



Miranda's Rescue

For Large and Small Animals

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

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Miranda's Message

LEAH AND MELISSA....

"SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME"

Written by Gail Holder

Melissa Norwood is an amazing person who knows the meaning of commitment. A dedicated mother and foster-mom, Melissa currently has a total of nine children in her care - six of whom she recently celebrated having legally adopted. Abused and abandoned kids, however, are not the only focus of Melissa's devotion - she has a comparable passion for animals.

This energetic young woman once served as full-time, canine adoption-facilitator at Miranda's Rescue, and in Fall 2006, true to Melissa's ability to attract and to heal, the most damaged and desperate of creatures - she adopted "Leah," one of the few survivors of unspeakable abuse and neglect. Rescued by Shannon Miranda from a cattle-dog breeding-operation gone awry, the handful of canines who survived were cared for and rehabilitated at Miranda's Rescue. These survivors were dubbed by the media, "the Mad River Dogs."

When in August 2006, Shannon conveyed the eight remaining dogs to emergency veterinary care, then to his home - a nightmare had ended and a 'love-story' was begun! All, eventually transferred to the rescue-section of the property to be socialized and prepared for adoption - Melissa recalls how the little dog whose "angel-eyes" and demure, sweet personality had captivated her. Leah evolved into the Rescue's "mascot," roaming the grounds daily at Melissa's heels.

Consciously, Melissa did not intend to adopt another animal, but the bond between she and the dog who had triumphantly emerged from such abysmal beginnings - was now unbreakable!



(Continued on the next page)

Melissa Norwood, Leah the dog, and one of her sons, Brennan, relax together.

Leah and Melissa continued....

Melissa called Leah her “one-in-a-million”, best dog she ever had. At six years of age, Leah underwent a routine spay surgery. Melissa said, “Something told me to take her home for a few days to heal.” Statistically improbable, Leah had a bad reaction to the anesthesia, and remained on a life-saving I.V. in Melissa’s bed for three days until the crisis passed. Had Melissa not followed her intuition, Leah may have died.

Promising Leah she would never again be left in a kennel, Melissa officialized the adoption! Though clearly Melissa’s dog, Leah adored and protected all nine children, was kind to other animals, and cherished her daily car-rides while ‘Mom,’ transported kids and did errands. Melissa’s daughter, Sarah, frequently brought home jerky-treats, and playful Leah “practically taught herself” that trick where a piece of jerky is placed on the nose and the dog thrusts it upward, catching the airborne-treat and ‘earning’ its consumption!

Melissa feels “blessed” to have had Leah’s companionship for over two years, and is still amazed that this “wonderful dog, never lost her innocence,” and when privileged to penetrate Leah’s “shy little façade,” Melissa realized Leah’s boundless capacity to love. Indeed, Melissa’s ‘house-dog,’ never again slept in a kennel, instead curling-up nightly in the warmth of her guardian’s bed. Asymptomatic until late this January when Leah’s breathing seemed “labored and her hearty appetite diminished,” the 8 year-old cattle-dog - who had experienced the worst and best of humankind - was diagnosed with “a large, inoperable mass,” in her chest.

In February, embraced by her beloved friend, Leah peacefully transitioned from ‘heaven-on-earth’ with Melissa, back to her luminous, Universal Source... Melissa says her relationship with Leah was one of “mutual-guardianship.” “We watched over each other,” and this kind of human-animal bond - all pet-lovers know - remains unbroken, even by death...



Leah at home

A Pet's Prayer

*I ask for the privilege
of not being born...
not to be born until
you can assure me of a home
and a master to protect me,
and the right to live
as long as I am physically able
to enjoy life...
not to be born until
my body is precious
and men have ceased to exploit it
because it is cheap
and plentiful.*

~ Author Unknown

Remember this number when you shop at the CO-OP in Eureka or Arcata! Miranda's Rescue has been accepted to participate in the Register Donation Program. That means when you tell the cashier to use 82012, you allow the CO-OP to collect an additional 1% donation to Miranda's Rescue. The Rescue must meet the minimum of at least \$2500 each month in grocery activity, so EVERYONE who shops at the CO-OP needs to remember this number—write it on your checkbook or card! 82012

82012

Thank you to Tom at Ring's Pharmacy in Ferndale. We appreciate the donations made toward our cat care. We thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Gracie and Goldie Get a “Golden Opportunity”

Melanie and Brenda were enjoying our 11th annual “Wine and Cheese” fundraiser in July 2008 when “Mel” decided to visit the dog kennels. She immediately fell for Gracie, one of our senior dogs, and for Goldie, now known as Crystal, a younger female dog.

Mel and Brenda have always had dogs in their lives but at that particular time they were without a canine companion; they just had plenty of pet cats, in addition to raccoons and feral cats. Mel came to the Rescue about twice a week to bond with these two chosen gals before they were finally loaded up into the car and taken to their new home filled with warm, plush beds and lots of love.

As Goldie’s and Gracie’s new humans spent time to get to know them, the other dogs and the cats at the Rescue benefited from these visits as Mel always made sure to bring food, plenty of treats, lots of tennis balls, blankets and towels. She has also spent a lot of her time at the Rescue grooming dogs. The giving didn’t stop there. These two wonderful women donated a very valuable gift basket for a December fundraiser!

Gracie, taking on a new lease for life but, still, surprisingly for an older dog, keeps very active indulging in her love to play ball. She and Crystal get along with each other great and “have each other’s back” when a wayward cat strolls by. Not only are these two blessed dogs lucky to have such caring humans, the Rescue is blessed by, and greatly appreciates, all that Mel and Brenda do for us.

THANKS Melanie and Brenda!!



Goldie, now called Crystal, at the Rescue, before she went home with Mel and Brenda.

On any given day, there are an average of 400 animals at Miranda’s Rescue. Here’s how your donation will help care for them.

- ▶ **\$90 helps subsidize the spay/neuter of a cat or dog, ensuring that fewer unwanted animals are born.**
- ▶ **\$200 provides medications and emergency care for new arrivals**
- ▶ **\$500 or more provides life-saving surgery and medical care for severely abused or injured animals.**

FOOD DRIVE!



Help feed the animals at the Rescue by bringing donations of dog food, cat food, and non-clumping cat litter.

When: 1st Saturday of every month.

Location: Short Street between 15th and Wabash (In front of Costco)

Time: 11 to 3



ALL CREATURES...EVEN GEESE!

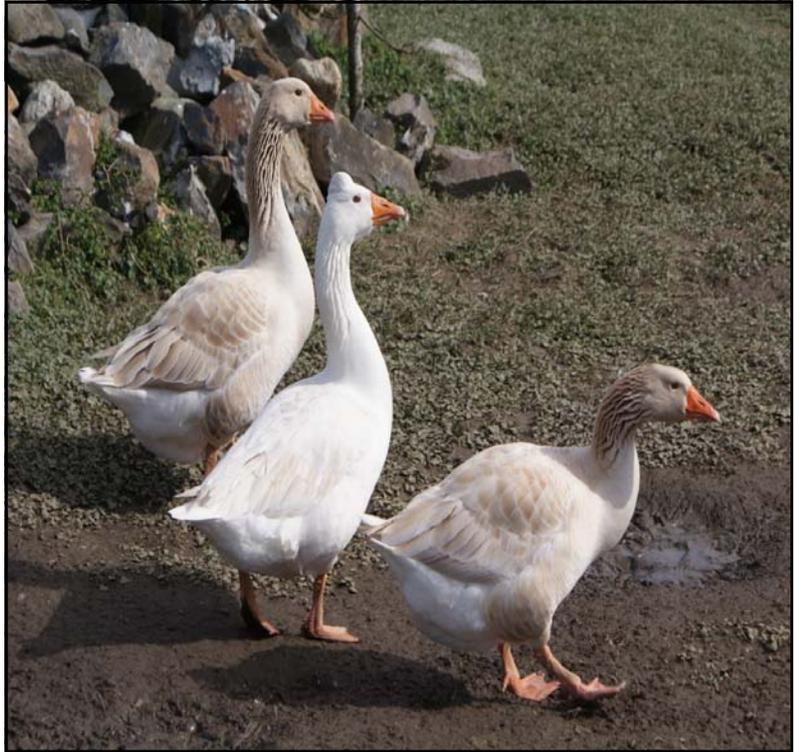
By Gail Holder

Any driver who has navigated that challenging section of 101 North from Eureka's outskirts to Arcata, knows how hazardous this region is to navigate - even in ideal conditions: In early February, a local couple encountered a situation which they rightfully perceived as both perilous to several stranded animals, and potentially deadly to unsuspecting motorists.

The couple observed five adult geese in the median-strip between fast-moving North and Southbound traffic, and were horrified to witness some of the birds darting back and forth across traffic - causing several vehicles to swerve erratically in order to avoid hitting the hapless animals. Starting with onsite cell-phone calls, the good Samaritans say it took them three days of unsuccessful contacts to "every animal control agency we could think of," until they finally reached Shannon Miranda - the one person known to drop everything to save an animal!

Once Shannon was alerted, a plan was conceived, and a 'team' of rescuers, including the aforementioned couple - armed with determination, sturdy butterfly-nets and the courage to perform a potentially dangerous mission - rescued all the birds, then transported them to Miranda's Rescue! According to the good Samaritans, without their persistence, this happy-ending would not have happened.

Thanks to Shannon, whose respect and concern extends to "all creatures, great and small," traffic-safety has been restored on the 101 near Arcata, and there is a lovely gaggle of geese strutting joyously about the barn-area at Miranda's Rescue!



Three of the 101 Geese, now safely grazing at Miranda's Rescue, after their daring escapade.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A DAY OF FUN!

12th Annual Wine & Cheese Open House

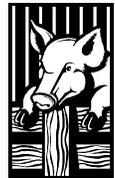
A Benefit for Miranda's Rescue

Sunday, August 2, 2009

12 pm to 4 pm

LOCAL FARE, RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION, LIVE AUCTION

(If you would like to donate or volunteer, call Sandy at 764-3966)



A TEA PARTY FOR THE ANIMALS

By Janine Volkmar

I'd had tea parties with my two birthday "sisters" before, but this year's was the best ever!

Angela Lundeen, Georganne D'Usseau, and I were all born on January 15th, although in different years. Since it was my 60th birthday, I invited my friend Darlene Marlow, who turned 60 a few days before me, to join us. The four of us invited friends to come for afternoon tea at Trinidad Town Hall on January 17th. Taking our cue from a child's birthday party in Arcata, we asked that the only presents guests bring be dog or cat food for Miranda's Rescue.

The response from the ninety people who attended was overwhelming: 500 pounds of animal food and an amazing \$1200 in cash donations!

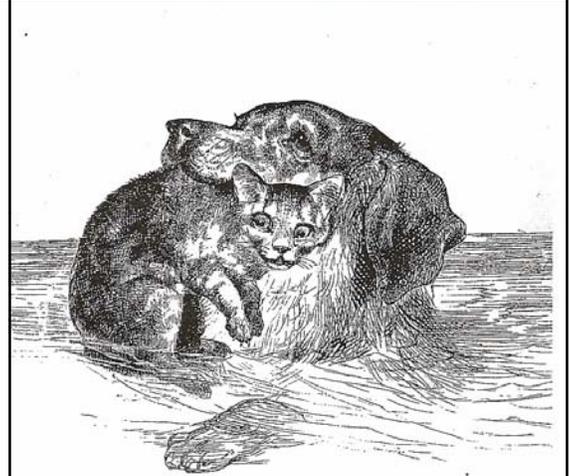
We served a traditional afternoon tea including scones with Devonshire cream and jam, watercress and egg sandwiches with all the crusts cut off, cookies, homemade fudge, and assorted nut breads. The tables were set with my collection of vintage tablecloths, napkins, and a mix of heirloom and flea market china. Because we used no paper goods, the entire trash for the event was one small bag.

Our enthusiastic young volunteer servers, April Antunez, Calvin Brekeen, Elena O'Shea, and Larkin O'Shea carried teapots of Lapsang Souchong and Earl Grey tea to the many guests. Our servers practiced saying "Lapsang Souchong" carefully and their professional style was the hit of the party.

The whole community pitched in with musical entertainment, baking, set up, dishwashing, and clean up. When asked to help, and told that it was for Miranda's, everyone said "yes" with great gusto. Our oldest volunteer was 90 and our youngest was 12.



Pictured at the Tea Party for the Animals are: Angela Lundeen, Janine Volkmar, Shannon Miranda, Georganne D'Usseau, and Darlene Marlow.



a tea party for
Miranda's Animal Rescue

Thanks to Jackie Hogan, Sandra Fredrickson, Mary Wilbur, Kathrin Burtleson, Connie Butler, Ned Simmons, Sam Lundeen, Matt and Sierra Brody, Julia and David Walker, Susan Daniel, Bea Stanley, and many others.

Shannon Miranda spoke eloquently about the work of the Shelter. Dean Paris, Shannon, and Debbie Scheffler all enjoyed the goodies and tea. They carted the animal food away for us on their way to a horse rescue.

As I drove the last load of dishes and teapots home, the sun was setting in Trinidad. It was an exhausting but wonderful day, a birthday I will remember.

Thanks, Janine!

Please **HELP TANNER**

Tanner has been the beloved mascot of MIRANDA'S RESCUE since he arrived abandoned at our gates three years ago as a young kitty. Tanner took charge of the facility and its crew on the day of his arrival and has "managed" the place since. He is a very special cat. He constantly patrols the perimeters and tells us what needs to be looked into. He spends breaks and lunch times with us to keep up with all of the happenings. He shares lunch whether we want him to or not. Tanner aids in the temperament testing of our canine guests to make sure they have overcome their instinctive animosity of their feline brethren; no dog passes without Tanner's approval!!

On February 26, 2009, Tanner was struck by a car and suffered a broken pelvis. He was discovered trying to drag his broken body home where he knew help would be found.

Dr. Broaddus in Anderson agreed to take on the delicate work of surgery on Tanner. He was pleased to help an animal rescue and he is trying to get one started in the Redding area. Ferndale vet stabilized Tanner with meds, prepared/inserted the IV equipment for anesthesia, and provided a set of X-rays. Susan, the Rescue's office manager, drove Tanner to Anderson with Tanner in his laundry basket. He remained calm and behaved himself. His pelvis was fractured in two places. One above the head of the femur, the weight-bearing portion of the pelvis. For Tanner to be expected to use his bowels and tail, a plate had to be put in place; the separated bone pressed on nerves causing the disability. The other fracture, not being in a weight-bearing area will heal nicely on its own. The X-rays did not show all of the soft-tissue damage which Dr. Broadus discovered during the operation. The muscles and tendons were ripped from the bones. All of that had to be repaired, so Tanner has a lot of artificial connecting tissue in place in addition to the permanent metal plate.

The operation appears to be a success. Tanner does have tail function as evidenced by smacking Susan in the face when she is working with him. He has continuously used his litter box and, starting 3/9/09, is starting to try to walk. He had his surgery on Saturday (!) February 28 and is on 6 weeks of bed rest



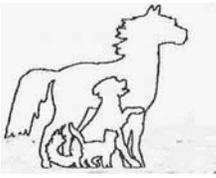
Tanner is resting and recuperating at Susan's home on a nice comfy pillow, until he is ready to return to his job at the rescue.

from then. He will be given antibiotics for 1 more week. He is in a spare room at Susan's house where the morning sun warms his face. A new set of X-rays will be taken by the Ferndale vet at the 4 week point and emailed to Dr. Broaddus for follow-up. If all goes well, he will return to the Rescue in late April to take up where he left off.

Tanner is such a charmer; one of the many reasons he is the mascot of the crew. Within the 12 hours that he was in the Anderson clinic, he had, with all of his sweet-talking, charmed all of the clinic personnel. They "ooh"ed and "aah"ed over him and didn't want to let him go.

Donation jars have been distributed throughout the community to help offset costs. Typically this type of surgery costs many hundreds of dollars. Especially since this is an employee effort, all donations help. Regardless, Tanner would not be alive and getting well without the extreme generosity of Dr. Broaddus, his staff, and the generosity of Ferndale vet. Huge thanks to all.

Will you please assist in this volunteer effort to help pay for the expensive medical help Tanner needs to live his full, and healthy, life? Any amount will help since this is a group effort and it all adds up. Use the coupon on the back page and say your donation is to help Tanner. Thanks!



Miranda's Rescue
1603 Sandy Prairie Rd.
Fortuna, CA 95540

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Miranda's Rescue really needs your help! Due to the current economy, our corporate sponsorship has been greatly reduced. We are struggling to survive and care for our hundreds of cats, dogs, birds, reptiles, horses, livestock, and other creatures. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. If you have friends and relatives who really don't need more "things" - think about a donation in their name to Miranda's Rescue. THANKS! No amount is too small—everything helps!

Donations are tax-deductible! Mail to: **Miranda's Rescue, 1603 Sandy Prairie Rd., Fortuna, CA 95540**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Chose one: Enclosed Check or money order Please charge my visa/mc

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

E-mail address (Get your NL by email, not snail mail!) _____

MIRANDA'S RESCUE WISH LIST

Money! (Cash, check, MO, or credit card) Volunteers are desperately needed to care for the animals. We really need hay and grain, cat food and plain clay non-clumping kitty litter. Cash cards from local farm/pet stores are great too.