

September 2010

## Puppy Mill Awareness

*Two Events for Passage of SB-640, written by Laurie Bryant*

Linda Lewis and I attended Puppy Mill Awareness Day in Raleigh, May 8, 2010. This event was sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Friends and Sponsors of Awareness Day, and the purpose was to show support for the passage of SB-460 in North Carolina. We did not take any FAPS dogs with us, but we set up the tent and had newsletters available. Many people came up to our table to find out “where we were” in Fayetteville. I think it’s always good to attend these events just for making new friends and meeting old friends.

There were a lot of Breed Rescue Groups there and many had dogs to represent their organizations. All Breed Rescues know the fate of unwanted or “imperfect” puppies that are born in puppy mills. Some are lucky enough to come to a rescue, some simply get abandoned or placed in the Animal Controls.

Kimberly Alboum, North Carolina State Director for HSUS, and Amanda Arrington, former director and presently Director for the HSUS National Spay and Neuter program, were there. They both have put in countless hours on this issue, and we all owe them a great big “Thank You!” for all their hard work. Rep. Rick Glazier, 45th District Fayetteville, came over to the table, and he assured us he was behind this bill and appreciated the support our organization has provided on issues of humane treatment of animals. The guest speakers were informative and gave good information about the facts and myths of allowing puppy mills to operate unchecked.

Senator Don Davis, 5th District Senator for North Carolina is a sponsor of this bill, and he spoke on the importance of the bill and thanked everyone who had support SB-460 during this past fight. He saw some of the victims of the Wayne County puppy mill raid and the issue has been close to his heart. He has been a strong supporter of this bill’s passage. Rep. Rick Glazier was also a guest speaker.

Victoria Stilwell is the star of Animal Planet’s hit TV series *It’s Me or the Dog*, through which she is able to share her insight and passion for positive reinforcement dog training by reaching audiences in over 40 countries, Stilwell helps counsel families on their pet problems. She supports passage of these bills to regulate puppy mills, because as a trainer and behaviorist, she sees the results of families trying to integrate a puppy from these places. Most of these puppies have not been socialized, either with people or other dogs, and suffer the long term effects of neglect or illness during the critical part of their development.

Then, on June 24, I attended a Press Conference at the Legislative Office Building in Raleigh. There were three puppy mill survivors present with their owners. Sen. Don Davis again spoke on the importance of passing this bill and answered questions from the Press on issues that kept coming up. Sen. Davis got to renew acquaintances with “Sugar Bear”, a small dog that was rescued from the Wayne County raid last year. It was very moving to hear him talk about the differences in the way she looked at the Wayne County Fairgrounds after being moved from that puppy mill, and the happy little dog she is today, looking lovingly at her new “mom”, Maya.

Senator Margaret Dickson, the 19th District, also came in to speak at the Press Conference. As an original sponsor of this bill, she asked for support and passage of SB 460. I wish I could remember her exact words, but she said that people are measured by the way they treat the helpless in our society; children, seniors and animals. I think we all have these feelings. We owe all these lawmakers our gratitude for their work in this area.

So why is there opposition to this bill? It seems like a no-brainer to rid our state of these puppy mills. Most of the opponents of this bill are professional breeding groups, hunting groups, and others who just feel that any state legislation that restricts a person's right to own or breed pets without regulation will lead to continuing infringement of our personal rights. This is, of course, not valid, and the bill has been written with provisions for both hunting and professional breeders.

Another opposing view is that this is unnecessary legislation, because they are already laws in effect for the humane treatment of animals. However, these laws let the puppy mills slip past, since these animal welfare statutes are usually based on providing food, water and shelter. There are no regulated standards for large commercial breeding facilities. Many consumers have been left broken hearted and hurt financially after buying a puppy that ends up sick or not socialized. The Internet ads do not reflect the true appearance of these mills.

Opponents also believe it is too costly to implement and enforce. Action taken against kennels that do not comply with the bill is complaint-driven, and animal control officers or HSUS officials who investigate are following up on a complaint from a citizen. There will be no automatic inspections of kennels and no large amount of additional personnel required to enforce it.

Large, overcrowded and unregulated puppy mills are not able to provide the necessary care for these dogs to become loving members of a family. Therefore, they end up rejected and abused all their lives, which sometimes is a very, very short, unhappy life. I will not go into all the horror stories of what the HSUS has found when they finally do raid such a place - you can research it on HSUS website.

Puppy mills add to the problem of pet overpopulation. State and County animal control shelters all over the country are euthanizing at higher rates every year, just to keep up with the overpopulation.

Should people never buy from a breeder? No. There are responsible breeders who abide by humane laws and sell puppies responsibly. Should people never buy a pet from a pet store? No, but make sure the pet store is puppy-friendly. Many pet stores now offer shelter dogs and cats for adoption from local animal shelters. You can also review state-by-state lists of Puppy Friendly Pet Stores on the HSUS website.

The following tips were taken from the Humane Society of the United States.

[http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/stop\\_puppy\\_mills/](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/stop_puppy_mills/)

1. Consider adoption
2. Find a responsible breeder and visit their premises.
3. Don't be fooled by common claims made by pet stores when pushing their puppies.
4. Don't be swayed by a great website or ad. Just because a website says great things about their "home raised" or "family raised" puppies doesn't make it true.
5. Avoid the temptation to "rescue" a puppy mill puppy by buying him.

Please go to the website and read the entire article about the total cost of allowing puppy mills to operate in our State to better understand the decision, and please help to support S-460 (which will come up again at the next General Assembly in 2011.)

Surely supporters and opponents can agree on a common-sense bill that will protect animals and consumers against the practices of unregulated and irresponsible commercial dog breeders in the State of North Carolina.

## President's Message - Peggy Holt

The past few months have been a busy time for FAPS.

- Welcome to our newest members of the Board of Directors. The following people joined our Board in March: Lynne Barrett, Jackie Danker, Jenny Hornaday, Brad Loase, and Serriah Womble. They have already jumped in and shown their enthusiasm and dedication to "the cause." Former members who rotated off the Board include Laurie Clark, Ginny Graham, Erin Olive, Emily Peebles and Carrie Tally. Thanks for your valuable service over the past several years.
- We have a new Shelter Director. Kittie Howard comes to us with an extensive background in animal welfare and shelter management. She is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and loves the animals. Please come by the shelter to meet this very special new addition to the FAPS' family.
- THANK YOU to Board members and volunteers for stepping up to help at the shelter after recent staffing changes. With no hesitation, these dedicated supporters came in early to clean kennel areas, feed and exercise animals, and generally spruce up the whole shelter.
- Our spring fundraiser, the "Wacky Bag Ladies' Luncheon," was a huge success. Participants gathered at the Belmont House for lunch and a silent auction of donated handbags, totes, computer bags and even a golf bag. We have received rave reviews and will certainly do it again next year. Thanks to Sarah O'Hanlon, Janice Melton, and Jackie Danker for spearheading this wonderful event.
- On a disappointing note, the North Carolina General Assembly ended the session without a hearing on the "Puppy Mill Bill." Thanks to Senator Margaret Dickson and Representative Rick Glazier for their tireless support of this legislation. We are hopeful that we will have another opportunity to get this legislation into law during the next session.

## Interesting Facts about Pets by Judy Shackelford

Cesar Milan, the Dog Whisperer on TV, says the biggest mistake dog owners make with their pets is that they don't fulfill the dog's needs as an animal. Instead, they treat the dog like a human. They shower him with affection, but don't provide physical or mental stimulation. Those dogs are bored, so they find other outlets for their pent-up energy - barking, chewing and other unwanted behaviors.

Don't let that happen with your dog! Cesar recommends walking, but there are lots of ways to use the energy and the mind of a canine. Just playing ball with your pet gives him exercise and you can make jumps and tunnels like the ones used in Agility contests for a real work out. Daily brushing your pet is a wonderful bonding routine that helps his skin and coat and is relaxing for you too. Be sure your dog has toys to play with and ones to chew. You'll have fun hiding his favorite toy and releasing him to find it - using his nose. He can, easily, once he learns what you want. Truth is, we need to devote time every day to our four-footed best friends!

Dogs love to play and run outside with children and one Golden Retriever even learned to play Hide and Seek just by trying to take part in the family's games.

Another way to use a dog's energy is through obedience lessons. If you don't join a class, you can find lessons on the computer. I especially like: [www.loveyourdog.com/training/html](http://www.loveyourdog.com/training/html).

While helping him learn and understand some necessary behaviors, it also uses his energy so that he isn't so bored when everyone leaves. Just 10 or 15 minutes each day working with your dog will make a better pet.

Cats, too, need exercise. Tie a feather on a long string and wave it about for your kitty to chase. Check out the toys at a pet shop for other ways to keep a cat creative. A paper sack is like a play toy most cats love and they are entertained by being able to look out a window. If you allow your cat outside keep him in an enclosure for his safety and the safety of birds.

About birds, the wild ones in your yard sorely need water in this heat. They can find food but water is crucial, so keep some available all the time. And, your dog and cat need more water than usual when it's too hot. Keep fresh, clean water available to your pets in several places inside and out. They can't tell you when they need it – it's up to you to see that they have a continual supply.

- Dogs are descended from Wolves; but Wolves are not dogs. They have larger brains, a more powerful bite, scent marking glands and a preference for howling over barking – just a few traits that distinguish wolves from a domesticated dog.
- If a dog lets you gently pull its toes apart, it probably will be a safe pet around children.
- If it becomes necessary to change a dog's food, do so gradually by mixing the new food with the old in increasing amounts over a seven to 10 day period.

### ***The Cat's Prayer***

*Although I am too proud to beg, and may appear to be a very independent creature,  
I ask for your loving care and attention. I rely on you for my well-being much more than you may realize.*

*This I promise you, my benefactor, that I will not be a burden on you  
nor will I demand more of you than you care to give.*

*I will be a quiet peaceful island of serenity for you to gaze upon; a soft soothing  
body to caress, and I shall purr with pleasure to rest your weary ears.*

*Since I am a gourmet who appreciates different taste sensations, I pray you will give  
me a variety of nutritious foods and fresh water daily.*

*You know, dear friend, how I love to go. Allow me, I pray, a warm sheltered place where I can rest  
peacefully and feel secure.*

*If I am wounded in battle or suffering from disease, please tend me gently and see that loving and  
competent hands treat me.*

*Please protect me from the inhumane humans who would hurt and torture me for their own amusement.  
I am accustomed to your gentle touch and am neither always suspicious nor swift enough to avoid such  
malicious acts.*

*In my later years when my senses fail me and my infirmities become too great to bear, allow me the  
comfort and dignity*

*that I desire for my closing days and help me gently in my pain or passing.*

*Hear this prayer, my dear friend, my fate depends on you.*

*-Anonymous*

### **Save the Date!**

After eight years of our Annual Holiday Benefit, we have changed the format for this year, and promise an exciting fun-filled evening Fall Benefit on Friday, November 12, at Huske Hardware for "Animal House – A Toga Party." Plan to come and let loose with the ever-popular band, **Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts!**

Check our [website](#) for more information. Tickets may be purchased online ([www.faps.pet.org](http://www.faps.pet.org)) or by mail.

## FAPS' Alumni

### ***"Charlie"***

I am with Boston Terrier Rescue of North Carolina and we were contacted by FAPS back in May, 2005, for help with two Bostons they had in their shelter. I remember meeting Laurie Bryant in Sanford, NC, on May 20, 2005, to get them. I let the female go to a foster home in Raleigh, and she has long since been adopted. However, I could not really bear to part with the large male Boston, "Amos." He was around 8-10 years of age and blind with cataracts. I knew his chances of adoption were slim. Meanwhile, I was growing more attached to him!

I think I decided to adopt him within the week. He was a very friendly guy who loved all the new attention he was getting. Because of his blindness, I renamed him *Charlie* after Ray Charles, the blind singer. I had him evaluated at Carolina Vet in Greensboro to see if they could do anything toward restoring his vision. One eye had a detached retina but the other eye was operable. He had the surgery done the week of July 4th, 2005. What a joy to watch him see for the first time! Prior to the surgery, *Charlie* walked very hesitantly but had learned his way around the house. Once he had the surgery, he whirled around and hit my leg tearing the stitches in his eye which resulted in a second surgery. Thankfully, no permanent damage was done!

*Charlie* was my friend and protector, and while I took care of him, he took greater care of me. *Charlie* always pushed the others out of the way to sit the closest to me. He had his special spot on the bed and my other Bostons quickly learned they should find another place. He especially enjoyed my other male Boston, *Beau*. They loved to play and play. They always wanted the same toy, the same treat and would race to see who would catch a ball first.

In Spring 2008, *Charlie* began to develop respiratory issues and shortness of breath. He was also losing weight. My regular vet was treating him with several medications. One night, his breathing became so labored that I rushed him to Carolina Vet. They put him in their oxygen crate and began tests to determine what was wrong. After a day, they were still undecided and he was worsening. They suspected cancer in the lungs. The next day I got the call we all dread. *Charlie* had passed away. It was May 17, 2008, almost three years to the day that I had gotten him.

I was devastated and am crying as I write this two years later. I still miss him very much but am thankful to FAPS for bringing him into my life. *Charlie* was a very special guy, and without him here there remains an empty place in my home and in my heart.

***Betsy Myers***

Director, BTRNC, Greensboro, NC

### ***"Lottie"***

It is not possible that there are many people left in Fayetteville, who could have missed reading or hearing about the Fayetteville Observer's articles approximately two years ago about the police officer who buried his nine coonhound puppies alive on his property. Because of his daughter's quick actions,

seven of the puppies survived, and three were subsequently adopted at Animal Services. The remaining four and the mother came to our shelter and the precious puppies were quickly adopted. It took a longer period of time before the mother was adopted due to her timidity, physical appearance and health conditions. She was not in great shape, to put it mildly, having suffered for who knows how long under the hands of a tyrant.

Just last month, though, we received an update on *Lottie* (her new name) that we want to share with our readers. This is exactly what makes all of us - employees, board members and volunteers - continue to be so dedicated to FAPS and its mission. Every life saved is worth our time, energy and resources, and you, who support us, make it all possible.

To Whom It May Concern:

I apologize for taking so long to update you in regards to *Seabreeze* (the coonhound whose puppies were buried alive), now known as *Lottie*. She initially was terrified of everyone including myself and our two sons, but with time she formed a bond with each of us. Our two dogs, *Neeco* (a yellow Labrador) and *Lulu* (a Beagle), made the transition much easier for her. The biggest obstacle for *Lottie* was trusting my husband who was deployed most of her first year with us. Upon his return, Zach, being a patient man, allowed *Lottie* to come around as she felt comfortable instead of forcing himself upon her. Now her "coonie bark" is heard every time his Jeep pulls into the driveway.

Her health has improved dramatically since putting her on medication for her thyroid. She has even gained some weight and all her hair has grown back. I am so proud of all the progress that she has made in the year and a half that we have had her, and how she has learned to trust.

Thank you for allowing our family to adopt such an amazing dog. Words can never express how much we love her.

***Tami, Zach, Alec & Ian Armstrong***

## Special Thanks

On June 12, 2010, FAPS was represented at the Health and Fitness Fair at Cape Fear Baptist Church by Kittie Howard, our shelter manager, and Janice Melton, board member. They passed out literature about our shelter and info on responsible pet ownership. ***Scooby***, a poodle and cocker mix, was there also and enjoyed greeting everyone. All the people were interested in our shelter and many said they would be by to see us. What a fun day!

- **Aimee Lamkin**, Executive Director, and the residents of Fayetteville's Carillon Assisted Living, who raised \$300.00 for FAPS in order to purchase much needed supplies.
- **Subaru of America Foundation, Inc.** for their support and monetary donation in connection with their Matching Gifts Program. They matched the donation given by **Lee Hayslip**, for which we were most appreciative.
- **Mark Bryant** for the incredible volunteer job he did for FAPS to alleviate the problem we were having with backed up sewer drains. He moved all the dirt, rocks, etc. and hauled it off the premises. Then he built the trenches for the concrete to be poured according to the standards set forth by the State of North Carolina. Mark...A Million Thanks!

- **Ronnie Sullivan** for the many hours spent volunteering to do so many things we've needed done for years. Sheds were all cleaned out and reorganized; shelves, dry erase boards, etc. were hung in the many areas where they were needed. Trees were pruned, and many were taken out, giving us more open space, and all trash was taken away. Ronnie... A Million Thanks!

To the following young people who celebrated their birthdays and so unselfishly requested gifts and monetary donations for FAPS in lieu of presents for themselves. We are touched by your generous giving back to your community and our wonderful companion animals, and thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts.

- **Kyrsten Gross** - 10th Birthday (Adopted her dog from FAPS in 2009 and wanted to help so other children can find a great dog.)
- **Talia Parrous** - 10th Birthday (Monetary donations for FAPS.)
- **Ashleigh Houff** - Cat and dog food; cat and dog treats, toys, etc.
- **Marcie Gira** - 11th Birthday (Much, much food for our residents.)
- **Cassie Campagna** - Age 13, Pine Forest Middle School, cat and dog food, treats, toys and cat litter.

We sincerely apologize for the lack of pictures taken when you were at FAPS, which was due to circumstances beyond our control - staff changes, some mix-ups with photos and a myriad of other problems. We promise to be more professional with the next newsletter.

The Wacky Bag Ladies' Luncheon and Silent Auction for Handbags was held on June 8 at The Belmont Village. This was our fundraiser for the summer and a good time was had by all those who attended. There was a surprise in each handbag, and one could even find a gift certificate for dinner at Outback Restaurant or a trip to a spa or even an animal print nightgown. Bidding on the handbags captured a lot of attention, and several people made bids on many of the bags--especially the designer handbags. All proceeds benefited our animal shelter, and the idea of having fun surrounded the complete event.

**Art Camp for Benefit of FAPS: Casey Walsh**, a sophomore at Terry Sanford High School, held the 11th Annual GOAL (Girls Only Art Lessons) in her garage in July. The camp was founded by **Kelly Walsh**, Casey's older sister and a senior at UNC-CH, for the benefit of FAPS. Casey and her friends, Caroline and Charlotte Hasty, hosted 8 campers for a week of fun and art. The camp raised \$400.00, paper towels and bleach. Over the past 11 years, the camp has raised \$3,675 for FAPS.

**Patrick Gilbert**, with MMS (a Medical Supply Company) and **Adam Delsoldato**, Manager of "Scrub Oaks Contemporary Pub" who worked together on a charitable fundraiser for FAPS at the restaurant. In late June, we went out to the pub and were presented with a check for over \$1,200.00. We were so appreciative of their efforts on our behalf and want you to also know that our food at Scrub Oaks, located at 5780 Ramsey Street, was delicious!

**Kelsey Holmes** for her great donation to FAPS. For her senior project at Massey Hill Classical, "How Dogs Positively Affect Society," Kelsey took a grooming class and used her expertise in grooming as a fundraiser for our shelter. We greatly appreciate what she has accomplished, and only wish we had her picture which was taken that day.

**Jackie Danker**, one of our new Board Members, who came in, took a look around and discovered a need that none of us had ever even thought of concerning the cat room and their outside area. Thank you so much for having that entire outside play space fitted with screening that now prevents a single fly from ever getting access to our cats and kittens. Fantastic idea!