



# FOREVER HOME

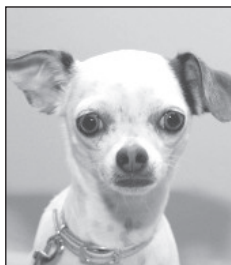
## Camano Animal Shelter Newsletter

Issue 1  
Winter, 2011

Volume 5

### CASA Mission Statement:

The mission of CASA is to find loving Forever Homes for all of our healthy adoptable animals. We strive to provide quality care and service to the animals and people of our community while encouraging and promoting responsible pet ownership.



### Message from the Shelter Manager

The Shelter team has been very busy the last couple of months getting ready for some big changes. Not only did we continue to help animals as part of our normal routine, we also jumped right into implementing new shelter management software. For years, CASA has been tracking the daily operations and running with nothing more than paper and pen. It is a lot of work to go through a month's paperwork to find monthly totals. Hopefully those days will soon be behind us.

We chose PetPoint Animal Management Software as our new software for many reasons. The CASA staff has been taking part in private online training classes 2-3 times weekly and entering past and current records into our new program each day. Used by many other shelters, it will not only enable the shelter to track almost everything that goes on with animals and the people involved, it will also provide more benefits to our community. (See the *PetPoint* article for more information about these benefits.)

We are excited about these changes and hope that new adopters will be just as thrilled. Even if you are not looking to add a furry family member to your home at this time, we encourage you to come in and see our animals. You may just see one there who catches your eye and that someone you know would love! Help us spread the word about our animals who still need homes.

Tegan Locker, Shelter Manager

### THE INVISIBLE ANIMALS

Meet Hammer, a big black dog. Hammer came to the shelter in October, 2010 and has his own tale to tell. His original owner was an older man in Eastern Washington who was forced to give him up to a local rescue because he could no longer care for him. Hammer came to NOAH, was adopted and passed from home to home. Unfortunately, Hammer was adopted by and removed from at least five homes. This was not Hammer's fault at all. Some reasons given for his being "un-adopted" included health problems, financial problems, and having a baby. Right now a new home for Hammer looks very promising.

Hammer plays a bigger role right now. He is representative of all of the big black dogs that come to CASA and to other shelters across the United States.

These are the well behaved dogs that sit at their kennel doors watching as people come in and walk right by. A black object is almost invisible at night, and a quiet black dog becomes invisible to people who are searching for the "cute little dog" or the lovable Golden Retriever.

Zena, the cat pictured here, also represents the invisible black cat. Zena also came to the CASA shelter in October and is a warm, friendly cat. Since most cats at CASA roam free, Zena has selected as her favorite spot, a warm place behind the books on the reception desk. She has truly become invisible. Right now Zena is joined by at least six other black or black and white cats. Through no real fault of their own, they share the same fate as those big black dogs. They all will wait longer to be adopted.



Hammer sits patiently, waiting for someone to notice him.



Zena

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### CASA Web Site:

[www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org)

### CASA E-Mail:

[casa@camanoanimalshelter.org](mailto:casa@camanoanimalshelter.org)

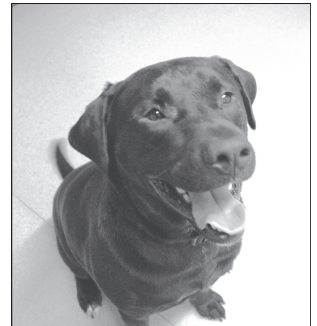
(Continued on Page 2, "The Invisible Animals")



(Continued from Page 1, "The Invisible Animals")

Other shelters have to deal with the same dilemma - how to find homes for these overlooked cats.

As a feature story, this one is short. But hopefully it brings an important but all too often overlooked message that you will remember. We have many lovable animals at the shelter who may not fit your initial picture of the perfect pet, but they wait silently for you to see them and recognize the love they have to offer. The next time you are in, ask about the quiet animals, those who are so easily overlooked. Thanks.



Hammer waiting for a treat.

### PetPoint Animal Management Software

In January, the shelter will implement the PetPoint Animal Management Program. This web-based animal management system will allow the shelter management to store and retrieve information about all the animals, adopters, volunteers, etc. who pass through the shelter. Visit [www.petpoint.com](http://www.petpoint.com) and look at the licensed users to see other shelters using this program.

Using the 24PetWatch microchip program, we will now microchip all dogs and cats who are adopted at no additional charge to the customer. For many years CASA has made sure that each and every dog adopted from our shelter was microchipped prior to leaving with their new families. We have also offered this as an optional service to cats for a small additional fee at the time of adoption. By the end of January CASA will have new microchips and will be **microchipping every cat and kitten** prior to adoption at no additional fee to adopters. We are thrilled to know that all of our CASA animals will be reentering the world with a tiny little addition that may help them find their way back home if they ever become lost or stolen.

Cat microchipping is not the only new service CASA will be providing new adopters. PetPoint will also allow us to give the **gift of pet insurance**, free for 30 days, to all new adopters! Adopting a new pet is exciting, but can also be filled with "what ifs." We are hoping that these changes, microchipping and receiving 30 days of insurance, will help ease the minds of new adopters so they can focus on simply spending quality time with their new family members.



### CASA

#### Board Members

**President:**

Martha Huyler

**Vice-President:**

Marty Bloom

**Treasurer:**

Cathy Massimino

**Secretary:**

Mary Timmol

**Member at Large:**

Shari Estep  
Gloria Ingraffia  
Bob Stanton

#### CASA Staff

**Manager:**

Tegan Locker

**Asst Manager:**

Cherie Lovell

**Staff Members:**

Justine Doggett  
Sheri Rhoads

#### Newsletter

Connie Parker  
Martha Huyler

#### Physical Address:

198 Can Ku Road  
Camano Island, WA  
98282

#### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1726  
Stanwood, WA  
98292

#### Phone:

360-387-1902

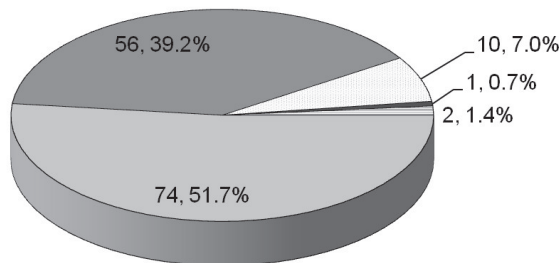
#### Hours:

Wed - Fri 11 - 3  
Sat 11 - 4  
Sun 11 - 3  
Mon/Tues Closed

### Did You Know???

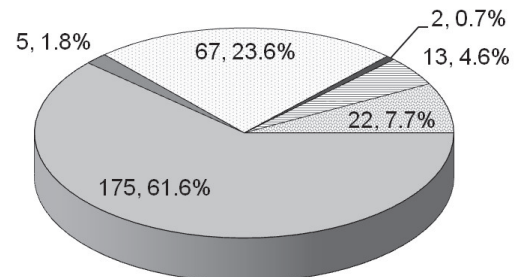
#### 2010 Dog and Cat Statistics

##### Dogs



During 2010 **143 dogs** came to the shelter. 74 adopted, 56 reunited with their owner, 10 went to other rescues, 1 was euthanized (*due to health*) and 2 were still available at the end of the year.

##### Cats



During 2010 **284 cats** came to the shelter. 175 adopted, 5 reunited with their owner, 67 went to rescues (*primarily unweaned kittens to avoid overcrowding*), 2 were euthanized (*due to health*), 13 under-age kittens died in foster and 22 cats were available at year-end.

Since 2005, 2,957 animals have come through CASA's doors (*1,171 dogs and 1,786 cats*).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**CASA Friends**

First Thursday of each month  
Camano Center at 7:00 PM  
(Blue building next to CASA)

**Last year's events:**

- Bake Sale
- Flea Market
- Car Wash
- Art by Bay
- Twin City Idlers
- Car Collectors Show
- Dog Wash
- Auction
- Santa Pictures
- Lights of Love

**Join us as we plan this year's events**

**THANK YOU  
BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

- AWR Inc. / General Contractor
- Bee Bookkeeping and Income Tax Services
- Blackbird Cafe
- Camano Body Shop, Inc.
- Camano Island Pet Grooming Salon
- Camano Mold, Inc.
- Camano Storage
- Camano Veterinary Clinic
- Canine Cozy Care Resort, LLC
- Cat Nap Inn, LLC
- CCR Camano Canine Resort
- Community Plumbing Services, Inc.
- Curves of Stanwood/Camano Island
- Do-It-Yourself Legal
- Dog Style Grooming
- Glass Tech Stanwood, Inc.
- Krista's Pet Spaw
- Mark's Camano Pharmacy
- Paws 'n' Claws Pet Transport
- Pet Neuter and Vaccination Clinic
- Scandia Coffeehouse & Eatery
- Terry W. Greer, Inc. P.S.
- TimLabs
- Ultimate Arch Orthotics
- Windermere Real Estate

**BUSINESSES—DONATION BOXES!**

The local businesses who display our donation collection boxes are appreciated!

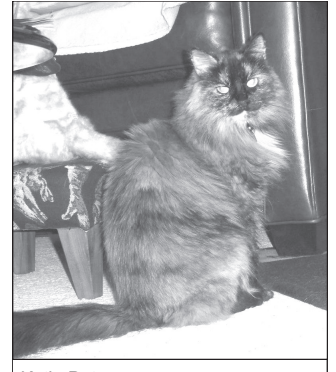
**Featured location this period:**

**Plaza True Value**

**CASA Alumni**



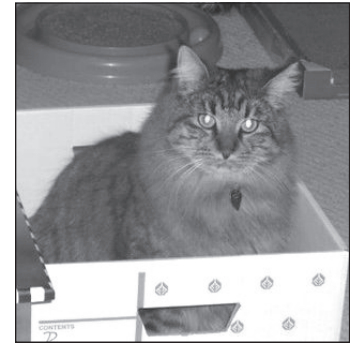
Figgy Peterson  
adopted Dec, 2006



Katie Peterson  
adopted Sept, 2004



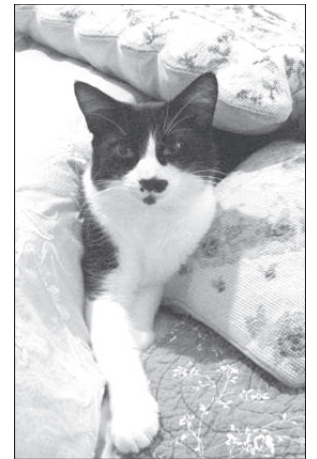
Eva holding Lily, the guinea pig that Santa brought. Santa knew that CASA sometimes has guinea pigs and not just cats and dogs



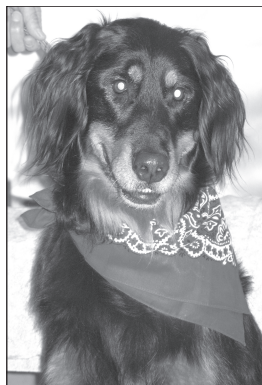
Charlie Peterson  
adopted Dec, 2009



Baxter Halladay and friend Sparrow Halladay  
adopted Sept, 2010



Winston H. (formerly Pluto)  
adopted Sept, 2010



Macy Blue Richards  
(formerly Wookiee)  
adopted 2007



Chance Frazier adopted July, 2010 and Wanda Frazier  
adopted Oct, 2010

## HAPPY TAILS

### Filling the Hole of Emptiness

We had a Boston Terrier named Benson Yoda (*named after the character Benson, Robert Guillaume, and Yoda from Star Wars*). We found out he had a tumor growing into his heart and had to have him put to sleep. We felt there couldn't be another dog ever take his place. That was true, all dogs are different, but we just knew we couldn't have a house without a dog for too long a period.

We stopped by CASA just a few days after Benson passed away and saw a little Basenji Chihuahua mix by the name of Nuke and was intrigued by him. We went home and talked about it but thought it was too soon after Benson's passing. Our son, Eric, who lives with us was also grieving but realized we needed a dog in the house. He demanded to go over to CASA and see the dog my wife and I had seen the day before. Well, we just couldn't resist and he has been a joy to us.

We still miss our old companion, Benson, but Nuke, now renamed Duke, started to fill the big hole of emptiness that seemed to permeate our home. He now has found my wife's lap is the warmest and most comfy place to take a nap, and he always greets Eric and I as if we were the most important people on earth. He has learned to sit, stay, shake hands, and eat like there is no tomorrow. We just love him and are so glad that organizations like NOAH and CASA exist. Thank you all very much.



Duke

The Bruce family

(Duke was adopted in October 2010)

### Dixie's Forever Home

2010 has been a hard year on our family, topping it off with our 14 year old best friend Molly passing away in early October. Our hearts were sad and lonely. We scoured the PetFinder looking for just the right companion for our family with 3 growing boys. Our search ended when we found Dixie at CASA.

Dixie was 7 months old when we met her. The whole family loaded up into the car to go meet her, and it was love at first sight. The CASA staff let us get to know her in the yard out back. She knew just what to do, coming around to each one of us, and sniffing, and waiting to be petted. We threw the ball, and she fetched with such eagerness to please us. We wanted to take her home that day, but the CASA staff said we had to wait 3 LONG days before we heard the wonderful news.....that she was ours!!!

She has quickly gotten used to our routine. Her favorite part of the day is after the older 2 boys go off to school, she gets to come with me downstairs to wake up the youngest for school. She also LOVED the snow and sledding down our hill, although she thought she needed to swipe the kids hats off their heads!! Dixie had her first successful outing in the car recently (*she was afraid of it at first*). We went and picked out a new treat at the feed store, and then drove through for a hamburger for lunch, potty break and chasing the ball at the park finished off a wonderful day. I think she will be excited about going in the car next time. She has learned quickly how to ask us to go outside, and we are learning to understand her when she asks.

We are so grateful for CASA giving Dixie a new life. She has definitely found her forever home with us.



Here is Dixie relaxing by the Christmas tree.

The Cook Family

(Dixie was adopted in October 2010)

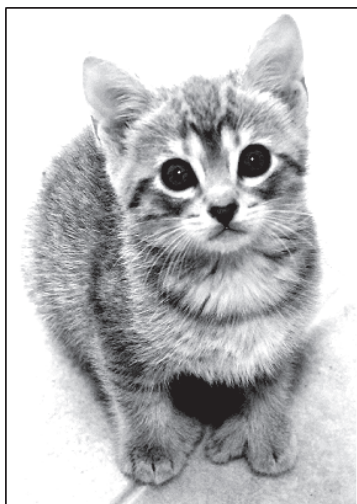
Visit our CASA website  
[www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org)  
and follow us on Facebook



Visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to view and read about all of our adoptable animals.

## Our Hemingway Kittens

Not long ago a mother cat with five kittens was brought to the shelter. The kittens were cute (*aren't all kittens cute?*). But these kittens were special. As the staff was checking them over, they noticed that their feet were different. Instead of the usual five toes on each of their front paws and four toes on each hind paw, for a total of 18 toes altogether, these kittens had more toes and different looking toes on their paws. They are known as polydactyl cats, mitten or thumb cats or Hemingway cats. The mother cat and kittens were kept in foster care until the kittens were old enough to be adopted. When they came back to CASA ready for adoption, they were all adopted within a couple days.



From <http://cats.about.com> we learn the following:

### Why Hemingway cats?

Ernest Hemingway was .... an inveterate cat-lover, because he admired the spirit and independence of cats. Hemingway acquired his first cat from a ship's captain in Key West, Florida, where he made his home for a number of years. This cat, which may have been a Maine Coon, had extra toes (*technically known as polydactyl, Latin for "many digits"*). Today, approximately 60 cats, half of them polydactyl, make their home in the Ernest Hemingway Museum and Home, in Key West, protected by the terms of his will.



### What is Polydactyl?

The trait for polydactyl comes from a dominant gene, and only a polydactyl cat can parent another polydactyl. Although the Maine Coon (*whose ancestors are also thought to have immigrated to the U.S. aboard ships*) is believed to have been the first breed to have this trait, polydactyl is considered a fault in that breed, and indeed in every other breed except the Pixie Bob, a relatively new breed.

So, rather than a breed, polydactyl is just a genetic trait, somewhat like the genetics for the tabby pattern. Instead of the normal 18 toes (*five on each front foot and four on the rear*) found on most cats, polydactyls have six or more toes on the front feet, and sometimes an extra toe on the rear. (*The cat depicted in the photo has seven toes in front, which makes it easy to understand why they are sometimes called "Mitten Cats."*) However, unlike the popular tabby, whose pattern can be found in many breeds, the polydactyl is frowned upon by breed registries. . . . Although not approved as "purebreds," polydactyls are adored by their human companions. Whether called "polydactyls," "Hemingway Cats," or "Mittens," these many-toed cats warm the hearts and hearths of those people fortunate enough to share a home with one.

### Our Shelter Wish List

**GENERAL SUPPLIES:** Liquid Bleach, Liquid Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets

**PET FOOD:** KMR - Kitten Milk Replacement, Baby Food, small jars of pureed meats  
Royal Canin "Babycat" and kitten dry food, Canned Kitten Food, Dry Kirkland Dog/Cat Food

**PET SUPPLIES:** Kuranda beds (Use [www.kuranda.com/donate/5133](http://www.kuranda.com/donate/5133) and get 30% off),  
Non-clumping cat litter or pellets, Small Cardboard Cat Scratchers ([www.stretchandscratch.com](http://www.stretchandscratch.com))

**AMAZON.COM Wish List:** Enter "Camano Animal Shelter" to see CASA's wish list and order from Amazon.

## A Special Thank You

As we look back at 2010, we want to take time to thank our loyal, dedicated supporters and donors. CASA receives some funding from Island County, but relies on memberships, donations and fundraising to meet expenses. We appreciate the generous support that the community at large provided in 2010.

At this time we would like to thank our **Business Members** and the businesses who host our **donation canisters**. Please look for these canisters as you shop (*note their new designs*). We sincerely thank the businesses and groups who support CASA in so many ways.

- The Spare Room, Camano Storage and IGA Plaza Market publicized our events via their boards
- Copy This Mail That hosted our Lights of Love Tree; the Stanwood/Camano Fire Department, Westside Pizza and the Sno-Isle Library, Camano Branch who participated in our fundraisers

Our **“Finding Forever Homes” auction** was a success thanks to the many businesses and individuals who donated items and services and the many supporters who joined us that evening. Thanks to the following sponsors: Palladin Sound, Windermere Realty, Joanne Floral Design, Good Taste by Karen Lanpher, TimLabs Computer Services, Scandia Coffee House, Community Plumbing Services Inc., Do-It-Yourself Legal, Mark’s Camano Pharmacy, Thomas & Associates Insurance Broker Inc., Walking Cat Design, IGA Plaza Market and Starlight Deluxe Vintage Emporium.

Thanks to the **Matching Gift Companies and Companies with Employee Community Funds**: Allstate, Regence, Microsoft, MacyWest, Chevron, JP Morgan Chase and Co., Costco United Way, Boeing Co.

It is through the generosity of these businesses and individuals that we can continue to provide a warm, healthy, loving atmosphere for our animals. We look forward to your continued support in 2011.



## You Can Make a Difference

There are many ways you can help us fulfill our mission of finding “forever homes” for the animals of our community. Gifts of all sizes make such a difference in the lives of these precious animals; with your help, we can make our community a better place for all.

### YOU CAN:

- Send a donation in the enclosed envelope or stop by our shelter to make an immediate gift.
- Visit our website and click on the link to make a gift online.
- Commemorate a special occasion with a gift to the shelter; gifts can be made in honor or in memory of friends, family and pets.
- Donate your car via [www.DonateforCharity.com](http://www.DonateforCharity.com).
- Check with your employer to see if they will match your contribution to CASA.
- Take a look at our wish list on the website for additional gift ideas.
- Support our fundraising events.
- Give of your time, become a volunteer!

## Donate Your Car



Our vehicle donation program is made possible through our partnership with Donate For Charity. When you are ready to donate your vehicle, you call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate on-line at their website: [www.donateforcharity.com](http://www.donateforcharity.com)

We are please to announce, that we have received the proceeds from our first car donation. Thank you!

### Memorials

*"Loyal, loving, faithful, brave  
until my saddest day  
when you went along your lonely  
road but here I had to stay"*



*In memory of departed pets:*

*Allie, Bella, Mystery, Scruffy, Missy and Joey*

## Is Your Dog Legal? Get Fido Licensed

Island County requires all dog owners to license their dogs every year. One time is not enough, you must renew each year; there are no exceptions. Make your dog legal and the tag helps identify your dog in case he or she is lost.

2011 dog licenses are now on sale at the Shelter or at the Camano Island Annex on NE Camano Drive.



The cost is \$7 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$25 for intact animals. Special rates for seniors (65+) \$4/\$20. Group license is \$100.

Avoid a late fee – Purchase by March 31, 2011.

*Receiving a lot of mail? Let us know if you are getting duplicate mailings from CASA. We can adjust the mailing list OR if you want the extra newsletter, please share it with a friend or neighbor.*



**YES ... I WANT TO HELP THE ANIMALS AT CAMANO ANIMAL SHELTER**  
Enclosed is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE gift:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  \$15 Single Membership  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  \$25 Family Membership  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  \$100 Business Membership  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*If this donation is a gift or in honor or memory of someone special, please include a note and we will mail an acknowledgement to the individual or family.*  I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

My employer will match my gift. Enclosed is my completed matching gift form.

**Camano Animal Shelter Association**  
 198 Can Ku Road Camano Island, WA 98282 360-387-1902  
[www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org)  
 CASA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit shelter for animals

See Our Story !



PERMIT # 285  
STANWOOD, WA  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PRESORTED STANDARD

Stanwood, WA 98292  
PO Box 1726  
Newsletter of CASA

CASA ANIMALS  
CURRENTLY IN NEED OF  
*FOREVER HOMES*



**Alley:** This is Alley. She is a beautiful, long haired gray cat who is a little shy. During open hours Alley hides on top of cabinets and can't be seen unless you really hunt for her. When we take the time to hold her, she is the most affectionate loving cat you could ever want to see. She's a real lover. Whoever gets her will be very lucky!



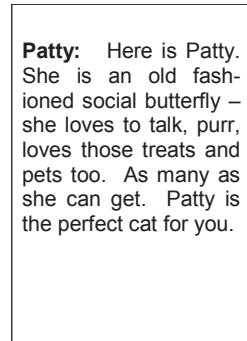
**Benson:** Here is Benson, a large, young Maine Coon cat. When he is in a room, you're sure to notice Benson. He is very striking. He is also very friendly, loves to have his hair brushed, and just loves all the attention he can get. He won't be around for long – if you're interested please come on in quickly!



**Duchess:** Here is Duchess, a small, sweet gray and white female who likes to wait in the front office to see everyone who comes in hoping they are there to see her. Duchess loves playing with kitty toys, eating her regular food and treats, and watching out the window too. Come say Hello!



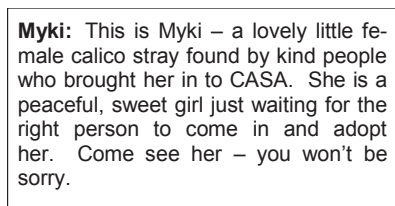
**Walden:** Walden is a young 1-year old, good looking Husky/Siberian Husky mix with more energy than he can use up. He needs a big fenced yard and somebody who will love spending time with him giving him a good run every day and training that will make him a great favorite for all family members. He is willing and able – just waiting for you!



**Patty:** Here is Patty. She is an old fashioned social butterfly – she loves to talk, purr, loves those treats and pets too. As many as she can get. Patty is the perfect cat for you.



**Mary Jane:** Here is Mary Jane. She loves to be petted and returns the courtesy by purring and letting you know that she likes you too. Before she came to CASA she had a litter of kittens. Now she is looking for a really great home for herself. Like some of the other cats while they are at CASA, Mary Jane likes to hide during open hours so please look for her and ask for help if you need it. She's worth the hunt.



**Myki:** This is Myki – a lovely little female calico stray found by kind people who brought her in to CASA. She is a peaceful, sweet girl just waiting for the right person to come in and adopt her. Come see her – you won't be sorry.

