



Thulani Program

Hi

This informal NewsLetter is meant to inform all the people who have donated to the Thulani Program or who have volunteered to work in it as fosterers, steering committee members, or on other tasks. Although the Program was officially launched less than 3 months ago, we already have had some heartwarming successes and at least one bittersweet, but not unexpected outcome.

In a nutshell, we have brought 4 dogs into the Program (see stories below), had one 'flunk out', one was adopted, one passed over the Rainbow Bridge, and one just arrived. We have had generous contributions from the public to support this Program, and have received a grant of \$2000 from the Grey Muzzle Organization. We also have had a number of wonderful people step up to volunteer to foster and/or adopt our Thulani Program Dogs.

REO

Reo was our first Thulani dog, rescued from the San Francisco ACC. You would be heartened by the number of shelter workers who came up to us when we rescued him, expressing their tearful appreciation for what we were doing. They also gave us all the shots and micro chip for free. He was a shelter favorite, but there was nothing they could do for him. The shelter could not put him up for adoption and the San Francisco SPCA had passed on him because of his medical condition described below.

Reo was a wonderful 9 yr old dog that was great with people and dogs, and just wanted affection and a place to live. But he had a very large growth above his right eye, and nobody would touch him. The Thulani Program gave us the license to rescue him, and the tumor was removed by Dr Elneda Connors, Camino Real Pet Clinic, who donated half of the cost of the procedure. **THE TUMOR WAS BENIGN!!!!!!** So Reo flunked out of the Thulani Program, was returned to the regular Rescue Program, and was immediately adopted by a man in Foster City who takes him on vacations to the Russian River. It doesn't get much better than that.



SWEETIE

Poor Sweetie has traveled a really unfortunate path in getting to her present situation, but finally has apparently hit the jackpot. Sweetie (La Reine in German Shepherd Rescue Program) came into the Rescue Program a number of years ago, was adopted out to a woman who eventually ended up in Idaho and who fell on extremely hard times both medically and financially. She could no longer care for Sweetie. The story of Sweetie's return is a classic saga of many people banding together to help a dog in need. She was adopted out again to another loving home, but then ended up in the crossfire of a very nasty divorce. She again returned to us.



By this time she was quite old, had severe arthritis, moved with courage but difficulty, and obviously could not be put up for adoption through our normal channels. So we brought her into the Thulani Program and adopted her out to a veritable Noah's Arc run by a woman with as big a heart as you will ever encounter. Sweetie now spends her life with 3 other dogs, uncountable cats, horses, goats, sheep, chickens, and heaven only knows what else. Early in her stay at her new home, her owner could not find her, but after frantically searching the entire property, found her snuggled up in the chicken coop (the chickens were out doing their hunter/gatherer thing). Sweetie cannot be happier.

LEEWAY

Leeway was rescued with the help of Monterey County Animal Services. He had been dumped in a drainage ditch from which he could not climb out, and when found, was so dehydrated and in such poor shape that he had to be brought to the shelter on a stretcher. But Leeway was a fighter, and he regained enough strength with the help of the shelter staff that he again was mobile. We pulled him into the Thulani Program and placed him with a fosterer in the Monterey area. It soon became very clear that Leeway had only a limited life left to him, so his foster dad made it his goal to make those remaining months the best in Leeway's life.



On a Wednesday, two months after we had brought him into the Thulani Program, Leeway's foster dad reported that he had had the best day since he had arrived, even compared to the really good days he had been having. He was the hit of the fosterer's neighborhood. On Thursday he stopped eating and could not get up. By Friday he was in intensive care at the Adobe Animal Hospital in Los Altos, and on Saturday we made the decision to help him over the Rainbow Bridge.

Although Leeway was only with us for two months, we made them the best months of his life.

ANGELICA

Angelica is a 12 yr old German Shepherd with advanced degenerative myelopathy. She was picked up as a stray and not reclaimed, most likely dumped as a result of her physical condition. She was scheduled to be euthanized last Wednesday, but one of our volunteers saw her that morning, told the shelter about the Thulani Program, and asked for an extension. We went to see Angelica on Saturday and brought her into the Thulani Program. She is alert, bright-eyed, affectionate, and a fighter. Although she probably only has a few months at most before she will not be able to get up or stand on her own, we are committed to making the time she has left the best chapter of her entire life.



We passionately believe that the Thulani Program fulfills an essential need in the German Shepherd Rescue Community, and as long as we can, we will not let GSDs who need hospice care to live out their lives die alone and afraid on a stainless steel table in a shelter. We will make whatever life they have left as wonderful as we can.

But to do this, we need the support of the greater K9 community. We will organize the rescues, evaluate the dogs, pull them out of harm's way, and place them in a safe haven. But we need the support of you and all like-minded people to accomplish the ultimate goal of providing a hospice home that will give these wonderful companions the chance to live out their lives painfree and in a loving environment. If you can help, and if you can convince some of your friends to help, either with donations or by volunteering to work with the dogs directly, please contact me at r.jachens@comcast.net or 408-718-8491.

Speaking for the Steering Committee of the Thulani Program, thank you so much for what you have done to make this program a success so far. Those of us directly involved in the day-by-day operations are very excited by the prospects of what can be accomplished with the Thulani Program. Please join us in that excitement!!!!

Best regards,
Bob Jachens
Coordinator, Thulani Program