

Angie's Friends

Aiding Neglected Dogs

Spring 2012 Newsletter

Oh, I have such good news! I received an answer to my plea for help with the website. One of our long time contributors, Maria Marlow, convinced a man who has done website work for her to volunteer to help us. Ryan Haas has completely redone the Angie's Friends website to be more user-friendly and provide more up-to-date information. We worked for several months to make changes in the format and get rid of info that was old. I hope that you will visit the new sight—still at www.angiesfriends.org and checkout the improvements. We also had another contributor offer help with the site, Ernest Zolka, but he felt that Ryan had more experience and should proceed with the overhaul. Ernie had a great idea to include testimonials about Angie on the sight. I haven't been very successful in getting these—there is one mentioned in this newsletter—so if anyone would like to submit something, there is a contact page on the website where you can do that and we will add your comments to the webpage. I just cannot offer enough thanks and sincere gratitude to Ryan, Maria, Ernie, Bob, Beverly, and Karin for all of their help and support in getting the new website up and running. Let us know what you think!

Recent bad turned good news stories: Angie found Drake (6 months old) in west Dallas with some sort of tubing wrapped around his neck, very skinny and suffering from mange. Bob and Natalie Blankenship, who are long time supporters, took him in and took him to their vet. It was discovered that he had a stomach blockage due to eating disposable diapers while foraging for food. He had a very low white blood count as well. The doctor was not sure if Drake had a chance, but he has made a miraculous turnaround and is thriving in the care of the Blankenship's.



Drake as Angie found him and at the vet's office



Drake at the Blankenship home..... So happy!

Pixie is another sad to happy story.

This story is submitted by Beverly Fyfe. Angie received a phone call early one morning from a woman in west Dallas. The woman was very upset because she had been watching children next door to her house abusing a small dog. People in west Dallas frequently call Angie. They do not trust the authorities and will not call them to handle an animal situation but most of them know and trust Angie for everything animal-related.

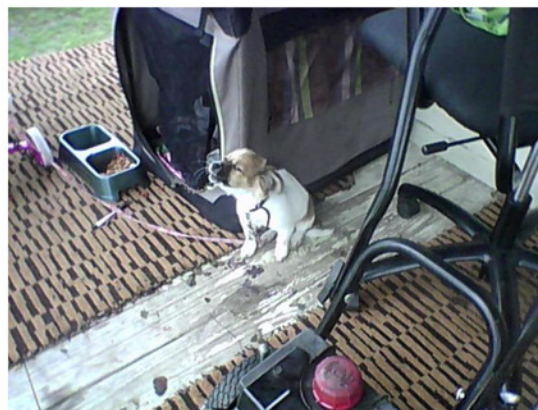
Angie stopped by the address during her rounds that morning and sure enough, a small, frightened dog was in the yard. She found that two young women with six children between them lived at the address. Angie has to be very careful to not offend animal owners because doing that might result in them not allowing her to help their animals. However, she tried to find out about the dog. The two women spoke little English but were able to convey that "someone" had given them the dog. Angie asked them to monitor their children and be sure they did not hurt the dog.

Unfortunately, she received another call a few days later from the same concerned neighbor. This time, when Angie went to the house to check on the dog, she gathered the children together and told them to be very careful with the dog - that it felt pain and fear just like they did. She left feeling she had been able to influence them not to harm the dog.

The next week, the neighbor called to report further abuse - including seeing one boy standing on the porch and dropping the dog to the ground. This time when she got to the house, Angie noted that the little dog was wrapped in some type of heavy fabric even though it was a humid day. One of the parents told her that the dog had been missing for a couple of days but had 'come back". Angie picked up the dog to remove the hot fabric and found a very large hernia and wound on its side.



Pixie now



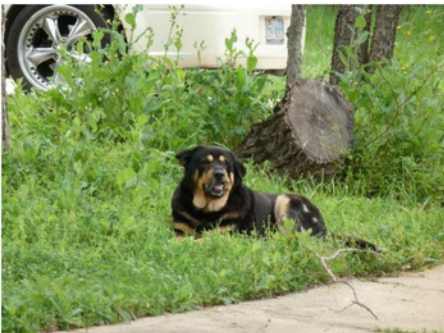
Pixie before

Angie took the dog to a veterinarian who advised her that he felt the little dog had been kicked - hard. He performed surgery and it is hoped that the dog will be alright. Angie asked the owners if they could pay for the treatment for the dog and they refused - instead turning it over to her. It is assumed that after being dropped from the porch to the ground, after being kicked very hard and whatever else this small dog endured, it hid under the house for a few days until it became so hungry that it had to come out again. The women and their children should not have animals - but they no doubt will have another one by sunset and there is nothing to prevent it. A lot of the donations made to Angie's Friends are spent on treatment for animals like Pixie. Pixie is currently in Angie's care and had to return to the doctor on May 22.

This past winter saw a huge number of dogs being infected with distemper, which is an airborne virus. In November, Angie had to euthanize one of the dogs she fed regularly because of the virus. Charlie lived in the same backyard as Moses, but so far Moses has not been affected. In December, she saw at least four dogs appearing to suffer from distemper and roaming the streets of west Dallas. Another of the dogs that she cares for daily, General, was found dead on 12-17. Towards the end of January Angie began leaving food for a mama dog and her pup that hung out at a park in the Singleton/ Bernal area. On 2-4-12 Angie was able to catch the puppy that was running with its mom. It was very skinny and had mange. The mama dog was not seen that day. On 2/14, Angie noticed that another dog she feeds daily, Smokey, had not been eating all of his food and was not nearly as active as he normally was. Smokey continued to get worse and Angie finally took him to the vet on 2/18. He was diagnosed with distemper. Angie and I went to see him and love on him one last time at the vets before he was euthanized. It was incredible to see what a short time it took for this big healthy very active dog to succumb to the virus.

Zeus

Angie began feeding a beautiful dog she named Zeus in January. There were some days that Angie would look for him and not be able to find him. She was always worried when she could not locate him. He gradually allowed her to get closer to him but never would let Angie pet him. On Feb. 4, Angie noticed that Zeus had a bloody spot on his back. On March 10, one of Angie's supporters went to help her try to trap Zeus but they were not successful. Zeus was limping and had a swollen jaw. Finally, on March 18 with lots of help, Angie was able to capture Zeus. Once he was contained, he let Angie pet him and doctor his ears. He never growled at any of his rescuers.



Zeus waiting for Angie



Sweet Zeus captured

More of his story can be seen on the website at www.angiesfriends.org or on facebook at Angies Friends. Zeus is currently in foster care awaiting his forever family. When Zeus was able to get medical attention, the doctor saw many deep scars on his front legs and indicated that he felt that Zeus might have been used as a bait dog. Despite his possibly cruel past, Zeus doesn't seem to have a mean bone in this body. He plays and socializes with four other large dogs at his foster home.

Not only does Angie rescue dogs, she rescues cell phones. One day Angie was feeding Dee Dee for Mr. Th... and he told her he had lost his cell phone. She called the number and was finally able to find out that it had been left at a store. The owner of the store was holding it for him. When Angie went to tell Mr. Th... that his phone was at the store he said, "I wouldn't take a million dollars for her (Angie)". Needless to say, Mr. Th.. is one of Angie's biggest supporters out in west Dallas.

Coco

It seems like every newsletter has Angie losing another of her long-time dogs. She had Coco when I met her in 2006. Coco's playmates were Tigger and Jason (who have since passed on). Coco loved to lick or chew on their ears or anyone's hands/fingers. She was a sweetheart. She developed liver problems early this year and Angie and I took her to the doctor to end her pain on Feb 3rd. She was 13. I wish I had a better picture to share with you.



She's really not mean!



Coco in middle trying to kiss Angie

Samson

Samson is a German Shepherd that Angie found in 2010. She found him a wonderful home in late 2010 and recently heard from his owners that he is doing very well. He seems to be quite spoiled—which is how it should be. He has grown into a large handsome boy. Angie LOVES hearing about good adoptions. Thanks to all that have given her babies so much love.



Samson



Nurca

Nurca is a sweet smallish Doberman pinscher who Angie took in because of a broken leg. The leg could not be fixed so it was amputated. This has not slowed Nurca down in the least. She loves to play with Angie's smaller dogs—Scarlett, Shelby, Baby and Pixie. Nurca received heartworm treatment thanks to an AF donor. She is available for adoption and will be posted on the website soon.



Shelby



Baby

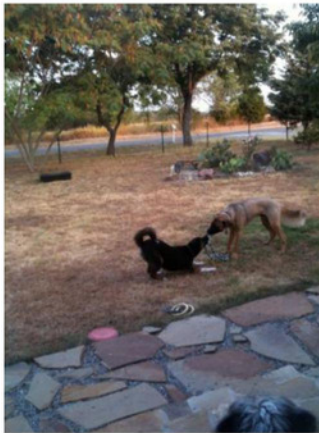


Scarlett

Angie has taken Scarlett and Baby as hers. Shelby may be adopted by Samson's owners or another couple who have adopted from Angie in the past.

Update on Cliff

Cliff is one of the dogs featured in the rescue stories tab of the website. His mom recently sent some new pictures. He sure looks happy. Thank you, Charlotte.



Cruelty abounds:

In January Angie went to feed Peewee and Blackie. She heard dogs crying in the house next door and the house behind. Next door in a small backyard she found 5 dogs on heavy chains. She went and bought new chains and moved one to get him to a dryer spot in the yard. Even though chaining dogs is against the city ordinance that was passed in 2008, many dog owners in West Dallas ignore it. In order to make the existence of these chained dogs a little easier, Angie tries to get the owners to allow her to at least put the animals on light weight tethers instead of the heavy tow truck chains that weight them down and cripple their spines. The owner of the dogs drove a Mercedes but obviously didn't care about his dogs. In the yard behind, Angie found pups with mange in a very dirty yard. The mama dog was in heat again and the man has refused to spay her. Angie found a pup on Canada Street in a basket. The pup seemed to have a broken back as she could not stand. Someone had probably left her there to die. Angie took her to be euthanized. There was a dead pit bull by the railroad tracks wrapped in a beautiful blanket. He had bite wounds. Angie called the city to pick him up.

In February Angie was made aware of some 3-day old pups that were under a house. The owner of the house had closed up the hole where they got in and was going to let them die. Dallas Animal Services talked to the owner and informed him that they would file charges if he did not leave the opening for the mama dog to be able to get to her pups. There is a story about Tyler on the website. Angie had been told not to return to look after him for some reason, but since then the man has asked Angie to start feeding him again. Tyler is alive and well because of Angie.

In March Angie found 3 dogs in horrible conditions. One was on a tow chain and one had a wide gaping wound at his neck. Angie stayed at the house for 3 hours waiting for someone from DAS to come see about the dogs. She has been promised faster service in these emergency cases. In May the new little black dog that lives with Peewee and Blackie was missing. The owner said he was under the house. It is believed that someone tried to steal her and she got lose and ran to hide. Angie ended up crawling under the house to get the dog with not much help from the owner and then when the dog was out safely she didn't even get a thank you!

Huge THANKS to donors who paid vet bills for Angie at City Vet and Mission Clinic. What a wonderful and unexpected surprise!!

Donations to: Angie's Friends, 1208 Richland Oaks, Richardson, TX 75081 or by Paypal at www.angiesfriends.org