

# “ALIVE FOR FIVE”

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

JULY 2007

MAILING ADDRESS: Post Office Box 5354 • Columbia, South Carolina 29250 • (803) 783-2119 • www.aplsc.org

## Mark Corley, a man with a heart

Mark Corley is a passionate man and for more than twenty years, this unharnessed passion freed hundreds of dogs and cats from the bondage of abandonment. With his wife, Debbie, who shares his love for animals, by his side Mark devoted almost one third of his life to providing opportunities to unwanted pets.

Mark is no quitter. An abandoned German shepherd, later named Lady, could have attested to that. Skinny and skittish, Lady made the ditches along I-77 and Leesburg Road her pathways and the soft dirt of fresh dug graves in a local cemetery her bed. But her life was destined to change once she was spotted by Mark and Debbie. For weeks on end, they trailed her, left food for her, and worked tirelessly to bring her in out of the cold. That mission was accomplished late one afternoon when they corralled Lady at a service station on Garner's Ferry Road.



She was a health disaster: heartworms; rotten and missing teeth; malnutrition; internal parasites; a tired and skinny body racked with fear. She was a rescuer's nightmare but that didn't stop Mark because he is no quitter.

Lady's health and confidence were restored as she was showered with medical and physical attention and she went on to spend the rest of her years with Mark and Debbie, basking in their love and enjoying their hearth

and home.

The Animal Protection League's heart is pumped by the energies and financial support of people just like the Corley's and Mark and Debbie have done more than their share of pumping. For years, until health issues robbed both of them of their ability to do the physical work, they spent most of their free time volunteering at the shelter. Even when Mark was dependent on a cane for walking, he continued to pick up pet food from a local distributor and deliver it to APL and once there, he would visit every single animal to offer a kind word and a special treat.

Mark's love for animals encompasses the entire animal kingdom and the plight of feral cats became an emotional issue for him. With Debbie's help, he scouted out feral cat colonies and set up feeding and trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs. Mark has never been one to take the easy way out so handing over these homeless trapped cats to animal control was not an option. Of course, it would have been easier and certainly less costly to rescue and then be rescued, but that is not Mark's style.

Mark was multi-faceted and passion driven before Multiple Sclerosis robbed him of his strength and muscle coordination. He was one of the most intuitive members of the APL adoption team. He beat the streets all around town and came up with hundreds of auction items. He spent hours on end sorting and pricing donated goods for the garage sale. He was a master at calming the fears of the APL dogs when it was time for their meds or baths. No job was too dirty or difficult or costly for Mark if it meant a better life for an animal.

There is a heart beating inside of Mark Corley that no disease can harden ....a heart that provided financing of medical care for many sick animals, including a deathly sick parvo puppy brought to the APL shelter by its young desperate owner. Even though it was a Sunday and emergency vet centers were just a dream then, it didn't stop Mark from rooting out a doctor to meet them, getting the puppy to the vet's office and then paying the entire bill. That little puppy survived the ordeal and went home to his family because Mark Corley is the man that he is, a loving, generous, and caring person who never gives up.

Mark is bed and wheel chair bound now. He is no longer physically able to trail the lost and abandoned, haul the pet food, work the adopt-a-pets, scour for auction items, scoop poop, or even visit the APL pets and offer little treats. Losing his motor skills, however, has not diminished his ability to care nor his desire to help. He continues to support the Animal Protection League with his thoughts and prayers and shares his love for the animals through financial support. The pets that have found a safe haven at APL over the past twenty years and many others that never made it to APL's doors have benefited because of this kind and generous man called Mark Corley.

APL salutes Mark Corley, a true humanitarian, who has done way more than his share to make our community a better place for companion pets. Thank you, Mark, for a job very well done.



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## Join Alive for Five Today!

If you are looking for a way to help homeless pets but time and money are a factor, APL has a great option for you. Join the APL "Alive for Five" club. Your donation goes straight to the heart of the problem and helps get the medical and physical needs met for the more than 150 pets currently in APL's care. Just a small donation of \$5.00 will give more than just hope to abandoned and abused pets. It will give LIFE. Use the enclosed green envelope for your donation and know that you are helping in a BIG way.

This "Alive for Five" mailing is sponsored in part by Mandy Shealy in memory of her beloved "Morsal" and Judy Kinney & Virginia Kinney.

If you would like to sponsor a mailing, please call Robert Adams at (803) 345-6634.

## A Purring Black Pearl Looking for a Home

Smeagol was much too young and immature to be without her mom but when she came into the shelter with her three siblings, she hardly knew how to suckle.



Fortunately, two nursing moms took on the little wayfayers and not only nursed them but worked diligently to clean them up. Smeagol had a raging eye infection that took daily cleaning and ointment. The extra attention that she got during her treatment and recovery turned her into a cuddler. She is great with other kittens and loves toys but her heart is with people. She is in an APL foster home now so she knows the ropes of being a family member. If you would like to make this little Black Pearl a part of your family, please call Kristine at the APL shelter at 783-2119 or e-mail [aplpets@bellsouth.net](mailto:aplpets@bellsouth.net).

### Upcoming Harbison PetSmart Adopt-a-Pet dates

**JULY 7                      JULY 21                      August 4                      August 18**

**11:30 - 4:00**

Also cats and kittens are available for adoption at both PetSmart locations - on Harbison Boulevard and Two Notch Road. As always, dogs and cats are available for adoption at our shelter located at 6080 Old Leesburg Road which is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday 12-4.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE:  
[www.aplsc.org](http://www.aplsc.org)**

## Tim Buice helps keep the freedom bell ringing while helping pets

July is the month that the freedom bell rings loudest in our hearts and minds. It is the month that reminds us to be ever thankful for the men and women who put their lives on the line so that we can be free. Therefore, it is an appropriate time for APL to pay tribute to a very brave and special person, Tim Buice. Tim is not only walking in the shadow of danger every single day in Iraq but when he is home on leave he puts his heart on the line for the APL pets.



Tim is stationed in Bagdad, Iraq, where he trains, mentors, advises, and evaluates the Iraqi police, using his experience and expertise to participate in an international effort to re-establish police functions in post-conflict Iraq. When Tim is stateside, he and his wife, Kat, volunteer their time at the APL shelter. They take on and also provide the funding for time consuming but vital projects that create a better environment for the APL dogs and cats. When Kat was asked why they would spend the precious days of Tim's leave working at the APL shelter rather than vacationing at some resort or enjoying the peace and quiet of their home, she had the following to say.

*I was surfing the net for information on no-kill shelters when I found APL. I visited the shelter, met the APL staff and then decided it was time for us to get involved. I described APL to Tim, telling him how the shelter operated and how much help was needed. Tim was home for two weeks in March and it was then that he made a commitment to the APL pets.*

*We both love animals and we believe that every animal deserves respect. After talking with the staff members, he decided to lend a hand. He purchased materials and fixed some fencing problems and also made repairs to the cat house. He spent his entire two weeks leave at the APL shelter.*

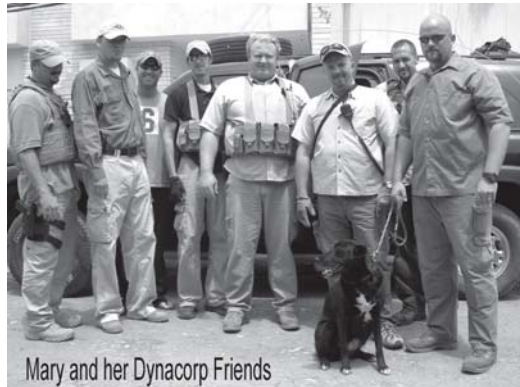
*There are so many repairs that need to be done to keep our APL "friends" comfortable. But Tim and I are in it for the long haul. We will do everything we possibly can to help the shelter achieve its goals and in the meantime, we will continue to support the shelter with food and other needed items.*

*We have 4 dogs, PJ (13), AC (11), Oreo (7), all toy poodles, and Rosco (7), an Aussie Shepard. We called them "our kids" and they are our family. We adopted Oreo and Rosco from a shelter so we understand the need for reliable volunteers and financial support.*

*Volunteering at the APL shelter is relaxing for Tim because working for the animals brings serenity and harmony after months of overseas hostility. He looks forward to talking with all of his APL animal friends and making a difference in their lives. Tim feels that APL is a worthy organization that should be recognized for all the good work they have done for 25 years.*

## Mary wants to be an American By Rosemary Calhoun

*On a cold morning in the northern region of Iraq, a puppy wandered aimlessly down a road. The never ending hunger and the internal parasites had drained the last surge of energy and all of her hope from her body. She lay down to die.*



*Just outside a small Iraqi Kurdish town named Erbil, a group of US Special Forces soldiers were returning from a mission in the war ravaged countryside where they were trying to replace chaos and desperation with order and hope. Although bone tired, they knew that staying alive meant staying alert and keeping a vigil. They spotted the little black ball of fur lying by the roadside. She was still alive. It was Christmas morning, December 25, 2005. They named her Mary.*

In early July 2007, after traveling over three continents, Mary arrived in Columbia, SC. She is filled with hope that she will find sanctuary here with a loving family.

Mary's story is about how our brave US Special Forces soldiers who, while carrying out a peace mission in a country half a world away, reached out to help a dying pup. It is a story about US State Department diplomats and government contract Dyncorp employees who watched over her and financed her journey to freedom.

Mary is a purebred Kurdish Sheepdog developed from the gene pool of the larger and thinner Saluki. Her ears have been clipped in the Kurdish Sheepdog style and she has an inbred herding instinct although she has never relied on it for survival. Her breed is used to herd sheep through the desert and mountainous areas of northern Iraq. Trying to survive in a war torn country where a meal is a luxury is tough for the native people so there is little left over for the dogs. Mary was abandoned to fend for herself.

Some US Special Forces soldiers were stationed near Erbil, a small town tucked away at the base of the Zagros Mountains. They took Mary home with them and restored her to health. When their unit was scheduled to leave the area, they enlisted the help of Dyncorp employees to keep Mary in the US compound. She lived with various families and individuals there for the next few months.

In September, the entire compound will be moved to a Korean Military Base located in another part of Iraq. Family pets are not welcomed at the Korean base so Mary's future was in peril. It was decided after much discussion that Mary was either to be given away or put to sleep unless by some miracle another solution would emerge. She could not be taken to the Korean Military Base.

A US Diplomat with the Agency for International Development, is stationed in Erbil, Iraq but has relatives in Columbia. Traveling worldwide with pets is second nature to her, having lived on five continents and having her two schnauzers with her on four of them. So she stepped up to the plate for Mary and volunteered to get Mary out of Iraq and to Columbia, SC.

Mary had never been more than two miles from Erbil. She had never flown in a plane, ridden in an elevator, spent the night in a five star hotel, flagged a taxi, eaten at a MacDonald's, hitched a ride in a Hertz Rent-a-Truck, nor walked on the soft cushion of fresh green grass. But she did all of those things and more with the grace and dignity of one who has traveled the globe. Even the 2 day car ride from Dulles International Airport to Columbia was a treat for Mary.

Mary is on sabbatical in a loving foster home but she knows that this is temporary. She wants to be an American with a permanent address. She knows that in America she will never have to hear the bombs ripping through the air or dodge the rounds of machine gun fire or step gingerly over forgotten land mines. She knows this because she has seen first hand how our soldiers and government employees will put their lives on the line day in and day out to preserve freedom worldwide and yet, even in the face of danger, they will stop to help a dying pup lying by the roadside on a Christmas morning.

The family's long time veterinarian, Dr. Van DeGriff, and his staff suggested that APL be contacted about finding a permanent situation for Mary. If you are interested in meeting Mary to see if that home could be with you, please call Robert Adams, APL Adoption Team Member at (803)345-6634 or (803)351-3536.



## APL's annual garage sale generates funds for the pets

The APL annual garage sale brought in much needed revenue thanks to the efforts of APL volunteers and the generosity of supporters. The APL board would like to recognize Susan Lucas for her strong leadership in making this major fundraiser not only fun but profitable.

Susan and her team of volunteers drove many miles for pickups, lifted thousands of pounds, moved truck loads of "stuff" to the sale site, and put in hundreds of hours arranging and pricing items before the doors ever opened for the three day sale.

The proof of her leadership and her volunteers' hard work was in the money till at the end of the day. The APL annual garage sale is one of several volunteer driven fundraisers held each year and a vital source of income for the APL shelter and the pets served.

### SAVE TIME FOR THIS!

In celebration of APL's 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation, Chappie Vardell, renowned chef and APL board member, will once again feed the masses with a mouth watering BBQ cookout to be held sometime during the final quarter of 2007. Stay tuned for more information on the exact date and place.