

July 2007

# Miranda's Rescue

## For Large and Small Animals

1603 Sandy Prairie Road, Fortuna, CA 95540 707-725-4449

[mirandasrescue.org](http://mirandasrescue.org)



THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF MIRANDA'S RESCUE

# Miranda's Message

## Is your Fido a *Miranda's American Fido?* Find Out and support the Canine Castle!

Though the grand opening of Miranda's Rescue "Canine Castle", a 40' x 170' permanent building designed to safeguard hundreds of dogs and puppies, and to facilitate adoptions is delayed while the Creative-Funding Campaign for its costly construction continues, a King and Queen of the Canine Castle are currently being sought!

Hear ye, hear ye, Humboldt County dog-guardians! Shannon Miranda, the Kingdom's heroic Knight of animal-rescue has issued a proclamation that the deadline for photographs for the **American Fido** contest seeking the true Castle-rulers has been extended to August 1<sup>st</sup>! Do, it's not a doggie-singing competition, but a friendly skirmish for the most photogenic male and female pooches in the land! Created back in April, as part of the Canine Castle Funding Campaign – **Miranda's American Fido Contest** will yield no losers because each \$50 entry fee is designated a donation toward the \$150,000 doggie-dream house, and the photo of each furry contestant will ultimately, permanently grace the entryway walls of the Castle!

The winning King and Queen, who will reign forever over the Canine Castle, will be announced in mid-August, and soon after will face their adoring public and the paparazzi! Entry forms can be found at PETCO, Fin and Feather, or the Farm Store, as well as on Miranda's Rescue website [www.mirandasrescue.org](http://www.mirandasrescue.org). Photos, checks and a paragraph or two describing your special Fido, along with his or her "talents" and attributes, should be mailed to **Miranda's American Fido Contest**, 1603 Sandy Prairie Road, Fortuna, CA 95540. Good Luck!



Pictured here, accompanied by Shannon Miranda and volunteer, Gail Holder, is the royal couple pro tem: "Jake," posing majestically as King and sweet "Maggie" depicting the Queen!

# The Story of the Canine Castle

## How the Canine Castle Dream Began:

According to Shannon Miranda – founder of the largest and most diverse animal sanctuary on the North Coast – the dream of a big, enclosed building to protect the Rescue’s dogs and puppies from Humboldt’s often brutal weather, and to facilitate happy endings by making potential adopters comfortable as they select their new pet, is not new. Although the building design was completed nearly four years ago by ELT Enterprises, one of Humboldt County’s premier construction Contractors – plagued by ongoing financial challenges, inclusive of veterinary bills up to \$8,000 monthly, and handicapped by recently resolved, land-permit issues – Shannon was “utterly frustrated by technical delays and basic lack of funding.” Early last December, Eric Terkelsen, himself a dog-lover and proprietor of ELT Enterprises, called Shannon to ascertain whether the long awaited building project would soon begin. Terkelsen generously offered Miranda’s Rescue a \$3,000 donation toward the structure, and just weeks earlier, K9-Angels founder and longtime Miranda’s volunteer, Gail Holder, had come up with the name, “Canine Castle,” along with the idea for a long term, creative-funding campaign to finance Shannon’s long-delayed dream. Thus was Shannon Miranda’s “vision of a wonderful, safe-sanctuary, complete with puppy room, play area, training room, infirmary, and private family ‘bonding’ area”, moved from fantasy to reality.

## A Community Endeavor:

Holder, volunteer ‘publicity-director’ for the Castle project, says that “while community response has been amazing thus far, gleaning nearly a third of the money needed, there is still a long way to go before our goal is achieved.” Initially, according to Holder, the challenge for funding was aimed chiefly at Humboldt’s business community, and after VP Building, a partner to ELT Enterprises, an O&M Enterprises of Arcata, each donated \$3,000 to the Castle, Eric Terkelsen came up with the **Humboldt Heros Hall of Fame** commemorating each local business to donate \$3,000 or more, on a beautiful plaque planned for the entrance to the Castle. Surprisingly though, private citizens have been calling in “wanting to know whether they can team up with a friend or two to make the \$3,000 minimum for the Hall of Fame Plaque”, and of course the answer is yes! In a county where government does so little for our animal community, and where pet overpopulation is an ongoing crisis, the concern and generosity of people is heartwarming. Jim Raith, who owns “Jim’s Signs” in Eureka has donated 200 custom-designed bumper stickers to be given to those financially supporting this project. It’s great what everyone’s doing to help!”

“Once the foundation is laid, as the funding reaches the half-way point,” proclaims Eric Terkelsen, who is very anxious to get the building underway, “construction of the Canine Castle can begin!” Clearly, this structure will benefit all of Humboldt County, according to all involved, as it will facilitate admittance to countless more dogs and puppies currently being turned away by the few other perpetually overcrowded, local facilities. As adoptions occur more rapidly in a vastly improved environment – still more animals will be saved. “Presentation is everything,” is Shannon’s view, “and many beautiful adult dogs who have been here for months or even years, will surely get the chance at wonderful forever homes.”

## Many Heroes Are Still Needed:

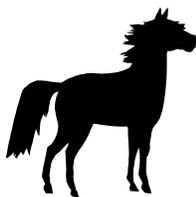
Hailed by many as a ‘hero’, due to his legendary commitment to the welfare of our animal community, Shannon Miranda, who believes “the true champions in this challenging and often heartbreaking work, are my volunteers and the generous folks who contribute both time and money to benefit the animals,” is currently seeking “a lot of heroes to help us build this ‘house-of-hope’ for the safety and comfort of the countless homeless dogs so anxiously awaiting adoption.”

While the **American Fido** competition will unveil a great ‘King and Queen’, as well as significant donations toward Castle Construction, local business owners and generous individuals interested in participating in building the Canine Castle are encouraged to call 726-9375 or 725-4449 for more information, or may contribute directly to the Miranda’s Canine Castle account at Redwood Capital Bank, 402 “G” Street in Eureka. Miranda’s Rescue is hoping to hold the Grand Opening of Canine Castle before the onset of winter this year!

If you love animals, love to party and love to part with your money for a great cause, then join us at...

# MIRANDA'S RESCUE

## 10th Annual



*Wine & Cheese*

*OPEN ANIMAL HOUSE*

*SUNDAY JULY 29, 2007 11am - 4pm*

-  This "free event" is a great end to the Fortuna Redwood Autoxpo!
-  Bring the family dressed for summer fun & enjoy an event-filled afternoon along the beautiful landscape of the Eel River in "sunny" Fortuna !
-  Enter one of our super prize *raffles* or take a seat on a bale of hay and enjoy *tasty treats and refreshments* while listening to great country music!
-  \**Live and silent auctions!* (\*live auction begins at 2pm)
-  Kids will have fun too at our unique *\*\*petting zoo* complete with *\*\*horse rides*. Romp around in the *elephant jolly jump* (\*\*events are 11:00am - 1:00pm only). They may even want to adopt a pet or have their photo taken on a horse!
-  Miranda's Rescue is a community supported, non-profit, no-kill rescue & adoption facility that cares for over *300 large & small animals* on its 30+ acres of land.
-  If you have any *questions* about this event (or animal related), call us at (707) 616-5018. Remember, make adoption your first option at Miranda's Rescue!

Directions to Miranda's Rescue, 1603 Sandy Prairie Rd., Fortuna, CA 95540: From Eureka, take Hwy 101 S to Drake Hill Road exit (just south of Fortuna). Turn right heading towards Eel River. Follow the parking signs. From Rio Dell, take Hwy 101 N to Hanson's Truck stop. Turn left then an immediate right onto Sandy Prairie Road. Follow this road along Eel River for ½ mile & follow the parking signs.

Miranda's Rescue, Inc. 501(c)(3) status Tax I.D. # 68-0417389

# A FEW OF OUR ADOPTABLE CATS



This is only a **SAMPLE** of literally dozens of beautiful cats who reside in our “Kitty Condos”. Miranda’s Rescue is a great place to adopt a cat because you can “hang out” in the Condos and let the right cat choose you! Our adoptable cats don’t live in cages, they live in a healthful (enclosed of course) outdoor setting, with plenty of food, water and shelter. They can bask in the sun, run, play, and meet admirers and potential adopters.

All of our kitties have been spayed or neutered, have all their shots and a flea treatment. All they don’t have is a home of their own to rule. Come and visit!

*They play with one another in the sun  
Stalk rodent holes  
Traverse their well-worn paths  
Or just relax in the grass with ears barely  
exposed indicating their silent presence.*

They are our adopted feral felines, creatures we are proud to host in exchange for their keeping our mouse-infested buildings in check.

Thank you Miranda’s Rescue and Bless the Beasts for your efforts in making this mutually rewarding connection possible.

**Signed, Appreciative Ranchers**



Pictured is a battery-operated programmable feeder that Miranda’s Rescue and Bless the Beasts has used very successfully to feed feral kitties daily when the owners of the property are away and unable to feed.

# A FEW OF OUR ADOPTABLE DOGS



**LEXI** is a Heeler/Boxer Mix who was brought to the Rescue in January of 2007 after a good samaritan found her wandering around. He was unable to keep her, so she was brought to the Rescue. She is a very sweet dog who loves to play with other dogs and go for long walks. She is very sweet, and warms up to people very quickly. she would enjoy having a good size yard, and having a family that will throw balls for her to chase.

**Dude** is a Border Collie Mix who was brought to the Rescue in April of 2007. He was born in Aspen, CO and made his way to California! He is a very sweet dog who would do best in a home that will make sure he gets daily walks and is played with daily! He is very sweet, and does know the command of "sit". He is housebroken, and is also Micro-chipped.



**Jackson** is one of the Mad River dogs that was rescued in August of 2006. He is very sweet and loving, and will warm up to a new owner as time goes by! He too, needs an owner who will be patient and take the time to love him. He too is considered a special needs dogs, as he will require a deeper understanding of dog behavior. He enjoys being out in the fields, and is also content just hanging out in a dog house!! He is shy, but he does come around!!

**Jake** is a Lab/Pit Mix who was brought to the Rescue by Fortuna PD in February of 2007 after he was found wandering Fortuna. He is still a younger dog and loves to play!!! He gets along well with other dogs, and would do best in a home with children over the age of 10. He enjoys going for walks, and likes to chase balls when thrown for him! He is very sweet, and would make a great companion/playmate for a dog needing a buddy!



**Lola** is a Pit Mix who was brought to the Rescue in April of 2007 due to her owners house being destroyed. She is a very sweet and loving dog who does have a lot of strength to her. She does get along well with other dogs, and loves to run around and play. She would do best in a house with older children or no children at all due to her not knowing her own strength. She is house trained!!

**If you can't have a dog where you live or are allergic to dogs—but just love them anyway—borrow one and take it for a walk along the beautiful riverbar at the Rescue. You'll both have a great time! Call 725-4449 to volunteer.**

## WILL WORK FOR FOOD

In the last newsletter we talked of some really great folks who invited homeless ferals to “work for food” (plus supplements) on their ranch of very large acreage. We successfully relocated ferals who were too unsocialized with humans or just plain didn’t like humans, with an outcome even better than anticipated.

After reading our story, Nora, in Fortuna thought she could help cats in a small way. Nora has a ranch in Shasta County and lives part time between the ranch and her “city” home in Fortuna, spending more time in Shasta. She loves cats but felt she wasn’t home enough for a pet cat. She regularly feeds deer and small wild critters, so why not feral cats?

She responded to our plea in the last newsletter and called Shannon Miranda and offered to add “some” cats to the mix. After driving to Shasta and scoping the ranch out, we were all “thumbs up”. We’re happy to say that, 21 cats later, all seem to be doing well.

These particular cats were from one colony in Scotia. A skilled trapper (from our vet’s office) trapped then arranged for the spays/neuters, rabies shots, parasite treatments and eartrips. After that Nora took over. (She’s attempted to photo shoot these ferals for this newsletter, **but pose they don’t!**)

Thank You, Nora, for giving these wonderful, freedom-loving cats a chance at a future. If there is anyone else who thinks they might be able to offer kitties (from a couple to hoards) a habitat to call “home”, please call Shannon Miranda or Bless the Beasts (444-0408). It could change your life; it certainly would theirs.

*Bless the Beasts*



Relocated feral kitty hunting a mouse in the forest in Shasta

## GIVE ‘EM A BRAKE

(the animals AND the humans)

While driving north on 101 on a morning in mid-June, I was on the overpass just above the north end of Fortuna when a strange movement from the shoulder caught my eye. It was the frantic and desperate bobbing of the head of a doe who had been hit. She couldn’t move off the road but was up on her two front legs, most likely in shock, as the traffic whizzed mercilessly by her.

As soon as it was safe, I pulled over as did an elderly gent in front of me. Not being local, he suggested I phone 911. Since we were close to Miranda’s Rescue, I called Shannon Miranda who had just gotten to bed after staying up all night with a sick animal. He sounded asleep but when the situation registered in his brain, he said he’d be right there.

The next vehicle that pulled over was a local veterinarian accompanied by his assistant. As other helpful motorists pulled over, they joined the vet assistant in attempting to slow down traffic. At this point there was nothing for me to do so I exited the 101 at Palmer Blvd. and circled back to see if Shannon had arrived.

What I saw was unbelievable. Some traffic, enroute to work no doubt, refused to slow down for any reason. And there was reason. The vet was trying to sedate the poor creature who was struggling to move in her fright. She had managed to drag herself closer into the roadway. Shannon had arrived with a quilt grabbed from his living room sofa and was attempting to cover her. The only way to do that on such a large (and very pregnant), struggling doe was to throw the quilt with himself on top of her.

So here he was lying down on top of the quilt on the doe with traffic refusing to slow down, feeling certain that it was all over for both of them. There was quick discussion on the merits of trying to save the babies but that would involve keeping mom alive and loading her in a trailer, IF the babies could even be saved. This would cause the doe tremendous suffering. They opted against that. After a quick call to authorities, they put the poor doe out of her misery.

Later, when Shannon recounted the days events, he said that in the heat of the moment he thought that none of them would make it out of this situation alive due to the unwillingness of the passing drivers to GIVE ‘EM A BRAKE.

Alice Millington

## BYE BYE BIRDIES

I like birds---I really do. But when they're Night Herons who are big like egrets and who fish the river all night and roost all day in trees over my deck, my walkways, my landscaping, my yard furniture, my dogs, my dog kennel and occasionally even ME dressed in clean clothes with my hair freshly washed; it's real easy not to like birds.

When an extended family of Night Herons decides to take over all of your Cypress, it's real easy for even an animal lover to get evil thoughts. I tried obnoxious music, bouncing the sun's rays off mirrors, both tactics to no avail. What else could one do to get birds roosting higher than 35 feet to move on.

I called my wise friend, Jean, in Ferndale where this problem is all too common and was told that there's nothing you can do about those "--\_ it birds". Such language from an 85-year old! But we have highly developed human brains and they're just birdbrains. Surely I could prevail in this matter.

My tree man suggested taking out the trees to the tune of \$3,000 bucks. But wait! Shannon Miranda knows all things about animals. He's known to be somewhat of a guru. His suggestion was priceless and he didn't even charge for a consultation. Buy some reflective silver party balloons from a dollar store and tie 'em up at roosting level to scare the damn birds off. If that fails, remove the trees.

So after a mere \$30 in balloons and \$100 to Climber Dan, it took all of maybe 30 minutes to roll out the unwelcome mat and scare the crap out of 'em. It's been about six months now and I see the Herons have gotten comfortable a couple of blocks over in a neighbor's trees. Better him than me.

I think I owe Shannon Miranda a fat donation. If this story helps you out; you do too.

A Rio Dellian



**Black-Crowned Night Heron**

They feed on fish all night, returning to their roost in the morning squawking loudly ---not to mention relieving themselves on everything underneath!

# Saving one animal will not change the world.... ...but it will change the world for that animal.

### Miranda's Rescue Wish List

- ◆ Quality Dog & Cat Food
- ◆ Flea Medications
- ◆ Rubber gloves
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Hay and grain for large animals
- ◆ \$\$ MONEY \$\$
- ◆ Non-clumping kitty litter
- ◆ Postage stamps
- ◆ Towels and blankets for beds
- ◆ \$\$ MONEY \$\$
- ◆ Lumber, wire, gates
- ◆ Fencing supplies
- ◆ Warm dog houses
- ◆ Pet beds
- ◆ Washable cotton rugs
- ◆ Sturdy garbage bags
- ◆ \$\$ MONEY \$\$
- ◆ Volunteers
- ◆ Cat trees and furniture
- ◆ Security camera
- ◆ Leashes and choke collars
- ◆ Cat groomers and dog walkers
- ◆ Bleach and laundry soap
- ◆ More volunteers
- ◆ Food bowls
- ◆ More volunteers
- ◆ Worming medications
- ◆ Gift certificates from pet stores and feed stores
- ◆ Foster caretakers



◆Can you pet cats, walk dogs, change litterboxes, scoop poop, feed, water, groom, medicate and LOVE the animals? Are you dependable? Can you get "Down and Dirty"? Then the animals at Miranda's Rescue need you! **Want to Volunteer? Call 725-4449** ◆Miranda's Thrift Store in Fortuna also needs volunteers-Do you enjoy working with great people and sorting through great stuff? **Call 725-4166 for information.**

