



A Message from Steve Vaughn, Executive Director, the Caroline County Humane Society

Spring is just around the corner, which is also the beginning of "kitten season". Last year "kitten season" began for us in May, with 74 kittens entering the shelter. That number jumped dramatically to 159 kittens entering the shelter during the month of June. In total, 774 kittens entered our small shelter during 2009. Eighty percent (623) came in a six month period from May to October, which was Caroline County's "kitten season". The reason I bring this up, is that we still have 35 cats at the shelter available for adoption, and we will soon be inundated with kittens again. My hope is that all the remaining cats will find homes in the next couple months. **There**



is "Brandon", a three year old male, buff colored tabby that came to the shelter on June 1, 2009 as a stray, and "Riley", a three year male orange tabby who came to the shelter on May 8, 2009 also as a stray, both who are

desperately looking for their forever home. These two lap cats have been at the shelter for over seven months, and if they do not get adopted before "kitten season" arrives, they could both be here for another year. In addition to "Brandon" and "Riley" we have many more adult cats that have been at the shelter for four to six months, all hoping that someone will come in and say "you are the one, please come home with me".

And then we have the dogs, who sit forlornly, waiting and waiting for that special someone to take them



home. There is "Shep" a seven year old male shepherd mix who has been waiting patiently at the shelter for ten months; "Lucy", a one year old female lab mix who came to the shelter seven months ago, and "Ian", a one and half year old male lab mix who has spent

four months at the shelter. These three dogs and their 37 shelter brothers and sisters all say they have done their time, and are asking for a second chance.

Please consider adopting, or let someone you know who may be looking for a pet, to visit our website: www.carolinehumane.org where you can visit each of our adoptable animals. If you feel it is not yet the time to adopt, please consider making a donation to the Caroline County Humane Society to help care for our shelter animals. We are a no frill shelter, every cent you donate goes to help care for the animals.

It is a new year, so please renew your membership with us, and please visit our website to stay current on upcoming events and shelter news. Thank you for your support.

**2nd Annual Katie Clancy Basket Bingo
Sunday, May 2, Games start at 2 p.m.**

Watch for details on our website www.carolinehumane.org

PONIES FOR ADOPTION!

Meet Kiona and Jett! They are registered POA (Pony of the Americas) mares. Kiona and Jett were taken from their previous owner who could no longer afford to feed them. In desperation, she was feeding them sweet potatoes from her garden. They had become extremely emaciated.

Now in a CCHS foster home, they have gained a LOT of weight. These mares, although 25 years old, are still full of spunk and plenty of energy. They are large ponies, at approximately 14 hands. Kiona has done Walk-Trot with an 8 year old child. Both are sound, rideable and/or driveable. Call us today to find out about adopting one...or BOTH of these lovely girls.

Funds to care for the ponies came directly from the Animal Care Fund and your generous donations... thank you!



The Strength of Three Thousand

by Connie Cook, CCHS Board of Directors

Back in October, the Caroline County Humane Society received a call from a resident that a dog had appeared in his yard. However, he also stated that he was not sure if the dog would survive long enough for us to come to pick him up...but he did.



When our Animal Control Officer, Diana Greenwood, saw him she could not believe that he even had the strength to stand. Sadly, we see too many cases of animals that are starving for food. But, Michio was by far one of the worst we had ever seen. A tall, big boned

dog, he was nothing more than a walking skeleton. And yet, he was gentle, affectionate, and tried valiantly to remain standing by leaning against our legs.

When we weighed him, he was only 40 pounds, which was less than half of what we estimated he should weigh. While we knew that there was the chance he may not survive, we directed our efforts to try to ensure that he did. Very small, very frequent meals with supplements all throughout the day, with lots and lots of TLC and telling him that now he was safe. We named him Michio, which is a saying in Japanese which means the "Strength of 3,000 Men", because he would need that strength to survive.

As time went on, Michio blossomed! In Michio, we found one of THE most incredibly loving and charming dog you would ever hope to meet.

One of his favorite things to do is to flop down and roll on his back to have his belly rubbed. He is so even tempered that we take him out to community events, where we found that he loves kids! Michio also loves to play with other dogs, and will gladly share his toys with them. And mentioning toys...He adores toys, loves to play fetch, and gives up his toys without a fuss. Now, he does chase cats, probably just to play, but we think cats would not find him as charming as we do.

Michio now weighs in at a healthy 90+ pounds! He is a gorgeous brindle, and looks to be a Mastiff/Pit bull mix. The only sad news? Michio is still looking for a home. All us at CCHS just adore this sweet dog, and we hope that someone will soon see his shining character, and fall in love with him as we have.

Michio has survived his terrible ordeal due to several things: His will to survive, the dedication of the CCHS staff...AND, in great part because of our generous donors.



The money that we have needed to save Michio, and so many others like him, come strictly from the money donated by you to our Animal Care Fund. During these difficult economic times, everyone is stretched thin. But, we continue to need your support if we are to continue to save each and every animal that we can! Please consider donating to the CCHS Animal Care Fund.

CHOCOLATE IS FOR LOVERS (NOT FOR YOUR PETS)

by Karen Kilheffer, CCHS Board of Directors President

We've all heard that chocolate is harmful to pets; it's not just harmful it's toxic. The worse chocolates for your pet are dark chocolate and baking chocolate. One ounce of milk chocolate per one ounce of body weight is a toxic dose, one ounce of semi-sweet chocolate per three pounds of body weight is a toxic dose and one ounce of baker's chocolate per nine ounces of body weight is a toxic dose.



Most of our pets are like children and possess a sweet tooth. You wouldn't leave chocolate on a table that your child can reach or leave your purse with chocolate inside on the floor, couch, or chair that are easily accessible to small hands and every size paw. Easter basket chocolate candy is a pet's delight; please be careful where you place chocolates from these treasure troves. Use common sense and avoid harming the family pet.

If you're not sure how much chocolate your pet has ingested; take the dog or cat to your veterinarian immediately; it's always better to be safe than sorry.

A few other food types that can be toxic to animals: onions, raisins, grapes, alcohol and wild mushrooms. These toxins go without saying: antifreeze, rodenticides, and insecticides.

Please remember that dogs and cats are fast; if you set something down that your pet should not ingest they will find it the moment you back is turned.

Dear Connie,

If Dad has not already done so, he will soon be writing Virginia with an update. I too want to take a moment to thank you for helping Melissa—or Mrs. McGee, as she is now known—and for assisting us with information about her adoption procedure.

Mrs. McGee was a bit uncertain her first days, as most rehomed pets are when entering a new environment. Dad was eager to have her settle in, but he understood that she needed time to observe, explore, and do all the things new kitties must do in order to feel safe and at home. As things go, Mrs. McGee already had him wrapped around her paw and he was buying her everything—including bling! Yes, he purchased her a lovely black collar studded with lots of sparkly rhinestones, which she appears only too happy to accept!

Within a day or so of her arrival, McGee was edging her way into the main rooms of the house. A few days more, and McGee discovered the perfect napping place. Did I say yet that Dad is completely besotted with Mrs. McGee? That each morning when the retirees gather for their coffee, he regales them with Mrs. McGee stories? He once glanced at his watch and realized he had been talking to them about Mrs. McGee for over thirty minutes?

In the succeeding days, McGee increasingly emerged from the shadows of the dining room table—her favorite observation post. Mrs. McGee really seems to love and respond to his voice, as he talks very softly to her. She began rubbing up against him seeking out his attention and his offered neck rubbies. Within a week, McGee began and greeting him at the door when he arrived home from the store and then rolling over for her also much-loved belly rubbies. Where McGee previously would observe Dad from the doorway of his office, she bravely began entering his domain while he was at his computer and curling up on the bed he placed there for her. At night, she would follow him into the bedroom, watch him settling into bed, then go off on her own to sleep behind the pillows in the family room. But then it happened: Mrs. McGee decided that she would much rather be with her new person and so she began curling up to sleep beside Dad at night. And yes, McGee must always be touching him.

As the story goes, they are now happily living their forever after, each day bringing new discoveries and happiness to each of them. Thank you once again for assisting Mrs. McGee in her time of need and for helping Dad adopt her.

Kimberley