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701 Main Street, Lafayette, Indiana (765)742-8656*

SCOTT!!! (By Natalie Moore)

Last year, after I gave birth to my beautiful son, Jude, I had to get a "real" job for the health insurance and a steady paycheck. I was very worried about how could I work a full-time job and be a full-time mom WITHOUT saying goodbye to my beloved dog shelter, my shop. My good friend, Scott Rouhier, stepped up and has helped manage the shop full-time since then.

If you have come into our shelter, you've probably met Scott. He's been a volunteer for over 2 years now, and he's loved dogs his entire life. As a child, he competed in dog shows with his basset hounds, and even won some trophies.

It literally brings tears to my eyes when I think of how much Scott means to me. He's not only a quiet man who freely gives up his time to help run the shop, but he's also a very supportive friend who has sat with me on days that I just



cried because I didn't know if the shop would see another month. EVERY day at 8am, Scott is there to help the kids (our dogs) get their walks, clean their cages and get the shop ready for business!

My schedule now only allows me to be there on weekends, evenings and early mornings. Without Scott, I know that Natalie's Second Chance would not still be going. He's a selfless man who continues to believe in our cause and works hard for our shelter to stay open. I joke that one day I'm going to add to the big sign above the shop: "Natalie's and Scott's Second Chance!"

And Scott is SO great with the kids! He just accepts them however they are—even when they are scared and want to bite because they can't understand why their owner just left them there. He takes his time with them until THEY warm up to him.

We once had a Yorky named Mickey that came from a puppy mill, and he absolutely fell in LOVE with Scott! Mickey would watch Scott's every move and bark at him until he gave him some kind of attention. Scott couldn't even go to the bathroom without Mickey going nuts because he couldn't see him!

Scott has a huge heart, and I am VERY grateful for him. So when you come in and see a tall, soft-spoken man with a warm smile and gentle laugh, tell him Natalie says thank you for taking good care of her kids!

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2011

Upcoming Events:

- July 9: Ruff Riders Motorcycle Ride
- August 19: "Pawsitively Zany" Evening of comedy, music & food

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Natalie's Notes (By Natalie Moore)

Hello friends! I'm still very excited to finally have a newsletter out—planting seeds all over town, and beyond, about the shop! The response has been great, and I'm very grateful to have so many people believe in us. My "Notes" here are about some happen-

ings over the past month or upcoming month, and a few of my thoughts.

One of our "kids", Chris (who was profiled in last month's newsletter) FINALLY found a loving home! Over a year ago, Chris came to us scared and

skinny. He had never been on a leash and was not socialized. Over time, and with a lot of love, patience and practice, Chris became the dog he was meant to be: happy, playful, and walking on a leash with his head held high. I miss seeing him and the way he would get

SO excited when he saw me, but my heart smiles knowing that he has a loving family he deserves.

Twice in April, we were invited to Purdue: a dorm and a class, to bring some of the kids and speak about our mission and goals for the shop. The shop kids loved all the attention, and

A Toy Story (By R. Steven Hillis)

When I first met Toy, a small Rat Terrier mix, he had just come into the shop, along with several other dogs from a puppy mill. He was terrified, trembling, and socially-withdrawn. I was immediately drawn to him. I started taking him home in a pet carrier, which he initially refused to leave.

With time, he started venturing out to explore, but he continued to avoid me. After a couple of months, he'd run over and touch me with his nose, only to run away wagging his tail. Eventually, he gained the courage to jump up on my lap. By this point, I'd adopted him. After referring to him as a "broken toy" in conversations

with my mother, she suggested that I name him "Toy". It stuck.

Toy still has some issues. He's very wary of other people, but he's made great progress. He loves to play with his toys (and other dogs), and he loves to go on walks.

He is a very loving and loyal pet. As for myself, I keep coming into the shop to work with troubled dogs, including one of Toy's siblings. With time, a lot of love, and a lot of patience, these dogs make progress. It's a truly rewarding experience, for the dogs AND for me.



Steve and his little buddy, Toy

Prevent Cruelty: Spay & Neuter Your Pet (By Dr. Heather Baker)

"I just want the kids to see puppies being born and experience the miracle of life. What's the harm in that?" asked one naive pet owner and mother of two children and one beautiful Labrador Retriever. Sure puppies and kittens are cute, but they grow up to be puppy and kitten factories.

What Mom doesn't understand is that her beautiful unspayed Lab and her offspring can produce more than 6000 puppies in their lifetimes. One unspayed cat and her offspring can produce more than 400,000 kittens! These staggering numbers of animals brought into the world by well-meaning, yet ignorant, individuals results in 4 million animals euthanized in shelters every year. This figure doesn't account for the countless feral cats and stray dogs that

die cruelly due to lack of basics like food, water, shelter, and medical care.

In our society, there are more pets available than people who want to love and care for them. The resources available to care for these unwanted pets are in scarce supply. In order to stop this heartbreaking problem, we have to stop irresponsible breeding. People must take advantage of the many affordable spay and neuter programs available in this community.

Not only is spaying and neutering the right thing for our society, but also for the health of our pets. The incidence of breast and testicular cancers as well as other hormone related diseases are greatly reduced in spayed and neutered animals. Many of the

"In our society, there are more pets available than people who want to love and care for them."

unwanted behaviors that intact animals display which makes them more likely to be surrendered to a shelter are also diminished by removing the reproductive organs (marking, aggression, roaming).

I would suggest that Mom and the kids watch puppies being born on YouTube, drop the Lab off at the vet for her spay, and visit the local animal shelter to walk the dogs or play with the cats that are waiting for their forever-homes.



Benny gets some good lovin' at Purdue

Natalie's Notes (continued from page 1)

the students were very enthusiastic. A few days ago, we had 6 Purdue students from the biology dept. waiting at the door at 8am to take the dogs out to the park! So, great job to my Purdue friends, and the kids thank you too!

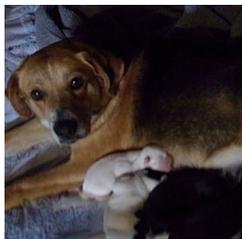
Many of our dogs come from hoarders or puppy mills. So when we first get them, they REALLY do not trust us...yet. Over the

years, I've learned to just accept them exactly as they are. I let them take their time to warm up to us. We don't put demands on them to become the "perfect dog" that everybody is searching for in just a few weeks or months.

I believe that if you sit still and just accept them for where they are now, they CAN become the best dog THEY can be. Be-

**Ollie**

For all nine years of his happy life, Ollie was adored by his former owner. Unfortunately, circumstances changed, and his owner became physically unable to take care of Ollie. With tears flowing, his owner reluctantly turned Ollie over to us. He even made a cash donation to help ease his mind. Poor Ollie has been mourning the loss of his beloved owner, and now that he's crated, he has cried a lot. This sweet little, neutered Rat-Terrier needs a new love in a forever-home. Try fostering him first and see what a well-behaved little gentleman he can be in a home setting.

**Mama's Family**

We received a phone call about a week ago from a guy who said that he had two adult dogs and six puppies (3 days old). He said he was going to shoot the two adults and let the puppies die if we didn't take them. Nice, huh? So here is "Mama" and her puppies. Natalie couldn't find a foster family, so she had to take them to her house, where she already has two dogs. There was plenty of room in the basement, though... until a few days ago when it flooded! Luckily, Mama barked and woke Natalie up in time to save the puppies. We REALLY need some help here!!

**Benny**

Benny thoroughly enjoyed himself last month at a "stress relief" event for Purdue students. We brought several of our kids over to a dorm for a few hours one evening. Some of the students were really missing their dogs at home, and they all needed a break from schoolwork. So our kids were in heaven as they roamed around the dayroom and were loved-on by dozens of students. They didn't roam around much, though, as they were usually being held and cuddled! Benny was a little shy at first, but he warmed up to the crowd and made a lot of new friends.

**Starbucks II**

This little guy looks just like our legendary Starbucks, who was recently adopted out to a great home. This 2-year-old Chihuahua also came from a hoarder and is very timid like his predecessor was when he first came in. With time and patience, Starbucks 1 improved and now struts around on a leash when he comes back to visit with his owner. Starbucks II, who we are also calling Teddy, has that same potential. He really WANTS love and attention, but doesn't quite trust people YET. If you take your time and get to know him, he can become your most loyal companion.

Natalie's Notes (continued from page 1)

cause, with time and encouragement, positive reinforcement, love and a lot of patience, I have seen some of the worst cases of "Oh you will never find that dog a home" or "He'd be better off euthanized" dogs now living a beautiful life in a loving home. That is something they have taught me, and I now look at people that way too. Just accept people for where they are on their journey.

You can go into any shelter and find the type of dog that is ready to run and play fetch, or an older dog that would rather just sit on

your lap and be petted all day. You will find puppies that you can start training to be exactly what you want, or a dog that was a personal turn-in that's already house-trained and loves everybody. That's the great thing about shelters. But for me, I hope you'll consider that maybe that dog you see in the back of the cage, shivering or barking at you out of fear might just be "the one". He/she just needs a little more Tender-Loving-Care and time for someone to see what a great, loving dog it can be.

Thank you all who have continued to support us! You've not only given hundreds of dogs over these past 2 years their second chance, but you've also helped me see life through their eyes. And it's very simple—acceptance is the key to unconditional love. Peace & Love, Natalie.

Also, a big shout-out to Bark Avenue Day Spa: a feature article on them is coming next month!

Natalie's Second Chance Dog Shelter

10 South 16th Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47901
Phone: 765-742-2200

Email:
nataliessecondchance@gmail.com

Website:
nataliessecondchance.org



Our Mission:

We are a "501(c)3", non-profit, no-kill dog shelter that relies heavily on private individual donations and volunteer services to be able to continue helping homeless dogs. We are located in Lafayette, Indiana, and our mission is to find new homes for homeless dogs. We help strays, personal turn-ins, and other dogs find loving homes. We are a no-kill facility, and we keep and care for each dog until a perfect match is found! We also serve as a resource to our community and all pet owners by providing education and information on responsible pet ownership—including the importance of spaying/neutering, positive behavior training, and good nutrition.

*We offer a food bank for pet owners in the community that need assistance feeding their pets. Cat food and dog food are available for pick up at no charge to individuals. There are no requirements for our pet food assistance and we encourage anyone needing assistance in feeding their pets to come pick up food! Food can be picked up during our open adoption hours each week. Donations of any type of pet food (wet or dry) for the food bank are accepted and can be dropped off during our open adoption hours. If you have a food donation to give, but are unable to bring it to us, please contact us to arrange pick up.



We're open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10am—4pm. Friday & Saturday: 10am—5pm.

You CAN Make A Difference... In Many Different Ways



Our "kids" need to go for walks—twice daily, every day.

You can come in at 8am, any day of the week, to walk a dog. We also need volunteers to walk our dogs around 4pm every day. During open business hours, we encourage people to take our dogs to the park to play and socialize. This is a great activity for groups!

We always need "foster parents" to help our dogs socialize in a home setting. If you're not planning to adopt, but just want to help a dog socialize, then pick him up on

Saturday afternoon and return him on Tuesday morning. If you think you might adopt, you can pick up a dog any day and keep him up to 2 weeks to make sure he's a good fit for your home.

You can also help by volunteering to pick up or drop off our laundry at Scrub-a-Duds. And we always need new leashes and collars, as well as cleaning supplies.

If you are unable to donate time, but would like to help our cause, you can donate pet food to our food bank. Either drop it off at the shop or call us to pick it up. Better yet, **YOU CAN GIVE A MONEY DONATION—TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.** It can be a check in the mail, or a "PayPal" donation on our website, or a cash donation at the shelter—we'll provide you with a receipt. We'll also put you on our newsletter mailing list, if

you do not have an internet connection.

Online, you can view our newsletters on our website: nataliessecondchance.org. We want to use most of our paper newsletters to circulate around the general public and increase our exposure as much as possible. We can also email you our newsletter.

We are always looking for successful adoption stories for the newsletter. Please include a picture of you and your dog with your adoption story. You can mail it to us, but email would be best. And if you have any other story ideas, comments, or would like to get on our newsletter email list, please email Mark at:

nataliessecondchance-mark@live.com

Thank you all for your support!