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THE JOURNEY

The Humane Society of the Southeast

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September 2019

“A Voice for the Voiceless.”

Number 10

PIPPA'S STORY

By Todd Steigerwalt



This is a story about Schnoodle that became Insta-famous for biking, @pippaofpiedmont. Christen will forever be remembered in Pippa's heart as the one that saved her. It was a Saturday in June of 2017 and I was working with my godfather to replace the engine on my motorcycle. Christen had left earlier that morning with her friend Val to make the trip to Newnan to rescue Pippa. I remember getting that first video like it was yesterday. Pippa was making her happy little noises talking and speaking as best she could in the video sitting on Christen's lap as Val drove them both back to Atlanta.

We had been looking for a dog for several months. I had the ability to come home at lunch for walks, and Christen was no longer working on the road.

We decided to look for a rescue because we didn't have time to raise a puppy with our schedules, and it would not have been fair to the puppy. We started looking for a pup that was 2 or 3 years old, around 10 lbs., hypoallergenic, and of course needed a good home. I had seen some video of a dog biking and thought to myself how much fun that would be to have a fluffy friend to take on adventures. I knew the beltline well and all the little parks and paths that connect around the city. I really wanted a small dog to have someone to cuddle with, and possibly train to go on rides. Christen's parents are both cyclists, so she asked them about size and weight. They told her about 10 lbs. was the cutoff for weight, or else the dog might be too much extra weight on the bike.

Our search grew more tailored, and we had found a pup that we thought was perfect. Unfortunately, but fortunately for Pippa, after filling out the form to adopt him, they replied that he would be better with a house that had other dogs. Christen and I were upset at first but then decided our dog was still out there, waiting for us to find him/her. Then we found Pippa. She looked so sad and scraggly in her profile photo. Nothing like the dog sitting next to me as I write this now. Sadly, by the time we filled out the paperwork, someone already had claimed her. We were crushed for the second time. Luckily for us, they thought she was too small! It was a Friday night around 9pm when we got the message that we were able to come get her. We literally had nothing – no leash, food, toys, treats, dog bed, or even poop bags. Pippa's foster mom asked if we could come the next day to pick her up. I already had plans to fix my motorcycle with the engine being driven in from out of state. I looked at my fiancé, now wife, and told her she had to go get our dog tomorrow. Christen had plans to spend the day with her friend Val, and they made it an adventure to go get Pippa. From day one Pippa loved her new life.

Just two days after we got Pippa, I put on one of my messenger bags and tossed her in on my shoulder. Not a peep from Pip – she didn't even squirm – she just chilled. I looked at her and said "Ok, this is going to be your life." From there we started her training by carrying her in the messenger bag and getting treats for being good. I knew it wasn't a good solution for biking, because it just wasn't safe enough. I went online and saw all kinds of



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (as a foster guardian)



THE STORY OF GEORGIE By Christine (and Thomas) Kilgore

HSS received a call for help. There were five sibling pups in need of immediate care. These precious babies were only five to six weeks old and had been a by-product of inbreeding.

While in my care, two of the pups started showing signs of “not so normal” puppy behavior. They would walk into walls, fall down hills, trip over everything in their paths, and even walk through their water and food pans. These incidents would cause them much frustration. They would actually stomp and run as fast and hard as they could, as if embarrassed. They wanted so much to play, although they could not grasp how. When another sibling would pounce on them, one could hear the screams of fright. This became a “survival of the fittest” situation, and once the other normal pups

realized that these two had handicaps, they began to torment them and attack them. Separation became necessary. On giving them affection or grooming, they would become confused by the confinement, and this brought on bouts of extreme wiggling, crying, and even biting to be set free.

A vet visit revealed that Sophie and Georgie had suffered a severe case of roundworms, and this neglect showed in that they were almost completely blind. The inbreeding caused them to have neurological disorders.

As the days and weeks went by, one by one the siblings were adopted into new and wonderful homes. Even Sophie, the female sibling with her disabilities found someone who could overlook her “flaws”. Then there was Georgie.

Georgie remained here, right where he belonged. After that, Georgie became a mascot for the Peachtree City Doggie Dash in 2007. All who have met him adore him, especially his foster parents.

Georgie, with his disabilities, according to the neurologist, will never learn nor will he understand as a normal dog. He will always be a puppy—a 65- pound puppy. He knows his name, where he eats and drinks, where his “house” is. We never wanted any dog of ours to be an outside dog, but he prefers the outdoors. I guess it is due to the natural light and large fenced in yard, where he loves to play with his toys and his many companion friends, rolling around in the sun. Georgie loves to run, too. He reminds us of Forrest Gump --- “Run, Georgie, Run!!”

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PIPPA'S STORY *(Cover Story continued)*

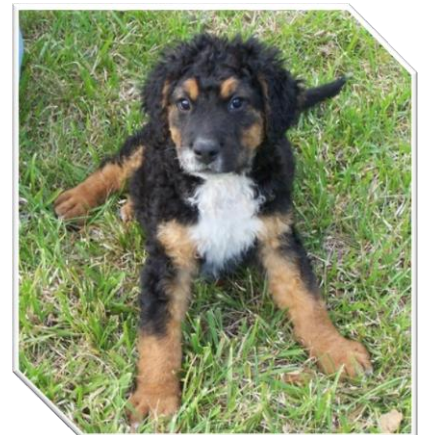
fancy dog backpacks, but I didn't want to invest 60 to 100 dollars just yet, so purchased an inexpensive chest harness off Amazon. The first ride was in the driveway. Pippa just chilled, legs dangling, not making a peep. The second ride was a disaster because of a pop-up thunderstorm. Pippa loved it, but we only made it 3 miles before a thunderstorm rolled in. We were stuck at Atlanta's Krog Street Market for about 30 minutes as we waited for Christen to come save us. On our third attempt we finally got to have a full ride. Pippa loved it! Legs pedaling in the air, as she would look up at me as if to ask, "Am I doing it right?" After that day Pippa was as in love with biking as I was. When I ask, "Do you want to go on a bike ride?" she jumps up and starts "talking" with excitement.

Pippa started to join me on rides a few days a week on the beltline, and even started coming on the 20 miles Tuesday group ride from Atlanta Cycling. I had been using Instagram as a cycling ambassador for several years, but when I first made Pippa's page it was mostly her napping and playing. I never thought we would end up growing her account and bringing smiles to so many people. I reached out to a few companies also interested in pet and human cycling safety and started working with Rex Specs (Pippa's goggles), K9 Sport Sack (her backpack), and Road iD (Pip's Pet iD tags). Most of the photos I took to promote her companies I used for my page, as well. Pippa slowly grew from 0 to around 800 followers. Then, someone from Bicycling Magazine contacted us and asked if they could use a video on their page. I told them they could use a video, photos, write an article, or really whatever they wanted, as long as it supported cyclist safety. After a short phone interview, they did a story on her that was featured on their main page. Pippa grew almost overnight from 800 to 2,000 followers passing me. Then her story was published to Facebook for Runners World and Bicycling Magazine, and Pippa's following doubled mine, reaching around 3,500. Most recently Pippa was featured in an article on Atlanta Magazine's home page. Pippa has now finally reached 4,000 followers. She has no idea how much people love following her adventures. She does however get to enjoy lots of rides, lots of treats, and some sweet gear.

Pippa is our first dog. We love with all of our hearts and can barely remember life before Pip. The happiness that she has brought to our family and so many others is amazing. We are forever thankful for The Humane Society of the Southeast for helping her to find her forever home with us.

THE STORY OF GEORGIE *(Continued from Page 2)*

Although there have been many challenges, Georgie has thrived and blossomed into the most loving "puppy" you will ever meet. He now accepts any and all types of attention, so when you meet Georgie, just ask him for "Kisses, Georgie," and he will give you the sweetest kisses you've ever been given. Everywhere we turn, it's Georgie. Our lives have revolved around his needs: the ramp to the outdoors has barriers on both sides to prevent him from falling (Georgie never learned steps), high-sided, non-tip bowls, cancelling appointments if we knew storms were in the forecast. It was all about him. We accepted this, if only to receive his "sweet kisses."



LONG DISTANCE LOVE

By Judy Welton

Albuquerque, New Mexico



I lost my best friend, a Dachshund/MinPin mix at only 4 years old, due to an undiagnosed infection about 5 months before Annie came into my life. I was being very particular about who I wanted to be my next best friend.

I saw a beautiful little black, light brown and white miniature Dachshund named Annabelle on line and immediately put in my application. I didn't think I would be chosen for her new Mommy as she was in Georgia and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico, really 'out of state'.

Surprise, surprise I was contacted by The Humane Society of the Southeast and ultimately made contact with Annabelle's foster mom. We had several long chats about Annabelle and my motivation for wanting her. Ultimately I convinced her that I would be a good

Mom for their little Dachshund and I was willing to travel to Georgia in person to pick her up. After a delay or two, I made it there and met Annabelle for the first time. She was a bit shy at first, but decided that I was OK after a while. We spent our first night together in a dog friendly hotel there in Atlanta and flew home to Albuquerque the following day.

I changed her name to Annie and she has become my best snuggle baby and blood pressure lowerer ever. Every night she sleeps in the bed, under the covers, curled around my feet. She has taught my 10 year old Puppy Mill rescue Shih Tzu how to play like a dog by sheer persistence!!! Annie is a sweet, wonderful, loving and mischievous work in process. She will be two years old in September and I have had her since she was about 7 or 8 months old. I don't know what I would ever do without her!!! She is just the Best!!!

thank you!



I would like to thank all of you who said prayers, gave encouragement or donated to help us save Murray. To those of you who donated, your gifts allowed us to pay the vet bill in its entirety. Although our efforts could not overcome his extreme health conditions, your support means the world to us.

Anne Janis
HSS Treasurer

CHARLIE'S CHANCE

By Amy Dunn

I have been very fortunate to be a part of The Humane Society of the Southeast and a part of so many dogs lives for many years now. When I was young I adopted a handicapped dog Kaylee and her sister who was healthy. I had to move back home so this meant I was not going to be able to keep Kaylee or her sister. Kaylee's sister instantly found a home, but Kaylee was left and no one wanted her because of her disability. Thankfully for my dad's open heart and my mom's patience, Kaylee was able to stay and she stole a piece of my heart.

In time I met Maple through the Humane Society of the Southeast. Maple was blind but took on the world just as any dog would that could see. I loved her so much and felt that her blindness made us closer. Maple trusted me to help guide her and that meant a lot. I always felt that blindness was not a disability but something extra that you could bond with in a dog or cat.



Fast forward many years later I moved into my own apartment. I kept seeing everyone with their dogs and my heart was half full. I knew something was missing. I hopped onto the Humane Society of the Southeast website and clicked on the "Special Needs" section. That is when I came across Charlie. He was blind but my heart instantly thought back to Maple. She could take on the world and I knew Charlie could too.

Charlie was tiny enough to hike 7 plus miles in my backpack, but big enough spirit to tackle anything - at least he thinks he is big enough to take on anything. In addition to hiking, Charlie loves to go to the park in Tyrone free of his leash and run across the wide-open field; free of any objects he might run into. This is when I can actually get Charlie to run, and it absolutely makes my day to see him so free and happy.

While animals have always been a part of my heart, Anne and The Humane Society of the Southeast showed me that "disabilities" are merely extra bonding experiences you get to have with your partner in crime. Charlie trusts me more than I would have ever imagined. I would do anything to help him or make him comfortable. I could not imagine my life without Charlie. He has been a part of three moves and through so many emotional times. I have always lived by "Adopt Don't Shop" but hope someone could open their heart a little more and give an older or disabled animal a chance. Their love knows no limits.



ARE YOUR PETS PROTECTED FROM PARASITES?

By Jenny Caldarello
Veterinary Technician

Both dogs and cats may get intestinal parasites. Puppies and kittens can contract them from their mothers, while other pets can get them from the environment. Intestinal parasites can be ingested from the ground, or from grooming, and they are prevalent throughout the US.

All puppies and kittens need a “parasite fecal check” as soon as they are brought into a new home. The veterinarian will look at a prepared sample under the microscope to determine whether parasite eggs are present. An appropriate de-wormer will be selected, depending on his or her findings. Even if no parasites are found (NPF), a kitten or puppy should be dewormed. This is because there can be adults in the intestinal tract without eggs, therefore making the sample seem to be negative when it really isn’t.

For dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies, repeat deworming is necessary three weeks later, due to the life cycle of the parasites. This will “catch” any adults that have emerged since the first deworming.

Once a pet has two consecutive “NPFs”, it is considered to be parasite free.



If your dog or cat is on a good heartworm prevention, any future intestinal parasites should be prevented; however, it is recommended to check every year, or when/if symptoms, such as diarrhea and vomiting occur. Flea prevention will help prevent tapeworms, which are passed on through fleas; and most (but not all) heartworm preventatives will also prevent intestinal parasites.

Make sure that your pet’s heartworm prevention does prevent parasites. All products are not the same.

Your veterinary technician can discuss prevention of parasites with you at your pet’s office visit.



The CDC warns us about the possibility of contracting intestinal parasites from our pets. With good hand-washing practices and proper handling of pet waste, this should not be an issue. Anytime there is a question, it would be appropriate to contact your personal physician for more information.

GUNNER: SERVICE AND PROTECTION DOG

By Cristin M. Billingsley



A little over a year and a half ago we found Samson, now Gunner, hiding not far from my house up the side of the Mountain on a very cold winter's night. My niece was able to coax him into her car then into our house, I immediately gave him food, though someone had obviously been feeding him, and bathed him. I dried him off and he followed me into my room where he decided he was going to sleep beside me and my other dog he had met earlier that evening. The next day was vet day, microchip location and checking internet postings to see if anyone had lost their dog that was super sweet and so well-behaved, though a bit shy. We got a hit on the microchip. Funny thing was that the information that came back stated that Gunner was supposed to be in Georgia, not Huntsville, Alabama.

I began doing a little behavior and service dog training, as Gunner is extremely smart and learns things very quickly. My other dog is retired, and we were looking for a replacement for years. After about three weeks I took Gunner to Service Dog Training, where he passed his first exam to enter the program. That was last year. He finished, not just as the best service dog, but at the top of his class. After he graduated, we had some really nice dog protection trainers that work with police stations around the US come in to help Gunner and me, since I am disabled. Since then, Gunner has only needed his protective training once, but uses his Service Dog daily.

I am blessed to have him and he loves being here with three Doxies to play with. What an amazing dog.

Editor's note: Gunner (originally named Sampson) was adopted in Georgia, but he somehow ended up in Alabama. Ms. Billingsley found Gunner and had him scanned for a microchip. HSS was contacted, but we were unable to reach the previous adopter. After discussions, it was decided that Gunner simply belonged with Ms. Billingsley, as her therapy dog. Sometimes things happen for unknown reasons, and we are so happy they found each other

STRANGE THINGS AS CAT TOYS

By Brittany S.



If there's one thing cat owners know, it's that cats can be pretty picky. If there's another thing we know, it's that cat toys can be pretty expensive. You can get the ones on a stick that you can wiggle in front of them, or the little jingle ball that seems so simple, but breaks the bank. Well there are common household items that you can use as cat toys that will keep your cat on their toes and playing like a kitten. Most people think of Yarn, or string, or hairbands, but those are in fact not good for your cat. They could easily swallow them, or choke on them, which could hurt your cat. It's best to find toys that don't have anything stringy so you know your cat is safe and having a fun time, without the worry.

I've made a list of my favorite things I use for my cats instead of buying those expensive cat toys!

1. **Crumpled up Paper:** This is something so simple, and so easy, yet I see cats go crazy for it! Make a lot of mistakes? Just can't get that letter right? Just crumple it up and toss it and watch your kitty kick and bite. The crumple noise will also keep them interested.
2. **Toilet Paper Roll:** Every time we empty one of the toilet paper rolls, our cats wait for us to toss the empty paper roll down the stairs, and they chase it around. It rolls around, and flips and they can tear it to their heart's content. When they're done, it can easily be recycled, and they'll have a new one the next time a roll is empty.
3. **Baby Bottle Drying Rack Grass:** This is something I've recently found. Though it's not too expensive, it's great for putting treats between the grass and watch them try to figure out how to get it. It's a great way to stimulate their mind and enrich their experience for treat time.
4. **Ice Cube:** On those hot days, even the kitties need a little relief from the heat. Get a small bowl and put a few ice cubes in there, and watch as your kitty licks them. It's a great way to keep them hydrated, and cool them off.
5. **Baby Socks:** They're very cheap, and soft for cats. I like to fill them with catnip, sew the tops and let the cats have fun. They'll bite them, rub on them and bat them around for hours. It's been their favorite of the list, and I always have one ready to keep them from getting bored.



Cats are pretty easy to amuse. They like things that crinkle, that roll, or things they can chew on. There are others on the list I haven't included, like baby teething rings, ping pong balls, or even bottle caps. You don't have to spend a fortune to keep your cat entertained. All you need to do is recycle some things around the house.