

April 2004

To our very dear friends of and contributors to *Straydog*,

First we want to thank everyone who contributed to Straydog after receiving the December newsletter, and we also want to thank those who continue to send contributions regularly. WE THANK YOU ALL! (My daughters, Erin and Stacey, who have been attempting to send a personal thank-you note to each and every contributor, just as Pat always did, got a little behind after the holiday season. We still cannot figure out how Pat had time to do all that she did when several of us are really struggling to fill her shoes.)

Today we are asking you to please send Straydog another contribution as soon as possible. Because of your generous donations in December 2003 we made it though the end of last year and through the first quarter of this year, being as frugal as possible, but now we're in the panic zone once again.

It's expensive running a no-kill shelter the way Pat Arnold insisted it be run, though our expenses per dog average much less than many shelters and sanctuaries. How so? Because (1) the dogs live outdoors in hay-filled dog houses inside plywood box shelters (i.e., no heated and air-conditioned kennel building(s)); (2) I, Bill Arnold, co-founder and now sole manager of Straydog Inc. (since Pat's death), accept no pay for my work, paying my personal expenses with my social security check and savings; and (3) we pay our nine wonderful and extremely dedicated caregiver/kennel helpers wages averaging a little less than \$8.09 per hour, and they each work only 40 hours per week--very little overtime ever.

Straydog *does* spend a lot of money on medical care. We believe that if a rescued dog can be brought back to normal health, including repairing broken legs, etc., we ought to do it--we ought to "fix the dog," as Pat used to instruct the vets. And we continue to care for all our dogs the same way. Somehow Pat always took care of every medical situation, and we somehow found the money by somehow reaching people who could help us, and we will continue to seek to find the necessary finances to help *all* the dogs who are in our care.

Again thanks so much to all of our contributors! We couldn't keep this operation going without you. Pat always said you all would continue to support us, and you have. And we at Straydog continue to rescue, care for and adopt out homeless dogs exactly the way Pat would have wanted. Thank you so much for your continuing support!

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold, President - **Straydog Inc., P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147**

We can take Visa, Master Card and Discover Card Donations: (903) 479-3497

If you would like to help directly with our ever-growing vet bill, donations can be sent to:

Morton Small Animal Clinic, 1404 E. Tyler St., Athens, Tx. 75751 - (903) 675-5708
(Please note to the clinic that your donation is to be applied to the Straydog Inc. vet bill.)

"Please send money quick!"



Henry

"Thanks for saving me," says Henry, "even though I wasn't the right dog, the one Juana and Tina had come into my neighborhood to try to rescue. I'd been abandoned by my dad's family after my dad died. I was just wandering around the streets near my former and now vacant home, the pain in my infected jaw really killing me, when Juana and Tina saw me. They immediately thought I was the other dog they'd been told about and had come to try to rescue, so they rescued me and didn't find out till they got me back to their truck and talked with the neighbors that I was the wrong dog! Juana called Bill and asked what they should do, and Bill said to bring me to Straydog. Now my jaw infection is almost all better, and I'm very sorry my vet clinic bill came to \$903.17. If there's any way I could help out around here to help pay for it, I'd try to do whatever it might be. They're calling me Henry now, and Bill calls me Henry Higgins."

Henry's story has a very happy ending: He was recently adopted by a very nice family.



Henry chases his new pal around the back yard during Henry's home visit on Adoption Day.



Henry says goodbye to the Straydog camera as his adoption is finalized.



Colby, the gentle giant

"I'm only two years old," says Colby, "and I spent most of my early life in a small kennel, so I'm a little rambunctious right now with all the space I get to run around in here at Straydog, but I'm trying to learn to be calmer. I love to put my jaws around people's hands and arms, but I never bite hard. I just need a little training so I'll know what to do and what not to do. I'd be a great dog for a strong, athletic young person (woman or man), who'd like a jogging or walking companion. I would also make a great watchdog for a family who would like to have me live indoors with them. My deep Rottweiler bark will discourage people from even knocking at the door."