



# The Heart of the Triangle

*sharing the vision, supporting the mission  
of the triangle area non-profit community*

## Opening Your Heart to a Pet Companion

by Megan Cutter

In October, our family adopted Basho, one of six puppies that were found in a drainpipe. The family who found them became foster parents until permanent homes were located. We worked with an independent pet adoption agency to process the adoption, which included a detailed application and a first meeting. When we met Basho, our hearts melted and we knew this puppy was our new pet companion. Since we already had a black lab, we knew the work that would go into training a new puppy - it has been well worth it.

Unfortunately, many dogs and cats are abandoned. The holidays contribute to this trend, as the excitement of a Christmas puppy or kitten often wears off quickly. In addition, the economic hardship of recent months has led to the abandonment of many pets as their owners simply can no longer take care of them.



Independent rescue and adoption centers open their doors and hearts to many of these abandoned animals, placing them first in foster homes and then working to find permanent homes. They provide food and supplies and work with local

veterinarians to provide health care and spay/neuter services. In addition, they hold adoption events in the community and work to educate the community about the importance of spaying or neutering animals to prevent unwanted litters.

Listed below are two of the many pet rescue and adoption centers in the Triangle area. We will be including others in the February issue. The primary focus of each is to place dogs and cats with permanent, committed and loving families. These centers operate primarily on donations, and must absorb the cost of veterinary care, supplies and food. All need pet foster-care families. In addition, each has a list of specific ways that you can help by volunteering time at local adoption events or by donating services and supplies.

As we begin the New Year, remember our four-legged friends.

### Second Chance Pet Adoptions

Second Chance Pet Adoptions was formed in 1987 as a backyard rescue foster care service. In 1989, it became a certified non-profit organization, and in 2009 will be celebrating 20 years of operation. In 2007 alone they assisted in the adoption of nearly 700 dogs and cats. They are in need of animal foster families and donations to provide for dog and cat food, medical bills and other services. Staff member Lisa Imhof comments,

"When we look at placing a pet, we want to know that adopters are committed to providing a loving home for the pet's lifetime." There are many ways to volunteer, so open your heart and give a second chance to a dog or cat this year. For information, contact Second Chance Pet Adoptions 919-851-8404 or [www.secondchancenc.org](http://www.secondchancenc.org).



### Two Paws Up

Two Paws up began when four women wanted to assist animal rescue by providing transportation services to shelters in the community. In September, they received full certification as a non-profit organization and now provide full services for dog and cat adoption. Two Paws Up works with local shelters to save animals that might not otherwise be adopted. They can use assistance with pet foster care and donations of cat and dog food, crates, towels and other supplies. Staff member Betsy Dunnavant adds, "We have seen a higher rate of drop offs at the shelters because of the economy. Even pure-breeds are being dropped off at shelters more often than usual. When we work with a family to place an animal permanently, we want to make sure it is a good fit, both for the family and pet, and allow for a refundable one-week trial." For information or to volunteer, visit [www.2pawsup.org](http://www.2pawsup.org).