. Some have told me they thought it was too much. But I'm here to tell you why we do this, and what the information that we

collect means to us 'rescuers'.

See...you have to understand that we aren't just playing around with this thing called 'fostering'. We are animal lovers. To our core. We volunteer not only our time, but the unwilling time of our families. We change plans last minute on them so we can get a dog from here to there. We truly believe that until you have had the front seat of your car vomited on by a sick pup it hasn't properly been broken in. Unless you have picked up a stinky poop-matted dog with your bare hands, you haven't really lived yet. We spend sleepless nights listening to the howling of a scared dog that doesn't yet understand that it is safe, and then spend exhausted hours scrubbing up the urine from the same dog off our floor as we work to potty train your future family member. I think you know where I'm going. We make sacrifices for the sake of the dog you want me to hand over to you



with little more than a five minute application and smile. Work with us a bit, huh?

So, we want to know where our former hot mess is going to be living. Home checks give us the opportunity to visit the place where a small part of our heart will live out its days. You see, we know that a few pointers from the person who has lived with the animal will help new dog owners

*(Continued on page 10)*

## We Need Your Help!!

Please help us secure **auction items** and **sponsors** for our **2011 Gala**.

Our ultimate goal is to build a no-kill adoption facility and the Gala is our primary fundraiser to help us reach this goal.

**Please contact businesses, friends and family for auction donations and sponsorships.**

Gala Date: August 19, 2011

Please contact Lisa Weinstein at [alisacornish@gmail.com](mailto:alisacornish@gmail.com) with donations and sponsorships

Sponsorship Packages \$500 - \$10,000

Gift Certificates

Dinner Packages

Massages

Manicures

Pet Supplies and Services

Photography Packages

Shopping Sprees

Limo Rentals

Vacation Condos / Time Shares

Airline Tickets

Sporting Events

Hotel Packages

## A MOTHER'S LOVE (CONTINUED)

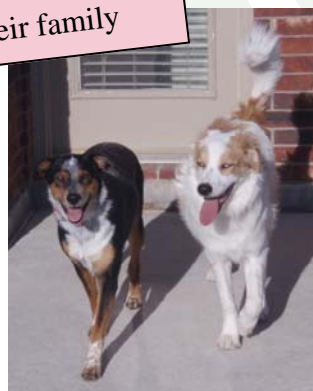
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watched her baby get struck and killed on the freeway as she and her other baby ran to the clearing on the side of the hill...only to have her other puppy wind up tangled in the fence <<forehead slap>>. Panic set in for both the mom and Mosby...this could be bad... this could be really bad.

Mosby was able to free the puppy (later named Zeus) and get him safely into her vehicle using bribes from a bag of food she always kept in her car (you know you're a rescuer when...). The mom (named Sarafina) on the other hand kept trying to run back to the freeway. As gentle as she could be, Mosby made every attempt to coerce her anywhere but the freeway. There was a clearing to the side of the street that she could disappear in (which would also be bad) but better than meeting the same fate as her baby. Sweaty, hairdo now a ball of frizz, and work clothes dirty and full of stickers, Mosby was finally able to sit beside her in the ditch, stroking her soft fur and began pleading, "Mama, c'mon. It's hot out here, you have no food or water and your puppy is gone. There's nothing we can do for her now, but your other puppy is hurt and he needs you."

At that moment, the mom pulled away unexpectedly, forcing Mosby to drop the lead, and ran down the embankment to the highway (Mosby screaming the whole time)! The mom ran up to her deceased puppy and nudged him ever so slightly as if to say

Sarafina and Zeus with their family



goodbye. She then turned, ran back to Mosby and jumped in her car. Mosby stood there in disbelief of what she just witnessed. She quickly closed the door before they changed their minds, put her key in the ignition and they began the next part of their "adventure." Sweaty, filthy, covered in dog hair and burrs, and with everyone safe in the car as the engine roared on, Mosby cried with pure joy the whole way to the nearest vet.

In what could have been a horrible tragedy, the kindness of a stranger and a mother's love prevailed that day. Zeus amazingly did not have any broken bones but he was covered in lacerations and had a hip injury. The vet suspected that his leg was either stuck or tied to something in order for his hip to sustain the injuries he had. Zeus also had what was believed to be Rickets, a disorder that occurs in puppies who do not get adequate Vitamin D.

Ashley Pickering, a foster with CCHS, stepped up to take the duo into her home and work to find them a forever home. Zeus was put on a high nutritional diet and given supplements, antibiotics and pain medicine. Because all of his issues were caught early enough, he was able to make a full recovery in the months to come. Sarafina and her baby boy Zeus were adopted by a wonderful family (the White's) where they have gone on to live out their days getting the love, attention and care that they deserve. Harry and Tracy White still laugh to this



day when they tell Sarafina, "Go get your baby" and she runs over to Zeus and then proceeds to herd him to the family. That is one mama that will never to leave her baby behind.

We thank you Stephanie Mosby for your dedication to rescue this family. Without your true, pure and genuine love for the fur kids in our communities, there is no telling the fate of Zeus and Sarafina. To the Pickerings, who always take in moms and their babies, your help with the fur families you save is *beyond* admirable. There truly are no words to express how thankful we all are for the sacrifices you make for these deserving families every day. And last, but certainly not least, many thanks to the White's for choosing to adopt this family and for choosing to support rescue. Without the support of adopters, we would not be able to help the many dogs that we do.

Being a rescuer isn't extraordinary in and of itself, but having the strength to take action is what separates the "men from the boys" or an "animal lover from a Rescuer." Be a Rescuer



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## TIS THE SEASON (*CONTINUED*)

(Continued from page 1)

were directly owner surrendered to CCHS. In total, just under 700 dogs and puppies thus far were taken into the CCHS adoption program in 2010. The majority of these dogs were found as stray and taken in by local animal control. Then CCHS stepped up when their stray hold expired, saving them from euthanasia.

According to the Collin County Humane Society's intake records from 2008 through November 2010, the intake numbers rise around the holiday season, with most of the dogs coming in as strays to the local shelter and the rest being turned in as owner surrenders. The reasons for surrendering their once beloved pet ranges from the ever popular alleged "financial hardship", to "behavioral issues" that the family can/will no longer tolerate, to families that simply state that they "don't have time." There are many programs in place to help people with financial hardships work to keep their beloved pets. The Collin County Humane Society is contacted on a regular basis for assistance finding a home for families' once loved dogs. 86% of the families that have contacted CCHS about surrendering their dogs listed "financial hardship" as the surrender reason. Of that 86%, only 1% of the families worked with CCHS on a financial plan to help them keep their dogs instead of handing them over to foster care. So, I ask you this, if the reason they are surrendering their dog is due to financial reasons, then why would the families not take CCHS' offer to help them keep their pets?

With the influx of strays around the holiday season as well as the rise in owner surrenders, it appears as though families' once beloved pets are now an inconvenience. Within the CCHS Board or Directors, it is believed (but cannot of course be proven as most of the owners for dogs found stray do not surface) that the reason the stray numbers escalate

this time of year is because of the increased number of people leaving town and also leaving their pets behind to fend for themselves. Could you imagine leaving town for a week and not bothering to pay anyone to watch your pet, so you leave him outside with a bag of food and a bucket of water? Or how about turning your dog or cat into the shelter because family was coming to visit that didn't like your pet? For a majority of us pet lovers, we can't imagine surrendering our pet for any reason or leaving them outside to their own demise, but alas, we see such cases all the time.

Recently, CCHS had two families contact the organization about surrendering their beloved dogs for "financial distress." CCHS offered to help work out a payment plan for the pet deposit or connect them to resources that are dedicated to such causes. In both cases CCHS offered several suggestions to help them keep their dogs, but at the end of the day the families admitted that they were just going to be really busy in the upcoming months and didn't have time for their dogs. Can it really be that easy to discard a member of your family or is it that some people just do not see domestic pets as a

part of their family? Instead they see a pet as a novelty item that is cute to look at through the window and easily discarded at the next garage sale. Why even have a domestic pet if you are just going to keep him outside?

Texas has extreme weather fluctuations and it is not humane to keep domesticated pets outside 24/7. Heartworms are very prevalent and one single mosquito bite can give your dog or cat heartworms if the pet is not current on heartworm preventive. Furthermore, every week we hear about dogs being poisoned by people for various reasons (everything from neighbors no longer willing to tolerate barking to accidental poison from chemicals around the yard). We've seen dogs die of heat exhaustion and hypothermia because their owners left them outside (even people who just did it for a day while they were out and the weather changed drastically while they were gone). The number of dogs that escape a yard by digging, a gate being left open or the rain washing their secured tether away is astronomical. Those pets that were able to dodge traffic and make it to a shelter unscathed are only there by sheer luck. Domesticated pets are bred to

(Continued on page 9)





## TIS THE SEASON (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 8)

be social creatures. The confinement of a yard is not suitable for their well being or health.

Often times we hear that the cost to care for a dog is just too high, there are plenty of resources available to help people take the best care of their pets without having to spend a small fortune. [PetShed.com](http://PetShed.com) is a great place to get generic heartworm preventative ranging from \$13.95-\$19.95 for a six month supply. Local feed stores offer low cost vaccinations that you can administer as well.

The following clinics offer low cost spay/neuters and vaccinations:

- Collin County Animal Shelter (not to be confused with the Collin County Humane Society) located at 4750 Community Blvd (McKinney) 75071 [animalshel-](http://animalshel-ter@collincountytx.gov)

[ter@collincountytx.gov](mailto:ter@collincountytx.gov)

- Parker Animal and Bird Clinic located at 2129 W Parker Rd (Ste A) Plano, TX 75023 (972) 985-0036

Precious Jewels Pet Sitting offers affordable in-home pet sitting (contact Vanessa Brammer, CCHS Advisory Board Member for pricing: [costarica629@yahoo.com](mailto:costarica629@yahoo.com)).

Pet Paradise in Melissa offers affordable on-site boarding: <http://www.pet-paradise.net/>.

Visit <http://www.collincountyhumanesociety.org/HelpfulInfo.htm> for a complete list of financial resources to help with medical bills, over the counter medication, affordable dog trainers, and other miscellaneous information for your beloved pet.

If you do choose to adopt a pet, remember that they will be with you for the next 10+ years so giving them away or giving puppies/dogs as a gift this Christmas is not in anyone's best interest. You need to train them, feed them, and above all give them the attention they deserve. They are counting on you this holiday season, and the many more to come, to keep them warm and safe just as you would any member of your family.

Happy Holidays to all - we hope 2011 brings you all the happiness you deserve. If you or someone you know is considering adopting a pet, visit this link first to be sure you are ready: <http://www.collincountyhumanesociety.org/Ready2Adopt.htm>



[www.pet-paradise.net](http://www.pet-paradise.net)

5796 Farm to Market Road 2933 Melissa, TX 75454 (972) 838-2738

## HAPPY WIFE MEANS A HAPPY HOME (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

awesome modifications the fosters have applied to all things wood in the house.

Would I change any of this? Absolutely! I would have accepted the scope of this long ago and been even more supportive. I would have not gone against the grain and accepted the change. Life is about

sacrifices, right?

In the end, it's all worth it. I wish I knew then what I know now. I certainly would have foster proofed better earlier on. But thanks to a great job, and being handy, I can fix most things. And I enjoy providing the guidance to adopting families so they can have a less painful time raising their new addition, or teach-

ing them the tricks to manage the always different quirky behaviors each dog has.

Is it a pain? Does it test my patience? Is it frustrating? Yes. But nowhere near the satisfaction I get in seeing my wife happy, new families elated and seeing animals saved. What have you done today to help those around you?

## THE 2 THOUSAND DOLLAR DOG *(CONTINUED)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Rosie's first family said they never heard her bark; believe me Rosie has a wonderful Basset bark that she uses frequently to tell me how happy she is. I think she was just too sick to do anything but try to stay alive.

CCHS calls Rosie their \$2000 dog because conservatively that is what all of Rosie's care has cost and we still have one more hurdle to cross



when she is ready. For, Rosie is also heartworm positive and will have to undergo heartworm treatment. Yes,

that's a lot of money to spend on a dog, but when every morning you are greeted by a dog that is so happy to see you, ready for breakfast and the excitement of another day of feeling "so much better", it is a small price to pay. CCHS is able to help dogs like the Rosie's in the world through the donations of caring people so if you would like to help us with Rosie's continuing care we would love you to do so. Any amount will help.

***Collin County Humane Society has adopted out 685 dogs to date in 2010!***

***One dog at a time...***

## YOU WANT TO COME HERE? *(CONTINUED)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

acclimate their new family member so it will be a success. Small holes under a fence can become huge holes that can be wiggled out of, and adopters need to know this before the dog has figured it out. I can gently remind a family with small kids and toys all over the floor that those toys look a lot like dog

toys to a puppy, and that they will become just that if not properly picked up.

Oh, and we love questions. We will ask you difficult questions to see how you react. Do you easily become irritated by me? Then you will probably become easily irritated by the new dog that can't figure out the brand new doggie door you spent hundreds on. Are your kids bouncing off walls and difficult to control? I now have clues about how well you will train your dog, and know what level of activity your future dog needs to have so it can keep up, but not become a nuisance. I can predict with some certainty how you will react to a doggie mess by how clean or messy your house is. Please don't misunderstand, I'm not looking for perfection from you. I'm looking for perfect for the dog. Thankfully, more often than not, I find it.

So when you hear the dreaded words 'home check' please welcome us in. We are not the dog adoption Nazi's (though I think the few I have denied would argue otherwise). We appreciate the courtesy towards us that we have given towards your potential new family member. Know this - I have spent hours or days of my time training and grooming your pet so he will be accepted and loved by you. Is asking for 30 minutes of your time really that incomprehensible?

After years of seeing adoptions that can go awry, my husband now understands why we do home checks. He still looks at me like I'm nuts sometimes when I explain with child-like enthusiasm how awesome the new home was for our foster. I smirk and giggle as I walk off.

[www.CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org](http://www.CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org)

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for your donations!***

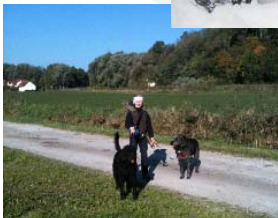




Justin after being rescued from a puppy mill



Justin now—as a member of the Pape family!



## A PUPPY MILL BROUGHT ME TO CCHS (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

flea and tick infested Labradoodle. This poor dog had ticks inside his eyelids. I cannot even exaggerate the amount of ticks that were covering him. I tried everything to get them off. I was new to this and had no idea what the right thing to do was. I bathed him...and bathed him...and bathed him. Then I sat outside with him with a pair of tweezers and tried to pull them off one by one. After over 6 hours of pulling ticks, I finally called Molly and asked her what to do. I had to take him to the vet and they had to keep him overnight and give him two very strong flea and tick dips.

Now that he was cleaned up a little, I had to teach Justin how to eat out of a food bowl, how to drink out of a water bowl, how to go up stairs, how to NOT jump on people or use our arms as pull toys, and how to walk straight (not in a zig-zag pattern) on a leash. It was as if he was a newborn puppy in the body of a grown dog. Through all this, HE WAS THE BEST, MOST PATIENT DOG, EVER. He took to family life like a, well, like a lab to water!

I finally found what I thought was the right family for him. I explained to them that he still had some issues coming back inside once outside – something about

doorframes scared him. He was still very mouthy – which is actually a lab trait. They said that they would work on it, no problems. He was returned to me within 5 days. However, it was okay because the universe had better plans for him!! Within a day of putting him back on Petfinder, I received another application for him that was absolutely astounding! They had another Labradoodle! They traveled to Europe every summer and took the dog with them! Oh. My. Goodness.

After a home visit with the family, Justin was placed with his “happily ever after” family and I was left in tears. I thought that it was because he was my first rescue; I have since discovered that I cry every time I place a dog/puppy with a new family.

I used to be a Branch Manager for Chase Bank – I worked crazy hours, 6am to 7pm; I helped people invest their money; I did mortgages for people; I hobnobbed – but I never felt fulfilled. I never thought that I made a difference. On that day in September, I wanted to make a difference in the life of a dog. Little did I know what a difference a dog would make in my life.

### Need a Unique Gift idea for the Holidays?

#### Honor a Beloved Pet or Pet Lover

by helping us save another animal in need.

Donate to CCHS “in honor of” or “in memory of”  
a pet or an animal lover.

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Visit: [www.cchsapplications.org/donation\\_form.htm](http://www.cchsapplications.org/donation_form.htm)



Est. March 2008

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**Helping Save Lives one Dog at a Time**

## Who We Are

Collin County Humane Society is a non-profit 501c3 organization established in March of 2008. We are dedicated to helping dogs who are unwanted, abandoned or lost. We focus on finding these loyal souls proper care and loving homes.

CCHS does not have a shelter. All of our dogs live in foster homes with volunteers until they

are adopted. We provide all necessary veterinary care for our foster dogs, including vaccinations, spay/neuter, heartworm treatment if needed, heartworm preventative and any other special care they require. Please consider CCHS when you are ready to add a furry friend to your family.

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month:** Adoption event at PetSmart - 170 E Stacy Rd, Allen TX
- ⇒ Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month at restaurants around town to mingle, network and raise money for CCHS! There will be a raffle to win the prize of the night! Join our Collin County Humane Society Facebook group! You will receive updates on our upcoming Yappy Hour location, and other special events around town!