

The Newsletter of the Scott County Humane Society, Inc.

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FOR THE LOVE OF LUCY!

The Scott County Humane Society is pleased to present this story written by Kingsport Times-News writer Wes Bunch, reprinted by permission from the Kingsport Times-News, concerning one of our successful adoption stories!

Delta Purkey has helped many stray dogs during her tenure with the Scott County Humane Society, but none of them impacted her quite like Lucy has. Purkey first met Lucy, a chocolate Labrador retriever, and her 10 puppies — five boys and five girls — at the Scott County Animal Shelter in early July. The Lab and her pups had been picked up by the county animal control officer on Highway 58 past Hiltons, where they were found hungry and alone, she said.

Despite those rough times, Purkey said she was amazed at how gentle and caring the dog still seemed, to her puppies and humans alike. "She's a good mom," she said. "I'm thoroughly amazed because her past has got to have had some pretty traumatic stuff, but she's just trusting. Once you pet her, you've got a friend."

There was one problem — Lucy and her puppies were five days away from being euthanized. So Purkey, a professed dog lover, sprang into action to find a suitable place to raise Lucy and her pups. It was then she decided to get Lucy's story out to anyone who would listen. "I think Lucy's story reflects just how big a heart a dog can have no matter what they've been through," Purkey said. "She certainly had a hard time having those pups on her own, but she still has a loving heart to everyone that has been kind to her. It just shows the shining personality that can come through in a dog."

After days of looking, Judy and Jim Coley volunteered to let Purkey and the Humane Society use a barn on their property to house the dogs. *See LUCY page 2*





One of Lucy's pups sports a happy smile and bandana, thanks to Delta Purkey!

LUCY (continued from page 1)

"She's very lucky," Purkey said. "The Coleys were the miracle that made this happen. If they hadn't agreed to let us bring her out here, there would be no Lucy and no pups now."

Judy Coley said she was glad to help the Humane Society out, especially after hearing about what Lucy and her pups had been through. "More people need to take an interest, because there's more ways to help than just financially," Coley said. "I thought it was so sad when she said she couldn't even find anyone to let them use a barn. So I thought we have a perfect place, and we weren't using it, so why not?"

So for the past two weeks Purkey has been fostering Lucy and the 4-week-old puppies, visiting them twice a day to feed and care for them. Once the puppies are weaned and Lucy is spayed, she hopes to find loving homes for all of them. They plan to list them on the Internet at Petfinder.com, and take them to area PetSmarts as well. "We're going to find her a home one way or other," Purkey said. "She's got to have a home. She would make someone a wonderful pet. After all of this, she deserves it."

Lucy is in a good place now, Purkey said, but there are other dogs like her in Scott County that the Humane Society would like to help. Those efforts are limited due to a lack of funds and volunteers. Members currently work out of their homes, and only four dogs can be fostered at a time, she said.

Since funds are limited, the Humane Society is concentrating on reducing the number of unwanted pets through low-cost spaying and neutering programs, as well as searching for families looking to adopt, she said. It's been a tough job so far, but one that needs to be done, Purkey said.

"We've been working for two or three years trying to get organized," she said. "We have such a small group, and the need is so great. But the animals are so loving and appreciative. "It's just a wonderful, fulfilling thing to do, and you can say 'I helped this dog or cat find a good home.'"



Lucy

Editor's Note: The SCHS received more than 100 inquires after this story was published in the Kingsport Times-News on August 9, 2008. As a result, all 10 of Lucy's pups were adopted and found their forever homes!! The SCHS greatly appreciates the Kingsport Times-News and their publication of this article. Thanks also to everyone who added one of Lucy's pups to their family.

DELTA PURKEY: 2008 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER



***Delta Purkey, 2008 Outstanding Volunteer.
For more information on the MBM
Spay/Neuter Clinic, call Delta at 276-386-9754.***

The SCHS is pleased to present Delta Purkey with the 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award. Delta was a faithful friend to animals well before the inception of the SCHS in 2004. Since the SCHS formed, Delta has been a dedicated volunteer. Delta volunteers weekly at the Scott County Animal Shelter, performing tasks from cleaning kennels to assisting with adoption inquiries.

Delta has also been instrumental in coordinating spay and neuter clinic events in conjunction with the Margaret B. Mitchell Spay/Neuter Clinic in Bristol, Virginia.

The SCHS partnered with the MBM Clinic in January 2008 to help provide

reduced or low-cost alteration surgeries to pet owners in Scott County. Thanks to Delta's diligence in coordinating, scheduling, and faithfully assisting the clinic with drop-off and pick-up dates, **more than 200 animals** have been altered during 2008 in Scott County through the MBM Clinic!!

The SCHS could not function without dedicated volunteers like Delta. We greatly appreciate ALL volunteers and donors!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL volunteers and donors, and especially to recognize Delta's exceptional service to the SCHS.

Microchip Update

In our last issue, the SCHS presented an article on microchipping. Since then, the SCHS hosted our first microchip event on November 1, 2008, at Dr. Nancy Broadwater's clinic, using HomeAgain® microchips.

Microchipping is an advanced pet recovery system and helps increase reunification of lost pets with their owners. The system works by implanting a tiny microchip under the pet's skin near the shoulder area. Once the chip is registered, it contains emergency contact information for the pet's owner, as well as a secondary contact. Unlike collars or tags, which can be removed, a microchip cannot fall off or be removed from your pet. Also, the chip will last the lifetime of your pet.

***Our first event was a great success!!
14 dogs and 2 cats were chipped!!***

As the Scott County Animal Shelter is now equipped with a microchip scanner, the SCHS plans to host additional microchip events in the future. E-mail us at info@scotthumane.org for more info about microchips or future microchip events.



Dr. Broadwater, assisted by Jody Gillenwater, scans a microchip implanted in Ivy at the SCHS microchip event on November 1, 2008.

**Thank you Dr. Broadwater & staff for your support of the SCHS
and for hosting our first microchip event!**



Hobo's Journey to Hobi

A success story by Ellen Barker

During one of our SCHS meetings last spring, a member mentioned having seen a dog at the pound whose leg was badly injured and appeared untreated. He had been picked up as a stray and taken to the county shelter. After some discussion, we decided to foster the dog from the shelter and get him examined by a vet. When we picked him up from the shelter, he was a MESS, matted and dirty with a twisted front leg that dragged on the ground as he walked. After one look, we decided to try to do whatever it took to treat the poor guy though we were very new as an organization and had a limited budget.

Dr. Nancy Broadwater, always a cool head in an emotionally loaded situation, examined him and told us that most likely his deformity was a result of a birth defect rather than injury. She did suggest, however, that his interests would best be served if the leg were amputated after he got a little stronger. He got a haircut and began to settle into the foster home, where we started calling him Hobo. Hobo's leg tripped him up some and caused the occasional yelp, but in no time, he made himself at home, loved the company of other dogs, and seemed like he was on top of the world. After a few weeks, Dr. Broadwater removed the leg. Her original suspicions were confirmed in that there was no muscle development in the shoulder.

Hobo recovered quickly and soon wiggled out of the surgical dressings. By now, we had decided he was probably about half Poodle and half Schnauzer. After posting him on our PetFinder web site, a teacher in Giles County, Sara Tate, who was searching for a dog to join her and 3-year-old daughter Deanna, contacted us about Hobo. Sara thought Hobo looked adorable and was not concerned about his leg shortage, but wanted to be sure he was kid-friendly. Hobo's foster mom made a quick trip to the local park, which showed that not only did Hobo love kids, but kids loved Hobo!! Yes, kids were curious about his three legs, but they seemed to admire his happy-go-lucky personality even more.

The next week, the foster mom took Hobo to meet Sara and Deanna. They immediately took to him, and the foster mom drove away with a lump in her throat, trying to ignore the fact that Hobo was following her with his eyes. Sara and Deanna keep Hobo's foster mom up-to-date with how he is doing—we hear he was a huge hit with the extended family. He also loves to play with his Golden Retriever "cousin" and is top dog of that duo! He even has an assortment of sweaters for the cold weather! Soon after the adoption, little Deanna started calling him Hobi. After all, he isn't a Hobo anymore! His bed is in Sara's room but he won't go to bed until he is sure Deanna is asleep.

Although our humane society work can be heartbreaking at times, Hobi's story could not have had a happier ending. Thanks to our volunteers, Dr. Broadwater, a loving adoptive family, and especially to Hobi's irrepressible spirit, we discovered once again that "saving just one" changes that one's whole world and touches the hearts of the humans who have the privilege of knowing him.

2008 CONTRIBUTORS

*We cannot say **THANK YOU** enough to all our generous contributors!!!
Thank you again—without your support, the work of the SCHS would not be possible.*

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In honor of our Granddaughters
James & Margaret Crouch

In honor of Delta Purkey
Robert & Ellen Barker

In honor of "Lucy" & puppies
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Virginia Gibbs
Paula & Phillip Light
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Clip & Save Purina® Weight Circles from many packages of Purina® pet foods. Purina® Weight Circles can be redeemed by the SCHS for pet food AND rebate checks for veterinary services.

Mail weight circles to us or leave in a donation jar at any Scott County vet's office.

CONTACT US!

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On the Web:

www.scotthumane.org

View available pets:

[http://www.petfinder.com/
shelters/VA456.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/VA456.html)



Every time you do an online search using this Yahoo! powered search engine or shop online, the SCHS will receive a donation!

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The Tail End

A big "thank you" must go out to Jennifer & Josh Hill, as well as Kory Smith, for coordinating our adoption events at PetSmart in Bristol, Va.! They go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure the SCHS has animals there for adoption



Upcoming Meetings....

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Gate City Town Hall. Join us!

each weekend. As a result, we have placed 14 animals in their new forever homes!

If you're still looking for the perfect addition to your family, come see the animals we have

available!

Visit us at PetSmart in Bristol, Va., each weekend for pet adoptions!



[Donate to the SCHS via Food Lion MVP cards!](#)

Here's how it works: Sign up on FoodLion.com to link your MVP card to our organization. Every time you shop at Food Lion and swipe your MVP card, a donation is made to us, at no cost to you!! Go to www.foodlion.com then:

- Click on "Lion Shop and Share" under the "In the Community" section on the left-hand side.
- Click on "Register MVP Cards"
- Click on "Select an Organization." Scroll through and Click on VA and Gate City.
- Click on "Scott County Humane Society"
- Click "Add MVP Cards"

*Complete the process by following the prompts and you're all signed up!!

**SCOTT COUNTY
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TO: