



# ARFhouse *Happenings*

A non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization

VOLUME 25 • SUMMER 2023



**BERNIE'S BATTLE**  
*Story on page 4*



**NADIYA'S RESCUE**  
*Story on page 5*



**RHODES**  
*Story on page 2*

## **LIFE AT THE SANCTUARY** *with newcomers, rescues, adoptions and more!*

So many of you have checked on us during storm season; we thank you for that! Somehow, we have managed to go unscathed (knock on wood). While storm season in Texas can be a little scary at times, with severe thunderstorms, high winds, tornado warnings, we are so thankful to report that there has been no major damage to the facility and that all dogs are safe and happy! We have a system in place for when severe weather hits, and we would like to thank Dawn Herndon – who lives on-site – for being diligent in her efforts to keep our dogs safe during such events.

Adoptions are slow, TOO slow! Alarmingly slow, in fact. Last year at this time, we had over thirty adoptions; this year, we've had twelve. We believe there are a number of factors causing the decrease in adoptions, but the fact is, it doesn't matter WHY, it only matters that it's true. Adoptions are down across the board; talk to any rescue and they'll tell you the same thing: people just aren't adopting right now. This presents a problem for us when the number of calls to take dogs has done nothing but increase. You can help with this. If you know of anyone who is looking to add a companion to their family, send them our way! We have so many adoptable dogs, many of whom aren't currently on our website for one reason or another. Believe me when I say: if someone is looking for a dog, chances are we have one that's just the right fit!

Out of consideration for the animal lovers and supporters whose help we depend upon, we attempt to make our newsletters upbeat and positive. We do not want to focus on the negative; instead, we try to focus on the possibilities for newcomers as well as the joy of adoptees and their new families. But we face challenges every single day, some of them almost unbelievable. These precious newcomers deserve the right to have their story told. Inside you can read about just a few of our recent challenges.



Our sweet Eddie hit the jackpot with Rachel and Tanner Holcome, and their lovely children Hannah and Hayes.



The sweetest girl found the sweetest family. Bridgette (now Harper) hit the jackpot with Michelle, Jess and Layla Moholt; AND, the sweetest part: Bridgette now has a four-legged brother, ARFhouse Alum Cotton (now Charlie). The Moholt's adopted Charlie from us in December, 2022.



Handsome Harper found his perfect forever home with Rachel, Josh, and his four-legged sister Tulip.



We are thrilled when we get to place one dog into their forever home; we are over the MOON when we get to send TWO to the same home! Hope & Waylon (now Everest and Princess Lanie Bell) had never met one another, so we weren't sure how that meeting was going to go when the Meyers family decided these were the dogs for them. Fast forward, the two dogs are the best of friends and we couldn't get a picture of the whole family together, because they won't quit playing long enough to take it! Couldn't be happier for these two for finding their perfect family, but also for finding the best friend they never knew they had.

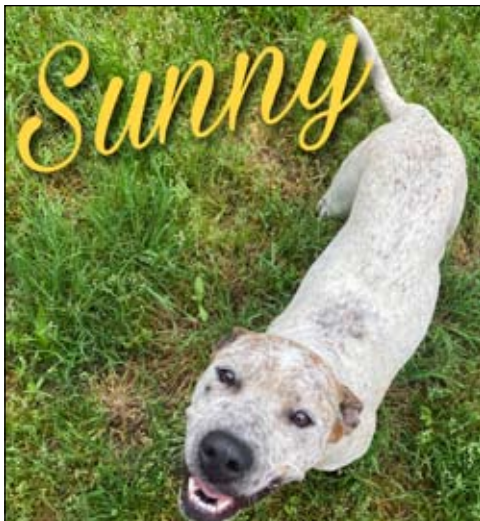
## **NEWCOMERS . . .**



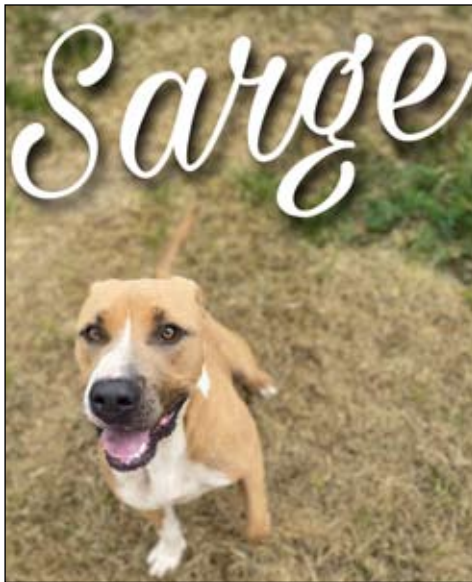
This gentle giant came to us looking like he was made of stone; he had one of the worst cases of mange we've ever seen. He was taken in by Henderson Animal Services, a shelter we have worked with in the past. When they asked if we could help, could we say no? When Rhodes arrived we started treatment for mange immediately. His initial visit to the clinic, revealed that Rhodes also had intestinal parasites and heartworms. Ugh! Rhodes continues to improve daily; his coat is coming back and he's put on substantial weight. We still have a long way to go, so stay tuned in our next newsletter to keep track of his progress.



# NEWCOMERS CONTINUED . . .



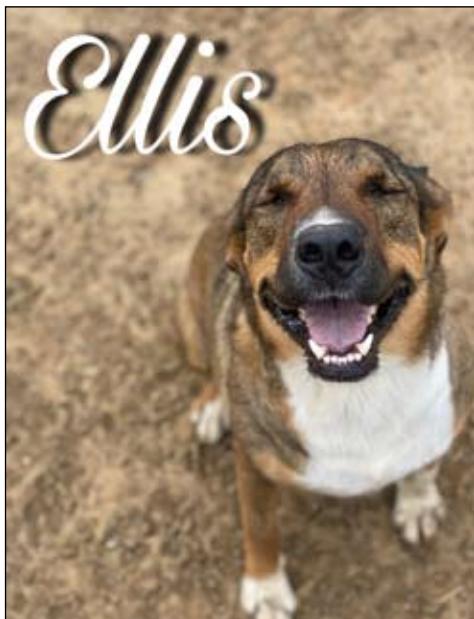
She's our sunshine on a cloudy day, Sunny that is. Like so many who have come before her, she was dumped out in the country. One of our employees found her on the way to work and Sunny was happy as a clam to hop into the car. We named her Sunny because she is constantly brightening our day; she is the sweetest, most gentle and affectionate dog ever! Sunny is fully-vetted and anxiously awaiting her forever family to drop by so she can brighten their lives as she has ours.



This lovable meat head was found just outside of ARFhouse wandering on the road. He hopped on the golf cart like he had known us his entire life and off we rode to make a place for him. Sarge shatters all stereotypes where Pit Bulls are concerned; he is the sweetest, most loving and playful dog you'll ever meet. You all have heard the saying, right? "BEWARE of Pit Bulls, they will steal your heart." And he absolutely has.



This sweet momma came to us with 5 puppies; she was found out in the country looking for food when a kind stranger stopped and got her and the puppies in the back of his truck. Opie is the loveliest dog we've ever known; sweet, gentle, affectionate. She will make the most wonderful addition to any family.



When we took in this big boy, we didn't know what we were in for; Ellis is a big, BIG boy! We could never have imagined he would be such a sweet, gentle natured love bug. Ellis was left behind when his "family" moved away; not much of a family if you ask me. He is fully vetted and currently waiting on his FOREVER family to scoop him up.



This handsome devil was pulled from the "red list" of a shelter in East Texas when they called with an urgent plea. With a face like that, how could we say no? Waylon is the spunkiest, sweetest, coolest boy around and is available for adoption.



We know what you're thinking: how could anyone possibly dump this sweet girl on a country road? Well, we can't figure it out either. Junebug is a quirky little girl with personality to spare; she will need a special person who understands the wonderful qualities of the Chow, and who will love her forever.



# Appeal

By: Martha Hovers & Jenna Glover

We have never subscribed to the idea that alarming you, our friends, was a positive approach to asking for support. We do NOT want our friends/supporters to think we are locking the doors. We are NOT. But at this time, I feel that we must make you aware of the crisis that is affecting all rescues and ask for you to rally with us during these difficult times. We are seeing it all across the board and I'm sure you are as well if you follow other rescue groups: adoptions are down, donations are down; however, the calls to take animals are at an all-time high. We are overwhelmed.

We are not insensitive to the current economic climate; we are aware that with the ever-rising cost of living, the first cutback people are making is charity. We get it. Our costs have skyrocketed, so we understand the position everyone is in. We have noticed that around 1/3 of our \$20 monthly donations have been cancelled; cutbacks. While \$20 might not seem like a lot to some people, they add up, and it hurts us.

We are currently working in "the red" for the year; something that has never happened in the past. Donations have not been half as much as in past years. We were unable to host the golf tournament this year, and that had an impact on our income. We have 13 employees on payroll who care for and attend to the needs of 325 dogs. Our vet costs average \$5000 per month. This figure includes the people in our community who need to have their animals spayed or neutered but are unable to do so because of the cost. We do NOT want to suspend this outreach to the population in our immediate area. We are depending on North Texas Giving Day this year to make up for lost income. We need your help. I want to assure you we do have investments, but this money has always been for a rainy day, a nest egg we never intended to have to dip into. Naturally, our investments were created with the idea that they would generate more, not be used for operations. The fact that we are even having to entertain this thought is worrisome.

We come to you once again to ask for your continued support, and to urge you, if you have anything extra to give, please give it to the dogs. Share our cause with your friends; help spread our mission. We cannot continue this mission without you, so please remember ARFhouse and the good work we do to change the world for the dogs that come to us in need.

## Bernie's Battle

There are some days we feel like giving up; the day-to-day grind is enough to make anyone break. Seeing the things we have seen, seeing the dogs come to us in the most horrific conditions; it would be easy for us to give up. Then we walk in and see these faces, and it all makes sense again.

Bernie is one of those faces. A man showed up one late afternoon with a dog in his vehicle; the dog had stumbled up to his barn and it was clear just by looking at him that he had been struck by a car. It is truly a wonder how Bernie made it as far as he did in the shape he was in; his back leg bone was protruding through his skin and his eye was severely damaged; you couldn't even tell he had an eye there. Any person with half a heart would have helped, but you'd be surprised; luckily for Bernie, this man has one.



Bernie

It was after-hours at our veterinary clinic when the man arrived, but we knew this poor dog would not make it through the night. We gently lifted

Bernie out of the man's vehicle, and placed him into our van, where he was then rushed to an open clinic in Pilot Point. Roxanne South was the one to take him and there were moments she wasn't sure he'd make the trip.

After the initial examination, emergency surgery on his broken leg, and a few nights at the vet, Bernie was able to come home. We made a space available in our senior/special needs building for Bernie to recover; we knew it would be a long journey to recovery for this sweet boy, and we needed to make him as comfortable as possible.

Bernie lost his leg, and his eye, but he never lost his spirit. You would think after such a traumatic experience, he would be shut down and we would not only have to heal his body, we would also have to heal his heart; but this boy has shown us such love, tenacity, SPUNK!

Dogs like Bernie are what keep us going, even on the hard days. To see a dog come in and not be sure they were going to make it, to watching them fly in and out of the doggie-door is our "why". Why we continue to do what we do. We are so proud to be able to tell you that Bernie didn't only recover from his injuries, he is now thriving at ARFhouse! The sweetest boy with the most adorable zest for life, our Bernie.

# NADIYA RESCUE!

We received an urgent call from a long-time friend and supporter; she had stopped on the side of a busy highway near Sadler after seeing an injured dog lying in a ditch.

When she attempted to pick up the dog to place it into her vehicle, the dog snapped.



Nadiya

This happens when a dog is in distress, and it is no indication that the dog would act aggressively under normal circumstances. So, she did what anyone would do; she called for help. We are always cautious when sending our team on a rescue where an injured dog is involved; there are so many factors, and it can quickly turn into a dangerous situation. Nevertheless, we were not going to let an injured dog lie on the side of the road.

Our employees, Roxanne South and Tasha Humphrey loaded the van with a catch pole and crate and headed out on a mission. We do NOT like using a catch pole; however, in the interest of keeping our employees safe, sometimes it's necessary. After arriving at the scene and assessing the situation, Roxanne and Tasha decided it would be necessary, given the circumstances, to use the pole. They were able to get the dog out of the ditch where she was lying in water, and safely place her into the crate. Obviously, their next stop was to our veterinary clinic. The doctor and staff at our clinic are wonderful and always make themselves available for our emergency cases.

After the initial examination, it appears the road to recovery will be a long one. X-rays show a fractured pelvis near the ball-joint. We have decided to name her Nadiya, which means "Hope". Nadiya is currently at ARFhouse in one of our senior/special needs buildings where she will rest and recover from her trauma before we proceed with the proper treatment plan. We have been vocal about the overwhelming number of calls to take dogs; whether they are strays, pets, or abandoned dogs. Unfortunately, we just cannot take them all; however, our hands were tied, and we knew we had to step in. This is what we do. We are here for dogs like Nadiya and sometimes, we simply cannot say "no".

We will continue to post updates about Nadiya on our social media and will include a story in our next newsletter to let you know her progress.

## What I've Been Up To

By Jenna Glover

Where do I begin? On Monday, I worked outside taking care of the dogs; Monday is my favorite day. Tuesday, I was grounded to my desk and worked on this newsletter. Wednesday - Thursday was North Texas Giving Day. That's a big job but so necessary, especially this year, so it has to be good! Friday, we prepared for our adoption event. No two days are ever the same here; I kind of enjoy that. We are working hard everyday to take care of these dogs, and that includes not only the day-to-day care; it's raising funds, connecting with our supporters, maintaining our records so that every dog is up-to-date and receiving the proper care. To sum up: I've been "up to" my ears in dog-related shenanigans; every girl's dream!

## ARFhouse Wishlist

- 🐾 Purina One Dry Dog Food, Lamb or Chicken
- 🐾 Pedigree Canned Dog Food - Chopped
- 🐾 Heartgard
- 🐾 Nexgard/Simparica

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE.

We have many ways you can donate, both in cash and in kind. Visit our website to make a credit card donation. Mail us a check to the physical address on the back of your newsletter. Have items to donate? Drop them off at our Adoption Center located near Sadler (which has a Sherman address).

### VOLUNTEER.

We always need dog-lovers to help at our Petsmart adoption events. Visit our website to fill out our volunteer form.

### SPONSOR.

Our Be a Pal Program allows you to virtually "adopt" one of our dogs with a monthly donation of \$20. You'll receive quarterly pictures and letters from your Pal, sent straight to your mailbox.

### FOLLOW.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and share us with your friends.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

— NTX —

GIVING DAY

9.21.23 presented by amazon

We are gearing up for our BIG DAY, North Texas Giving Day! North Texas Giving Day has become our largest fundraiser of the year, and this year, the big day is Thursday, September 21st, 2023. For those who aren't familiar with NTXGD, in short, it is exactly how it sounds: a DAY OF GIVING! Communities Foundation of Texas hosts an 18-hour online giving event designed to empower every person to give back to their community by supporting nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform. We have seen big success with this event and are hopeful this year will be a great one!

With each year, we set a new goal. We will typically set a goal that's higher than the previous year; however, this year has not been kind to nonprofits. While we remain hopeful, we must also be realistic about our current economic climate. This year, our goal is \$55,000. We are shaking up this year's campaign in hopes it will spark the giving, and perhaps gain more exposure for our cause.

A big part of what made previous year's such a huge success were matching funds. We had several donors come forward with pledges to match, dollar-for-dollar, any donation until their pledge was reached. With matches, your donation goes further in helping the dogs of ARFhouse. Matching funds

are also a great way to encourage giving; who doesn't love knowing your gift will be doubled? If you are interested in pledging a match, please reach out to us via the phone number or email address below. All donations go directly towards the care of our dogs and saving more lives of those abandoned and abused in North Texas. We need YOU!

### IMPORTANT DATES:

September 1, 2023: "Early Giving" begins. You will be able to schedule your gift through our campaign site starting on this date.

September 21, 2023: The BIG day! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and posts leading up to the big day. For our new followers, NTXGD is a day filled with fun facts about ARF, pictures, success stories, and updates throughout the day to let you know our progress.

For any questions or to pledge a matching donation, please contact Jenna Glover at (972) 658-0389, or via email at:

[jennaLglover@gmail.com](mailto:jennaLglover@gmail.com)

GIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE! → → → → →

Scan this image with any smartphone camera to be taken directly to our giving site. Here, you can make a donation to the dogs using a credit or debit card.





*Brakebill Veterinary Hospital*  
*Made The Following "In Memory"*  
*Donations*

"Buckley" Michael Goldsmith	"Cairo" Mr. & Mrs Darryl Terracina
"Benjamin" Debra McDuffy	"Baby Boy" Jo Shaw
"Lyla" The Allen family	"Samara" Kristen Gresiak
"Sadie" Cathy Rains & family	"Miles" Leticia Hensel
"Norman" Virginia McClure	"Ruby" Sandra Brown
"Sophie" Peggy Jackson	"Zuma" Mr. & Mrs. Mike Piazza
"Jett" Chris Sundberg & family	"Rhett" Cindy Olsen
"Crickett" Kelly Cassell	"Thor" Nicole Gilliam
"Toodles" Shelly Howard	"Chipper" & "Gracie" Laura Heger
"Hope" Kevin & Jeanna Peters	"Hoot" Pam Landers
"Darby" Donna Francis	"Kasi" Zach Prindle

*In Honor of Animals and*  
*Animal Lovers*

Paul Wunderlick by: His Mother, Martha Jane Wilson	"In Honor of Dixie" By: Jenna Regan
Martha Jane Wilson by: Paul Wunderlick	"In Honor of Margie McCain." By: Lizzie Hurst

*In Memory of Animal Lovers*

In Memory of Our Dear  
 Friend, DAVID PENDERY

Rick Lane  
 Ellen Schaefer  
 Ric & Jaci Leeper  
 Cristi Stamper  
 Sandy Nachman  
 Steve Rutherford

Charlie Ross  
 Hal & Payge Kenyon

Jacob Cantrell  
 by: Donna Bedgood

"In Memory of Judy Kissel."  
 By: Reagan Greenhaw

"In Memory of Hanshi  
 Thomas."  
 By: Catherine Thomas

*In Memory of Beloved Pets*

"Annie"  
 Deb & George's beloved dog  
 by: Lynn & John McCoy

"Sprocket"  
 Andrea Schreiner's pet  
 "loved by so many"  
 by: Ashley & Steve Wilkerson

"Sassy"  
 Liz Birchall's pet  
 by: Paula Gray

"Remi"  
 Danny Brakebill's  
 wonderful lab  
 by: Emilie Collins

"Lollie"  
 "grand-dog" of Reudi &  
 Karen Good  
 by: Darlene Schweizer

"Bailey"  
 beloved dog of Em & Lea  
 Whiteside  
 by: Wally Black

"Shiner"  
 beloved lab of  
 Caleb & Stacy Shirley  
 by: Nancy & Randy Shirley

"Ned"  
 "My sister's beloved  
 red heeler  
 Debbie & Reid Manning"  
 by: Kathy Surls

"Charlie" Procailo  
 beloved dog  
 of Procailo family  
 by: Shedera Farmer

"Cappy" & "Lula"  
 by: Kathy & Stacy Caudell

"Remi"  
 Danny Brakebill's  
 beloved lab  
 by: Wally Black

"Oy"  
 beloved cat of  
 Platizky family  
 by: Jane Ellington

"Mattie"  
 by: Dawna Jo Davis  
 Tommy Ellis' birdog  
 by: Trey Doty

"Bullet", the "wonder dog"  
 Debbie Mannings beloved dog  
 by her sister, Kathy Surls

"Maddie" & "Dainty"  
 Pamela Pyle's sweet cats  
 by: Roger Platizky

Animal Refuge Foundation  
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Sherman, TX 75092

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**We appreciate your continued support of ARFhouse.**

***Be an ARFhouse Supporter!***

ARFhouse needs and welcomes your donation in any denomination. Every dollar counts and is used for day-to-day operations, care of our animals, and assistance to animals in the community. Your donation is tax deductible. Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope to ARFhouse, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ARFhouse DIRECTORS**

Danny Brakebill  
Sally O'Brien  
Martha Hovers  
Stacie Stuart  
Jenna Glover  
*Secretary*  
Roxanne South



**ARFhouse Non-Profit Organization on Facebook**

ARFhouse's newsletter is published by the Animal Refuge Foundation, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092. Phone (903) 564-7056. Martha Hovers, Editor.



**Mission Statement**

ARFhouse is dedicated to improving the lives of animals through rescue and rehabilitation, spay/neuter and placing into homes with loving guardians.

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