

Down East Animal Refuge picture story

DEAR is a **no**-kill dog rescue located on Grasunan Farm, which is owned and operated by **Crossdogs Rescue Ministry** in Scotland Neck, NC.

It began in 2004 with a handful of volunteers, and to this day, still operates with the same dedicated dog lovers.

DEAR has rescued over 700 dogs & pups during these years placing them in wonderful homes from Nantucket to Florida.

We currently have 35 dogs on hand for adoption of which about 6 have been with us since the first year.

I would like to take you on a picture tour of **DEAR** and some of its past activities.

In the beginning . . .

This shelter was made from a tying tobacco shed back in the 50s; next it was a hog feeding shed, then used for storing junk as you can see.

2



3



A shed full of **junk!**



. . . . and more **junk**.

This had to be removed to make homes for **homeless** dogs!



Kennels are being built under the shed.



Homes are being created for a few dogs.

Very crude, but a beginning.

DEAR started with **zero** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.



More construction in progress.



From a distance, **not** so bad.

It looks good from far, but **far** from good!



We celebrated Christmas for the dogs during the first year!



Taken from near my house.

Tobacco is planted in the field in front of the kennel.



Beginning to shape up with our new outside dog runs.

DEAR sign welcomes everyone!



With the shelter enclosed and open bottom windows, our dogs think they are in "hog heaven"!



As our shelter looks today, **except** the ends now have open windows.



This is One One, our first dog!

Her name is **not** 11, but One One.

I wanted to name the dogs by numbers, but was **out** voted by our female members.

One One is one of my personal dogs!



Claudia Harrell, a volunteer with one of our beginning dogs.

Claudia is in charge of **DEAR's** adoptions.



This is Robin Bowers inside the kennel with two dogs.

Robin is our in-house dog expert.

Robin spends almost every Saturday at the kennel cleaning, walking, and caring for our dogs, along with Lesley Faithful.



Our volunteers take turns walking the dogs on the weekend. Here, Donna May lets Jim Bob cool off in the pond in my front yard.



Robin working with a dog during a Roanoke River boat race fundraiser.



Our gang at a "Kentucky Derby" fundraiser.

L to R front row:

Randall Melton, me-Gra Whitehead, Ken Skinner

Second row:

Robin Bowers, Lesley Faithful, Donna May, Gloria Skinner, Claudia Harrell, Francine Henderson



The "DEAR girls" at a fundraiser in Scotland Neck.

(left to right) Claudia Harrell, Donna May, Lesley Faithful, Robin Bowers)



A **DEAR** meeting on my back porch.



Our **departed** friend and volunteer Johnny Dudley cooking pork chops for a fundraiser.

Johnny was one of our founding members; he has been greatly missed.



Janet Dudley & Donna May

This was a "fence fundraiser" for an enclosed area for the dogs to exercise.

It was by the generosity of Johnny & Janet Dudley's family foundation - The Brooks Foundation of Charlotte that **DEAR** was able to get off the ground in its early years.

We thank you!!



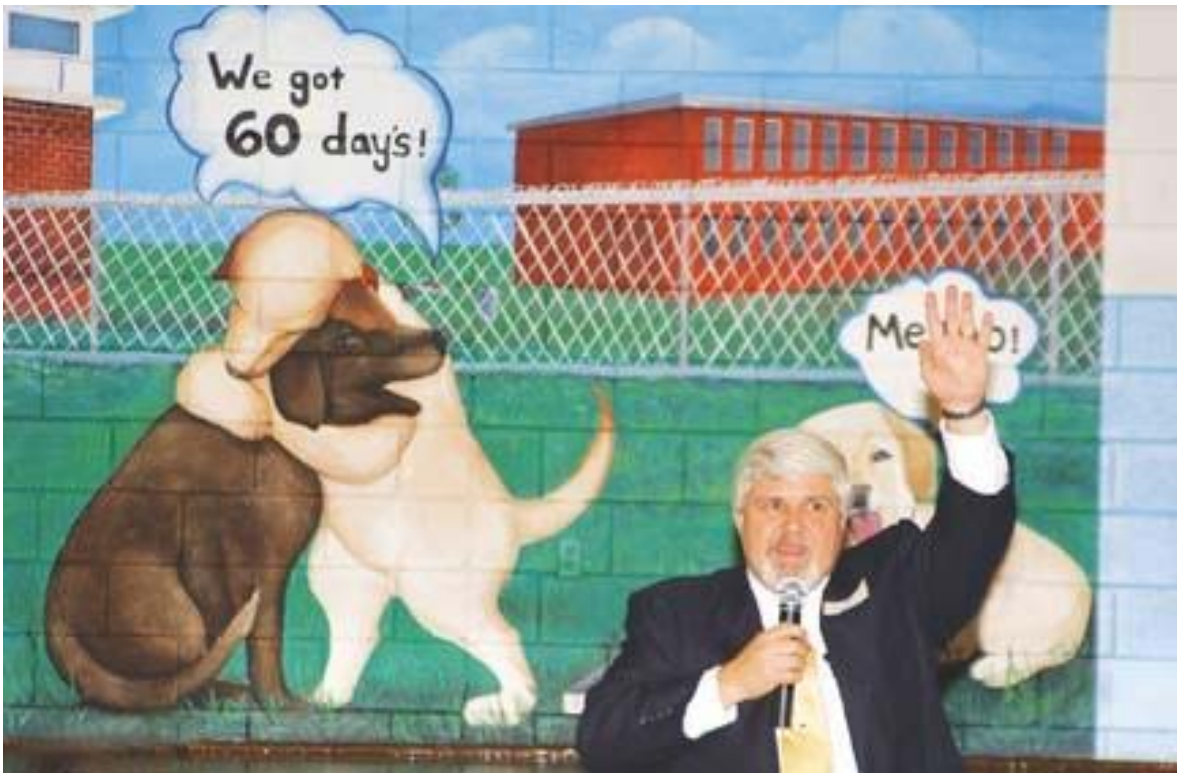
This is our "dog carrier" for taking the dogs for a ride around town.
Here, we are giving some 4-H'ers a little fun.



This is Tad; he was taken in as a very small puppy because his mother was **hit** by a car. Tad has been with **DEAR** for about 9 years. He developed **glaucoma** and **lost** sight in both eyes. This **hits** me extremely **hard** because I **lost** an eye to **glaucoma**. Tad visited our library to show small children that one can continue on in spite of **hardships**. Tad was given a full scholarship to live at my house.



Here, Taco, Robin and myself talk while attending a dog event in Suffolk, Va.



The next 3 pictures feature the **New-Lease-On-Life** program at Calendonia Prison, located near Scotland Neck, and **DEAR**.

Bill Carroll is speaking at the inaugural meeting in front of a mural the inmates painted on the wall of the prison gym.

Now, in his retirement, Bill is our office manager during peanut season.



Flossie is shown jumping thru a loop with her trainer.



Hoss, one of our all-time favorites, sits with his trainers.



Many of our younger dogs in the early years found homes up north through a network of dog lovers. Homes wanting dogs contacted certain rescue groups then these groups found rescue organizations like **DEAR** to furnish the dogs. Here I was meeting one of the transports on I95 to send some of our dogs to new homes. This looks like a regular van, but there are many just like this traveling the interstates helping to meet this wonderful cause.



This shows some of the dogs in the transport van. This does **not** look good, but in just a few hours, these dogs will be in loving homes.



Waiting for another transport with a foster mother.

Sadly, we **lost** our contact with this transport group due to a **death**. If anyone reading this is associated with another transport group for dogs going north, please contact Gra Whitehead at 252-567-8900.

The remaining pictures will show some of the more unusual dogs we have taken in over the years and some of our **“hall of fame”** dogs.



This is a greyhound that was found roaming around. We placed him with greyhound rescue in Raleigh, NC.



This lab-a-doodle was found on a farm near my house. He had **escaped** from a hunter in Raleigh while visiting in Scotland Neck.



Ozzie was rescued from a family that was **unable** to keep him any longer. A wonderful local home was found for him.



Moonshine was a beautiful dog rescued in highway 258 in Scotland Neck. He, too, has a good home now.



This is Skinny shown in the condition in which we found her.

After doing all we could, Skinny did not make it.

That is when rescuing is difficult.



This is a "rags-to-riches" success story. Diesel was brought into my office by a local man on **crutches**. He found Diesel in the middle of a highway, thinking he was **dead**. Someone had poured diesel fuel all over him. He was so **weak**, I did **not** think he would live.



Look at Diesel now !!!!!!!!!!! He does **not** look like the same dog.

What a wonderful pit bull !!!!



This is "prison mama" and some of her pups. She was on "death row" at the local dog pound when we rescued her.

This is what I like !!



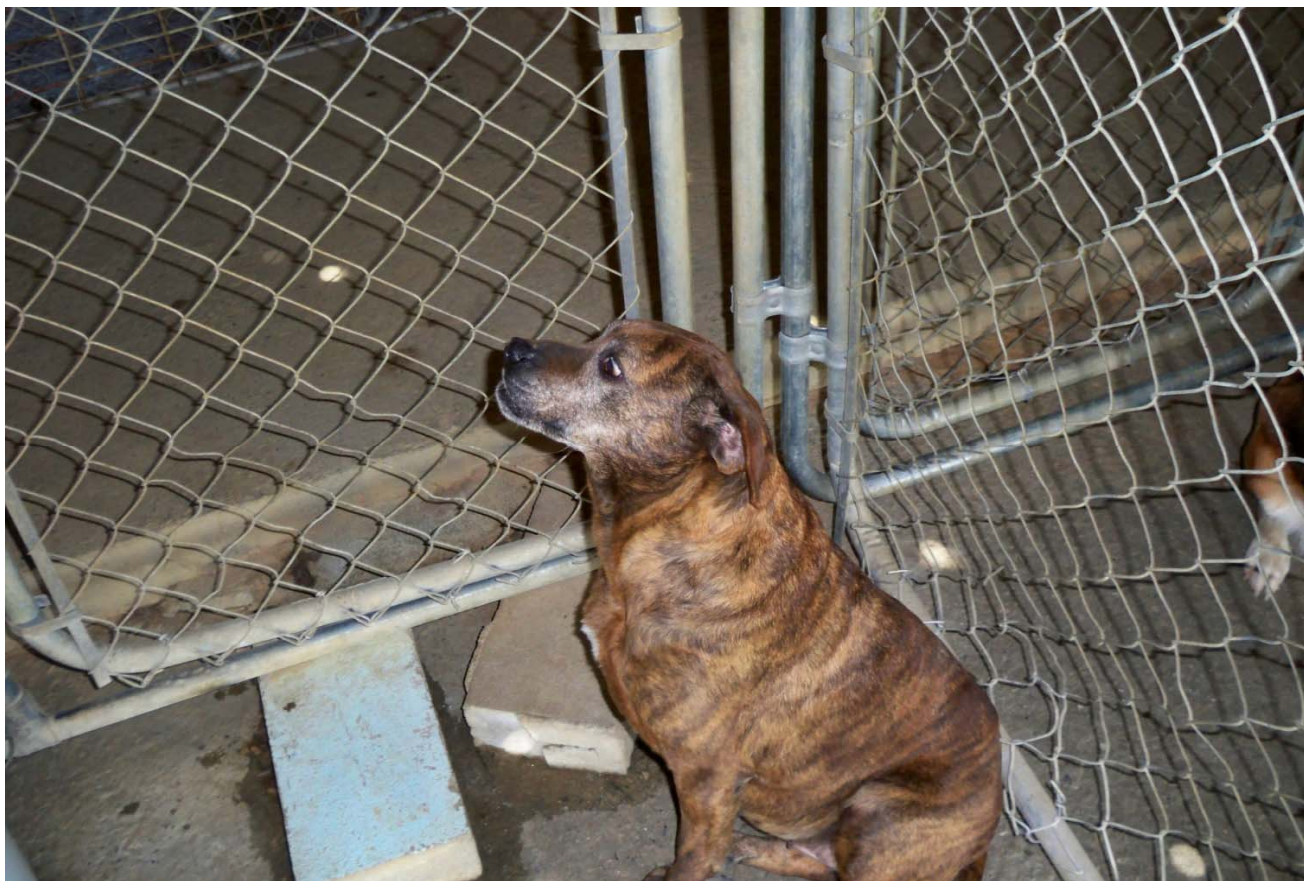
Rocky is one of our **hall of fame** dogs. **Not** a very pretty dog, but just a wonderful one. He found a home in Norfolk, Va.



I visit Rocky when I pass through Norfolk. This picture gets to my heart. I wish I knew his thoughts.



Here, Rocky & Cricket (**another hall of famer**) are playing in the pond in front of my home.



Cricket in the early years sitting in her kennel. She was my all-time favorite dog in **DEAR**. About the third dog we rescued back in 2004.

A year ago Cricket's leg was **tangled** in her kennel fence and her neighbor dog almost **destroyed** it. We did have to have her front leg **removed**. At that point, Cricket won a scholarship to my yard to become one of my dogs. She enjoyed running around the farm everywhere on three legs. One day I was feeding the dogs when I gave her a dog bone to eat. I did **not** know it, but she laid down in front of my car. I ran over her and **killed** her. That **destroyed** me. She is buried in my special dog cemetery. That's when being in the dog rescue business **hurts**.



Barney is a success story. Found on the Roanoke River highway 258 bridge, he was brought to us by a friend. After a short stay, Barney found a home all the way up on Nantucket Island. The last we heard he was doing great at a winery.



Taco was a wonderful dog taken in on my farm from a young Mexican boy when he had to return to Mexico due to his mother's **death**. Taco was a huge dog full of playful love. Sadly, he **died** of **cancer**.

He was a lot of fun !!!



Last but **not** least, is Art. He was the first pit bull we rescued. Found in Scotland Neck, Art was an immediate hit. There was **not** a bad bone in his body. He found a good home with a returning Marine from Iraq - a win-win for dog and man.

If you think Art is pretty, you should have seen this Marine's wife!!!!

Thank you for looking at this story of some of **DEAR's** activities. We are in need of good homes for our dogs. Adoptions have almost come to a **stand-still** since the **recession** of a few years ago. We still have some very lovable dogs on hand.

These activities occurred years ago. We have all grown older and **DEAR** has been consolidated into **Crossdogs Rescue Ministry**.

We still have 14 wonderful dogs in our kennel.

Please consider giving one of them a forever home !!!!!!!

Or ALL of them!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

