

ONSLOW COUNTY

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Animal rescue changing future for animals in need

By Nicole Marie Bertagnoli

According to The Humane Society of the United States, approximately 2.7 million adoptable cats and dogs in animal shelters are put to sleep each year. Broken down, that equates to one animal every eleven seconds. As heartbreaking of a statistic as that is to swallow, many animal lovers still do not make any contribution toward helping this problem. Options to be a solution for this problem include adopting from shelters, donating funds or volunteering time.

One woman from eastern North Carolina is taking her concern for the well-being of helpless animals ten steps further. Rosey Milazzo-Kirby of Akinson, North Carolina, is the founder of Rosey's Rescues, a dog, cat and parrot foster program that she

started out of her own home. Just last year Rosey was a foster mom to almost 300 dogs and cats. From kittens to senior cats, Shitzus to Great Danes, all animals in need are welcome in Rosey's home.

"Many of the animals I foster are dumped in rural North Carolina," said Rosey. Upon elaborating, Rosey told the story of a puppy named Adele. Found by a garbage man, Adele was abandoned in a diaper box with her brothers and sisters. Rosey approximated that Adele was less than 24-hours old when she reached her home, and unfortunately none of her litter mates survived the traumatic experience. Carefully and patiently, Rosey nursed Adele to health by bottle feeding her and giving her the love that she craved. Today, Adele is a happy three and half

month old Brussels Griffon puppy, with a long, healthy future ahead of her.

Any person who has a furry friend realizes the tremendous financial responsibility that is involved with the healthy life of a pet. In 2013, Rosey spent over \$36,000 in veterinary bills. Unlike the animals found in pet stores, each of Rosey's foster kids is well fed, up to date on vaccines, dewormed and spayed or neutered. In addition to excellent medical care, Rosey's animals are all exposed to the love of a home and early socialization with other animals. While it is expensive, quality care and the good health of each animal is a priority for Rosey.

Although the temptation to run to a pet store for a shiny new puppy may be intense, it is important to remember that the majority of pup-

pies in a pet store come from less than ideal situations, many times from puppy mills. Beyond a ridiculous purchase cost that only benefits the owner of the store, many pet store animals are exposed to illness and traumatizing stress. Rosey's Rescues offers puppies, kittens, dogs and cats of every age and breed. Last month, Rosey even found a home for a parrot!

With adoption fees in the range of \$80 to \$200, the adoption process not only helps the animal being adopted, but also helps Rosey continue the selfless work that she does everyday. Everyone can lend a helping hand to Rosey's Rescues, even without adopting an animal. With dozens of miniature mouths to feed, Rosey is always grateful for contributions of food, as well as toward the continual necessary medical expenses to keep her foster animals healthy.

Contributions to Rosey's Rescues can be mailed to: A Country Vet 6841 Market Street Wilmington, North Carolina 28425 Attn: Rosey's Rescues

Rosey has frequent adoption events at Pet Smart in Wilmington. Information about her upcoming adoption events along with wonderful stories of her successes can be found on her Facebook page, "Rosey's Rescues." When adopting thru Pet Smart, new families receive a complimentary bag of food and multiple coupons to help with the initial costs of a new family member.

Few people have what it takes to give such a big part of them to such a wonderful cause. Rosey's Rescues takes the well-being of its foster animals steps farther than many shelters and pet stores by giving them each the love and care that they undoubtedly deserve. Make sure to include Rosey's Rescues in your search for a new friend!

The beginning of baby Adele's journey to a happy life!

Rosey is in no way soliciting for monetary donations for her own benefit. She is extremely grateful for any contributions that are made directly to A Country Vet to help her foster animals.

School district