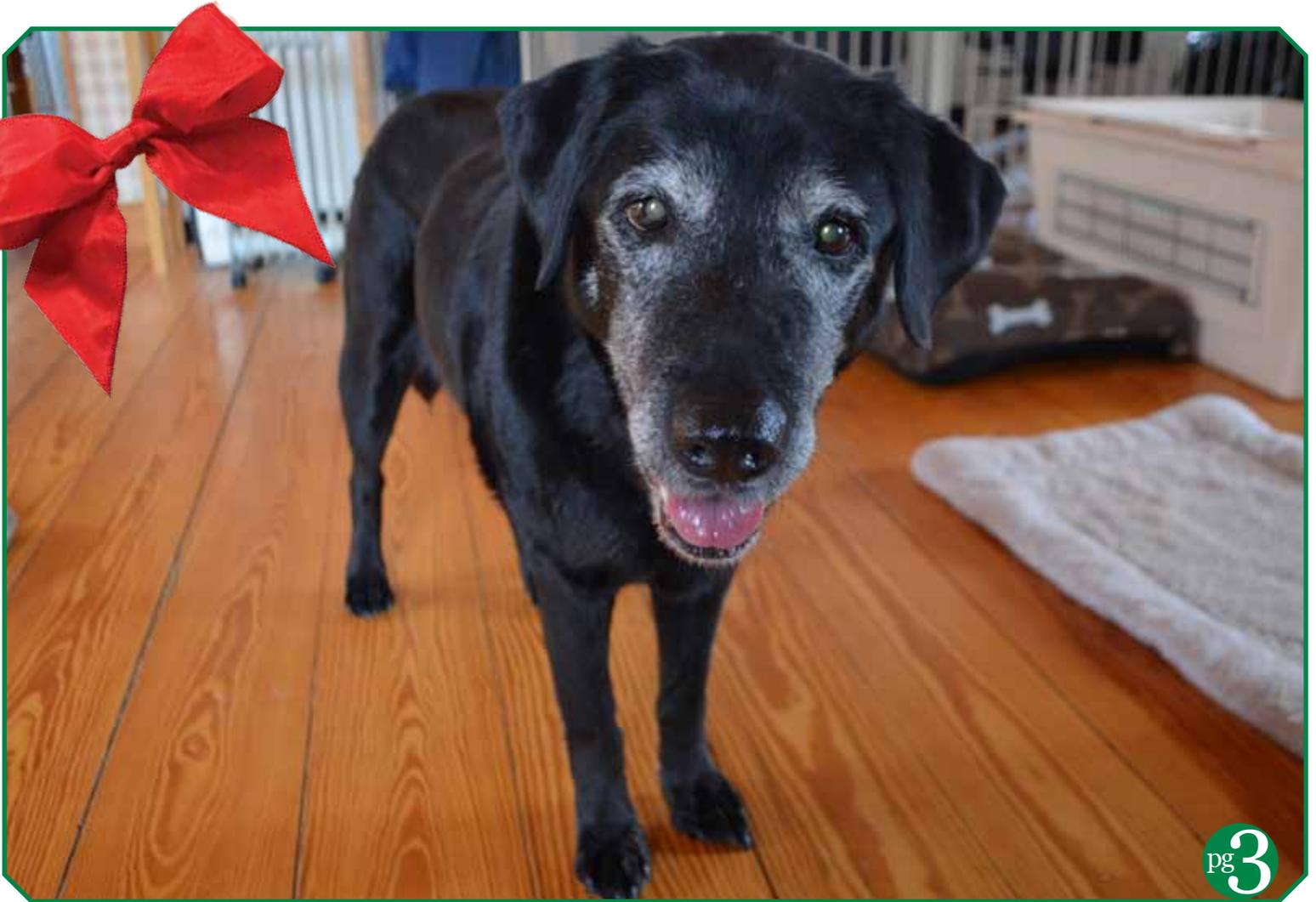


Holiday Edition 2014

Rolling Dog Farm



A special place where disabled animals enjoy life.



Blind Stella: a comeback story

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Put your foot down!

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I love you.



Steve and Alayne with Wilbur the one-eyed Chihuahua. He became incontinent after recent bladder stone surgery, but is now back to normal — thank heavens!

Dear Friends,

That beautiful girl on the cover, blind Stella, is one of those dogs we are truly blessed to have in our lives. She is so sweet and cute — and despite her age, she’s got lots of energy! Stella is just a delight. The astonishing thing to us is that someone willingly abandoned her at a shelter and simply walked away. As you’ll read, her owners told the shelter staff they wanted to get a puppy instead. How could that be?

Well, in the end it turned out to be a very good thing for Stella. She’s better off, and so are we for having her with us. When we agree to take a dog like her, especially at that age, we generally assume there will be costly medical needs ahead. Our dogs on average tend to be older, because — like people — this is when they are more likely to develop disabilities or other medical issues. This is typically why owners surrender them to shelters.

We limit the number of dogs we take in for two important reasons. One is to make sure we can provide a true in-home environment; we want our dogs to feel they are in a family, not in a shelter. The second reason is so we can always afford to provide whatever veterinary care they may need. It might be issues they arrive with or medical problems they develop later (like Aurora and Sophie).

Of course, everything we do for them is made possible only because of your wonderful, generous donations! We couldn’t do it otherwise. On behalf of Stella, Aurora, Sophie, Darla, Buggy and their many friends here, *thank you for your gifts this holiday season!*

Alayne Marker and Steve Smith, Co-founders

How to help

The best way to help the animals is with a cash donation.

You can mail a check in the enclosed envelope or make a secure online donation at our Web site. Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you for your kindness!

Also, if you’d like to leave a legacy of helping disabled animals, **please consider making a bequest** in your will. Bequests are important gifts that secure our long-term mission. *Thank you!*

Medical updates

You may remember cute little Aurora from our spring/summer newsletter earlier this year; she’d thrown a huge blood clot from her heart and it lodged in a rear leg. Thanks to our veterinary internal medicine specialist in Burlington, Vermont, Dr. Marielle Goossens, Aurora had recovered and was on multiple medications that were keeping her stable. The underlying condition is a rare and complicated kidney disease called protein-losing nephropathy.



One weekend not long after that newsletter went out, however, Aurora began bleeding to death internally. We rushed her to a local emergency vet clinic in Littleton, New Hampshire, where her prognosis was considered grim.

Fortunately, Dr. Goossens was able to assist the emergency vets throughout the weekend, directing Aurora’s treatment. After getting plasma infusions and changes in her anti-clotting medications, Aurora made it — and by Monday morning we had brought her home.

The very next weekend, however, she suffered the opposite problem — she was throwing blood clots again! This time we rushed Aurora to Dr. Goossens’s clinic for intensive care. After making yet another medication change — switching to a different type of heparin obtained from a human hospital — Aurora has been remarkably healthy since then. Four months and counting!



We had spent New Year’s Day 2014 at the emergency vet clinic in Littleton (they know us well!) with blind Sophie, who was suddenly drinking water like crazy that morning and immediately throwing it up. It turned out she had become diabetic, and over the next few months she would be on a roller coaster much like Aurora.



Under the direction of Dr. Goossens, we monitored Sophie’s blood glucose levels at home, doing 12- and 24-hour curves, and yet we could never get her within a stable, normal range. It didn’t matter what type of insulin, the dose, or her feeding schedule, Sophie’s glucose levels wandered all over the place. Yet at one particular dose, Sophie appeared just fine, even though the monitor showed her glucose levels still gyrating.

Dr. Goossens finally consulted a veterinary endocrinologist, who said some dogs just don’t respond to insulin the way they should, and we shouldn’t worry about the numbers as long as Sophie was acting normally. Which she is ... six months and counting!

P.O. Box 150, Lancaster, New Hampshire 03584
www.RollingDogFarm.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For updates, visit our blog at www.rollingdogfarm.org



That's the pond below the farm house in a photo we took in late September. We had a long and particularly glorious fall foliage season this year, though by the time you get this newsletter it will look much more like winter here!

About the farm

Rolling Dog Farm has been home to many types of disabled animals over the years -- our residents have included blind dogs, blind horses, deaf dogs, blind cats, three-legged dogs and cats, and others with neurological and orthopedic issues. While we focus primarily now on disabled dogs, we still have a few blind horses.

Although these animals may have disabilities, they do not consider themselves handicapped. They just want to get on with life and enjoy themselves. Thanks to your support, that's what they get to do here.

Yet these are the animals who are among the least likely to be adopted and among the most likely to be euthanized in traditional shelters. That's why we work with the disabled.

Steve Smith and Alayne Marker founded the farm in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization known as a private operating foundation. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The Rolling Dog Farm is located in the beautiful White Mountains of northern New Hampshire. This special place for disabled animals is supported 100% by your donations.

Thank you for your gifts!

I love you



Bugsy was a huge challenge when he arrived. He attacked us during his first week, and when he finally stopped going after us, he settled for avoiding us. The behavior was from the trauma he had suffered (having his eyes literally knocked out of his head), followed by too much change. Bugsy finally turned the corner with us, though the first few times he met new people he'd get nervous and look to us for reassurance. That was then, this is now. These days he is Mr. Personality, and he enjoyed all the love at our visitor day this summer. He returned it in kind:

