

Straydog.org

Stories from Late Spring – 2012



Because of you, Straydog is able to give shelter and sanctuary to injured dogs like RV, healing their wounds, and finding them loving adoptive homes.

Straydog needs your help more than ever to continue this mission!

(The story of sweet rescued RV is coming up in the Summer Straydog Newsletter!)

Straydog needs your help!

Thank you for your tax deductible contributions!

Straydog Inc., a No-Kill Dog Shelter and Sanctuary

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Juana's speech at the Pat Arnold Memorial and Donor Appreciation Reception held in Dallas on Sunday, June 3, 2012



Juana talks to George, the day he is returned to Straydog from his adopter.

Hello, my name is Juana Vazquez Arnold. I started working at Straydog back in June of 2001. Ms. Pat [most of Pat Arnold's employees called her "Miss Pat"] wanted to hire a kennel person and a caregiver at that time, and Tina [who's still with us] and I were hired on the same day.

Ms. Pat told me that I was too little (short) to do kennel work, but she thought that I would do a good job of being her walker and caregiver. Since that day, Ms. Pat (as we all used to call her) seemed happy with my work. My primary duties were to walk all of our doggies to the park and back to their kennels and give them attention while playing with them and their toys and tennis balls in the park and in the swimming pools. As a caregiver, I learned to search for lumps, sore spots, missing hair, red ears, eye problems and anything else that could be wrong with our dogs. Of course, I also reported if there was anything wrong or if anything seemed out of the ordinary, as I would see them [all the dogs] every day. I'd also brush the dogs, trim their nails, talk with them, giving them some much-needed TLC. This daily human interaction (or caregiving) is so necessary for the happiness of the dogs, and also helps to socialize our [rescued] strays and make them more adoptable. I felt very lucky that this was my job and I couldn't believe that this was called work! Walking the dogs, petting them and letting them know that I loved them was second nature to me. I believed that I was born to do this.

It was and is my pleasure to work here, attending to our dogs. I learned that what Ms. Pat taught us to do was best for our dogs. We took care of our dogs as if they were family. Our dogs are family and our crewmembers are family. I really believe that one of the reasons we have been able to keep on going is because we think this way. We are proud that Ms. Pat Arnold founded this no-kill animal shelter, and we will do all we can to continue her work and her mission forever. That is how strong our commitment is.

Ms. Pat is always on our minds and in our hearts. And the love and the trust that our dogs have for us, give us the strength to carry on every day. The sparkle in their eyes fills us with purpose, and the feeling is indescribable.

Ms. Pat was a very special person. She was an angel, who taught us that we could make a difference in this world. We could rescue and give hope and healing to stray dogs. We could give them a home, and they would have large kennel areas, good wooden shelters, dog houses and wonderful, loving care. She knew that we couldn't save them all, but it was her mission, and now ours, to provide forever homes and a chance at loving adoptive homes.

We provide excellent veterinary care to our rescues, and we are so grateful to Dr. Morton, Sr., Dr. James Morton, Dr. Terry, Dr. Porterpan, Dr. Reeves, Dr. Lynn Foster, Dr. Wingo, Dr. Sue Ellen, Dr. Cornelius, Dr. McDonald, Dr. Barstad, Dr. Paulsen, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. Studer, Dr. Deen, and many, many more, who have helped us and our dogs through thick and thin. We couldn't do it without all of their help. I want to especially thank Dr. Morton, who is always available and ready to help us with any emergency. We don't like to call on him at all hours, but we have so many doggies in our care, and sometimes we have emergencies, and we have to bother Dr. Morton. He's always been there for us, and he has saved many of our dogs' lives.

All of this help from our veterinarians, and the kindness and trust of all of you wonderful people have made us stronger. You have enabled us to carry out this wonderful and important work.

We are fortunate that we are able to rescue the sick, elderly and injured doggies and give them the medical care they need. Sometimes there is nothing that anyone can do for the dogs we rescue, and that's always so hard to accept. One of the most difficult things that we have to do is make a final decision for one of our dogs. There comes a time when we have to let them go and cross the Rainbow Bridge. We are afraid of letting a terminally ill or injured dog go too soon, or of waiting too long to let them go. We would never let them suffer. So we ask ourselves, "Is it their time? Is it going to get worse? What is happening? How do they really feel? Do they still have a sparkle in their eye? What is the best thing to do for our dog?" And, we pray to God to help us know when. It is part of Bill's and my promise to our dogs that we will step up and make this hard decision and take them on their last trip to the vet. I know they feel our sadness on these difficult trips, but it is amazing to see how our dogs know and trust us to do what is best for them. At these sad times, we close their eyes and help them cross the Rainbow Bridge. We speak softly to them and tell them that we will never forget them and we will hold them in our hearts forever. We tell them that Ms. Pat is waiting for them with open arms.

We have some dogs we rescued when they were fairly young. And for one reason or other they were never adopted. Why? Why have some sweet, loving dogs never found homes and families of their very own? Is it because we, as a society, are overpopulated with strays? Yes, we think so. People don't spay and neuter their pets, and they have unwanted puppies and kittens. All of these unwanted dogs and cats become a problem that is just too big for local shelters. There is just not enough space.

One of the good things about Straydog is that we are also a sanctuary and we will keep our doggies and let them live out their lives with us if we can't place them in adoptive homes.

Ms. Pat's dream is alive, and we are committed to it! Thank you, wonderful supporters of Straydog, we couldn't continue without your help. I also want to thank our wonderful volunteers, caregivers, kennel crew, and our adoption day and special events team. And I want to thank our Board of Directors, for ensuring that we keep our mission alive. I also want to thank my family and my children, for working with me and supporting me in my efforts at Straydog. And I want to thank Bill, and Bill and Pat's children, Stacey, Erin, Billy and Joe for helping to keep Ms. Pat's dream alive. Wherever you are Ms. Pat, we have embraced your dream and made it our own, and we will keep on going.

I hope that I have mentioned everyone who supports and loves Straydog. We couldn't do it without your support. I really want to thank all of you here and those who couldn't make it today. May God bless you all and thank you! – Juana Arnold, *Shelter Director of Straydog, Inc.* – June 3, 2012

A Note from Bill... With the necessary funding, we can take care of these precious dogs the way Pat Arnold insisted they be taken care of. Pat's last words on this earth were, "Take care of my dogs while I'm gone." She meant that she wanted us to take care of them just as she would have taken care of them. The current economic times are very difficult for Straydog, and your financial support is needed more than ever. It is expensive to take care of these rescues well. Please help us as soon as you can. Thanks so much for your help in the past, and our deepest gratitude to everyone, in advance, for your crucial help at this present time.

– Bill Arnold, *Co-founder of Straydog, Inc.* – September 3, 2012

TUESDAY, May 1, 2012 – Bill Reports – Scottie (who's been with us at Straydog for over 15 years) could continue no longer, after having been going down hill for several months. We took him to Morton Clinic at about 10 a.m., and Dr. James Morton helped Scottie peacefully cross the Rainbow Bridge. This Scottie, bless his heart, was a really tough fella for the first many years after we rescued him 15 years ago. If he had an ear infection, the vets couldn't touch his ears without muzzling him or sedating him. Whenever we got him groomed he had to be sedated. But as Scottie went through a long and happy life at Straydog, he started showing his decline in recent months and even over the last few years (if you look back at Scottie's life via our search engine on our Homepage). Scottie became a very mellow old fella over the past few years, and we will miss him forever.



LEFT: Scottie in November of 2008. He was still a strong, healthy guy back then.
RIGHT: Scottie was a sweet fellow who loved his treats, as Juana gets him to shake for a cookie back in September of '07.

Noble (who's been with us at Straydog for over 6 years) had a 2:30 p.m. appointment with an eye specialist, because Noble's eye ulcer is much worse. Dr. Terry referred Noble to an eye specialist in Dallas. Noble, Juana and I arrived at the clinic in Grapevine, Texas, about 20 minutes early, and we got all the paper work filled out, and Noble saw the doctor, Terri L. Baldwin, DVM, Diplomate (American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists). Dr. Baldwin said that Noble's ulcer is now infected and getting worse, but she prescribed stronger antibiotics and changed some of the eye drops, and we are to go back to see her in her Dallas office on Trinity Mills on Friday at 2:00 p.m. She is optimistic that Noble will be fine as we get control of and stop this eye infection.



Photo of our diabetic Noble in the park on July 31. We are very thankful that our handsome boy's eye ulcer is completely healed now.

