



News Release

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2nd Chance 4 Pets' Volunteers, Local Community Rally to Provide a Second Chance for Paralyzed Lab Puppy

LOS GATOS, Calif. (August 24, 2009)– Bella was only six weeks old when her owners brought her to a Southern California veterinarian clinic to be euthanized. The Labrador Retriever puppy was paralyzed in her hind legs, and the daunting task of caring for and funding Bella's treatment had become too much to handle. The veterinarian turned to 2nd Chance 4 Pets, a national animal welfare organization, who spearheaded a grassroots effort to save Bella.

2nd Chance 4 Pets volunteers sprung into action on July 20 when they received an email about Bella. Volunteers drove to Southern California and brought Bella to a foster home in the San Jose area. Bella was evaluated by numerous veterinarian specialists including Dr. Andrew Staatz, one of the area's leading orthopedic veterinarian surgeons. Bella received care from Scout's House, a pet rehabilitation center in Menlo Park, and from Dr. Kevin Sheehy of Los Gatos Dog and Cat Hospital. Results from Bella's medical tests uncovered a number of health issues for which Bella is being treated.

“When we learned about Bella and a lack of response from requests to receive help from Southern California animal care organizations, we knew we had to get involved,” says Amy Shever, Director of 2nd Chance 4 Pets. “Bella never asked to be paralyzed and abandoned. She is an adorable, loving puppy and, because of the work of our volunteer team, Bella now has a wonderful home and a second chance for the life she deserves.”

Bella is now a resident at Healing HEART Sanctuary (www.HealingHeartSanctuary.org). Located in Kanab, Utah, Healing HEART Sanctuary specializes in rehabilitating animals that have been injured or are disabled. The Sanctuary is devoted to helping animals and children get back on their feet, whether it's directly or through outreach and program development.

The efforts to enhance Bella's quality of life continue. HandicappedPets.org Foundation collected donations and provided a customized cart to support her hind legs and give Bella mobility. Best Friends Animal Society donated three additional carts. And 2nd Chance 4 Pets volunteers continue to generate awareness about Bella's situation in hopes of raising funds to guarantee the best possible care for Bella.

"With one puppy kiss she can melt your heart," says Shever. "That's why the veterinarian at a San Diego veterinarian clinic -- who had been tasked with ending the life of this innocent animal -- couldn't go through with it. And that's why volunteers from 2nd Chance 4 Pets united to help Bella find a forever home and ensure that she receives the medical treatment, rehabilitation and love she needs."

To make a donation to the *Bella Fund*, please visit: www.2ndchance4pets.org.

To keep up to date with Bella's progress, go to Bella's blog: <http://helpbella.wordpress.com/>

And to view an exceptional video produced by OurBreakaway:
<http://ourbreakaway.com/2009/08/18/20090818-bella-good-day/>

About 2nd Chance 4 Pets:

The mission of 2nd Chance for Pets is to reduce the number of pets unnecessarily euthanized each year due to the death or incapacity of the human companions who care for them. 2nd Chance 4 Pets is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization. They work nationwide to provide pet owners with comprehensive information and lifetime care solutions, ensuring that their pets will receive lifetime care. For more information, please visit www.2ndchance4pets.org.