

Straydog.org

Summer/Fall 2013



Sweet Tart's puppies are a few of the wonderful Straydog residents who are able to be cared for with the help of our supporters. Please consider a MONTHLY PLEDGE in any amount, so Straydog can continue the mission of rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming precious, deserving animals.

Please Help Straydog!

Thank you for your tax deductible contributions!

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

P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, TX 75147

email: Shelter@Straydog.org 903-479-3497

www.Straydog.org

Straydog Inc.

A TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION * With 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status from the IRS * DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Arnold Family's Happy Home for Strays, a No-Kill Dog Shelter
PO Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147 * (903) 479-3497 * Email: shelter@straydog.org * www.Straydog.org

November 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters of Straydog - We want to express our sincere appreciation for your financial and moral support this year and over the past 19 years. It is because of you that we have survived. Many, many times over these almost two decades our funds have dipped to zero and often below zero, and you, our loyal supporters, have pulled us through each of our financial crises. **Again, we are very grateful for your tremendous sustaining support!**

Pat Arnold's final mandate to all of us all - It has always been difficult for me (BillArnold) to ask you (who have already done so much) for yet another contribution, but every day I hear Pat's final words, **"Take care of my dogs while I'm gone!"** and those words give me the strength as they remind me of Pat's mandate to continue caring for homeless dogs till there are no more homeless dogs. There is no alternative for us, the Arnold Family (and those who feel as strongly as we do that euthanasia is not the acceptable answer to pet over-population), but to keep going with this dog rescue project.

The solution to the homeless dog problem - As I've said many times in many letters to you over the past almost two decades, until we as a society finally achieve control of conception through spaying/neutering of companion animals (dogs and cats), which unfortunately is probably not going to happen for many years to come, Straydog (along with all other no-kill animal shelters) will continue to have to raise a great deal of funding just to survive. The budget of a no-kill animal shelter is substantial, as you already know.

Absolute necessities - The only way to provide a decent life for our rescues is to **raise the necessary funds to pay for our absolute necessities:** good dog food, medicines, veterinary care, maintenance of our campus, including our kennels and kennel shelter buildings, and wages (slightly above minimum wage) for our small, compassionate caregiving/kennel crew, who along with our Shelter Director, Juana Arnold, take great care of our dogs—always showing them unconditional love--no matter how much they might occasionally misbehave with their hole digging and attempted escapes, etc.! We unconditionally love them all.

Daily website updates - In addition to the above basic shelter operations, which expenses we just barely manage to cover, we try to publish a daily update on our website to let you know what is going on every day at Straydog, which unfortunately we often are behind on because I'm wearing so many different hats doing all kinds of different things for Straydog, but we hope you all will understand.

How can we do more adoptions and attend more special events? We need another van and another driver to do more than one or two adoption days every week and still be able to cover our Special Events (like the RV Show and the Auto Show) where we try to find loving forever homes for our dogs, along with increasing our donor base. We would be able to adopt out more dogs and attend more special events if we had more help and more vehicles.

Our Golf Tournament was our latest successful fundraiser, and the revenue from this year's tournament (along with our regular daily donations) for which we are extremely grateful, supported Straydog through the months of September and October 2013. [*A note of thanks--* We are very grateful for Linda Arnold's efforts. She established a successful golf tournament three years ago and she has worked tirelessly to make it so much fun. It's well organized and the players, our volunteers and Straydog staffers have a great time. *See* the Golf Tournament report beginning on pg. 17. Thank you, Linda!] **As with all fundraisers, donations that come in daily go right back out daily, paying our ongoing, never ending expenses for the dogs!**

Our PLAN for the FUTURE - Our plan for the future is the same plan Pat Arnold had since day one, which was October 4, 1994, when we brought our first eleven rescues to Straydog, and it's the same plan we've followed since Pat's death on June 1, 2003:

- (1) **Straydog rescues homeless dogs** (and occasionally homeless cats);
- (2) **We do everything we can to rehabilitate our rescues** so that they become healthy and strong again;
- (3) **We try our best to adopt out our rescues into good forever homes;**
- (4) **We provide a forever home (sanctuary) at Straydog** for all of those who don't find forever homes with individual families; and
- (5) **We periodically run fund-raising campaigns**, which include asking you, our faithful supporters, to send in or call in contributions so that we can be successful carrying out the first four steps of our plan above. **This plan is solid**, and we've never deviated from this plan. This plan has successfully kept Straydog afloat for more than 19 years, because of caring and committed supporters who believe in this mission just as much as we do.

Now, I must ask you to please help us again - Our bank balance is fast approaching zero, and we owe our vets more than \$18,000 (as of December 1). Thank you, thank you, thank you for your partnership in helping to save these dogs in need!

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold, *Co-Founder of Straydog Inc.*

Tax-deductible donations may be made directly to:
Straydog Inc. (903) 479-3497
P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, TX 75147

or to:
Morton Small Animal Clinic/ Straydog Account
(903) 675-5708 P.O. Box 1356, Athens, TX 75751

*This letter written 11 years ago by Pat and Bill Arnold
is still apropos today, December 2013.*

We consider as family members all dogs we rescue, rehabilitate and seek to find good homes for...

December 25, 2002

Dear Friends,

Family first is a very simple concept which has probably kept the human race (and many other species) in existence for hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of years. It doesn't always seem fair, but it works. It's a mindset that most human families have about their family members, and it's a mindset that millions of human families have about their pets.

Unfortunately there are also millions of humans who tragically do not have this mindset (or attitude) toward their pets. (Many of these same people do not have this feeling toward their own family members--an equally tragic situation.)

We really don't have to spend a whole lot of words on the subject. The vast majority of those of you who are reading this are in the first group--those who treat their pets as family members. No matter how much we write about it, words alone are probably not going to change the mindset (or attitude) of those who do not treat their pets as family members.

Hopefully those of us who do believe in the family first concept and who also believe that our pets are members of our families will be able to influence the mindsets and attitudes of the others by our example, by the way we treat our pets (and other family members).

Needless to say maintaining the good health and well-being of the 65+ dogs (now 150 dogs as of December 1, 2013) currently in our extended family at Straydog (our Happy Home for Strays) is very expensive, and we again ask for your financial and moral support. We thank you all very much!

Sincerely,

Pat and Bill Arnold



Two-year old Freckles, a blind, pregnant stray, was rescued in the middle of a road in September 2002, where she had been presumably dumped. Freckles was afraid and running in circles until a kind person picked her up and called Straydog.

Two weeks later her beautiful puppies were born at Straydog. We were able to later adopt these two pups to loving, forever homes.



Early November 2013: Freckles, now almost 14 years old (she has never been adopted, maybe because of her handicap) had a scare with kidney failure and spent the weekend at the Morton Small Animal Clinic on IVs.



Late November 2013: back at her Straydog home, Sweet Freckles is doing much better and she is very much enjoying the sunny days again, her warm bed, her special caregivers, good meals, daily walks and playtime in the park. We are so grateful for your support for precious dogs like Freckles.

Thank you!



Hailey was so thin and covered with ants and fleas when she was rescued and taken to the clinic Wednesday evening.

Wednesday, July 3, 2013. Vet visits today. The four formerly "starving pups" went to get their puppy shots and to get fixed today. Very sadly one of the little fellas didn't wake up after being spayed. The doctors tried to bring her back, but she didn't respond. Unfortunately this is one of the risks of going under anesthesia--for all of us. Milagros (the pup with Sarcoptic Mange) went to Morton Clinic for her puppy shots. Snow went to get fixed. Puppy Wup also went to the vet because he is losing his hair, but a skin scraping showed no mange. Dr. Morton is going to treat Wup's condition with a new drug. He's to get a shot today and one a week for six weeks. These injections at \$15 per shot are cheaper than the mange dips, and the clinic has had success with this new drug.

An older, abandoned German Shepherd is rescued. A beautiful but starving German Shepherd was abandoned at her home when her owners moved away without her recently. A neighbor emailed Straydog saying a dog named Hailey had been abandoned. After much difficulty finding the place Juana and Lucy arrived at the rundown shack, but the dog was nowhere to be found. They drove up and down the street, and finally as they were passing the house for the last time, they called out the name "Hailey!" Suddenly, the dog came running to the car and jumped right in, covered with ants and fleas. It was after 7 p.m., but Juana tried calling her son Gordie, who's working now at Morton Clinic, and he answered saying he and the doctors were just about to leave, but they would wait. Juana and Lucy took the beautiful but starving dog to the clinic, where they bathed her and gave her food. Hailey will stay at the clinic till she's ready to come to Straydog--maybe tomorrow.

Thursday, July 11, 2013 – Doxie's dappled puppy is adopted today and her new name is Roxie! We gave the puppy a bath before we went on the home visit, and all went fine! Congratulations to all! – Cathy Blanton got us a new water cooler and is having a few big jugs of pure water delivered every week for our employees. Thank you, Cathy! – Sweet Tart's puppies are all doing fine, and she continues to be a good mother. – Princess is getting disoriented. Sometimes we have to carry her to the park. We'll see how she does tomorrow, Friday.



The first of Doxie's puppies is adopted today. She gets a bath before going to her new forever home!



Hailey is a very sweet senior. She is gaining weight and getting healthier day-by-day at Straydog. And Hailey loves playing ball!

Friday, July 19, 2013. Sweet Tart has Parvo! Sweet Tart started having diarrhea yesterday. Then her puppies too this morning. We had to move all of Sweet Tart's pups outside to be able to clean up their inside kennel. Juana called Morton Clinic and alerted them that Sweet Tart and her puppies were on their way to the clinic. We have very sad and distressing news! Sweet Tart tested positive for Parvo virus. Our veterinarians are starting Sweet Tart on medicines and fluids. We are all praying that she and her babies make it through this one, and that Doxie's pups and Chloe's pups don't get it. Fortunately these sets of pups were never near each other.



Sweet Tart's puppies all needed to go to the vet clinic along with their mother, who must have been harboring the Parvo virus from before her rescue a few weeks ago.



Tuffy enjoys all of his outings at our Straydog Special Event Booths.

Saturday, July 20, 2013. Update on Sweet Tart. Saturday evening Juana talked with Dr. James Morton. And Sweet Tart was continuing her IV fluids and was holding on. Her babies have not shown further signs of Parvo, and they're still doing fine. Sunday morning Dr. James texted Juana saying that the pups are still fine, and Sweet Tart appears to be doing a little better. We're all hoping and praying that they all are going to be okay.

Straydog goes to the Dallas Boat Show. Tuffy and some of our other dogs had a great time at the Dallas Boat Show this weekend. We met a lot of nice folks and handed out many newsletters. Thank you so much to our Special Events Team– Tom, Linda, David and our Volunteers.

Please help us pay down our vet account!

Please send a donation directly to:

MORTON SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

P.O. Box 1356

Athens, Texas 75751

Phone: 903-675-5708

Thank you for your crucial support!

Your donations are tax-deductible!

