

June 2004

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

Again we must first thank everyone who contributed to Straydog after receiving our April newsletter, and we also want to thank those who continue to send contributions regularly. WE THANK YOU ALL!

As we begin our second year carrying on Pat's mission without her, we find ourselves once again having to ask for financial help. **Our operating fund, which is our only fund, is running low.**

We've had good success over the past few months saving money and manpower by getting other well-meaning rescuers who call us with rescued dogs to take care of *their* "situations" themselves while we publish their stories on our website and ask our regular supporters to help these other rescuers. (*We*, of course, still have our 80+ dogs to care for right here at Straydog.)

We've helped Billy Lawson (a longtime Straydog volunteer who rescued and brought Snowflake to us a few years ago) rescue two strays who were in need of shelter and medical care, and Billy and others who helped him ultimately got these two dogs (Willow and Abby) into good permanent homes. We published Billy's continuing story during the entire process of rescuing the dogs, getting them rehabilitated and finding them homes. We published photos, but none of us here at Straydog ever saw the two dogs in person. Enough of you who read our website (www.straydog.org) daily donated enough money directly to Billy's newly rescued dogs to make their rescue and rehabilitation possible.

Next through our website we helped a 63-year-old rescuer named Angie, who has a house and yard full of rescued dogs with lots of needs. Angie has no funding, no newsletter or website to help her raise money. One of our readers offered to build and has built wooden dog houses for Angie. Others donated funds for surgeries on two of her rescued dogs, and others are helping her with adoptions.

At the same time we were helping raise funds for Angie, a 73-year-old woman named Jesse, who also has a house full of rescued dogs and cats, called us asking for help, and we wrote up her story. Jesse received some donations from our readers, one of whom sent her a check for \$500!

There is always the underlying fear that if we encourage *our* contributors to donate to *other* rescuers, funds that might have come to Straydog will be diverted to help others. In some cases this may be true, but as I've said several times before in newsletters and on our website, we believe no dog is any less deserving of being rescued and finding a decent life than any other dog.

We also believe that if our society can find the hundreds of trillions of dollars needed to travel to Mars (as our government is proposing we do) and if our society can find the hundreds of billions of dollars needed just to fund all the items on the current agenda, we *should* be able to find the few hundreds of thousands (or the few millions) of dollars needed to eradicate completely the dog and cat overpopulation problem via a massive, mandatory, free spay and neuter program, licensing just enough breeders to maintain sustainable populations of dogs and cats. How else can this humanely be done? Education? It'll take at least two or three more generations of humans before everyone becomes enlightened about the necessity for spay and neuter. The

overpopulation problem can be solved almost immediately the same way we solve a lot of other BIG PROBLEMS as a society: We appropriate the necessary funding, and we just do it!

Thanks so much for your continuing financial and moral support.

Bill Arnold



Pat Arnold with some of her dogs