# Critter Cuarterly

H.O.P.E. Safehouse 1911 Taylor Avenue Racine, WI 53403 262.634.4571

I had heard the news reports back in 2007 about Michael Vick and his 'friends' and about some of the ways they treated their dogs besides the dogfights but I have to admit I wasn't ready to know more. I didn't think I could handle it so I stuck my head in the sand. I hoped Vick would get his just desserts but after the verdict, I moved on along with the news reporters. One day while browsing at the book store I saw a picture of a pit bull with a curious look on its face, then I read the title, Lost Dogs: Michael Vick's dogs and their tale of rescue and redemption by Jim Gorant, and I knew it was my time to learn more.

The book (in my opinion) was well written with enough detail to let you know what happened without bogging down on the terrible things that happened to these dogs and what is currently happening to other dogs. It never ceases to amaze me how cruel people can be to other living things, especially when these living things have done nothing to provoke the cruelty. I will never understand how they could have done the things they did but I now understand why the poster of Michael Vick getting creamed into the ground by Clay Matthews was such a hot item at the 2011 auction.

The book does go on to show how a few caring people made sure these dogs were considered victims and not just evidence. It also focuses on the people dedicated to helping pit bulls lose their bad rap in society. The book highlights how caring people could make most

of the Vick dogs become (almost) normal dogs. Almost half of the dogs moved on to loving forever homes, and with the handful in foster care that takes the number to over half living a loving home. Best Friends is taking care of the dogs that needed more attention, with a number of these dogs being adopted and more are looking like they have the potential to move into forever homes. More than several of these dogs have received Canine Good Citizen Awards (even a few living at Best Friends) and a few have their therapy certificate. (These results are from a few years ago.) Luckily, this story has a pretty happy 'middle', as the story is still being written, partly because Vick had the money to pay to take care of these dogs, but mostly due to the hard work and love of the people that thought these dogs were worth a second chance.

While human cruelty never ceases to amaze me, I am always awed by the people willing to step in and clean up the mess of others. They try to make amends for those so cruel and uncaring. It was heartwarming to learn about the people in this story that fought to make sure that some of these dogs had a chance and weren't all condemned to be euthanized. (Only one of the original 49 dogs was put down and that was because she was aggressively over-bred to the point where she had psychological issues, leading to aggressive and unstable behavior.) When that hurdle was won, there were a number of organizations

(Continued on page 5)

# Ways to Help H.O.P.E....

Thank you to everyone who donated items on our wish list-your giving was astounding! Because of your generosity, we have all the supplies we need for this year and next! We are lucky to have such caring and generous supporters. Thank you!

There are still a number of ways to help HOPE:

#### Donate:

Money: become a member, donate money, pay a vet bill, donate in memory of people or pets, donate in honor of people or pets (Every penny helps an animal!)

Time: volunteer at the office, at one of our fundraising events, at one of our meet & greets throughout the community (Even an hour a month or year helps!)

#### Purchase HOPE merchandise Join us at one of our fundraisers:

HOPE Raffle tickets (drawing held first Saturday in June).
Purchase tickets and/or help sell tickets for our raffle.
Cause for Paws (held the first Saturday in October).
Come to the event and bid on items, volunteer for the event, join the committee and help make the evening a big success.

(Check our website calendar or newsletter for upcoming events)

Christie Graham from Homestead Realty, Inc. will donate 3% of her commission to the animal shelter of your choice, if she is your realtor. You can contact Christie by phone at 262-344-1752, by email at cgraham@realtor.com or visit her website at www.christiegraham.com.

There is a website available that will help locate pet friendly apartments.

Katie Reardon created

www.myapartmentmap.com/pet\_friendly/
to help find pet friendly apartments easily.

#### I need a home...





Bebe

Olive Oyl

When at the vet with your animal, pay a little extra towards HOPE's bill

(at Northshore Animal Hospital or CrossRoads)

Use your computer to help by using Good Search every time you search on the internet or make a purchase on line.

(See below or our website for more information.)

Adopt a shelter animal Foster a HOPE dog or cat

One important way to help HOPE is word of mouth. If you like our organization, tell people!



It's easy to help HOPE by doing what you do everyday - search and shop the Internet.

Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter HOPE Safehouse as your designated charity. Every time you search the Internet through the GoodSearch website, HOPE will receive a penny. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo so you will get the same great results on all your searches.

You can also help HOPE receive money by shopping online. Go to www.goodsearch.com and locate the store you would like to shop and if you have HOPE as your charity we will receive a percentage of your sales. Don't forget to check the coupons of your favorite stores that are listed on GoodSearch. HOPE can receive money from airline ticket purchases to pharmacy purchases to clothes purchases to pet supply purchases. Hundreds of stores you shop on the web everyday are on GoodSearch.

It really is easy to donate to HOPE just by shopping and searching the Internet. If you are concerned you might forget to go to the GoodSearch website, they have a toolbar you can download so every search will be counted.

www.hopesafehouse.org

#### H.O.P.E. Safehouse, Inc.

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#### **Critter Quarterly Staff**

*Editor* ~ Sandra Knorr

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**Printers** ~ JD Printing, Racine, WI

Labeling & Mailing ~ Pearl Czechowicz

H.O.P.E. Safehouse is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization that specializes in the treatment and care of injured strays.

All contributions of property or monies is tax deductible.

**PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGES:** If you are moving or have changes to your phone number or email address, please contact the office. We want to make sure you continue to receive our newsletter and are notified of any new happenings at HOPE.

# **THANKS!**

Thank you to Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Campaign and the following employees: Valerie Aldrich and Mary Ustymowicz.

Thank you to the Aurora Health Care Employee Partnership and the following employees: Daniella Anderson, Rebecca DeGroot, Karen DeRath, Joann Dunasky, Wendy Jaeger, Barbara Kimball, Ramona Milisauskas, Lynn Mizak and Carol Nolte.

Thank you to AT & T Employee Giving Campaign and the following employee: Jeanette Smith.

Thank you to Linda DuVall, Kita's foster parent, for paying Kita's veterinary bills.

Thank you to Dakota Longsine for donating the proceeds of his lemonade stand to HOPE.

Thank you to Freddie's Friki Tiki for hosting us for the fifth annual Doggie Happy Hour on Mondays this summer. Jan Johnson worked very hard to make sure HOPE was well represented and that the dogs and people had a good time and learned about HOPE. We also want to thank Brian Grabher, Chancery's General Manager, for allowing us to host the Doggie Happy Hour. For the third year in a row, the Chancery will donate the money they make from recycling the aluminum cans collected throughout the summer. Thank you to all those that brought their adopted and foster dogs and to those that donated money while out having fun.

Thank you to Friki Tiki, manager Brian Grabher and assistant manager Lauren Peterson for hosting a doggie wash. Dogs were treated to a free dog wash and their owners were (continued on page 8)

# H.O.P.E. Mailbag

Schmoo changed my whole world and life's journey when we found her on the highway in 1996! Thank you for saving her. Everyone should have a Schmoo kitty!

It has been an honor and privilege each and every day.

Love, Jo Dean

To my animal-loving friends, It breaks my heart to tell you that my beloved Kelly Girl crossed over the rainbow bridge last night and died in my arms, here at home. About ten days ago my vet informed me that her failing health was undoubtedly due to a neurological disorder, probably brain cancer.

Kelly came in as a stray at Countryside Humane Society when she was about five months old, cowering in the back of her kennel. Cuddling her in my lap, I told her not to worry--that I would take care of her. And for ten years I was privileged to do just that.

Kelly was affectionate, intelligent, sassy, talked a lot, and beautiful. She was the BEST training partner I've ever had. When she started having frequent epileptic seizures, she was forced into early retirement.

The Tracy household will not be the same without my Kelly Girl. It seems very quiet and empty without her playing tug with Dozer. She always went to bed (mine!) before me, and gladly shared my pillow when I crawled into bed next to her. It's a dog's life.

As tears stream down my face and there is no quieting the sobs, I seek

comfort in the thought that Kelly is romping through the woods or wading in a river somewhere, and no longer suffering. The hole in my heart from her loss will never heal...only time will smooth its edges.

You are one in a million, my Kelly Girl, and sadly missed by Mumma, Sophie, Seamus and Dozer. We love you.



Hi all at Hope Safehouse,

I've been meaning to get this to you for awhile. Please forward this to Ray and Betty as they were Sammi's (Labby's) foster parents. This little girl has become the love of my life! We are inseparable. It's now been three years since she came into my life. Her unconditional love amazes me every day. That wiggly butt and happy face that greets me at the door when I get home is simply magical. I can have the worst day, and somehow, she always manages to make me smile.

There have been some medical problems. As she was recovering from the heartworm treatment, (if you remember she was positive), she developed some breathing issues in her muzzle. It sounded as if she was a vacuum cleaner sucking up a ball that was too big. Several tests haven't produced many answers. The medication she takes for inflamation

seems to help but doesn't take away all the symptoms. She will continue to be on them for the rest of her life.

Her favorite place to go is the Caledonia dog park. I still can't get her to swim, but she has figured out that laying down in the water feels pretty good! I swear that she would run and hunt and never stop until her heart exploded. She smiles the whole time that we are there and I love watching her be exactly who she was born to be.

Thank you again for all that you do, because, if it wasn't for your efforts, I would not have had this beautiful little

girl in my life.

With sincere gratitude,

Kelly Fure



Myla showed O' Dell at the Racine County Fair. They awarded 4 blue ribbons out of 14 cats in the Domestic Shorthair class and Myla was thrilled to win one of those. We already had five cats when O' Dell came through the clinic for vetting. He was so full of personality that we knew he would be the perfect 4-H cat. He walked into our house which is already full of animals (4 dogs, 5 cats and 2 foster dogs) and acted like he owned the place. He is a great cat and we really love him. Thank you for saving this wonderful cat from death row in Tennessee. We are so fortunate to add him to our family.

Lori Jensen



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that believed they could help get these dogs to a point that they could be adopted into loving forever homes, and let's not forget about the people who took a chance on offering these dogs a permanent family home.

It is not only the people that step up during really bad times (like the Vick dogs or Hurricane Katrina) to help that have me in awe, it is the people that step in all the time to do what is right. We have a number of people at HOPE just like those in the book and I have a great admiration for these people. These are the people that take the time to help an injured goose, stop the car to rescue the kittens by the side of the road, drive hundreds of miles to pick up dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters to make sure they are not put down 'just because'. These are the people you call when you need help and they say, "just let me know what you need". These are the people of HOPE that will always have my awe & appreciation.



#### PET SMARTS

by Maureen Potter

#### How to Respond to an Unwelcomed Dog ~

In our last newsletter, we addressed how to safely approach a dog. This time, we'll cover the flip side of that issue by discussing how to stay safe when a dog approaches you. This does not necessarily encompass what you should do during a full-on dog attack, which we'd need to discuss as its own topic. Instead, this applies whenever you are simply uncomfortable in a dog's presence, whether you are approached by a stray dog, a dog that's new to you at an acquaintance's home, or even when your own dog is acting overly exuberant. This is a method we teach to young children when we provide educational talks at schools, but it applies equally to adults. In short, you should'"be a tree".

- 1. STOP. If you are walking, running or wiggling in any way, stop all motion and make yourself as still as a tree trunk.
- 2. FOLD IN YOUR "BRANCH-ES". Bring your arms down in front of your body and interlace your fingers. This may seem counterintuitive, as many folks are quick to pull their hands up and away from an approaching dog. However, our hands, usually full of smells, are often our most interesting attribute to a dog and studies suggest that raised hands may cause dogs to jump

up on a person, often bringing the dog muzzle-to-face with the person. With your hands interlaced in front of you, the approaching dog may immediately sniff or even lick your hands, but hold your ground and don't move. Remember, you're a tree.

3. WATCH YOUR "ROOTS" AND COUNT. Do not look at the approaching dog, which could be interpreted by the dog either as a challenge or as an invitation to play. Instead, look down at your feet and start counting quietly in your head. We tell young children to count to the highest number they know and then start over until the dog goes away. You adults can just wait patiently until the dog is gone.

Typically, after you've completed these three steps, the average dog will find you too boring and continue on to something more interesting. You may then begin to move but if the dog returns, simply act like a tree again. If the dog happens to knock you to the ground and you feel it is unsafe to stand again, do not try to resume your tree position but instead, act like a rock. Curl up in a fetal position on your knees with your hands interlaced behind your neck and, again, stay there until the dog is gone. Rocks are just as boring as trees.

#### In Memory of... Pets

"Bear" ~ beloved canine of David & Valerie Duffeck

"Bennett" ~ beloved canine of Mary & Ross Read ~ Mary Walker

"Black Jack" ~ beloved canine of Sue Balcerek

"Charlie" ~ beloved Airedale of Elaine Kane Hartman

"Chili" ~ beloved pet of Robert & Gloria Lucksted

"Fred (the head)" ~ beloved canine of Carolyn & the late Wayne Zinns ~ Carolyn Panka "Jack" ~ beloved lab of the Langendorf

family ~ Connie Richards

"Joe" ~ beloved canine of Mike & Mickey Thompson ~ Sherri Noha

"Joey" ~ beloved canine of Mike & Mickey Thompson ~ Robert & Patricia McKee

"Kelly Girl" ~ beloved pet of Lynn Tracy ~ Jennie Kang

"Lucy" ~ beloved feline of Eddy & Judy Huffman

"Patches" ~ beloved feline of Sr. Audrey Mozejewski

"Reba" ~ beloved Yellow Lab of Larry & Kathie Hobb ~ Mark & Catherine Zlevor

"Ritz" ~ beloved feline of Cris Kramschuster

"Ruby" ~ beloved canine of Judith McGregor & Dick Gallun ~ Mary Walker

"Schmoo" ~ beloved feline of Joanne

"Taffy" ~ beloved canine of Dorothy

"Trinket" ~ beloved canine of Dorothy

"William" ~ beloved Irish Setter of Leon Flagg & Curt Lamon ~ Linda **Budlow** 



Our condolences go to the following:

Paulette Kollman who lost her Akita/Chow "Ted" in July 2012.

Mike & Mikey Thompson who lost their canine "Joe" in June 2012.

Sue & Dave Vogt who lost their canine "Scooter" in July 2012.

#### In Memory of... People

In Memory of Charlotte Aul Joanne Green

In Memory of Mike Balcerek Sue Balcerek

In Memory of Eugene "Gene" **Ernst** 

**Betty Beadles** Kim Lesch

Bob & Joyce Newman

In Memory of George Gold

Princess, Richard, Moses Angel, Buddy, Duke & Duchess Suzanne Talaga

**In Memory of William Harris** Barbara Michelman

In Memory of Marion Konsinowski

Ed Agnew Marvin & Kay Anderson

Kim Barfoth **Brad Batt** 

Gary & Linda Beesley

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Jeffrey Christiansen Loren & Marge Clark

Angelo Debartolo

Jim & Margaret Fohr Michelle Francis

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**In Memory of Irene Maskonas** Carol Ohde

**In Memory of John Matera** Richard & Doris Bode Jim & Dianne Cloutier

In Memory of Mary Kave Mayfield

Mark & Kathleen Nielsen

In Memory of Ben Maynard Robert & Joyce Newman

**In Memory of Robert Seetan** Caroline Flanigan

**In Memory of Wayne Zinns** Carolyn Panka

#### In Honor of...

Cathy & Chuck Allison – For your love and devotion to cats – Bonnie Engel "Fatty" - Happy 14th Birthday - Donna Lathrop

Joanne LaBre – For your love and devotion to cats – Bonnie Engel

Liesel - Happy Golden Birthday - Nana & Papa

"Nina" - Jill Gundy

"Peanut" - Happy 14th Birthday - Donna Lathrop

"Sam" - Tom & Stef Auer

"Simone" - Jill Gundy

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#### Gold Plated Lifetime Members

Mike & Sue Balcerek
Kris & Paul Cook
Erika Lee Gosker
Wendy Gosker
Sherry & Gary Horton
Don and Sharon Johnson
David Misun
James and Jean Mohrhauser
Nancy Nelson
Marlene Perkins
Runzheimer International
Sharon & Robert Trussell

#### **ADOPTED!**

"Anjel" – Harold Kobbervig

"Boscoe" – Kelly & Scott Reigner

"DaVinci" - Meredith Biehl

*"Dwight"* – Gordon & Barbara Gedemer

"Gypsee" – Josie & Mario Lopez

"Harles" – Catherine & Doug Sandberg

"Marlee" – Chad & Nicole Schimmelpfenning

"Mimi" – Lisa & Al Grodey

"Mitzi" – Brenda & Chris Webb

"Moonshine" – Jennifer Ehlert

"Nate" – Colleen Oldenburg

"Nessa" – Jennifer & Jason Betchkal

"O'Dell" - Lori & Eric Jensen

*"Trog"* – Harold & Ramona Oertel

"Unity" - Dennis Thieme

"Urban" – Maria & Cody Braun

"Uriah" - Ruslana Ennis

"Ursula" – Cindy & Michael Van

"Vale" – Mary & Charles Hanson

"Vito" – Bethany & Scott Tangerstrom

"Vooki" – Frank & Kim Bydalek

"Whiskey" – Janice & Charles Howard

**"Zander"** – Roberta & Benjamin Thomas

"Zena" - Scott & Lisa Weigand

### Welcome New & Returning Members

Tom & Stef Auer
JoAnn DeMark
Caroline Flanigan
Carl & Mary Heinz
Jeff & Amelia Langdon
Henry & Phyllis Laudenbach
Judi Lutkus
Mary McIlvaine

Marilyn Murrack
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### Sadly, some of our adoptees have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. May they wear their silver wings with pride.

"Alice" canine adopted 5/7/02 by Craig Nelson

Beatrice Janiszewski & Lynn Ussel

"Bliss" canine adopted 2/16/01 by Tim & Joyce Hempel

"Daisy" canine adopted 2/9/01 by Paul & Kris Cook

"Fawny" canine adopted 2/19/01 by Linda Borneman & Lance Buisse

"Grace" canine adopted 10/13/09 by Jill Boyd

"Lucy" feline adopted 10/25/99 by Judy & Eddy Huffman

"Schmoo" feline adopted 5/27/01 by Joanne Dean

# THANKS!

asked to give donations to HOPE. Thank you to North Shore Animal Hospital and Havahart for sponsoring the event. Thank you to Jan Johnson for representing HOPE at this event as well as our HOPE volunteers, Maureen & Chris Potter (who came on their wedding anniversary!), Karen Hermansen and Kathy & Ron. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Here is a picture of Titan, a police dog and David Arvai, a canine handler with the Racine Police Department.



Thank you to Dover Flag & Map, Havahart, Northshore Animal Hospital, Petco, Pet Supplies Plus, Sportland and Woofdorf Astoria for continuing to allow us to have a donation jar at their locations. The extra change really adds up. Thank you to everyone that donated their change.

Thank you to the Johnson Bank Mortgage Department and their employees for donating money and items to HOPE.

Thank you to Glenn, Paulette and Dustin Kollman who used Christie Graham of Homestead Realty as their realtor. Christie will donate 3% of her commission check to the animal shelter of her client's choice and Glenn, Paulette and Dustin chose HOPE.

Thank you to Jo Labre for paying some medical expenses for our felines and for paying for some medical supplies for her fosters Lawrence and Prissy.

Thank you to PETCO Foundation for awarding HOPE a grant for new computers. We are so excited to be getting new equipment! Thank you to Lisa Barta, JJ Austin and Lauren Brinkman for helping determine what equipment is needed and how to set up the office with our new equipment.

Thank you to Petco and Pet Supplies Plus for donating dog & cat food and other much needed supplies.

Thank you to the Morgan Stanley Charitable Spending Account Program and the following employee: Suzanne Cienkus.

Thank you to R&B Grinding for holding raffles at work and donating all proceeds to HOPE.

Thank you to St. Lucy's for donating the donations of their pet blessing on August 19 to HOPE.

Thank you to SC Johnson 'Dollars for Doers' and following employees: John Noha.

Thank you to Liesel Summers, a 12 year old student at St. Catherine's Middle School who asked her friends to bring donations for Hope Safehouse instead of presents for herself for her golden birthday party. Her friends brought 40 pound bags of dog food, kitty litter, toys, office supplies and cash. It was a wonderful lesson in how through giving we truly receive. Here is a picture of Liesel and those that supported HOPE. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies and money.



### CAUSE FOR PAWS AUCTION

Join us on Friday, October 5, 2012 Fountain Banquet Hall 8505 Durand Ave., Sturtevant



We will play trivia hosted by Team Trivia Wisconsin; Pink Dingle Berry, a silent auction and much more! All proceeds are used to reduce our medical bills.

Dress casual and be prepared to laugh and have fun!

The doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m.

Advanced tickets are \$30 per person or \$35 at the door and include a buffet dinner and beer/soda.

#### **HOPE SAFEHOUSE 2013 PET CALENDAR!!**

#### Don't miss out on ordering!

The calendars are \$15 each and feature pet photos submitted by you. This year we have added a Memorial page for you to remember your beloved pets that have passed away.

Calendars will be on sale around Thanksgiving and will remain on sale until they are sold out.

The HOPE 2013 Calendar will make a GREAT Holiday gift idea!

For more information or to order your calendar, go to our website: <a href="https://www.hopesafehouse.org">www.hopesafehouse.org</a>

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ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 14	
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Please print name & address of recipients of gift or bereaved:	Please print your name & address:
XFXSXZ1X3X4X	
Please mark the size we should send to you	\$\$
and <b>you</b> receive a HOPE T-shirt	\$1000 Lifetime \$2000 Benefactor
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newsletter, membership card and a 5% discount on HOPE merchandise.	
(Please include name & address of bereaved family or honored person/group in the space below * so an acknowledgment may be sent)	
human/dog/cat/other (Circle one)	* IN WEWOBA\HONOB(Circle one) OE
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Yes I would like to help HOPE Safehouse save more animals!	