



Animal Tales

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

THE LONG ROAD HOME



When Boots came to us, it was with a heavy heart. Her owner had passed away unexpectedly, and she was in need of much love and care. We at Northeast Animal Shelter were honored that the family's first thought was to turn to us for help. They couldn't afford much, still rather than see Boots go without, they donated \$200 towards her medical bills!

A staff member took Boots in the next day for a check-up with the veterinarian. Boots was uncomfortable as the doctor conducted the examination. She was sore, and her fur was brittle and patchy. A few of her teeth were cracked, and she had a wart on her ear. Poor Boots would need a lot to bring her back to be the healthy cat we knew she could be.



Even with the generous donation of Boots' last family, it would be a considerable expense to cover her medical bills. Northeast Animal Shelter always wants to see a deserving animal have a better life and a chance at a forever home, so we decided to pay the remainder of the bill in full and give Boots all she needed.

The staff watched as Boots was driven away to the Animal Hospital. She looked so sad curled up in a little ball on the passenger seat, her eyes downtrodden, not sure what would happen next. It was a full day before she returned to the shelter.

When Boots arrived, we hardly recognized her! Her teeth were no longer chipped, the wart on her fragile ear was gone, and even her fur looked better—the mats had been brushed out. Boots was a new cat, and we had to find her a new



The origin of "cat calls".

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TENSION AFTER THE TRACK

His days at the track over, Crossfire the greyhound ran the risk of being put down. Thankfully Northeast Animal Shelter has a Greyhound Program in which we take in retired greyhounds from the racetrack and find them loving, forever homes.

When Crossfire arrived at the shelter, he was timid, and weary, beaten down from his exhausting years at the races. We knew we had to find him a home, not only to let him heal his body, but his spirit as well.

That very same night, after the staff had left to go home, Crossfire escaped from his crate and, in a nervous fury, chewed the window blinds and frames, and had accidents all over the floor. He was not a happy dog.

What could cause such unhappiness? To Crossfire, it was simple. He wanted to be around people as much as possible. He wanted to know he was loved and cared for, and would never be made to race again. To be left alone was terrifying for this kind animal.

All during the day he was affectionate, wagging his tail at the staff, and enjoying any and all attention he was given. But when Crossfire felt ignored, he would bark loudly until he got the attention he felt he needed. With so much work to do, it was hard for the staff to give attention to Crossfire constantly and do their jobs at the same time!

The need for a home for Crossfire became even more urgent, as the second night he was left alone, he once again escaped and tore up the shelter office. The third night, we had no choice but to put a lock on his crate for his safety. Unable to escape this time, Crossfire shredded the blankets that padded his space.

Crossfire had begun to lose weight, and the staff was nervous, so the next day a staff member took him to the vet. The vet diagnosed that Crossfire suffered



from intense stress, and prescribed him a special diet to settle his tender stomach.


Fortunately, a couple came into the shelter the next day looking to adopt a dog. When they saw how affectionate Crossfire could be, they agreed to take him home despite his nerves. They could only hope he would calm down with time.

But Crossfire didn't calm down. In fact he woke the couple up several times a night to go out—not because he had to go, but because he craved attention. His stomach got worse, and they knew it was time again to take him to the vet. After examination, it was clear Crossfire was a very ill dog, and would need a week of observation with the veterinarian to heal.

During the week, Crossfire's health began to improve, he filled out, and his panic attacks had lessened. The couple had become attached to the sweet greyhound even in the short time they had known him, but they knew he needed someone who worked from home to care for him. They couldn't leave him alone each day, it would be too much for his system. They knew they had to bring him back to the shelter.

When Crossfire returned to us, he seemed depressed. We all hoped it wouldn't be long before someone came in to adopt him.

Much to our joy, a couple who's greyhound of 15 years had passed away a short time ago came by the shelter the next day to say hello. We immediately showed them Crossfire, and they fell in love him and agreed to take him home that day!

Crossfire has since been named Stretch and couldn't be happier in his new forever home. Both his parents work out of the house and can give Stretch all the attention he needs! They describe him as "goofy" "playful" and "clever". Crossfire's nervous stomach troubles have all gone away. And he even has two cats as housemates that he shares his space with willingly! The couple tells us Stretch is a welcome addition to their lives. 



The Long Road Home *(continued from page 1)*

home. In the meantime, she would stay with one of the kind families in our Foster Care Program. Surely Boots would be happy and soon ready for placement with a forever family. Yet something was very wrong...

The foster family reported that Boots wasn't eating. She still seemed depressed and unwilling to connect to her caregivers. We knew this could indicate a larger problem, so without hesitation we brought her in once more to the vet. This time the vet told us Boots would need an x-ray to get a better understanding of what might be going on. Sure enough, the x-ray showed that Boots had a possibly enlarged spleen. She would need an expensive ultrasound to know for sure. Northeast Animal Shelter knew Boots was worth it—so we had the test administered at our expense. We couldn't let Boots go without trying everything we could think of to keep her healthy.

It turned out her spleen was definitely enlarged. It would have to be removed to save her life! Of course we will always go to any measure to help an animal, so we told the vet to go ahead with the operation. Even though Boots showed very few external signs of the illness, it was too dangerous to wait until she did—by then it might be too late.

Operation day came, and Boots was wheeled off into the backroom of the veterinary hospital. The staff member that brought her, Tiffany, waited silently for Boots to emerge once more. Several hours passed before the door swung open again, and Boots appeared. She was tired, but the vet informed Tiffany that the operation had been a success!

It was time to bring Boots back to the shelter to let her recover and find her a forever home. A few weeks passed, and Boots' health got better each day. Her mood however, was still gray. She wasn't happy no matter what we at the shelter did. Staff members brought her treats, new toys, and even her own bed to cuddle up on. Nothing seemed to work, she needed a forever family fast!

A short time passed before a woman named Heather arrived at the shelter. She spotted Boots, and we told her the long journey Boots had made to recovery, and her prevailing sadness. Heather was determined to help, and to give Boots the home she needed.











The first night in her new home, Boots wandered to the window-sill, and stayed there until morning. Being patient, Heather did not push Boots for affection or encroach on her space, she let her be, and waited.

The very next morning, Heather was awakened by Boots nuzzling her head! Boots had found a match at last.

Northeast Animal Shelter was ecstatic to hear Boots had finally opened up to someone, and found the home she'd been looking for so long. We are happy to say the medical bills, long months spent in recovery, foster family care, and even attempted adoption had led this beautiful cat into the arms of someone who truly needed her. The measure of a dollar cannot compare to the measure of one's heart.

Things We Need

-  Canned dog/cat food
-  Dry food for adult cats or dogs/ Nutro® brand (from pet supply stores)
-  Safe, chewable dog and puppy toys (hard rubber or Nylabones™; fleece, vinyl, or latex)
-  Safe cat/kitten toys, especially those with catnip
-  Paper towels
-  Jars of all-meat baby food for orphaned puppies and kittens
-  Trash bags (13 and 55 gallon sizes)
-  Polaroid film (for OneStep camera)

OUR GREYHOUND RESCUE PROGRAM

You have probably heard of the terrible plight of racing greyhounds. When these beautiful, graceful creatures end their "career" at the racetrack, Northeast Animal Shelter is able to place some of them into our Greyhound Rescue Program.

These wonderful dogs come to our shelter in less than perfect condition, to say the least. They are underweight and desperately in need of love. They are not spayed or neutered, and they often need routine medical care.

Greyhounds make remarkably great companions. These gentle animals require minimal exercise and a comfortable couch. If you think you would like to share your life with a greyhound, stop by for a visit!

Our commitment to rescuing Greyhounds and finding them loving homes is made possible by people like you. Your tax-deductible gift to the Shelter helps cover the cost of caring for these animals.

E-Mail Center



Compose

Send Cancel Save Draft Spell Check

Separate multiple addresses with a comma

To: northeastanimalshelter.org

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Thank you

Attach File: Choose File no file selected

Signature: None Send copy to Sent Mail folder Send copy to INB...

Message:

"A few weeks ago I came down and adopted the 4 month old sisters Greta & Garbo. They're wonderful, they really are. Thank you again for your help, and for caring for the girls until I was able to come down and meet them."

Additional Attachments:

Compose

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To: northeastanimalshelter.org

Cc:

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Subject: Thank you

Attach File: Choose File no file selected

Signature: None Send copy to Sent Mail folder Send

Message:

"My husband and I adopted Amos last Friday. He is an absolute Angel. We would like to thank you for our wonderful boy! We think we are truly lucky to have him!"

Additional Attachments: