

# Animal Tales

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

## Beautiful

One Sunday evening, a small Italian Greyhound-Chihuahua mix limped her way through the garbage bags placed outside the “Cantina del Sol” in Puerto Rico. Flies buzzed around her head, and her chest was bleeding. Weak and alone, without the strength to rip open the garbage bags to find food, she didn’t have long to live.

Mary, the Cantina’s owner, stepped outside to get some fresh air, a break from the bustling kitchen. As she looked around the alley, she noticed a dark outline leaning against the pile of garbage bags to her right. It was nothing she thought... probably a toy someone had thrown away.



The Dog Days of Summer



Just then, the “toy” began to move. Slowly, cautiously, it approached Mary. And as the moonlight crossed its tiny muzzle, Mary could see it was a dog – badly injured and in need of help!

Mary rushed over and saw that the dog had a wire deeply embedded in its skin. Most likely it had been tied up for long periods of time and left without care. Mary scooped the little dog up, and it began to kiss her face! Even though she had been through horrible treatment by humans, she trusted Mary to do the right thing. *Her hope couldn’t be crushed.*

Mary decided then and there to name the dog “Beautiful” to echo the sentiment of the movie “*Life is Beautiful*” – that no matter how terrible the world around you,

*(continued on page 3)*

## Nothing Special

Connie, a four-year-old cat, sat huddled in the corner of a dusty construction site. She had wedged herself between a rusted shovel, and an indent in the bedrock of the foundation to keep warm. Weak from hunger, she didn't move much during the day, and shivered terribly at night from the cold. She hadn't strength to travel far to find help or food.



Harold arrived early at work. It was 7AM and as he donned his construction helmet he could just make out a round tuft of fur through the lifting fog at the corner of the construction site. He didn't think

much of it at the time, and set his mind to work on the long day ahead. As he left that night, the sun sinking into the horizon, he noticed the small ball of fur was still there, tucked neatly behind the shovel.

Day two arrived and Harold now looked immediately to the corner with the rusted shovel. Sure enough, the ball was still there. What was it? A raccoon? A large squirrel? He found his way over to the animal, and saw that it was in fact, a

cat! Connie took, heavy, deep breaths, tired and extremely hungry. Harold wasn't sure what to do. He wasn't sure if it was sick or just sleeping, or even belonged to someone else. He left Connie alone for the rest of the day.

A week passed. Each day Harold would come to work, and each day there Connie would be, over in the corner. One day however, as Connie uncurled herself to try and find some food with what little strength she had left, Harold noticed just how skinny she was. Her bones poked at her skin that sat limp on her body, and she walked very slowly and unsurely. Harold knew he had to do something.

Arriving the next day at work with some cat food, he put it down in front of Connie. Connie picked at it, but didn't trust Harold. She could barely get the few bits of kibble down. Knowing that just a few kernels of kibble wouldn't be enough, Harold returned with a carrier to put Connie in, and brought her right over to Northeast Animal Shelter.

It was then that one of the Shelter staff, Patty, decided to take Connie home to nurse her back to health. Patty and her daughter took turns hand feeding the severely dehydrated and malnourished Connie. They slowly built up trust with her, and Patty's daughter let Connie sleep on her bed each night, cuddled up right next to her (much better than a rusty shovel!). After a month and a half Patty placed Connie with a loving family. Thanks to Harold's kindness and the devotion of Patty and her daughter, Connie has found a forever home at last.

## A New Leash on Life

Northeast Animal Shelter was founded in 1976 in the hopes of rescuing local cats and dogs in need of finding permanent loving homes. Since that time the Shelter has grown to incorporate essential community programs such as the Spay and Neuter Program, the Puppies Across America Program, and the Foster Care Initiative. In thirty years of service to the community, Northeast Animal Shelter has found homes for over 90,000 animals!

Now, as we strive to continue our ambitious programs and rescue efforts, we are eagerly anticipating our move to a brand new state of

the art facility located on Highland Avenue in Salem, MA. Thanks to your generous donations, Northeast Animal Shelter will be able to increase the amount of animals we're able to take in, expand the programs we offer, and even introduce new programs such as the Microchip Implant Program, educational outreach programs, training seminars and workshops.

We look forward to our new home, and to the opportunity to provide many cats and dogs "a new leash on life". For updated information please check our website: [www.northeastanimalshelter.org](http://www.northeastanimalshelter.org).

## Beautiful *(continued from page 1)*



the injustice you may have suffered, one can still choose to have faith in the good of humanity.

Quickly, Mary ran into the kitchen and told the head chef to take over so that she could take Beautiful home to figure out the extent of the damage.

Once at home, Mary could see the injuries weren't something she could repair alone. Beautiful not only had a nasty wire wrapped tightly around her chest, but also had a bad limp and an ulcer on her back. Now at 10PM on a Sunday night, there were no vets open to give Beautiful the attention she so desperately needed. Mary placed a large bowl of dog food on the floor for Beautiful to eat. She accepted the offering, and wagged her tail while she ate, despite her weak state.

Mary called a friend, Linda, who was a local rescuer and asked her to come over. Linda took one look at Beautiful, and knew they both had to fight for the little dog's life. Thinking quickly, Linda called a vet friend of hers and asked him to come to the house to see Beautiful. He agreed, and

arrived shortly with antibiotics and vitamins. He carefully clipped the wire around Beautiful's chest.

The next two weeks of recovery were difficult. Beautiful struggled, but made steady progress. She was nearly all better, but still suffered from a limp due to serious problems with her knees, yet it was time to find Beautiful a forever family.

### It was time to call Northeast Animal Shelter!

When Beautiful arrived at the Shelter after her long journey, she was still bright eyed – wagging her tail and giving the staff kisses. The day after her arrival, a woman, Beatrice, came into the Shelter looking for a dog. She told us she was never sure she wanted one before now, but something in her told her it was time, that somehow a dog would bring fulfillment in her life. As she wandered around the shelter greeting each of our animals, one in particular caught her eye, Beautiful!

Beatrice thought this had to be the dog for her, but she got a little nervous, thinking of all the responsibility (we told her Beautiful would need additional medical care and that the Shelter would pay for it). Beatrice decided she would go to lunch and think about it, but as she drove away she knew she couldn't leave Beautiful, that they were somehow meant to be together. Beatrice never went to lunch. She drove to the local pet store and picked up all the supplies she would need to make Beautiful's forever home a comfortable one.

Many months have passed since Beautiful's adoption, and she has been renamed "Amber". The spirit of her original name lives on however in her endless happiness, and kindness toward all who know her. Beatrice tells us that each day they delight in waking up to each other. After three difficult knee surgeries, Amber is now walking normally, but for those extra long trips Beatrice has a stroller! People walking by love to say hello, and there's even one woman who carries biscuits in her car because she often passes Beatrice and Amber on her way to work! Life was hard for Amber, but her hope persevered, and love carried her into the arms of someone who will always appreciate her warm spirit.

## 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



Liquid laundry detergent



Liquid or powdered bleach



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)



First Class Postage Stamps – 41¢ & 26¢

## Summer Pet Tips

Here are some tips every pet owner should know about summer care for their cat or dog.

- NEVER leave your pet in the car. Even though there can be a breeze outside, the temperature in the car can rapidly rise while you are away, making it dangerous for your pet to stay there.
- Check your pet's water dish several times a day during the summer months. Just like you, your pet will need plenty of hydration to stay healthy in the heat.
- If you are transporting an animal, always bring enough water, so that he/she does not attempt to drink from contaminated puddles outside.

## MAIL BOX



*"Thank you for all your hard work at Northeast Animal Shelter. We adopted our dog Sadie in June of 2003 ... we feel so blessed that she has become part of our life."*  
- MASSACHUSETTS

*"Thank you so much for the perfect kitten for our home. Liam is a pleasure ... the kids love him so much."*  
- MEDFORD, MA

*"Fifteen years ago my family adopted a beagle mix puppy from the shelter, Buster. He has been such a good pet and I love him so much. I am sending a donation ... a little something to help so that other families will adopt a pet that has been so wonderful, just like my dog."*  
- DORCHESTER, MA