

TWIN COUNTY
HUMANE
SOCIETY

paw prints



A Letter from the Board of the Twin County Humane Society

We are so excited about the changes happening within our organization and within our communities! First, we have a new look! Our updated logo is sleek and simple, yet gets our name out there!

Our mission statement has also evolved to include the shelter rescue program:

New Mission Statement

The Twin County Humane Society seeks to enhance the lives of animals in Carroll and Grayson Counties, and the City of Galax. Primarily, the Society is dedicated to community education and outreach, spay/neuter assistance, managing the shelter rescue program, establishing and nurturing a community of foster families,

and adopting animals to loving, caring, nurturing homes. The Society will also offer support to other municipal and community organizations that promote the compassionate treatment of animals.

Community Involvement

We continue to form deeper relationships with our veterinary community as well as the City Manager and shelter staff. This has had a significant impact on our efforts to rescue animals from the shelter. For the first time in 30 years we are now able to transfer animals out of the shelter! This means we are no longer limited to two animals per month and paying a \$15 adoption fee. Of course, this also means we need more foster homes!



Our new logo!

Wonderful news to
report for the start of

2012

In the first quarter of 2012, the euthanization rate at the shelter dropped from 94% to 51% as a result of our efforts! Please help us keep this momentum going!



A new home fit for a King

by MacGyver Killian

Ever since I was young I fell into the ignorant category, and was always taught that pit bull (bully breed) dogs were something to fear and to stay well away from; not by my parents, but the media alone. I had gone to a friend of a friends house when I was about 17, and the person living there owned a pit bull. When I first saw the dog, I will admit I was a little uneasy - that is until I got the biggest teddy bear hug and slobber on my face from the incessant licking. From that moment on, I was hooked. It was astounding to have this "beast" that I had heard so much about be so incredibly friendly.

I got my first pit bull as a puppy, and I made the mistake of being in a one bedroom apartment. Needless to say, just like any puppy, she tore up her fair share of carpet, and anything else expensive. The first time she was looked down upon for being a pit bull was just a few months later, when a woman we passed while walking moved her son away from us to the other side of the trail. Little did she know that if her son had wanted to pet my dog, it would only have made her day better.

Now that my female is all grown up, I decided it was time for her to have a friend. I was looking around online for another pit (having become so fond of the breed) and found the one named "King" - fitting for his size and stature. The listing said that he was rescued from a shelter that was about to pull the plug on his opportunity

for a long, full life, simple because he looked the part of a "mean" pit bull. That's not exactly the number one thing families are looking for when they go to the shelter to find a good, wholesome, family dog. The listing explained that he had been rescued because, out of all the other dogs in the shelter jumping up and down, acting crazy, and constantly barking, King was the quiet one, sitting patiently in his place. They also mentioned that he was great while walking on a leash and that they would prefer he go to a home that already had a female. I thought this sounded about perfect!

The day I loaded up my dog and drove out to meet the new guy was one that I had been waiting for ever since I got my first pit. We pulled up and King was taken out of the car. At first there is always the fear that two dogs won't get along, but within 10 minutes, they were both walking side by side as if they had always been together. Bringing King home was also one of those situations that could potentially go completely haywire. Not so with King. I had to give him a bath, which most people would be on edge about doing to a 65lb. pit bull they had just met, but King did great. After his cleaning in the tub, I let him out to go downstairs, just to come out and find him at the top of the stairs. As I walked down, I noticed he was staying right by my side. If I stopped on a stair, he would stop, looking up at me like he was seeking my approval.

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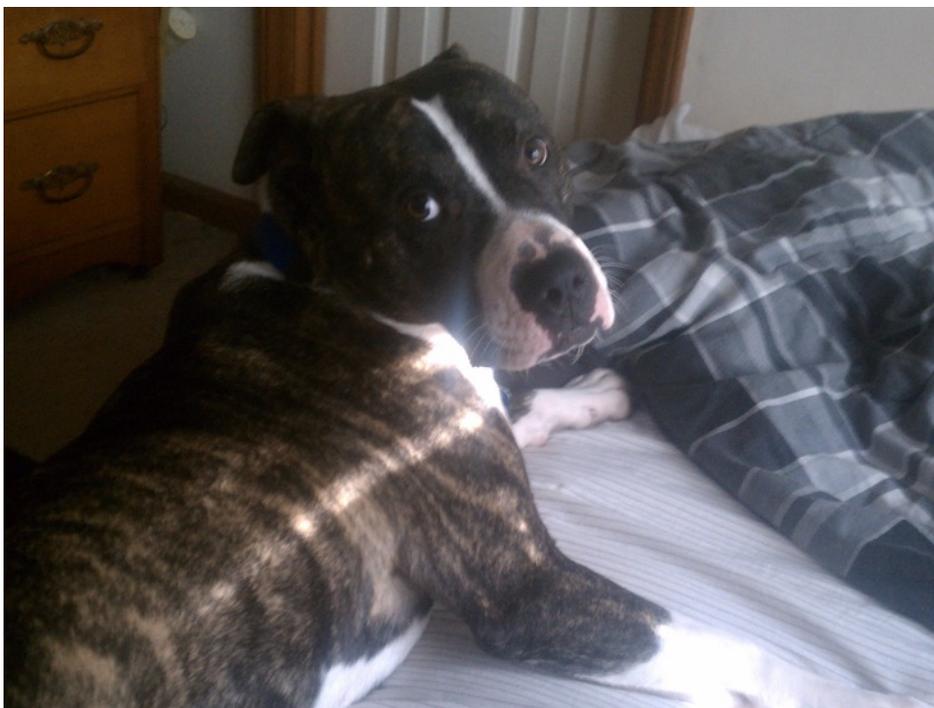


This traces back to the loyalty pit bulls have toward their owners. The main reason (besides their strength) that people used pit bulls for dog fighting was because of their loyalty; the dog has it in his mind that "my owner wants me to kill that other dog". These acts are completely outdated, and are now looked down upon by American society, but unfortunately they do still happen. Regardless of the fact that many "fighting" dogs have been rehabilitated and gone to homes with loving families, it just isn't enough to convince the majority of people that these dogs are not born bad, but made bad. Just like a child that grows up in a household surrounded by violence, that becomes the only thing it knows. Statistically, these are the people that end up committing substantial crimes throughout their lives. If you research the facts, you will find that pit bulls actually test very well living with people and/or families. 86% positive, in fact.

King definitely looks the part; the only thing this dog is interested in

doing is laying in your lap to cuddle and to play with his new friend. I try to bring him out in public often to let people approach him, to let them pet him, and to hopefully educate them a bit more about how misunderstood this breed truly is. I cannot thank Laurie Merry and the people she works with enough for saving the life of this amazing teddy bear of a dog. Everyday is a good day to come home to two happy, loving, protecting, and playful pit bulls!

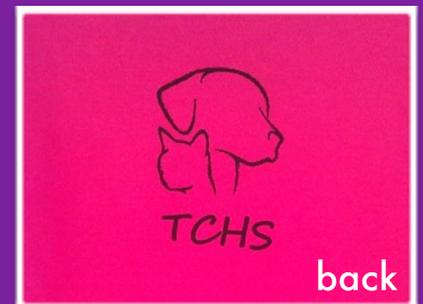
Thanks to MacGyver Killian for sharing his story about King with us! We couldn't be more thrilled that King has found a loving new home, and has been given a second chance at life!



Spring into action with our bright, energetic t-shirts!

NOW AVAILABLE!

\$15 each



Memorials

In memory of Brad Bowman

by Joseph & Marilyn Blanks
by Kaye Collier Tickle
by Carroll County High School
by Carol Kinzer

In memory of "Rascal", a very special cat, of Rhonda & Noel Catron-Wood

by John & Mimi McLaughlin
and Earl Eanes

In memory of "Shasa", much loved husky of Diane Palumbo's family

by Betty Sutton

In memory of Beau Adams

by Adams-Heath Engineering, Inc.
by Brooks Edwards

In memory of Brad "Coach" Bowman

by Vickie Ruch

In memory of R. P. Taylor

by Eugene Shockley
by Joseph McGrady
by Pauline, Janet & Jean Robinson
by Cecil & Bonnie Wynn
by Dale & Vickie Ross
by Hazel Bell
by Malinda Amburn
by Elizabeth Utt
by Tom & Allene Tabor
by Rachel Worrell
by John & Clarice Carpenter
by Herb & Jo Argabright
by Chris & Anglia Dalton
by Patricia Dalton

In memory of Carroll Stone

by Chris & Anglia Dalton
by Patricia Dalton

In memory of "Tiger"

by "Buddy"

In memory of "Miss Lottie Huntsman/Fuller"

by Leslie Martin



Community Updates

ASPCA MEGA ADOPTION EVENT

On March 31, 2012 the City of Galax along with the Twin County Humane Society held a Mega-Adoption Day event that was sponsored by the ASPCA. Thanks to the city grant writer, Brenda Marrah, a \$10,000.00 grant was awarded to the city for this first ever event! We adopted out 32 dogs and 3 cats and we are hoping to make this an annual event.

GALAX SMOKEHOUSE FUNDRAISER

On April 27, 2012 the Galax Smokehouse offered us a fundraising opportunity that had us meeting, greeting, taking drink orders and doing dishes from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We received 10% of sale proceeds plus tips which came to over \$700.00. We had so much fun at this event! What a great time to meet and greet members of our community and to share our mission!

TRACTOR SUPPLY

We have had such a warm welcome from the folks at Tractor Supply in Galax. We've held several adoption day events there and they just tell us "show up anytime!" We will! They are so supportive of our efforts and it feels so open and welcoming. Thank you Jeannie, Scott and all the staff at Tractor Supply!

WALMART

Our friends at Walmart have also offered for us to hold adoption events there. We've held one so far but there will be more in the future. Again, their staff was so welcoming and helpful.

In Honor

In honor of Richard Hughes, 3 dogs & cat for Christmas

by Debbie Hughes

In honor of Margaret Martin

by Susan J. Mills

In honor of Laurie Merry

by Chip Callaway