

Calendar

ADOPTION EVENTS

Please refer to our Web site for Adoption Event dates.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

Dec 22 & 23 - Our volunteers will be at **Barnes & Noble in Framingham** wrapping gifts for a donation to Save A Dog.

June 11 - Paws in the Park, our annual dog walk for homeless animals located at the Bedford VA Hospital grounds in Bedford, MA.



Lisa's Story

In June of 2002 while checking the news on Boston.com, a flashing ad caught my attention. It said something like "take your dog for a walk in the park..." Because my husband and I had been discussing adding a dog to our family for quite some time, the ad grabbed my interest immediately! I clicked on it and found it was a promotion for *Paws In The Park*, a fundraiser for Save A Dog, coming up that weekend. One click led to another and, well, the rest is history...

Clicking on that ad changed my life forever. I had never had a dog of my own (not even as a kid) and had never really been an "animal"

person, but, I soon became obsessed with the Save A Dog website and the dog/puppy situation in the United States. In September of 2002, I became a "doggy mom" for the first time when we adopted Gracie, an 8-week old yellow lab mix.

After spending virtually every minute

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Hurricane Katrina Rescue is Still Ongoing

It's been nearly four months since the hurricane devastated the Gulf states and we are still heavily involved in the ongoing rescue of the pets left behind. It seems like ages ago that we first watched the events unfold on TV — thousands of people were trapped in flooded houses and rescued from roof tops, leaving their dogs and cats behind. Who will ever forget the images of dogs stranded on porches or swimming in the deadly waters that flooded New Orleans? Dave and I felt helpless as we watched the unfolding of this national disaster and its impact on pet owners and their pets. We listened to the reports not to go down there and decided to at least send supplies. We put a note on our Web site and received an overwhelming response of donated crates, food, leashes and collars -- and we were on our way. We had no idea what to expect and our plans were to drop the supplies off and to stay out of the way. *Little did we know that this small step of faith would snowball into months of involvement*, of sending team after team to the devastated area, of searching for pets trapped in houses, and bringing them to the world's

largest make-shift shelter in Gonzales, Louisiana, of bringing the van back loaded with rescued dogs for fostering in NH, and of sending the van back down for weeks at a time so it could be put to good use in the rescue of many homeless pets. At first we worked in hundred degree temperatures at a feverish pace as time was short for the many dogs and cats and birds and hamsters, you name it, trapped in houses and apartments all throughout the New Orleans Parishes. We put in twenty hour days every day and it didn't seem nearly enough. As volunteers, we showered each other with donated bottled waters and peanut butter sandwiches. There was a mountain of supplies for both animal and human needs and everyone took just what they needed. Nobody hoarded, but all shared from the abundance. Most of us camped or slept in our vehicles, at least for the first few weeks.

The rescued pets were brought to the Lamar Dixon Expo Center, located in Gonzales, 40 miles north of New Orleans. Five cattle barns similar to those at the Big E in

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Hurricane Katrina Rescue is Still Ongoing

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Springfield housed all the animals, including horses, cows, goats, and sheep. From the moment we walked into Barn 1 the place was abuzz with activity. Everyone was either walking dogs, cleaning crates, giving medical treatment, or organizing supplies. We jumped right in and got to work, walking dogs and cleaning crates. There was plenty to do. The work was endless and everyone worked until they dropped.

During the day we were out in the streets rescuing the pets and at night we would feed and walk and clean. Dave worked on Intake every night until 2 or 3 AM and I walked dogs. As long as we had the donation money, we flew volunteers down to work and the van stayed in New Orleans. The large black dog on our logo was easy to see from a distance so that we were constantly being flagged down by National Guardsmen and others to let us know about dog and cats who needed help.

We crawled across soggy mattresses and tipped-over furniture to get to the frightened pets. We wore boots and masks for protection, but often removed the masks as they were frightening the dogs. Once they were safely brought outside, most were friendly and happy for a good meal and fresh water to drink. The streets were filled with stray dogs and cats, but the first few weeks we mainly focused on the pets trapped in houses and we would leave bags of opened food for the strays who were rescued later in the remaining weeks of the rescue efforts. We would no sooner put a bag of food down and there would be a dog or cat feeding. It was so heartbreaking to see.




The medical teams working on Intake were amazing. Imagine a long line of vans, trucks, flat-bed trailers, all loaded with sick and dehydrated animals. A VMAT team would race up and down the line, looking for "criticals" and then scurry them off to the triage area so they could be attended to. We had a young cat who was so emaciated it was painful to look at her, but even worse, her eyes were so infected that she looked like she had gone blind. When

we pulled up to the gate, we grabbed her carrier and held it up for the triage team to see. They grabbed her and ran. It brought tears to my eyes knowing that she was in the hands of such caring people. So many of the volunteers put in very long hours every day. Clearly, the task we were all given was monumental, but you could not have asked for a more dedicated group of people to rise to the challenge. Lamar Dixon closed as a shelter in mid-October, and then Best Friends took up the burden of temporarily sheltering the strays and shipping them out to various shelters all across the country. They are still going strong and the need is still great. Currently, we are focused on trapping strays and reuniting pets with owners. We are still capturing cats in the neighborhood where we helped a cat rescuer named Marlene. She flew back down there recently to retrieve one of her precious cats named Violet (see our Web site blog for details, www.saveadog.org).



As the donations dwindled, we continued the work because we felt it was the right thing to do. There are still so many dogs and cats roaming the streets at night and hiding under collapsed houses. We are reuniting pets with their owners and could use help with funding this project as the pet owners do not have the means to reimburse us for all the medical and transportation costs. Lady and Hoover, two dogs we rescued and fostered, are returning to their happy owners this week. They are so grateful that we were able to spay Lady as they did not have the means to do so.

If you would like to make a donation towards our rescue work in Louisiana, just write Katrina in the memo portion of your check. We are still in dire need as many of the rescued pets need medical help. Thanks for your ongoing support. It is so appreciated by us and all the hurricane victims.

Shirley Moore,
President and Founder of Save A Dog 

Lisa's Story

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for almost a whole year with Gracie (I take her to work with me, too!), I persuaded my husband to adopt a second dog! Almost a year after we brought Gracie home, "Tinkerbell" became available for adoption through Save A Dog. Now called "Bella," this 18-month old tri-colored hound mix became our second doggie-child, and leader of our doggie pack! Just over another year went by when "Minnie" became available for adoption through Save A Dog. In October of 2004, this tiny 8-week old blonde puppy (now known as "Lucy") became our "baby." Lucy adds a unique dynamic to our pack and is settling in nicely as she matures. Life is awesome with three dogs!

After adopting Bella, I became very interested in volunteering for Save A Dog. I remember saying at my volunteer orientation training session that I really didn't "have a lot of time." Two years later I have to laugh when I think about making that statement. When you are dog-crazy, as I have become, it just doesn't matter! I spend almost as much time volunteering with Save A Dog as I do at my "real" job! I jumped right in and helped with everything from "meet and greet" events, to the newsletter, coordinating other volunteers, maintaining the Save A Dog scrapbooks and helping to plan our big fundraisers – the Annual Auction and Paws In The Park events.

As I began to spend more and more time with dogs (my own as well as those in the adoption process with Save A Dog) I began to understand how truly important dogs are to humans and vice versa. I've seen potential adopters arrive at "meet and greet" events to get to know an adoptable dog and leave with tears in their eyes because they have found their "soul mate." On another occasion, I was visiting Shirley and ended up spending an hour with Marlise – the mama dog who had her puppies in a shed in the middle of winter. Shirley was fostering the mom and babies and when I bent down to pat the mama dog she hopped right over to me and sat in my lap for an hour. She just wanted

to be loved – I could see it in her eyes. I recently met up with Marlise and her human mom at Paws In The Park – she looked so healthy and especially happy to have her very own family!

Gracie is now three years old, Bella three and a half, and Lucy is ten months old. I love to spend time watching my dogs playing, exploring and most of all interacting with each other.



I often look at them and wonder, "Do they have any idea how lucky they are? Do they know how fortunate they were to be in the right place at the right time and to be driven north in the Save A Dog van?" Their fate could have been so different – like so many others who aren't so lucky. The realist in me thinks they are clueless as to what their fate could have been. But every once in a while they give me a deep, long look as if to say, "Thank you!"

The most exciting time to be a Save A Dog volunteer is now! Save A Dog is in the process of securing a facility to be able to comply with the new Massachusetts Department of Agriculture quarantine regulations. This is very exciting, because it means we can help save even more dogs! This is a huge venture and we'll need a great deal of help to make it happen.

Please consider making a donation to Save A Dog – you'll never know all the dogs and humans your donation will touch! 🐾



This adorable Rottie pup is one of eight puppies born in the Save A Dog van during the Hurricane Katrina aftermath. He and his siblings will be available for adoption in early January. Read their story on <http://www.saveadog.org/puppydiary.asp>

Save A Dog Wish List

- Warm blankets and towels
- Nutro Dog Food
- Canned Dog and Cat Food
- Gas cards
- Dog and Cat toys
- Office supplies
- Cash Donations

Volunteering is Easy!

By Dawn Giovannucci

I always knew I wanted to volunteer my time, I just never knew for who or what. After realizing that dogs are my passion and (like many of you) how addicted I was to the Save a Dog website, I was off to a Save A Dog volunteer orientation meeting. I didn't think I had much time to devote to Save A Dog and I intended to use what little time I had to foster dogs. However, my own dogs wanted no part of that! I do, however, foster dogs on occasion. When I joined four years ago and was becoming familiar with Save A Dog, I noticed that no one was "officially" in charge of fundraising, so I decided to take on the task. My first success was to raise funds to purchase a van. Because of that van, Save A Dog has been able to save hundreds of dogs and puppies who now have their very own forever homes. Since then I have coordinated our benefit dog walk, Paws in the Park, and our Annual Auction – three years in a row. It is a lot of work, but it is fun and definitely worth every second!

There are many volunteer opportunities with Save A Dog and a huge variety of ways to contribute. Fostering a dog, helping at Meet and Greet events, participating in transports, and assisting with fundraising, just to name a few. It's all very rewarding, especially when you realize you've contributed to the transformation of a dog who comes in physically malnourished and emotionally starved for attention become the healthy spirit he or she was meant to be!

Almost 4 years later I'm on the board of directors as the "official" Fundraising Director, and I help with as many tasks as I can! When I started my volunteer activities with Save A Dog, I never thought I'd be on the board -- my husband even volunteers with me now!

Please join us in this rewarding adventure we call "dog rescue." You don't have to do it all -- every little thing

helps. You'd be surprised at the types of things that are important in the rescue world. Not fond of hard, physical labor? That is okay! There are so many other tasks that need to be accomplished! Maybe you work for a company or restaurant and can solicit donations for our auction. Maybe you have a knack for Marketing and/or Public Relations and can help us to promote our events. Of course, there is always a need for envelope stuffers, too. Some of you may only be able to help out at certain times of the year – that is fine – we welcome any and all help! If you really feel you don't have the time to spare, donations are always welcome and needed. Every penny helps us reach our goal of placing dogs in their forever homes.

I have recently had the opportunity to walk in Shirley Moore's shoes while she was away volunteering in Louisiana. I have been one of the contact people for folks who are relinquishing their dogs to Save A Dog. I don't know who feels worse - the owner, the dog or me! People don't give dogs enough credit for having feelings, but look into their eyes; I believe they know exactly what is happening. My wish for dogs everywhere (besides people getting their dogs spayed/neutered and no more puppy mills) is that when you see that cute little puppy smiling up at you and you decide to take him or her home, please remember that it is a lifetime commitment (usually around 15 years) and a lot can happen in that time! Will you keep your beloved pet through thick and thin? Can you afford your new friend? Can you get through the puppy adolescence? Will you have time to properly train a dog? Do you really want to have a dog and children? If my wishes came true Save A Dog would be out of business because all dogs would stay in their first forever home!

If you are a dog lover and want to make some new friends, come try volunteering with Save A Dog – you might like it, and who knows where it will lead you!

