



Comment, blog & share photos

Log in | Become a member | Search people

Mansfield, OH POWERED BY YOU AND THE News Journal

Volunteers save doomed Mansfield dogs

BY LOU WHITMIRE • NEWS JOURNAL • SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Read Comments(10) Recommend(6) Print this page E-mail this article Share

MANSFIELD -- Three Great Pyrenees, a German shepherd and a miniature Doberman pincher were among 15 dogs taking a roadtrip this weekend.

Cynthia Jones, of Bolivar, loaded the five dogs into her Mercury Sable on Saturday night in the parking lot at Wal-Mart Supercenter on Possum Run Road.

They didn't seem to mind the crowded conditions.

Somehow, they seemed to sense they were going somewhere better.

Jones is among a growing number of people who spend their weekends carting dogs from shelters to safety. Different cars and different people make up the convoys, each person volunteering to drive 100 miles or more to deliver the dogs, and sometimes cats, to safety.

"I foster dogs, and I've got three of my own and two fosters at home," Jones said.

"I've had 12 dogs in my car before," she said.

Dog transports are organized on weekends throughout the country, said Madeline Finnerty, a transport driver from Ashland. Organizers work with shelters to identify dogs in need of rescue, and volunteers drive legs of often multi-state trips.

Susan Kochheiser, of Mansfield, helped Saturday night as the 15 dogs arrived at Wal-Mart to be loaded into three vehicles.

Each dog travels with paperwork including their veterinarian records.

Kochheiser said four dogs from Richland County's Dog Pound will find homes.

"They would normally be put to sleep," Finnerty said, interrupting.

Kochheiser, who volunteers at the local pound, said two beagles, Fred and LeRoy; Percy, a Newfoundland/Lab; and Buckeye, a beagle/hound, are bound for Canada.

Finnerty said Kochheiser has helped hundreds of dogs since last year.



Volunteer driver JoAnn Jenkins, of Columbus, pats a German shepherd mix goodbye Saturday in the Wal-Mart Supercenter parking lot. The rescued dog was on its way to find a good home. (Lou Whitmire/News Journal)



Sweetie Pie



Baron



Cassidy

Three Great Pyrenees were part of a massive volunteer rescue transport including 31 dogs and 2 cats the weekend of Sept. 13-14. The convoy, using multiple vehicles, made its way across Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Vermont. The Pyrs went to National Great Pyrenees Rescue foster homes in the Northeast. The dogs were held for two months in a Kentucky high kill shelter after their owner was forced to surrender them in a court-enforced cruelty seizure.



www.nationalpyr.org

A total of 14 Great Pyrenees were confiscated from the owner. NGPR coordinated their release with Pyr rescuers in Tennessee and Michigan. Our thanks to foster Moms Sandy, Rebecca and Flo, foster coordinator Kelly and NGPR volunteer drivers Jim, Tracey, Lynn, Jayne, Mark and Chris for helping these dogs find a way out.