

Pound Pooches Press

December 2007

A word from Pat...

This has to be one of the hardest things I have ever had to write. It is the story of our "Gentle Giant" Carl.

Around 10 years ago we had a complaint about a huge Rottweiler roaming. Rick went out on the call and came back with the biggest most beautiful Rottweiler I had ever seen. His disposition was great and he seemed healthy. I was sure someone would claim him immediately. When his waiting time was up we had Dr. Weill give him his Rabies shot and we put him up for adoption. All this time I was trying to figure out what was so wrong with this dog that no one claimed him. About a week later we adopted him out to a lovely family with lots of property and someone was home all day long. Seemed perfect to me. The only drawback was the family would not even consider using a crate for him, even for a little while until they learned his habits. The day after he left we heard nothing (no news is good news). The second day we got a call that they had to bring him back, he had chewed up approximately \$2000 dollars worth of living room furniture during the night.

Carl was returned that day. When he returned he came up to me and gave me a kiss and looked deep into my eyes, it was at that point that I knew he was special and belonged with us. When he went for the rest of his shots, the Vet said he had some hip dysplasia and would need a special diet and supplements for the rest of his life. Carl then began going to pet therapy at the area convalescent homes, he was a star. When we saw how good he was with children Rick decided to take Carl to a safety class he gives at the schools. I went along just in case Carl got nervous. We were at the Margaret Egan center day care with about 15 two and 3 year olds. Carl couldn't have been happier. He rolled over on his back and the kids were petting him and putting their hands in his mouth their faces up to his, things I would always tell children not to do with a strange dog. I think it was at that point that I realized just HOW special Carl was. From that day on he was part of our team. He would walk the volunteers and guard the office. He loved us all unconditionally and would always listen quietly to

my problems without judgment.

About four months ago Carl began to limp on his front leg. Never a good thing for an older, large dog. There were many tests, many trips to the Vet., Diagnosis "Bone Cancer", my worst fear. He went on a new type of chemotherapy which kept him going for a while. There were days when we thought he would maybe beat it, but then other days when we knew it was only a matter of time. Rick and I took him to the Vet on a Thursday fully expecting him to tell us it was time. We had prepared ourselves for this. When we got Carl out of my truck the Vet wanted to see him walk so I helped him up and all of a sudden he was walking all over the parking lot. Dr. Weill thought we were a little off, he gave Carl more medicine and we brought him home. It wasn't his time. It was October 5, a Holiday weekend for us, so I brought Carl home with me. Saturday and Sunday were good but then on Monday he refused to eat would not let me give him his pills and wouldn't get up. One final trip to the vet. Carl was laying in the back of my truck so Dr. Weill came outside to him. Rick held his head, petting him while I held his leg for Dr. Weill and was rubbing his back. We held our special dog in our arms for the last time as he gently went to sleep, thanking him through our tears for all his kindness, loyalty, and love as he looked up at us as if to say it's OK, you people gave me a wonderful and rewarding life that I would never have had with anyone else. My time is finished here but I'll be waiting for you on the other side. I know for sure that he will because he took a piece of my heart with him.

Thank you Carl for all you have taught us.



WINTER PET TIPS

Keep your pets happy and healthy this winter!



Outdoor care:

Pets should be kept indoors during the winter months. If your pet must spend time outdoors, provide fresh water (invest in a heated water bowl). A Shelter that is insulated and heated with a door to keep out wind and moisture is ideal. Their bedding should be elevated off the floor. In severe weather, all pets should be brought inside.

Rock salt and de-icers can be irritating to paws, and mild toxicity if licked. Wipe paws after a walk with a moist towel. You

can also rub some Vaseline on the bottom of paws before walking.

Cars & Pets-

Prevent hypothermia-Don't leave your pet in an unattended vehicle in the winter cold.

Before you start your car in the morning, bang on the hood or blow the horn to alert cats or other small critters that might have crawled inside for warmth. Cats can be injured or killed by fans & fan belts.

Use an animal friendly anti-freeze. Anti-freeze /coolants are sweet tasting and attractive to pets, and can be fatal if swallowed, even in small amounts.

Skin & Coat Care:

Winter air can dry out the skin and coat. Take your pet to a professional groomer for a good brushing and moisturizing shampoo.

Holiday plants, Decorations & Goodies-

Keep your pet away from poinsettias, holly & mistletoe (highly toxic, especially berries) Tinsel, angel hair (spun glass), yarn, ornaments, bubbling lights, crayons, Christmas tree preservatives and Chocolate. Avoid giving table food or other people treats that can upset your pet's stomach. National Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435



CHRISTMAS GREETING CARDS

Tired of sending the same old holiday greeting cards?

Whether you own a pet or know someone who does, these greeting cards are sure to spread some holiday cheer.

Each package consists of eight 5x7 cards with matching envelopes.

The design to the right is printed on the front of the card.

The inside greeting says "Happy Holidays"

and the Pound Pooches logo is printed on the back of the card.



Cards are available for \$7.00 at the following retail stores and businesses:

Milford Animal Shelter

Canvas Patch

Given To Gauche

Purr-Fect Pets

Purr-fectly Spoiled Pet Boutique

To place an order by phone please call Dawn at 203-877-2279

WISH LIST

- Monetary donations (checks should be made out to Milford Animal Shelter Building Fund)
- Pet clippers.
- Blow Dryer.
- Peanut Butter to stuff bones.
- Toys for the above mentioned animals.
- Bird skirts for cages.
- Treats and food for the following: Dogs, Cats, Birds, Rabbits, Goats, Chickens.
- Water Bottles for the animals cages.

ADOPTABLES

Rodney

Terrier Mix

Size: Large **Age:** Adult **Gender:** Male

Notes: Hi I'm Rodney and I am just a goofball of a boy! I was found roaming around town and BOY was I hungry! Thank goodness I'm getting lots to eat here at the shelter - I could stand to



put on a few pounds I am very well behaved and can't wait to meet my new family. Please come see if I'm the right boy for you. I am at the Milford Animal Shelter, 664 East Broadway (Silver Sands Park). You can visit me Monday through Friday between 11am and 4pm or on Saturday between 10am and 3pm.

This pet is up to date with routine shots and has been altered.

ADOPTABLES

Copper

Terrier Mix

Size: Large **Age:** Young **Gender:** Male

Notes: Hi I'm Copper! I am a playful and handsome red-nosed pit bull terrier who is looking for a brand new home. I am not used to being cooped up so I need a place where I can run around and play. I've got energy to burn! I have just started working with the volunteers - they are trying to teach me manners on a leash. Since I'm so playful and curious, I think I need someone strong to show me the ropes and teach me that I never have to worry that I'll be left to fend



for myself again. Are you that special person? Please visit with me and see! I am at the Milford Animal Shelter, 664 East Broadway (Silver Sands Park). You can visit me Monday through Friday between 11am and 4pm or on Saturday between 10am and 3pm.

This pet is up to date with routine shots and been neutered.

Chelsea

Labrador Retriever, Terrier [Mix]

Size: Large **Age:** Young **Gender:** Female

Notes: Hi, I'm Chelsea and I'm a very sweet 2 year old girl who needs a new home. See that sad and confused look on my face? I'm not sure why I'm here at the shelter but I know I want to find a new family fast!

Please come meet me and see if you can resist my adorable-ness! I bet you can't! I am at the Milford Animal Shelter, 664 East Broadway (Silver Sands Park). You can visit me Monday through Friday between 11am and 4pm or on Saturday between 10am and 3pm. *This pet is up to date with routine shots. and has been spayed.*



"A Friend At Last"

This is the story of two cats that had nothing in common except having a tough start in life. A year-and-a-half ago, a thin, severely injured gray and white male cat was brought to the shelter. The cat was believed to be about a year old, his right eye was severely damaged beyond repair and it had to be removed. Here was an adult disabled cat that was traumatized by the events of his life that was waiting for a home at the shelter. As soon as I heard of his ordeal, I had to make him a member of my family. He was introduced to the rest of the feline family: Rebecca, Figaro, Byron, and Anastasia (a diabetic who requires insulin injections twice a day). What they all had in common was starting life with tough circumstances and ending up in a home where they are all loved and terribly spoiled.

As soon as Darwin entered our home, life as we knew it would change. The trauma that he experienced triggered extreme aggression. He was docile at the shelter but when he came home, he attacked anyone in sight, both human and feline. One-by-one he put three of the four other cats in the hospital with poor Rebecca needing surgery to repair a terrible bite wound. Darwin's human parents also had their fair share of wounds. Everyone thought that we were crazy, and I must admit, we also thought that we were crazy. We strongly believe that when an animal is adopted, it is for life. Animals are not to be discarded when they become sick or inconvenient. We did our own research on these issues and worked closely with our vet trying all kinds of treatments, none of which had much success. We decided to separate Darwin from the rest of the feline family; four cats got one floor and Darwin got another floor. That decision made four cats extremely happy. As time went

on and Darwin started to relax and to trust and allowed himself to be loved. He stopped biting us and actually has become an affectionate cat. We thought it was sad that such a young cat would spend his life without any feline companions.

Early last summer a sick, orange twelve-year-old cat was brought to the shelter. He was thin and appeared to have a severe upper respiratory infection. He spent two months at the shelter trying to get well. I heard about this old gentleman and couldn't bear for this cat to end his days without a loving home. We adopted him, named him Rhett and brought him directly to our vet and he spent almost two weeks there. There were complications with his treatment and it was determined that he has a combination of emphysema, asthma and a chronic sinus infection. Rhett took up residence with the four others.

About a month after we adopted Rhett, he escaped sometime during the night and spent the night with Darwin. I woke up in horror expecting to find a bloody old orange cat and I was shocked by what I saw. Darwin and Rhett were sitting next to each other, both giving me an annoyed look that said, "We want breakfast now!" They have become the best of friends and it is ironic that Rhett is the alpha male and young Darwin is completely submissive to this old man. I guess the moral of this story is that love does conquer all.



Milford Animal Shelter

664 East Broadway
Milford, CT
06460

Phone: 203-783-3279 press 0

We're on the web!
www.ci.milford.ct.us
Click on City Departments
Animal Control

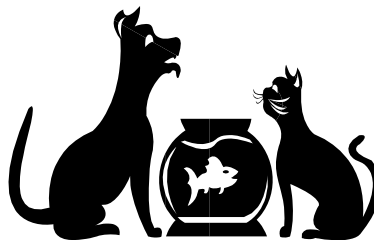
**Pet Photos to Benefit
Milford Animal Shelter Will Be
Held at Snowflake Pet Center,
Saturday, December 8th,
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE
inspired by a Norse legend

By the edge of a woods, at the foot of
a hill,
Is a lush, green meadow where time
stands still.
Where the friends of man and woman
do run,
When their time on earth is over and
done.
For here, between this world and the
next,
Is a place where each beloved crea-
ture finds rest.
On this golden land, they wait and
they play,
Till the Rainbow Bridge they cross
over one day.
No more do they suffer, in pain or in
sadness,
For here they are whole, their lives
filled with gladness.

Their limbs are restored, their health
renewed,
Their bodies have healed, with
strength imbued.
They romp through the grass, without
even a care,
Until one day they start, and sniff at
the air.
All ears prick forward, eyes dart front
and back,
Then all of a sudden, one breaks from
the pack.

For just at that instant, their eyes
have met;
Together again, both person and
pet.
So they run to each other, these
friends from long past,
The time of their parting is over at
last.
The sadness they felt while they
were apart,
Has turned into joy once more in
each heart.
They embrace with a love that will
last forever,
And then, side-by-side, they cross
over... together.



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