



# Volunteer Spotlight Brenda Gillen

Brenda Gillen has been a pet lover as long as she can remember. This past December she was searching Petfinder and came across the "Fosters Wanted" sign which led her to Waggin' Tails. She has been involved ever since.

She is currently the proud owner of Jake, her "forever" puppy. Jake is an All-American mix breed and the

apple of his mother's eye.

When Brenda is not giving her time to Waggin' Tails she enjoys scrapbooking, making jewelry and knitting baby blankets for her new grandbaby.

Brenda someday hopes to train search and rescue dogs.

On behalf of Waggin' Tails Congratulations and we thank you for all that you do.



Brenda and foster pup Iris

### Inside this issue:

<i>Featured Volunteer</i>	1
<i>Youth Making a Difference</i>	1
<i>Shout Out from Scout</i>	2
<i>Free to A Good Home</i>	2
<i>Coming Attractions</i>	3
<i>Tips from the Trainer</i>	3
<i>Who We Are</i>	4



## Youth Making a Difference

Two sixth grade classes at Riley Upper Elementary School in Livonia helped make a difference by collecting much needed food, toys, treats, leashes/collars and other goodies for needy dogs and cats in our area. Ms. Morgan Rabidue, a 6th

grader at Riley Upper Elementary was the coordinator for the *Youth Making A Difference Program*. Thank you also to Peggy our own Waggin' Tails volunteer for coordinating the event. Waggin' Tails sends out a big thank you to all the students

who participated!



## Shout Out from Scout (One dog's perspective)

I don't know if everyone reads the newspaper or if your mom reads it out loud to you like mine does, but something is happening out in what my dad calls the "real world" that bothers me. People are giving away their pets for free in the newspaper! Once they are given away they are sometimes used in research, fed to snakes or worse. I'm not going to go into it in my column but my mom talks about it in another section of this newsletter. I don't understand how someone can just give one of their pets away. How can some people be so heartless? If I had my way every pet would have a home like mine with

fresh food, fresh water, trips to the dog park and a family that loves them. I think if we see FREE TO GOOD HOME in the paper we should call those people and tell them what "some people" do with these poor animals. This is of course just one dog's opinion..

On another more happier note Spring is a coming and that means the skunks are out. I haven't seen any yet but I've smelled three. I would personally like to meet a skunk and maybe have a rousing game of keep away, but my mom gets really uptight when that smell is in the air. So for the sake of

our people stay away from that smell! This is Scout signing off. Have a great Spring and I will see you again in the summer. Ciao.



*(me and Mom)*



## Free to Good Home? (Warning: This story can be disturbing for some readers.)

Shelters and rescues are frequently criticized for charging adoption fees. "If you're so anxious to find homes for these pets," we're told, "you should just give them away."

This attitude makes us shudder. In the first place, our fees in no way begin to cover the costs incurred for medical treatment and upkeep of the pets we adopt out. Yes, we're anxious to find homes for our animals—GOOD homes. And just to be fair many people who take free pets do provide wonderful homes. However, frequently-much too frequently—animal workers are called in to rescue former "free to good home" animals.

### Did you know?

1. People value what they pay for— Pets obtained for free are less likely to be spayed or neutered and more likely to be abused and/or discarded, because "there are plenty more where that came from!"
2. So called "Bunchers" gather free pets until they have enough for a trip to a Class B Dealer who is licensed by the USDA to sell animals from random sources for research.

3. Free animals are taken to "blood" pit-bulls and other fighting dogs, to train them how to kill. This can be dogs and cats of any size. Often a larger dog's muzzle will be duct-taped shut so the he can't bite back, and the fighting dog will gain confidence in killing a dog larger than he is.
4. One "adopter" was blacklisted by shelters and rescue organizations, so he took free kittens to his "good home" as dinner for a pet snake.
5. Unspayed or unneutered pure-bred dogs may end up as "breeding stock" in a puppy mill. There is nothing sadder for rescuers than to come across a mill breeder who has been a former pet. Imagine being loved, pampered, well-fed, and cherished, then ending up in a tiny crate with wire mesh under your feet, getting little food and no loving attention. Nothing is worse than betrayal of trust—these animals loved and trusted their former owners to look out for their well-being, and instead, those former owners unknowingly condemned them to a life of torture in a puppy mill.

6. Animal hoarders watch the newspapers for Free to Good Home animals.

### What Can You Do?

- DON'T advertise Free pets. DO convince others not to. Some people even take the time to phone owners of pets advertising in the Free to Good Home section and warn them of the dangers.
- DO ask your local newspaper to quit accepting, or at least actively discourage, Free to Good Home ads.
- DO write letters to the editors of your local newspapers warning of the dangers of Free to Good Home.
- DO spay/neuter to keep from creating possible Free to Good Home situations.

The key to changing any situation is education, education, education so tell people what you know and help save the life of an animal.

# Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! (Thank You, Thank You, Thank You)



Waggin' Tails would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Margi Elrod and Wal-Mart for their generous monthly donation of pet food.

Waggin' Tails would also like to thank the following businesses:

Tall Oak Kennel—Whitmore Lake

Dean Gardner, Walk This Way Dog Training—Plymouth

My Dog's Groomer—Canton

4 Legged Friends Dog Daycare—Livonia

Country Ridge Animal Clinic—Farmington Hills

Green Oak Veterinary Clinic—Whitmore Lake

Greko Printing & Imaging—Plymouth

Griffith Veterinary Service—Whitmore Lake

Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic—Milford

Home Health Care for Pets—Whitmore Lake

Meadowbrook Veterinary Clinic—Novi

North Gratiot Vet Clinic—Chesterfield Township

Roose Animal Hospital—Plymouth

VCA-Allen Park

Village Animal Clinic—Farmington

Petsmart—Canton/Commerce/Northville

Parkway Veterinary Clinic—Canton

Dog's Bow Wow—Livonia

Thank you also to all of our dedicated volunteers. Waggin' Tails could not exist without you!

## Upcoming Events

### COSMIC BOWLING

Saturday, April 4, 2009

\$20.00 per person

Sign-In begins at 8:30 pm

Bowling to start at 9:00 pm

Superbowl Bowling Alley

45100 Ford Road, Canton 48187

Fee includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental and pizza.

Call us today to sign up!

248-788-7050

### FLOWER BULB FUNDRAISER



It is time for the Bulb Order Fundraiser! If you would like to order bulbs go to the following site:

[www.dutchmillbulbs.com/store](http://www.dutchmillbulbs.com/store),

choose your item and contact

Tammy at [turtle9462@aol.com](mailto:turtle9462@aol.com) to

order. The deadline date for orders

is April 4th, 2009. However, the

bulbs will not ship until April 14,

2009 due to our climate.

**Reduce, Reuse, Re-Woof!**

**Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue**

is going GREEN... You coming?

Green Street Fair ~ Downtown Plymouth  
May 1, 2, 3 - 2009

Stop by our booth to find out how going green can make a difference for the animals! We'll have adoptable dogs, tips on how to reduce your very own dog's carbon paw print and more fun stuff!

Spread the word and come see us! Head about the fair online at [www.greenstreetfair.com](http://www.greenstreetfair.com)

**248-788-7050 ~ [www.waggingtailsdogrescue.org](http://www.waggingtailsdogrescue.org)**

## BE KIND TO ANIMALS!

In Recognition of Be Kind To Animals Week (May 3-9), do something special for your pet—or a Waggin' Tails animal: Volunteer for an hour, make a donation, adopt a furry friend or simply pass along this issue of the Waggin' Tale and help our rescue animals make more friends!

## 2ND ANNUAL HAPPY TAILS REUNION PICNIC

Saturday, May 16, 12-4PM

Merriman Hollow  
Hines Park, Westland

*between Ann Arbor Trail & Warren Road  
along Hines Drive*

- Free fun-filled day for the family
- BBQ Lunch
- Goodie Bags for the Pooches
- Fun and Games

Please e-mail us at [wtdr2008@yahoo.com](mailto:wtdr2008@yahoo.com) if you think you can make it.

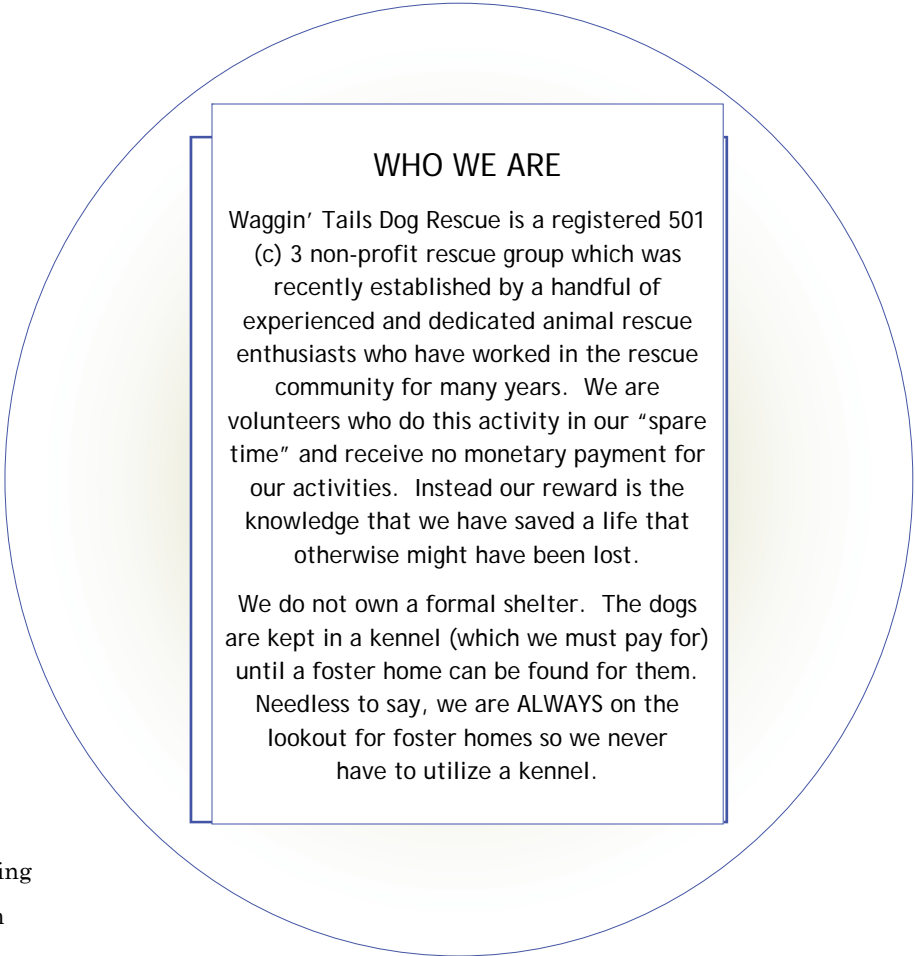




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### WHO WE ARE

Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue is a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit rescue group which was recently established by a handful of experienced and dedicated animal rescue enthusiasts who have worked in the rescue community for many years. We are volunteers who do this activity in our "spare time" and receive no monetary payment for our activities. Instead our reward is the knowledge that we have saved a life that otherwise might have been lost.

We do not own a formal shelter. The dogs are kept in a kennel (which we must pay for) until a foster home can be found for them. Needless to say, we are ALWAYS on the lookout for foster homes so we never have to utilize a kennel.

## Meet some of the Waggin' Tails

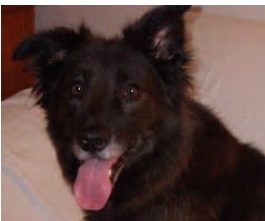
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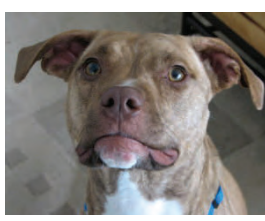
ZIGGY



BRENNA



PHIONA



RUDY



MURPHY



### Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue Inc. Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue.

All donations are tax deductible.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The **Pet-A-Pet Club, Inc.** is seeking friendly animals (dogs, cats or rabbits) and their owners for therapy visits in the Metro Detroit area.

Volunteers spend at least one hour per month with their pets visiting nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities or schools.

For information, please visit [www.petapet.org](http://www.petapet.org)

