



Eva

Another WAG'S Rescue

WAGS Rescue and Referral is a non-profit organization that tries to match people with dogs and puppies that have lost their homes or never had one, through no fault of their own. We work directly with a number of the smaller shelters in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area that have not received much help, and are in desperate need. They send us updates on dogs and pups that are available and we make the information available to families in the area.

Shelter dogs are routinely killed to make room for incoming animals. Most small shelters do not have enough money to feed, house and medicate animals for any length of time so unfortunately they are forced to euthanize. If you are at a time in your life when you are willing to open your home to an unconditional amount of love, please consider one of our shelter dogs and save a life! In the mean time, let me tell you a little about Eva...



Eva arrived at the Leland, Mississippi shelter sometime in May of 2006. She came in with a few other dogs that were later determined to have probably been her pups. She

had noticeably given birth to numerous litters and was an extremely sad looking dog that rarely raised her head to look at you. Her fur was matted and thin, literally missing in many places due to *démodé tic mange*. It was later determined she had a disease called entropia and an advanced case of heartworm. Entropia is a disease that affects the eyes; where the eyelashes grow into the eyelid causing constant pain and irritation. To correct this disorder would require major surgery and the heartworm treatment was too expensive and would require too much one on one care for any shelter.

Upon scheduling our transport from Leland, Mississippi to Feasterville, Pennsylvania, on Labor Day 2006 we ended up with a full load, but decided we would squeeze Eva in anyway, as there was very little chance she would survive if left at the shelter. The first time I met Eva was at 2 AM, but even in the dark of the night you couldn't help seeing the sad, pathetic look of this sweet wonderful lady. She was very quiet, and stayed between the seats for the entire trip. When we arrived back in Feasterville the following morning, in full daylight you could see the apparent discomfort this poor animal lived with on a daily basis, but she didn't make a sound. She made no demands on anyone and was just happy to be fed and given a comfortable place to sleep. Eva appeared to be extremely gentle and quite affectionate when given the opportunity.

WAGS made an appointment with the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital to have Eva looked at as soon as possible. On the first visit it was determined that Eva's heartworms were very extensive and they

decided it would be necessary to surgically remove as many as possible before starting the treatment. Eva did very well with her surgery and it was determined that she had 106 worms removed surgically, a new facility record. Before you knew it she was famous. Every time Eva's name came up at the hospital you would hear, "Eva...106 worms WOW, isn't that amazing!"

WAGS continued with Eva and arranged for the surgery to be performed on her eyes. The surgery involved moving the eyelid to allow the eyelashes to have more room, thus keeping them from going into her eyes. She did well with the surgery, although she did wear a cone for a few weeks and needed daily drops to allow for healing. In the mean time Eva went in for her second heartworm treatment and people had begun calling her, "The Amazing Eva". Her level of sweetness through this long drawn out ordeal truly was amazing. This led our group to do some thinking- what was to become of this exceptional dog? We keep ongoing lists of individuals who are looking for very specific dogs (often breed specific needs due to allergies or just preferences). However, we did have an Assisted Living Facility in Bristol, PA who had been looking for a dog for the patients for almost eight months. This would have to be a very special dog, one who was not only low-key, but very people friendly. Eva was not afraid of equipment like wheel chairs, scooters, oxygen tanks, etc. and would also be receptive to visitors. We contacted them and they were very happy to come out for a meet and greet with Eva. They fell in love immediately!

After Eva was able to receive a clean bill of health, she went to the facility for a trial run. It was a success! We went over to visit the first weekend and all we heard from the patients was, "Come and meet our beautiful Eva." Eva, who is truly a very plain brown dog, is now living like a queen. Not only is she in a comfortable, warm, dry environment but Eva is surrounded by people overflowing with love for her. Part of me knows this love is for the pets these patients were forced to give up, but it couldn't be going to a more worthy girl.

WAGS has many happy endings, but there are so many more waiting to happen. If you have an interest in looking at dogs and pups that are available please feel free to go check out the website for the shelter we are currently working with in Leland Mississippi: www.rrf-arrf.org. We are in constant need of many things to help us continue our effort including the following items: blankets, towels, collars, leashes, crates, gas cards, and of course financial donations are always welcome. We are always looking for families willing to foster and help with the transports. Our contact information is:

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