



Finnegan: Rescued from abuse, featured at the Dog Ball

By Danielle Eliser



Finnegan as a growing, healthy puppy. Note the long scar along his spine.

Imagine living in a backyard filled with dangerous scrap and trash, owned by an unkind man. No vet care, no regular food and water, and no shelter other than hiding under scrap metal.

This is where Finnegan was born.

Finnegan and his seven siblings spent their first few months in a truly abusive situation, overrun with worms and beaten regularly with 2x4s. At one point, Finnegan was attacked with a large blade, perhaps the machete spotted nearby. A concerned neighbor saw him standing at the fence with a deep, long wound following his spine, and she called GHHS for help.

Even with unknown medical problems, GHHS immediately contacted the puppy's owner to arrange for owner surrender. After several days of convincing and cajoling, the owner finally signed over his rights and his unwanted puppy. (cont'd on page 3)

Downtown Huntsville goes to the dogs to benefit GHHS

By Eric Schultz, written for al.com

Dozens of dogs, including a three-legged mutt who survived being run over by a car and a couple of dachshunds who survived poisonings, walked down a spotlight-lit runway with pure-bred German Shepherds and a Labradoodle to benefit the Greater Huntsville Humane Society.

This year's benefit 'Canine Royale' was held in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center Friday night and was well-attended by dog-lovers. The event, a dog show combining shelter dogs with local family dogs, packed the Von Braun South Hall in downtown Huntsville.

The event was chaired by Jennifer Muse and Tia Wheeler, with Dr. Deason Dunagan and Dr. Mike Yates as honorary chairs. The night also featured Brent Morgan singing the 2015 Dog Ball original song 'Unconditional'. John Malone and Bonny O'Brien gave insights to the dogs personalities and the dogs walked into the spotlight on the runway slicing down the center of the South Hall.

Three fire hydrants painted by local artists as well as a photo shoot for the front cover of Rocket City Pets Magazine and a "farm-to-table" dinner by 1818 Farms were also featured in a live auction.



Cooper, an English bulldog belonging to Beth & Bill Griffin, walks down the VID (Very Important Dog) runway.

Do You Know a VID?

The Dog Ball hosts 50 VIDs every year. If you are interested in entering a VID, please contact Daphne Reed at 256-533-5089 or rreed2207@aol.com

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Letter from the Executive Director

Remember to mark your calendar for our very popular annual Pet Photo Contest at Parkway Place Mall. We will have our on-site staff at Parkway Place Mall from July 25th through the Grand Finale on August 9th which includes our annual fashion show from our Thrift Store at the Grand Finale that is well worth the drive to the mall. We want to increase participation in this fun family event that directly benefits GHHS animals.

Please remember that everything that we accomplished in 2014 would not have been possible without your support. Thank you for making the Greater Huntsville Humane Society a cooperative effort, a valuable service to the community and a wonderful success. We welcome your continued support and ideas to help make this New Year of 2015 another very memorable one. A special thank you goes to everyone that has contributed time, money, food and supplies to make the Greater Huntsville Humane Society the success that it is!

We have our beautiful coffee table book: Second Chances; Rescue Dogs of Madison County available at many locations throughout Madison County and at the shelter. This book will provide the seed money for our Capital Campaign Fund for our new, larger no-kill shelter for the greater Huntsville community. Please go to our website at www.ghhs.org for more information and to see all the wonderful things that we are doing here. You can also browse the photos of all the adoptable animals that we have while you are on the website, or come by and meet our animals, staff and volunteers in person.

Every day our staff and volunteers answer the phones throughout the day to answer questions and give out referral information. We give out thousands of pounds of dog and cat food each year through our King's Community Food Program to needy families to help keep these animals in their own homes. Our care of the animals here at GHHS is not limited to simply cleaning and feeding, but also includes training and socializing as well as lots of TLC and a huge amount of empathy for the people that come here each day seeking our help or wanting a new family member. We strive to offer a really good experience to each person that walks through our doors and we want everyone that visits the shelter or shops at our thrift store to have a "WOW" experience.

Please consider donating your time as a volunteer here at the Humane Society and we are sure you will have a positive life-changing experience. Our primary goal is to save as many homeless animals as possible and to complete even more families each year. Please remember that we receive no national, state or local funding. Your generous donations support our programs each year and keep our doors open to the homeless and the needy animals.



Warren H. Candler
Executive Director

Finnegan 's Story (cont'd)

Other than the obvious back wound, 12-week-old Finnegan also was extremely infested with hookworms, and there were no signs of sutures or any attempts to heal his back. Despite his obviously rocky beginnings, Finnegan was sweet and friendly.

GHHS tried to get the rest of Finnegan's litter, but the man refused, and eventually the litter disappeared overnight.

But Finnegan was already on his way to a safe home. The day he arrived at GHHS, Dr. Lisa Prendergast arrived for an Animal Care Committee meeting. She asked to see him and examine his wound, but instead of jumping down, he curled up in her lap and cuddled for the next two hours.

"He melted my heart a bit," said Dr. Prendergast. "I brought my husband Maurice the next week to meet him, and that was that."

Later, after he had recovered at the shelter, Dr. Prendergast adopted Finn officially. It was an ideal adoption, especially since no one knew how his scar would heal. Would it impact his growth? Harm his spinal cord? Grow too tight for his skin? A forever home with an experienced vet was a perfect fit.

Since his adoption, Finnegan has grown into a gorgeous, happy dog who loves to play with his siblings and cuddle every night with his family.

"He has the happiest little personality. He's very spunky and playful," says Dr. Prendergast. "He was so young when it happened, he doesn't remember any of it. He's just a sweet little soul."

Finnegan recently got the chance to strut his stuff at the 2015 Dog Ball. He was one of the crowd favorites, meeting everyone with a wagging tail and doggie kisses. He loves pets and belly rubs, and while his scar will never grow fur, he doesn't pay any mind to people touching it or stroking his back.

"He had lots of fun at the Dog Ball, he was over the moon, but so pooped when we got home. He's very attached to his brother and sister, and he likes being home with them," said Dr. Prendergast.

From a horrifically wounded junkyard puppy to a happy, normal dog, Finnegan is a beautiful example of what GHHS strives to do every day. Here's to Finnegan, and here's to all the other dogs waiting to be rescued.

Shelter Wish List

For The Pets

- Dog & cat toys
- New DVDs for our cat room
- Premium Pellet cat litter
- Any brand pet food
- Amazon gift cards for unforeseen purchases

For The Shelter

- Cleaning supplies: dish & hand soap, laundry detergent, etc.
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Printer cartridges (please view Amazon list for specifics)
- Hand sanitizer (large bottles)

amazon.com[®]
wishlist

<http://amzn.com/w/2XQELJVDCJAB>

We have an Amazon Wish List, where you can log on and purchase supplies from the convenience of your own home. Check out our list today!



Photo credit: Jeff White Photography
Finnegan with Dr. Lisa Prendergast and her husband Maurice at the 2015 Dog Ball.

Pitch-In Pets

Pitch-In Pets are special needs animals with treatable conditions. Please consider donating to help out Champ and many of the other deserving Pitch-In Pets at GHHS!

March: Champ



Champ is a 3-month-old spaniel mix with a case of demodectic mange. He's very playful and such a joyous puppy, but his skin needs some help.

Please consider donating to help Champ. We just know he'll be adorable!

February: Suzie



Suzie came to GHHS pregnant and with a suspicious mass on her tongue. Expensive tests found that it's non-cancerous, but did require steroid shots.

With your donations, Suzie's mass has greatly reduced and she is now healthy. She is currently available for adoption!

January: Stella



Stella was rescued from Huntsville Animal Services, along with her brother Leon. She had a surprise pregnancy, and also tested positive for heart worms.

With your donations, Stella's puppies all received great care, and Stella is about to begin her heart worm treatment.

Long-Term Residents

These pets have been at GHHS for at least several months (if not years). Please consider giving them a second chance at a forever home.



C.K. (resident for 2 years)

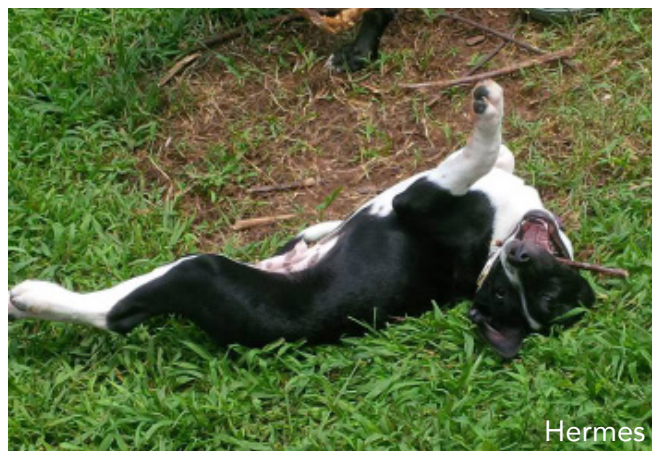
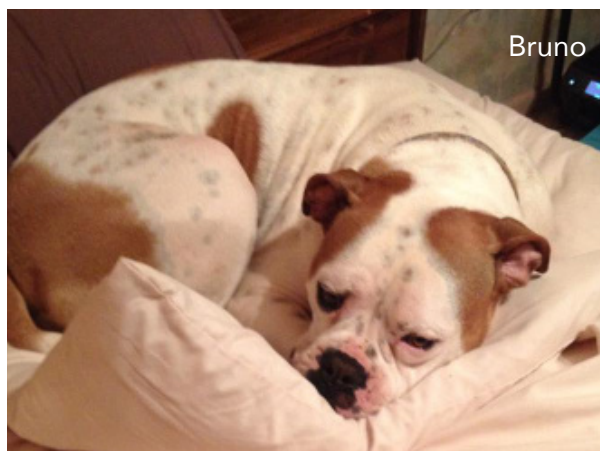
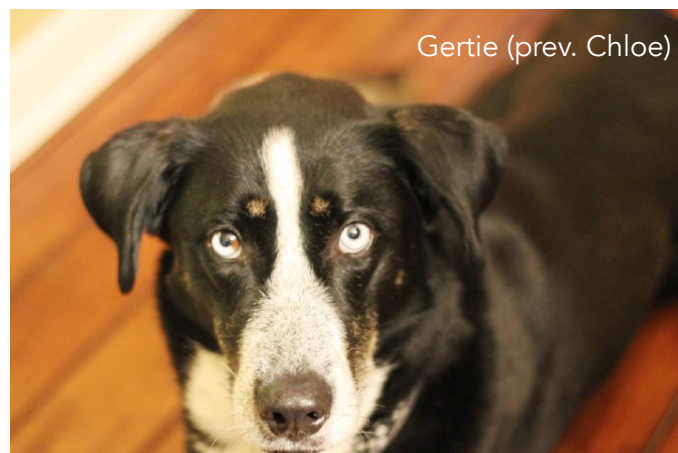
C.K. is a 3-year-old muted calico with a feisty personality. She was in isolated quarantine for a long time, and now gets a little overstimulated around people and other animals. C.K. can be very sweet and affectionate, just on her terms. She would bloom in a quiet home with a patient couple.



Boston (resident for 1 year)

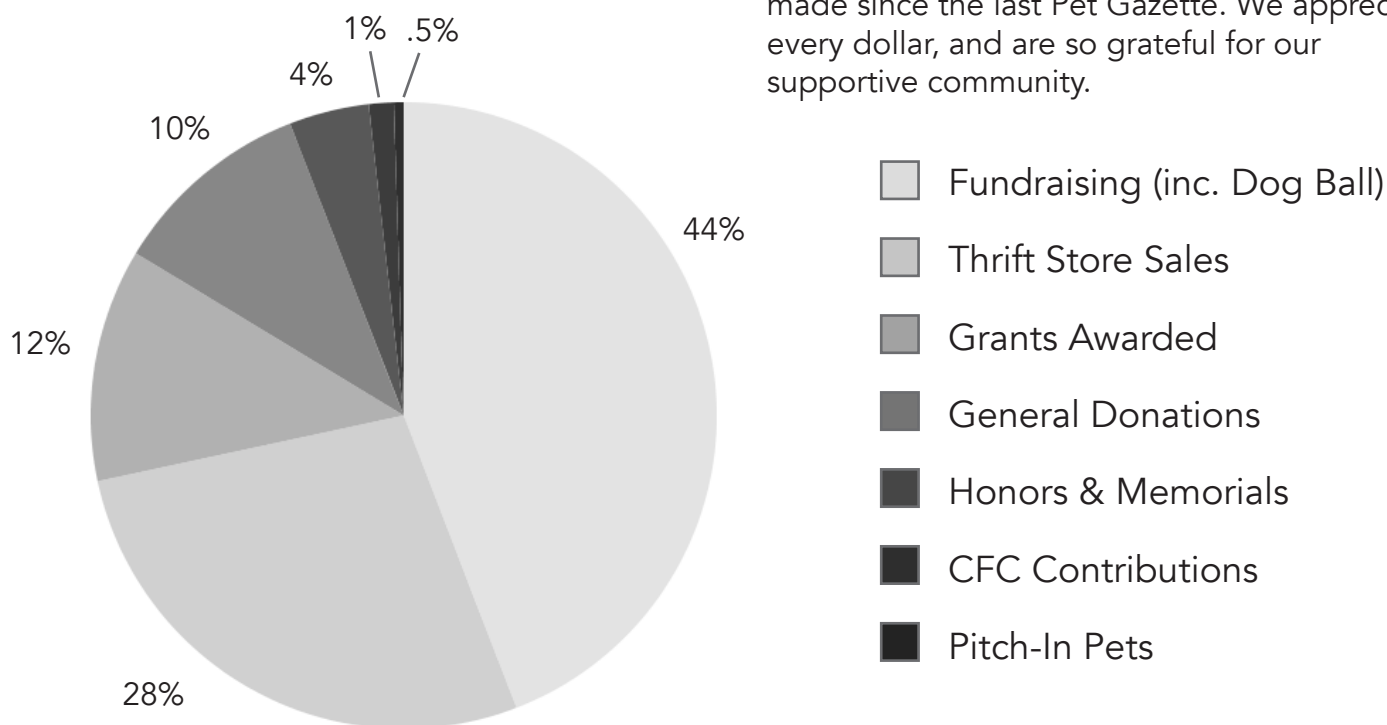
Boston is a 4-year-old playful boxer mix with a very loving and friendly disposition. Many people shy away from his under bite, but he's the sweetest dog in the kennels. Boston would love an active family for his forever home.

Awesome GHHS Adoptions!



Donation & Contribution Totals

Ever wonder where all our donations come from? Here's a pie chart of donations and contributions made since the last Pet Gazette. We appreciate every dollar, and are so grateful for our supportive community.



Oct - Feb Donation Total:
\$162,603

Donations in honor of:

Archie Jordan
Asher, cherished dog of Terry
Bradford
Austin & Chris Cook
Bea & Ellie Mae, cherished dogs of
Janie Severance
Bill & Elise Goodson
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Memorials & Honors

Many donors choose to give in honor of a recently deceased loved one, either person or companion animal. We greatly appreciate these sponsors and strive to honor them every day. Due to printing restrictions, we have only listed the names of the honored and memorialized. For a full list of donors, please go to www.ghhs.org/donors.

Memorialized People

Jaime Allen
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Bailey, beloved dog of Victoria Vest
Barley, beloved pet of Debra Gregg
Beau, beloved dog of Dr. & Mrs.
William Pine
Bella, beloved dog of Morgan &
Peggy Holt
Bitsy & Fuzzy Britches, beloved pets of
Thad & Gretchen Mauldin
Bitsy & Fuzzy, beloved pets of Thad &
Gretchen Mauldin
Bitsy, beloved dog of Gretchen &
Thad Mauldin
Bonnie, their beloved dog
Bud & Barkley, beloved pets
Buddy & Momma Kitty, beloved pets
of Krysta Zurowski
Chesapeake, beloved dog of Dena &
Barry Schrimsher
Cotton, beloved pet of Jake & Kayla
Noel
Daniel, beloved dog of the Dahlin
family
Daria, their beloved Greyhound
Frankie, beloved cat of Randy & Carol
Covell
Fritz
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Spillers
Gracie, beloved dog of David & Cindy
Spillers
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Sophie, their beloved cat
Stan, beloved pet of Harrison Smith
Trouble
Zeus Smith-Schleicher, their beloved
dog



GHHS is a non-profit 501(c)3 no-kill organization. Contributions are tax deductible.
Thanks to all of our generous donors and their memorialized honorees.

Due to printing limits, we have published only the honor and memorial donations. For a full list of all donors, please go to ghhs.org/donors. To request a printed copy, call 256-881-8081.



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email info@ghhs.org to change your info.



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the GHHS Pet Gazette online. Fewer
paper copies means more money
spent on the animals!

A portion of the printing for the Pet Gazette was donated by C&A Printing.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 28 | Southside Dog Park Grand Opening!
11am - 4pm, South Chaney Thompson Rd |
| April 1 | UAH Charged Up for Change! Expo
10 am - 2 pm, University Center |
| April 12 | Adoption Festival
Live music, food & drink vendors
TBD, The Marketplace Cafe in Hampton Cove |
| April 18 | Art 4 Paws Festival
10 am - 3 pm, Downtown Madison |
| April 19 | Volunteer Appreciation Day
1pm, GHHS Shelter |

Thrift Store Corner

Once again, spring is right around the corner! Please remember to donate your gently used items to the thrift store when you start cleaning. If you have large items, we would be more than happy to pick them up. Call us at (256) 881-3888 to arrange for pick-up.

The thrift store also takes cans for recycling and we will even take any scrap metal you have. All items donated to the thrift store will either be recycled or sold, with all profits going straight to the animals.

We would also like to thank the thrift store for a outstanding service and sales in 2014. The shelter and animals would not exist without their dedicated support, and the wonderful community that donates and buys. **Thank you for all your hard work, and thank you for shopping!**

2015 Calendars



We are almost out of 2015 Calendars! Featuring 14 beautiful months, these calendars are a gorgeous display of the 2014 Pet Photo Contest's top 85 entrants.

Calendars are \$10 each and make great gifts for animal lovers. Pick one up at the shelter or any of the following local locations:

Al Christopher Gifts
Dr. Vest, DMD
Goin' to the Cats and Dogs
Hallmark in 5 Points
Interiors by Consign
Northway Animal Hospital
Renfroe Animal Hospital
Whitesburg Animal Hospital