

Dear Friends of Straydog,

This is a sad newsletter because we are beginning to lose more and more of our original and early rescues (those rescued between 1992 and 1994). Pat and I foresaw this period in time when old age would begin taking our sweetie-babies, and we occasionally talked about how we dreaded its arrival, but it's now definitely here.

When Pat and I started rescuing more strays than we could really handle early in 1993, we didn't know where we were going or what was going to happen, but we knew we couldn't stop and get off of this ride. Adding another stray dog once in a while to our family home was like having another of our own children. Once you look upon rescues in this way (as everyone in rescue knows), there's no exit. We never abandoned any of our own children, and we won't abandon any of our rescued formerly homeless dogs.

No matter how overwhelming the problems become, we just keep going because there are 100 doggies (our sweetie-babies, as Pat called them all) out there in the kennels who need to eat breakfast today, have their poop picked up and their kennels cleaned, get walked to the park for their play periods, receive some special caregiving attention (during which we check the dogs for fleas and ticks and sores and anything else), get fresh water changed out whenever it gets hot (both in their water buckets and in their swimming pools), get another meal in the evening, get more special attention as someone comes into their kennel after dinner to scoop up their poop, get fresh hay in their dog houses before they go to bed on the cold nights of winter, get their sandy dirt frequently sprayed down with cold water on the hot days of summer and get an emergency ride to Morton Vet Clinic if they get sick or hurt or have any medical problem. These are just some of the mandates Pat left us to follow, and we're trying to follow Pat's way. And Pat's way continues to cost a lot. "But if we can't take care of our rescues this way," Pat used to say, "then we won't do this rescue work at all. And we *have* to do this rescue work, so we will do it this way. You, Bill, must raise the necessary funding to pay for it," she told me many times when I would get frustrated and depressed by the enormity of the overpopulation problem and the enormity of its affect on us.

There's no other way but to raise the necessary funds and pay for running Straydog according to Pat Arnold's way.

Thanks so much for all your wonderful, generous contributions to Straydog.

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold

Our Mission

Straydog is a "lifeboat" (and sanctuary) for rescued dogs. A vacant spot in a kennel is an empty seat in our "lifeboat," so, if you're interested in adopting a dog, see our website "Dogs for Adoption" link, or call to inquire about dogs you may have seen recent photos of but who may not yet be included in our "Dogs for Adoption" link. And please continue to support us. We will continue to row this "lifeboat" to shore, dropping off rescued dogs into the arms of good adopters, and we will continue to fill the space left vacant by each adopted dog with another desperate homeless dog for as long as we are able to hold on (financially). We believe that the example of our sacrifice (and the example of the sacrifice made by the people running all other no-kill shelters) must be publicized to wake people up and make them aware of the necessity to SPAY and NEUTER their dogs (and cats) so that homeless dog (and cat) rescue "lifeboats" will no longer be necessary.

"All stray dogs to lucky dogs ... NOW!"

Please feel free to email us with questions and comments at any time:

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