

To rescue, rehabilitate and re-home needy dogs everywhere.



*Dr. Deb Jacques from Serenity Hospital and her staff, tending to one of the many sick dogs taken from Lornich Kennels on April 23, 2008.*

# Puppy Mills 101

Some recent events have brought the term "puppy mills" to the forefront of our newspapers and TV programming. Just last month, Oprah did a show on puppy mills after a Chicago based rescue group put up a billboard begging her to do a show on the subject. That show was Oprah's highest rated show in 2 years and not only showed a nation the shocking conditions in which the breeding animals are subjected to but showed how many young, healthy pets are euthanized each day because there are just not enough homes for them.

Hopefully, those of you reading this article saw the Oprah show and were appropriately outraged by what you saw. But if you didn't, you must have certainly caught the news on April 23, 2008, in which a puppy mill, in our own backyards, was raided due to the disgusting conditions the animals were living in. Conditions which this writer saw first hand after being called to the kennel by local animal control personnel. The animals were caked in feces and soaked with urine, most water/food dishes empty (some dishes having dead mice in them), animals unable to stand due to open sores on their feet, dogs suffering from mange (parasite that causes their hair to fall out), the bigger dogs (many of which were just spinning non-stop in their kennels), were stuffed into runs too small for their bodies. Lornich Kennels, located in Sterling Heights, has been the subject of many complaints and law suits over the years. It's owner, Lorri Nochiow was even convicted in 2005 on several counts of cruelty of animals. How disappointing, that even with that conviction, she was allowed not only to continue owning animals as pets but to utilize them as a source of income by breeding them and leasing them out on breeding contracts.

The question that begs to be asked is, who in their right mind would want a pet born in this type of environment? Would anyone knowingly buy if they knew fido or fluffy came from these types of conditions? Sadly, it appears the answer is yes because Lornich Kennels has been operating for over 30 years and even after her previous run-ins with the law, people still bought her pups and leased her dogs to breed their own.

## LITTLE PET SHOP OF HORRORS

Right now, there are many of you out there sitting back and thinking, "We didn't knowingly buy from a breeder like Lornich". But if you have purchased a puppy from a pet store, that is exactly what you have done. Most of the pups/kittens at pet stores come from backyard puppy mills like Lorri Nochiow or even worse, large scale commercial mills.

Many pet stores will advertise that their pups come from reputable breeders who breed for the love of the breed and not for profit. Unfortunately, that is simply not true. Those familiar with dog breeding know reputable breeders spend a great deal of time and money on their breeding programs. They are usually making this investment out of a deep love for dogs, particularly the breed they've chosen. Reputable breeders want to know about where their pups end up. They would never place a puppy in a situation to be purchased by someone they haven't had the opportunity to carefully screen, no matter what pet store employees may claim to the contrary. Truly reputable breeders are breeders that perform testing on their breeding stock to ensure they are not passing along known genetic issues, place their pups into homes after a thorough screening process and who will take back dogs from owners if the owners can no longer care for the dog down the road. The puppies you see are coming from something called a puppy mill, where nearly 98% of the puppies being sold in pet stores today, originate.



*Just one example of the conditions that puppy mill breeding animals are subjected to. Could you buy a puppy from a pet store, knowing the animals responsible for their birth were subjected to a tortuous life like this?*

## WHAT IS A PUPPY MILL?

A puppy mill is facility who's sole function it is to breed dogs for profit and for profit alone. They do not perform the appropriate tests to ensure that they are not passing along known genetic or temperament problems. They sell their stock with absolutely no thought on where they will end up and do not take back one of their dogs if something does not work out with the dog's home. And while these dogs might come with American Kennel Club papers, it should come to no surprise that getting a dog AKC registered is just a matter of money and has nothing to do with how well bred they are. AKC papers are just a record of the pup's parents and has nothing to do with an animal's health or temperament.

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Approximately 3,500 pet stores in the United States sell puppies. They sell approximately 500,000 thousand puppies a year. On the other hand, millions of dogs will be euthanized in shelters this year, where 1 out of 4 are a purebred dog.



*If you've ever purchased a dog from a pet store, this is what your puppy's parent could have looked like. As long as there are people buying pups from pet stores, there will be thousands of dogs suffering similar fates as the dog shown above suffered for years.*

## UNSEEN VICTIMS

# Puppy Mills 101 (continued)

On the contrary, if you could see where the pups actually come from, you would be hard pressed to understand how the facilities responsible for creating the puppies could continue running, let alone be allowed to register their pups as AKC certified. The true horror of puppy mills have little to do with the puppies but instead with their parents – the poor, retarded creatures that are forced to churn out litter after litter in the most shocking and disgusting conditions imaginable.

The puppy's parents or "breeding stock" do not live in decent homes surrounded by a loving family, allowed to frolic and play outside or even know what it is to fall asleep curled up next to their owner. In nearly all cases, breeding stock are kept prisoners for their entire lives and receive little or no human companionship and socialization. They never know what it is to have grass under their feet or what it is to run and play doing all the things that dogs are meant to do. Instead, these breeding dogs live in tiny, filthy cages - often times, not having solid bottoms so that clean up is made easier on the owners. The cages have wire bottoms which eventually tear up the dog's pads causing open sores to develop, infection and making walking incredibly painful and difficult. In some cases, dogs lose feet and legs when they are caught in the wire floors of the cages and cut off as the dog struggles to free themselves.

Breeding stock are often not properly groomed, fed, or cared for physically with regular veterinarian check ups. Female dogs are usually bred the first time they come into heat and are bred every heat cycle thereafter. They are bred until their poor worn out bodies can't reproduce any longer and then they are killed. If they are lucky enough not to be killed, they may end up in auction where they could be sold to a Class B Dealer who will then sell them to a research facility, where they can live out their remaining days being subjected to horrific experiments.

*There are seven states that are known as puppy mill states because they have the majority of the puppy mills in the country. They are: Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.*

Much of the breeding stock at these mills suffer from various untreated ailments either attributed to poor breeding practices or to the outright neglect they face in order to maximize profits. Ailments such as deafness, epilepsy, cataracts, eye lesions, retinal degeneration, glaucoma, hip dysplasia, retardation, dislocated kneecaps, excessive aggression, mammary tumors, and periodontal disease just to name a few. And so that the mill operators don't have to be subjected to hundreds of barking dogs, they dogs are often de-barked. The preferred method to debark ... ramming a steel rod down their throats to rupture their vocal cords, which in some cases, either kills the dog or breaks their jaw.

*Cassidy, age 6, lost most of his teeth to decay, his leg had been broken & not set, he was suffering from congestive heart failure. He also had been debarked - probably with a metal pipe.*

How can this be, you ask? How can this be allowed to happen if the conditions are so terrible? Unfortunately, most puppy mills are located in very rural areas which make enforcing anti-cruelty laws very difficult. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licenses and inspects puppy mills for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and some states have laws to protect the animals. But puppy mills can get around USDA licensing requirements by selling directly to consumers - many simply rely on the limited reach of the law. With so few inspectors and only minor fines in place, it's easy for puppy mills to stay in business.



## HOW CAN PUPPY MILLS BE STOPPED?

If you have ever purchased a puppy from a pet store, you have unknowingly contributed directly to the puppy miller's breeding cycle. But this cycle can be stopped. The time for ignorance is over.

By educating the public about puppy mills and where the pet stores that sell puppies get their stock, animal welfare groups hope to put an end of the "Puppy Mill" but we need your help! We need you to tell your family and friends NOT to buy from pet stores or from small scale puppy mills like Lornich Kennels. Help send a message to the stores that do sell puppies by only shopping at stores that promote adoption in lieu of selling pups/kittens. Only when these pet stores see that selling puppies and kittens will negatively impact their bottom line, may they rethink their strategy.

You can also contact your state and federal legislators and inform them that you are disturbed by the inhumane treatment of dogs in puppy mills, and would like to see legislation passed that ensures that all animals bred to be pets are raised in healthy conditions.



*While not caged, it's obvious this female is still suffering. Chained 100% of the time and starved, she will only know a life of misery.*

*To learn more about puppy mills, commercial kennels, where pet stores get their puppies and how you can help put an end to this misery, please visit one of the following websites:*

<http://www.prisonersofgreed.org/>

[www.aspc.com](http://www.aspc.com)

[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

# How to Find a Good Dog Breeder

If you or someone you know, are set on getting a purebred dog, we ask you to first seriously consider adopting a needy dog. Nearly 1 in 4 dogs in shelters are purebreds. Most of these dogs are in shelters not because they are bad dogs but because their owners felt they didn't have the time to devote to the dog; divorced, moved and didn't want to bother with taking their pets; developed allergies; or had a baby. Reasons that had nothing to do with something the dog has done.

If you are not comfortable with adopting a dog from a shelter, you could check various rescue groups, including rescues that specialize in pure breeds. When adopting through a rescue you will not only get information on the dog's personality but will be getting a dog that is healthy, been vaccinated and spayed/ neutered. All breed and pure breed rescue groups post their adoptable animals on Petfinder.com, which is a great place to look because you can filter your search by breed, age and sex.

But if you have thoroughly searched shelters and rescues and still have not found the dog of your dreams, then be sure to search for a GOOD breeder that does the following:

- Keep the dogs inside their homes as part of their family.
- Show you where the animals spend most of their time and the dogs appear to be happy/healthy.
- Encourages multiple visits and wants your entire family to meet the puppy.
- Encourages you to spend time with pup's parents when you come to meet the puppy – or at least the mother if the father is not on site.
- Provides references from other families who have purchased puppies from them in the past.



- Explains, in detail, potential genetic problems inherent in the breed (every breed of dog are pre-disposed to certain conditions) & provides documentation (through organizations such as the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) that the puppy's parents and grandparents have been tested to ensure they are free of these genetic problems.



- Shows you records of veterinary visits for the puppies and explains the puppies' medical history and what vaccinations your new puppy will need going forward.
- Offers guidance for caring/training your puppy and are available for assistance after you have taken the puppy home.
- Provides you with a written contract and health guarantee and allows you time to properly read the contract before signing.
- Will take the puppy back if it is not working out in your home or if you can no longer care for the dog.
- Good dog breeders DO NOT advertise in the paper or in magazines and they DO NOT sell to pet stores. Good breeders work through word of mouth. You can find a good breeder by contacting local vets for referrals, contacting local breed clubs or visiting dog shows.

Take the time to find the right breeder. Not only will you be thanking yourself for the rest of your dog's life but you will be helping to put an end to the puppy mill system!



## Your Donations Made a Difference!

Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue does not work like many other rescues when it comes to caring for our sick animals. We do not look at the money we spend and think "We could save 5 other dogs for this amount of money.". Instead we look at whether a puppy or dog has a chance at living a normal life if they are to recover and if the answer is yes, then every attempt is made to save their life, no matter what the cost. This was the case for Nala and Hanna, 2 female shepherd pups which came from a shelter with pneumonia in February.

They were so sick in fact, that the emergency vet felt we'd be better off euthanizing them and putting our money towards saving other dog lives. But, after seeing the girls first hand at the clinic, we felt they had every chance of surviving. We just felt they were lacking proper motivation to live. Unfortunately, laying in a cold metal kennel, being poked by technicians all day, was not doing much for their recovery. They just needed some extra TLC and needed intensive human interaction to motivate their will to live. Once we pulled them from the clinic, began hand feeding them and providing round the clock TLC, their recovery process was finally underway. However, the bill we received for their four-day stay at the emergency clinic was the most expensive we've ever had – just under \$5000!!

That is when a plea went out from our volunteers, to you our supporters, for help paying this most costly bill and when the donations began pouring in! Words cannot express how thankful all of our volunteers were for your generosity!!

Everyone will be happy to know that not only have Hanna and Nala completely recovered from their illness but they have already gone to their new adoptive families. Families that I'm sure are most grateful that we spared no expense to save their lives.



*Nala (top) and her sister Hanna are now healthy and happy in their new adoptive homes!! They owe their lives to so many of our very generous supporters, who came to their aid.*

## Meet Our Puppy Mill Rescues

### Pedro & Preston



Brothers, Pedro (left) & Preston (right) - a version of the Papillon breed, were rescued from an Amish puppy mill in Ohio. At one year old, they were brought to a dog auction to be sold for breeding purposes. However, that day a local rescue was at the auction, "under cover" and the rescue bought these sweet boys, along with other dogs so they would not suffer the same fate as their parents.

While they suffered no physical injuries, it was obvious they had never been socialized with humans. They have been with Waggin' Tails since December 2007 and are slowly learning that they don't have to be scared of people. They are available for adoption but will need patient homes that will be willing to help them overcome their fears.

### Peaches & Pebbles



Peaches (left), a 1 year old Brussels Griffon and Pebbles (right), a 1 year old Shih tzu - along with 2 other dogs (BamBam & Petunia), were rescued from Lornich Kennels, a local puppy mill, on April 23, 2008 after the authorities raided the kennel. Due to the number of dogs (over 60), local rescues (including Waggin' Tails) were contacted to help take in so many needy dogs.

When rescued, they were living in outside kennels with inadequate shelter. They were covered in feces and urine and their water/food bowls were empty. BamBam and Pebbles (both Shih tzu) were severely matted and were suffering from eye infections.

Even though the animals were outside, the place stank to high heaven. Wheel barrels, overrunning with feces and muck were parked everywhere and all the kennel runs had not been cleaned for some time.

These sweet dogs are not yet available for adoption. We must wait until charges have been filed against the kennel owner, who has previously been convicted of cruelty to animals. Once we receive approval, they will be posted on our website.

## Please Show Support for Michigan House Bill 5263

Most of the general public do not realize that many area shelters do sell animals to research. That means if you drop off your dog to the wrong shelter, and your dog is not adopted, it could be sold into a dreadful fate.

Each year, 42,000 dogs of all ages, including puppies, are sold to research. We know, because we at Waggin' Tails receive the pleas from the shelter staff nearly every day, begging us to take the dogs slated to go to the dealer. Unfortunately, shelter staff have no say on the

matter and must watch many great natured dogs - young, full of life and hope, be carted away to face their last months of life being caged 24/7; being injected with goodness knows what types of experimental drugs or to be utilized as "test dummies" at veterinary schools that still utilize live animals for teaching purposes, where they will undergo unwarranted operations and procedures.

Most animals sold into research do not live more than a year once sold because if they don't die from the experiments, they are nearly always euthanized when no longer required. A sad end for man's best friend.

In March 2008, 4 starving dogs were removed from a Six Lakes Michigan home and their owners brought up on cruelty charges and taken to the Montcalm County Shelter, which sells dogs and cats to research. One of the dogs was lucky enough to be adopted. One dog had to be euthanized because it's neglect had been too severe. And unbelievable as it sounds, 2 of the dogs that had suffered terrible neglect and abuse at the hands of their owners were sold to into research where they will spend their remaining days living a nightmare.

As a rescuer, I have been appalled for years to see the waste of so many great dogs but now I am outraged! I'm outraged by the actions of the Montcalm Shelter and the community that supports it. Is it not enough that so many pets are cast aside in our "disposable" society? Must they also be subjected to horrific experiments that will only cause them additional pain and suffering? Does a dog that suffered such abuse and neglect deserve to end it's life in such a horrendous way? Does any animal deserve this?

Back in September 2007, Michigan Representative Coleman Young introduced a new Bill - 5263 which would ban the sale of shelter dogs and cats to research facilities and/or Class B Dealers who sell to research facilities. We at Waggin' Tails are begging our supporters to please contact your Michigan Legislative representatives and let them know, in no uncertain terms, that you want them to support Bill 5263 and help put an end to this inhumane practice. Please be the voice of those that cannot speak for themselves!

To contact the Senator for your district, please visit the following website: <http://senate.michigan.gov/senators/senfull2007.htm>. There you will find a listing of all senator names, phone numbers and email addresses.

District breakouts are indicated below:

Wayne County - Districts 1-7	Washtenaw County - District 18
Macomb County - Districts 9-11	Tuscola County - District 31
Oakland County - Districts 12-15	Saginaw County - District 32
Livingston County - District 22	
Genesee County - Districts 26-27	

Contact the Montcalm County Commissioners to voice your outrage:

[www.montcalm.org/government845763.asp](http://www.montcalm.org/government845763.asp)



# Special Thanks



Organizations such as ours depend 100% on the generosity of others & we would like to thank the following individuals & businesses for their very kind and generous support.



Bailey, Mark & Nicole	Gaines, Jennifer	Kallis, Stephen & Josephine	Miller, Terry & Renee	Schutter, Lyn
Bara, Mary	Gaines, Tammy	Kellman, Gloria	Mitchell, Jennifer	Segna, Mike
Berger, David & Kumi	Gardner, Scott	Keszo, John & Sandra	Mitchell, Tom & Kathy	Seyuin, Sherrie
Bourdage, Leonard & Mary	Gazo, Lynn	Kramer, Marnie	Moore, Derek & Krystal	Shivers, MaryLou
Bova, Monica	Grim, Beth	Lajoie, Pauline	Mungle, Mike & Nanette	Simpson, Amy
Bowes, Amy	Hackmann, Bruce & Louise	Lebert, Denise	Nadeau, AnnElizabeth	Smith, Abbie
Boyes, Carla	Harris, Jayne	LeCourt, Julie	Natzke, Lee	Smith, Pamela
Brown, Jeff & Susan	Hart, James & Bonnie	Leeson, Melanie	Newsom, James & Danette	Smith, Shawn & Barb
Buchel, Jim & Alisa	Heller, Richard	Lemke, Robert & Pam	Palazzolo, Vincent & Christine	Smith, TJ & Alison
Chandler, Cheryl	Henderson, Bill & Patti	Lenhoff, Carla	Patton, George & Elaine	Stradtner, Kelly
Clasen, Daryl & Dawn	Herman, Kathleen	Locke, Jason & Laura	Phillips, Whitnee	Swirple, LeighAnne
Dames, Lori	Higgins, Jeff & Barb	Logan, Tim & Andrea	Pintar, Doug	Thompson, James & Marianne
Dames, Virginia	Horne, Mr. & Mrs.	Lypka, Christie	Porter, Susana	Trudell, Heather
Demeter, Lorraine	Horton, Shannon	Maltby, Ken & Susan	Price, Jeffrey & Cynthia	VonWihl, Jodi
Doody, Doug & Nancy	Huberts, Val	Marohnic, James & Darlene	Roman, Jimmy & Peggy	Walker, Jerry & MaryBeth
Dusablon, Ed & Pat	Hurd, Holly	Martinez, Damon & Sylvia	Sager, Kathy	Weilnau, Ginette
Elkins, Andrea	Hurwitz, Violeta	Matthews, Kathryn	Schafer, Michael	Whise, Ken & Theresa
Fields, James	James, John & Angie	McIndoe, Jason & Rebecca	Schiller, Larry & Cathy	Whitaker, Kevin & Ginger
Flowers, David & MaryEvelyn	Jones, Erica	Mettler, Ellen	Schiller, Susan	Wroble, Stephen

*Waggin' Tails would like to thank the following business & individuals for contributing to our bowling fundraiser held in March, including **Mary Bourdage** for her advertising help! Because of their efforts, we had our highest grossing bowling fundraiser ever!*

3 Dog Bakery	L'espirit Salon	Doggie Delicious	Alison Smith	Denise Lebert	Jodi VonWihl
Back Home Bakery	Panera Bread – Canton	Salon Posh	Andrea Elkins	Erica Jones	Krystal Moore
Dog's Bow Wow	Park Avenue Cleaners	Dunk-N-Dogs	Angie James	Ginette Weilnau	Marnie Kramer
Happy Hounds	Starbucks - Canton	4 Legged Friends	Cathy Schiller	Jennifer Mitchell	Mike & Nanette Mungle
					Peggy Roman

*The following businesses help support our group by offering discounts which allows us to afford to save more animals. We cannot thank them enough for all they do. Please consider one of these businesses if you are in search of a new vet, daycare facility, groomer or kennel. Rest assured, your animals will be well cared for!*

K-9 Cuts – Shelby Township	Green Oak Veterinary Clinic – Whitmore Lake	North Gratiot Veterinary Clinic – Chesterfield Twp
Tall Oaks Kennel – Whitmore Lake	Greko Printing & Imaging - Plymouth	Roose Animal Hospital – Plymouth.
Common Scents – Ortonville	Griffith Veterinary Services – Whitmore Lake	VCA – Allen Park
Bark Busters	Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic – Milford	Village Animal Clinic – Farmington
4-Legged Friends Dog Daycare – Livonia	Home Health Care for Pets – Whitmore Lake	Petsmart – Canton / Commerce / Northville
Country Ridge Animal Clinic – Farmington Hills	Meadowbrook Veterinary Clinic - Novi	

## Another Successful Rescue!

As a rescue, we receive calls every week about dogs in need, many of which involve stray dogs. While we try to help as many as we can, the truth is we simply don't have the manpower and time to spend trapping a dog. However, back late March we received a call from an individual living in a Detroit neighborhood. The person was calling to see if we could come rescue a mother dog and her little pups, who were living in a crawl space in an empty home. We were contacted because animal control had been unable to get Sugar and the neighbors were worried that she and her pups might not fair so well, given the surrounding neighborhood which had experienced a drive by shooting just the evening prior to our arrival.

Waggin' Tails does own a humane trap and being concerned for dogs living in such conditions, our dedicated volunteers headed out to the home and after only 2 days, accomplished their goal. Sugar, the mother dog, was finally trapped and once she was safe, our volunteers were able to go into the crawl space (which was filled with tons of garbage, feces, and insulation – forcing our volunteers to wear protective masks) to get her 5 pups, which to no surprise, were hiding in fear.

The pups' fear did not last long though. After just a few days in foster care, they were thriving and as of the beginning of May, all 5 had been adopted into wonderful new homes. Sugar, the mother dog, is in foster care currently. She will need some time before she will be ready to be adopted out. During her physical exam, it was discovered that Sugar has no front teeth. They appeared to have been knocked out – probably by someone who kicked her in the mouth. She is fearful of some situations (very afraid of leashes) and will need an understanding adopter willing to work on her issues. The good news is, she is a very sweet and loving girl, who obviously wants to be a "normal" dog.

*From left to right, dedicated volunteers Kumi Berger, Ginette Weilnau (crouching), Jimmy Roman (along with his wife Peggy Roman, who is not shown), & Cathy Schiller spent 2 days trapping Sugar and her babies.*



# GEORGIA

# HAPPY TAILS



It's not unusual to see family members who are not sure if they are ready for a new pet. This was the case with the Whittkopp family, where Daddy Whittkopp was on the fence about getting a new furry family member. However, due to his persistent wife, he finally caved in & their family adopted Ginger, a dog that was rescued from a high kill shelter from the state of Georgia. See their great update below!

My husband always said that we would NEVER get a dog---too much responsibility. We previously had a cat that we just adored for 13 years. Well, persistent person that I am, I approached him about getting a dog as a birthday present for me.

We went to an adoption day at Petsmart and got to meet Ginger and the next weekend she came for a day visit. Although I know it was hard for Jodie (her foster mom) to see Ginger go, we signed the papers that day and Ginger stayed. Within a couple of days she was in our bed sleeping next to me, however she wouldn't stay in bed with Bill if I got up. My how things have changed! The one who didn't think we should have a doggie is her main walking buddy--- now she sleeps right in between us and wakes Bill up in the morning by laying her feet across his chest when the alarm goes off. I laughingly have told some people (and this is true), there are times when Bill comes to bed and kisses Ginger and forgets about kissing me!! The man who didn't want a dog is absolutely in LOVE with her and the feelings are mutual!!!

The kids Karl and Hannah) have taught her how to shake hands, dance on two feet, and do high fives. She is VERY much a devoted and loving family dog. She "owns" us just as much as we "own" her and boy, does she let us know that. We just cannot tell you how much she has been a blessing to our family. We are so thankful to Waggin' Tails for rescuing her from Georgia and bringing her to Michigan so that she could be a part of our family. Even her extended family loves her to death. She has a Grandma who spoils her rotten just like one of the "grandkids" (the "bling-bling" on her neck is compliments of Grandma). Ginger is greatly Loved!!!!

*Sincerely, The Wittkopps - (Bill, Cindy, Karl, Hannah and Ginger)*



*Ginger demonstrating her "High Five" trick, one of the many new tricks she has learned in her new home!*

# CHANG



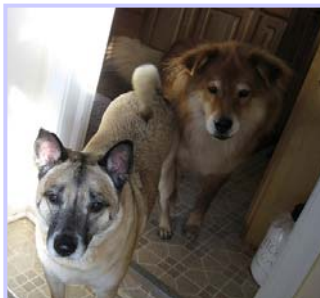
*Chang (now Harper) came from a hoarding situation where he lived in a cage for years, without proper socialization and medical attention. He was a very shy and timid dog but like the many other dogs rescued from that kennel, he has found the perfect home!*

We adopted Harper in April 2007. We had been looking for 6 months or more for a companion for our dog, Marley. Marley was a rescue dog who had lived in a pack but had been very neglected. His desire to have another dog was driving us crazy so we had been looking forever for a friend. When I saw Harper (at the time Chang) I was in love with his beautiful mane and a gorgeous coat. His foster mom, Jennifer, brought him for a visit the following week and the love continued. He followed our alpha cat, Isis around the house the entire time. Jennifer let us adopt him on the spot. He became Harper that day.

From the beginning it was obvious he had not been socialized very well but with patience he has become a totally different dog. When we go on walks his tail is in the air and a smile is on his face. He is happiest when outside running free at the dog park with his brother Marley. He and Marley are a terrible twosome always causing some sort of mischief. I think they would be great characters in a movie. They are the best of friends, wrestling and playing every day. He also loves his kitty siblings as well.

I call him my chowriever because he is a golden-chow mix, Andy calls him Sundog. Whenever I take Harper anywhere people always say he is the most beautiful dog they have seen. I would agree but I think what makes him truly beautiful is that he is a gentle lion, a friend and most of all the one and only, Harper. Thank you so much for the chance to add Harper to our family. Life just would not be the same without him!

*Sincerely, Tia Butler*



# OTIS



*Otis, a pitbull/lab mix, came to Waggin' Tails from a facility that sells dogs to Class B Dealers, who then sell to the dogs to research. In fact, this facility will not work with rescue once a dog's time is up and would rather see the dog sold for research purposes. Because the shelter will only adopt out to the public and not rescue, we had to have someone "pretend" to adopt him in order to save him from the Dealer and that awful fate. Now Otis has a home every dog dreams of! See his latest note to his former foster mom.*



Dear Lori,

Today I graduated from Puppy School at Pet Smart (see my very handsome picture with mom and dad). We did games and I won 3 out of 5 games and there were 7 other dogs. I did sit-stay the longest, come the fastest and did the doggie track. I even sent a picture of my girlfriend for you. She's smaller than me, but I love her! I gave her my red ball in class today.

I just wanted to say thanks for taking care of me until I got a great home and got to go to puppy school. I'm loving life!!!

*Yours Truly,*

*OTIS HALSEY*