

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CAROLE SCHRADING

Volunteers are critical to what you expect from our mission. They diversify and expand the skills and experience you want us to offer our pets. Their support shows that the community wants us to succeed. And their sacrificial work stretches your donation dollars beyond what we could otherwise afford to provide.

One volunteer that exemplifies service and compassion is Carole Schrading.

Carole is a true dog lover and our animals as well as our supporters are lucky to have her. Carole started volunteering at the Greater Birmingham Humane Society in 2015, accumulating more than 300 volunteer hours since that time.



James and Bigfoot after Bigfoot's trip to ASV for neuter surgery, yearly shots, and an exam where he was found to be HW negative and in very good health!



THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO FIND YOUR GIFT. THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO GIVE IT AWAY.

PABLO PICASSO

"My favorite part of volunteering is spending time with the dogs—walking on the trail, snuggle time in a kennel, or out at an adoption event. There's no better feeling in the world than knowing you're helping a GBHS dog find a loving home." She moved back to Birmingham after a few years in the Northeast, where she gained a lot of experience in volunteering with animal shelters.

Carole has recently agreed to be the Lead Canine Volunteer, a position that helps coordinate and train new volunteers. "I am happy to help with our growing volunteer base. The more volunteers we have, the more time we can spend walking and socializing the dogs. All of this helps make the

dogs more adoptable and ready to successfully integrate into a new home."

Carole was an English Professor for 20 years which makes her a natural at teaching the humane education classes that you fund for our local schools. Her work and your donations are teaching our youth animal kindness and compassion and that immediately impacts how these children treat each other.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at GBHS, visit our website at www.gbhs.org/volunteer or email Courtney Underwood, Director of Volunteers and Community Engagement, at cunderwood@gbhs.org

THANKS TO YOU GBHS IS THE "911" & SOCIAL SAFETY NET FOR ANIMALS IN DISTRESS!

Every few minutes GBHS receives a call to help an animal and thanks to you we are able to respond. But some situations that may appear to be intentional neglect or abuse are not what they seem. That was the case for Bigfoot and his owner, James Knox. Last summer GBHS was contacted by people passing Mr. Knox's house on their way to work. They could see a dog that looked to be in bad shape, tied to a tree with inadequate shelter. Suzy Phan and Olivia Swofford of the GBHS Pets for Life community response team went into immediate action.

Your support enabled GBHS and our volunteers to offer James and Bigfoot some assistance, including a runner, a better doghouse, and flea/tick treatment. Fast forward a few months and the same citizens that called about Bigfoot were concerned that winter was quickly approaching and James still had been unable to get him into a vet for a checkup or any basic care.

GBHS started a relationship with James and realized both James and Bigfoot were struggling. James suffers from acute diabetes and lives in public housing with limited yard space which made it necessary for James to tether Bigfoot while outside. But James was very open to the idea of an alternative to tethering or chaining his friend.

We had several opportunities to watch James interact with Bigfoot, and it was clear that the two had a strong bond and that the most compassionate thing to do was keep them together. Your donations made it possible to provide a large, sturdy crate for shelter on the coldest nights, a harness to make Bigfoot's 50lbs easier for James to handle on a leash, and basic vet care including neuter surgery to make sure Bigfoot lives a long, healthy life.

Your generosity provided Bigfoot with transportation to our clinic and support that removed his chains forever.

We rely on people like you to be our eyes and ears on the ground. We're extremely grateful that there are people like you who look out for animals and their welfare.

SUPPORT THE PUPPY MILL BILL HB45/SB17

Alabama has a problem that is costing you and me lots of money and worse – ignoring it any longer is simply inhumane. If we act now, we can solve it affordably, compassionately and effectively – it's called a puppy mill.

I need your support to pass the Puppy Mill Bill: HB45/SB17.

I was shocked that the AKC or any Alabama breeder would be opposed to a bill that would improve conditions and standards for breeding animals – but they do, and they do it all over the country. But thankfully many states and their citizens are catching on to the real truth. These operations cost taxpayers a lot of money when they are busted and usually these breeders have paid no taxes into the very system that has to clean up their mess.

When we say Puppy Mill we mean any breeding operation that puts profits ahead of the welfare of their animals. Don't just imagine a Costco-like warehouse crammed with cages of sick pregnant females. Come with me all over Alabama and let me show you the real puppy mills – irresponsible breeders with:

· Fairly sophisticated marketing techniques selling puppies for as much as \$500 to \$1000 each, yet paying no business license or sales taxes.

· Pop-up cages stacked in the living room of a trailer or a backyard and filled with sick pregnant females.

· Stud males chained in back yards covered in fleas and ticks, unvaccinated, and often infected with heartworms.

· Feces- and urine-soaked plywood floors and sheds with no heat or air.

· Minimal food and water, infected eyes, matted fur and rotting teeth.

· Dogs used solely for breeding that may never run or walk on grass and discarded when they get too sick or are no longer useful.

GBHS, other shelters, rescues and law enforcement see it all too often. We need regulations to help stop it. HB45/SB17 establishes a commission made up of a diverse group of veterinarians, breeders, animal welfare experts, and citizens to recommend standards and to train officers who see or respond to puppy mill complaints. It requires

breeders to register.

We are exposing the truth that far too many responsible shelters, veterinarians, and rescues already know – we do have a problem.

I cannot stress enough the opportunity this situation presents for our various communities, their leaders, animal rescue groups, and citizens to pull together with one common goal: keeping this from being a constant cost and problem in our state. It's up to us all to make changes for the betterment of our state and for the animals living among us.

Please go to www.gbhs.org and sign our petition. Click the link on our site to the Facebook page and show your support.

Show your support for HB45 and SB17 slated for the upcoming legislative session. We ask all citizens respectfully to call, write or send e-mails to your state representatives urging them to support the 2017 Puppy Mill Bill.

Within every problem lies opportunity for change or a resolution.

Thank you.

Allison Black Cornelius

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HELP CHANGE LIVES:

Visit gbhs.org to donate, or **contact us** about **volunteering** or **adopting a pet** to help restore life to abused & neglected animals.



GREATER BIRMINGHAM HUMANE SOCIETY



GREATER BIRMINGHAM HUMANE SOCIETY

GBHS SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

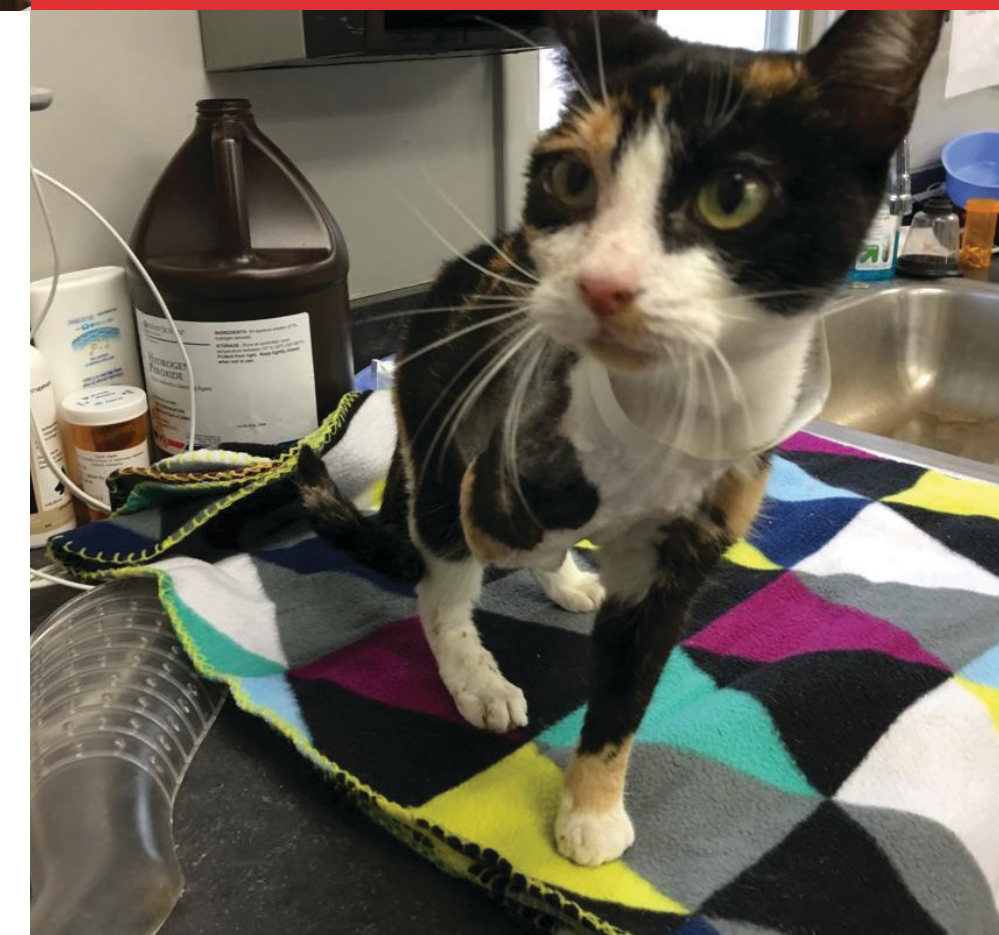


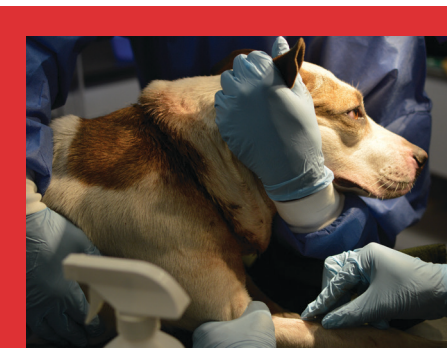
THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM HUMANE SOCIETY

STORIES OF HOPE AND REDEMPTION

INSIDE

- 1 | Brinkley's story of life-saving surgery.
- 2 | Rally: Our generous community responds to an abandoned puppy.
- 3 | Follow Charlotte's story of mange and mites to healed and whole.
- 4 | The extraordinary story of Miracle the cat, who because of you, is a true miracle!
- 5 | Discover how true generosity changed not only the life of Spook, but her owners as well.





BRINKLEY'S LIFE-SAVING SURGERY

GBHS received an urgent call from a citizen about an injured stray dog. We responded and realized the female dog (later named Brinkley) was in serious trouble. Your donations provide emergency transport and we were able to get Brinkley to our shelter hospital ASV. She was immediately seen by our chief medical officer, Dr. Latham.

The ASV staff and Auburn vet students were horrified! Brinkley had one of the worst embedded collars that anyone had ever seen in the clinic.

Despite the incredible pain Brinkley was in, she was amazing. She enjoyed being attended to, laid on our exam table and allowed us to examine her without fear. It was as if she knew we wanted to help her. At first glance, we couldn't tell that she even had a collar on because the wound was so deep, so we sedated her to remove the collar and clean the wound. When we finally were able to cut the collar off it turned out that Brinkley, an adult dog, was wearing a collar that would be put on a small puppy. Her wound was massive; we cleaned her up and sutured her neck. Brinkley has been sutured, cleaned, sutured

again, and spayed. We have had her on medication to fight infections. Through all of this, Brinkley has maintained her incredible disposition and loves human interaction. We allow her to meet with other dogs that come through our clinic for their own spay/neuters and we have continued her socialization in our play yard at the clinic. Now, Brinkley is finally on the adoption floor!

We hate to think of how Brinkley's life would have turned out had she not found her way to us. Unfortunately, her case, while definitely being one of the worst we've seen in the clinic, is not rare. Because of generous donors like you, embedded collars are one of the many things we are able to treat and fix at your ASV clinic, and not just the physical pain and wounds, but the emotional aspect as well. Nurturing these patients back to health comes with a lot of love and socializing. **Your donations of time and money equip us to show these innocent victims that they deserve a home where someone will wrap their loving arms around their neck instead of leaving them forgotten and in pain. Thank you.**

IMPACTED BY ONE OF THESE FURRY FRIENDS? VISIT US ONLINE AT GBHS.ORG TO **ADOPT OR **DONATE** ONLINE.**

YOU PROVIDED A MIRACLE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

GBHS Animal Control Dispatch Officer, Shiloh Lord, received a phone call early Christmas Eve morning from an emotionally distraught citizen, who tearfully stated that an injured cat was on her porch.

The caller sobbed that she thought the cat was dead. However, upon approaching the cat she realized it moved. She also noticed the cat's foot was in shreds and blood was all over her porch. Shiloh dispatched GBHS Animal Care and Control Officer Carley Letlow to the scene. Your donations make it possible for GBHS to provide 24-hour response, even on holidays!

Officer Letlow radioed to dispatch that the cat's foot was barely attached. Alabama Shelter veterinarian, Veronika Kiklevich, DVM, met Officer Letlow at the animal control center and assessed the cat. Dr. Kiklevich performed an emergency amputation due to the severity of the injury. Dr. "K" said that the cat, whom we named Miracle, was good-natured and deserved a home.

Miracle, the beautiful calico cat, is currently healing before heading to the GBHS adoption center.

We owe 100% of Calico's life to you, our donors. We are also grateful to the volunteers and staff that give up holidays and nights to save a suffering animal. We can't wait to see what our next amazing "Miracle" will be.



A DONOR ENSURES AN INTERSTATE RESCUE

GBHS Animal Care & Control received a call from a distraught donor desperate to find help for a dog on the side of the interstate.

Animal Control Officer Kristin Pierson responded to the call. When she arrived, the sight of the dog broke her heart. In Kristin's words, "She just looked so sad. Like she had lost all hope." Kristin loaded Rally into her vehicle and brought her to our animal control facility for the care she desperately needed.

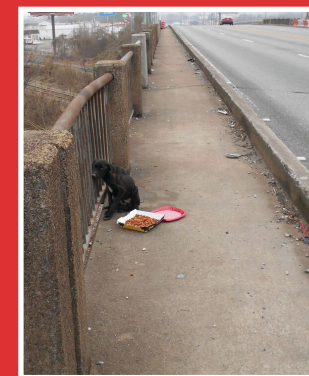
After Rally's immediate physical needs were taken care of, the staff set to work on her emotional needs. Rally was extremely shy and afraid of people. After several days of a safe place to sleep, food, water, and kind treatment, she began to warm up to the staff and come out of her shell. After her stray hold passed, one of our amazing rescue partners agreed to take her. After being spayed, microchipped and receiving a full medical evaluation, Rally spent some time at Snow

Drive waiting for the rescue group to arrive. While she was waiting she made plenty of doggie friends! Since Rally entered her foster home she has been spoiled beyond belief. She'll never have to worry about being cold, hungry, thirsty, or lonely.

Rally is just one of thousands of pets who end up lost and scared trying to find their way to safety. With your continued support GBHS is able to locate, pick up, provide medical care and ultimately find a loving home for these pets. Each of these success stories is a testament to the love and compassion that you have for these abandoned pets.

The staff at GBHS gear up every day for the next pet like Rally who is destined to walk through the doors. Please consider making your donation a recurring monthly gift. This will sustain your ability to make sure every injured animal gets the care they need every day.

Your recurring gift ensures second chances! Visit www.gbhs.org to sign-up.



RALLY BEFORE



RALLY AFTER

DONOR SAVES PUPPY FROM GUTTER

Charlotte came to GBHS after a Good Samaritan and donor found her lying in a gutter. This sweet, four-month-old puppy was unable to move because she was in so much pain from a very intense demodectic mange infestation. Her lymph nodes were the size of ping-pong balls. Her skin was thick, crusty, and so damaged that it bled at the gentle touch of a finger. Her eyelids were so inflamed and crusty that she could not open her eyes, let alone see. The mite infestation was so severe that a secondary staph infection covered most of her body. She was shivering and in pain but still welcomed the touch of a human hand even attempting to give us kisses while weakly wagging her tail.

Thanks to your gifts, Charlotte received strong doses of steroids and antibiotics. Volunteers faithfully bathed her with medicated shampoo every other day to soothe her skin and fight the staph infection. She squealed as the lather soaked into her wounds and trained volunteers calmed her by massaging

her ears. After her 20-minute soak, vet students bundled her in towels and blankets and cooed her to sleep.

After five days in our care, she had improved significantly. Her lymph nodes were only twice the size they should be, her skin was no longer weeping blood, and her mouth and eyes could open and close freely. Charlotte was beginning to be the spunky 4-month-old puppy who had been trapped inside her painful shell. We placed her into volunteer foster care where she got the care and attention she needed while giving her the space to run, play, and become a normal puppy.

After less than a month in foster care, she returned to us for her spay surgery. The differences in her appearance and disposition were astonishing. The pustules and scabs were replaced by smooth skin and shiny hair. Charlotte came to GBHS a broken animal but is now an adorable puppy. The corners of her little mouth crinkle when we talk to her in a smile of gratitude. If you met her today, you would not imagine all that she has been through.



I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

On December 16th, our Pets for Life Team was doing outreach on the west side of the Norwood neighborhood when they met a new human client and his recently "found" French Bulldog, Roselda.

Our team confirmed that the finder had reported the dog to a nearby vet's office. The dog was scheduled for a free exam through the Pets for Life program on December 22nd.

The exam went well and the dog was scanned several times for a microchip with no luck. The next day GBHS received a report of a lost female French Bulldog named Gigi missing from Shelby County. After having no luck finding her at that shelter, the owners had expanded their search.

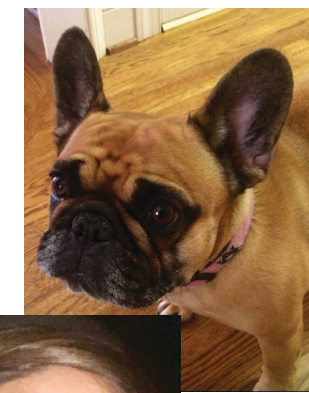
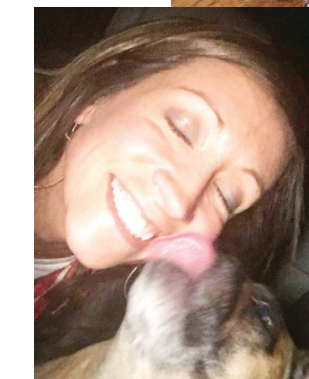
DONORS HELP A LITTLE GIRL KEEP HER PET

Olivia Swafford received a call from a woman who had exhausted all of her options. She was facing eviction or having to give up her beloved dog "Spook" on the following Monday. She had been unable to get Spook spayed and up-to-date on shots, both of which are required to keep a pet in Public Housing. A friend told her about the Pets for Life Program offered by donors of the GBHS, and she called in hopes that we could help. The answer was, "Yes!" Spook was spayed and given all of her yearly vaccinations at ASV at no cost to the owner. Spook went home and was greeted by a sweet, young girl who had been worried all day about her. The little girl took Spook straight to her room and made her comfortable on the bed. What a blessing that you were able to help this family and their furry friend stay together!



Upon seeing the LOST & FOUND report, the GBHS Pets for Life team knew they needed to set up a meeting between the client and the real owner of the dog. The two met late in the evening of December 23rd, and it was a success! Gigi was returned home to Sterrett, Alabama, 20 miles away from where she was found.

Gigi's owner was overwhelmed with relief to have her home in time for Christmas. In addition to being reunited with her lost pet, the owner was provided a free year's round of vaccinations, flea treatment, and a full exam at Alabama Shelter Veterinarians, courtesy of our Pets for Life program.



YOUR GIFT FINDS A HOME FOR LOST BOY

It was a seemingly normal day at the shelter. Everyone got in at 8 a.m. for cleaning and the morning routine. As the kennel staff was taking some dogs out for their morning walks they noticed a small fluffy figure sitting on the grass yard. To everyone's surprise, it was a sweet puppy that couldn't have been more than a couple of weeks old.

No one could believe that someone would just dump a puppy in the cold December weather, even if it was on the shelter grounds. The stranger could have just wandered around to the backside of the building to the surrendering department and we would have gladly taken the sweet little one in.

The puppy was named Lost Boy, for being so young and stranded without a home. Everyone quickly grew fond of the puppy even after discovering that he may have had some developmental difficulties. His sight wasn't very good and his hearing seemed impaired. No one was willing to give up on him, so the GBHS team rallied behind him, including our fosters and donors, and before long he found his way to the adoption floor.

With a wonderful tan coloring and a splattering of darker brown spots and bright blue eyes, his happy little personality shone through the window to the potential adopters as they passed by. It wasn't even midday before he was in a room with a mom and her daughter. The family had lost a beloved furry family member only two years prior and had slowly been looking for a new one to fill the void that had been left behind. Lost Boy won them over.

He went from being just a Lost Boy to a cherished new family member!

