



“ALIVE FOR FIVE”

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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APL has been saving pets for 25 years



The plight of our community's forgotten and unwanted pets began to change 25 years ago. A small group of concerned citizens took matters into their own hands and formed the Animal Protection League of SC so that otherwise doomed companion pets would have opportunities for life and happiness. Since then, the no-kill animal welfare movement throughout the entire state has taken root and continues to grow.



The APL Board of Directors dedicates this newsletter to APL's founding fathers, a small group of brave and unselfish pioneers who stepped out of the box on October 25, 1982 and set the bar for animal

welfare in the Midlands.

To Hell and Back

A story about Max and how APL impacted his life

His name is not Audie Murphy but he has been “to hell and back”. The following story about Max is the epitome of what makes APL unique.

For more than a week, a scraggy yellow cat with a horrific head injury crouched in a hiding place just outside the shelter to observe and yes, to hope. He was evasive, suspicious, and fearful and he had every right to be.

Max was not new to the area. He had been spotted for more than a year darting in and out of the woods, scampering across highways, and stealing food from porches. But at some point, Max found himself at the wrong end of a cruel instrument that left his head badly mutilated and his right eye rotating in a grossly damaged socket. Although he survived and was seen again he disappeared for three months. It was assumed that he had gone off and died.

It was January Max was spotted by the shelter staff. His wounds had not healed and the outlook was dismal. Max's injuries were exploding with infection, his ears were swollen shut from raging mites and he had a “hands-off” attitude. That would have been reason enough for other shelters to send him over the rainbow bridge but the last blood test would have sealed his fate. He tested positive for FIV, an incurable disease.

APL chose treatment over euthanasia for Max. He is the APL office cat now. His wounds are not completely healed yet but Smutty, his FIV positive companion oversees the daily treatment, often cleaning the wounds himself.

Max has indeed been to *hell and back*. He has seen the worst side of mankind but since being in APL's care, he has felt the most compassionate care that humanity has to offer.

Miracles do happen. Sometimes APL has a hand in it. That is what makes APL unique. Your donations make it possible to help abandoned and abused pets like Max and we thank you for your support.



*Max's injuries are over a year old and are still horrible to see.
It is important that you know that no animal is unloved at APL.*

Mary wants to be an American ... The rest of the story

In the July edition of *Alive for Five*, we told you about a dog named Mary from Erbil, Iraq. Mary had an incredible story that spoke volumes of the horrors companion pets endure in war-wretched countries. Her story was about the brave American men and women who made great sacrifices, not only to rescue her, but to keep her for 18 months while they tried to get her safely out of the country.

Mary did get to America and is living in style right here in Columbia, SC. She is adored by her new family and enjoys many of the pleasures and privileges afforded to all of us because of the sacrifices made by our military men and women throughout the years that protect our freedom.

WIS-TV's news video on Mary traveled around the world. We received telephone calls from as far away as Australia, Ohio, Virginia, and Florida - calls from folks who knew and loved Mary and they wanted to tell the rest of the story.

It was apparent from the start that Mary was an incredible dog but it stirred our curiosity to know why she was so important to so many. We asked those who called that very question.....why? The answers were all the same. It wasn't about what they had done for Mary but what Mary had done for them.

One person told us about how she probably saved their lives by alerting them that infiltrators were inside the compound. Another told us about the happy and loving greetings that she had for them whenever they returned from a mission. We were told about how she made the loneliness for home and loved ones more endurable. They told about how she never once soiled their quarters even though she was sick for weeks. One of Mary's rescuers, a former US Special Forces soldier summed it up this way. He said “Mary brought sanity to an insane world”.

If you ever wonder why God created dogs, just remember Mary and what she gave to our troops who were stationed so far away from home and you shall have the answer. *God created these wonderful creatures to bring sanity to an insane world.*



APL pets get Saturday outing

The APL shelter pets know the routine and every Saturday they listen patiently for the rumbling sound of a van coming up the driveway - a sound that promises adventure and excitement for a day. They watch and wait to see if it is their turn for the much enjoyed Saturday outing.

The APL adoption team, headed by Joyce Dillon, sets up off-site adoption headquarters at the Petsmart store in Lexington every Saturday so the APL dogs can strut their stuff.

It all runs like a well-oiled machine. Kristine and her shelter staff work daily to update personality profiles and involve the pets in different situations to character test them.

No pet is forgotten at APL thanks to the staff's "rotation" system. Those that don't get to go on the Saturday outing are involved in other fun activities.

Volunteers are also working throughout the week to insure a smooth and productive adopt-a-pet. Profiles are printed; ads are placed; websites are updated; follow ups are made; bandanas are sewn, and equipment and supplies are packed up and moved to the adoption site.

Transporting the pets from and back to the shelter is "old hat" for Robert Adams who has been doing it for almost 20 years. He says that every Saturday is exciting because of the adoption opportunities that unfold. The highlight of the day for him is having empty cages on the return trip to the shelter.

The adoption team volunteers are "matchmakers" and like the shelter staff, they are highly skilled to recognize potential good homes. For three hours, positive energy flows, people and pets fall in love, adoptions happen, and friendships form. Then it is over.

The remaining pets are loaded up for the trip back to the shelter; equipment and supplies are packed up; and the adoption team leaves knowing that it was a great day for the pets; the job was well done; and next Saturday is *only 7 days away*.

If you would like to join APL's exciting adoption team, call Joyce Dillon at (803)609-5779. It is the easiest and cheapest way to get an emotional high that will last forever.



The annual auction generates fun and funds

It was a swell evening, full of fun and camaraderie and quite a bit of competitive bidding for final possession of the hundreds of quality donated items. As usual, the food was scrumptious, the crowd was exciting, Holly McGee, the auctioneer was hitting the target, and the evening ended on a perfect note.

On behalf of the APL pets that are the ultimate benefactors of all APL fundraisers, we thank everyone who had a hand in making this a night to remember.

We would also like to recognize some very special "folks" who were there.....three beautiful PAAL dogs that graced the affair and their trainers who used the event to further the dogs' therapy assistance training.

Nothing, however, brought more joy to the evening than the presence of some of APL's founding fathers and mothers. It was a pleasure to have Lib Tucker, Myra Ramsey, Alice Brooks, and Bill and Harriett Henschel join us to celebrate APL's 25th anniversary. These folks and others equally as dedicated like Louise Lawson and Mary Key Escue, Kelly Jones and Lucy Earnhardt (both deceased) turned the tide for unwanted pets in the Midlands by carrying the torch that lit the way for change. With change came hope and with hope came life, love and happiness for thousands of unwanted pets.

We thank everyone for coming, donating, and supporting APL. Let's make a date for next year and do it again. We will keep you posted on the time and place.

It was APL's party but Masterfoods USA brought all the gifts

Although the sun was baking down and it was simmering in the shade, Masterfoods USA employees, participants of the company's MVP Volunteer program, sucked it all up to give APL a much needed facelift.

Masterfoods USA is a primary sponsor of APL. They donate thousands of pounds of Pedigree and Whiskas pet food to our shelter pets on a regular basis. But their good works go much deeper than bagged pet food. The company encourages their employees to be involved in the community by organizing volunteer activities for them and giving work time off with pay so they can participate.

The party was on in late September when more than 30 MVP volunteers came calling at the APL shelter with a plan, chainsaws, tools, and even a front end loader in tow. In just minutes, they had fanned out all over the grounds, each group knowing precisely what their mission was. They worked hard and diligently for 8 straight hours and as the sun set, they gathered up their tools and equipment and left - mission accomplished.

Yes, it was a great 25th celebration for APL because of the many gifts the MVP volunteers left behind. The cat house has a new first class front porch complete with safety rails. Dead trees that were looming over the shelter were cut down and hauled away. The driveway was graded and lined with crushed stone. Trash was removed, fences were fixed and to put the topping on the cake, a catered lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

If you haven't been to visit our shelter lately, please put that on your list of things to do. The welcome mat is always out. Come see all the improvements the MVP volunteers made possible and visit the wonderful pets your donations support.

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.

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

